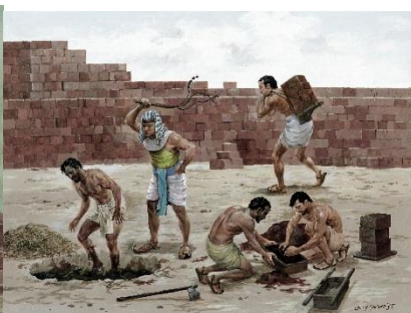
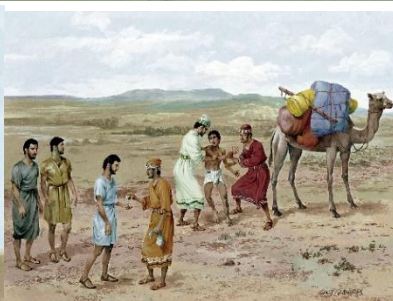


Creation to Christ Bible Study



Book 2 of 4 – NOT FOR SALE

Creation to Christ
Book 2 – Lessons 7-12

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Lesson 7 - The Tower of Babel

What Happened to Noah's Children?

Have you ever wondered why there are so many different languages in the world? Or, where all the nations of the world came from? Well, God told us how these came about and even recorded it in the Bible so we will know the answer.

Many years passed since God saved Noah and his family from the great flood. Once again, many people lived on the earth. Sadly, the majority of the descendants of Noah soon forgot about God's terrible judgment.

They purposely ignored God and did not want to believe Him like Noah had believed. They were like Satan in their thinking. They wanted to be great and exalt themselves. They were not interested in knowing, worshipping, or trusting God. Instead, they made idols of people, animals, birds, and snakes and worshipped them.

Satan was leading our ancestors in rebellion against God. Satan wants people to worship false gods, and to reject the One True God of the Bible. Many cultures still worship the sun, moon, stars, birds, or animals. Satan knows the weaknesses of each culture and knows how to tell a convincing lie, to cause you to worship a false god.

According to the Bible, only the One True God is worthy of our adoration and worship. Worship has to do with the giving of our thoughts, our hearts, and our resources to serve the object of our worship. Satan does not care what we worship as long as we do not worship the only true and living God.

The Bible says in Genesis 11:1-2, “And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.”

At this time in history, the whole world had one language. There were not many different languages as we have today, but only one common language. We do not know exactly how many people were on the earth at this time, but they all lived in the same area of Shinar, which is the present-day country of Iraq.

The Unity of Rebellion

The Bible says in Genesis 11:3-4, “And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”

These people all gathered together to build the tower of Babel because they did not want to be scattered over all the earth. They deliberately disobeyed the command given to Noah by God. They were supposed to multiply and replenish the earth, not just gather together into one single location.

These people were only thinking of themselves. They were full of pride and interested in exalting their own name. How could they be so foolish? Their ancestors all died in the flood, because of their disobedience against God, and these did not learn their ancestor’s mistakes.

Here was a whole city of all the earth’s people in a united rebellion against God. Today the cities of the world have great problems:

crime, wars, corruption, immorality, etc. This is where it all started after the flood.

Who do you think was influencing them to rebel? Of course, it was Satan. He is always the one who wants people to rebel against the commandments of God. Why do you think Satan wanted them to rebel? The answer was so that God could not send the Savior.

The Bible says in Genesis 11:5-6, “And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”

God was interested in these rebellious people. He knew their thoughts and what they planned to do. He knew that if they continued speaking the same language, they would get into even more trouble and cause further evil with greater rebellion. With one common language, and one common goal, God knew that nothing would restrain these people from any wicked purpose that they could imagine. God cared about what they did.

God is everywhere, all the time, and knows everything. He knows all about us as well. We cannot keep anything secret from Him. He knows everything we have ever thought, said and done.

What happened to Satan when he rebelled against God? He lost! What happened when Cain rejected God’s way? He lost! What happened when the people of Noah’s day rebelled against God? They lost! Do you think these people will have victory in their rebellion against God? No way! Do you think that you can prosper in your rebellion against God? Not a chance!

God Disperses the People

The Bible says in Genesis 11:7, “Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

The problem was not that they spoke the same language. The problem was their disobedience toward God. Speaking the same language made it easier to spread their rebellion. It is the same situation in many prisons today. The worst prisoners are put in solitary cells to prevent worse behavior spreading to all the prisoners. God decided to confuse their language before the rebellion grew too big.

The Bible says in Genesis 11:8-9, “So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.”

He confused their one language by creating many new languages. Suddenly they could not understand each other. They were forced to stop construction, because they could not communicate with each other. The lack of communication prevented any kind of harmony to exist in the city. So, they gathered into families and left, spreading out around the globe in huge migrations, some on foot, and some by boat.

What About My Ancestors?

This is where all the various languages, cultures and nations of the world originated. All your ancestors were at the Tower of Babel.

This is the beginning of the history of your family as part of a distinct nationality or language group.

The God who created the whole world, who made Adam and Eve, who sent the flood, is the same God who created the different languages and the great cultures of the world. It is not God's plan for there to be many different gods for the different peoples of the world. The God of the Bible is the only One True God for all people and for all cultures!

Our ancestors turned away from God and followed the ideas which Satan gave them. There were only a few people who continued to worship the true and living God, but most people turned away from following Him.

And so, it is today. Most people in this world have rejected the One True God of the Bible and replaced Him with other gods. Some worship money, others worship Allah, others worship men, others worship mountains and rivers, others worship ancestors, and on and on it goes. Many are the false gods that have deceived many people, but none of those false gods have any power to deliver your soul from sin and the curse of death.

Only the One True God can deliver you from Satan, sin, and from death. Now that the nations are spread over the earth, who do you think God will choose to begin the process of telling the peoples of the world about the coming Savior? After all, the Savior would be sent for all peoples of the world. We will find out in our next lesson.

*** Answer the questions on page 37 ***

Lesson 8 - Abraham

Abram Is Chosen By God

Many generations passed since the Tower of Babel. All through the years, God did not forget his promise to send a Savior to the world. But still there were very few people in each generation who believed that God would send a Savior.

One man who did believe God though was Abram, who lived about 4,000 years ago. His name was later changed to Abraham. Noah had three sons named Shem, Ham and Japheth. Abram was a descendant of Shem. He grew up in a town called Ur, in present day Iraq. Abram married Sarai, but at this time they did not have any children.

The Bible says in Genesis 12:1, “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee:”.

God was continuing His plan to tell the world about the coming Savior. God chose Abram because He knew he would listen, believe and obey Him. God’s plan for Abram was to leave his family and his country. This was a big step. He could not look at a roadmap or talk to a travel agent. He did not know even know where he was to go. He had to trust God to lead him one day at a time. His unknown destination was the land of Canaan, which is modern day Israel.

The Bible says in Genesis 12:2,3, “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

First, God promised Abram that his descendants would become a great nation. At this time, Abram was 75 years old, but he still had NO children! This was great news to Abram, because it meant he would finally have a child -but his wife was past childbearing age and he was confused as to how this would happen. We need to remember that God is all powerful. Whatever He promises, He can and will do, as we will find out in the next lesson.

Second, God said Abram's name would become great. Does anyone know his name today? Of course! All of today's Jews, Muslims, and Christians know his name. They represent over half the world's population. Over 4,000 years later, God is still keeping his promise to Abram that his name would be great.

Third, God also promised to bless Abram and protect him by His power. He would become an important man and other people would receive great benefits and help. God promised that he would prosper those who helped Abram and bring evil on anyone who treated Abram wrongly.

Fourth, God made an important promise to Abram about the coming Savior. God had told Abram, "in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." This promise includes your family as well as mine. How can that be? Abram has been dead for 4,000 years. How can this promise bless us today?

Do you remember God promised to Adam and Eve, in the Garden of Eden, that He would send a Savior? Well, God promised Abram that one of his descendants would be that Savior. It is the Savior who is willing to bless all the families around the world by defeating Satan for them.

How Did Abram Become Right With God?

The Bible says in Genesis 12:4-5, “So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.”

Abram believed God. He showed that belief by obeying God and left his homeland to follow God’s leading to an unknown country. Abram’s faith caused him to obey God’s Word! God led him to Canaan, which is present day Israel.

The Bible says in Genesis 12:7, “And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.”

God promised Abram that He was going to give the land of Canaan to Abram’s descendants. In response, Abram built an altar to God to show his gratefulness. Abram knew the correct way to approach God and be accepted by Him.

He offered a blood sacrifice on the altar as God showed Adam and Eve. Abram’s sacrifice was clear evidence that he recognized the need to have a substitute pay the death penalty for him. He believed God just as Adam, Abel, and Noah did.

Most of the neighbors and relatives that Abram had lived with in his homeland had worshipped idols. Even Abrams’s father, Terah, was an idolater. They did not trust, love, or obey the one true God of the Bible.

Our ancestors have deliberately turned away from God. They worshipped the things which God created instead of God himself. However, God did not abandon his plan to rescue mankind from Satan's power and everlasting punishment. God was planning to use Abram to create a nation of people through whom the Savior would come into the world.

One night, God took Abram outside his tent door and told him to look up and see if he could count the stars. God promised Abram, even before he had a child, that his descendants would be as many as the stars.

The Bible says in Genesis 15:5,6, "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Three words in the last sentence are full of meaning. The word righteousness describes God's perfection. God is flawless, holy, and pure. No person is perfect, and therefore, no person is righteous before God. This is a great problem for mankind. No person can live with God in Heaven, unless he is righteous. How can a man become righteous before God? This verse tells us how to become righteous.

The word 'counted' means 'credited'. When a person deposits his money in a bank, the bank credits the money to his account. When Abram "deposited" his faith in God, God "credited" his faith as righteousness.

This means that when Abram believed God, God considered Abram righteous. The only way to become righteous in the eyes of God, is by believing God's Word! As God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins, so God clothed Abram with His own righteousness.

The third important word is believed. Often the words belief, faith and trust are used interchangeably. True belief is based on fact and not feelings. When you sit in a chair, you trust that it will hold you up. You observe that the chair is sturdy, and you rest yourself upon it.

Abram rested his faith on the fact that what God promised will come to pass. God said, “You will have a son.” Abram believed that God cannot lie and for that reason Abram believed he would have a son, even though it was humanly impossible.

What Does Faith Look Like?

Faith can be illustrated in the following way. Many years ago, there was a man who stretched a rope across the top of a very high waterfall. Crowds of people would gather to watch as the man crossed from one side of the river to the other with only a small rope for his bridge.

One day he brought a wheelbarrow and asked the crowd how many of them believed that he could push the wheelbarrow across the river, over the waterfall. Everybody in the crowd excitedly answered that they believed he could push the wheelbarrow across to the other side.

Then he asked for a volunteer to sit in the wheelbarrow while he pushed it to the other side. No one volunteered. Everyone said they believed he could do it, but no one wanted to get in the wheelbarrow. They didn’t REALLY believe that he could do it. If they had truly believed he could do it, they would have had no problem with volunteering to sit in the wheelbarrow and let him push them across.

Faith affects our actions. Abram’s faith went beyond just saying so with his mouth. He staked his life and reputation upon it. He did the things God wanted him to do because he believed God.

When God looked at Abram, He did not see a disobedient and evil person. Abram was still not perfect, but because he believed God, God considered him to be righteous. How can a person gain righteousness equal to God? Abram found the answer to be very simple. He believed God. God records every act of disobedience a person makes in his life and deposits it into their personal “account”.

God is righteous and in order to live with Him in Heaven, a person needs to have God’s righteousness. The problem is that every person has so many recorded acts of disobedience in their account, they can never erase them by their own power.

When a person believes God, God will “credit” his account with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. God no longer sees the disobedience recorded. He only sees the righteousness of Jesus Christ that has been given to those that believe on Him.

The Bible says in Genesis 17:5,15, “Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee ... And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.”

God changed Abram’s name to Abraham because God promised he would become the father of many descendants. God also changed Sarai’s name to Sarah meaning “mother of nations”. It seemed impossible that Abraham and Sarah would have a son. Abraham would be 100 years old and Sarah 90 years old. This promise did not depend on their human ability, but on the Almighty power of God who made the promise.

*** Answer the questions on page 38 ***

Lesson 9 - God Keeps His Promise

Lot Makes a Bad Choice

Abraham valued his relationship with Lot, more than he valued his own possessions of cattle and sheep. Abraham allowed Lot to decide where he wanted to keep his animals, and then willingly offered to go the other way with his own.

Lot looked around and made his choice. He chose the grassy plains which he thought would be best for his animals. Lot was not thinking of what was best for Abraham. He was not even thinking of what was best for his family, and how this move would affect his relationship with God. Lot was thinking only of himself and how to make more money. Some terrible things happened to Lot because of his choice.

We need to be careful of the choices we make. In our society, we are continually pressured to make choices like, How can I get a better job? What shall I buy? Where will I live?

The real important issues of life are seldom ever mentioned. What about our relationship with God? What do our children know about God? What has God written for us in his Word? What consequences will we face for ignoring what God wants us to do?

The Bible says in Genesis 13:12-13, “Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.”

Abram stayed up in the rocky, less fertile hills and mountains. Lot moved down to the fertile plain. It seemed like Lot had made a better choice because he received a better portion of land for his

animals; but Lot would soon face some very sad consequences for his decision to move closer towards Sodom. Lot was soon to learn that material possessions and prosperity are not always a sign of God's blessing.

God Judges Sin

The two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were located down on the plains. These cities were very wicked. The people who lived there did not want to know God. They were only thinking of themselves and enjoying the evil things they were doing.

Lot chose what seemed to look the best to him, but in doing so, he took a step away from God and toward a dangerous place of great evil. The Bible says in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." We should not rely on our own wisdom to make decisions, but rather should seek advice from God's Word!

God knew all about the wickedness of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. People may choose to reject God and follow Satan, but God will judge them when He decides that He has given enough time to repent.

God decided that he could not tolerate their disobedience any longer. He was patient with the people of Sodom and Gomorrah for a long time and wanted them to repent. Do you remember how long God patiently waited for the people to repent in the days of Noah? The answer is 120 years. When God decided that He had given enough time, the people who refused to repent did not escape judgment.

God does not always punish sin immediately, and it may seem like God overlooks it at times. However, He will eventually punish all disobedience. No one can escape God's judgment.

The Bible says in Genesis 19:1-3, "And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat."

Apparently, Lot had moved again, and now he was living in Sodom with these wicked people. God sent two angels to Sodom to warn Lot and his family that He was preparing to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and that they needed to leave immediately.

The Bible says in Genesis 19:4-7, "But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly."

What a sickening story. God's only plan for sex was that it be the special bond between a husband and wife. The unnatural, perverted, out-of-control sexual passions that plagued Sodom are still raging in our world today. Our whole society is threatened by

horrible diseases (Aids, etc.) because men and women have refused God's plan for their lives.

God Delivers Those That Believe Him

The Bible says in Genesis 19:17, "And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed."

God sent the angels to lead Lot out of the wicked city before it was destroyed. God did not save Lot and his family because they were good. Lot was born separated from God just like everyone else.

Even though he should not have been living in Sodom, the Bible does tell us that Lot still believed God. He believed the promises given to Adam and to his uncle Abraham about the coming Savior. God saves people who believe Him from His judgment.

Noah believed God and He saved him from the flood. Lot believed God and He delivered him before Sodom was destroyed. Once Lot was safely outside the city, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah by raining down fire.

The Bible says in Genesis 19:24-26, "Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."

When the angels took Lot, his wife, and his two daughters out of Sodom, they told them not to look behind, but to run to the mountains. Lot's wife disobeyed. She looked back, because she

enjoyed living in Sodom. She did not want to leave. She was very foolish to ignore God's warning. God turned her into a pillar of salt when she looked back.

Even though there are billions of people in the world today, God still knows and is interested in every individual person. God cares about you and wants you to believe Him, so that He can deliver you. He is also righteous and will judge every person who disobeys Him.

*** Answer the questions on page 39 ***

Lesson 10 - Isaac – the Promised Seed

God Fulfills His Promise

God had promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son even though they were too old to have children. Twenty-five years later God was finally ready to fulfill that promise to Abraham. He was now 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. They both knew that it was impossible for them to have children at their age, but God always fulfills His promises. Nothing is impossible with God.

They had a son and named him Isaac. The Bible says in Genesis 21:1-3, “And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.”

Isaac was the pride and joy of Abraham. Abraham believed that God’s promise to send a Savior to the earth would be fulfilled through Isaac and his descendants. Many years passed by and Isaac grew to be a young man. His father and mother loved him very much. However, one day God told Abraham to do a most difficult thing.

God Tests Abraham’s Faith

The Bible says in Genesis 22:1-2, “And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”

God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac! How then would Abraham become the father of a great nation? How then would the Savior be one of his descendants? How could God's promises be fulfilled through Isaac if Abraham killed his only son?

God is not endorsing child sacrifice. He was merely testing Abraham to see if he loved God more than his own son. What a difficult test!

Abraham did not doubt or question God. He accepted what God commanded. He believed God and knew He could not lie. He knew God would not give him a promise and then change his mind. God would keep his word. This test of faith was very difficult, but Abraham put his trust in God.

Abraham discovered just what each person needs to discover for himself: that God never fails to do what he has promised. We can fully trust Him. God wants us to trust His word. We need to be careful and make sure that we are trusting God's Word, and not in our own ideas, or in some preacher's word, but in God's Word, the Bible.

The Bible says in Genesis 22:3-5, "And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."

Abraham really believed God. So far, he is doing everything he should. He gets up early the next morning. He does not hesitate to obey God. He is really trusting God to work this situation out.

Somehow, Abraham knew Isaac would return with him, because he told his servants that “we” will go worship and come back again.

The Bible says in Genesis 22:6-8, “And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.”

Isaac had seen his father worship and offer sacrifices to God before. He could not understand why they had not taken a sheep with them to sacrifice. Abraham confidently instructed him that God would provide himself a lamb for the sacrifice.

He knew God would not make a promise about Isaac and then not fulfill it. Isaac had to live! Even if Isaac died, Abraham believed God would bring him back to life to fulfill his promises. This certainly was a difficult test for Abraham, but he knew something had to happen up on the mountain top to spare Isaac’s life.

Believing God is the most important thing we can do. Just hearing God’s word will not deliver us from Satan’s control. Suppose you were sick and went to the doctor. The doctor told you what medicine you should take. Would you get better by just hearing the doctor tell you about the medicine? Of course not! You would need to take the medicine to get better. Likewise, just listening to God’s words will not help us. We need to believe and obey God’s Word. God will only accept those who, like Abraham, believe Him.

God Provides the Way to Life

The Bible says in Genesis 22:9-10, “And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.”

Isaac was a young man and could have put up a fight, but there was no struggle. Isaac willingly submitted to his father. When Isaac was bound, there was no way for Isaac to escape. He was helpless and could not save himself. When God shut the door of Noah’s ark, there was no escape for anyone outside the ark. Likewise, there was no escape for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah when God sent down fire.

God saved Noah and his family from the flood. God saved Lot and his daughters from the fire which destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. Only God could save Isaac from being killed. Is there any way that we can save ourselves from everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire? No! We cannot save ourselves. Only God can make a way for man to be accepted and escape the Lake of Fire.

The Bible says in Genesis 22:10-13, “And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.”

God saved Isaac! Abraham passed the test! God told Abraham not to kill his son. Although Abraham loved Isaac more than anything else on earth, he loved God even more.

God provided an animal for sacrifice. God caused a ram to be caught by its horns in the bush. Abraham killed the ram and burned it as an offering to God. Isaac went free because God provided a substitute to die in his place. The ram was Isaac's substitute.

The Bible says in Genesis 22:14-19, "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son; That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. So Abraham returned unto his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba."

God provided a ram to die instead of Isaac. Abraham believed that God would also provide the Savior to triumph over sin, just as He provided the ram. In our very last lesson, we will see something even more dramatic occurring on this same mountain.

Just as Isaac was under God's direct order to die, so all mankind is under the sentence of death. Isaac could not save himself. Abraham trusted the Lord, believing that somehow his loving God would provide a way to live. And He did. God provided a way of escape through a substitute; the innocent dying for the guilty.

Just as Abel offered a sacrifice to die in his place, so the ram died in Isaac's place. Just as God accepted Abel's sacrifice, so God accepted Abraham's sacrifice of the ram in Isaac's place.

We cannot begin to imagine such a difficult test as Abraham faced. However, we can see that God rewarded Abraham for his faith. He provided a way for Isaac to be saved. The ancestral line of the promised Savior was preserved. God can be completely trusted to fulfill His promises.

*** Answer the questions on page 40 ***

Lesson 11 - Jacob and Joseph

We have learned already of the faith of Abraham that led him to leave his homeland and travel to an unknown land, that God would show him.

The Bible says in Genesis 22:19, “And Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.”

Beersheba is located in the land of Canaan, which we know to be the southern part of modern-day Israel. Abraham was about 100 years old by the time that he settled down in the land that God had for him. This is where the story of the nation of Israel now begins.

It was in Beersheba where God gave Abraham his son Isaac. It was in Beersheba that God tested Abraham’s faith, and commanded him to sacrifice Isaac. Of course, we know that God spared Isaac’s life. God had promised that through Isaac would come a great nation of people, including the Savior. The Bible tells us the story of how Isaac married a young lady named Rebekah in Genesis 24. Shortly after they were married, they had two children named Esau and Jacob.

God Blesses Jacob

The Bible says in Genesis 25:27, “And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.”

Esau was a skillful hunter. He spent his time tracking and killing wild animals out in the field. The promises of God concerning the Savior would have ordinarily been passed on to Esau, because he was the first born.

However, Esau was not interested in the promises of God. He did not trust God like Abraham and Isaac did. Esau was like Cain. He patterned his life around his own ideas and doing his own thing. He did not see that he was a sinner and needed to be accepted by God. As we read about Esau, we find that he lived for the things of this world. These were more important to him than the things which God wanted to give him.

Jacob lived quietly in his tent and kept the sheep and cattle. Jacob believed God like Abraham and Isaac. He was very interested in God and His promises. We all need to ask ourselves, “Am I turning away from God’s truth and following my own way like Cain and Esau? Or am I like Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who admitted their sin and trusted in God to provide the Savior?”

Though Jacob believed God, he was also at times a very deceitful man. He was able to trick his brother to sell him his birthright for a pot of porridge. He later tricked his father to give him the family blessing that should have belonged to his brother.

This caused so much anger between Esau and Jacob that eventually, Esau threatened to kill his brother Jacob. Therefore, Jacob was forced to leave his father and mother’s home and began the long trek back to the land in which his grandfather, Abraham, used to live.

Jacob Begins a Family

The Bible says in Genesis 28:11-12, “And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to

heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.”

Jacob’s journey lasted several weeks. One night, as Jacob slept in the mountains, God gave him a dream. Through this dream, God showed Jacob that the coming Savior would bridge the gap between man and God.

God is the only one who can make a way for man to come to Him. No amount of good deeds done by man can bring him close to God. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, the ladder to God had been removed. The only way man could come to God was if God made a new way.

God promised to send a Savior who would be like the ladder which Jacob saw reaching from earth to Heaven. God showed Jacob that there is only one way to God. Jacob must put his trust in God.

Jacob made his way to Abraham’s original homeland. He found his mother’s relatives and married her two nieces, sisters, by the name of Leah and Rachel. He went on to have 12 children and after twenty years returned to his father Isaac and there was peace between Jacob and his brother Esau.

Joseph was one of the youngest sons of Jacob, but was also Jacob’s favorite son, which caused his older brothers to hate him. Joseph was a man that loved God and believed His promises. God gave Joseph two dreams to show that he would become the ruler over the family.

The Bible says in Genesis 37:5-10: “And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it to his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and,

lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth.”

God Takes Care of Joseph

Joseph’s brothers were very jealous. One day they sold Joseph as a slave to traders going to Egypt. The brothers made it look to their father that Joseph was killed by a wild beast. The traders sold him to Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh (king of Egypt). For a short time, everything went well for Joseph in the home where he worked, but when his Potiphar’s wife made false accusations against him, he was put into prison.

The Bible says in Genesis 29:21-22, “But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.”

Joseph still trusted God even though he was hated by his brothers and lied about by his master’s wife. He trusted God’s promises just like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. No one can ever please God unless he believes what God says. God did not fail Joseph even when he was in prison. God took care of him because he had a

wonderful plan for Joseph's life. It looked impossible with Joseph in prison that he would ever be the ruler of his family, but God always keeps his promises.

One day Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had two dreams that were related. Pharaoh did not know or worship the true and living God. The Egyptians worshipped the sun, moon, stars, animals and the Nile River. God wanted to tell Pharaoh a very important message through the dream, but no one was able to interpret the dream. Pharaoh was told that a man in his prison, Joseph, would be able to interpret the dream for him, because Joseph worshipped the One True God.

Joseph was brought before Pharaoh and he interpreted his dream. Joseph told Pharaoh that God was about to bring 7 years of great plenty followed by 7 years of great famine. The famine would be so severe that the 7 years of plenty would be forgotten.

Joseph counseled Pharaoh to pick out a man to oversee the officers of the land collecting 20% of the food during the 7 years of great plenty to store up for the 7 years of famine. In this way, there would be food to last throughout the famine, and those in countries nearby would be able to come and buy food.

Pharaoh was impressed with Joseph's interpretation and promoted him to the highest position in all of Egypt. Joseph became the prime minister of Egypt. Only Pharaoh was higher than Joseph. Joseph had been through difficult experiences and understood that the God was still in control. God had not forgotten Joseph when he was in prison. The dreams which God had given him as a youth were about to be fulfilled.

Jacob's Family Comes to Egypt

After the seven years of great plenty, the seven years of great famine began. This famine stretched into neighboring countries

like Canaan. In fact, Joseph's father and brothers ran out of food. Jacob sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy food. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him and bowed themselves to him.

The Bible says in Genesis 42:3-6, "Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt....And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth."

God brought to pass the things he showed Joseph in his dreams as a youth. His brothers did indeed bow down before him. Joseph wept when he disclosed his true identity to his brothers. Rather than treating his brothers harshly as they deserved, Joseph explained to them that God used the brothers' horrible actions for good.

Joseph instructed his brothers to go back to Canaan and bring his father and all his family to Egypt where they would be able to survive the great famine. Jacob and Joseph were reunited once again. Pharaoh allowed Jacob's family to live in the best part of Egypt where they remained for 400 years. Over the years, they multiplied and became a great nation. God changed Jacob's name to Israel and so all his descendants became known as the nation of Israel or the Israelites.

*** Answer the questions on page 41 ***

Lesson 12 - Moses and the Passover

The Bondage of Israel

We ended our last lesson with the children of Israel (Jacob) entering the land of Egypt. We now begin to study the second book of the Bible called Exodus which means “going out”. We will discover how God, after 400 years, brought the Israelites out of Egypt and back into the land that He had promised to give to Abraham. Joseph and all his generation died in Egypt. Joseph’s relatives continued to live in Egypt after the drought ended for another 400 years.

During this time, the children of Israel prospered in Egypt. They grew from a family of 70 people to nearly two and a half million people. However, things were about to change.

The Bible says in Exodus 1:8,11, “Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph ... Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses.”

Satan guided the new Pharaoh to make slaves of the Israelites. Satan knew that God had promised to send the Savior and that He would come through the nation of Israel. Therefore, Satan wanted to destroy the nation of Israel so there would be no Savior. Satan even moved Pharaoh to instruct the Israelite midwives to kill all the male babies that would be born. They refused to obey Pharaoh and chose to trust God.

God Prepares a Deliverer

In an effort to protect her infant son from being killed, one Israelite mother placed her son in small boat and hid him in the bushes on

the river, praying that someone would find him and protect him. God allowed Pharaoh's daughter to find the child when she came to the river to bathe. When she saw the baby, she decided to adopt him as her own child, and she called his name Moses.

God planned to use Moses to deliver the Israelites from slavery. God knew that Moses would be safer in Pharaoh's house than anywhere else. He also knew Moses would learn many things that would be important for him to know.

Moses grew up into a man. One day, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave. He killed the Egyptian man and fled into Arabia where he became a shepherd. He married and had children.

About 40 years later, God told Moses to return to Egypt and bring the Israelites into Canaan, the land He promised to Abraham. God knew that Pharaoh would not allow the Israelite slaves to go free. He would have to be persuaded that God was the true and living God before he would allow them to go free.

The Powerful Plagues of God

The Bible says in Exodus 5:1-2, "And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go."

Pharaoh refused to obey God's command given through Moses. Pharaoh did not know God, the Creator of the whole earth. The Egyptians worshipped the creation rather than the Creator. They worshipped the Nile River, the sun, moon, and many kinds of animals.

They had many gods and even worshipped Pharaoh as a god. God wanted to teach the Pharaoh that idols are false gods and that the true God is the Creator of everything. Therefore, God is to be worshipped alone.

God allowed nine plagues to come upon Egypt to show the Egyptians that their false gods could not deliver them from His great power. First, God turned the water in the Nile river to blood. Next, he sent plagues of frogs, then lice, and then flies. God then caused the Egyptians' horses, cattle, sheep, camels, and donkeys to become sick and die.

Next, God caused all the Egyptians to have terrible boils. This was followed by a terrible destructive hailstorm, then a plague of locusts, and then three days of thick darkness in all the places where the Egyptians were living. Pharaoh and the Egyptian people could not save themselves from these terrible plagues. Neither could their false gods save them.

The Israelites would have suffered from the plagues too, but God's love and mercy protected them so that the plagues did not affect them even though they were living nearby in the same country. God protected Israel from the plagues so that the king of Egypt would realize that the God of Israel was the only true and living God. God knew all along that Pharaoh would be stubborn and would refuse to release them.

The Passover Deliverance

The Bible says in Exodus 11:1, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether."

God told Moses the last plague would bring death to all the firstborn males to both Egyptians and Israelites. However, God gave a set of instructions so anyone who followed these instructions would be protected from the last plague.

The Bible says in Exodus 12:3-5, “Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house:....Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:”.

The head of each home was supposed to choose a lamb or goat. The lamb or goat had to be without blemish. God is perfect and He requires a perfect sacrifice. He would never accept an animal offering that was sick or hurt.

The Bible says in Exodus 12:6, “And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.”

The lamb was to be kept until a specified day by God, and then killed. The lamb had to die. Its blood must be allowed to flow out. This was to remind the Israelites that the punishment for sin is death. Isaac was saved by the death of an innocent ram. Now, the Israelites would be saved by the death of an innocent lamb.

The Bible says in Exodus 12:7, “And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.”

God told the Israelites to catch the blood in a basin. They were to take a small branch and dip it into the blood. They were to apply

the blood on both sides of the door posts and over the door of the house where they were going to eat the lamb that night.

It was the blood of the lamb on the doorpost that would save the firstborn from the plague. God promised that when He saw the blood on a house, He would pass over the house and not allow the plague to enter and kill their firstborn.

The Bible says in Exodus 12:29, “And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle.”

In every home where there was no blood applied to the door the firstborn child died. But, in every home where the blood was applied, the firstborn lived. Imagine if every family in your country had someone die on the same night.

The Bible says that every Egyptian family in the whole country had someone die. It is possible that if a grandfather, father, and son were all firstborns and living in the same house, then all three would die. Can you even begin to imagine what this disaster would be like?

This event would picture how the coming Savior would save people from judgment and separation from God. This event would also become known as the Passover, because God passed over each house that had the blood on the doorpost.

What would have happened if a man said, “I don’t want to mess up my door posts with blood. I will dump it on the ground outside the back door.” Would God have passed over that house? No!

They may have done it with the best of intentions, but they would not be following God's instructions. They would be doing their own thing, just like Cain and Esau. Their firstborn would have died because they refused to believe God.

What would have happened if an Egyptian heard what God was about to do and decided to follow God's instructions? Would God pass over his house and he escape the plague? Yes, because he believed God.

Pharaoh did not believe God, and his own firstborn son died in the plague. Pharaoh called Moses that very night and told him to take the Israelites out of Egypt.

Everyone that refuses to believe God will lose. Adam and Eve lost. Cain lost. So did the people of Noah's day and in Sodom and Gomorrah. Now Egypt lost. Everyone has a choice. All of them made the wrong choice. God blesses those who believe Him and look for the coming Savior.

God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt that very night. He began to lead them back to the land that He promised Abraham.

God protected Israel so that the great Savior could eventually be born into the world. It was God's desire that Israel would share the news of the promised Savior with all the world, so that others could believe on the One True God and be saved!

*** Answer the questions on page 42 ***

Lesson 7 Questions

1. After the flood, all of Noah's children decided to follow God's Word. True or False.

2. Satan does not care what we worship, as long as we do NOT worship the _____ .

3. The people decided to build the tower of Babel because
 - a. They wanted to reach to heaven.
 - b. They did not want to be scattered over all the earth.
 - c. They did not want to follow God's instructions

4. Satan wanted the people to rebel against God, so that God could not send a _____ .

5. God did not care what the people on earth were doing. True or False.

6. God decided to confuse the language of the people before the _____ grew too big.

7. Will anyone ever be able to prosper in their rebellion against God? Yes or No.

8. The God of the _____ is the only One True God, for all people and all _____ .

Lesson 8 Questions

1. God slowly forgot about His promise to send a Savior to the world. (True or False)

2. God chose to bless Abram because ...
 - a. Abram believed God's Word
 - b. Abram had a lot of money
 - c. Abram told God what he wanted, and God gave it to him

3. How can your family be blessed through the promise that God gave Abram?

4. Abram's faith caused him to _____ God's _____. (Fill in the blank)

5. Why did Abram offer a blood sacrifice to God?

6. It is not possible to believe God and worship idols/ancestors at the same time. (True or False)

7. A person can do enough good religious deeds (baptize, attend church, be a good person, etc.) to make himself righteous in the eyes of God. (True or False)

8. Abram was not perfect, but because he _____ God, God considered him to be _____.

9. True saving faith will make a difference in the way you live. True or False.

Lesson 9 Questions

1. Abraham obeyed God even though it was not easy. (True or False)

2. Lot's decision to move toward Sodom was based on...
 - a. Selfish Reasoning
 - b. Spiritual Reasoning

3. Material possessions and prosperity are not always a sign of God's _____. Fill in the blank.

4. Live like you want and God will bless you! (True or False)

5. God always judges sin and wickedness immediately. (True or False)

6. God's plan for sex is
 - a. You may enjoy it with as many partners as you want
 - b. You may enjoy it with whatever kind of partner you prefer
 - c. You may enjoy it with one partner within the bond of holy marriage

7. Fornication and Adultery have threatened our society with horrible diseases. (True or False)

8. God delivered Lot and his family, because he _____ God.

Lesson 10 Questions

1. Abraham believed that God's promise to send a Savior to the earth would be fulfilled through his son Isaac. (True or False)
2. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac because...
 - a. God approves of offering human sacrifices.
 - b. God wanted to test Abraham's faith in His promise.
 - c. God didn't really like Isaac.
3. Abraham thought that God had changed His mind about His promise. (True or False)
4. We should not trust in our own ideas, or a preacher's word, but we should rather trust in _____ Word. (Fill in the Blank.)
5. What verse in Genesis chapter 22 tells us that Abraham knew that he and Isaac would return together alive? _____
6. God will only accept those who
 - a. Keep the commandments.
 - b. Follow the church laws.
 - c. Believe Him.
7. Who did Abraham love the most?
 - a. Himself
 - b. Isaac
 - c. God
8. A person that tries hard enough (good works) to please God can escape from the Lake of Fire. True or False.
9. Isaac went free because God provided a _____ to die in his place.

Lesson 11 Questions

1. Isaac and Rebekah had two sons named _____ and _____.
2. Esau was interested in the promises of God. (True or False)
3. Jacob was interested in the promises of God. (True or False)
4. Esau wanted to kill Jacob because he had stolen the _____ and the family _____.
5. God taught Jacob in a dream that:
 - a. He could climb a ladder to heaven if he worked hard to please God.
 - b. God is the only one who can make a way for man to come to God.
 - c. If you have a vision you must be ok with God.
6. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, and was loved by all his brothers. (True or False.)
7. God obviously failed Joseph after he had been sold by his brothers and landed in prison. (True or False.)
8. Joseph was able to interpret Pharaoh's dream, because he worshipped the _____ _____ _____.
9. Jacob's descendants became known as the nation of Israel. (True or False.)

Lesson 12 Questions

1. What was the population of the nation of Israel, after 400 years in Egypt? _____
2. Satan wanted to destroy the nation of Israel, so there would be no _____.
3. Pharaoh was willing to obey God's command and release the children of Israel. (True or False)
4. God sent plagues to Egypt because
 - a. He wanted to torture them for making Israel into slaves.
 - b. He wanted to teach them that He was the Only True God.
 - c. They had been cursed by their ancestors.
5. God was surprised that Pharaoh stubbornly refused to release Israel. (True or False)
6. God commanded Israel to kill a lamb because ...
 - a. He wanted to remind them that the penalty for sin is death.
 - b. He wanted to teach them that they could not pay for their own sins.
 - c. He wanted to see if they would believe God or not.
7. God promised to pass over the house when He saw the blood on the _____.
8. The Passover was to picture how one day the Savior would save people from the _____ of God.
9. God protected Israel so that the _____ could be born into the world.

NOTES

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