

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE TEACHING LESSONS



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-  **CBTL 2** - Man
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Lesson #1 - Foundations

The Bible

SELECTED VERSES

Ps.19:7-10; 2 Tim. 3:16; Num. 23:19; Ps. 119:89; Ps. 119:105

TOPIC OVERVIEW

This lesson will introduce the Bible, it's origin, author and intent. The lesson will also explain the method of study with reasons behind our choice of method.

LESSON

- I. Statement of Purpose
- II. What is the Bible? THE BIBLE IS GOD'S MESSAGE TO PEOPLE
 - A. God desires to inform man about...
 1. Himself
 2. His creation
 3. Ourselves
 - B. God will disclose information concerning..
 1. The past
 2. The present
 3. The future
 - C. We will understand the Bible by observing...
 1. What God says about Himself
 2. What God has done in the past
 3. What God is presently doing
 4. What God will do in the future
- III. THE BIBLE HAS A CHRONOLOGY TO IT
 - A. History is actually His-Story.
 - B. The Bible as a play
 1. There is a beginning and an end
 2. There is a sequence of scenes
 3. Various characters are introduced
 4. God Himself is the central character
 5. Angels, men and the nations are other characters in the story
- IV. What about the bible?
 - A. It is valuable Ps.19:7-10
 - B. It is true 2 Tim. 3:16; Num. 23:19
 - C. It is forever Ps. 119:89
 - D. It gives guidance Ps. 119:105
- V. Bible Facts
 - A. God spoke through men called "prophets" the message He wanted written down. Sometime He spoke audibly, other times in visions, sometimes He put the message down directly into their minds. The Bible took 1,600 years to complete and 40 men were used in writing it!
 - B. One question many people have about the Bible is: "Has the Bible changed over time?" The evidence would indicate the Bible is the best preserved book from ancient times. Copying, though done by hand, was exact. One historian notes that when a book was completed, the number of words and letters were counted. If there was any deviation, the book was not used.
 - C. Did you know that the Bible...

1. Was written over a period of 1,500 years.
2. Was written in three languages.
3. Was written by over forty authors.
4. Was the first book printed using moveable type.
5. Continues to be the number one seller in the world.
6. Has been translated into enough languages so that 93% of the world's population can read it.
7. In 1988 alone, 700 million scripture portions, 14 million entire Bibles, and nearly 13 million New Testaments were distributed by the United Bible Societies.
8. There are more manuscripts of the Bible than any other ancient document. (see the table showing Bible manuscripts at the end of this lesson).
9. The Bible was carefully translated in Croatian. Although there may be minor translation errors, the Croatian Bible is a good representation of what was written originally in Hebrew and Greek.
10. It is interesting thing to note that the Bible is the best record of ancient cultures. Archeological findings have consistently proven the accuracy of the Bible.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Who is the author of the Bible?
2. Why was the Bible written?
3. What can we expect to learn from a study of the Bible?
4. Is the Bible a disjointed collection of writings or is there a continuity or flow to it's content?

God - Before The Beginning**TOPIC OVERVIEW**

This lesson is foundational. The truth that God was existent before creation of the material universe is an important truth to establish. For a person to actually come to grips with this fact and believe it will take away many of the struggles most face in the creation account. If God indeed was before everything that now exists then He has to be the originator of all that is.

Another very important aspect of this lesson is the fact that God is, was and will ever be self sufficient. He has no need of His creation to exist because we see Him in existence prior to the creation. This "High" view of God will also help in future lessons.

LESSON**ONLY GOD WAS PRESENT IN THE BEGINNING**

- A. Scripture: Gen.1:1, Ps. 90:2
- B. Look around at what is now present, nothing was here before the beginning.
 1. Man, animals, birds, fish
 2. Trees, grass, water, earth
 3. Sun, moon, stars
 4. The very air we breath
- C. God was already present. He has no beginning.
 1. When was God born?
 2. How long has God been in existence?
 3. Where did God come from?
- D. God is self sufficient

1. He needs no one. He is all wise. Jer. 10:12
 - a. No one to instruct Him
 - b. No one to counsel Him
 - c. No one to help Him
2. He needs nothing to exist.
 - a. Parents?
 - b. Food?
 - c. Water?
 - d. Air?
- E. God is not confined to space.
 1. God does not have a body like us. Jn. 4:24
 2. God has no limitations that our bodies put on us.
 3. God is everywhere present. Jer. 23:23-24
 - a. He is in heaven and on the earth. (this is not to say that He is in everything.)
 - b. There is nothing hidden from Him.
 - c. His eyes are not like our eyes, He see **all** at once.
 - d. His ears are not like our ears, He hears the thoughts of our mind like a shout.
 - e. Read Psalms 139:7-12.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What single verse points out that only God was present in the beginning?
2. What does the fact that God was already present before the beginning tell us about His person?
3. Why did we say that God's eyes and ears are not like our own?
4. How would you compare man to God with what we have just studied?

Spirit Beings: Creation of Angels and Their Fall

SELECTED VERSES

Job 38:4-7

Psalms 103:19-21

Isaiah 14:12-15

Ezekiel 28:11-15

Revelation 20:10

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Before the creation of the material universe God created the spirit beings. We refer to these beings as angels. The angels were governed by Lucifer, the most beautiful and powerful angel God created. He rebelled against God. The rebellion and its consequences give a back drop for the evil and temptation seen in the garden of Eden in Genesis 3.

LESSON

ORIGIN: WHERE DID THE ANGELS COME FROM?

- A. Source

1. Created by God. Jn.1:3; Neh. 9:6; Ps. 148:2-5
 2. Time? Job 38:4-7 states they were present at the foundation of the earth.
- B. Type
1. Body? Heb. 1:14 tells us they are spirits. They do not have physical bodies like us.
 2. Number? Innumerable, countless. "Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands." Rev. 5:11; Dan. 7:10; Ps.68:17
 3. Sex? They do not marry. They are always seen and referred to as male. They do not procreate and their initial number created is the number that they still maintain.
- C. Characteristics
1. Character? Initially all the angels were created good. God created them as his servants and they are referred to as His messengers.
 2. Strata or rank? They were all created good, but they were not all created with equal stature. There is a organizational structure to the angels that God determined when He created them.
 3. Dwelling? They lived with God and in His presence.

THE GREAT REBELLION

- A. Lucifer and the great rebellion
1. He was the most beautiful and powerful angel. Ezek. 28:11-15
 2. He became proud. Isa. 14:12-14 cp. Lk. 10:18
 3. He challenged God in his dependent situation under the Creator and desired to be on a plane equal or above his maker.
 4. He led other angels in his rebellion.
- B. Results of the rebellion
1. He was found out by God. Ezek. 28:15
 2. He was cast out from Heaven, along with his cohorts. They are presently inhabiting the atmosphere and environs of our earth. Job. 4:18-19; Jude 6; Ephes. 2:12; 6:12; Jn. 12:31; 14:30.
 3. A place has been prepared for him and all who follow him in rebellion against God. Hell. Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10
 4. He and his followers hate God and all that God loves.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Are angels eternal in the same way that God is eternal?
2. How have there come to be so many angels?
3. What are some characteristics of angels?
4. Where did the devil and demons come from if God created all of the angels good?
5. What has God prepared for the devil and everyone that follows him?

Creation: God Creates the Physical Universe

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 1:1-26

TOPIC OVERVIEW

This is the account of creation from God's perspective. It is clear that God is not attempting to prove either His existence or the validity of the creation account. Throughout the Bible this is the account that is referred to by the prophets, Jesus, as well as his disciples. In the secular realm archeology has confirmed many of the cities and peoples found in the Bible. Rather than disproving the truth of this Book it is instead proving it by many new

discoveries. We have already learned much about the character of God in His eternal existence and the creation of spirit beings, now we will see His character in the creation of the physical universe.

LESSON

I. CREATION: GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

God, Hebrew is “Elohim.”

The name is made up of two parts “*El*”, a designate for God in the Old Testament. The other part of His name here is “*im*” which is a plural marker in the Hebrew language. Elohim is a plural name with a singular meaning. It is a uni-plural noun and tells us something of who it is speaking of. The trinity was involved in creation. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.¹

Created, Hebrew is “*bara*”

God created ex-nihilo, that is made from nothing. This word is only used of the work of God. Only God can create-that is call into existence that which had no existence.

Formless and void

Prior to God’s creative work of differentiation the matter created so far was without form. God’s work now will be to distinguish particular aspects of the creation. Observe how God divides and contrasts in His creation. The prime mover of creation is the Spirit of God. There is only One God but He is a trinity of persons. The word “moving” of Gen.1:2 has been translated in other portions of the Old Testament; to shake or flutter as a hen would brood over her eggs. It denotes a rapid back and forth movement. Scientists tell us that ALL energy is in the form of waves. The Spirit of God was the prime mover in the establishment of these waves.²

THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION

Day 1: Gen. 1:3-5 God created light. How? By speaking. By separation. What did God say of the light He created? It is good. God is the source of goodness.

Day 2: Gen. 1:6-8 God created the sky. Originally there was a layer of water (like our ozone layer now) that was above, a space, and then the waters below. The space we would call the sky. How did God do it? God said, and it was so.

Day 3: Gen. 1:9-13 God created the dry land. Ps. 95:5 tell us again that the sea is His and the dry land was formed by Him. How? By His word. Separation. First He separated the waters from the waters, now He separates the waters from the dry land. It appeared...as the waters were gathered.

God created vegetation. Each species yielded seed after it’s own kind. the vegetation God prepared on earth was self perpetuating. He has never had to create again the vegetation He at first created. what about us and the works of our hands? How did He do it? By His word. What was His pronouncement on what He had done so far? It is good.

Day 4: Gen. 1:14-19 God created the sun, moon and stars. From the vastness of our solar system where our planets revolve around the sun, to the minutest part of matter, the atom, with even smaller particles revolving around the nucleus, the same Creator has left His finger print.

God in creating our universe shows us that He is everywhere present at the same time. We cannot even see to the farthest reaches of our universe. He placed stars throughout. How? By His word. God said, and there was.

When is the last time you have heard of one of our brilliant scientists concocting a sun, or even a star?

Why did God create the sun, moon and stars? Gen. 1:14. For the measurement of time. Are they here one day and gone the next, or are they constant? Sun rise, sunset. Seasons of the year... What does that say about their creator? He is ordered. The laws of

the universe which are constant are the very things modern science depends upon to do their experiments by which they desire to discredit the Creator's existence. He is unchanging.

Day 5: Gen. 1:20-23 God created the water and air creatures. How? By His word. He said, and it was so. the complexity of marine life alone should be enough to point a person to an all-powerful (omnipotent) and all-knowing (omniscient) Creator.

Day 6: Gen. 1:24-26 Notice the term "after their kind" is used again as it was when talking of the vegetation God created. Dogs do not give birth to cats, nor do cows give birth to elephants. Each has been created after it's own kind and it continues to recreate after it's own kind. God is the source of life. He is the source of goodness. God is the source of all things. Gen. 1:26 tell us that we have our source as human beings in God the Creator. How did God create the animals? By His word. He said, and it was so.

SUMMARY

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been **clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made..." "O, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and unfathomable His ways."

There is a continuity and a progressiveness that is traceable. On the first day we see the light divided from the darkness and then morning and evening. There is a flow. On the third day there is the vegetation, but not without the dry land of the previous days creation. Then on the fourth day the calling into existence the sun, moon, and stars. How long could the plants of the third day have survived without the sun of the fourth. God is the God of order. All of creation builds to a climax of the six day, where God finishes with the creation of man. Man is the crown of God's creation and the earth was prepared with man in mind.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What materials did the Creator use to create the world?
2. With whom did He consult regarding the forms and shapes the world and it contents should take?
3. What was God preparing the earth for?
4. Is there anything man can learn about God just from observing the creation.

Note:

For the trinity's involvement in the creation look at;

God Almighty-Gen. 1:1.

The second person of the trinity-Jn. 1:1-3; Ephes. 3:9; Col. 1:16; Heb.1:2.

The Spirit of God moved-Gen. 1:2...cp. Job 26:13.

Lesson #2 - Man

Man: The Crown of God's Creation Part 1

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 1:26; 2:7-25

TOPIC OVERVIEW

"The Bible does not leave an option for man to be any less than the only being created in the image of God. This distinct creation includes man's unique **relationship** to God. Man

is not only God's creation, made in God's image; **man is also God's cherished possession- accountable to his Creator.**"

Man, being created in the image of God, receives incredible privileges from his Creator. But as with all privileges he also receives responsibility. This lesson will teach what the image of God means.

LESSON

MAN RECEIVES GOD'S IMAGE GENESIS 1:26

A. God's image: What it doesn't mean.

1. Not Physical. It cannot be in physical appearance because God does not have a body like we have. He is spirit.
2. God's image is referring to the part which cannot be seen. Man's body was created to be the house of this unseen part. We call it the soul or spirit.
3. Vance Havner has said, "Our eyes do not see, we see with our eyes. Our ears do not hear, we hear with our ears. Our tongues do not speak, we speak with our tongues. There is someone inside there that uses all these gadgets the Almighty has outfitted us with."

B. God's image: What it does mean.

1. Man's mind: Man can know God. God has a mind and the ability to think and plan as displayed in the creation of the physical universe. He created man with the capacity to think so that man could **know** God. Man is able to talk and communicate in the realm of abstractions.
2. Man's will: Man can obey God. God has a will and He clearly evidenced His will through the creation. He chose to create over against choosing not to create. Man is endowed with the capacity to make decisions. Man has the ability to choose between **obeying** God or not.
3. Man's emotions: Man can love and worship God. God has emotion and we were able to witness His dislike and wrath against Lucifer's rebellion. God loves, hates, feels sadness and joy. He has created man with the same capacity. Man can **love** God and with His will chose to **worship** God.

In God's creation of Adam "his reason was subject to God; his will was subject to his reason; and his [emotions] were subject to his will; the body was the obedient organ of the soul." Hodge vl. 2 pg.99

MAN RECEIVES PRIVILEGES

A. Life. Genesis 1:27; 2:7

1. Adam, the name means "man." He was made from the dust of the ground. But even after all the physical components were in place Adam did not have life. God's image was not yet imparted to Adam.
2. God alone put life into Adam. **God is the source of life.**

B. Dwelling place. Genesis 2:8-15

1. The garden of delights. Prepared by God for man. In the garden all man's needs were met. He had food, activity, companionship and fellowship with the Creator.
2. God placed the man in the garden. Notice the sovereignty in this act. He did not consult Adam for his opinion.

C. Work. Genesis 2:15

This labor was not the toil that we know of today. It was the refreshing activity of maintaining his environment.

D. Woman. Genesis 2:18-25

1. God saw Adam's need for a counter part like him. Eve was created **from** Adam and **for** Adam. God showed Adam that in all of creation there was not another that was suitable companion for him. (Gen.2:18 Helpmeet= A helper suitable to Adam.)

2. She was a divine provision. Notice that it was God who made Eve and then brought her to Adam, thus supplying his need. "...the man, the woman, the match, were all God's own work; He, by his power, made them both, and now, by his ordinance, made them one..." (Matthew Henry, Vol.1, pg.20)
3. She was a co-regent with Adam. Read Genesis 1:27-28. There was structure to the relationship but they shared in the responsibilities God gave them.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What great difference was there between the creation of man and the creation of the animals?
2. What does it mean that God created man in His own image?
3. What were some of the privileges that God gave to man?
4. Where did Eden come from?
5. How did man get to the garden of Eden?
6. Why did God create Eve?
7. What were Eve's responsibilities according to Genesis 1:28 and 2:18?

Creation: Man: The Crown of God's Creation Part 2

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 2:7-9,15-17

TOPIC OVERVIEW

God granted some incredible privileges to man. He created him in His own image. He breathed life into man and gave him work to do. Then He gave him the gift of a helper suitable for him. God also prepared a perfect environment for them to live in. But as with all privilege there is the attendant responsibility. God also gave Adam and Eve one injunction which they were to obey or they would suffer the consequences.

LESSON

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHOICE GENESIS 2:7-9

TWO TREES

1. The meaning of the trees is the difference between life and death.
2. Declaring His will God defines right from wrong for man.
3. Man's faculties are strengthened through use. Body through work. Mind through naming the animals. Now his will through exercising it to obey God.

A MATTER OF TRUST

1. The forbidden tree is not intrinsically evil.
2. Knowledge of good and evil depicts knowing the whole moral spectrum. (A phrase like "searching high and low" or "He knows my sitting down and my rising up.")
3. Prohibiting them means God would have supplied this knowledge in another way. Spiritual maturity is being able to discern right from wrong. Heb. 5:14
4. What is forbidden is minimal and what is allowed reaches to the maximum. They have liberty but it is liberty within predetermined confines and not liberty from all confines whatsoever.
5. God desires them to trust Him. To trust that He will continue to give them what they need. He will not withhold good from them.
6. To disobey God's revealed will is called sin. The consequence of sin is death.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OBEDIENCE GENESIS 2:16-17

- A. GOD HAS THE RIGHT TO DEMAND OBEDIENCE

1. By His Creator-ship
 2. By His character of absolute holiness and righteousness.
 3. By His complete knowledge. Adam needed God.
- B. GOD PUNISHES DISOBEDIENCE
1. God is the source of life. He told Adam that to disobey His word would bring death.
 2. Death is separation. Adam would separate himself from God. The punishment for disobeying God's command would be separation from his source of life.
- C. THREE ASPECTS OF DEATH.
1. Separation from ***spiritual life***, ie. God. Spiritual death. Lucifer had already experienced it. What happened there?
 2. Separation from ***physical life***, Adam's soul would separate from his physical body. This aspect of death would not be instantaneous but would culminate at a future time for Adam. A branch broken from a tree looks like it still lives, but it has been separated from its source of life. Soon it will become evident to all that it really is dead even though it looks alive.
 3. Separation from ***eternal life with God***. After Adam's physical death he would continue to be separated from God for eternity. His dwelling place would be the same as the dwelling place God had prepared for Lucifer and all who followed him.

SUMMARY: READ PROV. 1:7, JER. 9:23

"This kind of fear is not the same kind of fear with which we fear evil; rather it is the sense of awe and overwhelming respect that comes from realizing who God is." F.F. pg.166

God alone existed in eternity past and created all things from nothing. He has all power and all knowledge and is everywhere all the time. He created man and made him to be under His sovereign authority. Would it not be foolish to not have a healthy fear and to hold in awe someone like this? **AND YET HE WANTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH US AND WANTS US TO KNOW, LOVE, AND OBEY HIM.**

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Eden means delight. In the garden of delights were there any restrictions? If so what were they?
2. Do you think the prohibition that God placed on Adam and Eve was reasonable? Why?
3. By what right did God give the man a command?
4. What would cause Adam's death?
5. What are three aspects of death?
6. Is it conceivable that we ourselves could presently be experiencing any of these three aspects of death? Which?

Man's Fall: Temptation in the Garden

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 3:1-8

TOPIC OVERVIEW

God prepared the world with man in view. His love is displayed by the special garden He prepared specifically for Adam. Eve was also a special gift from God. In short, God had shown His love and concern for Adam and Eve's well being from the very start. He also warned them about one tree in the garden. He was clear in His will for them not to eat of its fruit as it would result in death. This lesson will look into Adam and Eve's response to God's one injunction and its results.

LESSON**A VISITOR IN THE GARDEN****A. LUCIFER'S PRESENCE**

1. He is an angel and so is unseen by man.
2. He was cast out of heaven and now occupies the atmosphere that surrounds our earth.
3. He hates God and everyone that God loves as well as anything good God desires to do.
4. His position of rule was stripped from him because of his pride and disobedience. Adam had been given a position of dominion over God's creation.
5. Adam had a formidable enemy in Lucifer, as we also do.

B. LUCIFER'S PRESENTATION GENESIS 3:1-6

1. Disguised himself as a snake. Crafty = *shrewd or sly*. His name now is Satan, deceiver. **Hidden, not obvious**
2. He initiates the conversation by posing a question stressing the negative of God's injunction. **Implied injustice**
3. He also injects the thought that Eve may not have heard God correctly. Did she really understand God's Word? **Confusion with God's Word**
4. Then he flatly contradicts God's Word to Eve. **A direct lie**
5. Finally Lucifer openly maligns God's character and explains God is hiding good from them. **Questions God's character**

C. EVE'S RESPONSE TO THE TEMPTATION

1. Feeble attempt to reason with Lucifer. v. 2-3
2. Already perceives God's injunction in a more stringent manner than given. "...or touch it." v.3
3. Reverses the original way of perceiving things in submission to God. Intellect, will, and affections.

PRIOR TO FALL

MIND: In submission to God and His will.

WILL: In submission to the mind.

AFFECTIONS: In submission to the will.

TEMPTATION IN THE GARDEN

AFFECTIONS: Food and delight to the eyes.

MIND: Desirable to make one wise.

WILL: She took and ate and gave it to her husband.

IMMEDIATE RESULT OF ADAM AND EVE'S CHOICE GENESIS 3:7**A. SPIRITUAL DEATH**

1. **Separated from God:** Isa. 59:2 God's Word is true. They experienced separation in their relationship with God, their source of life.
2. **Independent from God:** They did not trust God but instead desired to become independent from God, but instead became slaves of Satan.
3. **Under Satan's rule:** (1 Jn. 5:19; Ephes. 2:2; They were now under new authority by their own choice. Satan is their authority. Satan had become the focus of their trust. They had **believed** the lie and **acted** upon it.

B. THE WHOLE MAN IS AFFECTED. GENESIS 3:7-8

1. **Outwardly:** They became embarrassed of their nakedness. They immediately attempted to provide for themselves rather than depend on God. God

previously provided for all their needs. Now they attempt to provide for themselves.

2. **Inwardly:** They became afraid of God and hid themselves from Him. In their deliberate disobedience of God's Word they turned away from Him.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What was Lucifer's attitude toward the man and why?
2. Lucifer undergoes a name change. What is the new name and its meaning?
3. What are some tactics Satan used in tempting Eve?
4. How did Eve respond to the temptation? Where did she go wrong?
5. What were some immediate results of Adam and Eve's choice?

Man's Fall: Results of the Fall

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 3:8-19

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Today as we look at our world we see a lot of disharmony and sadness. Nation against nation and group against group. On the other hand there are many giving all their energies to the environment. The recent Earth Summit is an example. Their purpose; to save the planet from the abuse of man. On a more personal level, the war of the sexes has reached an all time high. Women against men and men against women, wife battering, sexual harassment and rape in marriage are daily news stories. Where did all this trouble begin? Why do we have this kind of pressure? It did have a beginning and it was not always like this. Our present sad situation is directly related to events that took place in the Garden of Eden.

LESSON

GOD'S CALL TO MAN GENESIS 3:8-13

Adam, where are you? Genesis 3:8-9

Did God not know where Adam was? Yes, He was right there the whole time.

Did God not know what they had done? Yes, He saw them when they sinned.

Why did God call out to them? He desired them to agree with Him that they had sinned. Confession.

Man's response to his problem. Genesis 3:10-13

He hid from God. v.8

He lied to God. v.12

He inferred that God had been unjust. v. 12

He maligned the character of God. v. 12

Compare these traits with Satan's tactics. Adam was already exhibiting the characteristics of his new authority.

GOD'S INTERROGATION AND HIS DECISION GENESIS 3:9-19

God questioned man, his creation.

He created both Adam and Eve, He has the right to question their actions.

“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” Hebrews 4:13

God held Adam and Eve personally responsible.

Even though they had opportunity to confess, they blamed one another and the devil. **NO PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY!**

It did not matter what Adam and Eve thought, said, or did, God held them responsible for their sin.

They did not confess and repent of their sin.

GOD CURSES THE OFFENDERS GENESIS 3:14-19

God curses the serpent and Satan. 3:14-15

1. Satan used the snake and the snake suffered for it.
2. Satan himself is told that the very ones he thought he had won would be his enemies.
3. God predicts Satan’s eventual destruction and states that it will be from the woman’s seed.

God curses the woman. 3:16

1. The blessing bestowed on Eve to be fruitful and multiply is marred by her sin. Now in order to fulfill this command she would experience pain.
2. Tension in the authority-submission relationship. Submissiveness to Adam was part of God’s plan prior to the fall and so it is not the curse here.

“Genesis 3:16 refers to a new desire on the part of the woman to exercise control over her husband-but he will in fact rule or exert authority over her. The result down through the ages has been an ongoing struggle between the sexes-with women seeking control and men ruling instead, often harshly. Before the fall and the curse there was true harmony in the husband-wife relationship, but through the curse anew element of tension and dissension entered into the marriage relationship.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN

God curses the man and the earth. 3:17-19

1. The earth is cursed. To live on the earth now will mean difficult work involving sweat and hurt.
2. A return to the ground from which he was taken. This is the physical aspect of death as a result of Adam’s sin. God’s word is true. What He says will happen, happens.

SUMMARY:

From the garden of delights to an existence of pain, suffering and finally death is a tragedy far beyond words. Adam’s environment in the garden was lacking in nothing, every need that could be imagined was fulfilled by his loving Creator. Yet when Adam had the choice of submitting himself to God or seeking his own gratification, he chose himself over God. This rebellion against God was indeed the beginning of all the turmoil, suffering and pain we still experience today. We have asked, “Where did all this trouble begin? Why do we face these kinds of pressures?” The answer is that our ancestor Adam chose a path of rebellion and disobedience long ago, and we continue to feel the consequences to this day. How would you have chosen?

TOPIC WRAP UP:

1. Why did God seek Adam after he had sinned?
2. Does God’s initiative Adam tell us anything about God?
3. How did they respond to God’s initiative?

4. Who did God hold responsible for the sin?
5. What was God's response to sin in the garden?
6. Why did God curse Adam and Eve?
7. What were the individual curses on Adam, Eve, and the serpent?

Lesson #3 - Understanding the Fall

The Fall: Hidden Blessings

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 3:15,20-24

TOPIC OVERVIEW

When Adam and Eve sinned they immediately discovered their error. We're told that they covered themselves with garments made from leaves. Their attempt to rectify their sin was unacceptable to a holy and righteous Creator. As they receive the consequences for their sins an aspect of God's character is displayed. For even in the punishments there were hidden blessings showing God's grace and mercy.

LESSON

GOD'S GRACE Genesis 3:15

God promises a deliverer.

This context speaks of conflict between the serpent and the woman's seed. We usually speak of the man as the one with the seed. Clearly something different is implied in the use of language here. The woman's seed will be bruised in the "heel", which denotes a non-fatal wound. The serpent on the other hand receives a wound to the head which is fatal. As a serpent may bite a man on his heel, and the man survive, but turn again and crush that serpent's head, so is the promise of a future deliverer seen here. One who will deliver men from the power of Satan.

God again is the initiator.

It is God who introduces the topic of a deliverer to Eve. Right in the midst of this tragedy He allows hope to shine in so that the punishment for her sin does not completely crush her. Punishment there would be, but not despair and hopelessness.

GOD PROVIDES A COVERING FOR MAN. Genesis 3:21

Adam could not make himself acceptable to God.

1. God refused the work of their hands.
2. He has an acceptable way. This is seen by His rejection of Adam's way.

God reiterates that death is the penalty for sin.

1. Adam and Eve died spiritually, God showed them the physical consequence of their sin.
2. God is the one that killed the animal. It's blood was shed. You can't get a skin without blood.
3. God clothed the couple. They received their covering from God alone. They had nothing to do with it.
4. The skins were a reminder of at least three things:
 - Death is the penalty for sin.
 - Man can do nothing of himself to satisfy God.
 - Man needs God to provide for Him.

GOD EXPELS ADAM AND EVE FROM THE GARDEN. GENESIS 3:22-24

Sin causes separation from God

Sin disallowed them from the Tree of Life.

1. A punishment.

Adam and Eve chose not to trust God and disobeyed Him by eating from the forbidden tree. God gave them a choice, a warning and a consequence, but they chose to disobey. One result was that they were now not allowed to eat from the Tree of Life.

2. A blessing.

God did not want them to physically live forever as sinners. The ramifications are incredible. Imagine all of the heinous criminals that ever lived still alive now. So God actually displays His love and mercy by banishing the couple from the Garden and the Tree of Life.

Adam and Eve experienced what separation from God was really like.

1. The Garden of Delights was now closed to them.
2. The Garden had been a protected and prepared place, now they are put outside of that protection to experience the hardness of life.
3. God placed a barrier to re-entering the Garden by placing angels to bar the way. There is no way man can enter the Garden again on his own, he is shut out. To be outside the Garden meant to be separated from the Tree of Life.
4. God is the source of life. Psalms 100:3 “Know ye that the LORD he is God; it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves...”

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What was the hope God held out to Eve even in her tragedy?
2. Had Adam and Eve begged God for help with their problems?
3. Why didn't God accept the leaf coverings they had made?
4. What did God do for their clothing?
5. What are three things that the skin coverings would remind Adam and Eve of?
6. Why did God expel them from the Garden?
7. How was expulsion from the Garden a punishment and a blessing?
8. What would Adam and Eve have to do to get back into the Garden?

Cain and Abel: A Better Sacrifice

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 4:1-24

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Adam and Eve are now outside the Garden and experiencing all of the results of their sin. In this lesson the alienation that they experienced between themselves and with God is continued on in the relationship of brother with brother. Sin has come into the world through one man and death through sin. Now we see death passing on to others from that one sin. Sin is never to be looked upon lightly. We also see in this lesson that there is an acceptable way to approach God and an unacceptable way.

LESSON

CAIN AND ABEL GENESIS 4:1-2

- A. Life outside the garden
 1. Adam and Eve were outside the garden due to their sin.
 2. Their sin had an affect on their children. They were born outside the garden which means they were not able to commune with God as Adam and Eve had.

3. Adam and Eve's sin and its results have affected everyone since. We have all been born outside of the garden. We are all with sin. Sin should never be taken lightly. It always has far reaching effects.
- B. God hates sin and cannot commune with sinful man.
1. In the garden God rejected Adam and Eve's attempt to cover their sin. Yet He Himself provided an acceptable sin covering for them.
 2. God's provision for them included two vital ingredients; First there was blood shed, see Gen. 9:4 and Heb. 9:22. Sin's punishment is always death. Secondly, there was an innocent substitution so the guilty could live.

OFFERING FOR A SIN COVERING. GENESIS 4:3-8

- A. Acceptable and unacceptable offerings.
1. Cain's offering.
 - It was sincere.
 - It cost Cain to bring it.
 - It was a display that Cain wanted to offer a sacrifice to God.
 - It was without blood.
 - It was not in the prescribed way of an innocent for the guilty.
 - It was according to Cain's own reasoning and not God's will.
 - It was rejected as was Cain.
 2. Abel's offering.
 - It was in line with God's revealed will according to God's provision for his parents.
 - It was a blood sacrifice.
 - It was an innocent substitute for himself as a guilty sinner.
 - It showed Abel's faith in God's promised deliverer who would come and deliver men from all their sin.
 - It was accepted by God as was Abel himself.
- B. The way of Cain Genesis 4:5-8
1. Cain's response to God's standard showed his true heart.
 - He became angry.
 - He rejected God's advice.
 - He killed his brother. A better translation of 4:8 is; " Cain said to his brother, Abel let's go out to the field."
 - He tried to hide it from God.
 - He lied to God.

GOD INTERCEDES AND CAIN RESPONDS GENESIS 4:9-24

God as interrogator. 4:9-10

Once again God enters into Cain's life. He questions him as to where Abel might be. This is for the purpose of bringing repentance and confession.

God as judge. 4:11-12

Cain's sin was met by punishment. God is the judge of men, it is Him that every man must answer to.

God as protector. 4:13-24

- Cain's response to God's punishment was complaint.
- Cain even tries to deceive God by sounding spiritual, "...from your face I'll be hidden."
- Yet even here God's grace and mercy are displayed and He makes provision for Cain's protection. God is the only One with power over life and death.
- But Cain finally rejected God completely and turned his back on God. He went from the presence of God.
- Cain started a race of ungodly people who did not follow God.

God as preserver. 4:25-26

1. The two lines are set out. Abel loved and worshipped God. But Cain killed him. Where is the godly line the promised deliverer could come through?
2. Eve claimed God had provided her with another **seed** in place of Abel. Note that it is at this time that men began to call on the name of the Lord. The ungodly line is epitomized in Cain and his decedents, but the godly line is seen in Seth and his decedents.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What did it mean to be outside the garden for Adam and Eve?
2. How did Adam and Eve's sin affect their children?
3. Does their sin affect us today?
4. Why is there a need for a sin covering?
5. What was God's prescription for a sin covering?

(The acceptable sin covering is a blood sacrifice, whereby an innocent animal is sacrificed as a substitute for guilty man in order to cover his sin. Man is then able to commune with his creator based on his faithful obedience to God's will.)

6. What are two vital ingredients God set out as necessary for the sin covering to be acceptable?
7. Why did God reject Cain's offering?
8. What was God's feeling toward Cain as concerning his offering?
9. Why did God accept Abel's offering? Was that fair?
10. What was Cain's response to God accepting Abel and his offering?
11. Did God immediately judge and punish Cain when he brought an unacceptable offering?
12. What was Cain's sin initially and how did it continue to increase?
13. Even after Cain killed his brother did God immediately punish him?
14. What was Cain's Immediate response to God's punishment?
15. What was his ultimate response toward God?
16. How was Eve's hope rekindled?
17. What two lines of people would Cain and Seth be the heads of?

The Flood: Noah, the Ark, and Judgement

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

GENESIS 6:3-23; 7:1-5,11-12,15-18,23-24

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Almost everyone in America has heard of Noah and the ark. Yet few realize the underlying currents that surge through this biblical account of judgment and destruction. God's holiness, that is His sinlessness and purity, cannot permit sin to go unpunished. Noah lived 1500-1600 years from the creation account. There was a large population at the time and the vast majority of people were living in utter abandonment as pertaining to God. Sin will be punished with death. God always keeps His Word. Yet God always provides a way out for those who will believe and obey His will. He reveals His will through His word.

LESSON

WORLD CONDITIONS AT THE TIME OF NOAH 6:3-7,11

The generations of Adam. Genesis 5

1. The godly line from Adam to Noah is listed.
2. There are ten generations from Adam to Noah. Notice the little phrase that is repeated "He died." God's Word is true. He does what He says.
3. Biblical chronology tells us it was approximately 1656 years from Creation to the flood. (Genesis Record pg. 154.)
4. There could have easily been over one million people on the earth by this time.

The sinfulness of man. Genesis 6:3-7,11

1. The earth was corrupt and filled with violence.
2. The minds of people only thought of evil.
3. God gave them 120 years to repent, and turn away from their sin. (see 6:3) But they were rebellious because even though God tried to communicate with them through prophets, preachers of righteousness, (Gen 5:21-24 cp. Jude 14; Gen. 6:8 cp. 2 Pet. 2:5) they ignored them.
4. An adequate description of the people at this time could be; proud, self centered, boastful, wanting what other people had, argumentative, cruel, murders, tricking, lying and lying to and deceiving one another, ruthless in business, gossips and backbiters, totally unrestrained in their sexual passions, enjoying and promoting homo-sexual relationships.

GOD SAW THE SIN AND JUDGED IT. GENESIS 6:5-7,13,17

God is all seeing and all knowing.

1. Even though man did not consider God, He was observing man.
2. How do you think God felt about what He saw? He was angry, but He also was saddened. He was grieved. He regretted having made man. His patience extended for 120 years.

Judgment on man.

1. God is without sin and cannot allow it to go on without punishing it. He pronounced a terrible judgment on the earth and all who lived there. Read 6:7.
2. Genesis 6:13 and 17 give some details as to God's judgment. All flesh would be destroyed, and it would be by a flood of water.
3. Does God make idle threats to man? Can you think of some instances that God has given man a warning and man did not heed it? Did God carry out His word?

NOAH, THE MAN GENESIS 6:8-10***Why did God chose Noah?***

1. Was Noah not a sinner? How do we know he was a sinner? So why was he out of all the others spared? **Grace!**
2. Grace means favour or acceptance.
3. Noah knew he was a sinner and approached God in an acceptable way. (ie. the blood sacrifice) He repented and did not follow the rest of the world. He believed God's revelation of what the acceptable way to come to Him and therefore found favor with God. He did what was right, in all areas, and he followed after God's ways. He was in agreement with God's ways.
4. Grace is God's kindness to undeserving sinners. It is God's way out to sinful man who does not deserve a way out.

GOD WOULD SEND JUDGMENT. GENESIS 6:11-22***God told Noah what He would do.***

1. He would destroy the world with a flood of water.
2. He would save Noah and his family, as well as the animal life on the earth.
3. He would preserve them in an ark.

The ark.

1. God gave very specific instructions to Noah.
2. There is an acceptable way and an unacceptable way in God's dealing with men. Think of the coats of skins, and Abel's offering. The ark was the same. God revealed His will.
3. There was to be one door in the ark. Noah and his family and all the animals that were to be saved had to enter through that single door. There were not multiple entrances.

Noah believed and obeyed. 6:22

1. His faith was evidenced by his obedience.
2. Up till this time there had never been rain on the earth. It was watered by a mist. Gen. 2:6.
3. Noah took God at His Word and acted accordingly.

THE FLOOD GENESIS 7:1-5,11-12,15-18,23-24

- A. Only two types of people; those inside and those outside. Those who believed and those who didn't.
- B. Noah and his family all entered the one door and were safe from God's wrath on sin.
- C. God shut the door. No more opportunity to those outside. 7:16
- D. The water came from "floodgates of the sky," cp. Gen. 1:7.
- E. God destroyed all those outside the ark. 7:23
 1. God did not leave the people before the flood without a chance, there were those who warned.
 2. God's patience extended for 120 years.
 3. The people's rejection of God's grace resulted in their destruction.
 4. It did not matter what they believed, they were all destroyed with everything else outside of the ark.
- F. God saved all life inside the ark.
 1. Only eight people were saved from the wrath of God.
 2. They were not destroyed because:
 - They heard God will through his word.
 - They repented, turned away from their ways and followed God's ways.

- Because they believed God's word it affected their lives. They built the ark, and entered it when God told them to. They were saved.

GOD REMEMBERED NOAH

The end of the flood 8:1-4

1. God kept His word to Noah. He saved them.
2. But His word also was true conversely, all who did not believe perished.
3. The ark rested in the mountains of Ararat, which is in modern day Turkey. There have been many expeditions into these mountains to discover the ark.

Noah goes out from the Ark. 8:14-17

God makes a promise. 8:20-22

God gives a command. 9:1-4

1. Reiteration of the command God gave to Adam and Eve. "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth." **Scatter and fill the earth.**
2. Dominion over the beasts is given to them.

God seals His promise with a sign. 9:8-17

1. The rainbow is the sign of his promise.
2. He has kept His word for thousands of years.

The whole earth was repopulated. 9:18-19; 10

1. Everyone would be decedents of Shem, Ham or Japheth.
2. Genesis 10 gives their genealogies. This is a general breakdown of the nations.
3. Geographically it can "be said that Europe was given to Japheth, Africa to Ham, and Asia to Shem." Scroogie pg.82

THE TOWER OF BABEL

Men planed to rebel against God. 11:1-4

1. They all spoke the same language. v.1
2. They all had one determination. v. 4

God's will versus man's will.

1. God commanded them to scatter and fill the earth. Gen. 9:1
2. Men decided to dwell in one place. Gen. 11:2
3. "Lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Men refused to give God the glory due Him. Isa. 42:8

1. They had knowledge of God through creation and verbal testimony.
2. God's word teaches us that these people were ungrateful to God for life, health, sunshine, rain, and food. They preferred to worship His creation rather than the Creator. They deliberately turned their backs on the truth about God and their minds became more and more evil.
3. Finally they conceived a scheme to overthrow God.
4. These people worshipped idols and false gods. Worship has to do with the giving of thoughts, hearts, resources-even our lives- to serve the object of worship. Worship comes from the word worth. Primitive people center all their time, energies and thoughts on appeasing their gods. What is it that modern man spends his time doing? TIME IS THE PROOF OF INTEREST.

God's response to men's plans. Genesis 11:6-9

1. God saw their intentions.
2. God punished their disobedience and rebellion.
3. God's original intention that people were to populate the whole earth is carried out through divine judgement.

4. The second beginning for man turned out in the same way as the first. Man shows his sinfulness and rebels against God. God shows his power and holiness and judges the sin.

The godly remnant.

1. Each time God's judgement falls, there is a remnant of His truth carried on by someone. He will not leave Himself without a witness.
2. It is a fact that the majority in every generation turn their back on God and chose to suppress the truth of God and refuse to bow the knee to their Creator.

Summary

Much of the biblical account of history reads like today's newspaper. Life patterns are alike. So is God. He has not changed. He cares for each individual, yet He will judge sin. In the midst of trouble He still provides a way out.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. During Noah's time what were people like?
2. Why do you think that people thought about and pursued evil continually?
3. What was God's feelings toward men during Noah's time? Why?
4. Did God warn men that destruction was coming? How?
5. How did God judge sin at the time of Noah?
6. Was Noah a sinner?
7. Why did God decide to save Noah and his family?
8. How did God plan to save Noah and his family?
9. What was Noah's responsibility in this plan?
10. How long was God patient with the people?
11. How many doors were in the ark?
12. How many people died in the flood?
13. What promise did God make after the flood? Sign of promise? What command did God give to Noah and sons?
14. Did the generations after the flood know about God? How?
15. How did they respond to God and His will to fill the earth?
16. Why did they want to build the tower? How were they able to undertake such a task?
17. What was God's response and how did it see His will carried out?
18. List any patterns you have noted in the biblical accounts of God and His dealing with man. Man and his response to God. Satan and how he works in the affairs of men.

Lesson #4 - The Faithful Fathers

Abraham: His Call and Commission

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

GENESIS 11:27-32; 12:1-5; 13:5-13

TOPIC OVERVIEW

We have witnessed God's work with man from the creation to the flood. In each story we have noted various character traits of God, man and the devil. God, ever since the fall, has desired to redeem man back to Himself. At that time, Gen. 3, He promised a deliverer that would rescue man from the awful situation of his own sin and rebellion. Initially God worked with individuals in carrying out His plan. He now begins a new phase. Now he will select a nation, through which His divine plan can be carried out. The father of that nation is Abraham.

LESSON

INTRODUCTION

Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth. Of these three Shem stands out as the one whom God specifically blessed (Gen. 9:26). One of Shem's decedents was named Abram (Gen. 11:10-26). Abram lived after the flood in the vicinity where the tower of Babel was begun. He came from an area known as Ur of the Chaldees. Over 10,000 tablets from this area have been unearthed and studied by archaeologists. The society that Abram came from, although pagan and idolatrous, was highly developed. Many schools were teaching their students the finer points of grammar, as well as diction. Multiplication and division tables and more advanced studies of square and cube roots, with lessons in practical geometry have been discovered by archaeologists. Abram was no doubt familiar with the "Laws of Hammurapi." These laws covered areas such as property rights, commercial law, marriage, adoption, slaves, and rates and wages for services rendered. The time frame is 2000 + years B.C. Abram was an educated man from an advanced civilization.

ABRAM, WHO IS HE? GENESIS 11:27-32

A descendant of Shem.

The son of Terah.

The husband of Sarai.

Sarai was barren. In that culture barrenness was a disgrace.

The uncle of Lot.

A believer in the promises of God.

THE CALL OF ABRAM BY GOD. GENESIS 12:1-3

God called Abram

1. While he was still in Ur. Acts 7:2-3
2. The people of Ur as well as Terah worshiped idols, Joshua 24:2.
3. God did not forget His promise to deliver men by a deliverer. He chose Abram to use in His plan of deliverance.
4. Terah's move to Haran and desire to go to Canaan, 11:31, is not explained in scripture.

God's call.

1. He spoke directly to Abram.
2. He no longer speaks directly to man because we have His word to us in the Bible.

WHAT GOD SAID...**The command. Go forth from...to...**

1. Abram was told to leave his country, home and relatives.
2. He was to go to a land that God would show him. At the time of his call he did not know where that was. Heb. 11:8

The promise.

1. **A LAND.** Gen. 12:1 The land he did not know would be given to him by God. Gen. 15:7
2. **A NATION.** Gen. 12:2 God's channel of redemption will be through this nation of whom Abram is the father. At this time Abram had no children.
3. **A BLESSING.** Gen. 12:3 Through Abram and his descendants **all the families (nations) of the earth shall be blessed.** This is the promise to Eve reiterated. The promised deliverer will come through Abram's line. The deliverer would be for all nations and not just Abram's nation.

ABRAM BELIEVED GOD. GENESIS 12:4-5**Faith precedes obedience.**

1. Abel believed God and offered an acceptable sacrifice.
2. Noah believed God and built the ark through which he was saved.
3. Abram believed God and left his home and family, not knowing where he was going. He believed God's word.
4. Faith is never passive. Faith is seen by obedience.

Faith does not look at the natural.

1. Abram was 75 years old.
2. Sarai was barren.
3. Abram was wealthy and settled.
4. Naturally speaking it didn't make sense.

IN THE LAND. GENESIS 13:1-13**Abram and nephew Lot. Gen.13:1-7**

1. Exceedingly wealthy. Many flocks and lots of money.
2. God's blessing was already being shown...flocks too large to live together.

Abram's solution. Gen. 13:8-9

1. Abram, as the older had the right of choice.
2. He gave Lot his own choice.

Lot's choice. Gen. 13:10-13

1. Lot was thinking only of himself and his profit.
2. Lot did not consult God for direction.
3. Lot would have his riches, but he left God out of his thinking. "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world if he should lose his own soul?"
4. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were sinful beyond belief.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. How did God continue His plan to send a deliverer after the confusion of languages at Babel?
2. What did God **command** Abram to do?
3. What three things did God **promise** Abram?
4. How did Abram respond?
5. What precedes obedience?

6. What is the evidence of faith?
7. How did Abram exhibit faith by his response?
8. Why did Abram and Lot separate from each other?
9. What were Lot's main concerns in his choice?
10. Was Lot's choice unwise? Why?
11. Give at least two examples of others who made unwise choices and how they are similar to Lot's choice.
12. Where did Lot decide to move to?
13. What were the inhabitants of the two cities like?

Two Cities: God Judges Sin, Sodom & Gomorrah

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

GENESIS 13:14-17; 15:1-6; 17:1-5,15-21; 18; 19:1-26

TOPIC OVERVIEW

The story of Abraham continues with his life in Canaan. God visited Abraham at strategic times to reaffirm His promise to Abraham. Abraham exhibited all the human frailties we have but he did believe God. Because Abraham **believed** God, God counted that to him for righteousness. Lot enters into the picture also, but it is really Abraham's story. Once again the theme that God judges sin is repeated in all of its awful force as we look at the story of Sodom and Gomorrah.

LESSON

NOTE: This whole section should be handled like a narrative. Become familiar with the story and the chronology and then just tell it. Use the scripture portion as a part of the story. Use the lesson outline as a checklist to make sure you have covered the high points in Abram's life in Canaan. This narrative will cover approximately 25 years.

ABRAM IN THE LAND

- A. Abram after Lot leaves. Gen. 13:14-17
 - God comforts Abram by repeating His promise to make him a nation.
 - Some time later Abram is told that there was an attack on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot was taken captive. Abram rescued Lot from that problem. See Gen. 14.
- B. Abram believes God. Gen. 15:1-6
 - Abram was a man just like us. He wondered at God's promise. But God repeated His promise to Abram.
 - v. 6 Even though God's promise seemed impossible **Abram believed God.**
- C. God counted Abram righteous. Gen. 15:6
 - God is the essence and source of holiness.
 - Since the Adam's sin in the garden every person born is sinful and cannot have a relationship with God because of their sin.
 - The separation between Abram and God was made right by God. Abram agreed with God that He was sinful and needed God's intervention to be right with Him. Even though God's promise seemed impossible Abram believed God.
 - The sin in the garden was rebellion and unbelief, faith and trust in God and His nature is the correction of that error. God had made provision of the sin covering for those who believed Him. They believed He would send a deliverer

and obeyed God's word because they believed. God is trustworthy and accepted them because of their belief. Abel believed God, Noah believed God and now Abram believes God. The death of an innocent in the place of the guilty points to the promised deliverer. All who believe God and agree with Him can be right with Him again.

D. Name changes. Gen. 17:1-5; 15-21

- Gen. 15:13-16 After God reassured Abram of his future status He told him that his decedents would be enslaved for four hundred years. God knows the future.
- Gen. 16 covers Abram's lapse where he follows the advice of his wife and attempts on his own to get the heir God promised to him. It is not necessary to dwell on this now.
- Gen. 17:1-5. God again comes to Abram (13 yrs. later) to reassure him that he would indeed have a child and it would be his and from Sarai. He reveals Himself in His name to Abram as ***El Shaddai = the mighty God***. God changes Abram's name to Abraham as a reminder of His promise. ***Abram = exalted father; Abraham = father of a multitude***. He is now 99 years old and well past his child producing time.
- Gen. 17:15-21 In the same way God changes Sarai's name to Sarah. ***Sarai = princely; Sarah = princess or fruitful***.
- ***Isaac = laughter***. God is sending signals through the names.
- Isaac is the promised seed and continues the hope of God's promise to Eve. God's covenant made with Abraham will be passed on to Isaac.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH.

A. God visits Abraham and Sarah. Genesis 18

- Gen. 18:1-15 cover Abraham's meeting with angels from the Lord and Sarah's inclusion into the message of the promised Isaac. v. 14 **"Is anything too difficult for the Lord?"**
- Gen. 18:16-33 show the Lord and Abraham reasoning together about the fate of the two cities. 18:20-21 are key in seeing God's concern for their sinfulness.

B. Angels visit Sodom. Genesis 19:1-11

- The perverseness of the Sodomites is displayed in their welcome of guests.
- The sins of Sodom are still reminiscent by our term Sodomy. But it was not only for the sin of homosexuality that Sodom was destroyed. Ezekiel 16:49-50 list gluttony, pride, and indifference, along with a lack of concern for the poor, to be the sins of Sodom.
- Even Lot, who God calls righteous, and says that his soul was oppressed by the sins of Sodom 2 Pet. 2:6-8, was tainted by his association with those vile people, 19:8.

C. The rescue is proposed. Genesis 19:12-14

- Lot tried to warn his sons-in-law, but, to those perishing, the word of God seems foolish. 1 Cor. 2:14

D. The rescue is made. Genesis 19:15-22

- Observe God's tender care over His own. Even when Lot lingers the angels literally grab Him by the hand and lead him away from the destruction.
- God's Word is heard again through the angels. "Do not look behind you!" It is clear, and it is emphatic.

E. Judgement falls. Genesis 19:23-26

- God's word is true. He does what He says He will do. Judgement fell just as He said it would.

- God's word is true. Of the four God was rescuing from Sodom only three made it. Why? Lot's wife did not believe God and she perished.
- F. God remembered Abraham. Genesis 19:27-29
- In the beginning of this lesson we said that this was to be the continuing story of Abraham. Even though Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah come into it, the story really belongs to Abraham, as it is only Abraham that God is focusing on. The promise was made to Abraham. But it will pass on to Isaac.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What are the three points to God's promise to Abraham?
2. What does the word righteousness mean, as in Gen. 15:6?
3. What new names are introduced this time? Meanings?
4. What does the destruction of the two cities teach us?
5. Were the sins of Sodom unique to that time only?

Isaac: His Word is Truth

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

GENESIS 21:1-3; 22:1-19; ROMANS 4:17-22

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Abraham has left all that he knew and was dear to him to obey God in faith. He has discovered through twenty five years of experience that God is faithful and His word is true. He has been granted innumerable blessings and he has seen the land God promised to him. But what of the heir of these promises? What of the promised one he and Sarah have been waiting and trusting God for. Now that they are aged and beyond their own abilities to produce children God will show them that indeed there is *nothing* too hard for Him. But God continues His revelation of Himself to Abraham and us through His dealings in Abraham's life. Remember this is His-story. God is the main character and He is about to reveal His marvelous faithfulness in a way no human could ever have dreamt of.

LESSON

HE DID AS HE HAD PROMISED GENESIS 21:1-3

- A. God is not a man that he should lie.
1. God is the source of truth.
 2. He promised Abraham a son and He gave him a son. His word is true.
 3. God can be counted upon to be true.
 - Don't eat or you'll die.
 - If you do right you'll be accepted.
 - My Spirit will not strive with man forever...
 - I will send a flood.
 - Scatter throughout the earth and multiply in it.
 - Go to a land I will show you.
 - Do not look behind you...
 - One who will come from your own body will be your heir.

- B. God is almighty.
1. Both Abraham and Sarah are beyond childbearing age.
 2. Abraham believed God's word and trusted His character. Read Romans 4:17-22 only.
 3. There is nothing beyond God's power to perform. ***He is the source of life.*** Psalms 115:3; Jeremiah 32:17; Acts 17:24-25

GOD'S COMMAND, ABRAHAM'S RESPONSE. GENESIS 22:1-8

- A. God tells Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Gen. 22:1-2
1. Isaac was now at least a teen. (Gen. 22:5, the word for "**lad**" is the same as the term "**young men**" in the rest of the passage.)
 2. Abraham was well over 100 years old. He had enjoyed God's answered promise for years.
 3. Sacrifice Isaac. Was Abraham familiar with sacrifices? What was involved with sacrifices? Did God really mean he should kill Isaac?
- B. Abraham obeys God. Gen. 22:3
1. Abraham rose early in the morning... Had he been out looking at the stars when God spoke to him?
 2. Obedience does not linger.
 3. He prepared for a burnt offering. A burnt offering was one later formalized under Moses, that was utterly consumed.
- C. ABRAHAM'S UNWAVERING FAITH Gen. 22:4-8
1. Abraham's unwavering faith in God's promise is seen in v. 5. ...and **we** will worship **and RETURN to you**.
 2. He again displays his faith in answering Isaac's question, v.8. Abraham believed God would undertake.
- D. Isaac's submissiveness and helplessness. Gen. 22:9-10
1. Isaac was not just a little boy. He submitted to Abraham's authority.
 2. Abraham bound Isaac and there was no way Isaac could deliver himself from sure death. He was helpless.

GOD'S PROVISION OF A SUBSTITUTE FOR ISAAC. GENESIS 22:11-19

- A. Isaac's replacement from God. Gen. 22:11-13
1. Had God not intervened Isaac would have died.
 - Adam and Eve would have lived forever in sin.
 - Noah would have perished with the rest.
 - Lot would have never escaped.
 2. God provided an unblemished lamb.
 3. The lamb died and Isaac lived. ***The lamb died in Isaac's place.***
- B. God commended Abraham. Gen. 22:12
- C. Abraham gives God a name. Gen. 22:14
- Jehovah Jireh. The Lord will provide.
- D. God repeats His promise to Abraham. Gen. 22:15-19
1. Your descendents will be like the stars of heaven and the sand of the seashore...
 2. In your descendent all the nations of the earth will be blessed.
 3. Faith preceded obedience, but Abraham's obedience was the fruit of his faith.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. How long had Abraham waited for Isaac?
2. Was there any way Abraham and Sarah could have connived to have Isaac themselves? Why?
3. What was so difficult about God's new command to Abraham?
4. How long did Abraham contemplate his response to God?
5. How could Abraham even consider doing what God requested?
6. What right did God have to ask Abraham to do such a thing?
7. How did Abraham give a hint of his faith in his conversation with his servants?
8. When Isaac asked where the sacrifice was how did Abraham respond?
9. How could Abraham bind Isaac and put him on the altar?
10. Was there any alternatives to Isaac once bound and on the altar but to die?
11. What did Isaac need to survive?
12. What role did the ram play in Isaac's deliverance?
13. What new name do we know God by thanks to this story?

Jacob, Esau and Joseph: God's Choice**REVIEW****SELECT VERSES**

GENESIS 25:5-8,19-34; 28:10-17; 37:1-36

TOPIC OVERVIEW

God continues to follow His plan to send the Deliverer. He at first promised Eve, but we have traced the promise all the way to Abraham. Now Abraham grows old and dies, but the promise is passed down to Isaac. Isaac in turn has his children and we are able to see God's plan continue to unfold. God's choices become very clear as we look at them across the generations. We begin to see that He really is following a set way and that it is His way. But man makes his own choices as well. Some are good and others are tragically wrong. Yet through it all **GOD'S WAY** is clear.

LESSON**THE PROMISE PASSES TO ISAAC GENESIS 25:5-8;19-34**

- A. Abraham dies. Gen. 25:5-8
 1. The birthright went to Isaac.
 2. The promise of God was part of the birthright and went with the inheritance.
 3. Abraham separated Isaac from his other children that were not born of Sarah.
 4. Abraham died.
- B. Isaac marries. Gen. 25:19-21
 1. In order for the promise of a deliverer to come through Isaac he had to be married and have children.
 2. Rebekah was barren. God's plan for a deliverer was in jeopardy.
 3. What was Isaac's response to this problem? Was there a sin barrier between he and God? Why not?
 4. God responded to Isaac's prayer by opening the womb of Rebekah. He is the source of life. Isaac maybe heard that from Abraham???
- C. Rebekah. Gen. 25:22-26
 1. When confronted with a difficulty how did Rebekah handle it? She prayed, where was the sin barrier between her and God?

2. God knew who was in Rebekah's womb. When does life begin?
 3. God predicted the older would serve the younger. Against culture, but God's plan was set before the foundation of the world.
 4. From the womb there was conflict between these two boys. Esau means red, and Jacob means heel grabber, or supplanter.
- D. Jacob and Esau. Gen. 25:27-34
1. The boys grew up to be complete opposites.
 2. Jacob's nature is described as peaceful or complete, vs. 27. Esau is wild and unruly.
 3. Esau did not care about the things of God but was more concerned about his own selfish needs. He willingly gave up his birthright for a morsel of food.
 4. Esau did not think of the future but only of the immediate. Jacob was thinking of the future and all that the birthright meant.
 5. God's plan begins to unfold. The younger now has the birthright which contains the promise that the Deliverer would come through his descendants, not the elder son. **(Read Gen. 28:1-4)** God's word is true. What He says does happen.
 6. Unfortunately this arrangement soured the brother's relationship so much that Jacob fled. Fearing for his life he goes to Mesopotamia and finds his wife.
- E. Jacob's dream. Gen. 28:10-17
1. On his journey to Mesopotamia Jacob meets God.
 2. Gen. 28:12 Jacob dreams of God's ladder bridging the gap between Himself and man.
 - There is a gap between man and God. We are separated from God. Why?
 - Only God could provide a means to bridge this barrier.
 - God is showing Jacob that the deliverer that will come from His descendants will be the One that will bridge the barrier between God and man.
 - First promised to Eve God continues to remember His plan to send the deliverer. Ps. 33:11
 3. Gen. 28:13-17 Jacob hears God reaffirm that the promises to Abraham have come down to him through his father Isaac. The Deliverer will come.
 4. Jacob now has a clearer understanding of God's plan for him. Now God is truly the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 5. Jacob went to Mesopotamia and married there. He had twelve sons. These twelve sons are very important to God's plan to send His promised one. From these twelve sons the **"nation of Israel"** will be built. The 12 are named; Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin. (Gen. 35:23 ff. In order of age.)

JOSEPH GENESIS 37:1-36

- A. Joseph the favored. Gen. 37:1-4
1. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons.
 2. Varicolored tunic = full length robe. Not suited to labor. Jacob was elevating Joseph above all the other boys in the family.
 3. Joseph's brother's hated him terribly.
- B. Joseph's dream. Gen. 37:5-11
1. First he dreamt that he's rule over his brethren. They were in shock to hear it.
 2. Then he dreamt that the whole family including his mother and father would be under him.

3. God was using dreams to predict what He would do in Joseph's family. Now God has given us His plan in the Bible. It is His word and it is true. He need not use dreams any longer.
- C. Joseph's brothers finally triumph. Gen. 37:12-28
1. Gen. 37:12-17 Joseph is sent by Jacob to report on his brothers.
 2. Gen. 37:18-24 Joseph's brothers hate him so much they want to kill him. But God plans to use Joseph in a great way. Why was Reuben more concerned for Joseph than the others? He was the eldest.
 3. Gen. 37:25-28 Joseph's brothers sold him. Even though he had done nothing to them they sold him to some traveling merchants heading to Egypt.

D. Jacob mourns Joseph. Gen. 37:29-36

1. Joseph's brothers have to continue their evil. Once their hate exposed itself in action they are forced to continue their deceit even with their own father.
2. As Jacob is mourning the loss of his son, Joseph is being sold once again. This time he is sold into the household of an officer of Pharaoh.
3. What had Joseph done wrong? Do you think his dreams have any chance of coming true now? Did his brothers really triumph over him?

Joseph: Down into Egypt

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

GENESIS 39:1-23; 40:1-23; 41:1-16,37-40; 42:1-7; 45:1-11; 46:26-27; 50:20

TOPIC OVERVIEW

This is the continuation and completion of the story of how Jacob, now renamed Israel, ends up in Egypt. His son Joseph plays a major role in it. God and His sovereign plan are interwoven throughout and give us a behind the scenes glimpse as to how God uses even the profane in bringing about His plan. The work of men will never hinder the will of God.

LESSON

FAITH IN SPITE OF CIRCUMSTANCES GENESIS 39:1-23; 40:1-23

Hated and sold by his brothers, yet protected by God and honored by his master. 39:1-6

Falsely accused, Joseph goes to prison. 39:7-19

1. What of Joseph's dreams now.
2. Has God abandoned Joseph just as other men had?

Protected by God and honored by his master. 39:20-23

Joseph the dreamer interprets dreams. (Paraphrase 40:1-23 for students.)

1. God had a plan for Joseph's life.
2. Joseph didn't know what it was but He trusted God and acted in faith daily.
3. Meanwhile God's plan unrolled in Joseph's life.
4. Joseph did not abandon his faith in times of crisis, and God did not abandon Joseph just because he was experiencing troubles.
5. It is impossible to please God without faith.

GOD SUPREME WORKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. GENESIS 41:1-16

Pharaoh: The King of Egypt

1. The Egyptians did not believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
2. The Egyptians worshipped the sun, moon and stars. They worshipped the Nile river and the frogs and other animals in it. They also worshipped Pharaoh, their King as God.

God uses even the profane in His purposes.

1. God is the source of all life. He is the creator of all humanity, therefore He is over all human kind.
2. Psalm 115:3 "God is in heaven and He does whatever He pleases."
3. God's purpose will be carried out by the Pharaoh of Egypt and the Egyptians.

Joseph abandoned himself to God.

1. Joseph did no wrong and yet his brothers hated him and sold him. But God did not forget Joseph and he excelled in Potiphar's house.
2. Joseph did no wrong and yet Potiphar's wife falsely accused him and got him thrown into Prison. But God did not forget Joseph and the jail master honored him.
3. Joseph did no wrong and yet those whom he had helped forget about him and abandoned him. But God did not forget Joseph. He brought Joseph to the cupbearers mind.

Joseph's honest view of himself and his high view of God. 41:15-16

1. Even when his opportunity to shine arrives, Joseph humbled himself and gave God the credit for his dream interpreting skills.
2. (*Paraphrase the account of the Pharaoh's dreams and his frustration in trying to understand their meaning.*) 7 cows and 7 ears of grain. Pharaoh dream is interpreted as meaning that there would come seven good years and then seven bad years.
3. Joseph advised storing up food from the seven productive years and selling it during the seven years of famine. He also advised Pharaoh to find a wise man to do this for the king.

Joseph is exalted by Pharaoh. 41:37-40

1. Pharaoh chooses Joseph to be the one who'll prepare for the coming 7 year famine.
2. 13 years after his dreams of ruling over his family Joseph is elevated to a position comparable to vice president of Egypt.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS COME TO EGYPT. GENESIS 42:1-8; 45:1-8

True to the interpretation of the Pharaoh's dreams there were 7 productive years followed by 7 years of famine. The famine was not just in Egypt but it spread all the way into the land of Canaan where Jacob and Joseph's brothers lived.

Jacob/Israel sends the brothers to Egypt for food. 42:1-5***Joseph's dreams come true. 42:6-7***

1. God's plan will not be derailed. His Word is true even when communicated by dreams. How does God communicate with men today?
2. Joseph's brothers literally bow down to Joseph.

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers. Gen. 45:1-4

After some intrigue through which Joseph tests the hearts of his brothers and discovers that his father and younger brother Benjamin are alive Joseph reveals himself.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. 45:5-8**ISRAEL GOES DOWN INTO EGYPT. 45:9-11; 46:26-27; 50:20*****God's word is true, Israel is now in Egypt. (cp. Gen. 15:3)******All of Israel at this time consists of 70 souls. 46:26-27******Jacob/Israel dies, the brothers become afraid.******Joseph teaches them again about the sovereignty of God. 50:20***

The work of man will not affect the will of God.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What difference was there between Isaac's two sons?
2. What was God communicating to Jacob in his dream of the ladder?
3. What did Joseph dream and tell his father and brothers?
4. Who knew what was in the future for Joseph and showed him?
5. How did Joseph's brothers think they'd triumphed over Joseph?
6. What pattern becomes very clear in Joseph's life?
7. How did Joseph become second in command in Egypt?
8. Why did God take care of Joseph?
9. Should circumstances affect the faith of a person? Why or why not?
10. What prophecy was beginning to be fulfilled when all of Israel moved down to Egypt?

Lesson #5 - Out of Egypt

A Deliverer

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

EXODUS 1:6-22; 2:1-25; 3:1-22; 4:10-20, 27-27

TOPIC OVERVIEW

This is the story of Moses. Most everyone has heard of Moses and the ten commandments, but few are aware of the details. In this lesson we are able to once again see God reveal Himself to man. Also we can see God pursuing His plan as He preserves and protects the nation He is building.

LESSON

ISRAEL IN EGYPT EXODUS 1:6-22

God's blessing on Israel vs. 6-7

Time span is approx. 350 years after Joseph.

Israel favored for a time in Egypt.

1. Initially the Pharaohs after Joseph's time honored and helped the Israelites.
2. God's promise to Abraham that he would become a great nation is coming true.

Behind the scenes vs. 8-11

1. A new Pharaoh who did not know of Joseph is in power.
2. He feared the Israelites.
3. He abused the Israelites.
4. But God protected them. No one can ruin His plan.
5. Is there more to this proposed destruction of Israel than the fear of a Pharaoh?
6. If Israel is destroyed as a people what would become of the promised deliverer?

Kill the babies vs. 12-21

1. Another attempt is made on the Israelite nation.
2. God protects the nation again.

MOSES EXODUS 1:21; 2:1-25

Another attempt is made on the nation of Israel. Ex.1:21

With this third attack on the nation clearly something more than anti-semitism is involved. Satan does not want this nation to succeed.

Moses birth. Ex. 2:1-10

1. Hidden by his parents.
2. Discovered by Pharaoh daughter. Name: Moses = "To draw out."
3. Nurtured by his enemies. Look at the irony here, God even allows Moses mother to nurse him, and pays her to do it.
4. God can take the most horrendous situation and convert it to suit his purpose. He is over all.

God the only true deliverer. Ex. 11-23

1. Moses saw the Israelite's need and wanted to deliver them from their bondage.
2. Moses did not include God in his attempt to deliver them. He did not trust God to help him.
3. Moses failed miserably. He ended up fleeing for his life.
4. Does personal character have anything to do with public office? The Israelites thought so. Ex.2: 13-14

Deliverers! Who needs them?

1. Just as the Israelites were captive to wicked powers that would not release them, so is man held captive by Satan.
2. Everyone born outside the garden is born separated from God and under the dominion of Satan. 1 Jn. 5:19.
3. Just as Moses was unable to deliver the Israelites from their bondage on his own, so we are unable to free ourselves from our bondage on our own. As long as Moses left God out of the picture he was doomed for failure. Deliverance had to come from God.

GOD COMMUNICATES WITH MOSES. EXODUS 3:1-14***The burning bush. Ex. 3:1-3***

1. Burning, yet not consumed.
2. God preserved the bush in the midst of the fire.
3. God uses this illustration to teach Moses that He will also preserve Israel in the midst of her troubles.
4. Nobody can ruin God's plan, not Satan, Pharaoh or anyone else. He will fulfill His word.

Holiness/separation/difference. Ex. 3:4-12

1. Previously we have defined holiness as purity. Purity from sin and defilement. There is another area of meaning however, and that is separation. Holiness means to be distinct from the profane. Holiness is to be separate from the mundane.
2. Moses was to remove his sandals because the ground he was standing on was separate and distinct from the other common ground surrounding it. **What made it so different was God's presence.**
3. God identified Himself with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
4. 3:7-10 God reveals His plan to Moses.
5. Moses finally discovers who he is before Almighty God. He feels he would be totally inadequate to do anything for God. vs. 11
6. God tells Moses the secret of success. **"I will be with you." vs.12**

I am who I am.

1. God is complete in Himself and reveals this in the name He tells Moses.
2. Who could ever stand against God when He is the sum total of all that there is? Hebrews 11:6 is the only response we can have. **"He is!"**

GOD OUTLINES HIS PLAN TO MOSES. EXODUS 3:15-22***The whole story is summed up in these verses.***

1. God shows that He already knows the hearts and responses of the Israelites and even of Pharaoh **BEFORE** Moses even confronts them.
2. Compare Psalms 139 and Hebrews 4:13

God gives Moses a helper. Ex. 4:10-17***Moses returns to Egypt. Ex. 4:18-20, 27-31***

1. Moses and Aaron link up.
2. The Israelites are ready to follow.
3. The stage is set for the next act in God's divine plan.

God vs. Pharaoh: The Passover

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

EXODUS 5:1-2; 6:1-8; 7:4-5; 8:22-23; 12:1-7,12-14,22,28-30

TOPIC OVERVIEW

With Abraham God began a new aspect in the *“Unfolding Drama of Redemption.”* God called Abraham to become the father of a nation. That nation is the nation of Israel and it was God’s intent to use that nation to reveal Himself, His plan of redemption, as well as the long promised deliverer. Now Israel is in Egypt, enslaved and oppressed by the king. But God still desires to use Israel as the channel through which the promised deliverer will come. Observe how God, the Almighty One, uses men and nations in carrying out His will.

LESSON

MOSES AND PHARAOH

- A. The Challenge Ex. 5:1-2
 1. “Thus says the Lord”...He declares Himself to the King.
 2. “The God of Israel”...He separates Israel from Egypt in their allegiance. The king was familiar with gods, even to thinking of himself as one.
 3. “Let My people go”...He confronts the king with the main issue. They are not yours, but mine.
 4. Read Ex. 7:4-5 All of Egypt would know the God of Israel. To attempt to fight against God is absurd. He will neither win nor escape judgement.
- B. The war. Exodus 7:14-10:29 (Read on their own)
 1. When Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go, (Ex. 5:2) God began to deal with Egypt and their god/king.
 2. God would send nine plagues upon Egypt. “These plagues were something more than devices to reduce Pharaoh’s power of resistance; they were attacks upon the religion of the Egyptians, and upon their many gods.” See the chart. Scroggie pg.144
 3. There is a distinct pattern that develops with each of the plagues God sends on the Egyptians.
 - a. Moses warns Pharaoh, Pharaoh rejects the warning.
 - b. The judgement falls and Pharaoh begs Moses to have God remove it stating he now will agree with God and obey His will.
 - c. When God shows mercy and removes the plague Pharaoh immediately returns to his former position and hardens himself against God.
- C. The decisive stroke. Exodus 11:1,4-7
 1. The final plaque God sent on Egypt was the destruction of the first born in all of Egypt.
 2. God is longsuffering. He is patient. But as in the days of Noah and in the time of Lot there is a limit to His patience. A time when He lets the just judgement fall. Pharaoh had rebelled against God far too long.
 3. This last plaque was decisive in that it would kill the heir apparent. Pharaoh was thought of and worshipped as a god. God clearly states in this act of judgement that there is no god but Jehovah, the God of Israel.

GOD AND ISRAEL

- A. God declares Himself to Israel Ex. 6:1-8
 1. “I am the Lord”...He declares Himself as their master.
 2. Yahweh = To be. God declares Himself to Israel now as He had to Moses as “I AM!”

3. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...God reveals Himself as the God of their fathers.
 4. "My covenant"...He declares Himself to be the covenant God and thereby links Himself directly to all the promises given to Abraham and especially the promise of a Deliverer.
- B. Israel was protected throughout the war. Ex. 8:22-23
1. God pronounced Israel separate from the Egyptians based on their relationship to Him.
 2. The plagues would not touch the Israelites. See Ex. 9:4,6,26; 10:23; 11:7
 3. Israel is *holy*. They are set apart as belonging to Yahweh. No one can harm them or hold them. They will be free by virtue of their relationship with God.

THE PASSOVER LAMB...DESTRUCTION OR DELIVERANCE

- A. Deliverance. Ex.12:1-7,12-14,22
1. God's final act of judgement is about to fall on Pharaoh and the Egyptians, death. But He has prepared a deliverance for His own.
 2. His instructions are explicit:
 - Take a lamb, a male, unblemished, kill it, use the blood of the lamb as a sign on the door of their homes.
 3. The blood of the lamb will be a sign. Death will passover them. ***THEY WILL ESCAPE THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB.***
- B. Faith precedes obedience. Ex.12:28
1. God provided the way of deliverance for the Israelites. He clearly laid out what they had to do. All that remained was for them to act upon God's way of deliverance.
 2. Remember: Cain and Abel, Noah, Lot, all of these examples show God in His mercy warning and providing a way out. But without faith it is impossible to please God. Obedience is the proof of the faith which precedes it.
 3. What if an Israelite said, "I believe that God wants us to do what Moses said, but I'm just going to tie up my lamb and lay him on the steps. Why kill a perfectly good lamb?" Would that person be passed over?
- C. Destruction. Ex. 12:29-30
1. God does not lie. His word is true. He had warned Pharaoh, and He had shown throughout nine previous plagues His word is true. Read Ex.12:29-30.
 2. God always punishes sin. There was no way of escape except God's way.
 3. The Egyptians did not believe God and therefore they did not obey Him, resulting in their judgement.
- D. Deliverance Ex. 12:31-36
1. God's word is true. He delivered the Israelites from destruction, but He also would deliver them from bondage. cp. Gen 15:13-16.
 2. Read Ex. 12:31-36 Finally God's full deliverance came to the Israelites. Just as He foretold Abraham hundreds of years before.
 3. God is the same today as He was then. He is the great "I AM" and He does not change. He still requires us to believe Him and to obey Him. He still judges sin. He still keeps His promises. God will destroy all who fight against Him, but He will rescue all those who trust and obey Him.

The Red Sea: Deliverance and Provision

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34:4-9; Joshua 1:1,2; 11:23; Judges 2:1-19

TOPIC OVERVIEW

All those who had failed to believe that God would give them the land of Canaan were now dead. The time had come for God's people to enter the Promised Land. God was fulfilling His promise to Abraham that his offspring would possess this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. God is true to His word. This lesson describes Israel's response to God's promise.

LESSON

JOSHUA SUCCEEDS MOSES

- A. Joshua commissioned. Numbers 27:15-23
 1. Earlier, Joshua and Caleb were the only two men who reported back to Moses and said, "We should take possession of the land." Now Joshua was to take over the leadership of the nation of Israel.
 2. He was gradually given authority over the Israelites. This would help ease the transition of leadership from Moses to himself.
- B. Moses Dies. Deuteronomy 34:4-9
 1. Because Moses disobeyed God at the waters of Meribah he would not enter the promised land.
 2. Moses dies in Moab.
 3. The Israelites now looked to Joshua as their leader and listened to his instruction.
- C. Israel led into Canaan Joshua 1:1,2; 11:23
 1. Joshua prepared the people to cross over the Jordan River into the land God had promised to give to Abraham and his descendants.
 2. Although the Israelites had doubted God many times along the way, God still protected them from the Egyptian army, led them safely through the Red Sea, provided them food and water for forty years while they wandered in the wilderness and spared many lives from the deadly bites of poisonous snakes. God is faithful to keep His promises.
 3. The entire land was occupied by Israel and divided up among the twelve tribes.

ISRAEL UNDER THE JUDGES.

- A. Israel's Idolatry. Judges 2:1-15
 1. God had clearly warned the Israelites to not allow the Canaanites to live in the land (Exodus 23:31b-33).
 2. The Israelites disobeyed God and allowed some of the idolatrous Canaanites to live in the land.
 3. God told them they would adopt some of their neighbors evil practices and worship other Gods.
 4. The Israelites, however, followed God while Joshua was alive.
 5. After Joshua's death, the new generation of Israelites quickly forgot about God and turned to idol worship.
 6. God punished them for worshipping other gods. He "handed them over" to the surrounding nations and they were continually defeated in battle. (Numbers 33:51-53, 55-56; Deuteronomy 30:17,18)
 7. God had warned them on several occasions that this would happen and now He was keeping His to His promise.

- B. God Appoints Judges. Judges 2:16-19
1. God raised up judges to save the people from the hands of their enemies.
 2. Though the people didn't deserve God's kindness, He showed compassion on them as they groaned under their enemies' affliction.
 3. The people would not listen to the judges and they continued to worship other gods.
 4. God would save the people from their enemies as long as the judges lived, but when the judge died, the people would return to even more corrupt practices and forms of idolatry.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Who was the leader of Israel after Moses died?
2. Did God give Abraham's descendants the land which He had promised them?
3. Who deceives people so they worship idols and other created things?
4. What was the warning God clearly gave the Israelites concerning the people of Canaan and entering that land?
5. How did God punish the Israelites for worshipping idols?
6. What were the people chosen by God to lead Israel and save them from their enemies called?
7. What do the judges tell us about God?

Lesson #6 *In the Wilderness*

ISRAEL: ENTRANCE INTO THE PROMISED LAND

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34:4-9; Joshua 1:1,2; 11:23; Judges 2:1-19

TOPIC OVERVIEW

All those who had failed to believe that God would give them the land of Canaan were now dead. The time had come for God's people to enter the Promised Land. God was fulfilling His promise to Abraham that his offspring would possess this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. God is true to His word. This lesson describes Israel's response to God's promise.

LESSON

JOSHUA SUCCEEDS MOSES

- A. Joshua commissioned. Numbers 27:15-23
 1. Earlier, Joshua and Caleb were the only two men who reported back to Moses and said, "We should take possession of the land." Now Joshua was to take over the leadership of the nation of Israel.
 2. He was gradually given authority over the Israelites. This would help ease the transition of leadership from Moses to himself.

- B. Moses Dies. Deuteronomy 34:4-9
 1. Because Moses disobeyed God at the waters of Meribah he would not enter the promised land.
 2. Moses dies in Moab.
 3. The Israelites now looked to Joshua as their leader and listened to his instruction.

- C. Israel led into Canaan Joshua 1:1,2; 11:23
 1. Joshua prepared the people to cross over the Jordan River into the land God had promised to give to Abraham and his descendants.
 2. Although the Israelites had doubted God many times along the way, God still protected them from the Egyptian army, led them safely through the Red Sea, provided them food and water for forty years while they wandered in the wilderness and spared many lives from the deadly bites of poisonous snakes. God is faithful to keep His promises.
 3. The entire land was occupied by Israel and divided up among the twelve tribes.

ISRAEL UNDER THE JUDGES.

Israel's Idolatry. Judges 2:1-15

1. God had clearly warned the Israelites to not allow the Canaanites to live in the land (Exodus 23:31b-33).
2. The Israelites disobeyed God and allowed some of the idolatrous Canaanites to live in the land.
3. God told them they would adopt some of their neighbors' evil practices and worship other gods.
4. The Israelites, however, followed God while Joshua was alive.
5. After Joshua's death, the new generation of Israelites quickly forgot about God and turned to idol worship.
6. God punished them for worshiping other gods. He "handed them over" to the surrounding nations and they were continually defeated in battle.
(Numbers 33:51-53, 55-56; Deuteronomy 30:17,18)

7. God had warned them on several occasions that this would happen and now He was keeping His promise.

God Appoints Judges. Judges 2:16-19

1. God raised up judges to save the people from the hands of their enemies.
2. Though the people didn't deserve God's kindness, He showed compassion on them as they groaned under their enemies' affliction.
3. The people would not listen to the judges and they continued to worship other gods.
4. God would save the people from their enemies as long as the judges lived, but when the judge died, the people would return to even more corrupt practices and forms of idolatry.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Who was the leader of Israel after Moses died?
2. Did God give Abraham's descendants the land which He had promised them?
3. Who deceives people so they worship idols and other created things?
4. What was the warning God clearly gave the Israelites concerning the people of Canaan and entering that land?
5. How did God punish the Israelites for worshiping idols?
6. What were the people chosen by God to lead Israel and save them from their enemies called?
7. What do the judges tell us about God?

ISRAEL: THE KINGS - DAVID AND SOLOMON

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

II Samuel 5:1-4; 7:1-17; I Chronicles 22:1-6; 29:26-28; II Chronicles 2:1,2; 5:1

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Of all the nations of the world, Israel was most fortunate for its ruler and king was God Himself. But Israel rejected God and asked for a king like the nations around them. God granted their request. David was a shepherd chosen by God to lead Israel. Through his experiences as a shepherd he wrote many songs of praise which are recorded in the Psalms. God uses the imagery in this poetry to show us that our position as sinners is like straying sheep. We need someone to shepherd us back onto the right path. God is the only one who can do this. The Lord is our shepherd. David was anointed King of Israel and because of his faith he led Israel to many military victories. He proposed to build a temple for the Lord but his request was denied. God made a covenant with David which includes the reign of Solomon his son. It is Solomon whom God will use to build His temple.

LESSON

DAVID, THE GREAT KING OF ISRAEL

A. David is Enthroned. II Samuel 5:1-4

1. Because of David's faith and trust in God, he was able to lead Israel victoriously through many wars. I Sam 18:5
2. The people remind David that he was called by the Lord to shepherd His people. (Gen 49:24).
3. In obedience to God, David offered blood sacrifices for his sins. He was accepted by God just like Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and many others.
4. At the age of thirty, David was anointed King of Israel.

- B. David's Proposal. II Samuel 7:1-3**
1. As King, David acquired great wealth and built himself a palace of timber, stone, gold, and silver.
 2. While thinking about his dwelling place, David remembered the Lord, and His dwelling place, the tabernacle.
 3. David decided to build the Lord a permanent dwelling place made of stone, timber, gold and silver.
- C. God's Response. II Samuel 7:4-17**
1. God was pleased with David's intent but because of the great bloodshed surrounding his enthronement (I Chron. 22:8) God chose not to use him to build His temple.
 2. God gave David the same promise He had given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - a.) a great savior of men would be from his family
 - b.) a great descendant would rule the Kingdom forever
 3. God has not forgotten His promise.
- D. David's Preparations for the Temple. I Chronicles 22:1-6**
1. David gathered craftsmen from within Israel to begin cutting and molding the materials needed to build the temple.
 2. David transfers to Solomon the responsibility for building the temple.

THE REIGN OF SOLOMON.

- A. The Death of David. I Chronicles 29:26-28**
1. After forty years of being the King of Israel, David dies and Solomon reigns in his place.
- B. The Temple. II Chronicles 2:1,2; 5:1**
1. Solomon begins building the temple. This was no small task. Over one hundred and eighty thousand men were assigned to build the temple.
 2. When the temple was completed, there was no longer a need for the tabernacle.
 3. The temple was built in the same manner as the tabernacle. It had two inner rooms, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, which were divided by a thick curtain.
 4. This curtain acted as a "Do Not Enter" sign for everyone except the High Priest.
 5. When the temple was dedicated and sacrifices offered to the Lord, the Lord came down and entered the most holy place of the temple.
 6. The people again saw the brilliant light. When the people saw this they worshipped God.

CONCLUSION

Man is still helpless to save himself. The Israelites were never to forget they were sinners, that God is perfect and that the punishment for sin is death. The blood of animals could never totally pay for their sins. Each year, on the day of atonement, the High Priest had to bring the blood of the sacrifice to God in the Holy of Holies. Each year, God forgave them and held His judgement until a perfect and complete payment for sin could be made.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Why did God choose David to be King of Israel?
2. How did David become so wealthy?
3. What was David's proposal to God?
4. Why was David's proposal refused?
5. What is God's promise to David?
6. How was the inner temple to be built?
7. Has God forgotten His promise?

GOD'S MESSENGERS: THE PROPHETS**REVIEW****SELECT VERSES**

Isaiah 10:5-6; Jeremiah 6:13-14; 20:4-5

TOPIC OVERVIEW

God continues to teach the Israelites His ways through various people and circumstances. He also clearly demonstrates His love for the Nation of Israel by the numerous warnings He gives them concerning His judgment upon sin. God desires man's response to Himself to be characterized by repentant hearts that are willing to turn from their sinful ways and look to Him in obedience. The Nation of Israel finds itself once again in a situation similar to that of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they too had disobeyed God by eating from the forbidden fruit. **How will man respond this time?**

LESSON**THE PROPHETS AND THEIR MESSAGE****A. Who Are the Prophets?**

1. They were those through whom God spoke to proclaim His message and communicate His will. Many times this involved foretelling the purposes of God.
2. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel were some of the well-known prophets.
3. They told the people to repent, destroy their idols and worship the One and only True God. Remember God's first commandment spoken back at Mount Sinai: "...you shall have no other gods before Me." The people had to choose who they were going to serve.
4. The prophets also warned of punishment and inevitable judgment to those who failed to change their ways and submit to God.

B. Warnings to the Nation of Israel *Isaiah 10:5-6; Jeremiah 20:4b-5*

1. Isaiah warned Israel (the northern ten tribes) that God would send the Assyrians to fight against them and capture them unless they repented.
2. The people had turned their backs on God. *Isaiah 1:2-4*
3. Likewise, Jeremiah warned Judah (the southern two tribes) that God would send the Babylonians to destroy them.
4. God sends Israel's enemies to fight against them, conquer them and enslave them. Just as He had done with them before when they had failed to completely drive out the Canaanites from the promised land.

God's Promise of a Deliverer

1. God had not forgotten His promise to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that a Saviour from the woman's seed would come to destroy Satan and restore man's relationship to God. *Genesis 3:15*
2. He had repeated this same promise to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob and had told them that the Deliverer would be one of their descendants. *Genesis 12:3; 22:17,18.*
3. David the shepherd and eventual King of Israel, had also been promised the coming Deliverer would be from his family line. *II Samuel 7.*
4. Hundreds of years before the Deliverer came, God used His chosen messengers (prophets) to foretell many things that would happen to the Deliverer.
5. God did not abandon His plan to send a Saviour to the world even though most of the people failed to serve and worship Him and instead lived for themselves and their sinful pleasures. God loves the world and desires that none should perish. *Ezekiel 18:32*

Prophecies of the Promised Deliverer

1. He will be born of a virgin and called Immanuel which means "God is with us." Isaiah 7:14
2. He will be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2.
3. He will be despised and rejected by men. Isaiah 53.
4. He will be betrayed by one of His close friends. Psalm 41:9.
5. He will be mocked by men and insults will be hurled at Him. Psalm 22:6-8.
6. His hands and feet will be pierced. Psalm 22:16.

E. Israel's Response to God's Prophets Jeremiah 6:13,14

1. Many of God's prophets were persecuted and even killed for their message of impending judgment and the call to Godly living.
2. The people continued to worship and follow the evil practices of the surrounding nations. Some of these same people probably regularly worshipped God at the Temple. Many were simply giving God lip service, nothing more. Isaiah 29:13.
3. Besides the prophets sent by God, there were also many false prophets who lied to and deceived the Israelites. Ezekiel 13.
4. These servants of Satan claimed to be from God and told the people that everything would be alright and God would not punish them. Satan used the same logic with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 3:4,5.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What purpose did the prophets serve?
2. Name a few of the prophets.
3. What message did the prophets have for the Israelites?
4. What is repentance and why is it important to God?
5. Who did God send to punish the Nation of Israel?
6. Although thousands of years had passed, had God forgotten His promise to send a Deliverer?
7. Did the prophets know much about the coming Deliverer?
8. Who is responsible for the multitude of false prophets?
9. Why should we be concerned about the messages of the false prophets?

THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY**REVIEW****SELECT VERSES**

II Kings 17:1-8; II Kings 25:1-12

TOPIC OVERVIEW

God sent prophets to repeatedly warn Israel and Judah to turn from their sin and worship Him alone, otherwise they would be carried off into captivity by their neighbors. God has shown us in His Word how His promises, whether of blessing or judgement, are fulfilled exactly as He has spoken. The people rejected God's messengers and instead chose to face the consequences of refusing to listen to God. Sometimes suffering is needed to bring us to the point of repentance.

LESSON**THE NATION OF ISRAEL IN CAPTIVITY****A. The Assyrians Conquer Israel. II Kings 17:1-8**

1. As Isaiah prophesied, the Assyrians fought against and captured Israel.
2. The people had failed to listen to the words of God and His messengers concerning their idolatry. (II Kings 17:12-15,23).
3. Over time, the Assyrians and Israelites intermarried. The descendants produced by these mixed marriages were called Samaritans.
4. The Samaritans worshipped God, but in their own way. They were selective in following God's instructions.

B. Babylonians Conquer Judah and Jerusalem. II Kings 25:1-12

1. As Jeremiah prophesied, the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and led the inhabitants of Judah into exile.
2. The walls surrounding the city of Jerusalem were torn down.
3. The Temple of God, built by King Solomon, was burned to the ground, along with all the other important buildings within the walls of the city.
4. Everything happened just as God said it would happen.

RETURN FROM EXILE.**A. God's People Return to Jerusalem**

1. After many years, those held captive in Babylon repented and asked God to return them to their own land.
2. God brought many of the people back to Jerusalem. The people rebuilt the stone walls around the city and also rebuilt God's Temple.
3. The Israelites who returned to Judah were called Jews. The name is probably derived from the word Judah.

B. The Jews Under Greek and Roman Rule

1. Many of the Jews worshiped God according to the way God specified but not sincerely with their hearts.
2. God allowed the Greeks to conquer the Jews and their influence induced the people to speak the Greek language. Greek would eventually become the written language of the New Testament.
3. After several hundred years of Greek dominated rule, the Romans conquered the Greeks and took control of Jerusalem and all of Palestine.
4. The Romans killed many Jews and forced them to pay taxes.
5. The Romans worshipped many false gods as well as their emperor, Caesar, but did allow the Jews to continue worshipping God in the Temple.
6. The Romans built many roads throughout their vast empire. God was preparing a way for His Word to be spread throughout distant lands.

C. The Building of Jewish Synagogues

1. Due to the persecution and captivity of the Jews, they became scattered throughout the world.
2. The Jews who lived far from Jerusalem built meeting houses called synagogues. These were places where the Old Testament was read and taught.
3. The Jews met in these meeting houses on the last day of the week.
4. Synagogues were not only built in Israel, but also in places like Asia Minor, Greece and Persia.
5. Though some Jews followed God's commands and believed His prophets' message, the majority of the Jews didn't truly worship God from their hearts. They thought going to the Temple and synagogue was all they needed to do to please God.

CONCLUSION

The demonstration of Israel's unbelief and rejection of God's promises is a sad story indeed. Even through all of this disappointment, however, God was slowly preparing a way for all to hear about the long-promised deliverer. In this lesson we saw how God used different circumstances and other nations to help establish a common language, an excellent system of roads, and synagogues of worship throughout the world. God has a purpose and plan for His people.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. What happened to Israel, Judah and Jerusalem because of their sin and idolatry?
2. Who were the Samaritans?
3. What did the Israelites who returned from exile do in Jerusalem?
4. Who were the Jews?
5. What language were the Jews taught?
6. Who did the Romans worship?
7. What were the synagogues?
8. Did most Jews truly worship God?
9. How was God preparing the way for the promised deliverer?

Lesson #7 BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH OF JOHN

REVIEW

SELECT VERSES

Luke 1:5-38, 57-64

TOPIC OVERVIEW

God used His prophet Malachi to tell about another prophet whom God would send to the people. This prophet was named John and he would come to prepare the way for the promised Deliverer. Malachi also reminded the Jews that this Deliverer was coming to save them. The time was now approaching for the fulfillment of God's promise to send a saviour for the world.

LESSON

GOD FORETELLS THE BIRTH OF JOHN

A. Zechariah and Elizabeth Luke 1:5-14, 18-25

1. Zechariah was a priest.
2. He and his wife Elizabeth trusted God and observed His commands.
3. They had no children and were both elderly.
4. An angel from God promised Zechariah a son and told him to give him the name John.
5. Because he doubted the angel's word, he was left unable to speak until the day his son was born.

B. John the Promised Messenger Luke 1:15-17

1. God knew all that John would accomplish even before it happened. God knows everything!
2. Four hundred years before he was born, God used a prophet to tell about the coming of John. Malachi 3:1.
3. John was to prepare the people for the coming Deliverer and would turn many hearts back to "The Lord" along the way.

C. Elizabeth's Pregnancy Luke 1:24,25

1. Elizabeth became pregnant just as the angel had promised, even though she had been barren into old age.
2. Likewise, Abraham and Sarah had earlier conceived a son in their old age. With God, nothing is impossible!
3. She knew her pregnancy was made possible by God and she was very thankful to Him for His goodness.

GOD FORETELLS THE BIRTH OF JESUS

A. Mary Is Promised a Son Luke 1:26-31

1. Mary was a virgin pledged to be married a man named Joseph.
2. She was an ordinary woman who trusted God and found favor with Him, but she was still a sinner. Luke 1:47
3. God sent an angel to tell Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Deliverer.
4. She was to give Him the name "Jesus," which means Saviour.

B. Jesus, the Promised Deliverer Luke 1:32-38

1. He was the son of Mary and the Son of God.
2. Isaiah the prophet had spoken about Jesus hundreds of years before He was born. Isaiah 9:6,7.
3. As the Son of God, He had many names; As a man His name was Jesus.
4. Jesus was both fully God and fully man!
5. He was a descendant of King David. This fulfilled the promise God made to David around one thousand years earlier. II Samuel 7.
6. Mary wondered how she as a virgin could be pregnant. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit would perform this miracle.
7. Since Jesus would have no human father, he would be born without sin. Jesus' father was God, who is perfect and holy and without sin.
8. It is impossible for a virgin to have a child just as it was impossible for Zechariah and Elizabeth to have a child at their advanced age. Nevertheless, God can do anything! He created the heavens and the earth from nothing, made man from the dust of the ground and gives life to every person.
9. Mary trusted God and accepted the role of Jesus' mother.

THE BIRTH OF JOHN**A. Elizabeth Gives Birth to a Son****Luke 1:57-64**

1. Just as the angel had promised, Elizabeth had a son.
2. Her friends and relatives tried to persuade her to name the child after his father which was an accepted practice of the day.
3. Zechariah and Elizabeth, however, refused to do this and instead named the boy John as the angel had instructed them.
4. Immediately upon confirming the name John for his son, Zechariah was able to speak again and he praised God. This again happened just as the angel had promised. God can be trusted to keep His word.

TOPIC WRAP UP

1. Who was to prepare the way for the promised Deliverer?
2. What was so amazing about the birth of John?
3. Why did Jesus have to be born of a virgin?
4. Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus?
5. What did Mary name her son and what does it mean?
6. How could Jesus be born of a virgin?
7. What does the birth of Jesus tell us about God?
8. What happened to Zechariah after his son was born?

The Birth of Jesus**REVIEW****SELECT VERSES**

Matthew 1:1,2,16-25; 2:1-23; Luke 2:40,52

LESSON OVERVIEW

Almost everyone in America has heard of the "Christmas Story," or if not, most people have heard at the very least that the baby Jesus was born in a manger. However, few realize that this baby was God Himself, come in human form, to save mankind from sin. As the story of Jesus' birth unfolds, God demonstrates in amazing detail the fulfillment of His promises as revealed to us by His prophets. Jesus, the sinless and perfect Son of God, was to play the key role in God's plan for restoring the broken relationship between God and man.

LESSON**I. JESUS - HIS BIRTH****A. The Genealogy of Jesus. Matthew 1:1,2,16,17**

1. As was promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David, Jesus would be from their family line.
2. Joseph was referred as the husband of Mary but not as the father of Jesus (v16).
3. Although Jesus was not the physical son of Joseph, the genealogy shows that Jesus was the legal son of Joseph and therefore a descendant of David (Isaiah 9:7).

B. Joseph's Dilemma Matthew 1:18-25

1. Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph.
2. Joseph discovered that Mary was pregnant. According to Jewish Law, Joseph could have had her judged publicly and stoned to death. But because he loved her, Joseph decided to quietly break off their engagement.
3. God sent an angel to speak to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife since the Holy Spirit was responsible for her pregnancy. The baby was to be named "Jesus" because He was coming into the world to save people from their sins.
4. The prophets had said that the promised Saviour would be "born of a virgin." (Isaiah 7:14).
5. Jesus, who was **God the Son**, was coming to earth as a little baby.
6. Joseph obeyed God and took Mary home as his wife.

C. Wise Men Look for Jesus

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem just as the prophet Micah had predicted many years earlier. (Micah 5:2)
2. Wise men came to Jerusalem in search of baby Jesus.

I. JESUS - PROTECTED FROM HEROD**A. King Herod Matthew 2:3-8**

1. Herod was fearful of this baby born "King of the Jews!" He felt that his position as King was threatened.
2. He gathered the Chief Priests and scholars together to find out from them where Jesus was to be born.
3. Herod talked with the wise men and then sent them to Bethlehem in search of the child. They were to report back to him after they found where Jesus was being kept.

B. The Wise Men Matthew 2:9-12

1. They followed the star to the place where the child was in Bethlehem.
2. The wise men knew who this child was because when they saw Him they worshipped Him. Jesus is God and therefore worthy of our worship.
3. They offered the child gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.
4. Using a dream, God warned them not to return to Herod so they went back to their own country by a different route.

C. Flight to Egypt Matthew 2:13-18

1. Once again, an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. Joseph was instructed to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt; there the child would be safe from Herod's evil plan to kill Him.
2. Just as Hosea prophesied much earlier, Jesus was taken to Egypt. (Hosea 11:1)
3. God knew all along what Herod would do. It is clear that Satan was working behind the scenes. He knows who Jesus is and wants Him destroyed.
4. Nothing can stop God's plan to save His people from their own sinfulness.
5. Herod, in his anger over being outsmarted, had all the boys 2 years old and under in Bethlehem and its vicinity killed.

D. Return to Nazareth Matthew 2:19-23

1. When Herod was dead, God sent an angel to tell Joseph to take his family out of Egypt and back into the land of Israel.
2. They settled in Galilee, in a town called Nazareth.

E. Jesus Grew into Manhood Luke 2:40,52

1. Even though Jesus was God, He also was a real human being. He grew and matured like any other boy.
2. Jesus grew strong and was filled with wisdom.
3. Isaiah described what His wisdom would entail many years earlier. (Isaiah 11:2)
4. His character as a man was the character of God. He was sinless, righteous, merciful, completely loving and kind. Is it any wonder He found favor with both God and men?

WRAP UP

1. Why were Mary and Joseph told to name the baby Jesus?
2. What does the name Emmanuel mean?
3. In what town was Jesus born?
4. Why did the wise men worship the baby Jesus?
5. Why did Herod try to kill Jesus?
6. Who else had an interest in seeing Jesus killed?
7. What method did God use to speak to Joseph and the wise men?
8. Jesus eventually returned from Egypt. Has anything like this happened before?
9. What made Jesus different from the other boys and girls?

Jesus Baptized by John**REVIEW****SELECTED VERSES**

Matthew 3:1-17: John 1:24-27, 29-37

LESSON OVERVIEW

We have witnessed God's faithfulness to keep His promises. John and Jesus were born just as it was foretold many years earlier. John was sent by God to prepare the Jews for the coming Deliverer and to turn many hearts back to God in the process. He came with a message of repentance. People need to see themselves as they really are, sinners in need of a Saviour, who we now know to be Jesus. We will see what happens when John comes face to face with the one he has come to prepare the way for, that is Jesus.

LESSON**JOHN'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE: REPENT!****A. John the Baptist Matthew 3:1-6**

1. John preached to the Jews that they must **repent**.
Repentance involves a change of attitude toward God and toward one's sin. Remember what we learned back at the Garden of Eden. God hates sin and the consequences of sin is death. God also gave the Ten Commandments to show us that we are sinners and helpless to meet His standard of conduct. Repentance involves acknowledging our own sinfulness before Him and trusting that He alone can save us from our sinful condition.
2. Isaiah the prophet had spoken about John hundreds of years before he was born (Isaiah 40:3).

3. John lived a simple life possessing very little.
4. Many Jews believed John's message and came to him to be baptized.
Their baptism was a visible action which showed true repentance and belief in God's truth as spoken through John. Baptism did not save them from their sins! It is merely a sign to show others that a person believes God's Word and that he/she is trusting in God alone to save them.
5. Many came to John to be baptized in the Jordan River.

B. John's Words of Warning Matthew 3:7-10

1. John warns the Pharisees and Sadducees to repent.
 - a.) Pharisees were a legalistic group of Jews who added some of their own rules to God's Word. They kept themselves separate from others and did not think they were sinners like other people.
 - b.) Sadducees were more worldly and politically motivated than the Pharisees. They accepted only the first five books of the Old Testament as being God's Word. They did not believe in the existence of angels or spirits nor did they believe in the resurrection of the dead.
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees were proud and would not admit they were sinners. This is why John spoke so harshly to them.
"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance." (v8)
3. These Jews thought that God would accept them because they were Abraham's descendants. John was very blunt with them. He told them that by themselves they had nothing to boast about.
4. God can do anything He desires. He could even make children for Abraham out of stones if he wanted.

C. John's Words About the Deliverer Matthew 3:11,12; John 1:24-27

1. John recognized that his position was far inferior to that of the Deliverer.
2. He stated that he wasn't even worthy to be the servant who would remove the Deliverer's sandals.

JOHN BAPTIZES JESUS

A. Jesus and John at the Jordan River Matthew 3:13-16

1. Jesus came to be baptized by John.
There were several reasons for His baptism:
 - a.) The baptism publically showed He was consecrated to God and officially approved by Him. (v16,17)
 - b.) At Jesus' baptism, John publically announced the arrival of the Son of God. (John 1: 31-34)
 - c.) By His baptism Jesus completely identified Himself with man's sin, even though He was born perfect and needed no repentance or cleansing from sin.
 - d.) His baptism was an example to His followers and showed everyone that He obeyed God's commands.
2. Immediately after Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and rested upon Him. The Spirit would enable Jesus to do everything God had planned for Him to do.

B. God Speaks from Heaven. Matthew 3:17

1. God the Father called Jesus His Son. Jesus was a man but He was also the Son of God.
2. God loved Jesus and was pleased with Him. Jesus was the only man who did everything that pleased God.

C. Jesus, the Lamb of God John 1:29-37

1. When John saw Jesus he referred to Him as the “Lamb of God.”
2. John did not know who the Deliverer would be; when he saw the Spirit descend from heaven and rest on Jesus, he knew at that moment that Jesus was surely the Son of God , the Saviour of the world.

Note: Did you notice that in this story all three persons of the Godhead are displayed. God the Father spoke from heaven to God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit descended from heaven to rest on Jesus.

WRAP UP

1. What was John’s message to the Jews?
2. What does it mean to repent?
3. What kind of life did John lead?
4. Does baptism save us from our sins?
5. What does baptism symbolize?
6. Who were the Pharisees? Sadducees?
7. Why did John speak so harshly to some of the religious leaders?
8. Why was Jesus baptized?
9. How did God respond to Jesus’ baptism?
10. How do we see the Triune nature of God displayed in this story?

Lesson #8 JESUS: TEMPTED BY SATAN

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

Matthew 4:1-11

LESSON OVERVIEW

In the Garden of Eden, Satan visited mankind for the first time and deceived Adam and Eve by changing and twisting around what God had instructed them to avoid doing. He tempted them and they succumbed to that temptation and disobeyed God. Since that time, Satan has demonstrated time and again that he hates God and everyone whom God loves as well as anything good that God desires to do. Because of man's sin, Satan was given authority and rule over mankind and he continually plots against the purposes of God. This lesson will show us what happens when Satan confronts Jesus in the wilderness and tempts Him not once but three times.

LESSON

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

A. Jesus in the Desert Matthew 4:1,2

1. God the Father had just spoken to Jesus. He had publically said that He loved Him and was well pleased with Him. Immediately afterwards, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There He was tempted by Satan.
2. Jesus was a real man. He became hungry after fasting for 40 days.
3. Satan timed his encounter so that Jesus would be physically weak and vulnerable.
4. If Satan could get Jesus to sin, then He would not be able to be our Deliverer.

B. The First Temptation Matthew 4:3,4

1. Satan knew who Jesus was but he wanted Jesus to prove it to him.
2. Satan tempts Jesus to attend to His own physical need for food in a non-natural way.
3. Jesus responds by quoting from God's Word.
"Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3)
4. Jesus knew His body needed food, but more importantly, He knew that the source of **Eternal Life** was found in the truth of God's Word.
5. Jesus could easily have turned the stones into bread but He would not obey Satan.
6. Jesus came down to earth to only do that which pleased God. (John 8:29).

C. The Second Temptation Matthew 4:5-7

1. This time Satan quotes from God's Word and tries to twist its meaning in an attempt to deceive Jesus.
2. Satan used this same approach in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve.
"Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the Garden?'" (Genesis 3:1).
3. Satan knows God's Word, but remember, he is a liar and a deceiver. He hates God and will use any device, even the Bible, to deceive people into disobeying God.
4. Satan told Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple to test God and see if He would take care of His Son.
5. Jesus again responded by quoting God's Word
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test." (Deuteronomy 6:16).
6. Jesus trusted God and knew that His Father would take care of Him. He had no desire to test God's promises.

D. The Third Temptation Matthew 4:8-10

1. Finally, Satan offers Jesus control over the entire world. This was his to give if chose to do so because he was given authority over the world after Adam had sinned against God and followed Satan's advice back in the Garden of Eden.
2. Satan wanted Jesus to bow down and worship him.
3. As before, Jesus responded by quoting from God's Word.
"Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only." (Deuteronomy 6:13)
4. Jesus defeated Satan by correctly applying God's Word!
5. Jesus did not obey Satan as Adam did in the Garden of Eden. He was a man who faced temptations in life, just as we do, but He always fully obeyed God and resisted Satan. Jesus is also the sinless Son of God who is much stronger than Satan.
6. Jesus will one day throw Satan into the Lake of Fire which God prepared for him and all his followers. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

E. Satan Leaves Jesus Matthew 4:11

1. Satan knew he was defeated so he left.
2. After Satan left, God sent angels to take care of Jesus' physical needs.

WRAP UP

1. Why did Satan tempt Jesus?
2. Did Satan know who Jesus was?
3. What did Jesus say was more important than food?
4. Does Satan know God's Word?
5. How did Jesus fight against Satan?
6. How could Satan offer Jesus the position of ruler over all the kingdoms of the world?
7. When faced with temptation, how did Jesus respond?
8. Why is Jesus superior to Satan?

JESUS: HIS MINISTRY AND MIRACLES**REVIEW****SELECTED VERSES**

Matthew 9:18-25; Mark 1:14-28, 34-45

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus begins His ministry on earth with a call to repentance. John the Baptist had prepared the way with the same call. Jesus begins to reveal to men that He is God by His teachings and by miraculous healings. He teaches with authority and perfectly interprets God's Word (He is God's Word! John 1:1). He confirms Himself to be God by displaying His power to deliver from Satan and sin and death and to heal with love and compassion.

LESSON**JESUS' MINISTRY BEGINS****A. Jesus Calls Men to Repentance Mark 1:14,15**

1. Jesus declares that the Kingdom of God is at hand and that God is calling on mankind to REPENT and believe the gospel.

B. Jesus Calls Men to be Disciples Mark 1:16-20

1. As he walks along the sea of Galilee preaching, Jesus begins to pick out men to be His disciples.
2. The ones called (chosen) are immediately obedient, (changed lives), leave all behind - family, business, wealth, community - and follow Jesus.

JESUS' MIRACLES**A. Jesus' Teaching Mark 1:21-28**

1. At the earliest opportunity, immediately on the Sabbath, Jesus begins to teach in the synagogue.
2. His teaching was with authority and not as the scribes and pharisees of the day taught.
3. They had an improper attitude toward God and sin. They were pious and proud, not humble and repentant. (Proverbs 9:10)
Jesus is God. He knows man's condition. The teachers of Israel were trusting in their own works and their self-righteous knowledge of the law, imparting to it a sterile legalistic obedience.
4. Although the people did not know who Jesus was the demons did. They proclaimed Him to be the Son of God (in fear and in knowledge of their own condemnation).
5. Jesus commands the unclean spirit to leave and it obeys.
 - God is sovereign!

B. Jesus' Power Over Death Matthew 9:18-25

1. He is approached by a synagogue official who comes to Him in humility believing Jesus can do the impossible. This is an indication of faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
2. Jesus goes to his house and is mocked by the people when He claims that the girl is only asleep.
3. Jesus shuns the crowd and in private reaches out His hand and the girl arises..

C. Jesus Heals the Leper Mark 1:40-45

1. A leper approaches Jesus and begs Him to heal him.
2. He proclaims his faith in Jesus saying that He can cleanse him if He is willing.
3. Jesus is willing and heals him immediately.
4. The leper is like all men - unclean. He is a physical picture of mankind's spiritual condition.
5. The leper could not be cured by the physicians of his day. There is nothing we nor anyone else can do to be "cleansed" or "healed" of our sin by human efforts.

WRAP UP

1. What was different about Jesus' teaching?
2. What did Jesus tell people they must do?
3. What are demons and why were they afraid of Jesus?
4. From the examples in the lesson, what is the proper response to God?
5. What does leprosy represent in a spiritual sense?
6. How can we be cleansed?

JESUS: THE BREAD OF LIFE**REVIEW****SELECTED VERSES**

John 6:1-35

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus has demonstrated that He is no ordinary man. He resisted Satan in the wilderness and did not yield to temptation. He spoke as one who had authority and correctly applied God's Word. Jesus cast out demons, healed the sick and raised people from the dead. He met people's physical needs with love and compassion and displayed all of His power without any fanfare. As you can imagine, word got around concerning all that Jesus was doing and people soon began to follow Him wherever He went. People wanted to see miracles, but the Son of God had something far greater to offer them.

LESSON**JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND****A. Multitudes Follow Jesus John 6:1-4**

1. Many people followed Jesus to the Sea of Galilee. They wanted to see more miracles. Some probably had physical ailments and others were simply curious observers. Unfortunately, these people did not realize that Jesus was much more than a miraculous healer.
2. This happened around the time of the Jewish Passover feast. (Exodus 12:21-30)

B. Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand John 6:5-15

1. Jesus saw the large crowd and knew what He was going to do; however, He asked His disciple, Philip, a question to test his response. Philip had seen Jesus do many miracles up to that point and now Jesus was testing Philip's faith. He failed the test.
2. A boy had 5 small loaves of bread and 2 small fish. Jesus took this food, gave thanks and.
3. Everyone in the crowd ate until they were full. There were 5000 men, plus women and children. (Matthew 14:21)
4. The disciples gathered the leftovers and collected 12 baskets full of bread.
5. Only God could have miraculously multiplied this small portion of food to feed so many.
6. The people began to wonder if Jesus might in fact be the promised Deliverer; however, they wanted Him to become King and take care of them. They didn't see their **personal** need for a saviour.
7. Jesus went away to be by Himself.

C. Jesus Walks on Water John 6:16-24

1. The disciples got into a boat and started to cross the sea.
2. When they were far from shore, Jesus approached them by walking on the water.
3. They were terrified but He assured them that He was Jesus.
4. Jesus created the sea so for Him to walk on it was not that difficult.
5. The crowd could not figure out where Jesus had gone. They went to Capernaum to find Him.

JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE**A. Jesus Talks with the Crowd John 6:25-35**

1. Jesus knew why the people were looking for Him. Instead, He gave a spiritual application for food. It was to seek after food that is eternal rather than for food which spoils and will not last beyond this life.
2. Eternal life is a **gift** from God. (Verse 27)

3. The people missed the point of eternal life being a gift. "What must we do " (Verse 28)
4. Jesus says we must put our trust (believe) in Him.
5. The people still didn't believe Jesus. They were focusing on His miracles and not listening to His teaching. They wanted Jesus to prove Himself to them by a miraculous sign. Satan had tried to do the same thing with Jesus when they were in the wilderness.
6. Jesus told them it was His Heavenly Father, not Moses, who gave the manna to their forefathers. He also said that God gives the true bread from heaven. Jesus was speaking of Himself.
7. The people still didn't understand Jesus' words. They were focused on the physical (food) rather than the spiritual (belief in Jesus as the giver of eternal life).
8. Finally, Jesus states the issue for them as plainly as He can by saying, "I am the Bread of Life."

Remember how God had given the Israelites manna from heaven and water from the rock to save them from physical death in the wilderness. Jesus was sent from heaven to save sinners from eternal death. Only Jesus can satisfy us, but we must trust in Him as our saviour to find true life. If we do, He promises that we will never be hungry or thirsty again.

WRAP UP

1. Did the large crowd know who Jesus truly was?
2. Why was Jesus able to feed over 5000 people with only 5 small loaves of bread and 2 small fish?
3. Why did Jesus leave after miraculously providing the crowd with food?
4. How did Jesus join His disciples later in the evening on the sea?
5. What did Jesus say was a gift from God?
6. How do we receive this gift?
7. What did the people want Jesus to do for them?
8. How can Jesus be compared with the manna which God gave to the Israelites in the wilderness?
9. What does Jesus promise to those who believe in Him?

JESUS: THE CHRIST

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

Matthew 16:13-17, 20,21: John 3:14-16; Matthew 17:1-13

LESSON OVERVIEW

God's Word has clearly shown us that Jesus was the promised deliverer of mankind. He was both a man and God Himself in human form. No one else like Him would ever again walk the face of the earth yet many people today have been deceived about Jesus, thinking He was merely a good man, a good teacher or just another prophet. The same was true in Jesus' time. People had different answers to the question, "Who is Jesus?" Once again, we must turn to God's Word for the **true** answer.

LESSON

PETER'S CONFESSION OF CHRIST

A. Who People Believed Jesus To Be. Matthew 16:14-16

1. Some people thought Jesus was John the Baptist who had returned from the dead.
2. Some thought Jesus was Elijah.
3. Some thought Jesus was one of the prophets.

B. Peter's Response Concerning Jesus Matthew 16:15-17, 20

1. Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was. He wanted to hear from their own mouths whether they truly believed He was the Saviour God had long ago promised to send into the world. To be His disciples, they needed to believe without question that He was who He claimed to be.
2. Peter knew who Jesus was and responded appropriately, "You are the **Christ**, the Son of the Living God." (Verse 16)
3. Jesus does not rebuke Peter for this response but rather blesses him for acknowledging His true identity.
4. "CHRIST" is a Greek term meaning "Anointed One," someone appointed by God for special duties. It is also the Greek translation of the Hebrew title "Messiah." Jesus Christ was God's special messenger (**prophet**) who continually proclaimed God's truth while He walked on earth. He also came to take away the sins of the entire world (**High Priest**). Jesus Christ was also sent by God to be the final ruler of the world (**King**).
5. Jesus Christ is the only one who can deliver us from our sin. No one else can rightfully claim this qualification.
6. Jesus warned His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Christ.

C. Jesus Predicts His Death and Resurrection Matthew 16:21

1. Jesus explained to His disciples that He would suffer many things at the hands of the Jewish leaders. He also told them that He **must** be killed but that He would also be raised from the dead after three days.
2. Jesus knew His complete future. He knew what was going to happen to Him, who would kill Him, and how He would die. Jesus also knew how many days He would be dead before coming back to life.
3. Jesus was not just a man like us, He was also God. God, of course, knows everything.

D. Jesus Must Be Lifted Up John 3:14-16

1. Remember the story of the brazen serpent. God had told Moses to make a brass snake and attach it to a pole. God had promised that whoever was bitten by a poisonous snake would be healed if they simply looked at the brass snake.
2. The Israelites could not save themselves from the poisonous snakes and we cannot save ourselves from death, which is the penalty for sin. Only God can deliver us.
3. Jesus said that He must be lifted up just like the brass snake in the wilderness so that whoever believes (trusts) in Him for deliverance would be given eternal life.
4. Jesus knew He **must** die in order for us to live eternally with God. Only Jesus, the perfect Son of God, could pay the penalty required for all of our sins.

JESUS WAS TRANSFIGURED**A. The Transfiguration Matthew 17:1,2**

1. Jesus took three of His disciples, those with whom He had a deeper relationship, to the top of a high mountain where He was transfigured before them.
2. His appearance changed and He assumed a "glorified" state. This is the only time while He was on earth that Jesus allowed the "God nature" of His being to be revealed to men instead of His human body.
3. His face began to shine like the sun.

B. Moses and Elijah Talked with Jesus Matthew 17:3,4

1. God allowed Moses and Elijah to come back to earth and converse with Jesus.
2. Elijah did not die like other men but rather was "taken up to heaven" by God about 850 years before Jesus' birth. Moses died approximately 1400 years before Jesus was born. These two men who had trusted in God had long since departed from

their earthly life but had in no sense ceased to exist. They had been living in heaven with God. They are a wonderful demonstration to us of eternal life.

B. Moses and Elijah Talked with Jesus (continued)

3. Jesus discussed His approaching death in Jerusalem with Moses and Elijah. (Luke 9:30,31)

C. God The Father Speaks from Heaven Matthew 17:5-13

1. God called Jesus His Son. He said He loved Jesus and was well pleased with Him. God responded to Jesus in a similar way after He was baptized by John. (Matthew 3:17)
2. God told the three disciples that they must listen to and obey Jesus.
3. Today, God speaks to us through the Bible. (II Peter 1:16-21)

WRAP UP

1. Why did Jesus ask His disciples who they thought He really was?
2. Who did Peter say Jesus was?
3. What does "CHRIST" mean?
4. What did Jesus tell His disciples was going to happen to Him?
5. How could Jesus know about His future?
6. How was Jesus like the brazen serpent?
7. Why must Jesus die?
8. What happened to Jesus on the mountain?
9. Who did Jesus talk with on the mountain?
10. What did they talk about?
11. What did God The Father tell the disciples?

Lesson #9 JESUS: HIS TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

Matthew 21:1-11, 26:1-5, 14-28

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus Christ came to this world with a specific purpose in mind. He came to deliver us from our sins and save us from Satan and death. Nevertheless, many people who followed Him failed to see Jesus as their own personal Saviour. They saw Jesus for what He could give them as their earthly king rather than as one who could provide for their spiritual needs. Jesus knew His time on earth was getting short and so he began preparing Himself for the task which God had sent Him to accomplish, something only Jesus could complete.

LESSON

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

A. Jesus Rides a Donkey Matthew 21:1-7

1. Jesus sends two of His disciples ahead of the group to the next town to find a young donkey for Him to ride.
2. If anyone sees the donkey and her colt being taken they are to be told, "The **Lord** has need of them." Jesus was intentionally proclaiming Himself as the promised deliverer (Messiah).
3. The disciples did as they were told and found everything to be in place exactly as Jesus had told them to expect. God knows everything, even before it happens.
4. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the young donkey just as God had promised He would. (Zechariah 9:9)

B. The People Welcomed Jesus Matthew 21:8-11

1. The crowds praised Him as the promised Messiah who was to be one of David's descendants.
2. Many saw Him merely as an earthly king who would rescue them from the rule of the Romans rather than as someone who had the ability to rescue them from their sin and eternal separation from God.
3. Jesus' glorious entry into Jerusalem drew a lot of attention to Himself.

THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS

A. Jewish Leaders Plot Against Jesus Matthew 26:1-5

1. Jesus again predicts His impending death to His disciples.
2. The chief priests and elders planned how they could arrest Jesus and eliminate Him. They were reluctant to act, however, because they feared the crowd's response knowing that many admired Him.

B. Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus Matthew 26:14-16

1. Judas was one of the twelve disciples chosen by Jesus to be His closest companions.
2. Instead of trusting Jesus as his personal saviour, Judas followed Jesus for his own personal gain. (John 12:4-6)
3. Judas, a close companion of Jesus for three years, decided he would turn Jesus over to His enemies. God had said that a friend would betray Jesus hundreds of years ago. (Psalm 41:9)

4. Satan was orchestrating Jesus' betrayal. He thought if only he could arrange to have Jesus killed then God's plan to destroy him and save sinners would be derailed.
5. The Jewish leaders promised to pay Judas thirty pieces of silver. This was the price of a common slave.
6. The prophet Zechariah had prophesied this would happen over 500 years earlier. (Zechariah 11:12,13)

THE PASSOVER FEAST

A. Preparation for the Meal **Matthew 26:17-19**

1. Jesus again sends two disciples on an assignment, this time to find a man carrying a water jar. (Luke 22:10)
2. He gave them specific instructions regarding the Passover meal and they went into the city and found things exactly as He had told them. Jesus knew everything that was going to happen just as He did in the situation with the donkey. (Matthew 21)

B. Jesus Knew His Betrayer **Matthew 26:20-25**

1. During the Passover meal, Jesus tells His disciples that one of them would betray Him
2. Jesus said the one who dipped bread in the same bowl as He would be the betrayer.
In that culture, as it is yet today in the Middle East, to eat a meal with a person essentially meant, "I am your friend and will not harm you." Jesus' betrayal is a vivid display of how ugly and evil sin is.

3. Jesus tells Judas he is the betrayer.

C. The Bread and the Wine **Matthew 26:26-28**

1. Jesus broke bread with the disciples and told them the bread represented His body which would soon be broken at the hands of men.
2. Jesus then took the the wine and offered it to them saying that it represented His blood which would soon be shed when He died for the forgiveness of sins.
3. Jesus was telling His disciples that He would be giving up His life in the place of sinful mankind.

WRAP UP

1. How did Jesus know where the disciples could find Him a donkey to ride?
2. Where did the Triumphal Entry take place?
3. Why didn't the priests and Jewish leaders arrest Jesus and kill Him immediately?
4. Why was Judas willing to betray Jesus?
5. Did Judas trust Jesus as his saviour?
6. What did Jesus tell His disciples during the Passover meal?
7. What did the bread represent?
8. What did the wine represent?

JESUS: HIS ARREST, TRIAL AND DEATH

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

Matthew 26:36-68; 27:1,2,11-31, 33-60; John 19:30

LESSON OVERVIEW

Even though we didn't deserve it, God promised to send us a deliverer. We have seen in God's Word how this promise has wonderfully come to pass in the person of Jesus Christ, the perfect, holy and righteous Son of God. Jesus told the people that He had come down from heaven to give life to the world. He was speaking of eternal life, to be given to those who trusted in Him as their personal saviour. Jesus had also spoken several times to His disciples concerning the fact that He would soon suffer many things in Jerusalem and be killed. The time had now come for all these things to take place, just as Jesus had foretold. No other event in history has ever nor will ever affect the lives of men and women as the one recounted in this lesson.

LESSON

THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF JESUS

A. Jesus in Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-46

1. Jesus was a real man who experienced real human emotions.
2. He knew that as our saviour He would have to experience terrible suffering. It was difficult for Him to think about all the physical torture He knew He would have to endure.
3. Three times Jesus prayed to God, His Father, to ask if this obligation (cup) could be taken away from Him. Nevertheless, He insisted on God's way and not His own.

B. Jesus Was Arrested Matthew 26:47-56

1. Judas and a large crowd of armed men came and arrested Jesus.
2. Jesus offered no resistance. He knew everything must take place just as the prophets had foreseen. (V 52-54)
3. The disciples deserted Jesus and fled for their lives. This was just as Jesus had predicted. (Matthew 26:31)

C. Jesus Before the Jewish High Court Matthew 26:57-68

1. The chief priests and Jewish leaders tried to gather false evidence against Jesus in order to put Him to death.
2. They could find no lawful reason to condemn Jesus because He hadn't done anything wrong.
3. Just as was prophesied many years earlier, false witnesses came forward and told lies about Jesus. (Psalm 27:12)
4. Jesus remained silent in the face of these false accusations. He fully trusted God to do what He had planned for Him.
5. Jesus, however, did say "yes" when asked if He was the Christ, the Son of God.
6. His response enraged the Jewish leaders and they proceeded to spit in His face and strike Him with their fists. This also fulfilled a prophesy, one recorded by Isaiah nearly 700 years earlier. (Isaiah 50:6)

D. Jesus Before Pilate Matthew 27:1,2,11-26

1. The Jews could not kill Jesus without the permission of the Roman government. So Jesus was handed over to Pilate, the Governor of the region, for execution.
2. Standing before Pilate, Jesus continued to remain silent when He was falsely accused by the chief priests. Once again this fulfilled a prophesy. (Isaiah 53:7).
3. Everything God says takes place even to the minutest detail.
4. Every year at the Passover, Pilate's custom was to release one condemned prisoner whom the Jews themselves would select. Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and he hoped that the crowd would ask for Jesus' release rather than the notorious criminal Barabbas.
5. The entire crowd wanted Jesus to be crucified. Crucifixion was for the worst criminals and was a slow, agonizing way to die. The Jews hated Jesus and demanded Barabbas be released instead. The prophets had long ago foretold that Jesus would be rejected by men and hated for no apparent reason. (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 69:4)

6. Jesus was whipped (scourged). Scourging was so brutal that on occasion a victim died before he could be crucified.

E. Jesus Was Mocked Matthew 27:27-31

1. Jesus was stripped naked before the soldiers and dressed in a purple robe.
2. A crown of thorns was shoved onto His head.
3. The soldiers mocked Jesus, spit on Him, and repeatedly struck Him on the head with a wooden stick.

THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL OF JESUS

A. Jesus Was Crucified Matthew 27:33-44

1. He was offered a drink mixed with gall to help deaden the pain. Jesus refused to drink it.
2. Heavy iron nails were driven through Jesus' feet and wrists and into a wooden cross. The cross was then lifted into an upright position. Jesus was lifted up just as Moses lifted up the serpent on a pole in the wilderness. (John 3:14,15)
3. Almost one thousand years earlier King David had prophesied that the deliverer's hands and feet would be pierced. (Psalm 22:16)
4. Another of King David's prophesies was also fulfilled when the soldiers divided up Jesus' clothing by casting lots. (Psalm 22:18)
5. Jesus had committed no crime so the charge written against Him was, "King of the Jews."
6. Two robbers were crucified with Jesus. Isaiah had foretold this about 700 years earlier. (Isaiah 53:12)
7. The people who passed by Jesus on the nearby road, the chief priests, Jewish leaders and the two robbers all hurled insults at Jesus and mocked Him. This again fulfilled a prophesy written many years before. (Psalm 22:6-8)

B. The Death of Jesus Matthew 27:45-56

1. The penalty for sin must be paid. God could never forgive our sins and accept us until the punishment for our sins was completed. The death of Jesus was the only way He could deliver us. Jesus took our place before God and was punished for our sins.
2. Jesus was sinless. He was perfect and without fault. John the Baptist had referred to Him as the Lamb of God. Just as the animals offered to God in the Old Testament had to be without fault so too Jesus was without blemish or defect. Only Jesus could rightly be offered to God and die instead of us.
3. Jesus was separated from God because of our sins. There was darkness for three hours during the crucifixion because God was punishing Jesus for all our sins - this meant Jesus was at that point separated from God. Of all that Jesus suffered, this is what caused Him the most anguish. Note Jesus' response in verse 46.
4. It appears that Jesus had control of His own death since Matthew states, "He gave up His Spirit." (Verse 50)
5. Jesus met all the requirements for our deliverance from Satan, sin and death. That's why Jesus' last words were, "It is finished!" (John 19:30) Jesus had completed the work He had come to earth to do.
6. Anyone who trusts in what Jesus did for us on the cross is reunited with God through Him.
7. Immediately after Jesus died, the veil in the Temple was torn in two. The way back to God was now open. There was no longer any need to offer the blood of animals. Jesus shed blood **completely** paid for **all** sin.
8. After Jesus died there was an earthquake and many holy people were raised from the dead.

C. The Burial of Jesus Matthew 27:57-60

1. Jesus was buried in a cave which belonged to a rich man named Joseph of Arimathea. This was also a fulfillment of an old prophesy. (Isaiah 53:9)
2. Jesus body was wrapped in clean linen and a large stone was rolled in front of the entrance to the cave.

WRAP UP

1. Why did Jesus pray to His Heavenly Father three times?
2. Who arrested Jesus?
3. What did the disciples do when Jesus was arrested?
4. Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus?
5. How did Jesus respond to their false accusations?
6. What did Pilate say about Jesus?
7. What did the crowd want to happen to Jesus?
8. What were some of the ways Jesus suffered?
9. How was Jesus killed?
10. Who was crucified alongside Jesus?
11. Why was Jesus crucified?
12. Why is Jesus the Lamb of God?
13. Of all that He suffered, what was the most difficult thing for Jesus to bear?
14. What did Jesus last words, "It is finished" mean?
15. Why was the veil in the temple torn in two?
16. Where was Jesus buried?

CHRIST'S DEATH: OLD TESTAMENT PARALLELS**REVIEW****SELECTED VERSES**

Genesis 3:7, 21; 4:1-5; 6:5, 7-9, 13, 14, 16; Exodus 12:5-7, 27; 25:8,9; Hebrews 9:7

LESSON OVERVIEW

Jesus' last words before He died were, "It is finished." He had come to earth with a purpose and at death had completed His earthly mission. Our relationship with God is totally dependent upon the death of Jesus Christ and all that it represents. This lesson will examine the meaning of several Old Testament stories from the viewpoint of Christ's death.

LESSON**JESUS DEATH CLARIFIES THE OLD TESTAMENT****A. God Provides a Covering for Man Genesis 3:7,21**

1. When Adam and Eve sinned, they immediately realized they were naked and proceeded to cover themselves with fig leaves.
2. God rejected the clothing they made for themselves.
3. Adam and Eve could not make themselves acceptable to God.
4. God showed them that death is the penalty for sin. God Himself killed an animal and made garments for them the skins. The animals shed the blood for their sin.
5. God clothed the couple. They received their covering from God alone. Man can do nothing by himself to satisfy God.
6. Jesus Christ, who was sinless, died in our place so that we could be acceptable to God.

7. We must put our faith in Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and believe that He died on the cross for our sins. This is how God has chosen to remove our sin.

B. Cain and Abel Genesis 4:1-5

1. Cain and Abel both brought offerings to God.
2. Cain's offering was rejected because it was according to Cain's own reasoning and not as God commanded. It was bloodless and did not fit the proscription of an innocent for the guilty.
3. Abel's offering was accepted because it was a blood sacrifice involving an innocent substitute for himself as a guilty sinner.
4. Abel's offering showed his faith in God's promised deliverer who would one day come and deliver men from their sin. His offering to God reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made on our behalf.
5. Just as God accepted Abel because he brought the proper offering, so God will accept those who put their faith in Jesus whose blood was shed for the sins of all mankind.

C. Noah and the Flood Genesis 6:5, 7-9, 13, 14, 16

1. The earth during this time was corrupt and filled with violence. The thought patterns of all mankind were directed toward evil.
2. Because the people refused to listen to God, He decided to destroy the world by flood.
3. Only Noah and his family followed after God's ways. God spared them by His Grace.
4. God told Noah to build an ark. There was only one door in the ark. Noah, his family and all the animals that were to be saved had to enter through that single door. This reminds us of Jesus Christ who is the only way to eternal life. (John 14:6).
5. Believing that Jesus died for our sins and trusting only in Him is like entering the ark with Noah and his family to be saved from certain destruction.

D. The Passover Exodus 12:5-7, 27

1. Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go out of Egypt so God punished the nation by killing the firstborn child in every Egyptian family.
2. God provided the Israelites with a way to escape this impending judgement.
 - a. The Israelites were told to choose a male lamb that was physically perfect. These lambs are a prototype of Jesus Christ who was perfect and without sin. Only He could be accepted by God as the payment for our sin.
 - b. The blood of the lamb had to be shed if the firstborn child of any household was to be saved from death. Similarly, Jesus had to shed His blood as the payment for our sin.
 - c. The blood of the lamb had to be put on the top and sides of the door frame as a sign. God laid out specific instructions for them and they needed to believe that the blood would protect them from the angel of death and obey the instructions. In the same way, we need to trust in Jesus Christ and what His death accomplished to escape eternal separation from God.
 - d. God passed over the houses of the Israelites and none of their firstborn children died because they trusted in God and did as He said. God always keeps His word!
3. Those who trust only in Christ have eternal life.

E. The Tabernacle Exodus 25:8,9; Hebrews 9:7

1. God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle where He would meet with His people and forgive their sins.
2. Once a year the High Priest would enter the inner room of the Tabernacle and sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the mercy seat as an offering for his own sins as well as the nation's.

3. The blood of animals could never completely pay for sin. They pointed forward to Jesus Christ who would come and provide the one complete sacrifice for sin by offering His own perfect life. (Hebrews 10:10)

Note: Immediately after Jesus Christ died the veil in the Temple that separated the sanctuary from the inner room was torn in two. God was showing everyone that Jesus paid the full price for sin and that there was no longer a separation between God and man. No further sacrifice was necessary!

4. Jesus' death was a sacrifice **once (in time) for all (people)**.

WRAP UP

1. Why did God reject the clothing Adam and Eve made for themselves?
2. Why did God clothe them with garments made from animal skin?
3. What was wrong with Cain's offering?
4. Why did God accept Abel's offering?
5. How many ways are there to come to God?
6. Why were the firstborn of the Israelites spared?
7. How does the Passover remind us of Jesus Christ?
8. How was Jesus' sacrifice different from the one offered each year by the High Priest at the tabernacle?

JESUS: HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

REVIEW

SELECTED VERSES

Luke 24:1-32, 35-48; Acts 1:9-11

LESSON OVERVIEW

We have seen over the course of these lessons how the Bible is a record of God's story. God's creation, man's sin, the nation of Israel, God's grace, God's punishment for sin and Jesus' ministry and death on the cross for the sins of mankind are all key elements to "His story." The Bible tells us there is still more, however. Jesus had completed His earthly mission when He was crucified on the cross but that was not the end of God's divine plan. He would show mankind once and for all that Jesus was in fact who He claimed to be, the Son of the Living God who had overcome Satan, sin and death.

LESSON

JESUS WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

A. The Empty Tomb Luke 24:1-4

1. Some women came early on Sunday morning to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
2. The women found the stone rolled away from the tomb and were surprised to find Jesus' body was missing.

Note: The stone used to cover Jesus' tomb had been sealed by Roman authority and was heavily guarded. (Matthew 27:62-66)

3. The women were greeted by two angels.

B. The Angels' Message Luke 24:5-12

1. The angels told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead just as He had told them He would.
2. Jesus' resurrection was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy. (Psalm 16:10)
3. During the later part of Jesus' earthly ministry He mentioned many times to His followers that He would be killed but would be brought back to life again three days later. Unfortunately, Jesus' followers had forgotten what He had told them would happen and they didn't believe it was possible for Jesus to be brought back to life.

Jesus Is the Son of God

1. Jesus was who He claimed to be! He was the Son of God! God had raised Him from the dead to prove to everyone that Jesus' claims about Himself were completely true.
2. Jesus had fully paid the price required for our sins. God was satisfied with Jesus' payment on our behalf and therefore released Him from death and raised Him back to life.

D. Jesus Appeared to Some of His Followers Luke 24:13-32; 35-44

1. Jesus appeared to two men as they were traveling to a village near Jerusalem; they, however, did not recognize Him.
2. He began teaching them about Himself from the Old Testament. They still did not realize that it was Jesus.
3. Jesus broke bread with them and then they recognized Him. They probably saw the scars on His hands. (Verse 30)
4. Jesus also appeared to His disciples.
5. He showed them His scars and ate with them. Jesus was demonstrating to the disciples that He had a real physical body and was not a ghost.

JESUS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN**A. Jesus' Final Instructions to His Disciples Luke 24:45-48**

1. He wanted His disciples to share the "Good News" with others. The Good News being that Jesus Christ suffered, died, and rose again from the dead on the third day and that those who repent and trust that these were done to pay the price for our own sin will experience forgiveness and acceptance from God.
2. God desires that no one should perish or suffer eternal punishment. (II Peter 3:9)
3. We must believe what God has done for us through Jesus Christ if we desire to receive eternal life. (John 3:16)
4. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to empower those who follow Him.

B. Jesus' Ascension Acts 1:9

1. After Jesus commanded His disciples to take His Good News to every person, He was taken up in a cloud to His Father in heaven.
2. Once again, this event was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy. (Psalm 68:18)

C. Jesus Will Return Again Acts 1:10,11

1. Two Angels spoke to the disciples concerning Jesus.
2. They said that Jesus would come back to earth again.
3. The next time Jesus comes, however, He will not be coming as the Deliverer of mankind but as the Almighty Judge of the earth. (Acts 17:30,31)

WRAP UP

1. What did the women find when they arrived at Jesus' tomb?
2. What was so amazing about the stone being rolled away from the tomb?
3. What does the resurrection of Jesus demonstrate?
4. How can we be accepted by God?
5. To whom did Jesus appear after His resurrection?
6. Why did Jesus break bread with His disciples?
7. What did Jesus tell His disciples before He ascended into heaven?
8. Why is it important for people to hear the "Good News" of the Bible?
9. Will Jesus ever return to the earth?
10. What will happen when Jesus comes again?