

GOD'S JOURNEY WITH MAN



GOD'S JOURNEY WITH MAN

Written by:

Dee Hamner, Sharon Thompson,
Laqueta Tomlinson, and Sharon White

Contents

Preface	1
Introduction and Purpose of the Bible Study	3
Lesson 1: God's Glorious Creation	17
Lesson 2: The Fall, Realization, Consequence, and Solution	29
Lesson 3: Noah to the Tower of Babel	41
Lesson 4: The Patriarchs	55
Lesson 5: Redeemed From Bondage	71
Lesson 6: Wilderness Journey	87
Lesson 7: Conquest of Canaan	111
Lesson 8: Judges	139
Lesson 9: United Kingdom	155
Lesson 10: Divided Kingdom	171
Lesson 11: Judah Alone	189
Lesson 12: Babylonian Captivity	205
Appendix A	219

Preface

Notes

Introduction and Purpose of the Bible Study

Welcome to this Bible study, "God's Journey with Man." We are so excited that you have chosen to go through this study. The purpose of this Bible study is to explore the Bible in chronological order, and to learn about God's redemptive plan for man throughout history. It is not an in-depth study of the Bible, but a high-level overview. The study is divided into two books. This first book contains twelve lessons, which explore God's journey with man from God's creation of the earth through the period of time known as "Babylonian Captivity."

Through the lessons, you will see the faithfulness and heart of God. You will see how He blessed all mankind through the faith of one man, Abraham. You will learn how this one man miraculously became the father of the nation of Israel, and how the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, came through his seed. This first book will explore the nation of Israel from its inception through its captivity in Babylon. You will see Jesus Christ revealed throughout the Bible.

The second book in "God's Journey with Man," continues in this chronological study. It begins with the return and restoration of the nation of Israel to the land God promised Abraham and his descendants. The study continues through the life of Jesus Christ and the beginning of His church, and the letters written to the church. In the study, you will also explore the letters written to the early churches. You will learn how they apply to our lives today.

Content of Book 1

This first book in this Bible study, "God's Journey with Man," is divided into twelve lessons and an Appendix.

- Preface
- Lesson 1: God's Glorious Creation
- Lesson 2: The Fall, Realization, Consequence, and Solution
- Lesson 3: Noah to the Tower of Babel
- Lesson 4: The Patriarchs
- Lesson 5: Redeemed from Bondage
- Lesson 6: Wilderness Journey
- Lesson 7: Conquest of Canaan
- Lesson 8: Judges
- Lesson 9: United Kingdom
- Lesson 10: Divided Kingdom

Notes

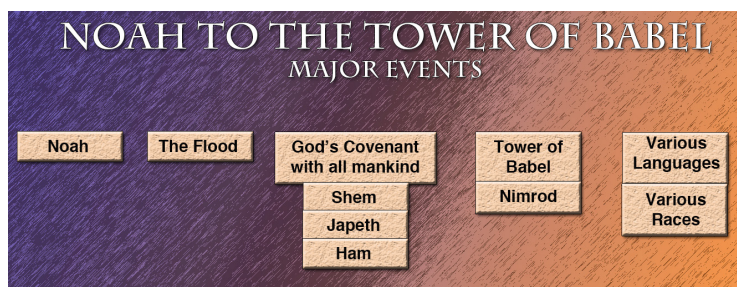
- Lesson 11: Judah Alone
- Lesson 12: Babylonian Captivity
- Appendix: Contains guidance for the questions within each of the lessons

Lesson Format

Each lesson may include the following sections:

Banner of the Major Events and People

The first page of every lesson contains a banner, which displays the major events and people discussed within the lesson. For example, the following banner from Lesson 4 lists the major events that occurred during this period of time as well as the people involved.



Scripture Reference

This section lists the scriptures that are related to this period of time. In some of the lessons there are several books of the Bible related to the applicable period of time. The references are listed for your information, but they are not all discussed in the lesson, nor would you be expected to read all of them for the lesson. However, it will be helpful for you to know that more scriptures relate to the lesson than you will be assigned to read. You may choose to read them after you have completed the lesson/study.

Objectives

This section lists the major objectives of the lesson.

Commentary

The commentary of the lesson gives a high-level summary of the period of time. It is divided into three sections: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. Observation is the facts of the lesson. Interpretation is what we can observe or understand from the lesson. Application is how we can apply the lesson to our lives.

Reading Assignment

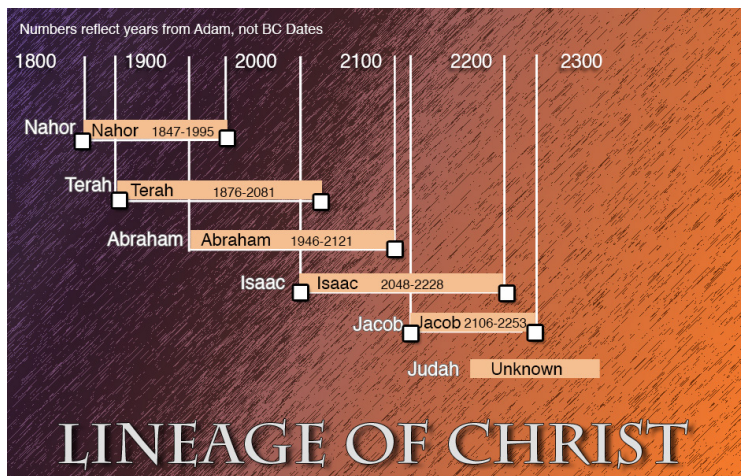
This section contains the scriptures related to the lesson. In order to answer the questions, you need to first read these assigned scriptures. By reading the scriptures and then answering the questions, you will learn firsthand what the scriptures teach.

Questions

This section contains questions for you to answer after reading the assigned scriptures. These questions are intended to help you gain insights into the heart and ways of God and to grow in your walk with Him.

Lineage of Christ

Beginning in lesson three, each lesson contains a chart showing the lineage of Christ relevant to the time period. The chart does not list actual dates, but time since the first man, Adam, was created. The following chart from lesson 4, The Patriarchs, is an example:



Notes

Appendix

Notes

The Appendix contains guidance for the questions in each of the lessons. The guidance simply explains the purpose of the question. If while you are answering questions in a lesson you are unsure of what the question is asking, you can look at the guidance for that lesson in the Appendix. This is an example of the guidance from Lesson 7 contained in the Appendix.

7. The story in Numbers 13 tells of the story of the 12 spies. What can we learn here about the common thought of the "majority rules" or "majority rightness" vs. Godly thinking and faith? (The question begins the thought process of thinking like God instead of the world. The thought that the majority is not always right and Godly principles need to be applied in every area of our life)
8. In chapter 14:1-5 who do the children of Israel choose to listen to and what decision do they make based on who they listened to? (This is to help us see that decisions based on fear keep us from receiving God's blessings when he desires to give them. Because of a lack of faith, Israel had to wait for 40 years)
9. What did the children of Israel want to do to the two spies of faith and what did God want to do with the children of Israel? (This question is to help the student see the irony in their thinking)
10. In general, who does the world choose to listen to today, what do they want to do with Christians and what does God want to do for them? (This is to help us see that the world has the wrong thinking and God brings correction through circumstances so they will come to him. He desires to give them the promise land (heaven) but they must first repent and then obey)

Introduction to the Bible

Who wrote the Bible?

There are 66 books of the Bible, written by 40 different authors, spanning approximately 1500 years. Yet, the Bible is one cohesive book, with one theme – Jesus Christ. How can this be?

Scholars talk about the Bible being inspired, and the Greek word for "inspired" literally means "God-breathed." Scripture is breathed by God, and originates from Him. Therefore, it is true and inerrant. God employed human authors so that, using their own individual personalities – and even their writing styles – they composed and recorded without error His revelation to humankind in the words of the original writers. In other words, the original documents of the Bible were written by men who were permitted to exercise their own personalities and literary talents but wrote under the control and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The result was a perfect and errorless record of the exact message God desired to give humankind.

We can look at different authors in the Bible and see evidence that each writer had a style of his own: Isaiah had a powerful literary style; Jeremiah had a mournful tone; Luke's style had medical overtones; and John was very simple in his approach. Peter gives us key insight into the human-divine interchange in the process of inspiration. 2 Peter 1:21

Notes

tells us that “no prophecy (or Scripture) was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”.

Therefore, we can rest secure in the knowledge that when we read Scripture, it is God speaking to us - not sinful, misdirected or misguided man. We can be assured that there is nothing but truth in the God-breathed, living, errorless Word of God – the Bible.

Canon of the Scriptures

The word “canon” comes from a Greek word “kanon” that means “measuring stick”. The word came to be used of books that were “measured” and then recognized as being God’s Word. How did the early church know which books belonged in the Bible – what were these “measuring sticks” they used? There were several guidelines, but two were of utmost importance.

Was the book written or backed by a prophet or apostle of God?

The reasoning behind this was the Word of God, which is inspired by the Spirit of God for the people of God, must be communicated through a man of God. Only a prophet of God will speak the Word of God according to Deuteronomy 18:18. 2 Peter 1:20-21 tells us that Scripture is only written by men of God. Paul states in Galatians 1 that he was an authorized messenger of God, an apostle.

Does the book tell the truth about God as it is already known by previous revelation?

The Bereans searched the Old Testament Scriptures to see whether Paul’s teaching was true (Acts 17:11). They knew if Paul’s teaching did not accord with the Old Testament canon, it couldn’t be of God. Agreement with all earlier revelation is essential.

There were three secondary tests that had to be met in order for a book to be included in the Bible as we have it today:

- *Is the book authoritative?* Put another way, does this book ring with a sense of “Thus saith the Lord”?
- *Does the book give evidence of having the power of God?* Scripture says the Word of God is “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12). Therefore, the book should exhibit the transforming power of God in the lives of its readers.
- *Was the book accepted by the people of God?* Moses’ scrolls were placed immediately into the ark of the covenant, as well as Joshua’s

writings (Deuteronomy 31:24-26; Joshua 24-26). Paul's letters were circulated amongst the churches (Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27).

With regard to the Old Testament, by the time of Christ all of the Old Testament had been written and accepted in the Jewish community. The Old Testament of our day contains all the same material as the 24 books of Jesus' time.

Using the same criteria as used in the Old Testament, the 27 books of the New Testament have been universally accepted since AD 350-400 as inspired by God. The concept we have today of a completed Bible was formulated early in the history of the church. By the end of the second century all but seven books (Hebrews, 2 and 3 John, 2 Peter, Jude, James, and Revelation) were recognized as apostolic, and by the end of the fourth century all twenty-seven books in our present canon were recognized by all the churches of the West. After the Damasine Council of Rome in A.D. 332 and the third Council of Carthage in A.D. 397 the question of the Canon was closed in the West. By the year A.D. 500 the whole Greek-speaking church had also accepted all the books in our present New Testament.

As an aside, in the Roman Catholic Bible, there is a section included called the Apocrypha. It refers to 14-16 books of doubtful authenticity and authority that the Catholic Council of Trent (1545-1563) canonized as a result of the Protestant Reformation. This gave "scriptural" support for distinctively Catholic doctrines. However, it is to be noted that some of the early church fathers, such as Ireneaus, Tertullian, and Clement of Alexandria, used the Apocryphal books in public worship and accepted them as Scripture.

Different Versions/Translations of the Bible

There are many, many different versions of the Bible, but basically only two types of translations, and a combination of these two. Word-for-word (also known as literal, or formal equivalence) translations attempt to match the original language words with the closest English language counterpart. Thought-for-thought (also known as dynamic equivalence) translations attempt to pair the ideas behind each phrase or sentence with a similar idea in the English language. A balanced translation combines the word-for-word and thought-for-thought translations. Another phrase you may hear is "paraphrase", which is simply a restatement of one of the two types of translations.

The word-for-word versions most accurately follow the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek texts. The King James Version, the New King James Version, the English Standard Version and the American Standard Version are examples of what is considered word-for-word translations.

Notes

A thought-for-thought translation takes the meaning behind the words and puts it in a more understandable wording. Also, it is helpful in conveying the point of ancient figures of speech that would not make sense to us today. This type of translation also uses more up-to-date language and is easier to understand. The Revised English Bible, Good News Bible, and the New Living Translation are examples of this translation.

Paraphrased Bibles, such as the Living Bible or the Message, also can be useful. Their goal is to make the Bible even easier to read in modern language. However, caution needs to be taken because the authors exercised "poetic license" in interpreting biblical terms and passages according to their own personal religious ideas. Paraphrased versions can be consulted to better grasp the story flow but should not be used exclusively to establish doctrine. They are inadequate sources to accurately determining the meaning of any text.

We would like to mention one more translation of the Bible. There is a very unique Bible called the Messianic Jewish Family Bible, Tree of Life version. Messianic Jewish scholars (believers in Jesus as their Messiah) went back to the original Hebrew and Greek and translated the Bible. It is the first time in history that Messianic Jewish scholars (PhD's) translated both the Old and New Testaments from the Hebrew and Greek. The order of the Old Testament is in keeping with the order of the Jewish orientation. The New Testament is ordered the same as the Protestant Bible.

It may help to understand the basic differences between each translation with examples, using 2 Corinthians 10:13 as text:

New King James Version – word-for-word translation:

"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us – a sphere which especially includes you."

Contemporary English Version – thought-for-thought translation:

"We won't brag about something we don't have a right to brag about. We will only brag about the work that God has sent us to do, and you are part of that work."

New International Version – balance between word-for-word and thought-for thought

"We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the field God has assigned to us, a field that reaches even to you."

The Message – paraphrase

“We aren’t making outrageous claims here. We’re sticking to the limits of what God has set for us. But there can be no question that those limits reach to and include you.”

Messianic Jewish Family Bible, Tree of Life Version:

“But we will not boast beyond limits, but within the limits of the area that God has assigned to us – to reach even as far as you.”

While there are basically two types of translation, there are many different versions of the Bible. It’s good to be able to read from a version you think you might want before you buy. Here’s a website that will show you different versions:

<http://www.biblegateway.com/versions//>

Click on the version you would like to read, and the site will take you to it.

Regardless of the Bible version you choose, the most important factor is that you *actually use it!*

Different Ways the Bible is Organized

The Protestant and Catholic Bibles, and Jewish Scriptures are all organized differently. They all contain the same books, except for extra-canon books in the Catholic Bible (see discussion concerning the Apocrypha above), but are in differing orders.

The Protestant Bible is made up of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament is organized into four parts: the Pentateuch, the first 5 books Genesis through Deuteronomy (also called the Torah); the Historical Books, Joshua through Esther; the Writings; and the Prophets. It is interesting to note that one of the reasons the Prophets are at the end of the Old Testament is because they point to the coming of Christ.

The New Testament of the Protestant Bible is organized with the Gospels, which tells the story of Jesus. After the Gospels comes a history of the church in the Book of Acts. The third section contains the writings of various apostles; and lastly, a prophetic book, Revelation. Notice the similarity of the New Testament structure to that of the Old Testament.

When comparing Protestant and Catholic Bibles, the difference would be in the structure of the Old Testament alone. The Old Testament in

Notes

Catholic Bibles include what is known as “second” canon books that were thought to be just as much “scripture” as the other books. These fourteen books are interspersed throughout the Old Testament in some Catholic Bibles, or as a section between the two Testaments (see discussion about the Apocrypha above).

Although the Christian Bible contains all 24 books of Jewish Scripture, Jewish Scriptures are ordered differently (the discrepancy between 24 books of Jewish Scripture and the 39 books of our Old Testament reflects the split of texts in Christian Bibles into separate books; for example, Kings, Samuel, Chronicles, Ezra-Nehemiah, and the minor prophets into separate books). Jewish Scriptures are organized into three parts: the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings. In this tradition, the prophets are connected to their history because they lived and spoke at critical times in the lives of God’s people.

Proof of God’s Existence

How do we prove what we can’t see? How can we have proof of something we can neither see nor touch? Perhaps that question can be answered by asking this question: what constitutes proof? For our purposes, there are at least two proofs that we can provide: internal, or Biblical; and external, or extra-Biblical.

We’ll start with internal, or Biblical proof of God’s existence. There are many different ways we could tackle this. The most compelling truth, as I see it, is the Biblical fulfillment of prophecy. Unique among all books ever written, the Bible accurately foretells specific events – in detail – many years, sometimes centuries, before they occur. About 2,500 prophecies appear in the Bible, approximately 2,000 of which already have been fulfilled to the letter – no errors.

To put this in a different perspective, let’s take just 8 of the 108 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus’ life:

1. Messiah will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
2. A messenger will prepare the way for Messiah (Malachi 3:1)
3. Messiah will enter Jerusalem as a king riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)
4. Messiah will be betrayed by a friend, suffering wounds in His hands (Zech 13:6)
5. Messiah will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12)
6. Betrayal money will be used to purchase a potter’s field (Zechariah 11:13)
7. Messiah will remain silent while He is afflicted (Isaiah 53:7)
8. Messiah will die having His hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16)

Notes

A mathematician, Peter Stoner, was intrigued by this and did some calculations. He calculated the probability of all 8 being fulfilled in the life of one person as 1 in 10 to the seventeenth power – 17 zeros.

To make this concept clearer, he stated it another way. Imagine the state of Texas knee deep in silver dollars, and include in this huge number one silver dollar with a black check mark on it. Turn a blindfolded person loose in this sea of silver dollars. The odds that the first coin he would pick up would be the one with the mark on it are the same as 8 prophecies being fulfilled accidentally in the life of Jesus. Peter Stoner's book "Science Speaks" is unfortunately out of print. However, if you would like to read more about his fascinating writing on Bible prophecy, We encourage you to visit Lamb and Lion Ministries and look for the article "Applying the Science of Probability to the Scriptures". Here's the link: <http://christinprophecy.org/articles/applying-the-science-of-probability-to-the-scriptures/>

Fulfilled prophecy is adequate proof that God is who He said He is, that He knows the beginning from the end. As you read through the Scriptures during this study, you will see others truths. We encourage you to keep a journal of what God is showing you about Himself – you will be amazed!

As concerns external, or extra-Biblical (meaning outside the Bible) proof of God – we can look to ancient Jewish writings, historians, and archeology – and how these things substantiate what the Bible tells us.

One such source has been gathered over many hundreds of years and is recorded in a library of commentary written by the Jewish scribes and rabbis. This library is called the Talmud and is a commentary about the five books of the Bible written by Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), the book of Psalms, and the writings of the prophets. The writings of the rabbis and sages add fullness to our perspective of the Bible, and increases our understanding of the what the world was like in ancient times.

There are other historical writings that come together to support the Scriptures in the Bible. The writings of the first century Roman-Jewish scholar and historian, Josephus, are a widely recognized source of information. The Didache (pronounced DID-dah-kay), also called the Teachings of the Twelve Apostles, is another first century writing that was discovered in the 1800s. Both of these bodies of work support the Bible, as well as help us understand the workings of the first century body of believers. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in 1946 in a series of 12 caves near the Dead Sea, date from the last two centuries of B.C, and the first two centuries of A.D. They mirror the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) word-for-word and confirm the accuracy with which Jewish scribes copied the scriptures during ancient times.

Notes

Along with the writings that the scholars provide for us, there is practical and physical evidence that comes to us through archaeology. As the years roll by, more and more of history is uncovered and provides fascinating support for Biblical stories. Archaeological evidence shows that Jericho was burned to the ground more than 3,400 years ago, leaving a huge wall of many thousands of bricks tumbled to the ground. A cluster of small houses behind a section of the wall still stands today. Chariot wheels have been found in the Red Sea; an ancient wall, recently uncovered, references King David; the Pool of Siloam was uncovered in 2004; and, in 2009, a seal belonging to Hezekiah, one of the kings of Judah, was found in a pile of rubble in Jerusalem.

And if that were not enough, Psalm 19:1-2 tells us:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament show His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

How to Study the Bible

There are different ways to study the Bible and here is a short list:

- *Inductive* – when you study the Word of God this way it involves studying what you have read and applying these three principles; observations, interpretation, and application. This is a great way to learn how to apply God's way of living into your own life.
- *Topical* – this is when you study the Bible by certain subjects. This is helpful when you have specific questions and you look up scriptures that speak on that subject. You will need a concordance or a topical index to help you.
- *Word Study* – to study this way is a very narrow, but insightful way to study at times. You learn that the same words can mean different things when the context changes. Again, a concordance, index or topical index is helpful.
- *Expository* – is when you study the Bible verse by verse in context.

Tools and Helps

There are many different tools to help you study the Bible:

- *Concordance* – will give you a list of scriptures where a word is found in the Bible. An exhaustive concordance like "Strong's" will give you every time a word is used in the Bible. It will also give you the meaning of that word in the original language.

Notes

- *Commentary* – will teach in an expository way to give you the meaning of a passage of scripture in its context. Mathew Henry's Commentary is one of the standards and a good place to start.
- *Index* – is usually in the back of many Bibles and is a list of names, words, and subjects found in the Bible. It will also give a few references where they can be found.
- *Bible Dictionary* – helps with understanding words, people, objects, places, and practices in the Bible. They also sometimes contain maps that are helpful in understanding where things happened and who was involved.

There are many online tools available. Bible apps can be found in the Android and Apple phone systems. There are downloadable computer programs, some of which that can only be accessed through the Internet. Two downloadable programs for a Windows computer are E-sword and Xiphos. Accordance is great program for both the Macintosh and Windows. These programs can be customized with different Bible versions and compared side by side. They also contain commentaries, dictionaries and the ability to search scripture references or words. Through online access you can use the biblegateway.com and blueletterbible.com. They have great cross reference ability along with concordances, commentaries, dictionaries, etc.

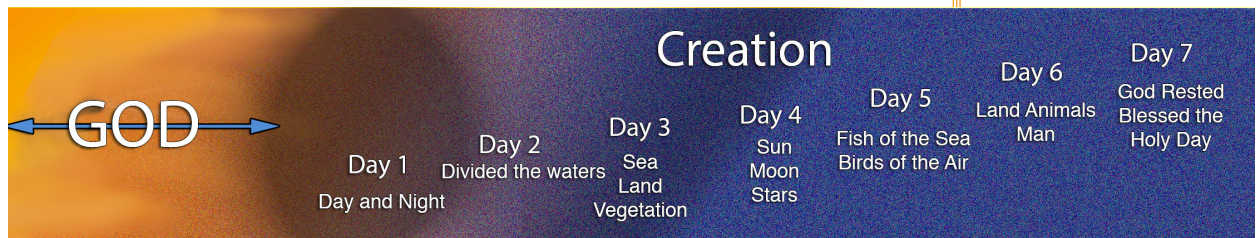
Another great tool for studying the Bible is to memorize the names and order of the books of the Bible. This makes it very easy to find scriptures quickly when studying in a group or listening to a sermon.

We hope that some of the information and tools we have gathered will be of benefit to you in the lifelong journey of discovering the character of God and His relationship to us.

Notes

Lesson 1: God's Glorious Creation

Notes



Lesson 1: God's Glorious Creation

Notes

Scripture Reference

- Genesis 1-2
- Isaiah 40:22
- Isaiah 55:11
- Isaiah 60:19
- Psalms 8
- Psalms 19:1-6
- Psalms 147:4-5

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn the following:

- God created the earth and all its inhabitants
- God's creation has purpose and order
- Everything God created was good
- God's character is revealed in his creation
- God created man for fellowship

Observation

God has always existed. He never had a beginning, and He will never end. Genesis, the first book in the Bible, is the book of beginnings. It gives the account of the beginning of the heavens and the earth, and everything on the earth, including man. Genesis states that, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep."

Genesis tells us that on the **first** day, God spoke light into existence, and He saw that it was good. He separated the light from the darkness and named the light, "day", and the darkness, "night". At that time, the earth and the skies were filled with water.

On the **second** day, God divided the waters above the earth from the water on the earth, and He called the waters above the earth, "sky".

Notes

On the **third** day, God gathered the waters under the sky and put them in one place on the earth. He called the waters on earth "sea". He also created dry ground on the earth, and called it "land". He saw what He created and He knew it was good. Then God spoke into existence the vegetation on the earth, and created it to bear fruit after its kind.

On the **fourth** day, God spoke into existence the very lights in the sky, which would light the earth. The lights also performed the function of dividing the days and the seasons on the earth. The greater light, He called the "sun", and the lesser light, He called the "moon". He made the stars in the sky. It was pleasing to God. He knew it was good.

On the **fifth** day, God told the waters to bring forth living creatures, and for the birds to fly across the sky above the earth. He gave them direction and order.

On the **sixth day**, God spoke to the land telling it to produce living creatures according to their kinds, livestock, creatures that move on the ground, and wild animals according to their kind. God said it was good. God made all the beasts of the field and the birds of the air.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of sea, the birds of the air, and over the livestock over all the earth." God created man in His own image, and blessed him. Man is unique from all the rest of creation. God made man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. He was made in the image of God, and God breathed His own Spirit into man. He blessed man with His character of love, tenderness, mercy, peace, compassion, fellowship, faithfulness, freedom, and so much more.

God entrusted Adam with the responsibility of naming every animal. God not only gave Adam responsibility, but He relinquished authority to Adam. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone, so He provided a beautiful partner for him. He caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and took one of his ribs. From that rib, He created woman and presented her to Adam. She was beautiful and Adam was captivated with her. Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed. They were pure and innocent before God, and they enjoyed the love and fellowship of God, and the love and enjoyment of each other.

God placed man in a beautiful garden. He walked and talked with them in the garden. He gave man the commission and responsibility to care for the garden and take control over it. He was not threatened by man, but freely gave to man the freedom and responsibility to enjoy the earth and all that was on the earth, and He told them to fill the earth and subdue it.

Notes

God gave man every seed bearing plant and every tree that has fruit with seed in it for food for man. And He gave all the green plants and vegetation for the animals. At that time, man and all animals were vegetarians. There was a river in the garden watering the vegetation. In the middle of the garden, God placed the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Within the garden, there were gold and precious stones and aromatic resin. God saw that everything He made was very good. He was pleased with his creation.

On the **seventh** day, God completed his creation, and He rested. He made the seventh day a holy day, a day for enjoying the completion of his work.

Interpretation

The Hebrew name of God, found in the first chapter of Genesis is Elohim (el-o-heem), the all-powerful, strong one. Elohim is the plural of El, and some scholars believe that God spoken of in the plural form is one of the first indications of the triune nature of God. He always existed and will always exist. He had no beginning. God is omniscient, all-knowing (1 Samuel 2:3; Isaiah 55:9), omnipotent, all-powerful (Jeremiah 32:17, 27), omnipresent, present everywhere (Psalms 139:7-13), and eternal (Psalms 90:2).

After God created the world, He didn't abandon it and leave it dark and empty. He had an incredible plan, and He methodically carried it out. By giving the earth shape and mass He also gave it purpose. Everything He created has a purpose. God's Spirit hovered over the waters, watching, protecting, and creating. God is a holy and complete God. He lacks nothing, and when He starts a project, He sees it through to completion, and creates everything that is needed. He has the vision to see all aspects of the project and plan.

We don't know how much time transpired between God creating the heavens and the earth and His creation on the first day. Some scientists believe that our earth is billions of years old. Billions of years could have taken place between the time that God created the heavens and the earth, while the earth was without form and filled with darkness until the first day of creation, when God spoke light into existence. We don't know, but God does.

On the first day, when God said, "Let there be light, and there was light." We see God's majesty, and His strength and divinity, when He spoke light into existence. His word never returns to Him without accomplishing what He says (Isaiah 55:11). There is power and truth in His word, and He is light (Isaiah 60:19).

Notes

On the second day when He divided the waters above from the waters below, He gave order to what He created. God is a God of order and purpose.

God is a good God, and a nurturing God. Every good and perfect gift comes from Him (James 1:17). On the third day, God even provided the means for the vegetation to grow and be tended, by creating streams that came up from the earth and completely watered the ground (Genesis 2:6). God methodically planned and created everything that man would need to have an abundant life on earth.

God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. He blessed the earth and His creation with light, just as He is light (1 John 1:5). God saw that everything He created was good. God blessed the fish and told them to be fruitful and fill the water and the seas. He blessed the birds and told them to increase on the earth.

On the sixth day, we see God's triune nature in his statement; "Let *Us* make man in *Our* image." Although God is one, He is three. There is God the Father, (1 Corinthians 8:6), God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2, 1 Corinthians 2:10, Romans 8:26), and God the Son (Colossians 1:16-20). All three characteristics of God were present and creating from the very beginning.

God is gracious and compassionate, and these attributes are not only seen in His creation, but also given to His creation. God poured forth His very character upon the earth. God completed His creation on the sixth day, and He saw it was very good. It was complete, an awesome creation that provided for every living creature. It provided man the opportunity to enjoy and have authority over the creation, as well as have incredible fellowship with God, the almighty Creator. God's faithfulness is seen in his creation. He provided everything that all living beings need, and it was complete and perfect.

He gave man free will to make choices. God enjoys freedom, and He blessed man with freedom. However, with freedom comes responsibility. God told man he could eat of any tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he took of it, the consequence would be death (Genesis 3:3, Numbers 23:19). Man could not have, and enjoy, the very holiness of God if he partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; and if he did, God said he would no longer enjoy the glory of the tree of life. He blessed and protected man with all he needed. Man dwelt in glorious innocence.

Application

By His very word, God spoke the world into existence. His creation shows the complexity, the purpose, the order, the beauty, and the

Notes

holiness of God. He gave man free will to make decisions and choices for himself. He gave man the earth to enjoy, and the authority to rule over it, protect and nurture it. God's amazing divine insight to the needs of His creation and all the provisions for which He has blessed mankind is beyond comprehension. God loved blessing man with His fellowship, and with His complete and perfect creation.

All we have to do is look around us to see the very handiwork of God. The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim loud and clear the work of His hands. It is obvious that our world did not just happen, but was divinely created. God wants us to know Him and enjoy fellowship with Him. He is faithful, and His creation displays His faithfulness (Psalms 19:1, Jeremiah 29:13). There is no greater blessing we can have than fellowship with the creator of the universe. The choice is ours. *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened (Matthew 7:7-8).*

Reading Assignment

- Genesis 1-2

Questions

1. Who are the characters mentioned in Genesis 1 and 2?

2. Genesis 1:1-25, addresses the first six days of God's creation. Genesis 1:26-27, and Genesis 2:7 are about His creation of man on the sixth day. What is different about His creation of man compared to the rest of His creation?

Notes

3. What were God's thoughts toward his creation? In what verses are his thoughts recorded?

4. The earth was without form and was void. Describe what that looks like to you?

5. God gave the earth form, shape and mass for a purpose. Nothing He created was without purpose. Make a list of the purpose of each days creation:

Day 1: _____

Day 2: _____

Day 3: _____

Day 4: _____

Day 5: _____

Day 6: _____

6. Which of God's creations were formed from the dust of the earth?

7. What did God do to make man different than the animals?

Notes

8. Describe what the "Breathe of God" means, what it does, and what effect it gives?

What it means –

What it does – Genesis 2:7, Ezekiel 37:9, Job 33:4, John 1:1-4, 1 John 5:11

What effect it gives – John 20:22, 2 Samuel 23:2, Hebrews. 4:12, 2 Peter 1:21

9. How does this personally change the way you see yourself and others?

10. Now that you know what gives you life, why do you think God entrusted you with it?

11. God's creation was methodical, detailed, orderly and life-giving. What does that reveal to you about God's character?

Notes

12. What does the methodical, detailed, orderly and life-giving aspects of creation reveal about God's intentions toward you and your life's journey? When did God begin to plan your life's journey?

13. Share a few of your thoughts about creation?

Digging Deeper

- <http://www.icr.org>
- DNA What Does it Prove by Michael Matthews, April 23, 2003
<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2003/04/25/what-dna-prove>
- Many one-two minute clips on scientific facts about God's creation
<http://www.icr.org/thatsafact>
- Evidence for God, Evidence for Creation, Cause and Effect
<http://www.icr.org/cause-effect/>
- In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood, by Dr. Walt Brown. Copyright © Center for Scientific Creation.
- <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/FAQ13.html>
- <http://creationscience.com>
- <http://creationevidence.org>

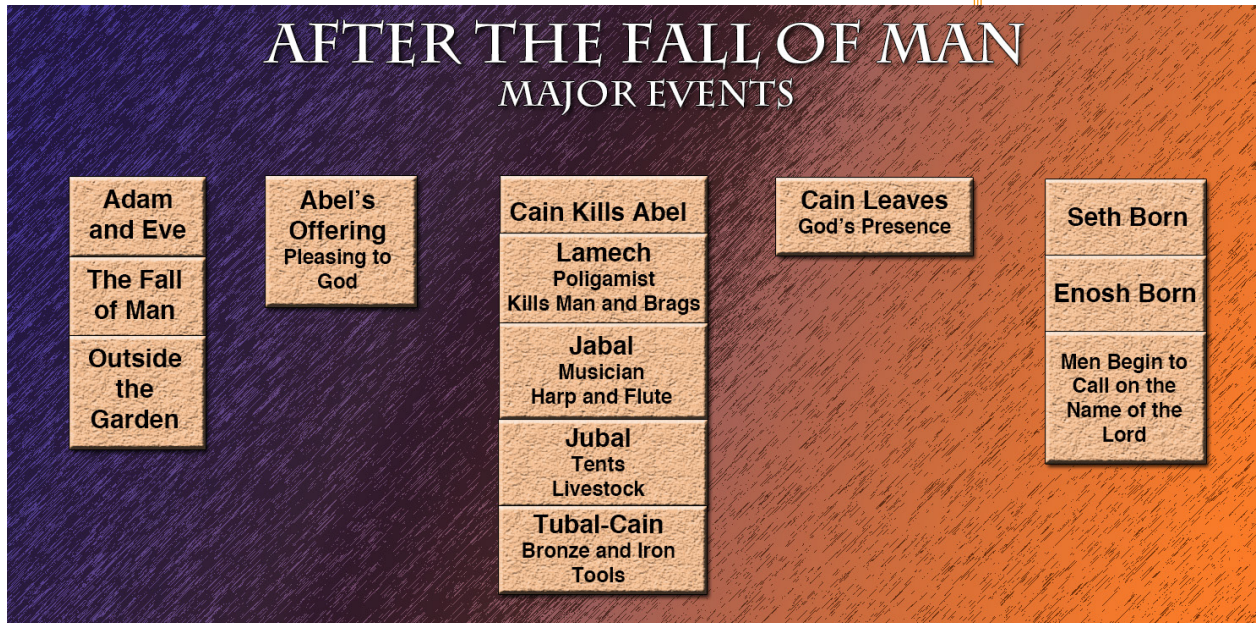
Notes

Notes

Lesson 2: The Fall, Realization, Consequence, and Solution

Notes





Lesson 2: The Fall, Realization, Consequence, and Solution

Notes

Scripture Reference

- Genesis 3-5
- Romans 3:23; Romans 3:10; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8;
- Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13; Romans 10:17

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn the following:

- God's purpose for man
- The awesome character of God
- The consequence of sin
- God's redemptive plan for man
- God's purposes cannot be thwarted
- The deceptive character of Satan
- The lineage of Christ during this period

Notes

Observation

God created a glorious world with a foundation of balance and harmony. He blessed Adam and Eve with everything they needed to live a glorious life, in complete harmony with their Father and Creator and all His creation. He also blessed them with the free will to make their own choices. He placed two trees within the center of the garden; one was the tree of life, bearing fruit that would bless them with eternal life (Genesis 3:22), and the other tree was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God commanded them not to eat of it or they would die. The choice was theirs: obedience or disobedience, life or death.

Amidst the beautiful life-giving garden lurked Satan, seeking to devour and destroy the beautiful relationship that man had with God. He is the father of lies and deceit. He roams the earth seeking people who he can deceive, defeat, and destroy (1 Peter 5:8). He hated the fact that God had breathed His very breath into man. As a result, Satan had a plan using lies and deception, that he thought would thwart God's purpose, plan, and intentions for man. He was wrong; nothing can thwart God's plans (Revelation 2:7; 22:2, 14, 19). Satan, in the form of a serpent appeared to Eve, with Adam right by her side. The lie Satan told to Eve is the very same lie he tells us today, "Did God really say...?" Satan desires to instill in each one of us doubt about God's very words, and Satan wants us to put our trust in him and in ourselves rather than God.

When Satan presented the question of God's character, Eve, listened, looked, and saw pleasing fruit. She entertained the thought Satan presented to her... what a great thing to be as wise as God, to be a God. She began to believe the lie. She took of the fruit and gave some to Adam, and he took of it too. The serpent deceived Eve, but Adam listened to his wife, rather than to God. Rather than be a responsible and obedient leader and protector of his home, he became a follower of his wife. Immediately, they suffered the consequence of disobedience to God. They recognized sin. They knew the difference between good and evil, and they lost the blessing of God's covering of innocence. The law of sin and death now had control over their lives. They knew they were naked and they were ashamed. The guilt of sin, their disobedience to God, was overwhelming. They knew that they could not face God, so they tried to hide from His very presence, the presence and fellowship of their creator, God, and friend. Satan in his craftiness and deception presented them with a "half truth." They did learn the difference between good and evil, but God did not lie to them. God was not, and never will be threatened by man, or Satan.

After eating the fruit, they heard God walking in the garden. However, now they had a new awareness. They no longer experienced the purity, holiness, and innocence that enabled them to have fellowship with God

Notes

Almighty. No, this time they were filled with sin and guilt. They couldn't handle the guilt of sin, so they sewed fig leaves together to try and cover their nakedness from each other and from God. Fig leaves will never cover sin or the guilt of sin from God. God clothed them. God provided a covering, a temporary covering. It was not from the produce of the land, but from God's creation. God killed an innocent animal to provide skin to temporarily cover their nakedness, the guilt of sin. It took blood to temporarily cover the guilt of sin.

When God confronted Adam, Adam blamed Eve for the sin. When God confronted Eve, she blamed the serpent for deceiving her. God put a curse upon the serpent for what he had done, saying he would crawl on the ground in the dust of the earth, that there would be enmity between him and the woman, and between his offspring and hers. Eve's offspring would crush the very head of the serpent, and the serpent's offspring would bruise her offspring's heel. As we go through this study, it will become more and more apparent that through Jesus Christ, Satan will soon be crushed under the feet of the followers of Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15, Romans 16:20). Satan thought that through the crucifixion of Christ he won the victory, but he did not. Christ rose from the dead and is seated at the right-hand of God. Adam and Eve suffered the consequences of sin, and were removed from the garden. Sin, and the constant reminder of the guilt of sin, forever changed their glorious life in the garden. Now, they experienced death.

Sin was now crouching and ambushing, prowling after the very heart of man. Sin is evident in the descendants of Adam and Eve, from the first generation to the current generation. Adam was created in the likeness of God. Once Adam sinned, he had a new nature, a sin nature. The scriptures tell us that when Adam's son, Seth was born, he was created in the likeness of his father, Adam (Genesis 5:3). Seth was born with the nature of his father, Adam, a nature to sin.

That new nature is evident, when Cain killed his brother Abel, because he couldn't deal with the guilt of his sin, knowing he displeased God. Rather than repent from his sin, and turn to God, he tried to cover the sin and the guilt with the blood of his brother. He became a wanderer. When we look at his descendants such as Lamech, we can see the attitude perpetuated. Lamech became a polygamist and a murderer like Cain, and he did not even try to do what was right. In fact, he seemed proud of his sin (Genesis 4:19-24).

Interpretation

Even though Adam had a law and broke it, there wasn't a law given to Cain. However, he knew what was right and wrong because God had written it in his God-given conscience. He also had the words and experiences of his parents. When God told Cain, "if you do what is right

Notes

you will be accepted”, Cain knew what was right (Romans 2:12). Yet, Cain made the choice to do evil and kill his brother.

Through the disobedient act of one man, Adam, sin and death entered the world and we all experience that sin and death. Through the righteous act of obedience of Jesus Christ, the gift of His righteousness is given to all who receive Him (Romans 5). The shame and guilt of sin causes us to either run away from God, or run directly to Him.

Application

God has never, and He will never leave us or forsake us. Even though we have all sinned and fall short of his glory (Romans 3:23), He provided away for us to be redeemed and have fellowship with him forever. If we receive the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, His blood is placed on the doorpost of our hearts and cleanses us from all unrighteousness: past, present, and future, and the guilt of sin is forever removed from our hearts (Romans 5). He seals us with His Holy Spirit, and we are guaranteed to eat of the tree of life, which is in the middle of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (Revelation 22:1-6). We can choose life or death; the choice is ours.

Reading Assignment

Notes

Genesis 3-5

Questions

The characters in this lesson are: Adam, Eve, the Serpent(Satan), God, Cain, Abel, Seth.

1. From what was Adam created?

2. From what was Eve created ?

3. What role was Adam created to do? What role was he to take?

4. Why was Eve created? What role was she to have?

5. Read Isaiah 14:12 and then Ezekiel 28:13-17. Why was Satan cast down to earth, and what do you think his sin was?

6. According to Genesis 3:6, what are the three things Eve did that led her to sin or be deceived? How similar was it to Satan's sin?

Notes

7. According to Genesis 3:10 Adam's first reaction was fear, and then to hide from God, when he recognized he had sinned. Is our instinct similar or different than Adam's, and why?

8. In Genesis 3:16-19, what were the consequences of sin for:

The serpent: _____

Woman: _____

Adam: _____

9. After reading Genesis 3:21, read these passages: Genesis 4:4, Exodus 13:12, Numbers 18:17, Deuteronomy 15:19, Hebrews 9:22, 1 Peter 1:19-20, and Revelations 13:8. These scriptures explain God's solution for the consequence of sin. What was God's plan from the beginning to cover man's sin?

10. Where do you think Abel learned to make an animal sacrifice from the firstlings of his flock?

Notes

11. What was Abel's reward for obedience? Would you like to receive the same from God? What do you need to do to receive it?

12. Since God cursed Cain and the plan could not continue through him, who did God provide in place of Abel?

13. In your own words summarize today's lesson regarding the consequence of sin and how God's plan prevails in the presence of sin?

Notes

Digging Deeper

You are encouraged to read the entire book of Romans (In particular the 5th chapter), and Colossians 1.

Chart on the Lineage of Christ

Notes

The chart on the Lineage of Christ displays the lineage of Christ from Adam to Shem. This lesson covers the period of time up to, but not including Noah. Each of the following lessons in this course present an update to this chart. You are encouraged to study the chart carefully, and notice how generations overlapped. For example, notice that Enosh, the son of Seth, was still alive when Noah was born.

If you look at the lineage of Cain given in Genesis 4, there seems to be a legacy of self-reliance and pride. Cain's descendants seemed to follow in his footsteps. On the other hand, Seth's descendants seemed to rely on the Lord. When his son, Enosh was born, men began to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26). Notice that Adam was still alive, when his great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandson, Lamech was born. (This is not the same Lamech that was a descendant of Cain.) Adam was still alive when Enoch was on the earth. Enoch walked with God and he never died. God took him. Think of the verbal legacy that was passed down through all these generations, while Adam was still alive. In the next lesson, we will learn about Noah, and it becomes apparent that the legacy of seeking to do what was right was passed down. Think of the experiences that Adam, Seth, and Enosh and so on down the family line must have shared with their children and grandchildren.

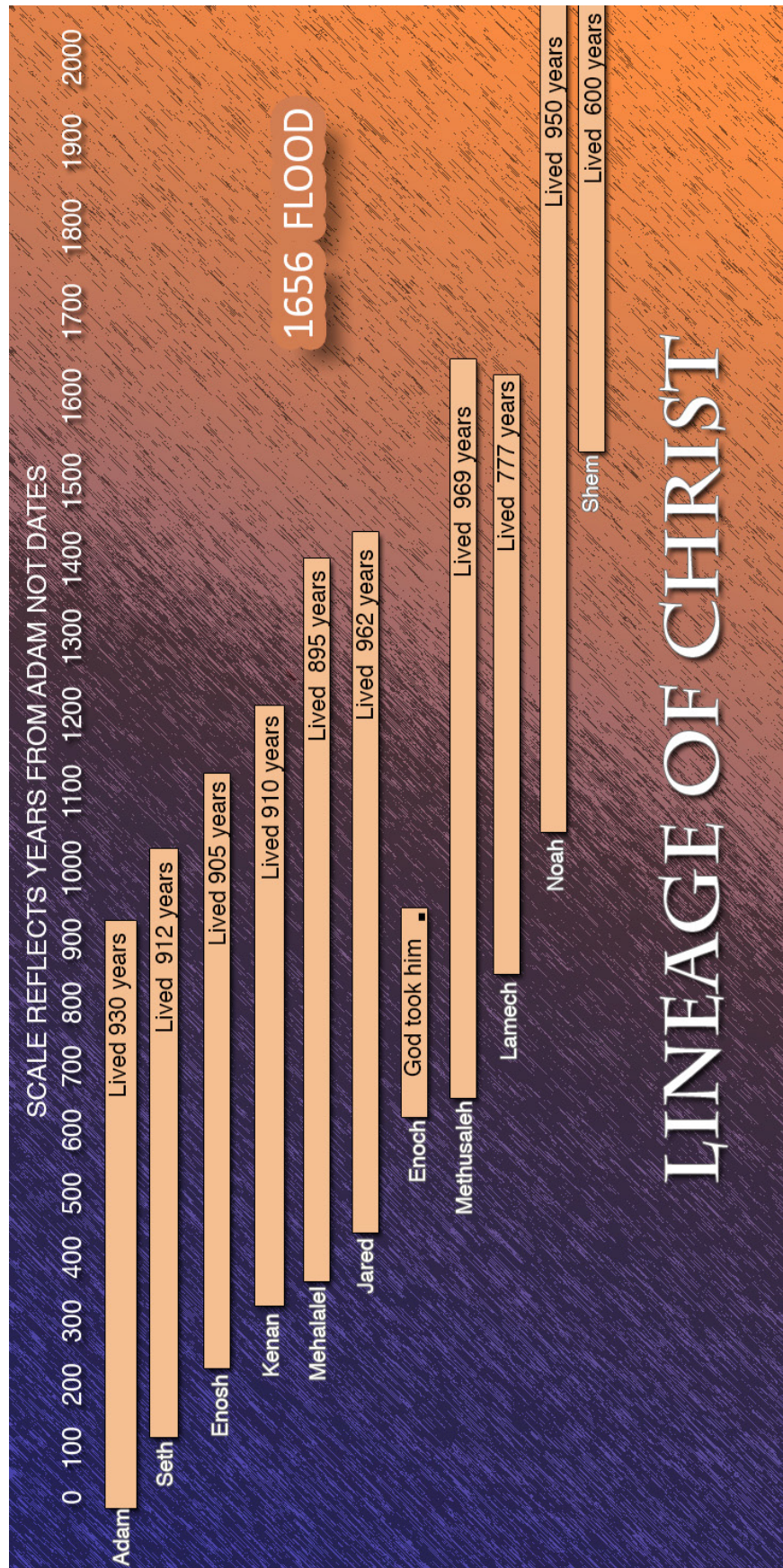
In his sermon series, *"Understanding Society"*, given some time in 1968, Ray C. Stedman, stated the following about the names of these descendants of Adam:

"There is some difference among authorities as to the meaning of these names, depending upon the root from which they are judged to be taken. But one authority gives a most interesting sequence of meanings: The list begins with Seth, which means "Appointed." Enosh, his son, means "Mortal", and his son, Kenan, means "Sorrow." His son Mahalalel, means "The Blessed God." He named his boy Jared which means "Came Down," and his boy, Enoch, means "Teaching." Methuselah, as we saw, means "His death shall bring;" Lamech means "Strength," and Noah, "Comfort." Now put that all together:

*God has Appointed that Mortal man shall Sorrow; but The Blessed God, Came Down, Teaching, that His Death Shall Bring, Strength and Comfort."*¹

¹<https://www.raystedman.org/old-testament/genesis/adams-book>

Notes

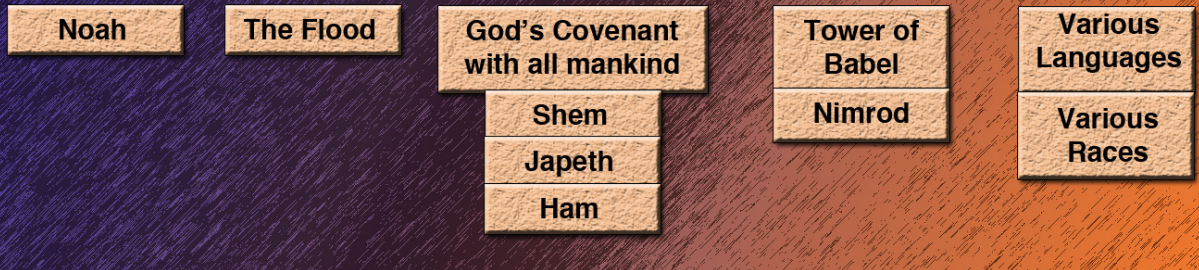


Lesson 3: Noah to the Tower of Babel

Notes

NOAH TO THE TOWER OF BABEL

MAJOR EVENTS



Lesson 3: Noah to the Tower of Babel

Notes

Scripture Reference

- Genesis 6:1 – 11:9
- Romans 1,2
- Hebrews 11:7
- Ephesians 1:11-14, 4:30

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn the following:

- Selfishness leads to sin
- God preserves the righteous
- God uses circumstances for guidance, care, and correction
- The purpose and effects of the flood

Notes

Observation

This lesson continues in the chronology of God's journey with man. In this lesson, you will learn about the next period of time, when God spared the life of Noah and his family, and a remnant of the animals, but destroyed all other life on earth by sending a flood.

Nothing can thwart what God wants to accomplish. Even sin cannot thwart God's plan of redemption and resurrection. Satan thought he could thwart God's plans by infecting the world with sin, but God always has a remnant that will walk with Him and be a part of His journey with man. Everything God created was good; in fact, it was very good. Man was created to rest in the glory and fellowship of God Almighty. God gave man an awesome creation to enjoy, and to rule with the wisdom and knowledge of God's very presence. However, after Adam and Eve listened to and accepted the lie of the enemy, they lost that glorious fellowship with God, were removed from the garden, and the eternal life they once enjoyed. They acquired a new nature, which is in direct rebellion to the nature of God.

Thank God that He has never left man powerless or hopeless. The heart of God has always been, and always will be, redemption. His journey with man is a journey of redemption, and resurrection.

The scriptures tell us that when Adam's son, Seth, had a son named Enosh men began to call on the name of the Lord (Genesis 4:26). It didn't take long for man to see that he needed God. He needed redemption. Once sin entered the heart of man, his thoughts and intentions were evil. There has been much controversy as to what is meant in Genesis 6:2, by the "sons of God marrying the daughters of men." We may disagree on the specifics of the situation, but we know for certain that this marriage was out of lust and evil, and never what God intended for man. The Lord grieved that He created man, and His heart was filled with pain. He created man and woman to have a glorious relationship with each other, and with God. He created man and woman to treasure and enjoy sex. The beauty of their differences, were to bond them together into a glorious relationship. However, rather than walk in the ways of God and seek God's heart and direction, man sought his own ways, did whatever he wanted to do, and took whatever he desired at any cost. Rather than enjoy God's creation and rule over it with God's wisdom, man chose to rule over it with evil, pride, lust, and greed. The world had become so corrupt and violent that it was a dangerous place to live, especially for a man who walked with God and taught his family the ways of God.

In the midst of this evil and corrupt world, there was one righteous man, blameless among the people of his time. Noah was a righteous man, and a preacher of righteousness by his very life. Can you

Notes

imagine what it would be like to be the only person on the earth seeking God and His ways? He didn't have friends that he could run to for encouragement, but he still walked with God. He followed God and walked in God's ways rather than the ways of man. He taught his family the ways of God. This desire to walk with God in the midst of a fallen world had been part of his heritage. Remember, Enoch, walked and talked with God the last 300 years of his life on earth, and God took him. He never died. He just went home with God. Enoch's son, Methusaleh, and grandson, Lamech were still alive just a few years before the flood. Can you imagine the stories they shared with Noah?

God always provides for the remnant of people, who seek to walk and journey with him. He did that for Noah. He destroyed the world by a flood, because sin had completely destroyed the hearts of the inhabitants, with the exception of Noah. He gave Noah precise orders on how to build the ark and exactly what to bring into the ark. Although, we don't know the exact amount of years that Noah took building the ark, we have a reference to him at 500 years of age, and then when he entered the ark at 600. However, we don't know how much time transpired before he started building the ark. We know that Noah continued on the journey with God and followed God's directions exactly as he was told.

After entering the ark, God shut the door and sealed it. God's very presence was in the ark with Noah and his family and all the animals. The rains came and poured down on the earth, destroying all the inhabitants, but God had sealed and protected Noah and his family in the ark.

Noah and his family were in the ark for almost a year while God cleansed the earth. It is very interesting that Genesis 8:4 gives the exact day that the ark landed on the mountains of Ararat. *"...and on the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat."* Resting on the mountains let Noah know that the waters were receding, and they would soon be out of the ark and walking on the earth. Later in this course, you will learn about the period of time when God delivered the descendants of Noah from terrible abuse and slavery. He instituted a Passover meal for them to partake of from generation to generation. It was to be a remembrance of how God spared the lives of their firstborn children, but brought judgment and death on the lives of the firstborn in the Egyptian homes, where they had been enslaved. We learn in Exodus 12:2, that at that time God changed their calendar and made the seventh month the first month of their first year, and He made Passover a new beginning, the fourteenth day of the first month. In the New Testament we learn that Jesus took of the Passover meal with His disciples on the fourteenth day of the first month and was then crucified. He arose from the dead three days later, the seventeenth day of the first month. When the ark rested

Notes

on Mt Ararat on the seventeenth day of the seventh month, it was the same day on the new calendar. Just as Noah and his family were spared from death, and had the first sign of new hope on the seventeenth day of the month, it should be significant to us that is the day that we have been redeemed and resurrected to walk in new life, thanks to the precious blood of the resurrected Jesus.

Noah and his family came out of the ark with new hope and faith that God would continue to protect and provide all they needed. They immediately offered sacrifices to God, burnt offerings of some of the clean animals and birds they had taken with them in the ark. They thanked God and followed in the footsteps of Abel, offering a sacrifice to God that they knew would be pleasing. Noah wanted to continue walking with God. The offering was a pleasing aroma to God, a smell of righteousness and obedience. God then made a covenant with all mankind and every living creature that never again would He curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of man's heart is evil from childhood. Also, He would not destroy all living creatures again by a flood. He put the rainbow in the sky as a sign of this covenant between God and all life. He blessed Noah and his sons and told them to be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. He also told them that everything that lives would now be food for them, but not to eat meat that has blood in it. Man and animal would now be accountable for life. *"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."* (Genesis 9:6)

Not long after this, Noah plants a vineyard and gets drunk, and passes out naked in his tent. His youngest son, Ham, goes in to the tent, comes out and tells his brothers what he has done. Shem and Japheth are appalled at their brother's sin, and they take a garment and lay it across their shoulders and walk in backwards and cover their father's nakedness. They did not even look at their father in his nakedness. When Noah awakes he has righteous indignation for what happened. Ham has sinned against his father. Noah is furious. God has spared them from the destruction of mankind and all its corruption, and now his youngest son has done something sinful against his father. We don't know the specifics, but we know that it is evil. Noah curses Ham's son Canaan, his grandson, and tells him he will be the lowest of slaves to his brothers. He doesn't give this curse to Ham, but to his son Canaan. Ham had other sons, but it is only to Canaan that he gives this prophetic curse. Later in our study, we will learn about a time when the descendants of Shem conquer the land of Canaan, which is inhabited by descendants of Canaan. These inhabitants of the land of Canaan worship gods of wood and stone, and perform the most grievous and evil practices. They perform all kinds of heinous sexual practices, and even offer their children as human sacrifices to their gods, in

hopes that these gods would make their land fertile. In particular, the Gibeonites, direct descendants of Canaan, inhabitants of the land, deceive Shem's descendants and end up becoming the servants of the descendants of Shem, just as Noah said they would.

Interpretation

The flood did not destroy sin; it protected righteousness, and brought redemption to those who chose to walk with God. Within two hundred years after the flood, God had to intervene to prevent mankind from accomplishing the purposes and goals of man, which are in complete rebellion to the purpose of God. There was one language on the earth, and the people wanted to make a name for themselves by building a tower that reached the heavens. There was a hunger in man for unity, but not godly unity. They wanted to build this tower in their strength and might, for the pride of man. God was not going to let this happen, and He confused their languages so they couldn't understand each other. God stopped them from accomplishing their rebellious plans. He scattered the people over the face of the whole earth. The different languages can be traced back to the building of this tower of Babel.

Noah's righteous act of obedience is a testimony for all generations. Noah was a preacher of righteousness by his very life (2 Peter 2:5). He hated evil, and his faith was in God. He was not perfect, but he was righteous in his day, because he sought to walk in obedience to God.

All that God purposes will never be thwarted. Even sin cannot thwart God's plan of redemption and resurrection. He spared Noah and his family from death in the flood, and sealed them in the protection of the ark. Satan thought he could thwart God's plans by infecting the world with sin, but God always has a remnant that will walk with Him and be a part of His journey with man.

Man has a God-given need for unity, but without God, man can never achieve unity. Today, rebellious man seeks unity in the form of tolerance of sin and diversity as long as it has nothing to do with God. Today, rebellious man tries to solve the problem of sin by political and humanistic solutions, the ways of Babel. Just as God prevented the people from accomplishing their plan at Babel, God will ultimately prevent the plans of man from succeeding.

God wants us to walk with him, in His righteousness. He sent His son, His only son, to live a perfect life, and be that sacrificial offering, for our redemption. All who receive His sacrifice are filled with His Holy Spirit, which seals us just like it did with the ark, and guarantees our redemption (Ephesians 1:11-14, 4:30).

Jesus said He would return to remove the redeemed from the earth, and that one day we would meet Him in the sky, in the twinkling of an

Notes

eye. He seeks a remnant of people who like Noah have faith that He will do exactly what He said He would do. Jesus said when He returns for this remnant of believers, it will be a time just like it was in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:36-39). People were eating and drinking and marrying and giving in marriage, until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Application

We can be a part of that remnant of people who are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God, redeemed and resurrected by the blood of Jesus. The choice is ours. We can walk in obedience and righteousness to God, or we can walk like the people of Noah's day. Walking in obedience and righteousness is not easy in a fallen world, but having the Holy Spirit of the Living God within us, gives us the power to do it. God made a covenant with us through the blood of His son, Jesus, not so that we could bargain with Him, but so that He could bring us up to His ways, redemption, resurrection, and fellowship (Isaiah 55:8). God has provided the means for us to be free from the wages of sin and death (Romans 8). The choice to receive or reject His redemption is ours.

Reading Assignment

- Genesis 6:1-11:9

Questions

1. Who are the characters in these scriptures?

2. What is the culture of the time?

3. What is happening in Genesis 6:2?

Notes

4. Why are the "Sons of God" marrying the "daughters of men"?

5. What part of human nature are they satisfying? Is this a godly reason to marry?

6. Who found grace in God's eyes and why?

7. Who did God choose to do his work/will?

8. Why did God bring the flood?

9. What was his plan for the wicked? Righteous?

10. How did the flood affect the presence of sin?

Notes

11. After reading Numbers 18:17 and Hebrews 9:22, what has a direct and permanent affect on sin?

12. Within 200 years of the flood, the Tower of Babel was built. Why was it built, and what were the people trying to avoid? (Genesis 11:4)

13. What was their sin?

14. What was God's solution/consequence for their actions and attitude?

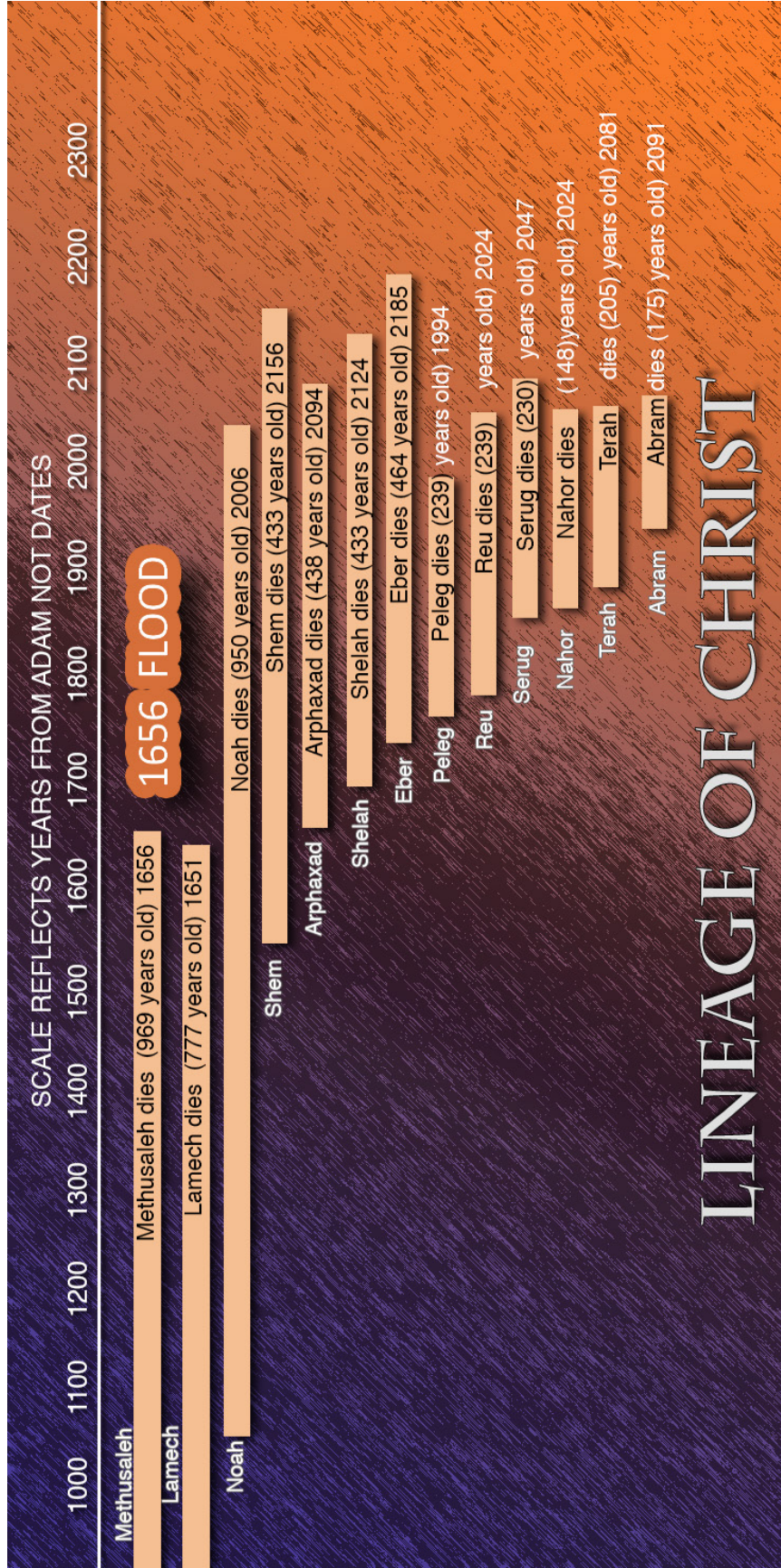
15. Can you see the irony/humor in what God chose?

Notes

16. Can you think of a time when you thought that circumstances were a coincidence, "Karma", or "Bad luck"? Can you look back and maybe see that God was trying to correct your path, attitude, or perception?

17. Share some thoughts about today's lesson, and some ideas that might help you recognize the sin of pride, and be more sensitive to God's leading you personally.

Notes



Notes on the Lineage Chart

Notes

Notice the following:

- Noah was 500 years old before he ever had children.
- Noah was 600 when the flood was on the earth.
- Notice that after Noah, generations live shorter lives (God changed the age of man to 120 years (Gen 6:3).

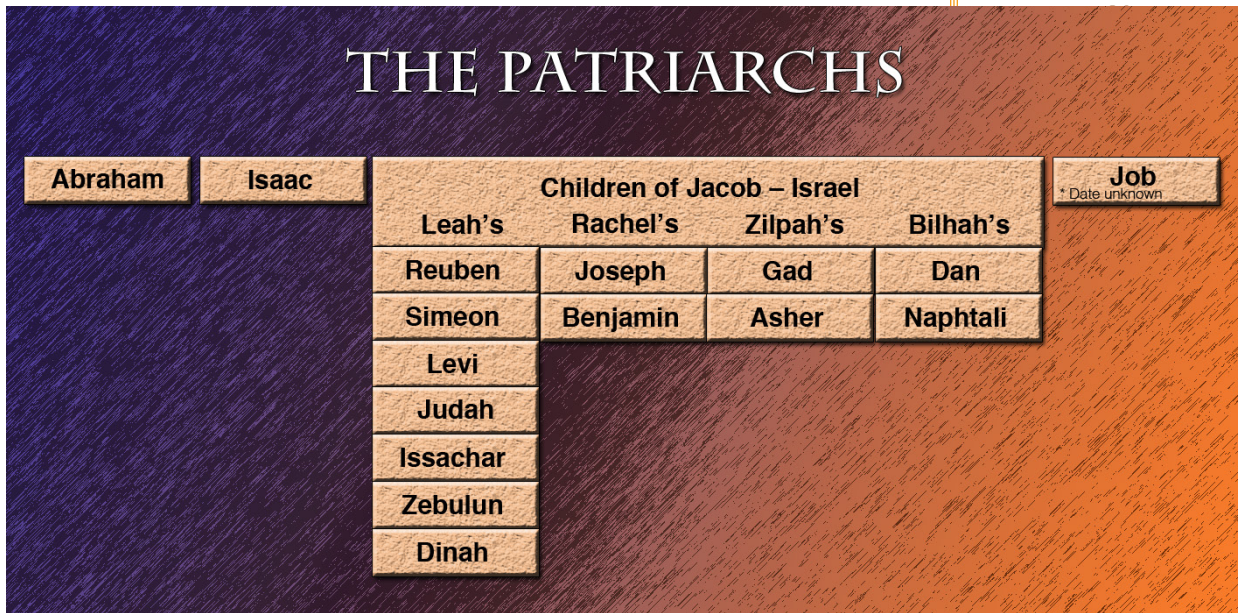
Digging Deeper

- Additional Resources from Science, Archeology, and Christian Media
- What About Continental Drift, Edited by Don Batten, Ph.D. / Authors: Ken Ham, Jonathan Sarfati, and Carl Wieland, adapted from The Revised & Expanded Answers Book (Master Books, 2000) <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/aig-c001.html>
- Catastrophic Plate Tectonics: the Geophysical Context of the Genesis Flood Supplied by Creation Ministries International <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/tj/v16/n1/plate-tectonics>
- The sixteen grandsons of Noah - Secular history gives much evidence to show that the survivors of Noah's Flood were real historical figures, whose names were indelibly carved on much of the ancient world by Harold Hunt with Russell Grigg <http://creation.com/the-sixteen-grandsons-of-noah> This is an article from Creation Magazine, issue 20(4):22–25 September 1999
- Where did the human races come from <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-aig/race-definition.html>
- "Two Babylons", by Aleander Hislop
- Nimrod <http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/nimrod.html> <http://www.theology.edu/canaan.htm>
- <http://herculescumplings.wordpress.com/2009/07/18/why-did-god-order-the-annihilation-of-the-canaanites/>

Notes

Lesson 4: The Patriarchs

Notes



Lesson 4: Patriarchs

Notes

Timeline of the Patriarchs

The chart of the Patriarchs shows the major characters in the Patriarchal period. The placement of Job on this chart does not reflect any timeframe, other than placing him in the time of the patriarchs. Scholars disagree as to exactly when Job lived. Some place him at the same time of the patriarchs, and others not until after the Israelites were in Egypt.

Scripture Reference

Genesis 11:10- 50:26

Hebrews 11

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- About the faith of the patriarchs
- Growing in faith is a process
- Our sins and mistakes do not stop God's plan
- God is always faithful
- God will keep his promises and His covenants with man
- God works all things for good for those that love Him
- Walking in faith with God is a choice

Notes

Observation

God's journey with man continues in this next period of time, which is often referred to as the time of the Patriarchs. It was a time when God spoke directly to the head or father of the clan. This period began about 200 years after the flood, and lasted for approximately 360 years. Abram is the first of the patriarchs and he was in the lineage of Christ. God later changed his name to Abraham.

Abram's father, Terah, worshiped other gods (Joshua 24:2), and Jewish tradition tells us that he was a maker of idols by profession. He lived in Ur of Chaldees, which is in modern day Iraq. Terah moved his family from Ur to Haran. His plans were to continue on to Canaan. However, for some reason they settled in Haran, and made it their home. While in Haran, God called Abram to journey with Him. Abram responds to God's call in faith and obedience and at the age of seventy-five, he begins a life-changing journey with God. God made a promise to Abram that He would make of him a great nation, that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through his seed, and that God would bless those who blessed Abram and curse those who cursed him. Abram believed God, and acted upon the promise. He followed God. He did not have children, but when God told him that his descendants would be more numerous than the stars in the sky, he believed God.

Abram, a descendant of Shem, journeyed with God to the land of Canaan and went through the land, to the great trees of Moreh at Shechem. At that time, the Canaanites possessed the land. Remember from the previous lesson, that the Canaanites were descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham. Also, remember the curse that Noah placed on Canaan, that his descendants would be slaves to the descendants of Shem and Japheth. At the great trees of Moreh at Shechem, God appears to Abram and tells him that He will give this land to Abram's descendants. Moreh means "teacher", and it appears that the Canaanites used these trees to get directions from their gods (Judges 9). It is significant that this is the spot that the one true and living God made a promise to Abram that He would give this land to Abram's descendants. He also told Abram that his descendants would be enslaved in Egypt for over four hundred years, but after that time God would bring them back to this land to possess it. As you will see in a later lesson, God fulfilled this promise and proved that the gods of the Canaanites are powerless.

Abram was not perfect, but he believed God. After years passed, and Abram and Sarai his wife still did not have a son, they assumed that maybe Sarai would not be the birth mother of their promised son. Therefore, Sarai gave Abram her Egyptian handmaid, Hagar, and he slept with her. She conceived and gave birth to a son, Ishmael, resulting in much contention between Sarai and Hagar, and later

Notes

their descendants. Abram was 86 years old when Ishmael was born. Although Ishmael was not the promised son, Abram loved Ishmael, and God blessed Ishmael and his descendants. Twelve princes came from Ishmael.

Abram's journey with God was a growing process. There were times Abram made a mess of things by trying to step ahead of God, assuming that God needed his help. However, God was faithful, and always turned the failures of Abram into times of learning and experiencing the heart and ways of God, and trusting God more. It was a journey of faith. God promised Abram that He would bless him and make a great nation of him, and the world would be blessed through his seed. It took faith to believe God, when Abram didn't even have a child. He had Ishmael, but God told him that Ishmael was not the promised son.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am, El Shaddai, the Lord God Almighty, walk before me and be blameless" (Genesis 17:1) The Lord confirmed His covenant with Abram and changed his name to Abraham. He said I have made you a father of many nations, and kings will come from you. Abraham fell on his face before God. God made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants that He would be their God and this land would be theirs. God required of Abraham and all his descendants that every male in their household who is eight days old and older would be circumcised. Circumcision would be the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham and his descendants after him. Abraham did exactly what God told him to do. On that very day, he and Ishmael and all the males in their household were circumcised.

God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah, and said that she would be the mother of many nations. At this time next year, she would have a son and name him Isaac. True to God's word, when Abraham was one hundred years old, and his wife, Sarah was ninety years old, God opened Sarah's womb, and she bore Abraham a son, Isaac, the promised child, just as God said. God is always true to His word. He never lies.

The ultimate test in Abraham's life took place some time later, when God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, whom he loved, the promised son, to the mountains of Moriah, and offer him as a sacrifice to God. Abraham believed the Lord and it was counted to him as righteousness. Abraham knew that even if he killed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead (Hebrews 11:19). He knew that God would provide the lamb for the burnt offering, and it would not be Isaac. It is incredible how walking with God increased Abraham's faith and trust in God to this ultimate step of faith – offering his son on the altar. Earlier in Abraham's

Notes

life he feared for his own life so much that he was willing to lie about his wife Sarah, and place her life in jeopardy to spare his own, not fully grasping the promise God gave him.

Abraham placed his son on the altar and was ready to kill him, when God stopped him. God told him that He knew Abraham feared Him, because he did not withhold his son, his only son. Abraham saw a ram caught in the bushes and he offered it as the burnt offering to God. God had provided the offering. Abraham named that place, Jehovah-Jireh, *the Lord will provide*. Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called God's friend (James 2:23). God blessed Abraham.

Before Abraham died, he made certain that his son, Isaac, married from his clan back in his homeland, rather than from the Canaanites, who worshiped and practiced evil. God blessed Isaac with a wife, Rebekah, and Isaac chose to continue the journey with God. Isaac was not perfect, but he believed the promise: that God would make of them a great nation, all the world would be blessed through them, and God would bless their descendants with the land in which they currently lived, but did not possess. Isaac later passes this birthright on to his twin sons Esau and Jacob.

Esau was the elder of the boys, so the birthright was rightfully his. He should have received the blessing of the firstborn from his father. However, one day after hunting, he was tired and hungry and sold his birthright to his brother, Jacob, for a meal. He looked for an immediate temporary blessing, rather than inherit the God-given birthright passed down from Abraham to Isaac and then to Isaac's elder son.

Jacob's name means deceiver, and that is exactly what he did to get the blessing from his father, Isaac. Jacob knew the value of the birthright. He was not perfect, but he had faith in God, and took the journey with God for the rest of his life. God later changed his name from Jacob to Israel. His descendants are called Israelites.

Jacob had twelve sons by four different women. He had two wives, Leah and Rachel, and their handmaids, Bilah, and Zilpah. Jacob loved Rachel, and thought he was marrying her, but was tricked into marrying her older sister, Leah. He loved Rachel, not Leah. Jacob and Leah had six sons and one daughter. They were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, and Dinah. Jacob and Rachel had two sons, Joseph and Benjamin. Jacob and Leah's handmaid, Zilpah, had Gad and Asher, and Rachel's handmaid, Bilah, had Dan and Naphtali.

Jacob loved his son, Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he was the first son of Rachel, and he was born in his old age. His obvious favoritism for Joseph brought much contention in his family.

Notes

One of the ways that Jacob showed his love and favoritism to Joseph was giving him a coat of many colors. The brothers hated Joseph getting all the love and attention. It was a dysfunctional family, yet God kept His covenant. God is faithful, and provides a means of redemption that no man can ever achieve on his own.

God spoke to Joseph through dreams, and Joseph shared those dreams with his brothers. This angered his brothers even more. He dreamed that they were binding sheaves of grain in the field, and their sheaves bowed down to his. In another dream, the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to him (Genesis 37:7-9). The more he shared, the more his brothers hated him.

Joseph's brothers eventually sold him to a caravan of Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave. Joseph's brothers lied to their father and told him that a wild animal killed Joseph. Joseph was a slave in Egypt, and thrown into prison for a crime he did not commit. With all the horrible things that happened to Joseph, first from his brothers, and then in Egypt, he still put his faith and trust in God, and was a man of integrity. While in prison he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker, and ultimately interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh. Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph's God-given interpretation and Godly wisdom, that he made Joseph governor of all Egypt, second in command to himself.

A famine in the land brought Joseph's brothers and eventually his father to Egypt for an incredible reunion, and a fulfillment of the dreams he had as a boy. Jacob's clan, seventy Israelites, left Canaan and went to settle with Joseph in Egypt during the famine, and remained there. Because of Joseph, Pharaoh blessed them with the land of Goshen.

When Jacob was old and ready to die, it came time to bless his children and pass on the birthright blessing. Jacob gave to his son, Judah, the prophetic blessing that God had given to Abraham regarding the Messiah, even though he was not the eldest son, but the fourth son. Jacob blessed him and said that through him would come the Messiah (Genesis 49:8-12). Jesus is referred to as the lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

I don't know the reason why Judah was chosen, but I have a theory. Jacob's oldest son, Reuben, slept with his father's concubine. Simeon and Levi, the next in line, in revenge killed a city of unsuspecting men. Judah was the next in line, and when you look at his life, he definitely was not a righteous man. He was the brother that wanted to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites. When Judah's son died, and his daughter-in-law did not have any children, he denied her the rightful union she should have according to the custom of the times. She had the right to

Notes

marry his unmarried son, so that she could have children. After Judah deceptively denied her that right, he ended up getting her pregnant, thinking he was sleeping with a prostitute. He was not a righteous man, and he was not the eldest son, so why would he be blessed to have Christ come from his lineage? There was a situation in Egypt, when his brother, Benjamin was told he would spend his life in prison for a crime he did not commit. Judah was willing to take his place, my life for his. He did the ultimate by willingly committing to spend the rest of his life in prison, so his brother could be free. He was a redeemed man, willing to give his life for his brother. I wonder if that is why he received the promised blessing. Although, what he did was nothing compared to what Christ did for us, he was willing to give his life of freedom for a life in prison.

We learn about another patriarch, Job, in the book of Job. Although Job is not in the lineage of Christ, he probably lived during the time of the patriarchs, and possibly during the time of Abraham. He was a blameless and upright man, who suffered terrible undeserved abuse and direct attacks from Satan. Yet remained faithful to God, even when his closest friends tried to tell him that God was causing all these disasters to him because he was not pleasing God. Although God permitted the attacks we learn at the end of the book of Job that God blessed Job for his faithfulness with an awesome firsthand encounter with God, and blessed him with twice as much as he had before Satan took it away from him.

Interpretation

As Christians, we are so blessed to have not just the New Testament, but also the Old Testament, which leads us to Jesus Christ, and gives us such a full picture of God's awesome love and plan for our salvation. Gleaning from the examples of the Patriarchs, and all the heroes of faith, is a blessing that we often take for granted. Can you imagine how hard it would have been to wait until you were 99 years old for a promise you received at 75? We live in the "give it to me now" generation. We want immediate gratification. It is hard to wait on the Lord, but what an incredible blessing when we do. What lies beyond this life is beyond our human comprehension, but by the Spirit of the living God within us, we know it will be glorious (1 Corinthians 2:7-16).

Application

We may wishfully look at other Christians and think he or she has so much more faith than we do, and yet we may have just started our journey with God. Our journey with God does not give us immediate faith and maturity. Just like Abraham and the patriarchs, it comes with walking with God each day, step-by-step. It is a process of little steps of faith, and the falling on our face at times, which also increases our

Notes

faith and let's us know that without Him, we can do nothing. We are doomed without Him, but changed from little faith to bigger faith with Him. He transforms us in our walk. Trusting Him is the secret, learning from our sins, lack of faith, and our obedience along the way. No matter what we have done in the past, God takes all the failures, disappointments, inadequacies, everything in our lives and turns it around for good if we love him (Romans 8:28).

If we are listening to God, we just can't get enough of Him and His word. There is so much we can learn from these heroes of faith, who walked with God before us. Much of their life story is written for us to read and study. Pray that God will show us what we can learn and apply to our lives. Their journey with God was written down, to help us in our journey with God. The choice is ours. Do we just look at an overview of the Bible, or do we spend one-on-one time with the Lord, in His word? Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Job, and others chose to walk and journey with God. Once they began the journey, they didn't look back. Although they sinned, they sought God's forgiveness and they got back on their feet and continued the journey. God redeemed them and provided all they needed.

God looks for the remnant of people, who seek Him and seek to be redeemed, and He always provides. Abraham walked with God and waited in the walk until he was 99 years old before he saw the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise, his son Isaac. Hebrews tells us that these patriarchs were still living by faith when they died. They hadn't received the things they were promised, they only saw them from a distance, but they welcomed them and knew they were aliens and strangers on earth (Hebrews 11:13).

The choice is ours. We can choose to begin a life changing, faith building, glorious journey with God. We can choose to continue the journey, through dark and hard times. It won't be easy. It wasn't easy for the patriarchs, and it won't be easy for us, but it will be glorious. The choice is ours. Will we be like Esau and sell our inheritance for temporary gratification? Or will we be like Abraham walking and talking with God Almighty on this earth in the midst of pain and heartaches, enjoying His fellowship to one day receive a glorious inheritance with the creator of the universe, our God, our Papa, that will last forever?

Through the blood of Jesus Christ, God invites us to journey with Him, and be free from the final judgment, the great white throne judgement, where all who have not received Jesus into their hearts will stand before God, and be accountable for everything they have ever done (Revelation 20:11-15). There is no one who can stand before God in that judgment and enter heaven. No one is righteous. However,

Notes

if we have received Jesus Christ as our redeemer, then He lives in our hearts and His blood has cleansed us from all unrighteousness. We are not perfect, but Jesus is the mediator between God and man. His blood is placed on the doorposts of our hearts so that we will not be subject to that great white throne judgment. The choice is ours to make: life or death.

Reading Assignment

- Genesis 12:1-20
- Genesis 20: 1-18, 26:6-11
- Genesis 27:6-29, 29:21-26, 37:31-35
- Genesis 17
- Genesis 38

Questions

1. In Genesis 12:1-3, God calls Abram to be a great nation. What is Abrams first action after God called him? (Genesis 12:10-20)

2. What does Abraham do in Genesis 20:1-18?

3. What does Isaac do in Genesis 26:6-11?

Notes

4. What is the sin of Rebekah and Jacob in Genesis 27:6-29?

5. Read Genesis 29:21-26. What is the sin of Laban, Rebekah's brother?

6. What did Joseph's brothers do? (Genesis 37:31-35)

7. What lesson can we learn from this family?

8. Read Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 17:16-19, and 18:9-15. What did God do?

Notes

9. In Genesis 17 God renews His covenant with Abram and changes his name to Abraham. What does God ask Abraham to do as a sign of this covenant?

10. How does God fulfill his promise to Abraham (Genesis 21:2), and why do you think God chose to do it this way?

11. What is God revealing to Abram in Genesis 15:12-21?

12. Describe the difference in the faith of Abram in Genesis 12:10-20, and the faith of Abraham in Genesis 22:1-14?

13. How does God reward Abraham for his obedience and faith in Genesis 22:15-19?

Notes

14. In Genesis 29 through 35 gives the account of the births of Jacob's twelve sons. Jacob played favorites with his sons and Joseph was his favorite. In Genesis 37:18-30 what was Rueben's plan, and Judah's action?

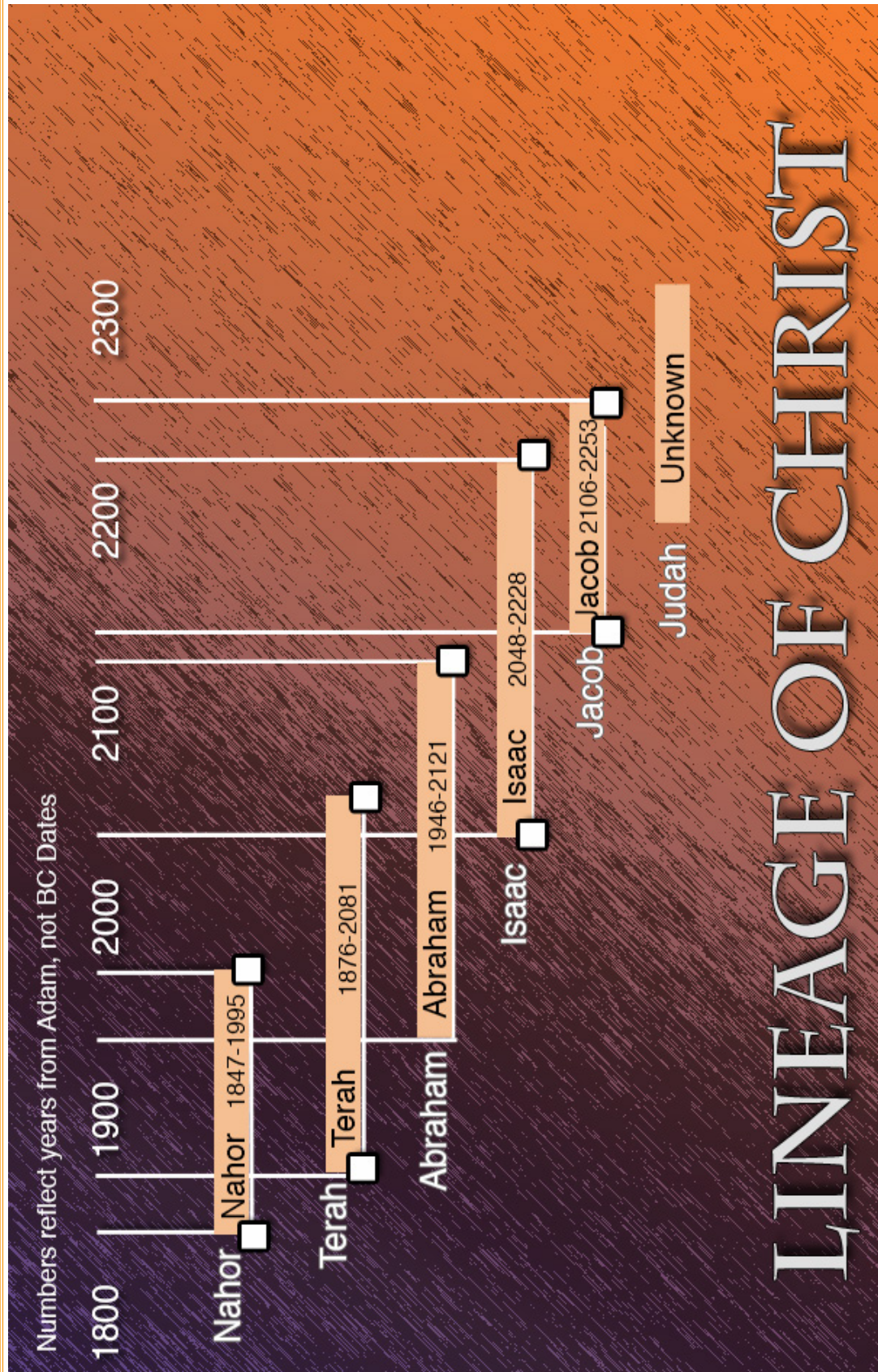
15. Read Genesis 38 to learn the story of Judah. Make a few notes on what happened to Judah's family and what were his sins?

16. What do you think of Judah, and what do you think Judah could have learned from his mistakes?

17. Read Genesis 43:1-12. What did Judah do, and how different is this from his action with Joseph?

18. Summarize today's lesson, and keep in mind the interaction between man's sin, faith, and God's faithfulness.

Notes



LINEAGE OF CHRIST

Chart on the Lineage of Christ

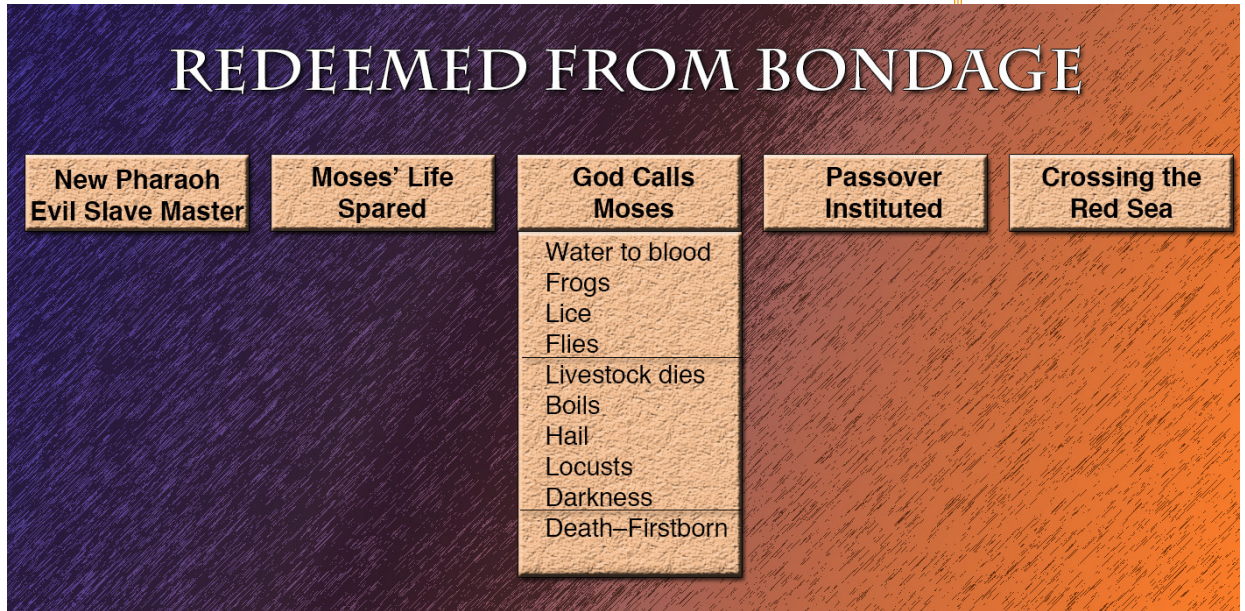
Compare this chart to the charts in the previous lessons, and notice how much shorter are the lives of the patriarchs, than their forefathers.

Notes

Notes

Lesson 5: Redeemed From Bondage

Notes



Notes

Lesson 5: Redeemed From Bondage

Scripture Reference

- Exodus 1-20
- Hebrews 11

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- To recognize God's faithfulness, power, and provisions
- Our responsibility in our relationship with God
- Some of the major events of this period of time
- God's redemptive plan for man during this period

Notes

Observation

As you learned in the last lesson, Jacob (Israel) and his sons and their families left the land of Canaan where they were living as foreigners, and went to Egypt to be with Joseph. Seventy Israelites made that journey to Egypt. Remember that God told Abraham that his descendants would be slaves in Egypt for over four hundred years, and then God would deliver them and lead them back into Canaan, no longer to be foreigners in the land, but to possess the land. Jacob died in Egypt, and because Jacob and his sons believed the promise of God, Joseph and his brothers took Jacob's body back to Canaan to bury him in the tomb of Machpelah where Abraham and Isaac and their wives were buried.

While living in Egypt for four hundred and thirty years the Israelites multiplied to somewhere between two and three million people (Exodus 38:26 refers to 603,550 men. When you calculate women and children into that number, you get somewhere between two and three million people.) Remember that a part of God's promise to Abraham was that he would be the father of a great nation, and that all the nations of the world would be blessed through his seed. God is always faithful, and His word always accomplishes what He intends it to accomplish. It will never return to Him without accomplishing exactly what He says (Isaiah 55:11).

Before Joseph died, he reminded the Israelites that God would definitely come to their aid and take them out of Egypt, and bring them into the land He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Joseph was walking in that same promise, when he told the Israelites that when God takes them out of Egypt, they needed to carry his bones with them back to Canaan and bury him with his fathers (Hebrews 11:22).

While the Israelites were in Egypt the four hundred and thirty years, God was working on the hearts of the Canaanites. While Abraham was in Canaan, God told him that the sins of the Amorites had not yet reached their fullness. However, while the Israelites were in Egypt, the sins of the Amorites reached the point where God said, "No more." The inhabitants of the land of Canaan were unresponsive to God, and continued in their sins. The Canaanites were evil and detestable from the beginning. They defiled and degraded people, practiced horrible rituals, turned the beauty of sex into impure lustful cravings, and even offered their children as human sacrifices to the gods they created of wood and stone. God does not want any to perish, and He gave the Canaanites more than ample time to turn from their evil ways. However, God will always protect and redeem the remnant that trust in him. That is evident throughout history. It was evident when God destroyed the whole world by flood, but spared the lives of Noah and his family.

Notes

After many years passed, Joseph and his brothers died, and a new Pharaoh ruled over Egypt. He was not like the Pharaoh that Joseph knew, but he was evil and feared the Israelites. He treated them as slaves and was a bitter and hard taskmaster. He feared that the Israelites were so great in number they would rise against him. Therefore, he commanded that all the Hebrew (Israelite) male babies be thrown into the Nile River. Pharaoh, like Satan tried to thwart God's plan, but nothing God purposes will ever be thwarted. God said He would raise a man to deliver His people from the bondage of Egypt and bring them into the promise land, and that is exactly what He did.

During the time when Pharaoh ordered all male babies to be killed, there was a couple, Amram, and his wife, Jochebed, who were descendants of Jacob's son, Levi. They had two children Aaron and Miriam. Jochebed gave birth to a baby boy, Moses. After giving birth to Moses, they hid him for three months. They trusted God and did not fear Pharaoh. When they could no longer hide him, they got a papyrus basket and coated it with tar and pitch, and placed him in the Nile River. Miriam stood by the riverbank waiting for Pharaoh's daughter to see him. When Pharaoh's daughter found him, she knew he was a Hebrew. Miriam asked her whether she would like a nurse for him, and then ran and got her mother. Pharaoh's daughter paid Jochebed to care for Moses until he was old enough to live with her. It is awesome the way God protected Moses from birth, and even provided for him to be raised in the palace of Pharaoh, the very person who ordered the massacre of all the Hebrew baby boys. Not only did Moses grow up in the palace, Pharaoh's daughter paid his mother to care for him in his infancy. That is a miracle from the very hand of God.

After Moses was grown, he went out to his people, and watched them working. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, and when he thought no one was looking, he killed the Egyptian. The next day when two Hebrews were fighting, he tried to stop the fighting, but one of them said, "Are you going to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?"

When Pharaoh heard about it, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled to the land of Midian, and eventually married a Midianite woman named, Zipporah. Much time passes, Pharaoh dies, and a new Pharaoh reigns in his place. He was just as evil as the previous pharaoh, and he continued to abuse the Israelites and keep them in slavery.

God heard the cries of the Israelites, and remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. One day while Moses is tending his father-in-law's flock near Mount Horeb, the Mountain of God, Moses sees a bush that is burning, but not consumed, so out of curiosity he goes to investigate. When God saw that Moses turned aside to look, God called him, and told him to take off his shoes for the ground he was on was holy (Exodus 3:4). God told Moses that He was the God

Notes

of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and that He had heard the cries of His people. He appointed Moses to go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt and into the land that He promised their fathers.

Moses gave God several excuses. He told God that he was not able to lead the people. God told Moses that He would be with him, and provide all that he needed. God is adequate. He lacks nothing. Moses complained that he is not a great speaker, but God tells him that this very mountain will be a sign to him. He will bring the people out of Egypt, and he will come back to this very mountain and worship God on this mountain. In the next lesson, we will see the importance of this mountain. God told Moses to tell the people that I AM that I AM sent you. God is Jehovah. He is self-existent, all sufficient, all knowing, and all powerful. No one else can say that, only God. He is not dependent on anyone. He is what He is, and He does not change. He is the LORD Yahweh. If He is on our side, and He is the one directing our paths, all we need is provided. That is exactly what God was telling Moses. God said that He would help Moses speak and give him the words. After all, God created man and his mouth. Moses still did not believe that God would speak through him. God was angry with Moses for his unbelief, but He allowed Aaron, Moses brother to speak the words to Pharaoh that He gave Moses.

On the way to Egypt, God was about to kill Moses. For some reason Moses was not obedient to God regarding circumcision. All the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were obedient to God and followed the covenant of circumcision that God required of Abraham and his descendants to circumcise every male in their household. However, Moses had not circumcised his youngest son. Maybe his wife Zipporah fought him about it. I am not sure why he was disobedient to God, and did not follow the covenant of circumcision. However, Zipporah in great anger circumcised her son to save Moses' life.

If we are to be leaders of God's people, or faithful followers, and a shining light to the world, we must be obedient to God. Rebellion to God is as witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). When we ask Christ into our hearts, He circumcises our hearts by cutting away our fleshly nature and giving us a new nature, a new heart (Romans 2:29).

Moses was eighty years old, and Aaron was eighty-three years old when God sent them to Pharaoh to tell him to let God's people go. The battle begins between God and Pharaoh. When Moses and Aaron first went to Pharaoh and told him to let God's people go, he refused to let them go, and treated the Israelites even more harshly. Therefore, the Israelites didn't believe that God sent Moses, nor did they believe that God would deliver them. They complained to Moses and told him to leave them alone before Pharaoh killed them.

Notes

The Lord told Moses that now he would see what God would do to Pharaoh. Because of God's mighty hand, Pharaoh would drive the Israelites out of Egypt. God is the LORD, and He appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by His name LORD He did not make himself known to them, yet He was making himself known to Moses as LORD. God sent ten plagues on Egypt. He turned water to blood, so that the Nile River and all the water in Egypt turned to blood. He then sent frogs to invade the land, then lice, and flies. God sent a plague that brought death upon all the Egyptian livestock. He then plagued the Egyptians with boils, swarms of locust, and darkness upon all Egypt. Each of these plagues represented a god of the Egyptians. God was showing all Egypt and Israel that He alone is God and that no purpose of His will be thwarted. After each plague, Pharaoh's heart became harder, and he refused to let the Israelites go. God established His covenant with the descendants of Abraham, redeeming them from slavery, and as you will see in a future lesson, bringing them into the promise land, a land flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 6:2). He then showed Israel and the Egyptians that He is God. He sent a total of ten plagues on Egypt, but not until the last plague does Pharaoh let the people go. In the tenth plague on Egypt, God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that Israel is God's firstborn son, and Pharaoh must let God's son go. If Pharaoh refused to let God's son go, God would kill Pharaoh's firstborn son (Exodus 4:22).

Just before the tenth plague on Egypt, God instituted the Passover meal, which would be a reminder to the Israelite for generations of their last night in Egypt. Each man was to take a lamb for his household. The lamb was to be without blemish, a male, which was a year old, and keep it for fourteen days, and then the whole assembly would kill it at twilight the evening of the fourteenth day. I think there is great significance in keeping the lamb for fourteen days. That gave them time to bond with this lamb, and see that their redemption comes at the cost of the blood of the lamb. They were then to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorposts of their homes where they were to eat the lamb. They were to eat the meat roasted over fire that night along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast, and not leave any of it till morning. If there was any meat left, they were to burn it. On that very night, God would pass over Egypt and strike down every firstborn human and animal, and bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. If God saw blood on the doorpost of a home, He would pass over that house. However, if the home did not have blood on the doorpost, He would strike down the firstborn of the home. The Israelites were to celebrate this day as a remembrance and a festival to the Lord forever. They were not to eat leavened bread for seven days, and not even have yeast in their homes. They were to have a sacred assembly the first and seventh day, and were not to work except preparing the food.

Notes

God changed their calendar and made the seventh month the first month of their first year, and He made Passover a new beginning, the fourteenth day of the first month. On the fifteenth day of the first month, they were to celebrate the Feast of Unleavened Bread, because this was the day God brought them out of Egypt. They were to remember this day as a lasting ordinance for the generations to come.

The Israelites did not leave Egypt empty handed. God gave them favor with the people. Every woman asked of her neighbor for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. They put them on their sons and daughters, and plundered Egypt. At midnight, the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt. There was loud wailing in Egypt and every home had a death. Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron and told them to take their flocks and herds and people, and leave. All the Israelites left with their unleavened dough on their shoulders. Moses also took the bones of Joseph.

God led the Israelites with a pillar of cloud during the day, and a pillar of fire at night. He led them to the sea, to entice Pharaoh to chase after them, and make him think that the Israelites were wandering around in confusion. Pharaoh's heart hardened and he pursued them. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians chasing them, they were terrified and cried to the Lord. They complained to Moses saying he should not have brought them out here to die, but Moses told them not to be afraid for God would deliver them and they would never see the Egyptians again. Moses raised his staff over the sea, as God directed him, and God divided the waters. The Israelites went through the sea on dry ground. The Egyptians followed them, and when the Israelites had reached the land on the other side of the sea, God closed the waters and all the Egyptians drowned.

When the Israelites saw the great power of the Lord, they feared the Lord and put their trust in Him and in His servant, Moses. They sang a song of victory unto the Lord. After this great victory, Moses led the Israelites into the Desert of Shur, and for three days they traveled in the desert without finding water.

Interpretation

Ever since man sinned and was expelled from the Garden of Eden, we have been in bondage to an evil and unjust ruler, sin (Romans 6). Just as the children of Israel were slaves to an evil ruler, mankind is enslaved to sin, and it controls our lives, dooming us to death. Israel could not escape the bondage of slavery without God's deliverance, and it is only by the blood of a perfect and sinless life that we can be redeemed from the bondage that sin has over us. In the New Testament, we learn that Jesus took of the Passover meal (fourteenth day of the first month)

Notes

with His disciples and was then crucified. He arose from the dead three days later, the seventeenth day of the first month. There is great significance in the Passover. Just as the blood of the Passover lamb spared the lives of the firstborn in each home, when we receive Jesus Christ, the lamb of God, into our hearts his shed blood is placed on the doorposts of our hearts, and we escape the judgment of eternal death. He not only redeems us from death, but transports us into the riches of his kingdom to walk in new life.

When God redeemed Israel, He revealed to Israel what Egypt is really like. The Israelites had lived in Egypt so long that they accepted the evil. When they first moved to Egypt during the time of Joseph, it was good. Their hunger was filled with food that God provided through the hand of Joseph, but as time passed the food Egypt provided brought them nothing but slavery. That is exactly how sin works in our lives. It has become such a part of our daily lives that we accept and submit to it's slavery without a second thought. When the Egyptians were chasing the Israelites, and they came to the Red Sea, the Israelites feared and complained to Moses that he should have left them in Egypt to die, rather than bring them out in the desert to die. They were willing to go back into slavery, rather than trust God to deliver them from Pharaoh. They had seen the mighty hand of God in the ten plagues upon Egypt, and how He delivered them from Pharaoh's hand, but now the bondage of Pharaoh looked better to them than the unknown before them.

Application

Sometimes we experience the same thing Israel experienced. There is much pain in our lives just before God's deliverance and victory. It is an opportunity for God to gain honor and show us that He is God and He is all-sufficient, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise. He is the Great I AM. Just as God told and showed Moses that He is Jehovah, so He tells and show us. Yet, too many times we look back and choose the bondage of sin, rather than trust in the mighty hand of God, our LORD. The apostle Paul, said "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13). When God tells us to do something, He will provide what we need to do it. He is all-sufficient. God wants us to know Him and know the character of the one we are fighting. Our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12-18, Romans 8:38-39). Satan roams this earth looking for slaves whom he can devour, control, and keep in bondage (1 Peter 5:8).

The choice is ours: continue to live as slaves to sin, or be freed from the bondage of sin by placing the blood of Jesus Christ on the door

Notes

posts of our hearts and walking in newness of life, being transformed into the image of our holy and loving God from glory to glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Jude 24).

Reading Assignment

- Exodus 1-2:10
- Exodus 4:1-13
- Exodus 5:15 – 6:8
- Exodus 11:2-3
- Exodus 12:1-13; 35-36

Questions

1. Read Exodus 1-2:10 and write down how God saves Moses. What are some amazing aspects of this story?

2. We learned in Genesis 15:12-16 that God gave Abraham a prophecy that the children of Jacob would be in slavery for 400 years. What took place in Exodus 2:23-25 to begin the process of freedom?

3. Read Exodus 4:1-13 and give the three excuses Moses uses to tell God he is not good enough to do God's work and the answer that God gives him for each excuse.

Notes

4. What does God call the children of Israel in Exodus 4:21-23, and what significance do you think this has?

5. In Exodus 5:15-23 we learn that Pharaoh increases the children of Israel's burden of work after Moses and Aaron tell him of God's command to let them go. What does Moses do after they complain, and what does God do in Exodus 6:1-8?

6. List the ten plagues in order.

Notes

7. What is different about the first three plagues from plagues four through nine?

8. Examine your life and see where God allowed circumstances to direct you to look to Him for relief (James 1:13-14)? What was your response? Would you or could you respond differently today?

9. What does God do for the children of Israel and Moses before the last plague?(Exodus 11:2-3,12:35-36)

10. Read Exodus 12:1-13 what does God have the children of Israel do?

Notes

11. Where is the blood supposed to go?

12. How often and for how long are the children of Israel to keep Passover?

13. What happened to those who did not obey God's plan?

14. What happened to those covered by the blood? How are we covered by the blood today?

15. Reread question 4. Putting it in today's terms, what would a father desire to do for his child that was in bondage, addiction or kidnapped, if it was in his power to do so without any consequences?

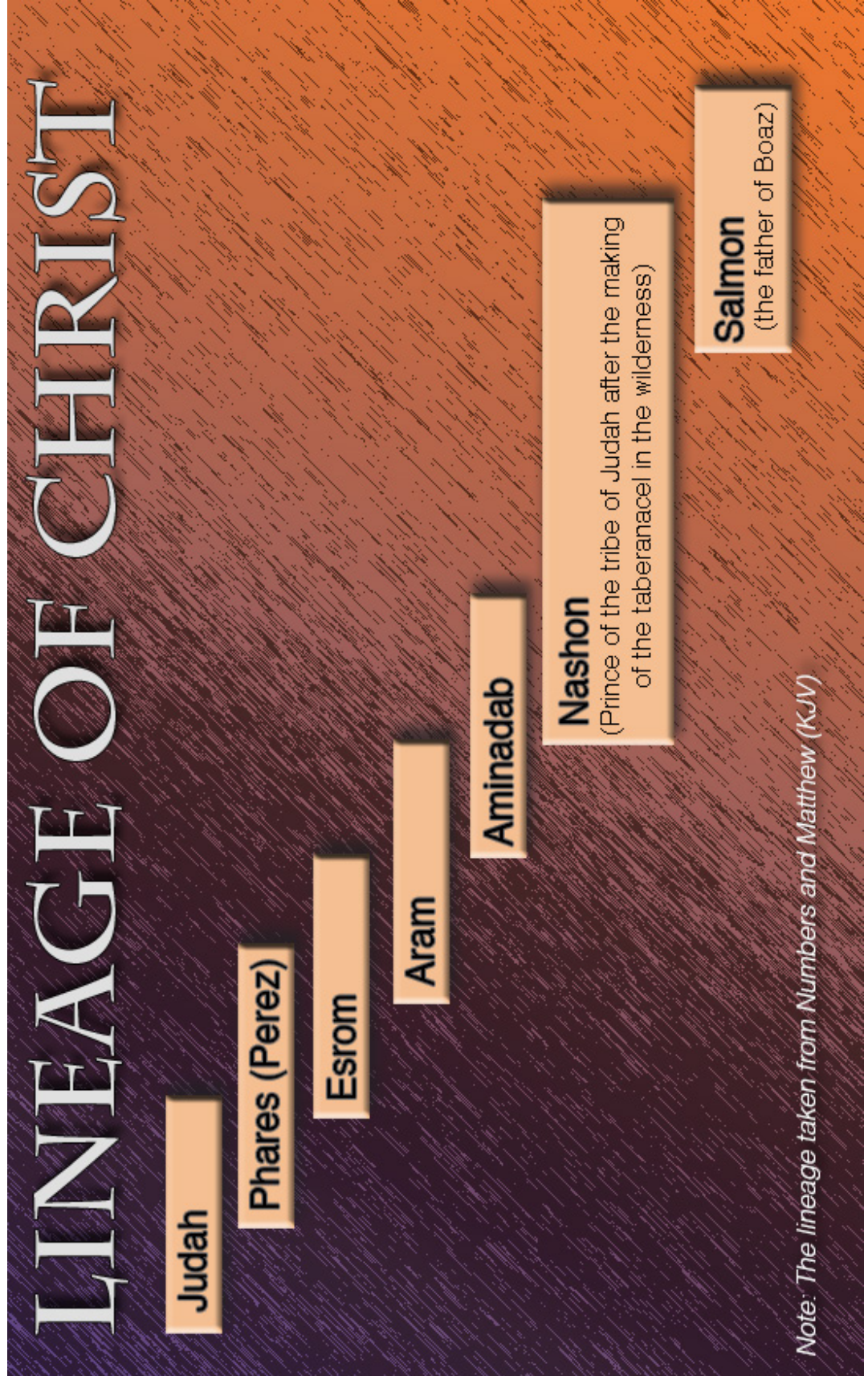
16. What has your heavenly Father done for you?

Notes

17. Summarize today's lesson and how it has helped you see God in a new way?

Lineage of Christ

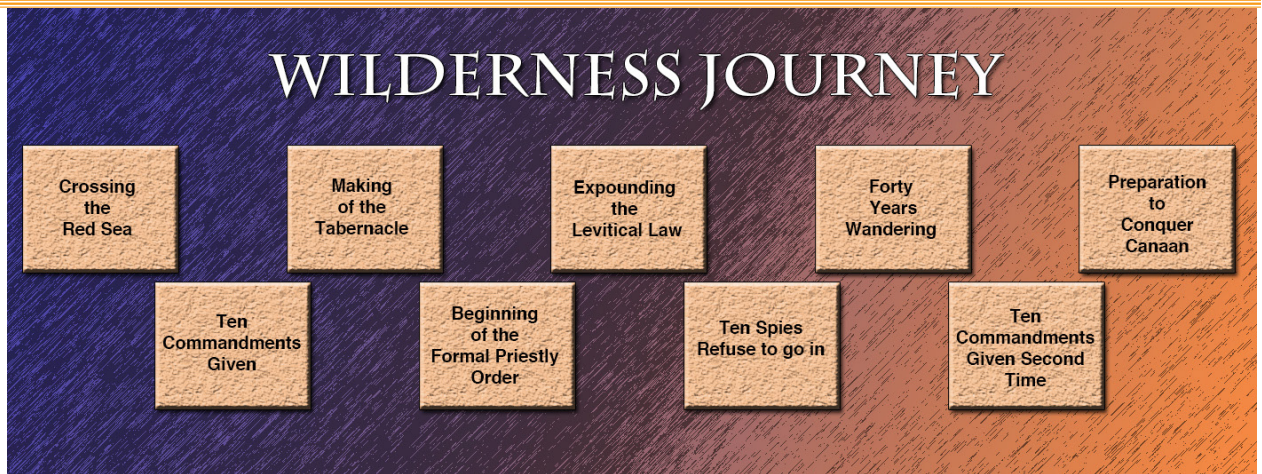
The information for this chart comes from the books of Numbers and Matthew in the King James Version of the Bible. The names may be translated differently in other versions.



Notes

Lesson 6: Wilderness Journey

Notes



Lesson 6: Wilderness Journey

Notes

Scripture Reference

- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- God wants people willing to obey and serve Him
- God enters or resides with what is sanctified and dedicated to Him
- Godly thinking is important
- Commandments were a set of “do’s” instead of “do not’s”
- God is always faithful
- God has always had a plan for man’s redemption

Notes

Observation

As we learned in the last lesson, God miraculously freed the children of Israel from the bondage of slavery, which Pharaoh had inflicted on them. God poured out His wrath on Pharaoh and all of Egypt with ten plagues for the bondage they had inflicted on His people, and their rejection of God Almighty. After the tenth plague, the plague of death to the firstborn in the homes that were not covered with the blood of the lamb, Pharaoh, in his grief and fury, sent Moses and the Israelites out of Egypt.

It was not long before Pharaoh had a change of heart, and he and all his army began pursuing the Israelites. With Pharaoh's army in hot pursuit, the Israelites came to what appeared to them to be a dead end, the Red Sea. They saw the Red Sea in front of them, and the Egyptians behind them, and they cried out to Moses, "Why didn't you leave us in Egypt, where we at least had graves in which to be buried? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than die in the wilderness."

This is the first of many obstacles in their path to the Promised Land. Rather than looking to God, who miraculously brought them out of Egypt with His mighty hand, they began to cry out to Moses that they should have stayed in Egypt. Again, God used this time to show them that He is God Almighty, their provider, their leader, their defender, their peace, their hope, their everything. With His mighty hand, He parted the Red Sea and led them through the water to the other side. The Egyptians followed them through the water, and across the dry seabed. When the last Israelite reached the other side, God closed the waters, and Pharaoh and all his army drowned in the sea. The Israelites never saw them again. They sang praises to God, and participated in an incredible ceremony of thanksgiving and praise to their mighty God.

God led them into the wilderness with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. After crossing the Red Sea, they traveled for three days without finding water. When they came to the waters of Marah, the water was bitter and they could not drink it. Again, they began to murmur and complain to Moses that they should have stayed in Egypt where they had plenty of food and water. Rather than remembering the incredible miracles that God had performed for them, and looking to Him with hearts of obedience and faith, they looked at the circumstances around them. God wanted His people to seek His heart, and look to Him for their provisions. Oh that they had cried out, "Water, that is nothing for our God. I wonder how He will provide. We know that He will. He is Jehovah Jirah, our provider." In spite of their murmurings, God was faithful and provided. He showed Moses a piece of wood, and told him to throw it into the water. Moses obeyed God,

Notes

and the water became sweet. God then told the people that if they would listen carefully to His voice and do what is right in His eyes, and if they would pay attention to His commands and keep His decrees, that He would not bring on them the diseases He brought on the Egyptians. He is the LORD who heals them (Jehovah Rapha).

Shortly thereafter, they were without food, and they began complaining and dreaming of how good they had it back in Egypt's bondage with their pots of meat. Once again, in spite of their faithlessness, God was faithful. In the mornings, He rained down manna from heaven, which was like wafers made of honey. God gave them specific directions that they could gather what they needed, but could not save it. He would supply their needs daily. He rained down this heavenly bread for six days, but not on the seventh day, the Sabbath. On the sixth day, they were to gather enough for both that day and the Sabbath day. However, they were not obedient to God. Some of them tried to save the daily manna overnight, not just on the sixth day as God commanded them. As a result of disobedience, the manna was full maggots in the morning. Again, they angered God in their disobedience and unbelief.

God continued to lead the Israelites in the wilderness. They journeyed on to Rephidim. When the people became thirsty and saw that there was no water, they cried out to Moses, "Is God among us or not?" They were ready to kill Moses. God told Moses to go on before the people and take the elders with him, and his rod, the one he used to strike the Nile River. God said that He would stand on the rock in Horeb, and that Moses was to strike the rock, and water would come out of the rock. Moses did exactly as God told him, and the water gushed out, and the Israelites drank from the rock (Exodus 17).

Moses knew that he could not lead the people without God's presence, so he asked God to make Himself known to him. God told Moses that He would do this, because Moses found grace in His sight. The Lord told Moses to stand upon a rock. When God's glory passed by, He would put Moses in the cleft of the rock, and cover him with His hand. He would take away His hand, and Moses would see God's back parts, but he would not see God's face. Moses had an awesome encounter with God. He knew God (Exodus 33:12-22).

Later on their journey they were again without water, and the people complained against God, rather than looking to Him as Jehovah Jirah, their provider. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before God at the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. God told Moses to take the rod and gather Aaron and the people together, and then speak to the rock before their eyes, and water would come forth from the rock. Moses took the rod from the presence of the Lord as he was commanded to do. He and Aaron then gathered the people together before the rock, and Moses said to the people, "Hear now ye

Notes

rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice; and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their animals also. As a result, God told Moses and Aaron that because they did not believe Him or sanctify Him in the eyes of the children of Israel, they would not bring the people into the Promised Land.

God provided everything they needed in the wilderness. He gave them His law, so they would know what is right and just. He instructed them in offerings, so that they could have fellowship with Him and their kinsmen. He instituted feasts, so they could celebrate and enjoy His holiness. He gave them instructions on how to build a tabernacle, where their priests could meet with him. He gave them clothes and shoes that didn't wear out. He fed them manna from heaven in the mornings and rained quail down to them in the evenings. He provided water for them. Yet, they still were unfaithful. As a result, rather than going directly to the promised land, God led them in circles in the wilderness for forty years, until the faithless adults all died, and only their children and two faithful men, Joshua and Caleb, went into the promised land.

Interpretation

From the moment God created man, He walked and talked with him and they had fellowship together and shared in a glorious holy relationship. Man enjoyed God's fellowship and holiness, because man had been created in the image of God to be holy. He could not only stand in the very presence of God, but he could walk and talk with God. Holiness has always been God's plan for man. When man accepted the lie of Satan and disobeyed God's command, he lost the holiness of God's nature that God had breathed into him. Man then received a new nature filled with everything that is in opposition to God. Just as God said, man became a dying being, doomed to death, doomed to the wrath of God. He no longer reflected the beauty and holiness of God, but reflected a character filled with distrust, evil thoughts, unrest, bondage, and guilt. Man could no longer live in the garden, in the presence of holiness. He was removed from the garden, unable to return. The wrath of God is the result of disobeying God (Galatians 5:6). However, God's heart has always been redemption for His creation, but fellowship with God is impossible without holiness and perfection. Man could not be redeemed without God's nature, holiness. Therefore, God provided another way.

When God, through the leadership of Moses, brought the Israelites out of Egypt His purpose for them was holiness. His heart was fellowship, pure loving holy fellowship. God told the Israelites to be holy for He is holy, and He tells us today the same thing (Leviticus 20:7,

Notes

1 Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 1:4, Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:15-16). "You are to be holy to Me because I, the LORD, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be My own" (Leviticus 20:26). Because the very nature of man was now in conflict with God, he was unable to live a holy life. As a result, our holy God provided a plan of redeeming man, a plan that still required holiness. God did not change His standards, nor did He compromise with man. God blessed Israel above all the nations of the world, and entrusted them with His ways. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments to give to the people. These were not rules and regulations to put them in another form of bondage, but these were the very way and promises of God. They have always been His way, and they always will be. As Jesus tells us, the Law did not pass away, but was fulfilled in a holy sacrifice, and that holy sacrifice is Jesus, Himself (Matthew 5:17).

The nations around Israel did what was right in their own eyes, and their lives were filled with violence, hatred, destruction and evil. However, God took Israel by the hand and led them through the wilderness to bring them out of slavery and bondage to Pharaoh, a type of Satan, and into the land God promised their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He gave them the law to bless them and show them the way of holiness and completeness, the way of peace, and power, the way of life and blessings. He gave them the law so they would know the ways of God, a higher standard than the world experienced (Isaiah 55:8-9). Through the law, the Israelites were able to recognize sin, which is anything that falls short of God's ways, anything that falls short of God's holiness. The law was given so that they would know what is required to be holy.

In addition to the law, God instituted a system of offerings which would provide the daily means for them to be redeemed from their own sin nature, and to be holy in His eyes. The Israelites could not keep the law in its entirety, because of the very nature of man that is at war with God. Therefore, God provided through these offerings redemption and fellowship with Him and with each other. These offerings pointed to the Lamb of God, Jesus. The Offerings Chart in this lesson gives a brief description of each of these offerings, and their significance. These offerings did not remove sin, but were a temporary means of redemption until the ultimate lamb sacrificed His sinless life for the permanent redemption of all those who chose to receive it. Hebrews 10 tells us that the blood of bulls and goats in these sacrifices repeated year after year, could never permanently remove sins. They only pointed to Jesus, the perfect and spotless lamb, whose blood in one sacrifice removed the wrath of God and made those who receive Him holy (John 3:16-20). God also gave the Israelites, through Moses, instructions on building a temporary tabernacle, where the priests could communicate

Notes

with God. The tabernacle is a type and foreshadowing of the heavenly tabernacle. We are God's Holy Tabernacle on earth. There is great significance in the design of the tabernacle and each of the furnishings within it (Acts 7:44-50, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Hebrews 8 and 9, Revelation 15:5). The Tabernacle Diagram in this lesson displays a diagram of the tabernacle. The Camp illustration displays the formation of the tribes of Israel around it. Notice the formation of the tribes form a cross, another foreshadowing of Jesus.

God set appointed times, special feasts, and Sabbaths for the Israelites to celebrate fellowship with him (Leviticus 23). The Feasts chart in this lesson gives a brief description of each of the primary feasts, and their significance.

The period of time of God leading the children of Israel in the wilderness reveals to us the character of God, His awesome love for His people, and His plan of salvation for those who seek him. Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy tell us about the events in this period of time. As God led the children of Israel in the wilderness, He revealed His character, His awesome love for His people, and His plan of salvation for those who seek Him.

Application

In first Corinthians ten, the apostle Paul refers to this wilderness period of time as a time of great significance for us as Christians. He tells us that during this time, the Israelites drank the same spiritual drink that we do. They drank from the rock that was with them, and that rock was Christ. Christ is the bread of life, the living water, and the rock of salvation. Even after the Israelites drank the spiritual food, they did not set their hearts on God and enjoy His fellowship. They died in the wilderness, never entering the land of promise. This period of time has great significance to us as believers in Jesus Christ. These things occurred as examples so that we would not set our hearts on doing evil as they did, but that we would put our trust in the Lord, and not be led or discouraged by the circumstances around us. The books of Romans and Hebrews help us understand the significance and importance of what took place in the wilderness. Oh that we would be God's holy people, thankful that He redeemed us, enjoying fellowship with Him, our Creator, our Father, and our Papa, and trusting Him in all circumstances in obedience and faith, knowing our God will supply all our needs in Christ Jesus.

Reading Assignment

- Exodus 20:1-23
- Exodus 39-40
- Leviticus 9; 26:1-13
- Numbers 13; 14:26-37; 15:37-41
- Deuteronomy 4:29-40; 5:6-25; 11:18-32

Questions

1. List the 10 Commandments and the benefit of each. (Exodus 20:1-17)

Commandment	Benefit

Notes

Notes

Commandment	Benefit

2. Now take each commandment and apply it personally. Tell how each commandment would change or affect your personal walk with God if you chose to obey it.

Notes

3. In Exodus 35:4-5, Moses collects an offering for the construction of the Tabernacle. Read Exodus 25:1-2 and explain how the Children of Israel were to bring the offering. (See additional reading for more scripture)

4. Instructions for the priests on how to dress, be sanctified, and anointed are given in Exodus 39 and 40. The Tabernacle was also to be anointed and sanctified. Once this process took place and everything was in its place in the Tabernacle, what did God do (Exodus 40:34-38)?

5. How does this process take place in us today? What does it look like to you (sanctification, anointing, and obedience) and what does God do in this process today? (See additional reading at the end of the questions for more scriptures.)

6. Read Leviticus 26:1-13. How many blessings can you find in this passage, and can you explain what they would look like to you today?

Notes

7. Numbers 13 tells the story of the twelve spies. What can we learn from this about the common thought of the “majority rules” or “majority rightness” vs. Godly thinking and faith?

8. In Numbers 14:1-5 who do the children of Israel choose to listen to, and what decision do they make based on who they listened to?

9. What did the children of Israel want to do to the two spies of faith, and what did God want to do with the children of Israel?

10. In general, who does the world choose to listen to today? What do they want to do with Christians, and what does God want to do for them?

Notes

11. Read Numbers 14:26-37. How does God punish Israel for their disobedience and lack of faith? Who is spared from this judgment?

12. In Numbers 15:37-41, God gives some more instructions. He has Israel do something special with their clothing. What is it? What color is it? Why was it done?

13. In Deuteronomy 4:29-31, what does God promise to do if Israel does what? Can this promise be applied to you?

14. Read Deuteronomy 4:32-38 to learn about the special relationship God had with Israel. In verses 39-40 what was Israel to do and why?

Notes

15. In Deuteronomy 5:6-21 what did Moses give the next generation of Israel as they prepared to conquer the promise land?

16. Most people think the Ten Commandments and the Law were a list of “Don’ts”. What does Deuteronomy 6:20-25 tell us God intended them for?

17. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-32. What did God really want from the children of Israel and what did God want them to have?

18. What does God want from you today, and what does God want you to have?

Additional Reading

Question 5 passages: Psalms 102:27, Malachi 3:6, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Hebrews 13:8,9: 19-28, James 1:7

LINEAGE OF CHRIST

Judah

Phares (Perez)

Esrom

Aram

Aminadab

Nashon

(Prince of the tribe of Judah after the making of the tabernacle in the wilderness)

Salmon
(the father of Boaz)

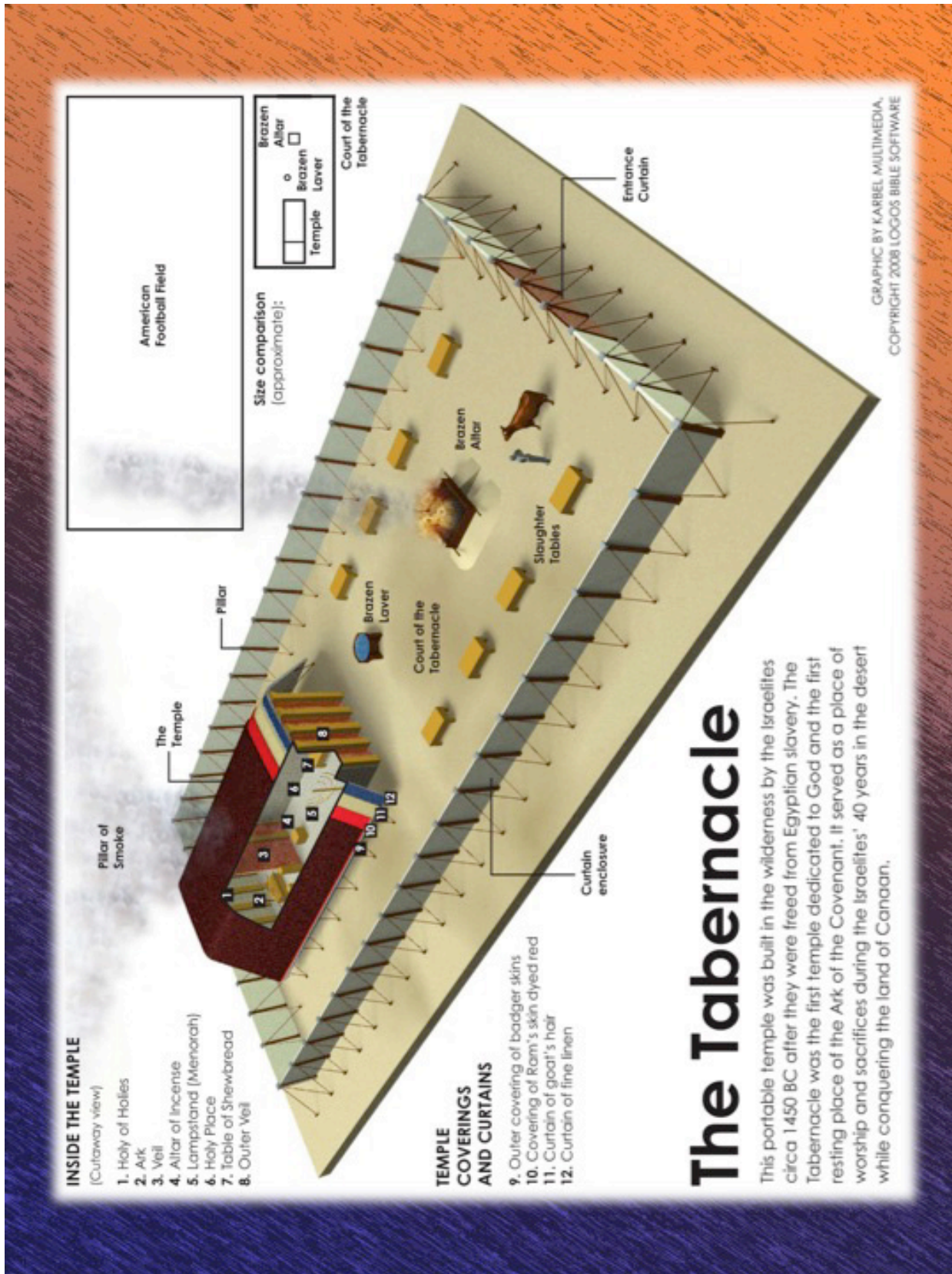
Note: The lineage taken from Numbers and Matthew (KJV)



KEY EVENTS IN ISRAEL'S WILDERNESS WANDERINGS

Egypt Beginning of Passover Cloud by day, pillar of fire by night begins	Exodus 12:1-18 Exodus 13:20-22
Red Sea Israel passes through on dry land	Exodus 14:16-22
Marah Bitter water made sweet	Exodus 15:22-26
Elim 12 wells of water & 70 palm trees	Exodus 15:27
Wilderness of Sin Manna is provided	Exodus 15:1-36
Horeb Water from the rock	Exodus 17:6
Rephidim Moses' hands supported by Aaron & Hur	Exodus 17:8-13

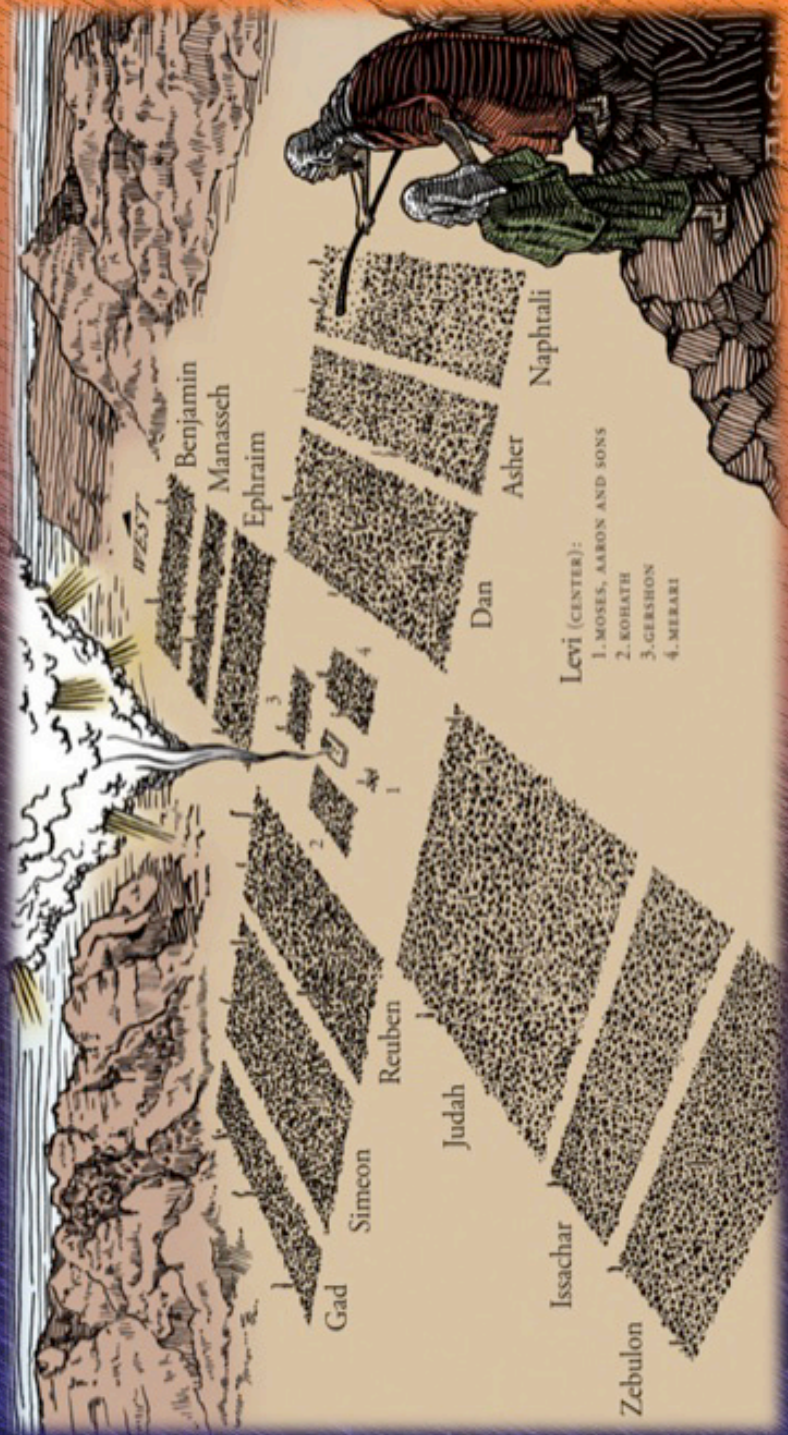
Mt. Sinai The 10 Commandments The golden calf Building of the tabernacle	Exodus 20:1-17 Exodus 32:1-6 Exodus 35:4-39
Kadesh-Barnea Area 12 spies sent into Canaan Israel to wander 40 years The rebellion of Korah Death of Miriam Moses smites the rock	Numbers 13:24 Numbers 14:33-34 Numbers 16:1-30 Numbers 20:1 Numbers 20:2-13
Mt. Hor Death of Aaron at age 123	Numbers 20:23-29 Numbers 33:28-29
Around Edom Brass serpent on a pole	Numbers 21:7-9
Plains of Moab Balaam	Numbers 22:1-24
Mts. Nebo & Pisgah Moses sees promised land Death of Moses at 120 Joshua becomes leader	Deuteronomy 34:1-4 Deuteronomy 34:9 Deuteronomy 34:9



THE CAMP

Numbers 2

As the Israelites traveled through the Wilderness God gave specific directions on how the Camp was to be set up. ⁶



THE APPOINTED TIMES – MO'EDIM

"Thanks to the Lord for instituting a way for all of us who are His children to remember the reality of His constant Presence with us ... [and] remember His faithful provision in our lives throughout the past year..."¹

¹"The Biblical Festivals are not just occasions for good food...and enjoying a good time with friends and family...they are [also] very significant times of the year designed by [God] for us to connect with Him..."²

The Spring Festivals foreshadowed prophetic events that have been fulfilled by the Messiah, and the Fall Feasts foreshadow prophetic of events that will be fulfilled at the return of the Messiah.

The Spring Festivals³	Symbolic Meaning	Given to Israel in Remembrance of	How It Foreshadows the Messiah
 <p>Pesach – Passover The day on which the Israelites ritually slaughtered the Passover lamb/the following day would begin the week of Unleavened Bread.</p>	Leviticus 23:5 Passover Lamb	How God redeemed the Israelites from bondage That Death passed over those protected by the blood of the Lamb	The sacrifice of Jesus as the final Passover Lamb
 <p>Hag HaMatzah – Feast of Unleavened Bread Bread without leaven is eaten for 7 days</p>	Leviticus 23:6-8 Leaven is a symbol of sin in the Bible	The speed with which the Israelites were to leave Egypt	The Messiah was without sin (unleavened bread)
 <p>Reshit Katzir - First Fruits – The Feast of Weeks Begins with the offering of the First Fruits (the first of the grain harvest to ripen) of the Barley Harvest and ended 50 days later on the day of Shavuot (Pentecost).</p>	Leviticus 23:9-14 The beginning of the harvest	Giving back to God the very best of what they had in gratitude for His provision.	Messiah was the "first fruits" of those who are asleep[in death] The resurrection of the Messiah
 <p>Shavuot – Pentecost⁴ The 50th day after the offering of First Fruits</p>	Leviticus 23:15-21 The Spirit of God/ Holy Spirit	The day God spoke the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai	1 st Century church was gathered to commemorate Shavuot on the 50 th day when the Holy Spirit fell on them
The Fall Festivals			
 <p>Rosh HaShanah – Feast of Trumpets The first day of the seventh month of Biblical calendar</p>	Leviticus 23:23-25 Regathering of Israel	The first day of the new year	The second coming of Messiah
 <p>Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement The tenth day of the seventh month of the Biblical calendar</p>	Leviticus 23:27-28 Substitutional Atonement for sins	The day the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement before God for the nation of Israel	Day of Judgment Face-to-Face All Israel will see salvation
 <p>Sukkot – Feast of Tabernacles Seven days of celebration and feasting</p>	Leviticus 23:42 The Provision of God	The time spent wandering in the Wilderness with only temporary shelters	The Millennial Reign of Messiah

SYMBOLISM IN THE TABERNACLE

The Tabernacle

It is important to note that the Tabernacle was God's dwelling place rather than the people's meeting place.

From the foundation made of silver sockets (slots) to the brass buckles or rings that held the curtains in place, God gave specific instructions on how to construct every single part of the Tabernacle. There was both significance to the Israelites as they traveled through the Wilderness and significance found in the writings of the Apostles.

"Rather than guessing the symbolic connections between the details of the Tabernacle and the Messiah, we should look to the *Torah* [Old Testament] itself to understand the Tabernacle and to the New Testament to see how *Yeshua* [Jesus] fulfilled the requirements revealed by the Tabernacle." [Endnote]

Here we will give only a simple description about the use of the structure and furnishings of the Tabernacle. ⁷

1	Inside of the Tabernacle		Courtyard of the Tabernacle
	Holy of Holies: the most sacred area of the Tabernacle where the Ark of the Covenant was lodged. No one could enter except the High Priest who only entered once a year on <i>Yom Kippur</i>		Only the priests and those who were making an offering entered here
2	Ark of the Covenant: a beautifully constructed box made of acacia wood overlaid with gold which contained the stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments, Aaron's Staff and a bowl of Manna.		Brazen Altar: a large altar constructed of brass used for sacrifices where a fire burned continuously
3	Inner Veil: a curtain made of twisted linen which concealed the Holy of Holies from view		Brazen Laver: a basin or laver constructed of brass where the priests washed their hands and feet before entering the Tabernacle
4	Alter of Incense: a table constructed of gold where incense burned continually	9	Outer Covering of Badger (or Seal) Skins
5	Menorah: a lamp stand made of gold with seven branches of lamps that burned continually	10	Covering of ram's skins dyed red
6	Holy Place: the interior of the Tabernacle that was entered by the priests only to replenish oil, incense and showbread. Within the Holy Place were the Holy of Holies, the Menorah, the Altar of Incense and the Table of Shewbread	11	Covering of goat's hair
7	Table of Shewbread: a table made of gold which held 12 loaves of bread	12	Inner Curtain of fine linen
8	Outer Veil: a curtain made of twisted linen which enclosed the entrance to the Holy Place.		



Digging Deeper

Notes

A Note on the Tent of Meeting

Are the Tent of Meeting and the Tabernacle the same structure?

The Tent of Meeting is referred to several times in the scriptures as a tent that was set up outside of the Camp and served as a place set apart where God met with Moses face-to-face (Exodus 33:7-11). On occasion others such as Aaron (Exodus 29:32) and Joshua (Deuteronomy 31:14) were instructed to go to the Tent of Meeting. Although there are some scholars who hold a different opinion, because the Tent of Meeting was erected outside of the Camp and the Tabernacle was erected in the center of the Camp, it seems clear that the Tent of Meeting and the Tabernacle were two separate structures.⁷

Living Waters, Messiah Online article, First Fruits of Zion www.ffoz.org

Study on the Feasts, Greg Killian, The Watchman, www.betemunah.org

Lesson 8 – Our Calendar, His Appointments, HaYesod Lesson Manual, page 8.9 - 8.17

www.ffoz.org

Fire on the Mountain, Messiah Online article, First Fruits of Zion www.ffoz.org

The Offerings, Messiah Online article, First Fruits of Zion www.ffoz.org

Numbers 2 – Israelite Encampment | Gracepoint Devotions www.gracepointdevotions.org/2011/02/07/numbers-2-israelite-encampment/

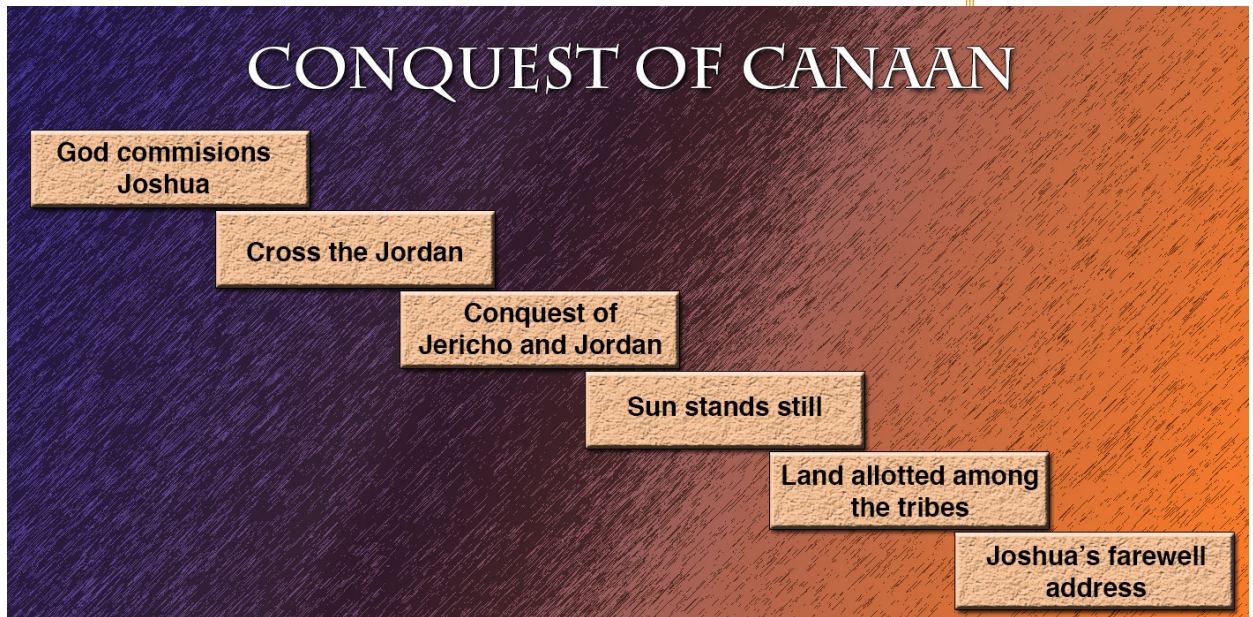
The Tabernacle: Meaning and Function, Online article, Derek Leman, Hope of David Messianic Congregation, Rocking the Foundations

www.rockingthefoundation.com

Notes

Lesson 7: Conquest of Canaan

Notes



Lesson 7: Conquest of Canaan

Notes

Scripture Reference

- Joshua

Objectives

In this lesson you will learn:

- God has a plan and is in control
- Obedience and consecration is necessary for victory
- The battle belongs to God, and He is the one who provides the victory
- God always keeps His promises
- The importance of God's covenant with Abraham and with the Israelites (Mosaic covenant)
- Christ appeared in Old Testament times
- God is just and fair

Notes

Preface for Today's Lesson

The previous lessons in this Bible study covered the first five books of the Old Testament. Through these books we have an incredible view of the forgiveness, love, majesty, power, holiness, and faithfulness, of our Lord God Almighty, El Shaddai.

When the Israelites were in the wilderness, God displayed His faithfulness to Abraham by remembering their covenant, and establishing that covenant with Abraham's descendants, the Israelites. God made it clear to Moses and the Israelites that He was honoring this covenant, and establishing it with them. As He promised, God delivered them out of Egypt, and led them into the land He promised Abraham.

According to the covenant, God would bless Israel above all the nations on the earth, and set them apart to be His holy people. The covenant required them to have no other gods before Him, to be a holy nation that sought God's heart and His ways, and followed Him in obedience. If the covenant was honored by Israel, the result was blessings from God. If the Israelites dishonored the covenant, their disobedience resulted in curses. The Israelites agreed to the covenant verbally, and sealed the covenant through the blood of an animal sacrifice. The sign of the covenant was the blood of every male, through the circumcision of his own flesh.

As you proceed through the rest of the lessons in this study, it is important to reflect back on this covenant, and notice how God faithfully honored it. However, in later lessons you will see that Israel did not honor God or the covenant. To help you with this, included in this lesson is a list of the blessings and curses of the covenant. It will be to your benefit to review this list carefully.

Today's lesson covers the sixth book of the Bible, the book of Joshua. In this lesson you will learn how God kept His covenant with Abraham and the Israelites, and miraculously led them in conquering the land of Canaan.

Before proceeding with this lesson, it is important to have a little background on Joshua. When Moses knew that he would not enter the Promise Land, he prayed that God would appoint a man to take his place and lead the Israelites into the land. God answered that prayer with Joshua. Joshua, from his youth, was an aide for Moses. While he was in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses, Joshua fought the Amalekites and led the Israelites into victory. God asked Moses to write about that victory on a scroll. He told Moses that He would completely blot out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven. He also told Moses to be sure that Joshua heard those

words. When Moses went up the mountain to receive the words of God, Joshua set out with him. At times in the wilderness, Moses and Joshua would meet with God in the tent of meeting. Joshua would go, but when Moses left, Joshua remained there with God. Joshua was one of the twelve spies Moses sent to investigate the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:2-15). God had been preparing Joshua for the awesome responsibility of leading God's people into the promise land. Moses had prepared Joshua for leadership, and had told him to be strong and courageous for he would lead the people into the land God promised their forefathers. Just before the death of Moses, God told him to get Joshua, and present themselves at the Tent of Meeting. At that meeting, God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, and that he would bring the Israelites into the land of promise. God told Joshua that He, the Lord God Almighty, would be with him. Moses laid hands on Joshua, and he was filled with the Spirit of Wisdom. The Israelites listened to Joshua and did what the Lord had commanded Moses.

Notes

Observation

This lesson begins after the death of Moses. God commissioned and anointed Joshua to lead the Israelites into the land. God told Joshua several times to be strong and courageous, and as He was with Moses so He would be with him. God told him to study and meditate on the words of the Law, and be careful to obey everything He had commanded. He also told Joshua that wherever he placed his foot in the land, God would give it to him, and no one would be able to stand against the Israelites, because God would be with them. Joshua knew what he needed to do, because God called him and prepared him for the ministry.

God told Joshua to have the people prepare to go into the land in three days. Joshua reminded the Reubenites, Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh that as they had requested, they were given land and rest on this side of the Jordan, but they needed to go across the Jordan and help their brothers receive their portion before they could come back home and enjoy rest. They agreed. Joshua then sent spies into Jericho to scout out the city. While in Jericho, they met Rahab, the harlot. She believed in God because of what she had heard about Him. She told the spies that the hearts of the people melted in fear, and they were filled with terror over the Israelites, because of what they had seen and heard that the God of Israel had done. This is exactly what God told the Israelites would take place. As a result, Rahab hid the spies and helped them escape, with the agreement that when they conquered Jericho, they would spare her life and the lives of her family. They agreed. On the day they conquered Jericho, she was to let down a scarlet cord from her window, and have all her family in her home. As long as she

Notes

did that, the Israelites would protect her and her family and spare their lives.

God told Joshua they would cross the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. He told him exactly how they were to cross the river, but before they crossed the Jordan, they must purify themselves. God told Joshua that this day He would make him a great leader in the eyes of the people, and that they would know that God was with him just as He was with Moses. They needed to know that the living God was among them. God instructed them to have the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant go first, and the people were to follow at a distance. The Ark of the Covenant would lead them. The priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant were to place their feet in the water. Doing so was an act of faithful obedience. The Jordan River was at flood stage. There was an immediate drop going into the water, not a beach area with a gradual slope, but an immediate drop, forcing them to walk by faith and not by sight. When they placed their feet in the water, the water immediately stopped flowing and stood before them as a wall. The priests walked to the middle of the river on dry ground. As the priests stood in the middle of the river, the people walked by them to the other side of the Jordan.

God told Joshua to choose twelve men, and have each of them carry a stone from the middle of the river and put them in a pile, where they were to make camp that night. This would be a memorial of the awesome miracle God provided for them. They were to tell their children where these stones had been and the awesome miracle God provided. They were also to pile twelve stones in the middle of the river, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. This would be another memorial at the place where the priests who were carrying the ark were standing. These stones were intended to be a reminder to all the generations to come of the majesty, power, presence, and faithfulness of El Shaddai, the Lord God Almighty. Once the last person reached the other side of the Jordan River, the waters returned and overflowed the banks as before.

That night, the people camped at Gilgal and Joshua piled up the twelve stones there. Joshua told the people that this would be a reminder to them and the generations to come of the powerful hand of the Lord. God gave them the responsibility to never forget this, but to let their children know what these stones represented. That responsibility would be handed down from one generation to the next; tell your children. This would be a witness for Israel as well as the world that the hand of God is powerful.

After crossing the Jordan, God told Joshua to make flint knives and circumcise all the children of Israel, who had not been previously

Notes

circumcised. After this they stayed in Gilgal until they were healed. They camped in Gilgal, and on the fourteenth day of the month they celebrated the Passover. From this time on they no longer had manna, but ate from the crops of the land.

When Joshua was close to Jericho, he looked and saw a man with His sword in His hand. Joshua asked Him if he was for them or for their enemies. He replied, "Neither, but that He was the Captain of the Lord's Army." Immediately Joshua fell on his face and worshiped, and asked Him what he should do. The Captain of the Lord's army told him to take off his sandals for the ground he was on was holy. The Captain of the Lord's army is not another angel, but the very Son of God. This is one of several times in the Old Testament that Jesus, the Captain of the Lord's army appeared.

After crossing the Jordan River, Jericho was the first stronghold that God had the Israelites conquer. God told them to march around the city one time each day for six days. The Ark of the Covenant would follow them. On the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times, and when the priests blew a long blast with the ram's horn, they were to shout for God had given them the city. When they shouted, the walls of the city fell down. God told them not to take anything from the city, except the silver and gold and vessels of brass, which were to be consecrated to the Lord and placed in the Lord's temple. They completely destroyed the city and all those in it, except Rahab and her family. They burnt the city and all that was within it with fire. However, Achan, who was of the tribe of Judah, disobeyed God and took treasures from Jericho and hid them in the ground inside his tent.

God placed a curse on rebuilding Jericho. He said that the man who rebuilds Jericho shall lay the foundation in his firstborn, and in his youngest son shall he set up the gates of it (Joshua 6:26). As you will see in a later lesson, that prophecy was fulfilled centuries later during the reign of King Ahab (1 Kings 16:34). God is faithful, and His word always accomplishes what He says it will accomplish (Isaiah 55:16).

The next city they were to capture was Ai. Joshua sent men to spy out the land. When they returned, they reported there was no need to send more than three thousand men for it would be very easy to overtake Ai. Joshua did as they said. However, the conquest did not go as planned. The Israelites fled Ai, and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six Israelites and chased them out. The hearts of the Israelites melted, and Joshua tore his close and cried out to God, "Why didn't you deliver us? We would have been better off to stay on the other side of the Jordan." God told Joshua to get up, because Israel sinned. Israel could not stand before their enemies until the thing that was cursed was removed from Israel. Israel had to be sanctified. It was discovered that Achan had

Notes

brought the sin into Israel. As a result, the Israelites stoned him, his family, and all that he owned.

God told Joshua not to be discouraged. After purifying the camp, he led the Israelites to conquer Ai. After conquering Ai they built an altar to the Lord, and Joshua read the words of the law to them, the blessings and the curses.

The hearts of the people of Canaan melted in fear of God. When the people of Gibeon, an important city with great warriors, heard all that God had done, they feared the Israelites. They came to the Israelite leaders in deception and pretended they came from a far country. They said they wanted to make a treaty with Israel. Joshua and the leaders of Israel believed them and did not inquire of God, but made the treaty. Three days later, they discovered the Gibeonites were neighbors. Because the leaders gave their oath to the Gibeonites, they let them live, but made them servants, woodcutters and water carriers.

God miraculously blessed Israel all the days of Joshua's life. The Israelites conquered seven nations in the land through the mighty hand of God. He gave them cities and homes that they did not build and provided everything they needed. Each of the twelve tribes of Israel inherited land, except the Levites, for God is their inheritance. The Levites were given cities in the land belonging to the other tribes. God provided cities of refuge for those who had accidentally or unintentionally killed someone. The Lord gave the Israelites rest the remainder of Joshua's life.

Before Joshua's death, he gathered all the people together and reminded them of where they came from and what God had done. He told them that they must choose whom they would serve, but he and his household would serve the Lord. Joshua died at one hundred and ten years of age, but there was still land that they had not conquered. However, the Israelites served the Lord all the days of Joshua's life.

Interpretation

God is always faithful and His faithfulness was evident during this period of time. He made a promise to Abraham approximately seven hundred years prior, and just as He promised, the Israelites conquered the land with great victories. They inherited land with cities and homes they didn't build, and vineyards and crops they didn't plant. It was awesome that Jesus, the Captain of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua to let him know that it would not be by flesh and blood they would conquer the land of Canaan, but by the power and Word of God. God's word never returns to Him void. What He promised Abraham, He would fulfill. The Captain of the Lord's army went before them to see

Notes

that the Word of God was accomplished. The Israelites did not enter and conquer the land of Canaan on their own.

Just as God said, the hearts of the people in Canaan melted, because they were not fighting against flesh and blood, but fighting against the all powerful God. When Rahab was confronted by the hand of God, she fell on her knees in submission, and God being a merciful and loving God blessed her just as He blesses all who submit to Him, not just the Israelites.

Application

We have a new covenant not written on stone tablets, but written on our hearts and sealed by the blood of the perfect sacrifice, the sinless Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. The circumcision is not the circumcision of the outward flesh, but the circumcision of our hearts, the cutting away of the sinful nature, which we inherited from our earthly father, Adam. When we receive Christ, we are given a new heart, the Spirit of the Holy One, Jesus Christ.

Our sins are not hidden from God. When we try to cover them and hide them, as Achan did, there is no peace, and we as well as those we love suffer. Rather than try to hide our sins from our omniscient God, we need to fall on our knees and humble ourselves before him, and receive His gift to us: redemption. His Holy Spirit enters our hearts, and begins a work of transforming us into His image.

Notes

Reading Assignment

- Joshua 1-7
- Joshua 9-11
- Joshua 16-17
- Joshua 20
- Joshua 21:43-45
- Joshua 23-24

Questions

1. In Joshua chapter one, what statement does God make to Joshua three times?

2. Why do you think God is so emphatic with this proclamation?

3. Who helped the spies? What makes this person an interesting choice to be used of God?

Notes

4. How did God bless Rahab? What is used to identify her home, and what does this say about God?

5. Before the battle and victory over Jericho, what were the people of Israel commanded to do? What does this teach us about receiving victory in our lives today?

6. What was the order in which Israel crossed the Jordan River? What description is given them, and what do they do once they cross?

7. What two significant events take place in Joshua 5:10-12?

8. In Joshua 5:13-15, with who do you think Joshua has a conversation? To who were the words spoken, and who were they about? Where are the words "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy," spoken of before and to whom? (Exodus 3:4-6)

9. How was Jericho conquered and what made this victory amazing?

Notes

10. Who were the first to suffer the consequence of Achins' sin? What does this teach us about the consequences of our sin?

11. In Joshua 7:6-26, Joshua and the elders cried out to God and asked why they lost the battle at Ai. God reveals that it is because of sin. What does God tell Joshua to do (verses 10-15)?

12. What is the ultimate consequence paid by Achan and his family? What implication does this have for us?

13. In Joshua 9, what mistake did Joshua and the elders make? Who paid the consequence for this decision besides the Gibeonites becoming slaves (2 Samuel 21: 1-9)?

14. In the battle with the five kings of the Ammorites, who killed more men, Israel or God? How was it done? What does this say to you about God?

Notes

15. In Joshua 11 Jabin, the king of Hazor, gathers many other kings to fight against Israel. The meaning of his name is intelligence, to understand, discern, eloquent and cunning. They gather at a place called Merom meaning literally a high place, altitude. Merom as an adverb means haughty, loftily. What do you find interesting about these facts and the demise of all these kings and their people? (Proverbs 16:18, 16:25, 17:19, 18:12)

16. In Joshua 17:1-6 the daughters of Zelophehad claim their inheritance. Read their story in Numbers 27:1-12 and discover the heart of God towards women. What did God do to ensure women would always have provision even when there was not a man in their life to provide for them? How does this change your perception of God? Does this abdicate a man's responsibility to provide?

17. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? What does this say about God's provision of grace and mercy towards mans inability to be perfect? What does this say about God's judgement?

Notes

18. Read Joshua 21:43-45. What things did the Lord give Israel because He promised it to them? What does this say to you about God keeping His promises?

19. Joshua 24:13-15 states that Israel enjoyed the labor of those they conquered. What did Joshua charge them to do because of God's overabundant blessings? Do you believe that this charge is still relevant for you today because of God's blessings in your life?



Notes

Notes





Notes

Notes

Discovering Jericho

Recent re-evaluation of archeological evidence by Dr. Bryant G. Wood (1990-2008) has confirmed the evidence of the destruction of the city of Jericho at the time and place as described in the Bible -- but it didn't start there.

The story spans many years. In the early 1900s, a German team found the mound (or "tel" in archeological terminology) on which the city was built, along with huge piles of mud bricks around the base. Then in the 1950s, a British archeologist, Kathleen Kenyon, using more modern methods, determined that the bricks were from the city wall, which had collapsed when the city was destroyed. She also found evidence of complete destruction by fire. In 1997, Italian archeologists uncovered a section of wall with houses built against it which had remained intact, which is amazing considering the utter destruction of the rest of the city.¹

So we have this great city which had a huge wall surrounding it which was destroyed for some reason around 1400 BC and then burned by fire. But did we mention that a certain section of that wall was not destroyed but remained standing and completely intact? This is the story of the conquest of Jericho by Joshua and the Israelites (Joshua 6:1-24), the story of Rahab (Joshua 2:1-24) and the destruction of the city of Jericho by fire (Joshua 6:24).

For those who want to dig deeper, you can see Dr. Wood's videos

Jericho and Archeology by Dr. Bryant Wood (2010)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJNjhnTe4B0>

and

Secrets of the Bible-the Fall of Jericho by Bryant Woode (2015)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5Fjth9T12U>

¹ *Jericho's Wall*, <http://christiananswers.net>

Blessings and Curses for Israel

Notes

Blessings for Obedience: Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Obedience to the Lord is rewarded by blessings.

Moses commanded six leaders from six tribes to stand on Mt Gerizim to pronounce the 'Blessings' that would come upon the people 'if' they obeyed the commandments of God.

The other six leaders from the remaining six tribes stood upon Mt Ebal and pronounced the Curses 'if' they did not obey the commandments of God.

Deuteronomy 28 lists the 'Blessings' & 'Curses'.

'Blessings' for Obeying the Commandments

- God will set you on high above all the other nations of the earth and all these blessings' shall come upon you (Deuteronomy 28:1-2)
- You will be 'blessed' in the city (Deuteronomy 28:3)
- You will be 'blessed' in the field
- You will have perfect offspring (Deuteronomy 28:4)
- Your crops will be 'blessed' (prosperity provision)
- Your cattle will be 'blessed' (*prosperity provision*)
- Your flocks will increase
- Your baskets and storehouses will be full of good things (Deuteronomy 28:58)
- You will be 'blessed' in all you undertake (Deuteronomy 28:68)
- You will have complete victory over all your enemies (*poverty sickness disease etc*) (Deuteronomy 28:7)
- Your land will be abundantly fertile and productive
- You will be established as a holy people unto God (Deuteronomy 28:9)
- You will be a witness and an example to all people on earth vs 10
- All nations will be afraid of you
- You will be prosperous in goods, in children, in stock, and in crops in all the land vs 11
- The Lord will open to you all His good treasure vs 12
- The heavens will give you rain in due season in all your land
- The Lord will 'bless' the work of your hands
- You will be prosperous enough to lend to many nations and you will 'not' need to borrow from them
- The Lord shall make you the head and 'not' the tail vs 13
- You shall be above and never beneath

Notes

Conditions for these 'Blessings'

- 'If' you hearken diligently to the voice of the Lord (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 9, 13, and 15)
- 'If' you observe and 'do' all His commandments (Deuteronomy 1, 13, and 15)
- 'If' you walk in His ways (Deuteronomy 28:9)
- 'If' you do 'not' go aside from any of the words of God to the right hand or to the left (Deuteronomy 28:13 14)
- 'If' you do 'not' go after other gods to serve them (Deuteronomy 28:14)

All this will come only if the Israelites obey the commandments of the Lord their God.

Warnings Against Disobedience: Deuteronomy 28:15-29:1

If Israel does not heed God, it will be cursed.

'Curses' for Disobedience

"Cursed shall be" curses (Deuteronomy 28.15-19)

The first set of curses is written in a negative form of the first set of blessings (Deut. 28.3-6) The matching of blessing and curse offers an aesthetic symmetry to the Lord's commands - and keeps them easy to remember.

- You will be 'cursed' in the city (Deuteronomy 28:16)
- You will be 'cursed' in the field
- Your baskets and storehouses will be 'cursed' vs 17
- Your children will be 'cursed' vs 18
- Your crops will be 'cursed'
- Your herds will 'not' increase
- Your flocks will 'not' increase
- You will be 'cursed' when you come in vs 19
- You will be 'cursed' when you go out

Additional 'Curses' for Disobedience

"The Lord will" curses (Deuteronomy 28.20-28) These curses are parallel in form, all beginning with the same formula: "The Lord will."

- Jehovah will send 'cursings' upon you vs 20
- He will send vexation
- He will send rebukes
- You will fail in all you do
- You will be destroyed
- You will quickly perish

Additional 'Curses' for Disobedience

Notes

- Pestilence cleaving unto you (*Something that brings a slow death*) vs 21
- Death emaciation (*To grow thin to waste away*)
- Consumption vs 22
- Fever (*a burning fever inflammation inflamed persecutor This probably refers to a rapidly consuming cancer or ulcer*) vs 22
- Extreme burning (*This refers not only to inflammation of the body but to agony of mind and torture of soul because there would be no help*) vs 22
- Sword (*wars and civil strife*) vs 22
- Inflammation (*Burning*) vs 22
- Blasting (*This refers to blighting east wind ruining crops and suffocating men and beasts*) vs 22
- Mildew (*paleness of persons from fright or of plants from drought*) vs 22
- Heaven as brass (*Could refer to unanswered prayers as well as no rain and fruitful seasons*) vs 23
- Earth as iron (*Failure of crops*) vs 24
- Drought dust-no rain (*A way of saying there will be no rain from heaven and the land will turn to dust from a lack of rain*) vs 24
- Destruction because of long drought
- Smitten before enemies vs 25
- Going out 1 way fleeing seven ways vs 25
- Removed into all kingdoms of the earth vs 25
- Bodies eaten by fowls and beasts
- No help in driving away your enemies
- Botch of Egypt (*Inflammation botch ulcer boil*) vs 27, 35
- Emerods (*to swell these were bleeding piles*) vs 27
- Scab (*to scratch scurvy scab*) vs 27
- Itch (*to scrape itch*) vs 27
- No healing (*there will be no remedy*)
- Madness (*craziness madness You will be confused and not know what to do*) vs 28
- Blindness (*physical mental and spiritual*) vs 28
- Astonishment of heart (*stupefy and amazement*) vs 28
- Groping at noonday
- No prosperity
- Oppressed and spoiled forever
- No man to save you

Notes

Additional 'Curses' for Disobedience

Curses of helplessness (Deuteronomy 28.29-44)

Next comes a section of curses that are concerned with a feeling of utter helplessness that will result if the Israelites do not obey the Lord.

- Betroth a wife and an enemy shall capture and ravish her vs 30
- Build a house and an enemy will take it for his own
- Plant a vineyard and an enemy shall take it
- Your stock will be slain and eaten before your eyes vs 31
- No restoration
- You will have no man to deliver you
- Your sons and daughters will be given to other people as slaves vs 32
- You will long for deliverance for your children and it will not come
- You will be powerless to help them
- Enemies will eat your crop vs 33
- You will be crushed always
- You will be mad when you see your own helplessness vs 34
- You will serve other gods idols
- You will not enjoy your sons and daughters because they will become slaves vs 41
- Strangers among you will be exalted and you will be humbled vs 43
- Strangers will lend to you vs 44

Additional 'Curses' for Disobedience

The Lord retaliates (Deuteronomy 28.48-68)

This section demonstrates the retaliation of the Lord on Israel, and the reversal of Israel's fortune.

- You will serve your enemies vs 48
- Robbery of all possessions
- Nakedness
- Want of all things
- Bondage
- Destruction of lives vs 48-51
- War with foreign nations vs 49
- Unmerciful treatment from enemies vs 50
- Cannibalism vs 53-57
- Famine and distress vs 53-57
- Men murdering closest relative - brothers wives and even children

Additional 'Curses' for Disobedience

- Women murdering closest relatives- husbands, sons, daughters, and even babies vs 56-57
- Great plagues of long endurance vs 58-59
- Sore sickness of long continuance vs 59
- All the diseases of Egypt shall cleave to you vs 60
- Service to other gods
- No peace
- No rest fearful and trembling hearts
- Eye failures
- Sorrow of mind
- Fears day and night
- No assurance of life
- Fretting and worry because of the constant dangers of life vs 67
- Slavery again as in Egypt vs 68
- The woman among who has been so delicate and refined will become so vile and coarse that she will murder her husband's sons, daughters, and even her babies

Notes

CONQUERING – UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STRATEGY

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOD'S STRATEGY FOR VICTORY
JOSHUA 6-12

6:1-27 GOD'S FIRST VICTORY AT JERICHO

7:1-26 A BATTLE WITH SIN

8:1-29 RECOVERING FROM DEFEAT

8:30-35 DELIGHT IN GOD'S TORAH

9:1-27 FALLING FOR A LIE

10:1-43 THE BATTLES AGAINST THE KINGS

11:1-23 RESPONDING STRATEGICALLY

12:1-24 GATHERING MOMENTUM

VICTORY ONLY ARISES WHEN ONE FULLY UNDERSTANDS TEMPTATION AND WHOLLY
DEPENDS UPON THE LORD'S MEANS FOR DELIVERANCE

DIVIDING - GRASPING GOD'S GOOD PURPOSES

THE ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMPLETE GOD'S MISSION

JOSHUA 13-24

13:1-13 RULES FOR VICTORIOUS LIVING

14:1-15:19 CALEB: A MAN WILLING TO FIGHT

15:20-17:13 FULFILLING OUR OBLIGATIONS

17:12-18 ESCAPING FROM FEAR'S GRIP

18:1-19:51 DIVIDING THE INHERITANCE

20:1-9 WHERE CAN I RUN?

21:1-45 CARE OF GOD'S WORKERS

22:1-34 FOR GOOD OR FOR BAD

23:1-16 PASSING THE TORCH

24:1-13 TRUTH OR FICTION

24:14-33 DECLARATION OF OUR COMMITMENT

GOD'S FULL FAVOR IS FOUND ONLY WHEN ONE BOTH UNDERSTANDS AND SEEKS GOD'S COMPLETE PURPOSES

PREPARING – DEVELOPING GOD'S PEOPLE

THE CALLING AND RESPONSIBILITY OF GODLY LEADERSHIP

JOSHUA 1-5

1:1-5 THE MISSION

1:1-9 DEVELOPING GODLY LEADERSHIP

1:10-18 MAXIMUM MOBILIZATION

1:12-18 THE BATTLE BEFORE THE CONQUEST

2:1-24 GOD'S MYSTERIOUS WAYS

3:1-17 SIGNS AND WONDERS

4:1-24 Pauses #1: FORMING MEMORIES

5:1-9 Pauses #2: OUR STEP OF FAITH

5:10-12 Pauses #3: COMMUNING WITH GOD

5:13-15 Pauses #4: FOLLOWING GOD'S LEADER

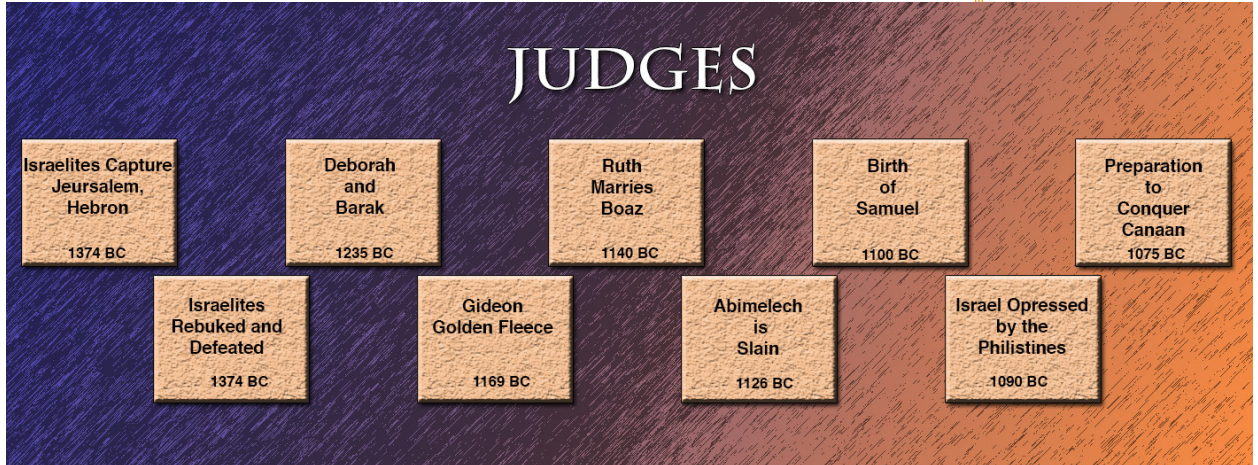
SUCCESS IS DETERMINED BY ONE'S ABILITY TO BECOME AND REMAIN SENSITIVE TO THE LORD'S AUTHORITY AND METHODS

Notes

Notes

Lesson 8: Judges

Notes



Lesson 8: Judges

Notes

Scripture Reference

- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel 1-8

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- About the period of time when the judges ruled the nation of Israel
- The blessings and curses God gave to Israel
- About the faithfulness of God during this period of time
- Applicable lessons for us today

Observation

In the previous lesson, you were introduced to the victorious period of time in which God empowered Joshua and the Israelites to conquer the land that He promised Abraham and his descendants. It was a time in which the people of God received His blessings and the promised inheritance, because they listened to God, obeyed him, and honored His covenant with them. They experienced the blessings of His faithfulness. At the end of Joshua's life, he gathered the people together and powerfully articulated the summation of their history. Joshua told them to make a choice to either serve the gods of their fathers in Egypt and the gods of the Canaanites, or to be like him and his household and serve the Lord. The people all agreed with Joshua that they would serve God and Him alone. Joshua reminded them of the blessings they would receive when they followed God, and warned them of the curses that

Notes

would plague them and their descendants if they disobeyed the Lord God Almighty and worshiped the gods of the Canaanites. The people continued to say that they would not turn from God, but would serve Him and Him alone.

Shortly after the death of Joshua and his generation, the Israelites turned their hearts from the Lord God to the gods of the Canaanites. They became restless, and much of what they had conquered, they lost. Rather than having dominion over the land God had given them, they retreated, and their hearts melted in fear. When they turned back to God, He would raise up a judge to rule over them. Some of the judges led them back to God, but others did not. During this period of time, which lasted approximately three hundred years, God raised up judges from different tribes and locations in Israel. We read about thirteen of these judges in the book of Judges. We read about the other judges in the book of 1 Samuel. See the Judges chart in this lesson for a list and brief description of each of the judges. Because this is simply an overview of the period of the Judges, we will only discuss a few of them. However, it would be helpful for you to review the charts in this lesson to see the specific information and location regarding each of the judges.

The Book of Judges is dedicated to the first thirteen judges of Israel. They are Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. The first book of Samuel discusses the last of the judges, Eli and Samuel, as well as Joel and Abijah (the two sons of Samuel). The time of the judges is a time in Israel's history of unrest and fear, because God's people became complacent and turned from the fellowship of God Almighty to the fellowship of evil, hatred, sin, and defeat. It was a period of time when everyone did what was right in his own eyes, rather than in God's eyes. There was no clear leadership and direction over Israel. Israel's enemies ruled over them. The curses of God haunted them. They had become so fearful of the people around them that they performed their daily tasks in fear and trembling, such as threshing wheat in the grape presses. Wheat, which needs to be threshed on the hills, so the wind can separate the wheat from the chaff, had to be done in seclusion in the valley below and in the winepresses.

God's people had chosen the curses of disobedience, rather than the blessings of fellowship with God. The people forgot the Lord their God and worshiped the gods of the Canaanites, and just as God had promised blessings for obedience, He promised curses if they forgot him. However, God was still present in Israel. Whenever the people turned to God, He blessed them, just as He said He would.

In this lesson, you will look at a few of Israel's well-known judges, beginning with Deborah (Judges 4-5). She was a prophetess, and the

Notes

fourth judge of Israel. She ruled during one of the most difficult times in Israel's history. The Israelites had done evil in the eyes of the Lord and broke God's covenant. As a result, the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin the king of Canaan. Jabin had nine hundred chariots and had cruelly oppressed them for twenty years. Sisera was the commander of Jabin's army. God said that if Israel did not obey Him, they would be cursed by other nations (Deuteronomy 28:25). When the Israelites cried to God for help, He answered their prayers through the leadership of the judge and prophetess, Deborah. Through her leadership, God subdued Jabin the king of Canaan, and the Israelites grew stronger and stronger against Jabin until they destroyed him. Deborah sang a song of praise to the Lord for the victory. There was peace in the land for forty years.

After Deborah, once again the Israelites forgot the Lord God and did evil. God delivered them over to the hands of the Midianites for seven years. The Midianites were descendants of Abraham and Keturah, the wife he married after Sarah died. The Midianites took over Israel's land and animals and destroyed them. Once again the Israelites cried to God for help. God told them that they were suffering because they had not obeyed the Lord God. God then raised up another judge, Gideon (Judges 6-8).

The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon as he was threshing wheat in a winepress. The angel of the Lord called him a mighty warrior, and told him that God was with him. Gideon replied that if God was with him all this would not be happening. He hungered for God. He had been told about the time that God brought the Israelites out of Egypt with signs and wonders, but he was seeing no evidence of that God. The Lord turned to him and said to go in strength and power and save Israel from the Midianites, and that He, the Lord God, was sending him.

As the story continues, we learn how God miraculously used this weak man and a small band of Israelites to conquer and subdue the Midianites. The Israelites enjoyed peace for forty years during Gideon's lifetime.

As soon as Gideon died, the Israelites forgot the Lord God and did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and He delivered them into the hands of the Philistines.

In the thirteenth chapter of Judges, we read about Samson. He was the thirteenth judge of Israel, and his parents committed him to the Lord before his birth. The angel of the Lord had appeared to Samson's mother before his birth, telling her that he was to be a Nazirite, set apart to God, and that he would begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines. As a Nazirite he was not to drink wine or fermented drink, touch anything unclean, and not cut his hair. Samson

Notes

had supernatural strength, a gift from God. He was a judge of Israel for twenty years. Rather than believe God, that his strength came from obedience to God, he broke all three of these Nazarite vows. He drank wine, ate honey from the carcass of a lion, and let his hair be cut off. When his hair was cut, he lost his strength, and was captured by the Philistines. They plucked out his eyes, and he became a slave. As a slave to the Philistines, he asked God to give him his strength back, and God answered his request. In Samson's death he killed more Philistine than he did in all his life. You can read the incredible story of Samson in Judges, chapters thirteen through sixteen.

In 1 Samuel, we read about the last of the judges. Samuel was the fifteenth judge of Israel and he loved God and served him from his youth. His mother was unable to have children, but prayed fervently to the Lord for a son. She vowed to God, that if He would give her a son, she would give him to the service of the Lord. God answered her prayer, and she gave birth to Samuel. When Samuel became old, he appointed his sons, Joel and Obijah, as judges, but they did not walk in his ways. They took bribes, perverted justice, and went after dishonest gain. The people did not accept them as judges, and began asking Samuel to give them a king like all the other nations around them. This grieved Samuel. You will learn more about that request and how God responds to it in the next lesson.

During the period of the judges there was famine in the land, and a man from Bethlehem, Elimelech, took his wife, Naomi, and two sons to live in the land of Moab. The Moabites were descendants of Lot (Abraham's nephew) and Lot's oldest daughter. Elimelech died while he and his family were in Moab. Both of his sons married Moabite women. One married Orpah and the other married Ruth. After they had lived there ten years, both of Naomi's sons died, so Naomi decided to return to Israel. She told her daughter-in-laws to stay in Moab with their own relatives, but Ruth would not. She insisted on going with Naomi, and following Naomi's God. You can read about this beautiful story of Godly love in the book of Ruth. After going to Israel with Naomi, Ruth marries Naomi's kinsmen, Boaz, and gives birth to a son, Obed, who is in the lineage of Jesus.

Interpretation

The period of the judges of Israel is such a dark period of time. The Israelites wandered from the protection and blessings of God and sought the gods of the people around them. Although Israel was unfaithful to God, He was still in their midst, loving them and providing for them whenever they sought him. God is faithful, and He desires fellowship with those that seek him. The blessings and curses God said would happen to them took place. They lost the

Notes

blessings their fathers experienced during the leadership of Joshua, because they did not seek the Lord with all their hearts, but became like the Canaanites around them and accepted their gods. The character of God Almighty does not change, even though the Israelites broke God's covenant. God was faithful to His word. He did not change. Throughout this period of time, the Angel of the Lord appeared to many of the judges. Throughout the Old Testament scriptures, Jesus was referred to as the Angel of the Lord. From the very beginning, God provided for His people. He has always provided redemption and fellowship for those that seek him.

Application

No matter where we live in the world today we can learn much from Israel's history, during this period of the judges. Let us apply the lessons of Israel to America. America has a godly heritage. Our forefathers came to this nation for religious freedom. This nation was founded on the presence and blessings of the Lord God. However, today in America much of the church melts in fear of what the enemy is doing in our country. This is very much like Israel did in threshing wheat in the winepresses. We have compromised our values and watered down the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have experienced the blessings of God, and we are experiencing the curses too. Many Christians are more concerned about alienation from the world than alienation from God, and as a result they are changing their values and ignoring the Word of God.

Gideon questioned the presence of God, because he wasn't seeing the miracles. He had been taught about how God miraculously delivered his forefathers from Egypt, and he hungered to see the mighty hand of God in his life. God began molding him into a man he could use to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. It is the same way in our lives. We may look at the evil around us and wonder where God is in all this. Oh that we as Christians, would look with the spiritual eyes that God has given us, and realize that the power of the Lord is within us. We need to listen and respond to the Spirit of the Lord within us, so God can use us in this current time. We need to hunger for His holiness and fall on our faces before Him and repent. We need to learn, as Samson did, that our strength does not come from our own power, but from the Lord God.

The battle against the enemy, Satan, is raging. We cannot fight this battle with flesh and blood. We need to put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6).

In Deuteronomy 4:27-31, God assured Israel of His faithfulness with these words, *"The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you. There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which*

Notes

cannot see or hear or eat or smell. But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find Him if you look for Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. For the LORD your God is a merciful God; He will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which He confirmed to them by oath."

Throughout the history of the world, God has always been present, working out His awesome plan of love, fellowship, salvation, and redemption.

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

This is an incredible promise given for all of mankind. We have a choice. Do we want the blessings of God and His fellowship, or do we want His curses? We can't ignore this decision. We will all make a choice between these two.

Reading Assignment

Judges 1-2, 6-8

Judges 9-10, 13-16

Ruth 1-4

I Samuel 1-4

I Samuel 5-8

Questions

1. In Judges 2, what pattern do you see repeated from the wilderness? What was the consequences? How do we do the same thing?

Notes

2. In Judges 2:4-5, the children of Israel gave a sacrifice and cried unto the Lord. What is missing from this sacrifice, and what was the result for their children and grandchildren?

3. Discuss the importance of obedience verses sacrifice and repentance. Read these passages of scripture for your discussion: 1 Samuel 15:22, Psalms 51:16-17, Proverbs 21:3, Jeremiah 7:23, Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:6-8, and Mark 12:33. How do these passages apply to you today? Name a few things that we offer as sacrifices to God today instead of obedience?

4. How many times did Gideon test God? What did God do for him? Was Gideon a mighty man of valor? How many men did God give Gideon? Who is the real hero in this story?

5. What do you learn from the story of Abimelech? What does Job 15:31, Romans 8:13, Galations 6:3, 7-10 teach us about the life of Abimelech?

Notes

6. Many of us can name those in our life that have been gifted, talented, or know that God has blessed them abundantly. We also know how many of them abused and misused and believed they could do anything and get away with it. We witness their fall from grace. We may have experienced this at some level in our own life. In the example of Samson's life, what is required to be used of God once again?

7. Name as many ways as you can the blessings Ruth received by following God, honoring her mother-in-law and accepting the Jewish way of life? Do you believe she is an example of how God blesses those who follow him with all their heart, mind and soul? Do you truly believe God will bless you if you live obediently to the word of God? Why or why not? Provide scripture to support your view.

8. Who is your Kinsman Redeemer? How do you become part of the story? How will this change your story?

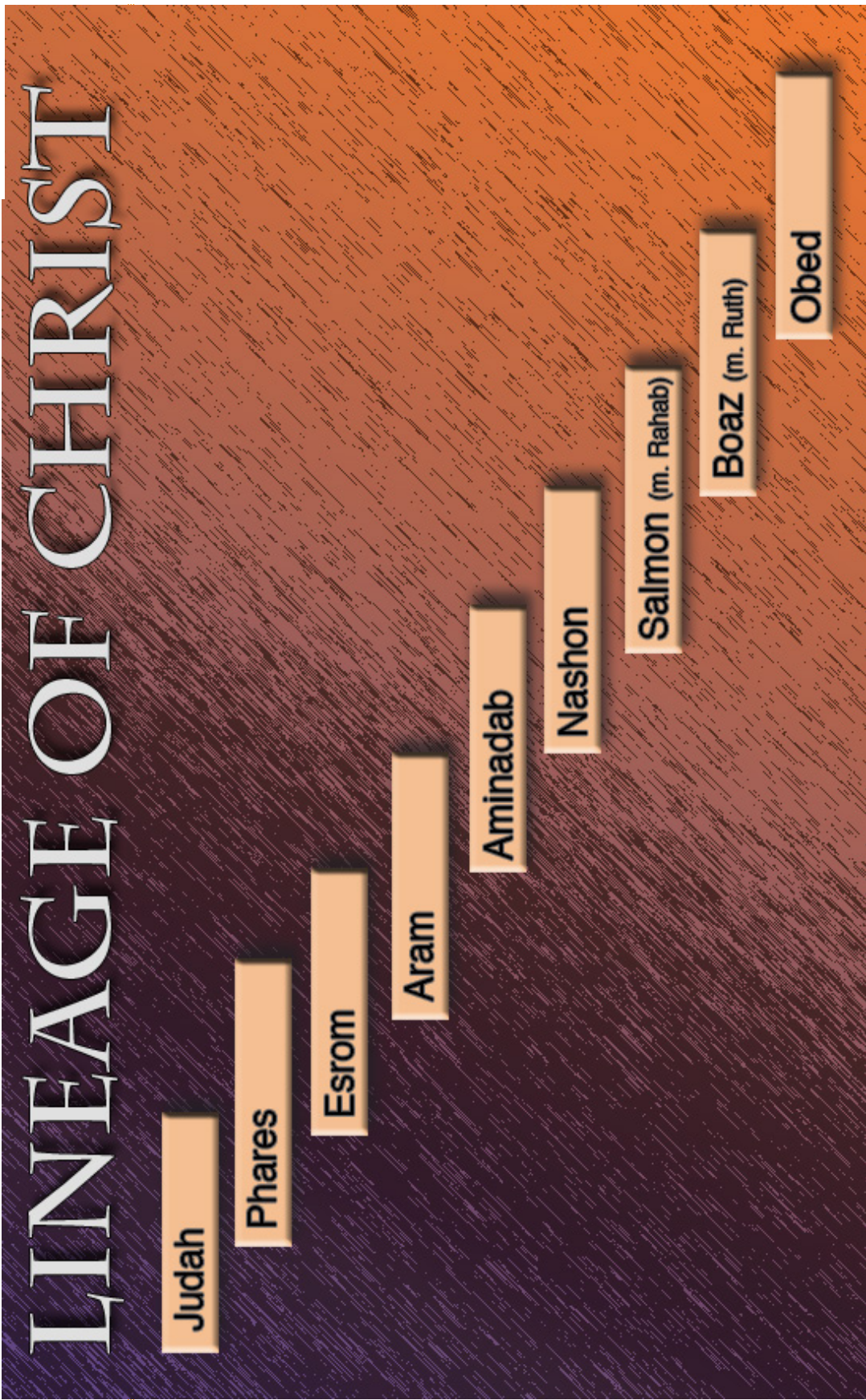
Notes

9. How would the life of our children, young or grown, be different if we prayed for them as Hannah prayed for Samuel? How differently would we train our children if we really believed they belonged to the Lord? Do you think if we could follow through with that kind of love, selflessness, and graveness, our society would be different? Our churches? Our homes? Our families? Our marriages?

10. What were the consequences to Eli and his sons because Eli would not correct and discipline his sons? As a high priest and patriarch of his family, how important was it for him to lead and set the standard for his sons? How did he fail?

11. Samuel grew up in the temple, watched Eli and his sons and even told Eli what was going to happen to him and his sons. Were Samuel's sons different than Eli's? What were the consequences of his son's wickedness?

12. Why did the children of Israel want a king over them? Is this what God wanted for them? Who were they rejecting? What are some ways that we do the same thing today?



Notes



THE JUDGES

JUDGE	TRIBE	YEARS JUDGE	JUDGES	OPPRESSOR & YEARS OF OPPRESSION
Othinel	Judah	40	3:9-11	Mesopotamians - 8 years
Ehud	Benjamin	80	3:15-30	Moabites, Ammonites, Amalekites - 18 years
Shamgar	Judah	10	3:31	Philistines - unknown
Deborah	Ephraim	40	4:4-5:31	Canaanites - 20 years
Gideon	Manasseh	40	6:7-8:35	Midianites, Amalekites
Abimelech	Manasseh	3	9:1-57	Midianites, Amalekites
Tola	Issachar	23	10:1-2	Midianites, Amalekites
Jair	Manasseh	22	10:3-5	Midianites, Amalekites
Jephthah	Manasseh	6	11:1-12:7	Ammonites
Ibzan	Judah	7	12:8-10	Ammonites
Elon	Zebulun	10	12:11-12	Ammonites
Abdon	Ephraim	8	12:13-15	Ammonites
Samson	Dan	20	13:2-16:31	Philistines - 40 years

This oppression lasted 7 years

This oppression lasted 18 years

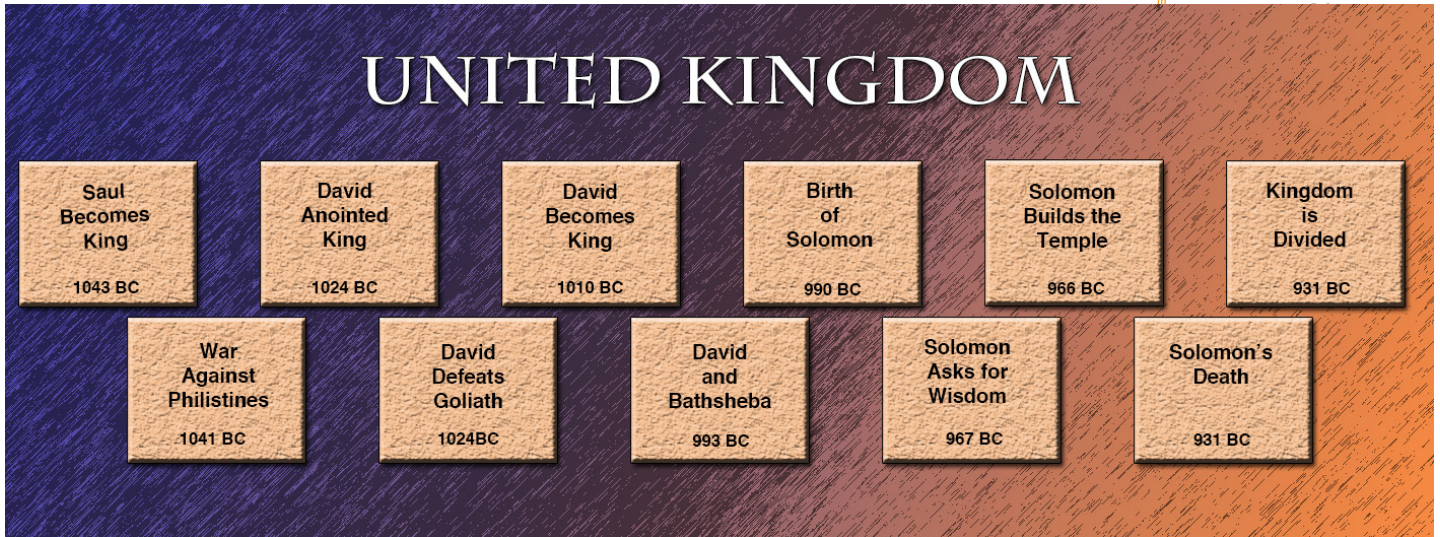
*“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”
Judges 21:25*

Notes

Notes

Lesson 9: United Kingdom

Notes



Lesson 9: United Kingdom

Notes

Scripture Reference

- 1 Samuel 8-31
- 2 Samuel 1 - 24
- 1 Kings 1-11:41
- 1 Chronicles 1-9:29
- Jonah
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- About the first three kings of Israel: Saul, David, and Solomon
- Israel rejected God as their king, yet God was faithful to His covenant
- God expects us to obey Him
- God is always faithful
- God wants to bless His people

Notes

Observation

We ended the last lesson when Samuel was old, and appointed his sons, Joel and Abijah, as judges, but they had not followed in Samuel's footsteps. They accepted bribes, perverted justice, and went after dishonest gain. As a result, the elders of Israel gathered together and told Samuel to appoint for them a king like all the nations around them. This grieved Samuel, so he prayed to God and sought God's heart. God told him to do as they said, for the people had not rejected Samuel as their judge and prophet, but they had rejected God as their king.

Samuel did as God said. However, before giving them a king, he gave them a harsh warning of what their lives would be like under the leadership of an earthly king, rather than God as their king. Their sons would be the king's warriors and would go before him in battle; their sons and daughters would serve him; and he would take of their crops and livestock. Samuel warned them that a time would come when they would cry out to God for relief from their king, but when that time came, He would not answer them (1 Samuel 8). After Samuel's warning, the people still cried out for a king, so they could be like the nations around them.

God gave the nation of Israel their first king, Saul. He was impressive in the eyes of the world. He looked like a king. He was taller than the other men. He was shy, and because of his insecurity, he appeared to be humble. Samuel anointed Saul king of Israel. Samuel told Saul that God had appointed him to be captain over God's inheritance, Israel (1 Samuel 10:1). This was an honor that required great responsibility. Samuel told the people that if they and their king would fear the Lord and serve and obey Him, God would bless them; but if they rebelled against God, His hand would be against them.

It was not long before Saul disobeyed God's commands and was more concerned over what the people thought about him than obeying God. He failed to be an honorable captain of God's inheritance, and was more concerned about being a captain of his own inheritance. Saul was king over Israel for forty years, but most of that time he rebelled against God. As a result, God took the kingdom away from Saul. Jonathan, his son, would not be the next heir to the throne. God brought Saul's dynasty to an end, and gave it to David.

David was a shepherd boy, the youngest son of his father, Jesse. David loved God. God said that David was a man after His own heart. Once, when his three eldest brothers were in Saul's army, fighting against the Philistines, Jesse sent David to check on them and to take them food and provisions. While David was in the Israelite camp, he heard the Philistine champion, Goliath, defying the armies of God. The Israelite

Notes

solders trembled in fear. David was outraged that Goliath was defying the armies of the living God, and the Israelite army was not rising against him in God's power. David knew and had experienced the power of God. God had protected him and his sheep from a lion and a bear, and he knew that God would protect him and the armies of Israel from the hand of this Philistine. David was taken to king Saul. He told king Saul that he was not afraid of this Philistine, because God was with him. He would put an end to Goliath just as he had done with a lion and a bear when they attacked his sheep.

David went out to meet Goliath with simply a slingshot and five small stones. Goliath was covered in armor from head to foot. As Goliath taunted David, because of his youth and size, David told Goliath that he would kill him with the power of the living God. David took one of his stones, slung it, and it sunk into Goliath's forehead. This Philistine giant fell facedown to the ground. David took Goliath's sword and cut off his head. The Philistine army fled in fear, and the Israelites pursued and overtook them. There was victory in Israel, because a young shepherd boy knew and trusted the God of his forefathers, El Shadai, who brought them out of Egypt with signs and wonders, and brought them into the Land of Canaan with His mighty hand.

David and Saul's son, Jonathan, became the closest of friends. They made a covenant of peace with each other and their descendants. Jonathan made this covenant knowing that David would be the next king, not himself. Throughout Saul's life, he was so jealous of David that he tried to kill him. He spent his life hunting David.

Samuel anointed David king, but it was several years before he actually lived as a king. He spent many years running from Saul. On a couple of occasions he had the opportunity to kill Saul, but did not. He said he would not harm God's anointed king, Saul. Saul had many opportunities to repent and get right with God, and get right with David, but he never did. He was gravely wounded in a battle with the Philistines, and ended up taking his own life, and never repenting. Saul's son, Jonathan also died in the battle.

After Saul's death, David reigned on the throne. David kept his covenant with Jonathan and blessed Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth all the days of his life.

David was not perfect, but he hungered for God and always fell on his knees in repentance when he sinned. God said that David chased after His heart, yet in David's lifetime he had committed murder and adultery (1 Samuel 13:14). David had spent many years being pursued by King Saul. He even fled to the Philistines for protection and joined their army fighting against the Lord's army. David was a broken man, when he sinned. He spent many hours on his knees before God repenting for

Notes

what he had done. He wanted to do what right in God's eyes. The book of Psalms is filled with beautiful verses, many of which were written by David. David wanted very much to build a temple to honor God, but God gave the task to David's son, Solomon.

David reigned as king of Israel for forty years. Just before David died, he gave the following charge to his son, Solomon:

"I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the Lord may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" 2 Kings 2:1-4

When Solomon became king of Israel, he was very young. Jewish tradition tells us that he was only twelve years old. After Solomon became king, God appeared to him one night in a dream, and told him that He would give him whatever he wanted. Solomon said that he was young and needed wisdom to rule the kingdom. He asked God for wisdom to rule the kingdom with a discerning heart. God was pleased with Solomon's request. He gave him so much wisdom that there was no one like him, nor would there ever be. He also gave him wealth and honor. People came from all over the known world to hear the wisdom of Solomon. The queen of Sheba came to Solomon to see if what she had heard about him was true. After questioning him extensively and listening to his wisdom, she said the half of his wisdom has not been told.

Solomon had the temple of God built, and had the Ark of the Covenant placed within it. Solomon spent his life searching for knowledge and truth. Under the inspiration of God, He wrote some of the Psalms, and the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon. The book of Proverbs is filled with wise sayings Solomon acquired in his search. The book of Ecclesiastes is filled with his search for what is important in life, or as he called it, under the sun. He summed up the book and his life with these words, "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." Also, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Solomon wrote the book in the Bible called the *Song of Solomon*. It is a love story and beautiful allegory of God's love for Israel, and God's love for His church.

Sadly, Solomon disobeyed God and sinned greatly against Him, and all of Israel was affected by his sins. Solomon had many foreign wives, who believed in foreign gods. One of Solomon's wives was the daughter of Pharaoh. He began worshipping these gods, because of his wives

(1 Kings 11:3). God had warned the Israelites not to go back to Egypt again, and not to marry foreign wives. Solomon did not heed God's warnings, and over his lifetime his foreign wives and their gods, became a part of his life (Deuteronomy 17:16-19).

Interpretation

Israel experienced so much heartache, because they did not honor God as their king. Throughout their history, they rebelled against God. Whenever they repented and turned back to God, He forgave them. From the very beginning, God has wanted fellowship with His creation. Because God is holy, He does not fellowship with sin, but He provided the means for man to fellowship with Him through the blood of Jesus Christ.

There is a contrast between the lives of Saul and David. Outwardly, Saul was impressive in stature, but he was disobedient to God and did not have the heart for God's inheritance, Israel. When he sinned, rather than repent, he spent his life justifying his actions. He was jealous of David, and he let the jealousy grow to such hatred that his whole purpose in life was to kill David. God gave Saul numerous opportunities to repent, but he never did. David on the other hand, loved God so much, and was brokenhearted when he sinned. He committed grievous sins, but always repented when he realized what he had done. Even though David was anointed king, he did not experience kingship until after Saul died. David waited for the Lord's timing. He had opportunities to end Saul's life and reign as king, but he did not do it, because he honored God and His anointed.

Solomon loved God and was given incredible wisdom. He spent his whole life seeking more knowledge and understanding. He searched for the meaning of life. In the process, he did not obey God regarding marrying foreign women, and as God said would happen, he accepted their gods. However, at the end of his life, Solomon summed it all up in the book of Ecclesiastes, that the only thing that was really important was to love and fear God and obey him.

Application

We are so much like Israel. We may not pray for a king, but we beg and plead and stomp our feet for our requests. Although we don't say it out loud, we are confident that our wisdom is so much greater than God's wisdom. We want to have our prayers answered in the way that we know best. However, our Father knows best. I wonder how many times God does not give us what we ask for, because of His infinite wisdom. As a result we murmur and complain that He isn't listening to us. I wonder how many times He does answer our prayers exactly as we've asked, so we can see our foolish and limited understanding. Oh

Notes

that we would pray with hearts of thanksgiving and hearts that seek His will, not ours. Oh that we would pray in faith and confidence, because we know Him and love Him and are in awe of His wisdom and grace. Oh that we would pray and let Him change our hearts as we pray. Does God say that we chase after His heart, or are we more like Saul, letting our circumstances dictate how we live?

What would our lives be like if we prayed for godly wisdom and desired it more than any other gift, and had hearts of obedience to God, and repentance when we sinned.

Reading Assignment

- 1 Samuel 9-11,13, 15
- 1 Samuel 16, 18:12, 20, 22, 24,
- 2 Samuel 7,11-12,
- 2 Samuel 13-18
- 1 Kings 3, 8
- Jonah 1-4

Questions

1. Who was anointed the first king of Israel? Briefly explain the circumstances of events that led Saul to Samuel the prophet.

2. What did God do for Saul in 1 Samuel 10:9? What change do you think took place in Saul? Do you believe God directs your path and makes changes in your heart?

Notes

3. What happens to Saul when he hears about Jabesh Gilead? What does he do to rally the people of Israel behind him? Who wins the battle? Why do you think they won: by outnumbering the enemy, by determination of Saul's threat, by the hand of God, or a combination?

4. What caused Saul to lose his kingship? Why do you think keeping the commandments is so important to God?

5. How did Saul disobey God's command in the battle with the Amalekites? What do you learn from obeying only half of what God says to do? Who killed the king of the Amalekites? What did Samuel say to Agag before he killed him? What do you learn from this story?

6. What happened to David at his anointing? What happened to Saul? Where was David's first assignment? Would you find it difficult to be given a high ranking position and your first assignment was to minister to the person you were going to replace at some time in the future? Why or why not? How well did David do the job he was sent to do?

Notes

7. Why was Saul afraid of David? What did he try to do to David because of his fear? How had David conducted himself leading up to this event and after his demotion? What can you take from this story to help you in times when trouble arises in your life? Does trouble and tribulation and even near death events indicate you are out of the will of God? Does it indicate that God is not using you for his plans?

8. Are you capable to do the right thing: be loyal to the truth even if it means goodwill for someone else and not yourself? Why or why not?

9. What did Saul do because he became willfully defiant to God? Was he warned not to do such a thing? Explain how this story of Saul helps you understand defiance and/or willful disobedience to God, and its consequences to oneself and to others.

10. How did David repay Saul for seeking to kill him? What effect did this have on Saul? What can you learn from this part of the story on how you should think and act towards those that have wronged, disrespected, or hated you?

Notes

11. David wanted to build God a house to dwell in. Where had God lived with the children of Israel up to this point in time? Was it David's responsibility to assign God to a permanent building? What was God's plan? Whose responsibility is it to build your home, heart, faith, family, etc? What is your part?

12. Nathan told King David a story. To whom and what was he referring to in that story? What or where should David have been? What were his sins? How many wives did David already have? What were the consequences of David's sins? Was one night of self-indulgence worth the results?

13. What were the consequences David experienced because he failed to discipline Amnon? Did it affect anyone besides Amnon, Tamar and Absalom? Do you understand that your decisions may affect others and have lasting, eternal consequences?

Notes

14. What did King Solomon ask God for? What are your thoughts about this request? What did God give him? Did Solomon make use of what God gave him? Does this change your perspective in what you should request from God? Read Luke 12:22-31 and discuss the correlation between Christ's instruction to his disciples and Solomon in 1 Kings 3.

15. Why was the cloud still over/within the tabernacle 400 years since the children of Israel had left Egypt? What thoughts or insight does this give you about God during all the trials, wars, missteps and sinning of the people of Israel and that his presence was possibly still visible? Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 6:16, and correlate the life of the Israelites and their temple to your life and your temple.

LINEAGE OF CHRIST

Blood Line - Mary

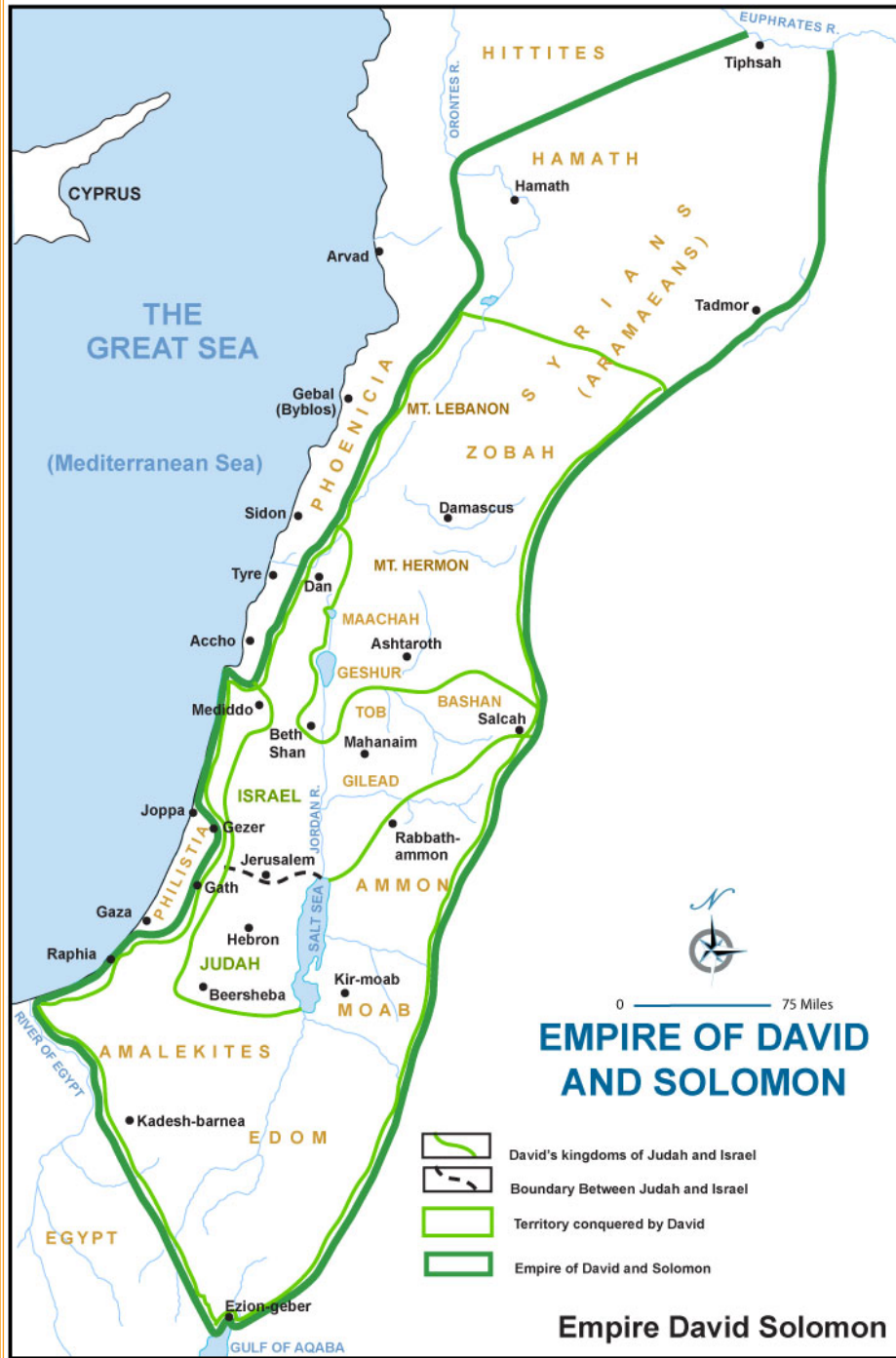
Boaz (m. Ruth)
Obed
Jesse
David
Nathan

Royal Line - Joseph

Boaz (m. Ruth)
Obed
Jesse
David
Solomon

Notes

Notes



PSALMS OUTLINE

The book of Psalms is divided into five books which traditional Jewish teaching links to the first five books, or Pentateuch, of the Torah. Midrash (Jewish commentary) on Psalms 1:1 says "Moses gave to the Israelites the five books of the law; and corresponding with these David gave them the five books of the Psalms." This interpretation is taken from Dr. J. Vernon McGee and used with permission

- I. Genesis Section, Psalms 1-41
 Man in View – *Man seen in a state of blessedness, fall, and recovery*
 - A. Perfect Man (Last Adam), Psalm 1
 - B. Rebellious Man, Psalm 2
 - C. Perfect Man Rejected, Psalm 3
 - D. Conflict between Seed of Woman and Serpent, Psalm 4
 - E. Perfect Man in Midst of Enemies, Psalm 5
 - F. Perfect Man in Midst of Chastisement (Bruising Heel), Psalm 6
 - G. Perfect Man in Midst of False Witnesses, Psalm 7
 - H. Repair of Man Comes through Perfect Man (Bruising Head), Psalm 8
 - I. Enemy and Antichrist Conflict; Final Deliverance, Psalms 9-15
 - J. Christ in Midst of His People Sanctifying Them to God, Psalms 16-41

- II. Exodus Section, Psalms 42-72
 Israel in View – *Ruin and Redemption*
 - A. Israel's Ruin, Psalms 42-49
 - B. Israel's Redeemer, Psalms 50-60
 - C. Israel's Redemption, Psalms 61-72

- III. Leviticus Section, Psalms 73-89
 Sanctuary in View – *Darkness and Dawn*
 Tabernacle, temple, house, assembly and congregation in almost every psalm

- IV. Numbers Section, Psalms 90-106
 Earth in View – *Peril and Protection*

- V. Deuteronomy Section, Psalms 107-150
 God in View – *Perfection and praise of the Word of God*

Notes

Lesson 10: Divided Kingdom

Notes

DIVIDED KINGDOM

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon dies • Rehoboam becomes king • Rehoboam makes foolish decision <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">930 BC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeroboam rebels • Nation divided • Jeroboam king Israel = 10 northern tribes • Rehoboam king Judah = 2 southern tribes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeroboam creates golden calf • Leads God's people in the worship of idols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Kings of Judah during this period, Only 6 good kings • 19 Kings of Israel during this period, ALL were evil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout this period of time, God sends prophets to both Judah and Israel warning them to repent and follow Him 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel never heeds God's warning and the nation of Assyria captures them and takes them into captivity <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">721 BC</p>
--	---	--	---	---	--

Lesson 10: Divided Kingdom

Notes

Scripture Reference

- 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17
- 2 Chronicles 10
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Amos
- Jonah
- Obadiah
- Hosea
- Micah

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- Why the kingdom of Israel was divided
- How the nations of Judah and Israel broke their covenant with God
- That God is always faithful
- The importance of following God's directions
- That seeking God and godly counsel is essential to righteous living
- That praying and praising God regardless of the circumstances brings glory to God and victory in our lives
- That God wants the same things from us that He wanted from Israel

Notes

Observation

Before the Israelites entered Canaan, God commanded them not to intermarry from other nations, because their wives would persuade them to worship their gods. God also commanded that their king was not to acquire great numbers of horses for himself, nor send people to Egypt to get horses, nor accumulate large amounts of silver and gold. When a man became king, he was to write for himself on a scroll a copy of the law, which he would get from the priests. He was to read it daily, so that he would learn to revere the Lord his God, follow carefully all the words of the law, not look at himself better than his brothers, and steadfastly follow the law (Deuteronomy 17:16-20).

Although God blessed King Solomon with divine wisdom, he did not follow in the ways of God all his life, as his father, David, had done. He failed to live a life of devotion to God. He loved many foreign women such as Pharaoh's daughter, as well as women from among the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites. As he grew old, his 700 wives and 300 concubines turned his heart from the Lord God Almighty, to the gods of other nations.

The Lord was angry with Solomon, because he did not obey God and keep His commandments as his father, David, had done. Therefore, God told him that He would take the kingdom away from him. However, because of God's servant David, He would not do it in Solomon's lifetime; He would do it in his son's lifetime. He also told Solomon that because of His servant David, He would leave one tribe for Solomon's son to rule. It is through that tribe, the tribe of Judah, that the Messiah would come.

When Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam, became king of the nation of Israel. The people wanted to know what type of a king Rehoboam would be, so they would know whether they would serve him or rebel against him. Therefore, they asked him if he would put a heavy yoke on them like his father Solomon had done, or if he would lighten the load so they could serve him. Rehoboam consulted the elders, who had served Solomon and they advised him to lighten the load, so the people would always serve him. Rehoboam also consulted his peers for their advice. They told him to tell the people that his father laid on them a heavy yoke, but he would make it even heavier. His father scourged them with whips, but he would scourge them with scorpions. Rehoboam rejected the elder's advice, and spoke to the people harshly as his peers suggested. As a result, the nation of Israel was divided just as God had told Solomon.

The ten northern tribes of Israel made Jeroboam their king. The people in Judah and Benjamin continued to follow Rehoboam. There was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Jeroboam reigned in the northern

Notes

kingdom of Israel for twenty-two years. He built golden calves in Bethel and Dan and made shrines on the high places. He made priests from every class of people, except the Levites. He ordained feasts on the fifteenth day of the eighth month to mimic the feast God ordained in Judah. He offered sacrifices to the golden calves and burned incense. He did all these detestable things to keep the people from going to Jerusalem to worship God and offer sacrifices to God.

The ten northern tribes of Israel had nineteen kings during this divided period from 931-721 BC. See the chart *Chronological Table – Kings of the Divided Kingdom*, within this lesson for a list of the kings of Israel and Judah during this period of time. Every king of the northern kingdom did evil in the eyes of the Lord and followed in the ways of King Jeroboam. Each king did more evil than his predecessor. King Ahab was the seventh king of the northern tribes of Israel. He was more evil than all the kings before him, and he did more to provoke the Lord to anger than all the others.

Remember that Jericho was one of the first cities that the Israelites conquered under the leadership of Joshua. The Israelites marched around the city for seven days, and on the seventh day God caused the walls around the city to fall down; the Israelites conquered the city. Also, remember the prophecy given during that time regarding anyone that tried to rebuild the city (Joshua 6:26). During Ahab's reign Hiel of Bethel rebuilt Jericho. He laid its foundations at the cost of his firstborn son, Abiram, and he set up its gates at the cost of his youngest son, Segub, just as God had spoken would happen (1 Kings 16:34).

God sent many prophets including Elijah and Elisha to warn the people of the captivity and destruction that would follow them, if they did not repent of their evil ways and return to God. God had made a covenant with the Israelites before they entered the Promised Land, and Joshua and the people consecrated themselves before they even entered the land. God told them all the blessings they would receive for obedience, and the curses that would be on them if they disobeyed Him (Deuteronomy 28). The kings of the northern tribes ignored God's commands and led the people in worshiping idols, offering their children as human sacrifices to fertility gods, and all the detestable practices of the nations that Joshua and the Israelites had conquered. The people forgot the Lord God and did more evil than the nations that lived in Canaan before them.

Judah was not much better than Israel. However, Judah did have a few kings that were devoted to God. There were twelve kings of Judah during this period of time and only six of them obeyed God.

Notes

Asa was the third king of Judah during this period. And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and his heart was fully devoted to the Lord all his life. He reigned in Judah for forty-one years.

When Asa died, his son, Jehoshaphat reigned for twenty-five years. He walked in the ways of his father, Asa, and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He began to reign in the fourth year of king Ahab's reign in Israel. During his reign there was peace between Judah and Israel. However, he did not remove the high places where people would worship other gods. As a result, the people continued to offer sacrifices to idols, and burn incense to them.

After Jehoshaphat's reign, Jehoram reigned, and he walked in the ways of the kings of the northern tribes of Israel. He did evil in the sight of the Lord.

The next king of Judah, Ahaziah, was the son-in-law of king Ahab and he reigned one year and walked in the evil ways of Ahab.

When Ahaziah died, his mother Athaliah murdered all his children, so she could become queen. However, Athaliah's sister, Jehosheba, took Joash, one of Ahaziah's sons and his nurse and hid them from Athaliah for six years, so he wasn't killed with the rest of his siblings. In the seventh year, Jehoiada, the priest, sent for the commanders and the guards and brought them into the temple of the Lord and showed them Joash, the heir to the throne. Jehoiada crowned him king, and then had Athaliah killed. He then made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people, that they would be the Lord's people. The people then went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols and killed Mattan the priest of Baal. King Joash took his place on the throne and the people rejoiced, because the wicked Athaliah was dead, and Joash was king. He was only seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years. Joash did what was right with the Lord, while Jehoiada the priest was alive.

After Jehoiada died, the people abandoned the temple of the Lord, and worshipped Asherah poles and idols. Because of this, the Lord was angry with Judah. He sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, but they did not listen. Jehoiada's son, Zechariah, stood up before the people and told them that they would not prosper, because they had forsaken the Lord and His commands. As a result, the Lord had forsaken them. King Joash had Zechariah stoned. King Joash did not remember the kindness of Zechariah's father, Jehoiada. Because Joash had forsaken the Lord, judgment was executed on him, and he was killed.

Ahaz was the twelfth king of Judah, and he reigned for approximately twelve years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even sacrificed his son in the fire to an

Notes

idol. He followed all the detestable ways of the nations that God had driven out of the land. During this time, Israel and Syria had banded together to battle against Judah. Ahaz sought the help of Assyria. He followed all the detestable ways of the nations that God had driven out of the land. Assyria was on a quest for world domination, so when Ahaz saw an Assyrian altar in the city of Damascus, he had one made like it to be used in place of the one that God had ordained for the temple. Ahaz offered his burnt offering and grain offering on this pagan altar, and sprinkled blood of his fellowship offerings on it. He even moved the bronze altar God had ordained. He completely disobeyed God and made a mockery of what God had ordained. He sought God's guidance in a way that God had not ordained. He was trying to win favor from the Assyrians, and get their help, rather than seek and obey God.

God withdrew His protection from the ten northern tribes. He had warned them for many years, sending them many prophets telling them to repent and turn to the Lord and obey His commands. However, they ignored God and continued to sin against Him. They built high places, and honored the gods they had created of wood, stone, and stubble. They sacrificed their sons and daughters in the fire. They worshipped worthless idols and became worthless themselves.

In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of the northern tribes, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. The king of Assyria brought people from Babylon and settled them in the towns of Samaria to replace the Israelites. They did not worship God, so He sent lions among them that killed some of the people. The king of Assyria had one of the captive priests go back to Samaria to live, and show the people what the god of the land required of them. As a result, the people worshipped the Lord, but they also served their own gods.

After Israel was taken into Assyrian captivity, Judah had eight kings that ruled for approximately one hundred and forty three years, before they were taken into captivity. Even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. They followed the practices that Israel had introduced. However, they did have some good kings, who led the people in worshipping the Lord God Almighty.

Interpretation

Even in captivity God provides a way to return. In Deuteronomy 4:27-31, God assured Israel of His faithfulness with these words, *"The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and only a few of you will survive among the nations to which the LORD will drive you. There you will worship man-made gods of wood and stone, which cannot see or hear or eat or smell. But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you*

Notes

will find Him if you look for Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress and all these things have happened to you, then in later days you will return to the LORD your God and obey him. For the LORD your God is a merciful God; He will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which He confirmed to them by oath."

God had miraculously delivered the Israelites from the horrible bondage of Pharaoh in Egypt. Through God's servant, Moses, He led them through the wilderness in to the land He had promised Abraham's descendants. In the wilderness, He taught them His ways, and miraculously provided everything they needed. Through His servant Joshua, He led them in conquering Canaan. While Joshua was alive they followed God. After Joshua died, every man did what was right in his own eyes. That was a dark period in Israel's history. God raised up judges to rule over them, but not all of the judges led the people in God's ways. When the people cried for a king, He wanted them to realize they would never have a king like Himself. He was their faithful king, who blessed them beyond comprehension and provided everything they needed. All they needed to do was receive the incredible fellowship He provided them, and follow His commands and decrees, which were for their well-being (Isaiah 55:8). God gave them the kings they requested, which brought them to this time of the demise of a great nation. However, God made a covenant with Abraham, and He will fulfill that covenant even if man is not faithful. God works through the remnant of followers who trust him. As we study through the Bible, we have seen and will continue to see how God works mightily through that remnant.

Application

The character of God Almighty did not change, even though the Israelites broke God's covenant. God was faithful to His Word. He did not change. He has always provided redemption and fellowship for those that seek him.

God wants from us the same thing that He wants from Israel (Isaiah 43:10-12). He wants us to be His witnesses, His servants that know Him and believe Him and understand that He is God and there is no other god. He wants us to know that He is our savior, and He revealed that to us through the greatest gift of love, His Son, who died for us. As witnesses and servants of the Lord God Almighty, He wants us to walk in holiness just as He is holy. He wants us to hate evil and grieve, as He grieves, when we are distracted by evil. He wants us to be witnesses to all those around us that He is an awesome God.

Just as the kings were to have a copy of the law and read it daily, we need to be grounded in God's word, reading it daily, hungering

Notes

to know Him better. God wants our whole heart and nothing less. He doesn't want us to walk in partial truth, worshipping God as we enjoy the high places in our lives that honor the idols we create. Just as King Ahaz sought to gain favor, acceptance, and protection from the Assyrians, we as a nation have sought the favor and protection of man by adapting to political correctness rather than walking in the truth of God.

We need to recognize the idols in our lives for what they are, evil. We need to smash them down, and be more concerned about breaking the heart of God, than we are at gaining the favor of man. We need to be God's wholehearted witnesses that know him, believe him, understand him, and love him.

God made a covenant with the nation of Israel. He desired fellowship with them and blessed them, because they were descendants of His faithful servant, Abraham. He brought them into the land of Canaan and blessed them with homes they had not built, vineyards they had not planted. He performed miracle after miracle to bless them and provide for them, yet they turned their backs on Him and disobeyed His laws of mercy and justice. Just as God had warned them, they suffered the consequences of disobedience.

Our forefathers came to America, because they wanted to live in a country where they could worship God freely. They founded this nation on the Lord God Almighty. We as a nation have gone through great things and despicable things, but God had always blessed us as a nation. We were one nation under God, until recent times. However, now we as a nation do not value fellowship with God. We do not look to Him as the source of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

How arrogant can we be to think that God won't judge this nation as He has every other nation that has turned their back on him? That doesn't mean that everyone in the nation has turned against God, but those of us that believe in God may be bowing to political correctness rather than standing on the Word of God. We have compromised the Word of God for the lies of the enemy. It seems to be quite similar to the high places that the Israelites built that took them away from the Lord God Almighty. Let us seek the heart of God for our lives, and for the life of our nation. Let us learn from the history of Israel, and seek God's ways and be obedient to him.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." (Isaiah 55:8)

Notes

Reading Assignment

- 2 Kings 12, 13, 17
- 2 Chronicles 13-15; 2 Chronicles 16-17, 20; 2 Chronicles 21-24; Jonah 1-4

Questions

1. In 2 Kings 12, what do you learn about God in His relationship to the kings and the children of Israel? What are your thoughts about Him rescuing them from their enemies despite their idolatry?

2. Why do you think that the kings and people of Israel never completely demolished every high place? What was the result of not obeying God's command? Why do we hang on to our sin instead of getting rid of it? What is the result in our life?

3. 2 Kings 13:23 reveals the character of God toward his children in spite of their character. How can we apply this concept to us personally?

4. In 2 Kings 17 the sins of Israel are recorded. Make a list of those sins. Correlate the sins of Israel to the sins of our nation? Can you correlate any of the sins to your own life?

Notes

5. Read 2 Chronicles 13. Abijah is ambushed from behind as he tries to tell Israel not to fight him because God is with him. In the order scripture gives, list what Abijah and his men did. Who defeated Israel? Who killed 500,000 men? Why did Abijah and the people of Judah prevail?

6. What kind of king was Asa? Who did he depend on to fight his wars? What did he command all of Judah to do? What was the result of this action? What mistake did he make at the end of his reign?

7. Who did Jehoshaphat send to teach in the cities of Judah, and what did they teach? What happened to the kingdoms around Judah because of these teachings?

8. What did Jehoshaphat do when he heard that Moab and Ammon were coming to war with him? When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, what did he say? What did Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah do in response?

Notes

9. What strange thing did Jehoshaphat assign people to do in front of the army of Judah? When they reached the battlefield, what did they find? What result did this victory have over the kingdoms that came against Judah?

10. Why do you think the reigns of Jehoram, Ahaziah and Athaliah were so short?

11. What food thing did Joash do? What poor decision did he make after the death of Jehoida the priest? What was the consequence of his decision?

12. What have you learned this far about decision making? Do your decisions affect others? Who should you depend on when making decisions?

13. Look on a map to see where Jonah came from, where he caught a ship, where he was supposed to go, and where he was headed? What are your thoughts about where God told him to go and where he decided to go? Have you ever done the same thing?

14. What changed Jonah's direction? What happened at Ninevah? Why do you think God would send a prophet to a wicked Gentile city in the Old Testament times before Christ and the adoption of the Gentiles through his blood? Do you think God's grace has always existed or only after Christ's death?

LINEAGE OF CHRIST

Royal Line - Joseph

Solomon
Rehoboam
Abijah
Asa
Jehoshaphat
Jehoram
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Ezekiah

Blood Line - Mary

Nathan
Mattathah
Menan
Melea
Eliakim
Jonan
Joseph
Judah
Simeon
Levi
Matthat
Jorim
Eliezer
Jose
Er
Elmodam
Cosam

Notes

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE - KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOM						
JUDAH				ISRAEL		
King	Reign	Character	Prophet	King	Reign	Character
1. Rehoboam	932-931BC 17 yrs	Bad		1. Jeroboam I	931-910BC 22 yrs	Bad
2. Abajah	913-911BC 3 yrs	Bad		2. Nadab	910-909 2 yrs	Bad
3. Asa	911-870BC 41 yrs	Good		3. Baasha	909-886 24 yrs	Bad
				4. Elah	886-885 2 yrs	Bad
				5. Zimri	885 7 days	Bad
4. Johoshaphat	870-843 25 yrs	Good		6. Omri	885-874 12 yrs	Bad
5. Jehoram	843-841 2 yrs	Bad		7. Ahab	874-853 22 yrs	Bad
6. Ahaziah	841 1 yr	Bad		8. Ahaziah	853-852 2 yrs	Bad
7. Atheliah	841-835 6 yrs	Bad		9. Joram	852-841 12 yrs	Bad
8. Joash	835-796 40 yrs	Good		8. Jebo	841-814 28 yrs	Bad
9. Amaniah	796-767 29 yrs	Good		9. Jehoahaz	814-798 17 yrs	Bad
10. Uzziah	767-740 27 yrs	Good	Isaiah	10. Jehoash	798-782 16 yrs	Bad
				11. Jeroboam II	782-753 30 yrs	Bad
11. Jotham	740-732 8 yrs	Good	Isaiah Micah	14. Zechariah	753-752 1 yr	Bad
12. Ahaz	732-716 16 yrs	Bad	Isaiah Micah	15. Shallum	752 1 mos	Bad
				16. Menahem	752-742 10 yrs	Bad
				17. Pekahiah	742-740 2 yrs	Bad
				18. Pekah	740-732 8 yrs	Bad
				19. Hoshea	732-721 12 yrs	Bad

(Capture of Samaria and captivity of Israel)

PROPHETS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH
(PRIOR TO ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY)

Prophet	Prophesied	Kings Who Ruled during Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (BC)
Elijah	To Israel	Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram	870-845
Elisha	To Israel	Joram, Jehu, Jehoahaz	845-800
Jonah	To Nineveh	Jeroboam II	781
Amos	To Israel	Jeroboam II,	765-754
Hosea	To Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	758-725
Isaiah	To Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz	760-673
Micah	To Judah	Jotham, Ahaz	738-698

About The Books of Prophecy

Jonah – the book of Jonah – proclaims a coming judgment upon Nineveh's people, but they repent and judgment was spared.

Amos – the book of Amos – warning Israel of its coming judgment. Israel rejects God's warning. Warns that other neighboring nations will be punished by conquerors from the north, and of the fulfillment of the Messiah's kingdom

Hosea – the book of Hosea – Story of Hosea and his unfaithful wife Gomer. Represents God's love and faithfulness and Israel's spiritual adultery. Israel will be judged and restored. Prophecies relating to Christ and the latter days.

Isaiah – the book of Isaiah – looks at the sin of Judah and proclaims God's judgment. Hezekiah. Coming restorations and blessing. Prophecies respecting Christ and his kingdom.

Micah – the book of Micah – prophecies relating to the invasions of Shalmaneser and Sennacherib, the Babylonian captivity, the establishment of a theocratic kingdom in Jerusalem, the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. Description of complete moral decay, God will judge but will forgive and restore.

Notes



Notes



Notes

Lesson II: Judah Alone

Notes

JUDAH ALONE

Final Kings of Judah					
732 BC	605 BC	597 BC	597 BC	586 BC	586 BC
1. Ahaz 2. Hezekiah 3. Manasseh 4. Amon 5. Josiah 6. t Johoshaz	7. Jehoiakim Nebuchadnezzar becomes king of Babylon takes first wave of Jews captive... Daniel is among them	8. Jehoiachin Second group of captives taken to Babylon... Ezekiel is among them	9. Zedekiah Zedekiah watches Nebuchadnezzar kill his sons... and then removes Zedekiah's eyes	Third group of Jews taken captive to Babylon	Babylonians destroy the temple and burn the walls and gates of Jerusalem The end of the nation of Judah (9th of Av)

Lesson 11: Judah Alone

Notes

Scripture Reference

- 2 Kings 18-25
- 2 Chronicles 29-36
- Isaiah
- Obadiah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Jeremiah
- Zephaniah

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn:

- Judah did not learn from the disobedience of Israel
- Judah followed in Israel's sin, and rejected God
- Disobedience to God has consequences
- God is always faithful
- What God expects from us

Notes

Observation

In the last lesson, the northern kingdom of Israel had broken God's covenant. Each king did more evil than his predecessor. They worshipped the gods of wood and stone, which the nations around them created. Some of them even offered their children as human sacrifices to these gods. They had abused the very character of the Lord God Almighty, and had no intentions of repenting. As a result, God withdrew His protection from them, and allowed the Assyrians to overpower them, and take them into captivity. Remember that God sent Jonah to go and preach repentance to the Assyrians in the capital city of Nineveh. Jonah did not want to go, because he knew that the Assyrians would repent, and God would forgive them. After trying to run and hide from God, Jonah eventually went and preached repentance to Nineveh. Although he had hoped they would not repent, they repented and God spared the city. Assyria was known as one of the most brutal and barbaric nations, but they repented, and God forgave them and blessed them. Yet, in less than one hundred years, they had turned away from God and turned back to their evil ways. The king of Assyria wanted world domination. Even though Assyria had turned its back on God, He still used the Assyrians to conquer Israel. God did not and does not ignore the sins of Assyria, or for that matter any nation. *"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked"* (Nahum 1:3). Nahum prophesied of the destruction that would eventually come to the Assyrian nation, and those words were fulfilled in 612 BC when the Babylonian army, with an army of Medes and Scythians, overtook Nineveh and destroyed the city.

After Ahaz died, his son, Hezekiah became king of Judah. He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Judah for twenty-nine years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as David had done. Hezekiah removed the high places and cut down the Asherah (fertility goddess) poles. He destroyed the bronze snake that Moses had made in the wilderness. God had used that bronze snake after the Israelites had sinned greatly against Him (Numbers 21), but the snake had become an idol that they worshipped instead of worshipping the Lord God Almighty. Hezekiah trusted in God, and there was not a king like him before or after that kept the commands the Lord had given Moses. God was with him, and blessed him with great success. He did not serve the king of Assyria, and he defeated his enemies. It was during Hezekiah's reign of Judah, that Shalmaneser, king of Assyria captured Samaria, and took the ten tribes of Israel into captivity.

After Hezekiah died, his son, Manasseh became king of Judah. He was twelve years old and he reigned in Judah for fifty-five years. However, unlike his father, Hezekiah, he did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He followed all the detestable practices of the nations around him. He rebuilt the altars that his father had destroyed. He worshipped the stars,

Notes

and built altars in God's temple. He even sacrificed his son as a burnt offering to the idols he worshipped. He practiced sorcery and consulted mediums. The Lord was very angry with him. Manasseh led the people astray, and he did more evil than the nations from which God had delivered them. God warned him and the people that He would bring disaster on them. They did not listen to God, so He let the king of Assyria take Manasseh as a prisoner. They put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles, and took him to Babylon. Manasseh cried to the Lord and humbled himself before God, and prayed to God. God had mercy on him and brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Manasseh rebuilt the outer wall of the city and got rid of all the foreign gods. He destroyed the altars he had built, removed the idols from the temple, restored the altar of the Lord, and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it. He told the people of Judah to serve the Lord. The people continued to sacrifice at the high places, but only to the Lord their God.

After Manasseh died, his son Amon became king of Judah. He was twenty-two years old, when he became king, and he ruled for two years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. His officials had him assassinated, and his son, Josiah, was anointed king.

Josiah was only eight years old when he became king of Judah, and he reigned for thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. In the eighteenth year of his reign, one of the books of the Law was found in the temple. When Shaphan, his secretary, began reading the book to him, Josiah tore his robes. He was convicted that Israel and Judah had broken the covenant with God. He had the priests inquire of the Lord to find out what they needed to do. God told them that He was going to bring a disaster upon Judah, because they had forsaken Him and burned incense to idols, and provoked Him to anger from all their evil ways. However, Josiah humbled himself before God, and was genuinely repentant, so God did not bring this disaster upon them while Josiah was alive.

Josiah called all the people together to the temple. He read to them the Book of the Covenant that was found in the temple. He renewed the covenant, in the presence of the Lord, to follow and keep His commands with all His heart and soul, and the people pledged to follow the covenant too. Josiah had all the articles that had been made for Baal and Asherah and the starry host removed from the temple. He burned them outside Jerusalem. He got rid of the pagan priests that had been appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense to Baal, the sun, and the moon and constellations, and everything that was in any way connected with pagan worship.

After Josiah died, Jehoahaz became king of Judah. He was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned three months. He did

Notes

evil in the eyes of the Lord. Pharaoh Necho took him to Egypt, and he died there. Pharaoh taxed the people heavily demanding silver and gold from them. He changed Josiah's son, Eliakim's name, to Jehoiakim, and made him king of Judah. During his reign, Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land and made Jehoiakim his vassal for three years. After that time, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, and in 605BC, Nebuchadnezzar took a number of the Jews into captivity in Babylon. Among this first group going into Babylonian captivity were some godly young men from the royal palace, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. We will learn about them in the next lesson.

God sent prophets to Israel and Judah warning them of what would happen if they did not repent from their evil ways and obey His commands. Remember the blessings and curses that God gave the people through Moses, before they entered the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 28).

During this time the prophet, Jeremiah, pleaded with the people to repent and obey God. Jeremiah reminded them of a man name Jonadab (Jehonadab), the son of Rechab (2 Kings 10:15-31; Jeremiah 35). He lived years before, during the reign of the evil King Ahab of Israel. God spoke through the prophet, Elijah, that Ahab and his descendants would be destroyed, and King Jehu of Judah fulfilled that prophecy. King Jehu killed the sons of Ahab and sought the help of Jonadab in destroying the prophets of Baal, which Ahab and his wife Jezebel had worshipped. Jonadab wanted his descendants to trust in God and stay unspotted from the sins of the nations around them. He told his children to be obedient to him by living in tents and to abstain from strong drink, so they would not be tempted by the sins of the nation. He told them to teach their children to be obedient to these commands of his through out their generations. During Jeremiah's time, descendants of Jonadab, known as Rechabites continued to live in tents and did not drink wine, and were obedient to the commands of Jonadab. When Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon came into their land, they moved their tents to Jerusalem seeking protection from the invaders.

God told Jeremiah to go to the descendants of Jonadab, bring them into the house of the Lord, and test them by giving them wine to drink. However, when Jeremiah served them wine, they refused to drink it, because their forefather, Jonadab, had commanded them not to drink wine, build houses, sow seed, or plant vineyards. They were obedient to their forefather, Jonadab. Each generation after him had been obedient to Jonadab, and they expected future generations to follow these commands forever.

God told Jeremiah to go to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and tell them that Jonadab's children obeyed his commands, but yet God's people did not obey God's commands. God had sent prophets to warn His

Notes

people to turn from their evil ways, to trust God and serve Him; but God's people did not listen and obey Him. Therefore, God would bring disaster upon Judah and Jerusalem.

God promised the Rechabites, because they obeyed the commandment of Jonadab their father and did all he commanded them to do, that Jonadab the son of Rechab will not lack a man to stand before Him forever. It is interesting to note that even today the Rechabites still live in tents and continue to follow after the commands of Jonadab. Some of them live in Iraq and Yemen. ¹

After Jehoiakim's death, his son, Jehoiachin became king of Judah. He was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, just as his fathers had done. During his short reign, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, and forced Jehoiakim to surrender. He took him captive to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar took all the treasures from the temple that King Solomon had made for the temple of the Lord. He took the officers, fighting men and all the craftsmen and artisans to Babylon, and left only the poorest people in the land. He made Jehoiakim's uncle, Mattaniah, king in his place and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah was twenty-one years old, when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, and Nebuchadnezzar overtook the city. He killed Zedekiah's sons, as he watched in horror. Nebuchadnezzar then put out the eyes of Zedekiah and took him captive to Babylon. The last thing that Zedekiah saw with his eyes was the brutal murder of his sons. The commanders of Babylon set on fire the temple of the Lord, the royal palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem. They left behind some of the poorest people in the land to care for the vineyards and fields.

Interpretation

It is hard to understand why Judah would follow in the ways of their brothers, the ten northern tribes. God had sent Israel prophet after prophet, but they continued in their evil ways, which ultimately led to their demise. Judah had witnessed Israel's rejection of the Lord God Almighty, and how their evil ways resulted in their destruction and captivity by the Assyrians. However, Judah did not learn the lesson from their brothers, and ignored all the warnings God gave them through the prophets. They continued to reject God, and followed in the evil ways of Israel.

Hezekiah and Josiah were the only kings during this period of time that followed God and led the people in God's ways. The rest of the kings were corrupt and evil, practicing the evil and despicable ways of the nations around them.

Notes

King Ahaz was more concerned about getting the favor of the King of Assyria than obeying and pleasing God. He even modified God's temple to win favor with Assyria, knowing full well that God's tabernacle was holy and to be revered (Leviticus 26:2). Manasseh led the people astray, and he did more evil than the nations from which God had delivered them.

I have often heard the statement that the god of the Old Testament was a vengeful god, but the god of the New Testament is a god of love. It is obvious that anyone who makes that type of a statement has not read the Word of God. God never changes. He is love, always has been, and always will be. He is merciful and yet He is just and holy. When He makes a covenant, He is faithful and will keep that covenant. When He made a covenant with Israel, He said that they would be blessed if they obeyed and cursed if they disobeyed. He was specific (Deuteronomy 28). Studying the period of the kings reveals the very heart and character of God. His love and mercy amidst the unfaithfulness of the nation is far from vengeful. He has always wanted redemption for His people, and always provided a way for all mankind to be redeemed from the curse of sin. Even amidst Judah's rejection of God's ways and their evil actions, God gives Judah a beautiful promise to hold onto as they go into Babylonian captivity, which He faithfully fulfills.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD. For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Those are not the words of a vengeful god. God is not a vengeful God! He never was, and He does not change (Numbers 23:19, Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8, James 1:17).

Application

Notes

In this nation, we have become so much like Israel and Judah. We have a form of godliness, but we deny the very power of God (2 Timothy 3:5-7). We crave acceptance from our peers and those in the spotlight, rather than knowing and serving our Creator and Redeemer. We accept the values of society rather than hungering and thirsting for fellowship with our Creator, yearning to learn His ways, His values, and His thoughts. Have we become Christians who love the things of the world more than the Lord God Almighty, more concerned about not offending the people and policies of our nation that are in direct opposition to the Word of the Lord God Almighty? How can we think that America will not be held accountable for the innocent murder of unborn children?

As Christians, God's people, His witnesses, His servants, we need to wake up and arise out of the darkness. We need to seek His guidance. We need to mature in Christ and speak truth in love (Ephesians 4:11-16). We need to weep over our nation, just as Jesus wept over Jerusalem. We need to pray and pray and pray. We need to spend so much time with the Lord, that we really know His heart. We need to stay out of political and religious arguments, and start walking in His light and letting His light shine through us.

We need to be careful that we do not make an idol out of anything, even the cross of Christ, as the Israelites did the bronze serpent. We need to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. He saved us. We need to look to Him, and let Him do the transforming work in our hearts, of changing our hearts from hearts of flesh, to hearts that are purified by His Holy Spirit day by day. *"But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2 Corinthians 3:18).

We need to be what God desires us to be. Just as He told Israel exactly what He wanted from them, He tells us too in Isaiah 43:10-12. *"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior. I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses," Says the LORD, "that I am God.*

¹ New King James Bible, Thomas Nelson, Second Edition, Comment page 1570

Notes

Reading Assignment

- 2 Kings 18,19
- 2 Kings 24:1-4
- 2 Chronicles 33:3-6

1. There are nine things that set Hezekiah apart from the kings before him and after him in 2 Kings 18:1-7. Can you find them? What did God do for him? What do you learn from this?

2. What happened to the children of Israel during this time? Why? What do you learn from these two stories of Israel and Hezekiah? How can you apply it to your own life?

3. Who came against King Hezekiah and the children of Judah? In 2 Kings 18:18-19, what questions does he ask? In verse 25 who does he say sent him to destroy Jerusalem? Was he telling the truth? Do you think he was against Judah or God?

Notes

4. In 2 Kings 18:27-32, how did the King of Assyria's messengers try to persuade the people of Judah to join them? What gifts was he going to give them? Were the gifts better than what they already had? Do you see any similarity between these questions and promises and those given by Satan in the garden of Eden to Eve? How can you begin to recognize the lies and temptations of the enemy?

5. What did Hezekiah do in response to the threats of the King of Assyria? From who did he seek counsel?

6. What was God's reply to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah? How can this help you when you face doubts and temptations?

7. What was Hezekiah's response to God's words from Isaiah? Was he questioning God, expressing the facts, his fears, or his concerns? Are you afraid to be honest with God about your doubts, fears, anxiety, stress and temptations? What was God's response to Hezekiah's petitions in 2 Kings 19:20, 32-34?

Notes

8. What happened to the king of Assyria? Do you believe that you can have victory in your life over temptations and sin?

9. Manasseh did evil in the sight of the Lord. In 2 Chronicles 33:3-6 list all the sins that Manasseh committed. What does it mean that he caused his sons to walk through the fire? How did his actions provoke the Lord?

10. Correlate the sins of Manasseh with the sins of the culture in which you live. In what ways does society shed innocent blood?

11. What were the consequences of Manasseh's sins? Was he the only one to suffer the consequences? How long are you willing to live in sin? What consequences are you willing to suffer? Who else might suffer because of your sin?

12. In Isaiah 53, a well-known chapter of prophecy, the birth, life, and death of Christ is revealed. How much has come to pass? Why do you think it pleased the Lord to bruise His heal and grieve Christ's soul, and to make His soul an offering for sin? How great a price was this to pay? Could you have paid it? What is your response to this amazing act of God's mercy?

LINEAGE OF CHRIST

Royal Line - Joseph

Ezekiah
Manasseh
Amon
Josiah
Jechoniah

Blood Line - Mary

Joshua
Er
Elmondam
Cosam
Addi
Melchi

Notes

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE – KINGS OF JUDAH AFTER ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY

JUDAH				ISRAEL	
King	Reign	Character	Prophet	In Captivity in Assyria	
12. Ahaz	732-716	Bad	Isaiah Micah		
13. Hezekiah	716-687	Good	Isaiah Micah		
14. Manasseh	687-642	Bad	Isaiah Micah Nahum Jeremiah		
15. Amon	642-640	Bad	Nahum Zephaniah Jeremiah		
16. Josiah	640-603	Good	Nahum Zephaniah Jeremiah		
17. Johoahaz	608	Bad	Jeremiah		
18. Jehoiakim	608-597	Bad	Habakkuk Jeremiah		
19. Jehoiachin	597	Bad	Habakkuk Jeremiah		
20. Zedekiah	597-586	Bad	Obadiah Jeremiah		

Destruction of Jerusalem, captivity of Judah, and exile to Babylon

PROPHETS OF JUDAH
(AFTER ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY)

Prophet	Prophesied	Kings Who Ruled during Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (BC)
Isaiah	To Judah	Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	760-673
Micah	To Judah	Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	738-698
Nahum	Concerning Nineveh	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	658-615
Zephaniah	To Judah	Amon, Josiah	640-626
Jeremiah	To Judah	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	650-582
Habakkuk	To Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	608-598
Obadiah	Concerning Edom	Zedekiah	590

About The Books of Prophecy

Isaiah – the book of Isaiah – looks at the sin of Judah and proclaims God's judgment. Hezekiah. Coming restorations and blessing. Prophecies respecting Christ and his kingdom.

Micah – the book of Micah – prophecies relating to the invasions of Shalmaneser and Sennacherib, the Babylonian captivity, the establishment of a theocratic kingdom in Jerusalem, the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. Description of complete moral decay, God will judge but will forgive and restore.

Nahum – the book of Nahum – prophecies of the downfall of Assyria (125 years after Jonah)

Zephaniah – the book of Zephaniah – prophecy of the overthrow of Judah for its idolatry, the theme is developed of the Day of the Lord and His coming judgment, remnant of Judah will be restored.

Jeremiah – the book of Jeremiah – prophecies announcing the captivity of Judah, its sufferings, and the final overthrow of its enemies.

Habakkuk – the book of Habakkuk – prophecies regarding the captivity of Judah by Babylon

Obadiah – the book of Obadiah – prophecies against Edom, and its utter destruction

Notes

Lesson 12: Babylonian Captivity

Notes

BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY					
Judah in Captivity Seventy Years (605 - 536 BC)					
First Group Captive 605 BC	Nebuchadnezzar Dreams 602 BC	Second Group Captive 597 BC	Third Group Captive 586 BC	Belshazzar King 553 BC	Babylon Falls to Persia 539 BC
<p>Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon</p> <p>Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are among the first group of captives</p> <p>Jehoiakim king of Judah 608-597 BC Evil king</p> <p>Jehoiachin king of Judah 597 BC Evil king</p>	<p>Nebuchadnezzar has dream that troubles him</p> <p>Daniel interprets the king's dream and the king promotes him to a ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief administrator over the wisemen of Babylon</p>	<p>Ezekiel among the second group of captives</p> <p>He begins prophesing in 593 BC in Babylon</p> <p>Zedekiah becomes king of Judah 597-586 BC Evil king</p>	<p>The third Babylonian attack on Judah</p> <p>Zedekiah's last sight Nebuchadnezzar killing his sons</p> <p>Zedekiah taken into captivity</p> <p>Judah is completely defeated</p> <p>Walls and temple destroyed</p>	<p>Belshazzar King of Babylon</p> <p>Daniel interprets handwriting on the wall 539 BC</p>	<p>Cyrus the Mede Conquers Babylon 539 BC</p> <p>Daniel in the Lion's Den</p>

Lesson 12: Babylonian Captivity

Notes

Scripture Reference

- 2 Kings 23:34-25:26
- 2 Chronicles 36:5-23
- Daniel
- Ezekiel
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations

Objectives

In this lesson, you will learn

- About some of the events from this period of time
- How some of Judah's captives were faithful to God in the midst of captivity
- God is always faithful
- God never leaves us or forsakes us
- Good and bad things happen to the righteous
- God prevails over all things

Notes

Observation

In the last lesson, the southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin followed in the evil ways and practices of the northern ten tribes of Israel. They worshiped the gods they created, offered their children as human sacrifices to their created gods, and completely broke the covenant they had with the Lord God Almighty. He had blessed them with homes they didn't build, vineyards they didn't plant, provisions they didn't earn, and everything they needed. He also provided a way, through the ordained sacrifices and feasts, for them to be pure and holy in His sight and enjoy fellowship with him. However, they refused that fellowship and chose the curses of the law rather than the blessings of obedience and fellowship with God. It was a horrible time in the history of God's chosen people.

As a result of breaking their covenant with God, God used the Babylonians and their brutal king, Nebuchadnezzar, to take them into captivity in Babylon. However our merciful heavenly father still promised them hope in their captivity (Jeremiah 29:4-15). God has always provided a way of redemption for those who are truly repentant, and desire to follow him.

God is a holy God, and He expects His children to be holy. He provided a way for all mankind to obtain that holiness, and enjoy the blessings of fellowship with Him. His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. However, enjoying fellowship with our holy God requires us to learn His ways, His thoughts, His heart, and submit our lives to Him (Isaiah 55:11).

In 605 BC, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were among the first group from Judah taken into Babylonian captivity. It was during the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, that Nebuchadnezzar took some of Judah's best to Babylon (2 Kings 24:1, Jeremiah 25:1, Daniel 1:1-7). Among them were these four young men, who had lived in the palace in Judah. Many of the people of Judah loved and trusted God, but they still suffered the consequences for the disobedience of their nation and its evil leaders. This was the case for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Daniel's name means "God is my judge." Hananiah's name means "Yahweh is gracious", Mishael's name means "Who is like God", and Azariah's name means "Yahweh has helped."

When these four young men arrived in Babylon, they were placed into the hands of the king's steward, Ashpenaz. The only lifestyle they had ever known was taken from them. They were robbed of their customs, environment, home, family, and friends. Even their names were taken from them. Daniel's name was changed to Belteshazzar, meaning "Bel protects his life", Hananiah's name was changed to Shadrach,

Notes

meaning “command of the moon god”, Mishael’s name was changed to Meshach, meaning “who is like the moon god”, and Azariah’s name was changed to Abednego, meaning “servant of Nego”. Their names were changed to force them to forget God, their traditions, their values and their homeland.

They were to receive training for three years, which would prepare them for the king’s service. They were trained in the history, customs, magic, and traditions of the Babylonians. They were given daily allotments of the king’s delicacies and wine. However, they did not want to defile themselves with the king’s food. God had given the Jews strict rules of what they could and could not eat (Leviticus 11:7, Deuteronomy 14:8). These young men honored God and His ways, even when everything they knew and loved was taken from them. The king’s steward wanted them to eat the king’s food, because he feared for his life. He knew that if they were weak, the king would have him brutally murdered. The steward gave Daniel and his friends a ten-day trial so they could eat as they chose, nothing but vegetables and water. If at the end of the ten days they were not as healthy and strong as the rest of the trainees, they would have to eat the king’s delicacies. After ten days, they looked much better and healthier than the others. Therefore, the steward let them continue on their vegetable diet. God blessed Daniel and his friends with knowledge and skill in literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in visions and dreams. At the end of the three years, when the king interviewed them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers in the realm. The king was pleased and kept Daniel in his service.

After this time, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him greatly. He called for all his magicians and wise men and asked them to interpret his dream. He refused to tell them the dream, but commanded them to tell him the dream and its interpretation. No one was able to do that. Nebuchadnezzar was furious with them, and commanded that all the magicians and wise men in the land be killed.

When Daniel heard this, he asked the king to give him a little time, and he would interpret the dream. Daniel went back to his three friends, and they prayed and asked God to reveal the dream and its interpretation. That night in a dream, God revealed it to Daniel.

Daniel let Nebuchadnezzar know that God revealed the dream and its interpretation to him regarding what would take place in the future. It is a very important prophetic dream, and you can read about this dream in Daniel 2:27-49. After Daniel revealed the dream and its interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar was amazed. Nebuchadnezzar made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. He showered him with gifts. He even acknowledged Daniel’s given name. Daniel petitioned the king

Notes

for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and the king set them over the affairs of Babylon.

God moved mightily through these four men, who faithfully followed Him in the midst of captivity. Nebuchadnezzar had a golden image built to bring glory to himself. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery furnace, because they would not bow down to the golden image. God spared their lives as He walked with them in the fire. Daniel was thrown into a lion's den, because he would not stop praying to God. However, God shut the mouths of the lions, so Daniel was not harmed. These men were willing to die, rather than disobey God, whom they loved and worshiped. They dramatically influenced not only Nebuchadnezzar, but also the kings who later conquered Babylon, both Darius the king of the Medes, and Cyrus the king of Persia.

God spoke to Daniel in dreams and visions and revealed to him not only Nebuchadnezzar's dreams, but also things that would come about in later times. Jesus even refers to one of the visions of Daniel in Matthew 24:15.

Ezekiel, the priest, was taken into Babylonian captivity with about ten thousand captives in 597 BC. He began prophesying in Babylon in 593 BC. He lived in a settlement along the river Chebar called Tel-abi. It was about one hundred miles south of Babylon. He was prophesying in captivity, while Jeremiah was prophesying to those left in Judah. They were both telling the people to repent and turn to God.

Amidst the captivity, Ezekiel preached hope to the people (Ezekiel 33:1-48:35). The book of Ezekiel is filled with prophecy concerning God's restoration of Judah and the reconstruction of the temple in Jerusalem. The latter part of the book contains prophecies of the end times when Christ will return and rule and reign in Jerusalem for one thousand years. The book is filled with the heart of God – spiritual renewal and redemption. God wants to bless those who know Him and trust him.

In 586 BC, on the 9th day of the month of Av, the Babylonians destroyed the walls of Jerusalem, burned the gates, and took the last wave of people from Judah into Babylonian captivity.

Interpretation

Everything that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were familiar with and loved was taken from them, and they had done nothing to deserve this destruction. They were thrown into Babylon, a culture that worshiped other gods, used magical arts, sorcery and other demonic practices. Not only were they thrown into this environment, they were to be trained in its ways. It had to be one of the most terrifying experiences for any one, especially a young person. This was a dark time

Notes

in the history of God's chosen people. Yet amidst it all, these young men trusted and obeyed God regardless of whether they would live or die.

Even in captivity, God spoke hope and redemption, not only to the captives of Judah, but He spoke hope and redemption to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. Eventually, Nebuchadnezzar, the egomaniac, put his trust in God and gave God the glory for everything. King Darius and King Cyrus also believed in God. The lives of these faithful young men were a witness of the power and presence of the Lord God Almighty to the kings of this foreign land. After Nebuchadnezzar saw the power of the Lord God Almighty working in and through Daniel, he referred to him using his Hebrew name, Daniel, rather than the Babylonian name that he had given him to make him forget his past (Daniel 4:8; 5:12). The priest, Ezekiel, also spoke God's message of hope and redemption to the captives in Babylon.

Application

How could these young men, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, have everything taken from them, be thrown into an ungodly culture, and yet be so faithful to God? There is one answer: They knew God! They knew His heart, His ways, and His thoughts. They spent time with God. Let us learn from these young men. Let us stop spending our time in frustration, fear, and defeat wondering why bad things are happening around us and to us. Let us not look at the dark circumstances we are facing, but let us know God, by spending time with him, talking to him, listening to him, studying His Word, hungering to know His ways, His thoughts, His heart. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect"* (Romans 12:2). Let us make use of every opportunity He gives us to be His servants, His witnesses that He is God (Isaiah 43:10-12). Let us keep our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. *"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls (Hebrews 12:1-3).* Let us learn from the example of these faithful young men.

Notes

Reading Assignment

- Daniel 1-6

1. Hebrew children were given names with specific meanings and blessings. They most often referred to God's glory, attributes, love, mercy, blessings, etc. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah's names were changed when they arrived in Babylon. What names has the enemy given you that you have believed about yourself? What are the names by which God calls you?

2. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar choose to turn to when he was troubled? Were they able to help him? What was their consequence of their failure? What or who do you turn to first for help or solutions to problems?

3. What did Daniel choose to do? What was the outcome? What was his response for the help he received?

4. What was Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego commanded to do? Did they do it? Why? What was the consequence? How did it turn out for them?

Notes

5. Who did Nebuchadnezzar see in the fire? How did he know to describe the fourth man as the "Son of God"? What decree did Nebuchadnezzar make after witnessing the faith and deliverance of the three Hebrew men?

6. What did Nebuchadnezzar do that brought the events of his dream to commence? What did his words reveal about his heart? Do you recognize that all you possess is from God?

7. What did Nebuchadnezzar do that restored him from the wilderness and back to his right mind and kingdom? Have you been denying that all you have is given to you by God? Do you think it is by your hard work, intelligence, talents, education, etc. that got you to where you are today? What circumstances are you willing to face before you acknowledge God for who He is and your need for Him to be your God?

8. What happened to King Belshazzar when he drank wine from the golden vessels from the temple? Who could interpret the writing on the wall? What happened that night to King Belshazzar? What thoughts does this story bring to you about God?

Notes

9. Why did King Darius place Daniel above all the princes and presidents? Why is this an amazing fact?

10. What happened to Daniel because of his character? How did King Darius handle the grave mistake he had made? What happened to the men who entrapped Daniel with their scheming? What was the outcome of this whole ordeal?



Chart on the Lineage of Christ

Although Jesus was not born during this period of time, since this is the last lesson of this course, the chart reflects his lineage from this period of time to his birth.

PROPHETS DURING BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

Prophet	Prophesied	Kings Who Ruled during Prophet's Time	Approximate Date (BC)
Ezekiel	Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, exiles	620-570
Daniel	Exiles in Babylon	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah, exiles	620-540

About The Books of Prophecy

Ezekiel – the book of Ezekiel – messages of warning and comfort to the Jews in their captivity.
Description of the end of times

Daniel – the book of Daniel – narrative of some occurrences of the captivity, a series of prophecies concerning Christ, many visions of the future for Gentiles and Jews, prophecies concerning the end times

Notes

Notes

Appendix A

Notes

Lesson 1 Question Guidance

Notes

3. What were God's thoughts toward His creation? In what verses are his thoughts recorded?

The idea here is to set a pattern of how God sees us, part of his creation. His thoughts do not change.

4. The earth was without form and was void. Describe what that looks like to you?

The idea here is that the earth had no shape or mass. Therefore, it had no purpose. Once created, everything, including us have a purpose.

5. God gave the earth form, shape and mass for a purpose. Nothing He created was without purpose. Make a list of the purpose of each days creation:

The reason for this question is to see the purpose for everything in general, including and especially, mankind.

6. Of all the creation above, who were formed from the dust of the earth?

The reason for this question is to see uniqueness in purpose.

7. What did God do to make man different than the animals?

The reason for this question is to see the uniqueness of man from every other created thing, and to see the special purpose of mankind.

8. Describe what the "Breathe of God" means, what it does, and what effect it gives?

The purpose of this question is:

- To point out that we are above all creation, because God's breath is in us.
- To point out what that means, and what purpose did God have for us in sharing this very intimate event with us.
- What it does – Genesis 2:7, Ezekiel 37:9, Job 33:4, John 1:1-4, 1 John 5:11
- What effect it gives- John 20:22, 2 Samuel 23:2, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:21

9. How does this personally change the way you see yourself and others?

How do we apply what we have learned in a very personal way?

Notes

10. Now that you know what gives you life, why do you think God entrusted you with it?

Now that we have applied what we learned, how do we implement it in our lives?

11. God's creation was methodical, detailed, orderly and life-giving. What does that reveal to you about God's character?

The purpose for this question is to see that God has not and will never change.

12. What does the methodical, detailed, orderly and life-giving aspects of creation reveal about God's intentions toward you and your life's journey? When did begin to plan your life's journey?

The purpose of this question is to apply our knowledge of God's character personally and on a daily basis.

13. Sumarize a few of your thoughts about creation.

The purpose of this question is to reflect on:

- The impact of knowledge about God
- How intimate He is with us
- What we should be doing with this knowledge.

Lesson 2: Question Guidance

Notes

3. What role was Adam created to do? What role was he to take?

The purpose of this question is to help the students recognize that we were created with purpose.

4. Why was Eve created? What role was she to have?

The purpose of this question is to help the students recognize that we were created with purpose.

6. According to Genesis 3:6, what are the three things Eve did that led her to sin or be deceived? How similar was it to Satan's sin?

The purpose of this question is to help the students recognize that there is a pattern, when we sin: shame, hide the sin, then isolation from others.

10. Where do you think Abel learned to make an animal sacrifice from the firstlings of his flock?

The purpose of this question is to help the students gain the understanding that God's instructions were passed down to be obeyed.

11. What was Abel's reward?

The purpose of this question is to help the students understand it is possible to receive God's respect by obedience and/or cheerful giving.

12. Since God cursed Cain and the plan could not continue through him, who did God provide in place of Abel?

The purpose of this question is to help the students see that God's plan is not thwarted by sin or bad decisions.

13. In your own words summarize today's lesson regarding the consequence of sin and how God's plan prevails in the presence of sin?

This question provides the realization that there are consequences to sin. We also want to help students understand that sin does not stop God's plan. Just as sacrifice in the Old Testament (shedding of blood) covers sin, so by the sacrifice of Christ by faith covers our sins today.

Notes

Lesson 3: Question Guidance

1. Who are the characters in these scriptures?
2. What is the culture of the time?
3. What is happening in Genesis 6:2?
4. Why are the “Sons of God” marrying the “daughters of men”?

The purpose of this question is to point out ungodly thinking.

5. What part of human nature are they satisfying? Is this a godly reason to marry?

The purpose of this question is to make apparent acts of sin and the ungodliness it leads to.

6. Who found grace in God’s eyes and why?

The purpose of this question is to show that God always has someone faithfully obeying despite culture.

7. Who did God choose to do his work/will?

8. Why did God bring the flood?

The purpose of this question is to show there is always a consequence to sin.

9. What was his plan for the wicked? Righteous?

The purpose of this question is to show God protects the righteous.

10. How did the flood affect the presence of sin?

The purpose of this question is to bring to light that the flood was not God’s solution for sin but a consequence of sin.

11. After reading Numbers 18:17 and Hebrews 9:22, what has a direct and permanent affect on sin?

The purpose of this question is to show that from the beginning God’s plan was the shedding of blood.

12. Within 200 years the flood, the Tower of Babel was built. Tell us why it was built and what the people trying to avoid? (Genesis 11:4)

Notes

13. What was their sin?

The purpose of this question is to show that the sin of pride seemed to be a theme and that it leads to all other sins.

14. What was God's solution/consequence for their actions and attitude?

The purpose of this question is to bring understanding that when we choose to be prideful, it has a way of bringing the exact consequences we were trying to avoid.

15. Can you see the irony/humor in what God chose?

16. Can you think of a time when you thought that circumstances were a coincidence, "Karma", or "Bad luck"? Can you look back and maybe see that God was trying to correct your path, attitude, or perception?

The purpose of this question is to bring to light that God has been talking, guiding, prodding and sometimes provoking us towards himself, and to understand that we need God.

17. Share some thoughts about today's lesson, and some ideas that might help you recognize the sin of pride, and be more sensitive to God's leading you personally.

Notes

Lesson 4: Question Guidance

1. In Genesis 12:1-3, God calls Abram to be a great nation. What is Abrams first action after God called him? (Genesis 12:10-20)

The purpose of this question is to show that God's calling does not always come with immediate change and strong faith.

2. What does Abraham do in Genesis 20:1-18?

The purpose of this question is to show Abraham's humanity and weakness, so that later we can see how God builds his faith.

3. What does Isaac do in Genesis 26:6-11?

The purpose of this question is to understand that sin is passed down, and all families must deal with their behavior.

4. What is the sin of Rebekah and Jacob in Genesis 27:6-29?

The purpose of this question is to show family behavior becoming common and justified.

5. Read Genesis 29:21-26. What is the sin of Laban, Rebekah's brother?

The purpose of this question is to show that family behavior now returns, and is again justified.

6. What did Joseph's brothers do? (Genesis 37:31-35)

The purpose of this question is to show how family behavior brings pain and sorrow.

7. What lesson can we learn from this family?

The purpose of this question is to show that we need to examine our own family behavior, identify sin, and repent.

8. Read Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 17:16-19, and 18:9-15. What did God do?

The purpose of this question is show that amid sin, God makes a promise and reminds us of His promises.

9. In Genesis 17, God renews His covenant with Abram and changes his name to Abraham. What does God ask Abraham to do as a sign of this covenant?

The purpose of this question is to show that God always keeps His covenant, but requires action on our part.

Notes

10. How does God fulfill his promise to Abraham (Genesis 21:2), and why do you think God chose to do it this way?

The purpose of this question is to show that God keeps His promise, and that it is beyond man's ability to make it happen. God shares His glory with no one.

11. What is God revealing to Abram in Genesis 15:12-21?

The purpose of this question is to show the beginning of how God is going to fulfill His promise of a nation, how and when.

12. Describe the difference in the faith of Abram in Genesis 12:10-20, and the faith of Abraham in Genesis 22:1-14?

The purpose of this question is to help the student understand that great faith is a process and a journey with God. It does not always come at the moment of calling, but if we choose to follow, God builds our faith through the circumstances of life.

13. How does God reward Abraham for his obedience and faith in Genesis 22:15-19?

God always rewards obedience.

14. In Genesis 29 through 35 gives the account of the births of Jacob's twelve sons. Jacob played favorites with his sons and Joseph was his favorite. In Genesis 37:18-30 what was Reuben's plan, and Judah's action?

The purpose of this question is to help students see that intent and action can be so different, and that jealousy and disobedience have consequences. This will be shown in the next question.

15. Read Genesis 38 to learn the story of Judah. Make a few notes on what happened to Judah's family and what were his sins?

The purpose of this question is to show that he lost all but one of his sons, because they were wicked, and then had two sons by his daughter-in-law because he had no intention of fulfilling his promise (predetermined lie).

16. What do you think of Judah, and what do you think Judah could have learned from his mistakes?

The purpose of this question is to grasp an understanding of how despicable Judah's actions were, and whether any good come from it.

Notes

17. Read Genesis 43:1-12. What did Judah do, and how different is this from his action with Joseph?

The purpose of this question is to show a complete turnaround in Judah. The life decisions of Judah had brought him to a place of humbleness to the point of being a sacrifice for a favored brother. This is a Christ like action, and God brings Judah into the lineage of Christ even though he is the fourth son of Jacob.

18. Summarize today's lesson, and keep in mind the interaction between man's sin, faith, and God's faithfulness.

The purpose of this question is to show that our sins, shortcomings, and decisions are all part of learning more about God and us. They are part of the process of building faith in our journey with God. They are meant to show us where we need to grow and build our faith, as we allow God to remove them from our lives!

Lesson 5: Question Guidance

Notes

1. Read Exodus 1-2:10. How does God save Moses. What are some amazing aspects of this story?

The purpose of this question is to point out:

- The unusual circumstances that saved Moses' life.
- No other mother thought of this avenue.
- It is ironic that Moses would grow up in Pharaoh's home.

2. We learned in Genesis 15:12-16 that God gave Abraham a prophecy that the children of Jacob would be in slavery for 400 years. What took place in Exodus 2:23-25 to begin the process of freedom?

The purpose of this question is to learn that prayer changes things.

3. Read Exodus 4:1-13 and give the three excuses Moses uses to tell God he is not good enough to do God's work and the answer that God gives him for each excuse.

The purpose of this question is to point out that we do not have to be "qualified" in any certain way to be used of God or to serve him.

4. What does God call the children of Israel in Exodus 4:21-23, and what is the significance?

The purpose of this question is:

- To recognize the significance of being the "Firstborn" and the privileges and responsibilities that come with it.
- To point out the special affection a firstborn son has in the heart of his father.

5. In Exodus 5:15-23 we learn that Pharaoh increases the children of Israel's burden of work after Moses and Aaron tell him of God's command to let them go. What does Moses do after they complain, and what does God do in Exodus 6:1-8?

The purpose of this question is:

- Prayer is essential in getting answers from God.
- To show how God renewed His covenant with Moses and lets him know it is going to be difficult.
- To correlate how this is similar to us today...problems, prayer, trust, understanding, and then God resolves and brings freedom.

Notes

6. List the ten plagues in order.

The purpose of this question is:

- To know these plagues really happened and are not just a dramatic story line from a movie.
- To discover reading and finding stories in scripture.

7. What is different about the first three plagues from plagues four through nine?

The purpose of this question is to help the student find small details and differences in a story and create intrigue as to why they happen.

8. Examine your life and see where God allowed circumstances to direct you to look to Him for relief (James 1:13-14)? What was your response? Would you or could you respond differently today?

The purpose of this question is:

- To look at the ten plagues in a new way.
- To see that God is patient with us and deals with us in many ways to bring us to repentance, acknowledgement of him and to draw us to himself.

9. What does God do for the children of Israel and Moses before the last plague?(Exodus 11:2-3,12:35-36)

The purpose of this question is to show God's mercy, blessings and provision to those who obey, acknowledge and worship him.

10. Read Exodus 12:1-13 what does God have the children of Israel do?

The purpose of this question is:

To understand that repentance, obedience, and consecration are essential to a relationship with God.

To show that God gives specific directions on how to live out our journey with Him, and they are for our good just as it was for Israel's good to prepare and eat standing because they had to go at a moments notice.

11. Where was the blood supposed to go?

The purpose of this question is:

- To understand that it is important that blood covers

Notes

- To show the spiritual significance of the doorpost as the doorway to our own heart.

12. How often and for how long are the children of Israel to keep Passover?(Exodus 12:14)

The purpose of this question is to understand that we keep Passover today in the act of communion.

13. What happened to those who did not obey God's plan?

The purpose of this question is to understand that death is the result of sin.

14. What happened to those covered by the blood? How are we covered by the blood today?

The purpose of this question is:

- To show how the covering of blood brings life.
- To understand salvation by the covering of Christ's blood on the cross.

15. Reread question 4. Putting it in today's terms, what would a father desire to do for his child that was in bondage, addiction or kidnapped, if it was in his power to do so without any consequences?

The purpose of this question is to discuss the natural feelings we all have to save our children from being harmed in any way whether they are in our homes or grown.

16. What has your heavenly Father done for you?

The purpose of this question is:

- To see that even before we are saved our Heavenly Father did everything in His power to save us from the bondage of this life.
- To see that God loves us even more than we love our children.
- To know what the Firstborn of God did for us, so we could become coheirs with Him.

17. Summarize today's lesson and how it has helped you see God in a new way.

The purpose of this question is to see how a hardened heart against God brings death, whether physically or spiritually. It is also to see how repentance, acknowledgement of God, obedience and the covering of blood save us from death. God loves us more than we can love our own children because He sacrificed his Firstborn for us

Notes

Lesson 6: Question Guidance

1. List the 10 Commandments and what the benefit of each could be. (Exodus 20:1-17)

The purpose of this question is to see the commandments were for Israel's good.

2. Now take each commandment and apply it personally. Tell how each commandment would change or affect your personal walk with God if you chose to obey it.

The purpose of this question is to see that they are still good for us today, and that our love for God brings obedience and a peaceable life.

3. In Exodus 35:4-5, Moses collects an offering for the construction of the Tabernacle. Read Exodus 25:1-2 and explain how the Children of Israel were to bring the offering. (See additional reading for more scripture)

The purpose of this question is to see that God wants our hearts, so our giving is given freely.

4. Instructions for the priests on how to dress, be sanctified, and anointed are given in Exodus 39 and 40. The Tabernacle was also to be anointed and sanctified. Once this process took place and everything was in its place in the Tabernacle, what did God do (Exodus 40:34-38)?

The purpose of this question is to understand that God can only dwell in sanctified, anointed and consecrated places.

5. How does this process take place in us today? What does it look like to you (sanctification, anointing, and obedience) and what does God do in this process today? (See additional reading at the end of the questions for more scriptures.)

The purpose of this question is to see that God is the same today and requires us to be covered by Christ's blood, sanctified. It is then God who anoints and sanctifies us.

6. Read Leviticus 26:1-13. How many blessings can you find in this passage, and can you explain what they would look like to you today?

The purpose of this question is to see that the promises and blessings in the Old Testament are relevant for us today.

Notes

7. Numbers 13 tells the story of the twelve spies. What can we learn here about the common thought of the “majority rules” or “majority rightness” vs. Godly thinking and faith?

This question begins the thought process of thinking like God instead of the world. The thought that the majority is not always right and Godly principles need to be applied in every area of our life.

8. In Numbers 14:1-5 who do the children of Israel choose to listen to and what decision do they make based on who they listened to?

This is to help us see that decisions based on fear keep us from receiving God’s blessings when He desires to give them. Because of a lack of faith, Israel had to wait for 40 years.

9. What did the children of Israel want to do to the two spies of faith, and what did God want to do with the children of Israel?

This purpose of this question is to see the irony in their thinking.

10. In general, who does the world choose to listen to today? What do they want to do with Christians, and what does God want to do for them?

This is to help us see that the world has the wrong thinking, and God brings correction through circumstances, so they will come to Him. He desires to give them the promise land, heaven, but they must first repent and then obey.

11. Read Numbers 14:26-37. How does God punish Israel for their disobedience and lack of faith? Who is spared from this judgment?

There are consequences for sin and rewards for faithfulness.

12. In Numbers 15:37-41, God gives some more instructions. He has Israel do something special with their clothing. What is it? What color is it? Why was it done?

The purpose of this question is to see that God gave them something to help them remember who they were, a royal and priestly nation, to be a testimony for all other nations.

13. In Deuteronomy 4:29-31, what does God promise to do if Israel does what? Can this promise be applied to you?

The purpose of this question is to see who God is to those who seek and love him with all their heart.

Notes

14. Read Deuteronomy 4:32-38 to learn about the special relationship God had with Israel. In verses 39 and 40 what was Israel to do and why?

The purpose of this question is to realize that the God of Israel was very different than the gods of the other nations, and that God always blesses those who obey and worship Him.

15. In Deuteronomy 5:6-21 what did Moses give the next generation of Israel as they prepared to conquer the promise land?

The purpose of this question is to understand that the cursed generation of 40 years prior had all passed away, and that Moses needed to reiterate God's Law for the new generation.

16. Most people think the 10 Commandments and the Law were a list of "Don'ts". What does Deuteronomy 6:20-25 tell us God intended them for?

This is to help us see that they are for our good and blessing

17. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-32. What did God really want from the children of Israel and what did God want them to have?

This is to see that God wanted Israel to love Him, and He wanted to bless them.

18. What does God want from you today and what does God want you to have?

This is to help us see that that God wants the same from us today, and that God never changes.

Lesson 7: Question Guidance

Notes

1. In Joshua chapter one, what statement does God make to Joshua three times?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Understand that God repeats Himself to assure us of what He wants
- To know a well-known scripture, where it is found, and its significance.

2. Why do you think God is so emphatic with this proclamation?

The purpose of this question is to know that God is with us, and He empowers us by His presence and calling.

3. Who helped the spies? What makes this person an interesting choice to be used of God?

The purpose of this question is to know that God will use anyone that believes and desires to follow Him.

4. How did God bless Rahab? What is used to identify her home, and what does this say about God?

The purpose of this question is to know that God keeps His promises to everyone, and He will honor those who do right.

5. Before the battle and victory over Jericho, what were the people of Israel commanded to do? What does this teach us about receiving victory in our lives today?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Have an understanding of consecration and obedience before victory.
- Understand that this principle is still relevant today.

6. What was the order in which Israel crossed the Jordan River? What description is given them, and what do they do once they cross?

The purpose of this question is:

- To know that God is an orderly God, and has reasons for why He does things.
- To know that we are to testify and share the blessings of the Lord to our children and others.
- To know that our lives are a living monument.

Notes

7. What two significant events take place in Joshua 5:10-12?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that God provides in the wilderness.
- Have gratitude for coming through the past and gratitude and joy for the new beginnings.

8. In Joshua 5:13-15, with who do you think Joshua has a conversation? To who were the words spoken, and who were they about? Where are the words "Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy," spoken of before and to whom? (Exodus 3:4-6)

The purpose of this question is:

- To know the importance of Christ's presence from the beginning and through the Old Testament.
- To begin to understand the meaning of scripture: the who, what, where, when, and why.

8. How was Jericho conquered and what made this victory amazing?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Understand that God does not work as we expect Him.
- That obedience is essential to victory.
- That the glory always belongs to God.

9. Who are the first to suffer the consequence of Achins'sin? What does this teach us about the consequences of our sin?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Realize the consequences of our decisions and sins effect others.
- Learn that our life is not "all about me".

10. In chapter 7:6-26 Joshua and the elders cry out to God and ask why they lost the battle at Ai. God reveals it is because of sin. What does God tell Joshua to do? (Joshua 10:15)

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that once our petition to God is answered, we need to get up and do what God says to do.
- Keep ourselves from pity and victimization of our circumstances.

Notes

11. What is the ultimate consequence paid by Achan and his family? What implication does this have for us?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that our sins and lies have consequences, and that sometimes life and death results.
- Know that our sin effects others.

12. In Joshua 9, what mistake did Joshua and the elders make? Who paid the consequence for this decision besides the Gibeonites becoming slaves (2 Samuel 21:9)?

The purpose of this question is to know:

- That it is important to seek God's counsel in making decisions.
- That just because we may not experience or see consequences, doesn't mean that they don't happen.

13. In the battle with the five kings of the Ammorites, who killed more men, Israel or God? How was it done? What does this say to you about God?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Understand the battle belongs to God, and He gives the victory.
- Know that God fights our battles for us, before us, and along side us.

14. In Joshua 11, Jabin, the king of Hazor, gathers many other kings to fight against Israel. The meaning of his name is intelligence, to understand, discern, eloquent and cunning. They gather at a place called Merom meaning literally a high place, altitude. Merom as an adverb means haughty, loftily. What do you find interesting about these facts and the demise of all these kings and their people? (Proverbs 16:18, 16:25, 17:19, 18:12)

The purpose of this question is to know that pride and dependence on our own intelligence, education, and cleverness cannot outsmart God and His plans.

15. In Joshua 17:1-6 the daughters of Zelophehad claim their inheritance. Read their story in Numbers 27:1-12 and discover the heart of God towards women. What did God do to ensure women would always have provision even when there was not a man in their life to provide for them? How does this change your perception of God? Does this abdicate a man's responsibility to provide?

The purpose of this question is to know:

- God has always cared and provided for women since the beginning.

Notes

- That God made it a law for man to follow and know His heart.
- God has always seen men and women as equals.

16. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge? What does this say about God's provision of grace and mercy toward man's inability to be perfect? What does this say about God's judgment?

The purpose of this question is to know that God is a just God and provides safety for the innocent.

17. Read Joshua 21:43-45. What things did the Lord give Israel because He promised it to them? What does this say to you about God keeping His promises?

The purpose of this question is to know that God never fails, and we can trust Him completely today.

18. Joshua 24:13-15 states that Israel enjoyed the labor of those they conquered. What did Joshua charge them to do because of God's overabundant blessings? Do you believe that this charge is still relevant for you today because of God's blessings in your life?

The purpose of this question is to know that our reasonable response to God's blessings is to continue to be obedient and determined to take a stand to serve Him and to remember the things He has done for you.

Lesson 8: Question Guidance

Notes

1. In Judges 2, what pattern do you see repeated from the wilderness? What were the consequences? How do we do the same thing?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Help us see the pattern of human nature has not changed since the beginning of time.
- Help us understand that others, whether from Bible times or today struggle with sin and faithfulness.
- Help us see that we are not alone in our struggles.

2. In Judges 2:4-5 the children of Israel gave a sacrifice and cried unto the Lord. What is missing from this sacrifice, and what was the result for their children and grandchildren?

The purpose of this question is to understand that sacrifice without repentance is only a bandaid for sin and not a cure.

3. Discuss the importance of obedience verses sacrifice and repentance. Read these passages of scripture for your discussion: 1 Samuel 15:22, Psalms 51:16-17, Proverbs 21:3, Jeremiah 7:23, Hosea 6:6, Micah 6:6-8, and Mark 12:33. How do these passages apply to you today? Name a few things that we offer as sacrifices to God today instead of obedience?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Understand the importance God places on obedience.
- Understand the concept of not having to sacrifice and repent because of obedience.

4. How many times did Gideon test God? What did God do for him? Was Gideon a mighty man of valor? How many men did God give Gideon? Who is the real hero in this story?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that God will use any of us even when our yes is reluctant.
- Know that God uses the weak, so that there is no question that it was His victory, His miracle, His healing and not mans!

5. What do you learn from the story of Abimelech? What does Job 15:31, Romans 8:13 and Galations6:3, 7-10 teach us about the life of Abimelech?

The purpose of this question is to know that you cannot buy your way to leadership, and that when it looks like people get away with doing wrong, God has the last word, whether in this life or the next.

Notes

6. Many of us can name those in our life that have been gifted, talented, or know that God has blessed them abundantly. We also know how many of them abused and misused and believed they could do anything and get away with it. We witness their fall from grace. We may have experienced this at some level in our own life. In the example of Samson's life, what is required to be used of God once again?

The purpose of this question is to know that believers can make wrong choices, and yet ask and receive forgiveness from God.

7. Name as many ways as you can the blessings Ruth received by following God, honoring her mother-in-law, and accepting the Jewish way of life? Do you believe she is an example of how God blesses those who follow him with all their heart, mind and soul? Do you truly believe God will bless you if you live obediently to the word of God? Why or why not? Provide scripture to support your view.

The purpose of this question is:

- For personal inventory.
- To reflect on what you believe and why.
- To help you establish your faith by searching the scriptures to gain a broader and deeper understanding of what you believe.

8. Who is your Kinsman Redeemer? How do you become part of the story? How will this change your story?

This question is for those who may not have come to know Christ as their personal Savior. This is to help young or new believers see that they are part of God's story. This is also to help them understand that an intimate relationship with God will change their story!

9. How would the life of our children, young or grown, be different if we prayed for them as Hannah prayed for Samuel? How differently would we train our children if we really believed they belonged to the Lord? Do you think if we could follow through with that kind of love, selflessness, and graveness, our society would be different? Our churches? Our homes? Our families? Our marriages?

This question is to help us:

- Become serious about raising and training our children and not leaving it to school teachers and the church.
- Understand that our children and grandchildren's lives depend

Notes

on how serious we take the matter of training our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- Know that this life is not about us, but about those who follow us, and how our decisions and actions determine how much or how little hardship our families may face.

10. What were the consequences to Eli and his sons because Eli would not correct and discipline his sons? As a high priest and patriarch of his family, how important was it for him to lead and set the standard for his sons? How did he fail?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know how important fathers are.
- Know how important their responsibility is.
- Know that God has given them authority and responsibility as priests of their homes.
- Know that consequences for poor decisions may be experienced by others.

11. Samuel grew up in the temple, watched Eli and his sons and even told Eli what was going to happen to him and his sons. Were Samuel's sons different than Eli's? What were the consequences of his son's wickedness?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that you must follow through even when it is difficult, and sometimes at the expense of a lost relationship.
- Know that it is better to temporarily lose a relationship, so that the Lord can work on hearts and speak truth into them.

12. Why did the children of Israel want a king over them? Is this what God wanted for them? Who were they rejecting? What are some ways that we do the same thing today?

The purpose of this question is:

To see that sometimes consequences go very far, beyond what we can imagine.

To know that God still works with us and through us, despite our sins and mistakes as long as we repent and obey.

Notes

Lesson 9: Question Guidance

1. Who was anointed the first king of Israel? Briefly explain the circumstances of events that led Saul to Samuel the prophet.

The purpose of this question is:

- To help us understand that God is in control and has a plan.
- God directs our steps even when we are unaware of it.

2. What did God do for Saul in I Samuel 10:9? What change do you think took place in Saul? How do you believe God directs your path and makes changes in your heart, while still giving us our free will?

The purpose of this question is:

- To help us see that the leadership has the Spirit of God upon them.
- To see that the Spirit of God makes changes in our hearts and minds if we allow Him to.
- To help us see how important it is to seek God.

3. What happens to Saul when he hears about Jabesh Gilead? What does he do to rally the people of Israel behind him? Who wins the battle? Why do you think they won: by outnumbering the enemy, by determination of Saul's threat, by the hand of God, or a combination?

The purpose of this question is:

- To understand that we play a role in God's purposes.
- To know that dependency on God is crucial for obedience, faith and trust in God.

4. What caused Saul to lose his kingship? Why do you think keeping the commandments is so important to God?

The purpose of this question is to see that arrogance, and independence from God leads to sin.

5. How did Saul disobey God's command in the battle with the Amalekites? What do you learn from obeying only half of what God says to do? Who killed the king of the Amalekites? What did Samuel say to Agag before he killed him? What do you learn from this story?

The purpose of this question is:

- To understand that we cannot choose what we want to obey.

Notes

- To know that God's plans do not fail, because we choose to disobey or choose not to be used.
- To know that God always has someone that will do His will.

6. What happened to David at his anointing? What happened to Saul? Where was David's first assignment? Would you find it difficult to be given a high ranking position and your first assignment was to minister to the person you were going to replace at some time in the future? Why or why not? How well did David do the job he was sent to do?

The purpose of this question is:

- To understand that promotion doesn't always take place immediately.
- To understand that ministering where we are is crucial to promotion.
- To know that our perspective and attitude are essential in obedience in order to learn in times of waiting upon God.

7. Why was Saul afraid of David? What did he try to do to David because of his fear? How had David conducted himself leading up to this event and after his demotion? What can you take from this story to help you in times when trouble arises in your life? Does trouble and tribulation and even near death events indicate you are out of the will of God? Does it indicate that God is not using you for his plans?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Understand that choosing to do things our way (sin) instead of submitting to God (repentance) distorts our thinking and brings fear, hate, and jealousy. It brings more sin into our lives.
- Understand that the actions of others and circumstances should not change our behavior, our thinking, our obedience to God, our trust in God or our faith in God.
- Understand that circumstances do not change the will of God or His purpose for our lives.
- Understand that circumstances, trials, and tribulations are times we need to trust God, depend on God, and learn from God.

8. Are you capable to do the right thing: be loyal to the truth even if it means goodwill for someone else and not yourself? Why or why not?

The purpose of this question is to reflect on our current perspective and to line it up with God's way of living a life of faith outwardly, despite what life may look like now.

Notes

9. What did Saul do because he became willfully defiant to God? Was he warned not to do such a thing? Explain how this story of Saul helps you understand defiance and/or willful disobedience to God, and its consequences to oneself and to others.

The purpose of this question is to understand the consequences of sin, and how it can alter our lives in the wrong direction.

10. How did David respond Saul for seeking to kill him? What effect did this have on Saul? What can you learn from this part of the story on how you should think and act towards those that have wronged, disrespected, or hated you?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Understand that retreat or stepping away is sometimes necessary.
- Understand that God sees and knows what is happening.
- Understand that defiance against someone else's sin is not always the answer. Sometimes we must just let God work in their lives.

11. David wanted to build God a house to dwell in. Where had God lived with the children of Israel up to this point in time? Was it David's responsibility to assign God to a permanent building? What was God's plan? Whose responsibility is it to build your home, heart, faith, family, etc? What is your part?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that we can have great intentions that are not necessarily in the will of God, yet God sometimes honors them because of the right desires of the heart.
- Know that God always has a plan and will complete it.
- Know that it is God who truly builds anything in our lives. We owe God the glory.

12. Nathan told King David a story. To whom and what was he referring to in that story? What or where should David have been? What were his sins? How many wives did David already have? What were the consequences of David's sins? Was one night of self-indulgence worth the results?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that God will reveal our sin to bring us to repentance.
- Know that one wrong decision can lead us down a road of many wrong decisions.

Notes

- Help us avoid sin, it is helpful to remember this little phrase “Do the next right thing.”

13. What were the consequences David experienced because he failed to discipline Amnon? Did it affect anyone besides Amnon, Tamar and Absalom? Do you understand that your decisions may affect others and have lasting, eternal consequences?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that even the sin we think is hidden has a profound effect on us, and that effect changes us and causes us to act differently toward others.
- Know that our sin not only can have an effect eternally for us, but also in the lives of those around us.

14. What did King Solomon ask God for? What are your thoughts about this request? What did God give him? Did Solomon make use of what God gave him? Does this change your perspective in what you should request from God? Read Luke 12:22-31 and discuss the correlation between Christ’s instruction to his disciples and Solomon in 1 Kings 3.

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that even our righteous requests that God gives us require constant diligence to submit them back to Him.
- Know that God’s blessings can be misused.
- Know what we are really asking God for and what responsibilities that come with such a request.

15. Why was the cloud still over/within the tabernacle 400 years since the children of Israel had left Egypt? What thoughts or insight does this give you about God during all the trials, wars, missteps and sinning of the people of Israel and that his presence was possibly still visible? Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and 2 Corinthians 6:16, and correlate the life of the Israelites and their temple to your life and your temple.

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that God never left them and never leaves us
- Know that God sees all our sin and still chooses to have a relationship with us.
- Know that today, we are the temple of God and how choosing anything above Him is idolatry/sin.
- Know how important it is to live our lives as an outward light/cloud expression of God’s glory for the world to see.

Notes

Lesson 10: Question Guidance

1. In 2 Kings 12, what do you learn about God in His relationship to the kings and the children of Israel? What are your thoughts about Him rescuing them from their enemies despite their idolatry?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Know that seeking and listening to wise counsel is essential to a positive outcome.
- Know that to listen to and follow through on advice that serves the ego, is always a lose lose consequence.

2. Why do you think that the kings and people of Israel never completely demolished every high place? What was the result of not obeying God's command? Why do we hang on to our sin instead of getting rid of it? What is the result in our life?

The purpose of this question is to know that we must be diligent in self-examination of what we see, hear, watch, and participate in. Satan is subtle in how he sabotages our life with God and with others.

3. 2 Kings 13:23 reveals the character of God toward his children in spite of their character. How can we apply this concept to us personally?

The purpose of this question is to know how our character matches with God's character.

4. In 2 Kings 17 the sins of Israel are recorded. Make a list of those sins. Correlate the sins of Israel to the sins of our nation? Can you correlate any of the sins to your own life?

The purpose of this question is to:

- Correlate what we read in scripture and apply it to our own life.
- Not just read scripture to read it, but to always be looking for understanding and its personal message to us.

5. Read 2 Chronicles 13. Abijah is ambushed from behind as he tries to tell Israel not to fight him because God is with him. In the order scripture gives, list what Abijah and his men did. Who defeated Israel? Who killed 500,000 men? Why did Abijah and the people of Judah prevail?

Notes

The purpose of this question is to :

- Know that dependence and obedience to God bring victory.
- Know that God made the first move and Abijah followed.

6. What kind of king was Asa? Who did he depend on to fight his wars? What did he command all of Judah to do? What was the result of this action? What mistake did he make at the end of his reign?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Obedience and submission to God must be consistent to the end.
- God cannot tolerate sin, and there are always consequences.

7. Who did Jehoshaphat send to teach in the cities of Judah, and what did they teach? What happened to the kingdoms around Judah because of these teachings?

The purpose of this question is to know that teaching, learning, and following the Word of God are essential to receiving His blessings and His peace.

8. What did Jehoshaphat do when he heard that Moab and Ammon were coming to war with him? When the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, what did he say? What did Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah do in response?

The purpose of this question is to know that humbling oneself and asking God for help and deliverance is a sign of great leadership.

9. What strange thing did Jehoshaphat assign people to do in front of the army of Judah? When they reached the battlefront, what did they find? What result did this victory have over the kingdoms that came against Judah?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Praise is essential to victory and brings peace.
- Previous battles of shouting and praise brought faith and encouragement.

10. Why do you think the reigns of Jehoram, Ahaziah and Athaliah were so short?

The purpose of this question is to know that choosing to sin and a life against Gods commands bring severe consequences.

Notes

11. What food thing did Joash do? What poor decision did he make after the death of Jehoida the priest? What was the consequence of his decision?

The purpose of this question is to know that a good start and maintaining a direction towards God is important to finishing well.

12. What have you learned this far about decision making? Do your decisions affect others? Who should you depend on when making decisions?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Seeking God and depending on Him is critical for life's decisions.
- Our decisions affect others sometimes more than they affect us.

13. Look on a map to see where Jonah came from, where he caught a ship, where he was supposed to go, and where he was headed? What are your thoughts about where God told him to go and where he decided to go? Have you ever done the same thing?

The purpose of this question is to know that Jonah fled the farthest he could go from God's command.

14. What changed Jonah's direction? What happened at Ninevah? Why do you think God would send a prophet to a wicked Gentile city in the Old Testament times before Christ and the adoption of the Gentiles through his blood? Do you think God's grace has always existed or only after Christ's death?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- God will correct our steps and direction, and that it may not be easy for us.
- God's will always prevails.
- God has always sought lost souls.

Lesson 11: Question Guidance

Notes

1. There are nine things that set Hezekiah apart from the kings before him and after him in 2 Kings 18:1-7. Can you find them? What did God do for him? What do you learn from this?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- God blesses diligence in doing the right things.
- God blesses holy and righteous living.
- God blesses praise and worship of Him alone.

2. What happened to the children of Israel during this time? Why? What do you learn from these two stories of Israel and Hezekiah? How can you apply it to your own life?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Sooner or later the consequences of sin, bad choices, selfishness, and doing life your own way come to pass.
- God is long suffering, but He cannot condone a life of sin.
- God brings consequences to correct our behavior, because He loves us too much to let us ruin our lives and our children's lives.

3. Who came against King Hezekiah and the children of Judah? In 2 Kings 18:18-19, what questions does he ask? In verse 25 who does he say sent him to destroy Jerusalem? Was he telling the truth? Do you think he was against Judah or God?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Our faith will be questioned and tested by others, ourselves and God.
- The testing of our faith is an opportunity to mature spiritually.

4. In 2 Kings 18:27-32, how did the King of Assyria's messengers try to persuade the people of Judah to join them? What gifts was he going to give them? Were the gifts better than what they already had? Do you see any similarity between these questions and promises and those given by Satan in the garden of Eden to Eve? How can you begin to recognize the lies and temptations of the enemy?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

The enemy fights us with reason and emotions.

He never offers us something better; he offers us less by packaging it with questions that bring doubt.

Notes

5. What did Hezekiah do in response to the threats of the King of Assyria? From whom did he seek counsel?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Learning from men and women of God that being humble and seeking God in prayer should be our first response to temptation.
- Seeking godly counsel is not weak but wise.

6. What was God's reply to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah? How can this help you when you face doubts and temptations?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- God sees our dilemma and hears our requests.
- God answers our prayers

7. What was Hezekiah's response to God's words from Isaiah? Was he questioning God, expressing the facts, his fears, or his concerns? Are you afraid to be honest with God about your doubts, fears, anxiety, stress and temptations? What was God's response to Hezekiah's petitions in 2 Kings 19:20, 32-34?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- We can be honest with God about everything.
- God does not respond with anger to genuine hearts.
- God shows up for us when we come to Him in complete dependence.
- The victory belongs to the Lord!

8. What happened to the king of Assyria? Do you believe that you can have victory in your life over temptations and sin?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- God is in control, and we need to let Him do his work the way He wants and when He wants.
- God will help us in our time of need.

9. Manasseh did evil in the sight of the Lord. In 2 Chronicles 33:3-6 list all the sins that Manasseh committed. What does it mean that he caused his sons to walk through the fire? How did his actions provoke the Lord?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

Notes

- His sin was intentional and a way of life.
- They committed the murder of children, innocent blood.
- There are consequences of a life of intentional sin.

10. Correlate the sins of Manasseh with the sins of the culture you live in? In what ways does society shed innocent blood?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Idolatry exists today in different ways than altars and idols.
- We need to recognize disrespect for the house of God.
- The shedding of innocent blood angers God and is sin.

11. What were the consequences of Manasseh's sins? Was he the only one to suffer the consequences? How long are you willing to live in sin? What consequences are you willing to suffer? Who else might suffer because of your sin?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- There are always consequences to sin.
- It's a matter of "when" not "if" that you reap what you sow.
- You may not be the only one to suffer the consequences of your sin.

12. In Isaiah 53, a well-known chapter of prophecy, the birth, life, and death of Christ is revealed. How much has come to pass? Why do you think it pleased the Lord to bruise His heel and grieve Christ's soul, and to make His soul an offering for sin? How great a price was this to pay? Could you have paid it? What is your response to this amazing act of God's mercy?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- The prophecies of Christ birth, life, and death were fulfilled to every detail.
- God was pleased to reconcile us back to Him.
- The cost for redemption was priceless, and we couldn't satisfy the debt.
- God's sacrifice of His Son demands action on our part.

Notes

Lesson 12: Question Guidance

1. Hebrew children were given names with specific meanings and blessings. They most often referred to God's glory, attributes, love, mercy, blessings, etc. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah's names were changed when they arrived in Babylon. What names has the enemy given you that you have believed about yourself? What are the names by which God calls you?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- The enemy tries to rename us, so that we believe we have no purpose for God.
- God gives us names to show us how loved we are, and to show us we have purpose and value.

2. Whom did Nebuchadnezzar choose to turn to when he was troubled? Were they able to help him? What was their consequence of their failure? What or who do you turn to first for help or solutions to problems?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Our human nature seeks help in finite, limited, and inadequate people or things.
- No other man, system, or materialism can meet our need for a savior.

3. What did Daniel choose to do? What was the outcome? What was his response for the help he received?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- We should learn from Daniel who our first choice should be.
- God answers prayer.
- We need to give praise to God, because of who He is and how He works in our lives.

4. What was Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego commanded to do? Did they do it? Why? What was the consequence? How did it turn out for them?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- We sometimes face very difficult decisions, and must choose either the way that is popular, or to stand alone in obedience to God.

Notes

- Standing alone sometimes has negative outcomes.
- God is with us even when we feel that we are in a hopeless situation.

5. Who did Nebuchadnezzar see in the fire? How did he know to describe the fourth man as the “Son of God”? What decree did Nebuchadnezzar make after witnessing the faith and deliverance of the three Hebrew men?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Christ was present from the beginning and throughout the Old Testament.
- God will reveal Himself as He sees and His son as our Savior.

6. What did Nebuchadnezzar do that brought the events of his dream to commence? What did his words reveal about his heart? Do you recognize that all you possess is from God?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- God will do what He says He will do.
- Pride comes before a fall or humbling.
- We need to recognize that it is God who supplies our need and blesses us beyond our needs.

7. What did Nebuchadnezzar do that restored him from the wilderness and back to his right mind and kingdom? Have you been denying that all you have is given to you by God? Do you think it is by your hard work, intelligence, talents, education, etc. that got you to where you are today? What circumstances are you willing to face before you acknowledge God for who He is and your need for Him to be your God?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Acknowledgement of God is the beginning of wisdom, a sound mind, and a blessed life.
- We will all have to acknowledge God, who He is and what He does at some point in this life or the next.

8. What happened to King Belshazzar when he drank wine from the golden vessels from the temple? Who could interpret the writing on the wall? What happened that night to King Belshazzar? What thoughts does this story bring to you about God?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- God does not share His possessions with the wicked.
- God shares his wisdom and insight with the righteous.

Notes

- God punishes the proud and rebellious.
- God means business.

9. Why did King Darius place Daniel above all the princes and presidents? Why is this an amazing fact?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Daniel's excellent character was manifested to the new conquering king.
- Daniel served in the highest rankings for the old and the new regime.
- Conquering regimes usually killed all high-ranking officials and royalty.

10. What happened to Daniel because of his character? How did King Darius handle the grave mistake he had made? What happened to the men who entrapped Daniel with their scheming? What was the outcome of this whole ordeal?

The purpose of this question is to know that:

- Bad things happen to those who strongly believe and obey God.
- God will always have people who will pray and act on our behalf.
- Revenge belongs to God.
- God will use good and bad circumstances for His glory.

Notes

