

# YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

[www.ccog.org](http://www.ccog.org)

LEVEL

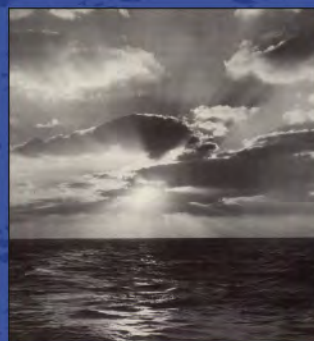
5



A Planned Beginning



Man's History Begins



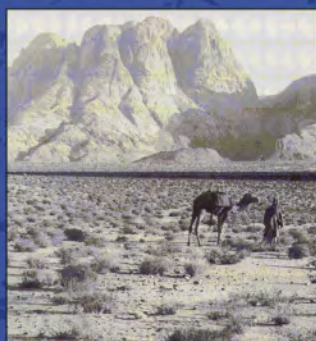
A Fresh New Start



The Fathers of  
the Promises



A Family Becomes  
a Nation



Israel in the Wilderness



Israel Enters the  
Promised Land



Israel During the Times  
of the Judges



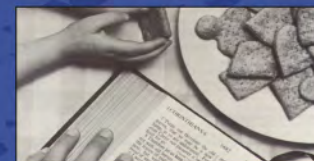
Samuel – Last Judge  
of Israel



Saul Becomes King  
of Israel



David is Anointed  
King of Israel



The Spring Feasts and  
God's Festival



---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

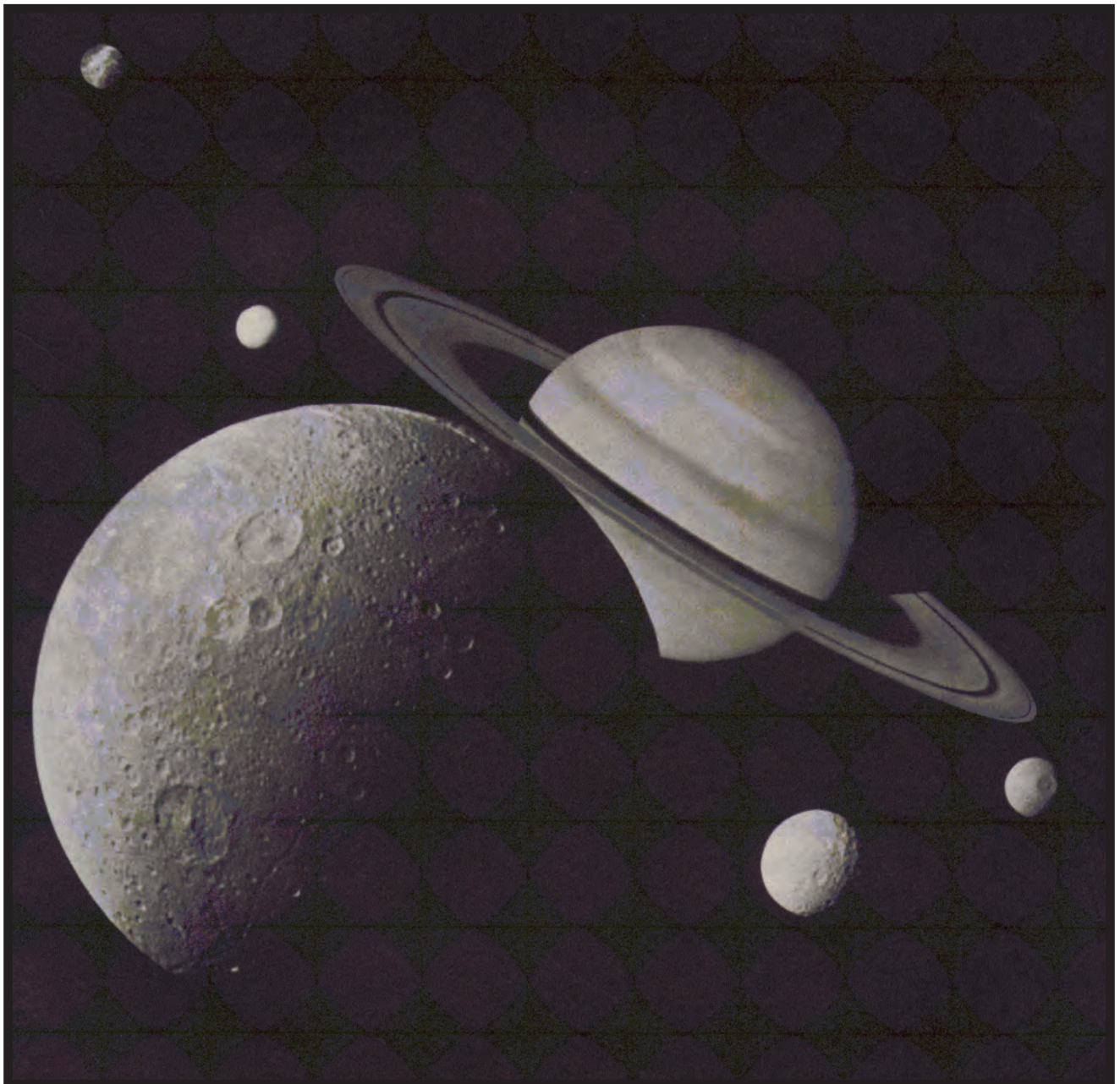
# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 1

---





---

# A PLANNED BEGINNING

**W**here did our planet, Earth, come from? How did human life start? Did someone plan the earth, with its mountains, trees, oceans and everything you see around you? The answers to these and many other questions are found right in the pages of your Bible!

In this lesson you will learn of God's plan for creating the universe and all life in it, especially human life. By the end of this month's lesson you should be able to say, from memory, each of the books of the Old Testament.

As you study the lesson use your Bible to look up all the scriptures that are given. You will also need a pen or pencil to fill in the blanks where questions are asked. If you have your Bible and a pen or pencil with you, continue reading. If not, get them before you go any further.

## THE BEGINNING

To begin our study let's first go back in history to a time before you were born—before your father and mother were alive—before your grandparents were living—before the city in which you live was started—even before the nation in which you live was formed. Are we back far enough to see the beginning? Not yet!

Let's travel back before the oldest nation on earth began, before any people lived on our planet. But still we are not back to the beginning. We still see the earth, the sun and all the other planets and stars shining in the night sky. The beginning was before there was anything that our eyes can see.

These things were all made at some time long, long ago before our minds can imagine. If we could go back to that time, what would we see? Would we see the earth and life beginning by chance, as most of your school science or history books teach? Would we see a world of erupting volcanoes, white-hot flowing lava, boiling oceans and an atmosphere of deadly gases from which an accidental "spark of life" is said to have been struck? You are told that from this accidental beginning, life advanced from single cells to oceans full of wriggling worms, to giant lizards and flying reptiles, to ape-like creatures, to gorilla-like cave-men and, finally, to modern-day man.

Is this really what happened in the beginning? How can you know for sure? Was anyone there who could give us an eyewitness report? Are there any written records?

*Yes!*

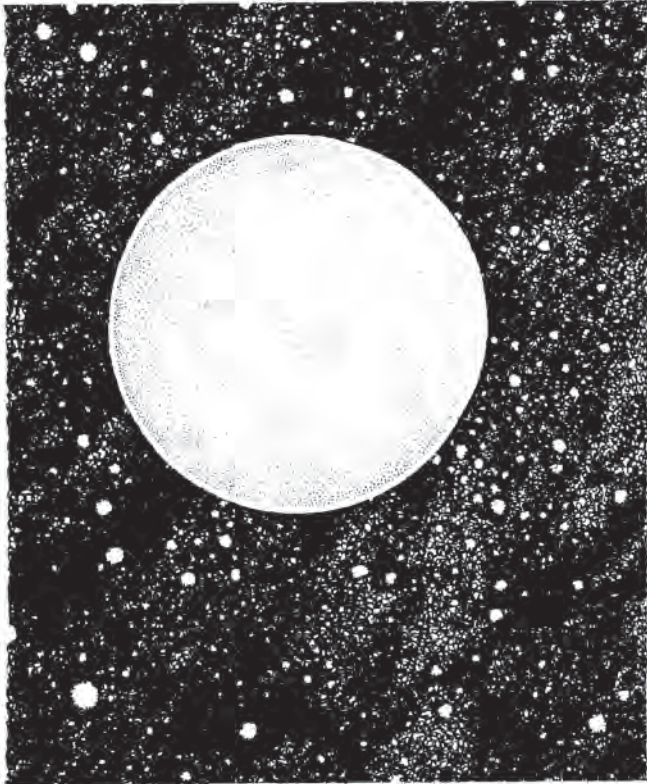


## THE CREATOR

Two places in the Bible we read, "In the beginning . . . ." In both of these places this sentence continues with a name. Someone was there and has left you and me a written account of what really did happen! We can know for sure! Read Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1, then write these verses on the lines below. (Genesis 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. (John 1:1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

So, our beginning starts with two great Beings called God and the Word. Before



God and the Word created everything in the universe.

anything else existed, they were there—together. They planned and created everything that we now see around us (John 1:3).

*God* is actually a name for a family of beings, just as your last name is a family name for the people in your family (Ephesians 3:14, 15). So, when we say that God created all things, we mean the God Family created all things. The Bible tells us of only two Beings who are now members of the Family of God: God and the Word, or God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. Each member in God's Family is called God, just as each member in your family is called by your family name.

You will learn much more about this most important fact about God later in this study.

### Do You Remember?

1. How many members are now in the God Family? \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Who are they? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What scripture proves this? \_\_\_\_\_.

### BEFORE ADAM AND EVE

Now, let's move forward in time and look at what the creating God Family made.

Surprising though it may seem, the first part of God's creation would have been invisible to you and me. The great Creator God, through the Word, first designed and created spirit beings—the angels. Each angel was individually planned and created—millions or perhaps billions of them! They were made of spirit and were given self-sustaining life. This means they



---

don't need to eat and drink or even breathe air to stay alive as you do. And they can never die. They are immortal beings. Also, God created them with minds. They can think, reason, plan, make choices and decisions. In this way they are much like God.

But, in another important way they are not like God. They were not created having perfect holy character as God and the Word have. This perfect character is the one thing that even God cannot create instantly. It must be developed by the choice and purpose of the one in whom it is being formed. You will also study much more about this later in these lessons.

The angels were created with minds able to think, reason and decide. They have self-will. God also revealed fully and plainly to them His perfect, holy way of living. God then allowed them to choose to follow His righteous way of life, or to turn from it and follow other ways of their own planning. They were told plainly the right way, but God did not force them to go that way. The choice was up to them.

What was God's purpose and plan in creating all these angelic spirit beings? Why were they made? God wanted to share His perfect, joyful way of life with other beings. He also needed others to help Him carry this way of life throughout all the endless universe that He had created. He wanted them to share in all that He had made.

But, we're getting a little ahead of the story. Let's now look at the time recorded in Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1—the time of the creation of the heavens and the earth. We don't know for sure how long ago this was. Scientists tell us the earth is millions or billions of years old. This is possible

and does not disagree with anything revealed in the Word of God. We do know, however, that the angels were created before the earth, because God reveals that all the angels (created "sons of God") sang for joy at its completion (Job 38:4-7).

In Hebrew, the language in which Moses wrote the book of Genesis, the word translated *heaven* in Genesis 1:1 is plural—heavens—and, therefore, includes all the physical creation—the entire universe. At this time, after the creation of the angels, all the universe (including the earth) was brought into being.

"But," you may ask, "why did God create the earth and all the limitless universe if the angels had no need for air, food, water or shelter?" They didn't need a physical creation to keep themselves alive.

The answer is that the universe, and especially the earth, was created as a testing ground—a proving ground for the angels. Remember, they were to develop perfect, righteous, godly character. This one, super-important part of them had to be developed over a period of time. So, God created the vast universe of untold millions and millions of stars, planets and moons to be an environment—a place of living—in which this righteous character could be developed. He started by placing some of the angels here on this planet—Earth.

### **Do You Remember?**

1. What was the first thing the God Family created? \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What scripture proves this? \_\_\_\_\_



---

---

## REBELLION BRINGS DESTRUCTION

When the angels were created, they were not all created alike. Some were of greater rank than others. One of the highest ranking angels was a being of great beauty and wisdom, named Lucifer. His name meant Light Bringer or Shining Star of the Dawn. This great ruling angel was placed on the earth by God to lead the other angels there and to rule them according to the perfect laws of the Creator. He was to bring the light of God's way of life to the angels on the earth.

How long Lucifer and his angels lived on earth before the creation of man is not told to us by God. It may have been millions—or even billions—of years. However long it was, these were years of great happiness and peace as Lucifer ruled his world by every one of the perfect laws of God.

But one day Lucifer began to think an evil thought. By continuing to think this evil thought, he finally made himself believe that he could make a great, evil plan succeed.

What was it that he was planning?

Rebellion!

He had become jealous of God. He convinced himself that God was being unfair to him. Lucifer was sure that with the millions of angels over which he ruled he could succeed in overpowering God. What was it Lucifer wanted to do? He wanted to take over God's throne—to take God's place as the Supreme Ruler of the entire universe (Isaiah 14:14).

What had started as a foolish, sinful thought had grown into an evil plan that

was to carry the entire creation into total destruction!

Filled with pride and greed, Lucifer and his angels swept up to heaven for the attack.

God changed Lucifer's name to Satan, which meant enemy, and his followers were from then on known as demons. These miserable, bitter, unhappy spirit beings were forever turned from good and obedience to evil and rebellion. Yet, Satan was allowed to remain as king on the earth until a new king would become qualified to take his place. (You will study much more about this new king in future lessons.) This is the thread that ties together all the parts of God's Holy Word and His glorious plan for all His creation.

### Do You Remember?

1. What did Lucifer plan to do in his rebellion against God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .
2. What scripture tells of this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

But, let's come back again to God's physical creation—the earth and all the other planets and stars of the universe.



When these were created by God, they were perfect in design and beauty. God doesn't create confusion or ugliness (I Corinthians 14:33). Yet, verse 2 of the first chapter of Genesis says, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." A better wording of this verse is, "And the earth *became* without form, and void. . . ." Satan's rebellion happened after the creation and *caused* the earth to become formless and empty.

God's good and perfect laws had been broken and the natural result was suffering and destruction. What had been a dazzlingly beautiful jewel of God's perfect creation became total ruin when Lucifer and his followers tried to overpower God. Roaring winds flattened the forests and drove the oceans into



The moon, sun and stars appeared on the fourth day.

crashing mountains of water. The earth's surface split and cracked and great volcanoes formed and spread rivers of lava over much of the land. The air was filled with blinding ash and poisonous smoke. Probably no animal or plant life survived this terrible destruction. Only Satan and his demons were left alive on the ruined planet.

No one knows how long the earth was in this condition. But during this time the entire earth was covered by oceans, and the air was a thick mixture of gases, smoke, ash and water vapor. This mixture was so thick that no light could reach the surface of the seas. No kind of physical life could survive on this dark, poisoned planet. Finally, God was ready to begin the next step in His great master plan for the universe. He began to renew the earth and bring back its former beauty.

### Do You Remember?

1. Did God *create* the earth "without form and void"—ugly and empty? \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Give a scripture that says God doesn't make things in confusion. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What caused the earth to become dark, empty and ugly? \_\_\_\_\_.

### PREPARED FOR MAN

For five days God worked at getting the earth ready for human life.

On the first day He began to thin the thick, poisoned air so that light could shine through upon the earth's surface. The thick darkness then ended and day and night were separated (Genesis 1:3-5).



Then, on day two, He formed a layer of fresh, clean air over the surface of the sea. This allowed water vapors to rise and form into great billowy, white clouds. This air was a mixture of healthful gases, which were needed to support breathing animals and human beings. This mixture of gases is called the atmosphere. (Genesis 1:6-8).

On the third day of this week of remaking the earth, God raised up the land in some areas and pushed down the ocean floor in other places. This formed dry land areas, or continents, for plants and animals to live upon.

On these continents He also created all kinds of trees, bushes, flowers and grasses—everything that could grow out of the dry land. The earth was becoming beautiful again, with blue oceans and green land masses (Genesis 1:9-13).

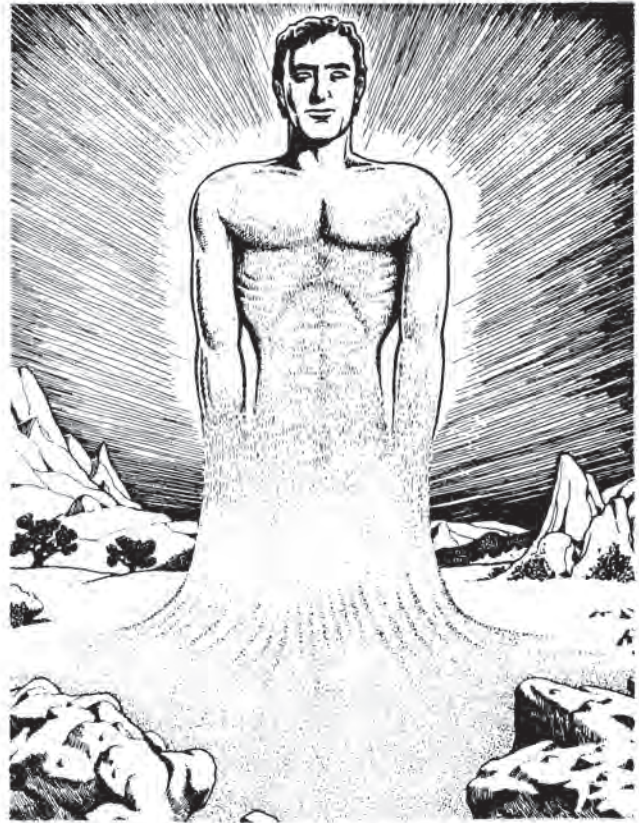
The fourth day brought even more clearing of the atmosphere, and the sun, moon and stars shone through in all their sparkling beauty and brilliance (Genesis 1:14-19).

On the fifth day the great Creator God placed all types of sea creatures into the oceans, lakes and rivers. He also created birds to fly in the beautiful, cloud-filled sky (Genesis 1:20-23).

In five short days the almighty God Family had renewed the whole face of the earth and prepared it for man to live upon.

On the sixth day of this re-creation week, God formed all types of land animals. From mighty elephants to tiny worms and insects—every kind of life that walks or crawls upon the surface of the land was made (Genesis 1:24-25).

All was now ready for human beings to



From the red mud of the earth, God made man.  
live upon the renewed earth!

### Do You Remember?

In a very short form list the events of each day of this re-creation week. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### “IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS”

The time had finally arrived for God to form the most important part of all His vast creation. From the red mud of the earth, working perhaps like a sculptor



---

with clay, He molded a statue that looked very much like Himself. When He was finished He breathed into this figure the breath of life, and this first man became a living, breathing being (Genesis 2:7).

God named the man whom He had created Adam, which meant red, rosy or ruddy. He placed the man in a beautiful, parklike garden, called Eden, probably near the part of the earth that is today called the nation of Israel.

### **MAN—NOT COMPLETE!**

God knew when He made the man that he was made incomplete. Man wasn't really all there. Like the angels before him, he needed to develop righteous, holy, godly character. This had to be developed with God's help and by the determined effort of the man in which it was being formed. It could come only through a lifetime of experience and decision making. Once Adam developed this holy, righteous character (the ability to do what he had been taught was right and good, even when he wanted to do something else), then he could be a complete creation.

### **WHY HUMANS?**

This was all part of why humans were made. You will remember that Satan was allowed to stay as king over the earth until a new king was ready to take his place. To be qualified to replace Satan this new king would have to be totally obedient to God and His holy law. God had to know, beyond any doubt, that the new king would never rebel against Him and His government, as Lucifer and his followers had done. How could He know this? How could He be sure that this new king would

never turn against Him?

There was only one way!

The new king would have to prove himself over a lifetime of obedience. He would have to develop the holy, righteous character of God Himself; develop the very nature of God; become like God in his thinking and way of life. In short, he would have to qualify to become a member of God's holy Family.

This is why God created Adam and put him on the earth. He was giving Adam the chance to become His spiritual Son, as well as be the new king to replace Satan as the ruler of the earth! You will learn much more about this great purpose for all human life as you continue your study of God's Holy Word.

### **Do You Remember?**

1. How was Adam *not* complete? \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. What was missing in him? \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Why did God make Adam? Give two reasons. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

### **A PERFECT COMPANION**

After Adam was made, God caused a deep sleep to come over him. As he slept God removed from Adam's side a rib. Beginning with this rib God formed a companion for Adam—a woman whom Adam named Eve (Genesis 2:22).

This completed the physical reforming of the earth and the creation of life upon it. In six days God had repaired the damage caused by the rebellion of Satan and his



followers. God reviewed all that He had made and saw that it was all “very good”—designed, made and operating as He had planned it.

One thing different in this new world was that God gave all the plant, animal and human life upon the earth the ability to reproduce themselves. Instead of creating millions of human beings one by one, as He had the angels, He made human life so that it would reproduce itself. Each life form would multiply “after its kind” as time passed. So, in time the earth would be filled with plants and animals and people.

God also made all life temporary, rather than eternal as the angels were. As new life developed, old life died. It was all kept in perfect balance by physical laws that God created. These laws are now called by man the laws of nature. They are really the laws of the great Creator God who designed

them and set them in motion to keep His creation working properly.

### A HOME AND A JOB

When Adam and Eve were created, God placed them in a beautiful garden home. They were given a perfect home with perfect weather. All the food they needed was there for the taking. They had a Father who was deeply concerned about them and loved them more than any other part of His creation. Nothing could have been more perfect. Everything was full of beauty, happiness and peace!

Before Eve was created, God gave Adam the responsibility of naming all the animals (Gen. 2:19-20). This was much easier than you might think, because all the creatures were friendly and harmless—just as they will be again when God’s government is soon returned to this earth (Isa. 11:6-9).

Together God told Adam and Eve to “dress and keep” their garden home. God had given it to them in perfect beauty, and they were told to work to keep it that way. In Genesis 1:28, God also told them: “Be \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ the earth.” He commanded them to have many children, that the earth might be filled with life. And, of course, they were to teach their children about God and His holy, righteous laws, which, when obeyed, would bring them continued peace and happiness throughout their lifetime.

### Do You Remember?

1. How did God make human life different from angel life? Give two ways. \_\_\_\_\_



Contentment in the garden of Eden.



- 
- 
2. What things did God tell Adam and Eve to do? List three.
- 
- 
- 

## DAY SEVEN—THE SABBATH

You have already learned that God finished the physical creation on the sixth day with the making of Adam and Eve. But there was still one day left of that first week in this new world. God created something very important and special on this last day!

With all His work finished, God rested (Genesis 2:2). You may wonder why He needed a rest. Was He all worn out from His creative labor? Was He so tired He just had to stop and rest? Not at all! God doesn't become weary or tired (Isaiah 40:28). But He *did* rest. Exodus 31:17 tells us: “. . . in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he *rested*, and was refreshed.” This rest was refreshing to God. But not because He was tired or weary.

So, why did He rest?

By resting He put His holy presence in that seventh day and set an example that He wanted all humans to follow from then on. By resting God created the Sabbath day—making it a day of rest for all mankind throughout all time. He also “blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it” (Genesis 2:3).

What does “sanctified” mean? Look up the word *sanctified* in a dictionary and write the definition on the lines below:

---

---

---

God set apart this seventh day of the week from the other days. It was set aside for holy use—for physical rest and assembled worship of the Creator God.

God also knew that people would need a rest every seventh day, a chance to forget about daily cares. Many people today have never been taught about the Sabbath, and, as a result, suffer from worries and mental stress, because they don't keep this day of rest and relaxation.

So, the Sabbath was created as a day to remind us of our Creator and a day to rest. Every seventh day of the week *was*, from this time forward, to be *holy time*, special to God and to be used only as He directs. (Later you will learn more about just how you should use God's holy time—how to keep the Sabbath holy.)

## A TIME FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Adam and Eve were created knowing nothing. Their minds were totally empty. It was God's responsibility to teach them all the things they needed to know but couldn't learn by themselves.

On this very first Sabbath day God sat and talked with them. He took this time to teach and instruct them about Himself and His great master plan for them and all their children. He told them of His perfect law, which, when obeyed, would give them happiness and peace in their beautiful garden home.

We are told very little of what actually was said on this first Sabbath. However, we know that God could not expect Adam and Eve to obey laws that they knew nothing of. So, He had to tell them what was good and right, as well as what was bad and wrong



---

for them to do—in other words, how He expected them to live their lives.

One example of God's teaching on this first Sabbath can be found in Genesis 2:9, 16-17. Have you read of God's instructions about the two special trees He placed in the garden — The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? God gave Adam and Eve permission to eat of all the trees in the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He told them that if they disobeyed Him and ate of this tree they would die. But He also told them that if they ate of the Tree of Life they could live forever.

In other words, God was telling them that they did not have the right to decide for themselves what was good and what was evil apart from Him and His Word. Only God knows good from evil, and it was His responsibility to make that knowledge known to them.

On this first Sabbath God, then, taught Adam and Eve that they must be obedient to Him and go His way if they were to receive His blessings and qualify to join His Family.

This is still one of the purposes of the Sabbath day. We are to talk with God in prayer, and He talks back to us through the pages of His written Word when we study the Bible and when we listen to the minister explain the Bible in Sabbath services. The Sabbath is still a time for teaching and learning.

### **Do You Remember?**

1. What did God teach Adam and Eve on this first Sabbath day? \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Is the Sabbath a time for us to be taught by God? \_\_\_\_\_ .

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Lost in the sentences below are the names of persons (or beings) mentioned in this lesson. Can you find them? Underline each name as you find it and check it off your word list.

EXAMPLE: EDGAR DENTED THE FENDER.

WORD LIST: ADAM      GOD      GARDEN  
ANGELS      KING  
DEMONS      SATAN  
EVE      WORD

1. MY PATIENCE IS AT AN END!
2. PLEASE HAND ME A DAMP SPONGE.
3. WITH THESE GLASSES, I SEE VERY WELL.
4. CLASS, PLEASE GO DOWNSTAIRS FOR A FIRE DRILL.
5. IT WAS A NEW, ORDINARY PENCIL.
6. DO YOU REMEMBER WHO SANG, ELSIE?
7. DID YOU EVER TRY TO RIDE TANDEM ON SKIS?
8. DO YOUR KIN GO TO FAMILY REUNIONS?



## BIBLE MEMORY

Books of the  
Old Testament

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy  
Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth

1 Samuel (1 Kings)  
2 Samuel (2 Kings)  
1 Kings (3 Kings)  
2 Kings (4 Kings)  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah

Esther  
Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Solomon  
Isaiah  
Jeremiah

Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel  
Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah

Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

## RE-CREATION

Find the hidden words and circle them.  
 Then place the correct number in the  
 "Day" column to show on which day God  
 created each item.

### WORD SEARCH

R	D	U	B	I	R	D	S	Y	A	Y
N	X	R	E	S	T	H	S	A	L	M
U	S	E	E	R	T	T	I	D	E	I
S	S	E	A	A	N	I	M	A	L	S
R	D	U	B	A	U	A	X	B	R	I
A	N	B	L	I	N	I	G	H	T	D
T	A	P	Y	R	O	M	O	O	N	E
S	L	A	M	I	N	A	D	N	A	L

Word list:

DAY

SUN

MOON

STARS

\_\_\_\_\_

SABBATH

REST

\_\_\_\_\_

SEA ANIMALS

BIRDS

\_\_\_\_\_

AIR

\_\_\_\_\_

LAND ANIMALS

MAN

\_\_\_\_\_

DAY

NIGHT

\_\_\_\_\_

LAND

TREES

PLANTS

SEAS

\_\_\_\_\_



---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 2

---



Man's History Begins



---

# HUMAN HISTORY BEGINS

**Y**ou may be surprised to learn that just a few short chapters of the Bible contain more than one fourth of man's entire history. A period of time covering more than 1,600 years! These early chapters of the book of Genesis are jam-packed with the exciting events of man's beginning days, the rise of a civilization and finally, the near destruction of all mankind.

In this lesson, you will learn about the first children born on earth, the first murder and who committed it, the families of mankind that came from Adam and Eve, and the great wickedness of mankind as they continued to believe Satan and disobey God.

You will learn about God's plan to destroy all humankind by a great worldwide flood and to continue human life through the only righteous man on earth.

Throughout the lesson, there will be scriptures to look up and questions to answer. If you have your Bible and a pen or pencil with you, you are ready to begin. If not, get them before you read any further.

## **SATAN INSPIRES MORE REBELLION**

We are not told how long Adam and Eve lived obediently in the Garden of Eden.

However, it is certain that Satan did not waste much time. He soon began trying to destroy God's wonderful master plan.

Satan knew that Adam was being given the chance to become the new ruler of the earth. So, his first action was to make sure that Adam would not take this position of rulership away from him.

How did Satan plan to do this? Satan knew that God expected Adam to lead, provide for and protect his wife Eve. He also knew that if Adam failed to do these things he would disqualify himself from becoming the new world ruler. So, Satan watched carefully for the chance to talk to Eve.

When this chance came, Satan disguised himself as a serpent. Complete his question to Eve (Gen. 3:1): "Has God indeed said, You shall \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ of the garden?" Of course, Satan already knew the answer to his question, but he wanted to set Eve at ease and lead her into conversation.

Eve answered Satan by explaining that God allowed them to eat the fruit of all the trees except for the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. God had said they were not to eat of it or even touch it, or they would die.

What was Satan's reply (Gen. 3:4)? "Then the serpent said to the woman, You will \_\_\_\_\_."

"God is keeping this fruit from you because He knows that if you eat it you



will receive great wisdom,” Satan lied to Eve. “Your eyes will be opened and you will become like gods, knowing good and evil” (verses 4 and 5).

### DECEPTION AND DISOBEDIENCE

Eve now had to make a choice. Whom was she going to believe and obey? God had told her one thing, and now Satan was telling her the exact opposite. As she thought it over, she considered the facts. She could see that the fruit of this tree was pleasant looking and appeared to be good for food. She could see no reason for not eating it. She also wanted to have greater wisdom — a better understanding of right and wrong. “What could be wrong with receiving wisdom and becoming more like God?” she reasoned. “Isn’t that what He has planned for us, anyway?”

The more she thought about it, the more convinced she became that the serpent was right — maybe God really was trying to hold back something good from them!

Finally, Eve could resist no longer. She rejected God’s instructions and believed Satan’s lies. She took the fruit of the forbidden tree and ate of it. Then she gave some to Adam, who also ate.

The battle for the future rulership of the earth was over in this short space of time! Adam had allowed his wife to lead him into disobedience. Instead, he should have led her to believe and obey God and His laws. Thus, Adam had proved himself to be unfit to replace Satan as the ruler of the newly recreated earth.

Satan, the sneaky serpent, had cleverly deceived Eve into believing his lies. She had been tricked. Eve didn’t know that she was making the wrong choice.



Eve finally gave in to temptation and took the fruit of the forbidden tree and ate it.

She thought she had seen all the facts clearly and was doing the right thing. She trusted her own wisdom, instead of believing the plain, simple instructions of her Creator.

You and I are faced with this same choice every day. Whom will you believe? Will you believe what Satan tells you through friends at school and through the internet, radio, television, magazines and newspapers? Or will you believe what God tells you through your parents and God’s ministers?

Satan is still working overtime to deceive everyone he can. He wants as many people as possible to believe his lies instead of God’s wonderful truth. He knows God’s plan still calls for human beings to take his place as ruler of this earth. Satan knows his time on this earth



---

is short. Therefore, he is doing all he can to keep people from believing what God says.

### Do You Remember?

1. Was Satan happy to see human beings on the earth? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How did Satan try to ruin God's plan for His human creation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### ORIGIN OF "HUMAN NATURE"

Because of their disobedience, the eyes of Adam and Eve *were* opened — but not to know the wisdom that Satan had promised. Their eyes were opened to see the evil of what they had done. They were now afraid to face God. They tried to hide themselves in the Garden.

But it is not possible to hide from God! He can see us no matter where we try to hide.

God found Adam and Eve in the Garden.

"I hid myself because I was afraid and naked," Adam explained to God.

"Who told you that you were naked?" God asked Adam. "Have you eaten of the forbidden tree in the middle of the garden?" (Gen. 3:11). God could see that their attitude was changed. They had been naked before, but it had not concerned them. Now they were ashamed. They had enjoyed God's visits before. Now they were fearful and hid from Him.

What had happened to them?

They now had a knowledge of evil, as well as good. They had experienced evil firsthand. By obeying Satan and eating the fruit of this symbolic tree, they began receiving a different nature. Their nature, or way of thinking, was now a mixture of good and evil. Before, it had been only good.

Now it was Satan's attitudes of suspicion, distrust and disobedience which had entered into their minds. Since Satan is made of spirit, he is able to put these thoughts and attitudes into people's minds. This different nature is commonly called "human nature." It is really *Satan's nature* in human beings. Adam and Eve now had a part of Satan's nature within them.

### "WHO, ME?"

When God questioned him, Adam tried to shift the blame. Complete what Adam said to God (Gen. 3:12): "The \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ me, \_\_\_\_\_ of the tree and I ate." He didn't want to admit that he had failed in his duties of caring for and leading his wife. He tried to put the blame on her and on God.

When Eve was questioned, she also sought to put the blame elsewhere. What was Eve's answer to God (Gen. 3:13)? "The \_\_\_\_\_ deceived \_\_\_\_\_, and I ate." Eve is saying she was tricked.

They were not willing to admit their sins and to ask God to forgive them. They knew they had done wrong, but they felt it was not their fault. They blamed someone else!

Everyone has had this same nature

ever since. We all find it difficult to admit to having done something wrong. We don't naturally want to ask for forgiveness. We try to hide our sins and hope nobody will find out. We try to put the blame onto someone else.

This attitude comes from Satan. He was not willing to admit that he was wrong in trying to take over God's position. In fact, Satan still thinks his way is right and God's way is wrong. And he is busy trying to make all humans think this same way. But God wants us to learn to admit our mistakes and to turn to Him for forgiveness.

### CAST OUT OF THE GARDEN

Whenever God's laws are disobeyed, a penalty must be paid. This was true for Adam and Eve, and it is true for you and me today.

After God talked to Adam and Eve about their sins, He made clothes for both of them. He told Eve that, as a result of her sin, she must suffer sorrow and pain as she gave birth to her children. This has continued with all mothers throughout history.

Adam was told that now he must work hard just to provide food and shelter for himself and his family. These things had been provided by God in their garden home. Now, most of Adam's time would be spent working the soil and removing weeds and thorns from it.

God also drove them out of their beautiful garden home. He knew it would be cruel to allow them to eat of the Tree of Life and live in unhappiness forever. God placed angels and a blazing sword at the only entrance to the Garden. They stopped anyone from entering the Garden



"God placed angels and a blazing sword at the only entrance to the Garden."

of Eden and taking of the Tree of Life.

Adam and Eve now lived a totally different life. God no longer walked and talked with them, as He had in the Garden. Their days were spent struggling to supply their needs.

### Do You Remember?

1. How did Adam and Eve feel after eating the forbidden fruit? \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Did they want to find God and ask for His forgiveness? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Whose nature did they receive as a result of their disobedience? \_\_\_\_\_.
4. How did God punish them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Why did God send them out of the



Garden of Eden? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### THE WORLD'S FIRST CHILDREN

As time passed, the first of Adam and Eve's children was born. This child was a son whom they named Cain. His name meant "gotten" or "acquired." He was named this because his parents felt that they had gotten him from God.

Later, a second son was born. He was given the name Abel. The meaning of his name isn't clear in the Bible. It seems to be from a Hebrew word that meant "breath."

As these boys grew from childhood into manhood, they became very different from each other. Cain became a farmer, working the soil to produce food. Abel, however, was a herdsman or a keeper of sheep.

Adam and Eve were happy to have two strong young men around. Their help was needed, with all the work to be done in their new life outside the Garden. Adam and Eve taught their sons, as best they could, the laws of right living that they had been taught by their only parent — God. But they had no real closeness to God as they had in the Garden. And neither did their children.

Part of God's teaching concerned special offerings. From time to time Adam and his family gave offerings to God.

At one such time, Abel brought the finest young animal from his herds as an offering to God. But Cain offered only produce from his farm.

Cain had little interest in or use for this kind of thing. He wasn't feeling any thankfulness toward God. His attitude was

much the same as that of most people on earth today. They don't respect what God says, and they see no reason to worship Him.

Neither Cain's attitude nor his offering was proper. (He knew he should have been offering from his animals, not from his produce.) So, God was displeased with him. He accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's. This made Cain very angry! He became jealous and envious of his brother. Cain actually began to hate Abel.

At this point God talked to Cain. "Why are you angry?," God asked. "If your deeds are good I will accept you. But if you continue to disobey, sin will finally overcome you and destroy you."

Shortly after this, when Cain and Abel were alone in the field, Cain turned on his



By allowing hate to control his mind, Cain became the world's first murderer!



younger brother and killed him! He had again rebelled against what God had told him. Instead of conquering his hate and anger, he let them conquer and control him. Now he had brought shame upon himself and his parents. He had become the world's first murderer!

### **"MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"**

When Cain realized what he had done, he tried to hide from God. But God's voice called to him in his hiding place.

"Where is Abel, your brother?" God asked. Cain didn't want to admit his evil deed and ask God's forgiveness. Instead, he lied to God! Complete Cain's answer to God (Gen. 4:9): "And He said,

Am I \_\_\_\_\_?  
\_\_\_\_\_?"

This disrespectful answer to God's question showed that Cain's attitude was not repentant. He was bitter and hostile toward his Maker. He felt that he had good reason for killing Abel!

But God was fully aware of what had happened. He said to Cain, "The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground."

Satan must have been pleased with the course of events on the earth. Of the first four human beings on earth, three had disobeyed God and now the fourth was dead.

### **PUNISHMENT FOR SIN**

Once again, God had to punish one of His human children for disobedience. But God's punishment is always done in love and for a reason. God doesn't punish out of hate. He doesn't seek to get even with the sinner or to make him pay for his



Cain called out to God, "My punishment is more than I can bear."

wrongdoing. God's punishment is for the purpose of *correcting* the evildoer. It is done for his good. God wants to correct that person's wrong ways and bring him back to the right way of life — the way of happiness.

So it was with Cain. As punishment, God sent him away from the other human beings on the earth. He was to be a vagabond — a fugitive — fleeing from his evil deed. And the ground was no longer going to yield as abundantly for him. These things would be a constant reminder to him of what he had done.

This all seemed to be too much to Cain. He called out to God (Gen. 4:13): "My punishment \_\_\_\_\_ than I \_\_\_\_\_." He was afraid that without God's protection,



---

whoever might find him would kill him.

To prevent this from happening, God put a mark of identification on Cain. He also warned all people that if anyone should kill Cain, the murderer's punishment would be seven times greater than Cain's punishment had been.

So, Cain left his parents' home. He traveled eastward with his wife to a land called Nod. This name meant "a land of wandering." He wandered in this land for the rest of his life.

### **Do You Remember?**

1. What were the names of the first two children born on earth? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. As these children grew up, what kind of work did each do? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Why did God *not* accept Cain's offering? Give two reasons. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Who became the first murderer, and whom did he murder? \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Why does God punish those who disobey Him? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **ADAM'S FAMILY GROWS**

Now, let's look more closely at how the human family grew. It all started with the two people whom God had created in the Garden of Eden. They were told to "be fruitful and multiply" — to fill the earth with people. In this they were obedient to God.

As the years passed, Adam and Eve

had many more sons and many daughters. These children grew to adulthood, chose husbands and wives from among themselves and raised families of their own.

You may wonder why these people married their own brothers and sisters. Today there are biblical laws that forbid marriages between closely related people. But at this time in man's history, it was not wrong. There simply were no other people around for them to marry!

Later, in Abraham's lifetime, God showed that it was *not* proper for a man to marry his sister, though it was allowable for him to marry his half sister. By the time of Moses (see Leviticus 18), God gave very clear laws forbidding marriages to close relatives. Experience since that time has proven that when these laws are broken, the result is a weakening of the family strain and even possible defects in the children born of such marriages. (Your parents can explain this more fully to you if you are interested.)

### **SETH IS BORN**

When Adam and Eve were 130 years old, Eve gave birth to another son, whom she named Seth. This son was very much like Adam and like his older brother, Abel. His name meant "appointed" or "put." He was named this because Eve felt that he was appointed to take the place of her murdered son Abel.

Through the families of Cain and Seth, God has recorded in His Word a very brief history of the first 1,600 years of mankind's history on earth. No written record is given in the Bible of any of the other children of Adam and Eve or of the



families that grew from them.

### CAIN'S CHILDREN

After Cain left his parents, he and his wife had a son named Enoch. Cain built a city in the land of Nod and named the city after his son.

Enoch's wife had a son named Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael. The son of Mehujael was Methusael, and his grandson was named Lamech. Except for Lamech, only the names of these descendents of Cain are recorded (Gen. 4:18).

Lamech had two wives — Adah and Zillah. They each had sons whose names are listed in the Bible record. Adah's first son was named Jabal. Jabal became the ancestor of tent-dwelling cattlemen (Gen. 4:20). His children were nomadic (wandering) herdsman, much like some of the

Arab tribes of the Middle East still are today.

Adah had a second son, who was named Jubal. Jubal was the father of the first musicians on earth. He and his children were known for their abilities to play music on the harp and flute (Gen. 4:21).

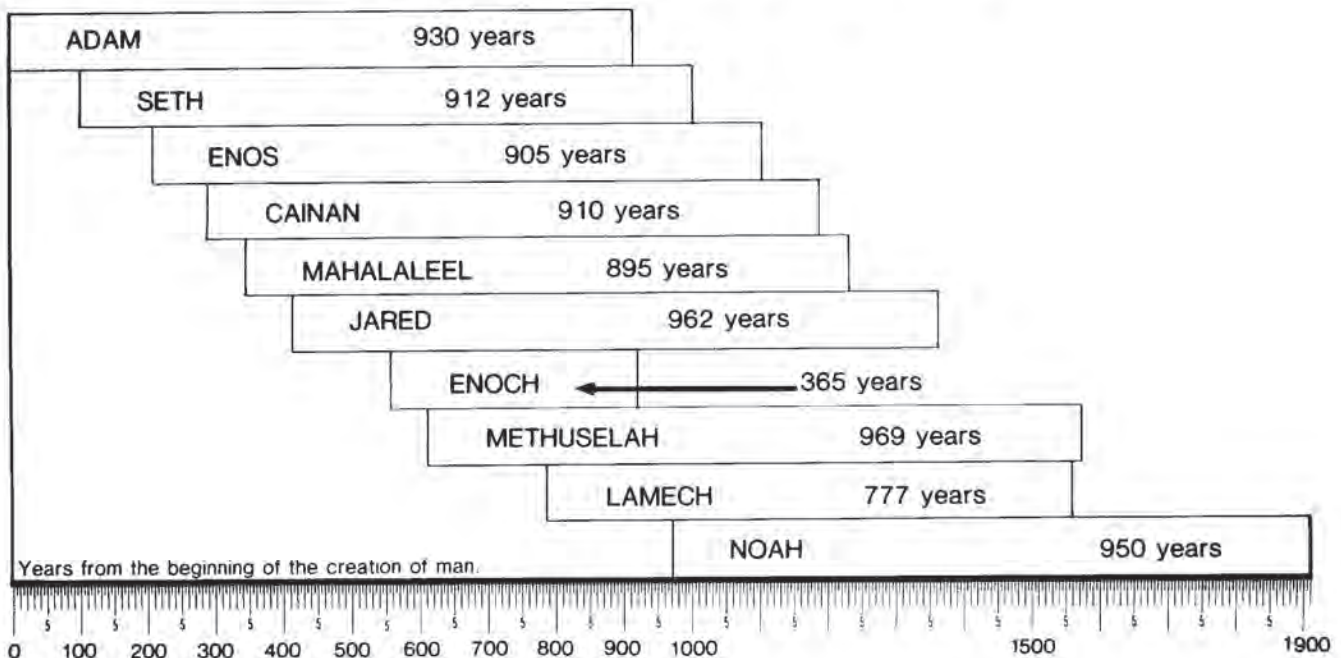
Lamech's second wife, Zillah, was the mother of Tubalcain. He and his children started the metal working trade. They forged tools made of iron and bronze (Gen. 4:22).

From this very brief history we can learn a little of the beginnings of man's civilizations here on earth.

### SETH'S CHILDREN

You may be surprised to learn that the first book of the Bible, Genesis, actually has within it several other books. Moses

## THE GENERATIONS OF ADAM





included them as part of his written history of mankind. One of these books is found in the fifth chapter of Genesis. It is called the "Roll (or Scroll) of the Generations of Adam."

This book lists the descendants of Adam through his son Seth. From this we know the names of at least one man in each generation from Adam to Noah. Also, we are told how old each man was when his son was born and how long he lived after that son was born. With this information, it is possible to draw a chart that will show the 10 generations from Adam to Noah, how long each man lived, when he was born and when he died. By doing this we find that there were about 1,650 years from the creation of Adam to the time of the great Flood of Noah's time.

The seventh man on this list was named Enoch. He was different from the others in several ways. First, while everyone else lived to be about 900 years old, Enoch lived only 365 years. Also, we read in verse 22 of Genesis 5 that he "walked with God." And verse 24 tells us that at the end of his life, "God took him." This does not say, as many suppose, that he went to heaven. The Bible tells us clearly that no man has gone to heaven except Jesus Christ (John 3:13). God physically removed Enoch from the evil around him as a sign that he was indeed a man of God. If you want to know more about Enoch, you should read Mr. Armstrong's booklet, *Where Are Enoch and Elijah?*

Next in the list is Enoch's son, Methuselah. He is listed as having lived longer than any other human being — 969 years, just 31 years short of 1,000 years!

It is possible that he lived until the great Flood.

### Do You Remember?

1. What was the name of Adam's son who was born when Adam was 130 years old? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. What three types of work were begun by three of Lamech's sons? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  3. How many generations were there from the creation of Adam to the Flood? \_\_\_\_\_. About how many years was this? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Did God take Enoch to heaven? \_\_\_\_\_. What scripture proves your answer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  5. Who was the oldest human being to ever live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How long did he live? \_\_\_\_\_

### WICKEDNESS FILLS THE EARTH

During these early years of human history, very few people were looking to God or trying to live according to His laws. Enoch as we have just seen, had been one of the rare exceptions. But, evil grew worse and worse on the earth.

God looked down upon the earth and saw this great lawlessness. Every thought or desire of man was turned to evil continually (Gen. 6:5)! His heart, or nature, was totally corrupted by Satan's influence. All men were rejecting God's way of good and were following Satan's ways of rebellion and evil. They were all going the way of Cain!



God saw that the ways of man were rotten to the core. Conditions on earth had gotten so bad that God was sorry He had created human life! What did God say He would do because of the evil on the earth? Read Genesis 6:7 and write the verse on the lines below.

---

---

---

How would God destroy all life from the earth? Read verse 17 and write the verse on the lines below.

---

---

---

### ONLY ONE RIGHTEOUS MAN

God saw just one bright spot in this world of spiritual darkness and wickedness. One righteous man was to be found on the earth. This man, Noah, found grace and favor in the eyes of the Eternal God. We read that he, like Enoch before him, "walked with God." Noah was the only really righteous man living on the earth at this time. His heart (attitude) was set on trying always to live according to God's way.

God talked to Noah and told him what He was planning to do to the wicked world around him. He told Noah that He was going to make an "end of all flesh" (Gen. 6:13). He had decided that the only way to correct the evil condition upon the earth was to bring it all to an end and start over again! With this in mind, God gave Noah detailed instructions of how to prepare for the coming destruction of all life from the

face of the earth.

### NOAH'S ARK

God told Noah to build a huge ship (Gen. 6:14). It was to be about 450 feet in length and 75 feet in width. This ship, or ark, was to be made of gopher wood. Noah was to cover it inside and out with tar to make certain it would be waterproof. Inside he was to build three decks.

God designed this huge floating box (the word *ark* means "box" or "chest" in the Hebrew language) to carry Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives, and at least one pair of every kind of air-breathing animal on earth.

With these instructions from God, Noah and his family began the giant task of building the biggest boat the world had ever seen! A boat that God would use to preserve the human race and all animal life from total destruction!

### Do You Remember?

1. How did God feel about the way men were living at this time? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was the one righteous man God found on the earth? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did God tell Noah He was about to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Noah instructed to do to prepare for this great destruction? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## BIBLE MEMORY

Books of the  
New Testament

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke  
John  
Acts  
Romans

I Corinthians  
II Corinthians  
Galatians  
Ephesians  
Philippians  
Colossians

I Thessalonians  
II Thessalonians  
I Timothy  
II Timothy  
Titus  
Philemon

Hebrews  
James  
I Peter  
II Peter  
I John  
II John

III John  
Jude  
Revelation

## FIND THE MYSTERY NAME



What man in the Bible lived to be 969 years old?

The mystery name will appear in the heavy squares, reading top to bottom, when you fill in the right answers.

### CLUES:

Father of Cain and Abel

Mother of Seth

He was called the "sneaky serpent"

He, like Enoch, "walked with God"

He was called "father of musicians"

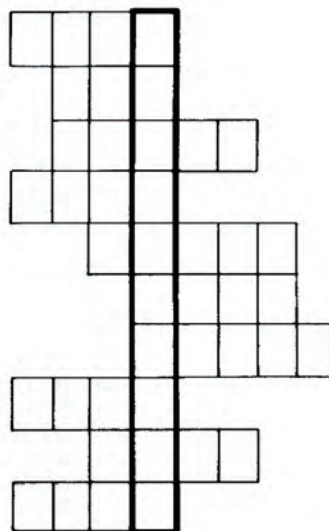
Name means "appointed" or "put"

God "took him" at age 365

Name possibly means "breath"

Name means "gotten" or "acquired"

Mother of Jubal and Jabel





---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 3

---



A Fresh New Start



---

# A FRESH NEW START

---

**H**ow much do you know about Noah and the huge ship God told him to build? How did the earth come to have people of different skin colors after the Flood? Who was “the father of the faithful” and why was he called this? These are a few of the interesting subjects you will learn more about in this month’s lesson.

But before you begin, do you have your Bible and a pencil or pen with you? If not, get them before you read any further.

## **NOAH BELIEVES AND BUILDS**

God looked down with great sorrow upon the earth He had made. The human beings who were created to become His very sons were totally set upon only doing evil! So God decided to destroy all human life and end the misery caused by their disobedient ways (Gen. 6:5-7 and 11-13).

However, God found one man who was seeking to live His way of life. This one righteous man was Noah. You

learned in last month’s lesson of God’s plan to have Noah build a huge ship.

Noah was already nearly 500 years old when God told him of this plan.

## **A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Building the Ark would not be an easy job. Nor was it something that Noah could do secretly in his backyard. This was a massive project! The Ark was to be higher than a four-story building and as long as a city block!

Word spread quickly about what Noah and his sons were doing. Curious onlookers came to watch. They asked many questions.

“Why are you building a boat?”

“Why are you making it so large?”

“How will you ever get it into water deep enough for it to float?”

These questions gave Noah a chance to tell people about God. He told them God was displeased with them because of the way they were living. He warned them of God’s plan to destroy mankind with a worldwide flood because of their disobedience.

“This is why my sons and I are building this giant ship,” Noah explained. “We are following God’s instructions. God also has instructions

---

## **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

A beautiful sunrise pictures the start of a new day.

Cover photo: American Stock Photos

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



for all of you. If you will believe and obey Him, you can be spared from death in this coming watery destruction.”

How do you think these people felt about Noah’s answers to their questions? Do you think they believed what he told them?

They probably responded in much the same way as people do to God’s message today. Some were polite enough to listen as if they were interested. But others scoffed openly and couldn’t believe for a minute that such a thing could happen *to them*. “It has never happened before! Why should we believe it will happen now?” they probably asked.

Some saw it as a big joke. But this was no joke! God had decided to allow mankind 120 more years in which to change their ways (Gen. 6:3). If the people took Noah’s warning message seriously and began to obey God, God would not destroy them in the Flood.

Noah probably spent most of this 120 years building the Ark and warning the people of the coming Flood. But he always told them that there was a sure way of escape. God wanted them to repent of their disobedience and turn to Him. He didn’t want to see them die (Ezek. 33:11). But it was up to them whether they would live or die.

In Noah’s time the people heard the warnings, but few gave them much thought. In fact, *not one person* turned from his evil ways to God’s way of righteousness! How can you be sure of this? If anyone had repented and turned to God, God would have saved him just as He saved Noah and his family. But

there were no other people on the Ark!

Months passed into years and years into decades. The people paid less and less attention to Noah and his sons and their “crazy” construction project. Noah, however, faithfully followed God’s instructions. He continued his work on the Ark and his preaching of God’s warning message.

Though the people didn’t believe Noah and thought him to be a bit crazy, they had to admire and respect his persistence and his building skills. Day after day, month after month, year after year Noah kept at the task God had given him! His example was a lesson in faithfulness to all who watched him then. And for those who read about his life in God’s Word, that lesson continues to be taught today.



Noah warned the people that God was going to punish the world for its sins.



You can learn from it right now. Do you faithfully stick with the jobs you are given until they are finished? Most of your tasks can be completed in a few hours or a day or two. How persistent and faithful are you? If you learn to be faithful in these small things now you will be given more important jobs and responsibilities as you grow older. (See Matthew 25:21, 23 and Luke 16:10.)

### **“AND THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN WERE OPENED!”**

After many difficult years of building, the Ark was finished! Noah, his sons and possibly other hired workers next began the job of loading the Ark with food for the animals. This must have taken weeks or even months of heavy labor. The animals also had to be housed within the Ark.

Have you ever wondered how Noah caught all the animals and put them into the Ark? In reality this was no problem at all! Read what the Bible says in Genesis 7:15, then write this verse on the lines below.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God *caused* the animals to come to the Ark! Noah didn't have to trap or corral them. All he had to do was put them in their cages and stalls as they arrived.

With food aboard the Ark and all the animals safely caged inside, Noah's work was finally finished. God now told him to enter the Ark with his family. When all were safely inside, God closed and sealed the great door in the side of the Ark.

“Will it begin raining now?” the people must have wondered when they found the Ark closed and sealed. “Could it really rain hard enough or long enough to flood the whole earth?” Only time would answer their questions now. But, as far as God was concerned, their time had already run out! He had given them 120 years to repent, but none had changed.

Clouds loomed upon the horizon. They grew larger and darker and more frightening as the hours passed!

With a sudden, blinding flash of lightning followed by a deafening clap of thunder, the rain began to fall! As the hours stretched into days the storm increased in force. Winds whipped at the Ark and the rain continued to beat down upon the earth. God also caused the



Ominous storm clouds gathered on the horizon after Noah was safely sealed in the ark.



---

surface of the earth itself to break open. Great fountains of water shot skyward from these cracks and flowed out over the land (Gen. 7:11).

As the waters inched higher the Ark was lifted from its resting place and floated freely. For 40 days and nights the storm raged and the waters rose higher. The Ark was the only place of safety!

When the rain ended, all the hills and mountains were covered by water! Even the highest peaks were under 20 to 30 feet of water (Gen. 7:20). All land-dwelling, air-breathing forms of life were dead. Only Noah and those with him in the Ark remained alive (Gen. 7:21-23).

The earth was washed clean of the evil and violence that had caused God to send this awful destruction. The “windows of heaven” were shut. The “fountains of the deep” were closed. God now caused a drying wind to blow over the surface of the Flood waters (Gen. 8:1).

### **ANOTHER BEGINNING**

For months the Ark with its precious cargo safely rode the waters of the Flood. Finally, 150 days after the rain began, the Ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat in what is today part of the nation of Turkey (Gen. 8:3-4).

About four more months passed before Noah opened the window of the Ark and released a raven and a dove. Read Genesis 8:7-9 to learn what happened to them.

Noah waited one more week, then released the dove again. This time the bird returned in the evening with an olive branch in its beak. From this Noah knew that plant life was growing again on the earth. A week later the dove was sent out once more, but it did not return. Noah knew from this that the earth would soon be ready to support human life once again. He removed the covering of the Ark and looked out upon the face of a clean, new world (Gen. 8:13).

On the 27th day of the second month, one year and 10 days after entering the Ark, God told Noah to bring his family and all the animals out into this fresh, new world.

The Almighty God had brought them safely through the Flood. Noah was very thankful. To express his gratitude he built an altar and offered sacrifices of thanksgiving to God.

God was pleased with Noah's attitude of gratefulness and thanksgiving. He now made another promise to Noah. He promised to never again curse the ground because of man or to destroy every living thing as He had just done (Gen. 8:13-22). He sealed His promise to them with a heavenly sign. Read Genesis 9:12-17 to discover what this sign was, then write it on the line below:

---

God's promise was not just to Noah and his family. It is also a promise to all of us today. Whenever you see a rainbow in the sky it should remind you of God's promise. And remember, God



is just as faithful now as He was then.  
He does not lie! (See Titus 1:2.)

### Do You Remember?

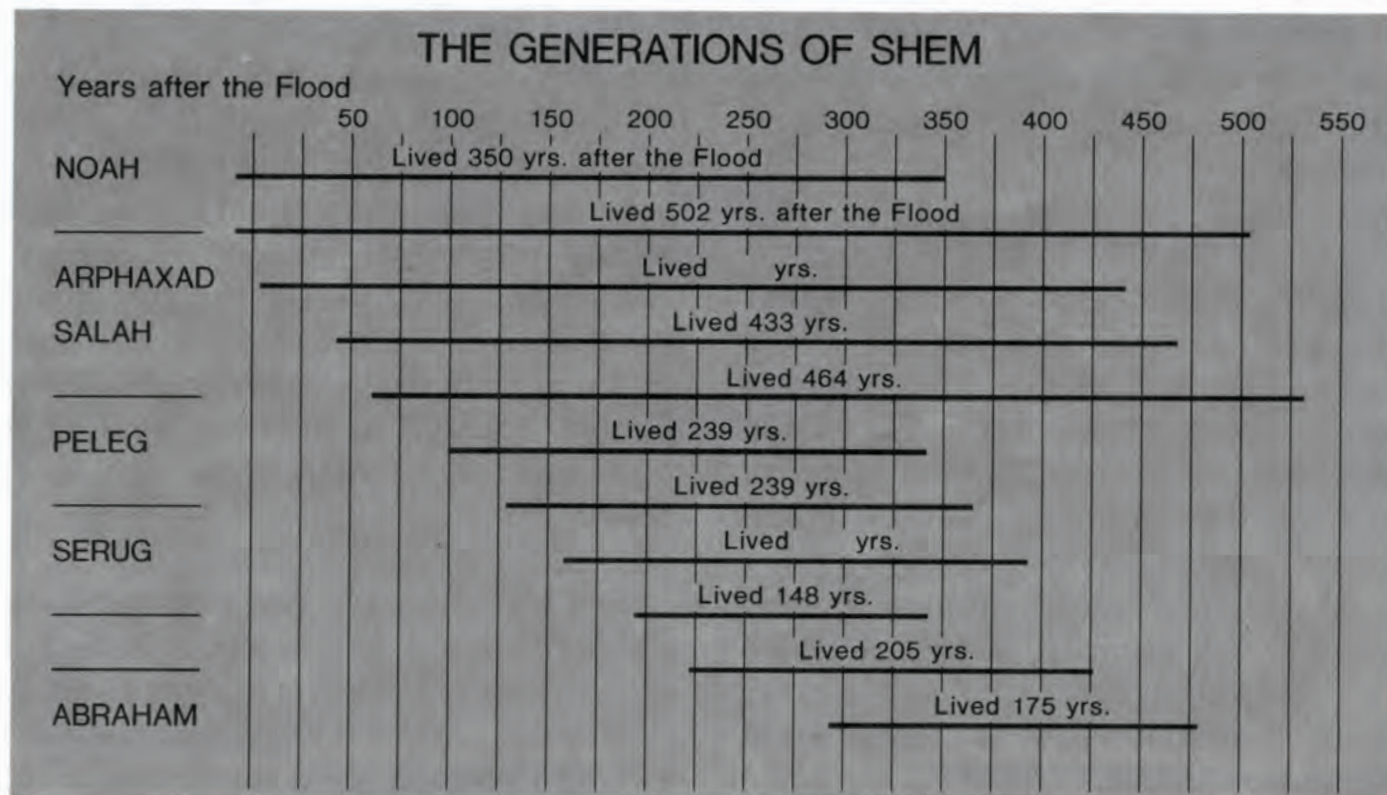
1. God chose to give mankind \_\_\_\_\_ more years to repent and turn from their evil ways.
2. How many people believed Noah's warning message and turned from their wicked way of life? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How was Noah able to collect all the animals for the Ark? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where did the water that flooded the earth come from? (Give two sources.) \_\_\_\_\_
5. About how long did Noah and his family live in the Ark? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What sign did God give to seal His promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood? \_\_\_\_\_

### THREE SONS — THREE RACES OF MANKIND

After leaving the Ark, Noah became a farmer. He lived another 350 years. His death came at the age of 950!

Noah's three sons had many children, as God had commanded. From their families the three major races of the earth developed (Gen. 9:18-19). Shem's family became the light-skinned, or Caucasian people. Ham became the father of the dark-skinned Negroid race. Japheth was the ancestor of the yellow-skinned, or Mongoloid families or nations. Every human being on earth





today is descended from Noah through these sons and their wives.

### THE GENERATIONS OF SHEM

The middle verses of the 11th chapter of Genesis list the descendants of Noah through his son Shem. Shem had a son named Arphaxad who was born just two years after the Flood. Men from eight more generations, covering a period of about 500 years, are also listed in these verses. Complete the chart on page 6 and discover some interesting facts about these men.

Notice on the chart that Shem lived longer than nearly all of his nine descendants. His death came only about 30 years before the death of the last man listed!

Note also that Eber or Heber (Luke 3:35) outlived all six men who were born after him. This may explain why the Israelites were so often called Hebrews. They were the descendants of a very old man named Heber, the last of the long-lived patriarchs of the Old Testament.

In these 10 generations the human lifespan dropped from 950 years (Noah's age at death) to less than 200 years (Gen. 25:7)!

The final man on the chart, Abram, was to become one of the most important men of all earth's history.

### Do You Remember?

1. Noah lived to be (95, 950, 600) years old.
2. What were the names of Noah's sons and which race of people did

each one father? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. The last of the long-lived patriarchs of the Old Testament was a man named \_\_\_\_\_.

### FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL

Near the time of Noah's death a baby was born in the land of Mesopotamia. This baby was named Abram. He was a descendant of Noah's son Shem. As young Abram grew he undoubtedly learned about God and was taught to obey His laws. In a world that again ignored God and worshiped idols, a man who would obey God's commandments was rare indeed. So Abram was very special to God.

### BLESSINGS FOR OBEDIENCE

When Abram was 75 years old, God told him to leave his homeland. If Abram would be obedient, God promised to make of him a great nation and make his name great. He told Abram that through him all families of the earth would be blessed! (See Genesis 12:2-3.)

Abram believed God, just as Noah had before him. He trusted God's wisdom. How did Abram respond to God's command to leave his homeland? Write your answer from Genesis 12:4.

\_\_\_\_\_

Abram's life is an example for you to follow. God wants you to have the same willing, trusting faith and obedience that Abram had.



As you study more about Abram, ask yourself how your attitude compares to his. Do you obey your parents without question or complaint? Do you willingly follow the directions of your teachers at school? Or do you, like most people on earth today, resent being told what to do and resist doing it because you don't see *why* it should be done?

This doesn't mean you should become like an automatic, unthinking robot. God wants you to think. But He also wants you to learn to trust Him totally, knowing that He will never lead you wrongly and will always look out for you and bless your efforts.

This is what Abram did! This is why he is called the "father of the faithful." You will see this more clearly as you study the remainder of Abram's life.

### CONCERN FOR OTHERS

Abram and his nephew Lot were both very wealthy men. They owned large flocks of sheep and great herds of cattle (Gen. 13:2, 5). These animals were so great in number that their herdsmen soon began quarreling over where to graze and water them. Abram offered Lot his choice of whatever part of the land he wanted.

Lot chose the rich, well-watered land of the Jordan Valley near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abram agreed and took the less attractive mountain land to the west of the Jordan (Gen. 13:12).

Abram's attitude of generosity and selflessness was pleasing to God. He



God speaks to Abram, telling him to leave Haran and go to the land of Canaan.

promised Abram and his children after him all the land in every direction from the mountains where he lived. God also promised him that his children would become as many as the specks of dust on the earth! (See Genesis 13:14-17.)

Abram's attitude of giving and sharing is another lesson for you today. God will bless you for your kindness and generosity just as He blessed Abram. How does God feel toward those who give willingly? Write your answer from II Corinthians 9:7. \_\_\_\_\_

### EVEN GREATER BLESSINGS PROMISED

As the years passed Abram became concerned about God's promises. He



and his wife Sarai were no longer young. Soon Sarai would be too old to give birth to a child. Abram wondered if perhaps God's promises were to be fulfilled through his servants and their children (Gen. 15:2-3). If he died childless, the eldest servant-child born in his house would be his rightful heir.

But God appeared to him again and repeated that he would have a son of his own, begotten from his own body. His heir would not be his servant's son, but his very own son! God repeated that his family would grow great, *as the stars of heaven* in number (verses 4-5). They would be given all the land of Canaan from the Nile River in the south to the great Euphrates River in the north (verse 18).

However, God revealed to Abram that these blessings would not come for many years. He told him that he would die and be buried long before the promises of possession of the land would be fulfilled. Abram's children would become slaves in a stranger's land and would serve there under great affliction. Then, after 400 years, they would be delivered from this slavery and come out with great wealth. Only after all this would they possess the land God promised to Abram and his children (Gen. 15:13-21).

### **A SON IS BORN!**

Sarai was also concerned about God's promises to Abram. She was sure she was now too old to have a child. She saw no way that God's promises could ever be fulfilled through her.

After giving the matter much careful thought she came up with a plan. If Abram had a son by her handmaiden, Sarai thought, this child could be the son of his own body, whom God had promised. Abram took his wife's advice. He accepted Hagar, Sarai's handmaiden, and she became pregnant with Abram's child.

Life in Abram's household didn't go well after this. Instead of happiness over the coming birth of the child, there was hatred and sorrow. Hagar felt superior to Sarai because she could give Abram a child while Sarai could not. And Sarai grew to dislike Hagar because of this haughty attitude. She began to treat Hagar harshly. Finally, Hagar fled into the desert to escape the harsh treatment of her angry mistress.

Then God appeared to her and told her to return to Abram and Sarai. He also told her that her child would be a son. She was to name him Ishmael. God promised that Ishmael would become the father of a great multitude of people! (Gen. 16:9-11.)

Hagar did as she was told and a few months later her son was born. Abram was very happy! "At last God's promises were beginning to be fulfilled!" thought Abraham. He was sure he now had the son whom God had promised would become the father of a large nation of millions of people.

### **Do You Remember?**

1. Who was the "man of righteousness" born about the time of Noah's death? \_\_\_\_\_



- 
2. What promises did God make to Abram when he was 75 years old?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why has Abram been called “the father of the faithful”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **NEW NAMES AND THE PROMISED SON**

Thirteen years after Ishmael’s birth, when Abram was 99 years old, God spoke again to him. This time God made His promises to Abram *even greater*. He made an *everlasting covenant* or agreement with Abram! God promised to be the God of Abram and his children *forever*. Also, the land of Canaan would be their *everlasting* possession. But God promised these blessings to Abram only if he would *continue* to obey Him.

Abram was to become “a father of many nations” (Gen. 17:4) and Sarai was to be “a mother of nations” (verse 16). All of God’s promises were to be fulfilled through Abram, Sarai *and* their child — not through a servant woman and her son!

God also changed their names to emphasize these promises and this covenant. From now on they were to be called Abraham and Sarah. *Abraham* means “father of a great multitude” and *Sarah* means “princess.” Every time they heard their new names they were reminded of the great promises God would fulfill through BOTH of them!

### **THE PROMISE RENEWED**

Abraham could hardly believe his ears! He was nearly 100 years old and Sarah would soon be 90. How could they possibly have a child of their own! He prayed, asking God that these blessings and promises be fulfilled through Ishmael (Gen. 17:18).

But God was firm. “Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him” (verse 19).

God encouraged Abraham concerning Ishmael, telling him that he also had been blessed. “But,” God repeated, “my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year” (verse 21).

### **GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL!**

Soon after this, three strangers appeared at Abraham’s tent. He greeted them heartily and eagerly invited them to stay with him a while and be refreshed with food and drink.

The three accepted Abraham’s hospitality, and he and Sarah quickly prepared a special meal for them.

Abraham soon realized that these were not ordinary men. One of them, after asking about Sarah, said, “I will surely return to you in the spring, and Sarah your wife shall have a son” (Gen. 18:10, RSV).

Sarah, working nearby in the tent, overheard this statement and began to laugh to herself. She knew she was well



---

beyond the normal childbearing age.

By the end of their visit it was clear to Abraham and Sarah that one of these three “men” was the member of the God Family called the Word, who later became Jesus Christ. The other two “men” were actually angels!

Through this experience God was teaching Abraham and Sarah an important lesson, one that you should also learn and remember. When God promises to do something, no matter how strange or impossible it may sound, you should not laugh at it or doubt His promise. There is nothing too difficult for the Eternal God! He is all-powerful! (Gen. 18:14.)

### THE SON OF PROMISE IS BORN

Sarah became pregnant as God had promised, and in the spring of the year she gave birth to a son. He was named Isaac according to God’s command. This long-awaited son was born to Sarah when she was 90 years of age! Abraham was now 100 (Gen. 21:1-5).

Abraham had waited faithfully and patiently for *25 years* for this *first step* in the fulfillment of God’s promises to him. This is another lesson you can learn

from his life. God doesn’t always answer your prayers immediately — or when you want them answered. Patience is a point of character that you must develop as you mature.

Abraham now had a son of his very own who was born of his wife, Sarah. This was the son through whom God would fulfill His great and wonderful promises — the promises that had been repeated and expanded so many times since Abraham (then Abram) left Haran a quarter of a century before.

Exciting and important things lay ahead for this baby who was born by a miracle. He was very special to his elderly parents. He was just as special to Almighty God!

### Do You Remember?

1. What new names were given to Abram and Sarai and what did these names mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What name was given to Sarah’s son? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long did Abraham and Sarah wait for their promised son? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.



**BIBLE MEMORY**

Psalm 23

## NUMBERS SEARCH

Can you answer the following questions without looking up the answers in your lesson or the Bible? Give it a try, then look up the ones you don't know.

- How many people were saved in the Ark (Gen. 6:10, 18)? \_\_\_\_\_ people
- What was the length of the Ark (Gen. 6:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ cubits
- What was the height of the Ark (Gen. 6:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ cubits
- What was the width of the Ark (Gen. 6:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ cubits
- Length of time God gave people to repent before sending the Flood (Gen. 6:3). \_\_\_\_\_ years
- Length of time it rained upon the earth (Gen. 7:17). \_\_\_\_\_ days
- How long Noah lived (Gen. 9:29). \_\_\_\_\_ years
- Abram's age when he obeyed God's command to leave his homeland (Gen. 12:4). \_\_\_\_\_ years
- Age of Abraham when Isaac was born (Gen. 21:5). \_\_\_\_\_ years
- Age of Sarah when Isaac was born (Gen. 17:17). \_\_\_\_\_ years
- How long Abraham had to wait for first step of God's promise to be fulfilled (Gen. 12:4, Gen. 21:5). \_\_\_\_\_ years

Now, can you find the answer numbers above in the numbers search box? All numbers are in straight lines, but they may be backwards, frontwards, upsidedown, or at an angle. Numerals in the search box may be used more than once. Circle the numerals in the puzzle and check them off the answer column as you find them.

Added challenge: Can you use all sixteen numerals?

0	7	5	0
5	0	0	1
9	2	3	0
5	1	8	4



---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 4

---



The Fathers of the Promises



---

# THE FATHERS OF THE PROMISES

---

**T**he wonderful promises God made to Abraham were never fulfilled in his lifetime. Do you know why? Get ready to learn how God continued to work in the lives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to fulfill these promises. Be sure you have your Bible and a pencil or pen.

## **ABRAHAM'S GREATEST TEST**

Do you know why tests are important? Tests in school help you to see how well you have learned your studies. But did you know God gives His chosen people tests from time to time? He wants to see how well we are learning our lessons of life. And He wants *us* to see how we are doing.

Abraham was given an extremely difficult test when his son Isaac was a young man.

"Abraham," God said, "Take your only son Isaac, whom you love, to the land of Moriah. Offer him there as a burnt offering on the mountain I will show you" (Gen. 22:2).

Abraham rose up early the next

morning and prepared to obey God's command. With his son, two servants and the wood for the offering fire loaded upon a donkey, he started toward the land of Moriah.

As they traveled, Abraham had many hours to wonder about God's purpose for instructing him to sacrifice his only son. But he had faith in God to keep His promises through Isaac. He thought God would resurrect his son (Heb. 11:17-19).

On the third day of traveling they came to the chosen mountain. The two servants stayed behind with the donkey while Abraham and Isaac went up the mountain.

Isaac obediently helped his father by carrying the wood. Abraham carried the hot coals for the fire and a knife. "Father," Isaac asked as they climbed, "We have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb?"

"My son, God will supply Himself a lamb for a burnt offering," Abraham replied as they walked together.

When they reached the proper location Abraham built an altar. He then tied his son and laid him on the wood that he had piled on the altar. This would have been very difficult, if not

---

## **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

Abundant wheat harvests are among the blessings promised Abraham's descendants.

Photo by H. Armstrong Roberts

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



impossible, had Isaac not been an obedient and cooperative son.

Abraham raised the knife above Isaac's throat. As he started to bring the knife downward a voice boomed out.

"Abraham! Abraham! Don't harm the lad." Abraham relaxed his tensed muscles and breathed a heavy sigh of relief. Laying the knife aside, he bowed his head in thanksgiving to God.

"Now I *know* that you fear Me, seeing that you have not withheld your only son from me," the voice of the angel of God concluded.

You may think it cruel of God to have put Abraham through such a test. But God is always loving and merciful — never cruel. Sometimes He gives difficult tests to those who choose to obey Him. But these tests are to prove their obedience or their faith. Your parents and teachers give you tests for similar reasons — to prove how much you have learned or how willing you are to obey.

Abraham passed his greatest test with the highest marks! He was tried so severely because God was preparing him for one of the highest positions in the coming world-ruling government of God!

After this test God renewed and even expanded His promises to Abraham. "Because you have obeyed My voice, all nations of the earth shall be blessed through Isaac and his children after him. I will multiply your generations as the stars of heaven and as the sand upon the sea shore, and they shall control the gates of their enemies" (Gen. 22:17, 18).

A few years after this test of faith and obedience, Abraham and his family

moved northeastward to Hebron. While in Hebron Abraham's wife Sarah died at age 127, having lived a life of obedience to God and full of interesting experiences. Abraham bought a field near Hebron. A cave in this field was used as Sarah's burial place (read Genesis 23).

### **Do You Remember?**

1. God commanded Abraham to go to the land of Moriah and sacrifice his son Isaac because (circle the letter of the right answer)
  - a. God hated Abraham.
  - b. God wanted to punish Abraham.
  - c. God was testing Abraham.
  - d. Two of the above.
  - e. None of the above.
2. Sarah was \_\_\_\_ years old when she died.

### **GOD SELECTS ISAAC'S WIFE**

About three years after Sarah's death, Abraham sent his chief servant to the land of Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham made his servant swear by the Eternal God of heaven and earth that he would *not* bring back a wife from among the Canaanites. Abraham wanted to be certain that Isaac's wife would come from among his own race! (Gen. 24:2-4.)

Abraham's servant, realizing the importance of this task, turned to God to lead him to the right woman. When he arrived at the well outside the city of Nahor, he prayed to God to show him whom He had chosen. He prayed that when he asked the right woman for a



drink of water, she would not only give him water, but also offer to draw water for all his camels.

Before he had even finished his prayer a young woman approached the well. He requested water of her and she gave him generously from her pitcher, then offered to draw more water for his camels!

When the servant asked her name he was overjoyed to learn that she was Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel and the granddaughter of Abraham's brother Nahor! Surely she must be the chosen future wife for Isaac!

The servant and those with him were invited to stay with the family of Bethuel. A fine meal was also served. But before he would eat, the servant wanted to explain the purpose of his visit.

After hearing his words everyone agreed that God had led the servant to Rebekah and that God's will must not be hindered. The festive meal continued and Abraham's servant presented many beautiful and valuable gifts of silver, gold and fine clothing to Rebekah and her family (Gen. 24:53, 54).

The following day Rebekah, her handmaidens and all their belongings were prepared for the long journey. When all was loaded upon the camels and with a final blessing from her family, the caravan started back to Canaan.

When Isaac met Rebekah he was impressed by her good manners and beauty. They were married shortly after her arrival (Gen. 24:67). Through this



Isaac was impressed with Rebekah's beauty and good manners when he met her.

couple God would pass on the blessings He had promised to Abraham.

Abraham died at the age of 175. His sons, Isaac and Ishmael, buried him in the same cave in which he had buried Sarah 38 years before. Thus ended the life of one of the most important men in all human history.

Most of the promises God made to Abraham were never fulfilled in his lifetime. However, as we will see in this and future lessons, Abraham's descendants through Isaac were to be exceedingly blessed much later because of Abraham's faith and obedience to God. Thus, the blessings enjoyed by the nations of Britain and the United States and other English-speaking peoples over the past 200 or so years have all come as a result of the faith of this one man (Rom. 4:13). These nations have been blessed because they are populated by the "children of Abraham" through his son Isaac and grandson Jacob. (If you are interested in learning more about this ask your parents to read with you Mr. Herbert W.



---

Armstrong's book, *The United States and Britain In Prophecy*.)

### THE BIRTH OF TWO NATIONS

The Bible tells us that Isaac truly *loved* the wife God had selected for him (Gen. 24:67). However, for nearly 20 years they were unable to have a child. Abraham and Sarah had waited 25 years after God promised them a son. Rebekah and Isaac had now waited 20 years for the child(ren) they had prayed for (Gen. 25:20 and 26).

As this long-awaited birth neared, Rebekah realized that all was not going normally with her pregnancy. When she asked God about this she received an unusual but exciting answer.

"Two nations are within you," God told her, "and two kinds of people will be born from your body. The younger of the two will be the stronger and the older will serve the younger" (Gen. 25:23).

The firstborn, whom they named Esau, was covered from head to toe with red hair! His brother Jacob was born moments later holding onto Esau's heel!

As the two boys grew it was clear to their parents that they were different in many ways. Esau was an outdoorsman. He loved to roam the countryside and became a skilled hunter like his uncle Ishmael. Jacob, on the other hand, stayed near home and learned to manage the family's farm and herds of livestock (Gen. 25:27).

Unwisely, Isaac began to show a greater love for Esau while Rebekah

loved Jacob more. This made the boys grow apart even more as we shall see.

### Do You Remember?

1. Abraham's chief servant was sent to Mesopotamia to find a wife for
  - a. himself.
  - b. Abraham.
  - c. Isaac.
  - d. None of the above.
2. God's promised blessings were to be passed on through
  - a. Isaac.
  - b. Ishmael.
  - c. all of Abraham's children.
  - d. None of the above.
3. God revealed to Rebekah that
  - a. Two sons were to be born to her who would become two nations of very different peoples.
  - b. Her twins would be alike in most ways.
  - c. The younger twin would serve his older brother.
  - d. None of the above.
4. Isaac's sons were named \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### REBEKAH'S LACK OF FAITH

One time as these brothers grew to adulthood, Esau came in from an unsuccessful hunt, tired and very hungry. He asked Jacob for some food.

"I'll give you all of this soup and bread in exchange for your birthright," Jacob replied.

Esau was so hungry that he felt he might die if he didn't get something to eat soon. His birthright seemed of little value under these conditions. So he agreed to



sell it to Jacob for the food (Gen. 25:29-34). This was a very foolish decision, but the result fit in with God's overall plan for Abraham's descendants.

Do you know what a birthright is? It is the right of the firstborn son to receive his parent's inheritance. Normally the inheritance, including the blessings promised to Abraham, would have been passed on to Esau, Isaac's eldest son. But Esau gave up his birthright to Jacob. Thus the blessings God originally promised to Abraham were passed on to Jacob.

Years passed and another event occurred between these brothers that greatly affected the remainder of their lives and the lives of their future descendants.



Jacob smiled triumphantly to himself as he watched his brother bolt down the food that cost Esau his birthright.

Isaac was now over 100 years old. He was blind and he felt that he might not live much longer. Before his death he wanted to ask a blessing from God for his eldest son. He called Esau to his side and instructed him to go hunting for a deer. After the hunt Esau was to cook the deer meat (venison) in a way that his father especially liked. Then Isaac would ask God's blessing upon his eldest and favorite son.

Esau gathered his bow and arrows and started off on his hunt.

Meanwhile Rebekah, who had been nearby, heard Isaac's instructions to Esau. Because she loved Jacob more and felt that he would be a better heir to his father, she wanted him to receive Isaac's blessing from God.

She worked out a plan in her mind as she rushed to find Jacob. "Do exactly as I tell you and you shall receive your father's blessing from God," she told Jacob. Rebekah then told Jacob what his father had said to Esau.

"Now, go to the flocks and bring me two young goats," urged Jacob's mother. "I'll cook them the way your father likes his meat. When you take it to him and he eats of it he will ask God's blessing upon you. Hurry now, before Esau returns!"

The whole idea sounded impossible to Jacob. He was sure his father could easily tell him from Esau even though Isaac was blind. But his mother insisted that he hurry.

When Jacob returned Rebekah cooked the goat meat so it smelled and tasted like venison. She then wrapped



Jacob's hands and neck with some of the goat skins and had him put on some of Esau's clothes. Now he would feel and smell like Isaac's favorite son.

"Here I am, father," Jacob called, trying to sound like Esau as he entered Isaac's tent.

"Who are you?" Isaac asked.

"I am Esau, your firstborn son," Jacob lied. "Sit up now and eat of my venison and bless me as you have said."

"How have you found the deer so soon, my son?" Isaac asked, sensing that something wasn't right.

"The Eternal God has shown me where to hunt, my father," lied Jacob again.

"Come near that I might feel you and know that you are Esau," Isaac requested.

After smelling the clothing and feeling the hairy hands, Isaac was still puzzled. "The voice is Jacob's, but the hands are the hairy hands of my son Esau. Are you really my son Esau?"

Once more Jacob lied to his father, assuring him that he was Esau.

Isaac then ate of the food that Jacob brought. Afterward he kissed his son and asked God's richest blessings upon him. Before you read on, turn in your Bible to Genesis 27:28-29 and on the lines below write out this wonderful blessing from God to Jacob. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As soon as his father finished his

prayer, Jacob excused himself and hurried from the tent. Moments later Esau arrived with the venison he had prepared. When Isaac heard his son call to him he trembled with emotion.

"Who are you? And who is he who has just given me meat and received God's blessing from me?" Isaac asked in shock.

When Esau heard his father's questioning reply he cried out, "Bless me also, my father!"

Both realized at once what had happened.

"Jacob is well named!" Esau exclaimed bitterly. "His name means supplanter (remover or replacer) and truly he has now taken my place two times. First my birthright and now my blessing also! Have you nothing for me, my father?"

"I have made him your master," Isaac replied sadly. "You and your children shall be servants to Jacob and he shall receive the blessings of heaven and earth!" However, Isaac also had a blessing for Esau, but it was nowhere near as great as Jacob's (Gen. 27:39-40).

This was more than Esau could bear. He expected that his father would die soon. After Isaac's death Esau planned to murder his scheming brother! (Gen. 27:41.) In his anger and bitterness, Esau must have told his plan to someone and somehow Rebekah heard of it.

### **JACOB'S JOURNEY AND DREAM**

Concerned for the life of Jacob, Rebekah thought of a way to protect her



avored son. She went to Isaac to express her fear that Jacob might marry a Canaanite woman as Esau had done. She suggested that Jacob should go to Haran to select a wife. She said nothing to Isaac about her concern for Jacob's life.

Isaac agreed with his wife and instructed Jacob to make the journey to Mesopotamia to seek a wife from his mother's family (Gen. 28:3-4).

With his father's instructions and blessing Jacob set out for the city of Haran, the home of his grandfather Bethuel. He started northward through the central mountains of Canaan. One evening he set up camp near the town of Luz (Gen. 28:11, 19). Before lying down for the night he chose a smooth stone for a pillow. As he fell asleep he began to dream. In his dream he saw a long stairway stretching from the earth up into the sky. Angels moved up and down this huge stairway and the member of the God Family who later became Jesus Christ spoke from above its upper end. "I am the Eternal God of Abraham and Isaac," He said. "I will be with you and protect you on your journey. This land where you lie will become yours and I will bring you back to it again."

This dream seemed so real to Jacob that when he awoke he felt certain that he was at the very location of God's house — at the gateway to God's throne in heaven! He set up the stone he had slept upon as a monument and named the place Bethel, which means "House of God" (Gen. 28:16-22).

This dream affected Jacob deeply. As

he journeyed on toward Haran he was less fearful of his angry brother. He also relied less upon himself and trusted more in God and His promise of protection and guidance.

### Do You Remember?

1. Jacob pretended to be his brother Esau in order to
  - a. deceive his aging mother.
  - b. gain favor with God
  - c. receive the firstborn's blessing from his father.
  - d. None of the above.
2. Rebekah had nothing to do with Jacob's stealing his brother's blessing. True \_\_\_\_ False \_\_\_\_.



Using a stone for a pillow, the weary Jacob dreamed of a huge stairway descending from heaven.



- 
3. Jacob dreamed that he saw a stairway leading from the earth to

### **LIVING IN HARAN**

Following many more days of difficult travel, Jacob neared the city of Haran. When he asked shepherds at the city well concerning his Uncle Laban, he was directed to an approaching flock of sheep.

"That is one of Laban's flocks coming now," the shepherds replied. "His daughter Rachel is herding them."

After he helped with the watering of the flocks, Jacob told Rachel who he was. She was so surprised she ran immediately to tell her father. Laban hurried out to meet Jacob and invited him back to his tent.

When Jacob had been in Haran for a month, Laban offered to begin paying him wages for the work he was doing. Jacob considered the matter and then suggested that he work for Laban for seven years in exchange for marriage to his daughter Rachel. Laban tried not to appear too eager as he accepted Jacob's offer. He would much rather have his daughter marry Jacob than one of the local men of Haran. And seven years labor from a hard worker such as Jacob would be worth a great deal to him.

Jacob had loved Rachel almost from the moment he met her at the well. The years passed for him like a few days as he looked forward to his marriage to this beautiful young woman.

When the seven years were completed, Laban prepared a great feast to

celebrate the marriage. Many people were invited to attend. And as was customary, this would be a week-long celebration!

However, the morning following the first night of the celebration, Jacob was shocked almost beyond belief. In the light of day and with the heavy veil removed, Jacob discovered that he had been married to Laban's oldest daughter Leah instead of to Rachel! Jacob was learning that his mother's brother could be just as crafty and deceitful as his own mother. He was furious and went to Laban to demand an explanation.

Laban replied rather matter-of-factly that it was customary in Mesopotamia for the eldest daughter to marry before her younger sisters. "However," Laban continued, "I will give you Rachel also if you will agree to two conditions."

Jacob's trust in his new father-in-law was at a low point as he listened to his conditions. "First, finish out the week-long wedding feast without creating an embarrassing scene before all the leading citizens of the city. And second, work for me another seven years."

Jacob took a long time before answering.

"I will agree to both conditions," Jacob finally replied. "Rachel is worth more to me than fourteen years of labor!" Laban sighed deeply and smiled with relief.

At the end of the marriage feast for Leah, Jacob was given Rachel in marriage as well. Marrying more than one woman was a common practice in those times. However, even though God



---

allowed men to have more than one wife, He intended that each man have only one. The trouble that followed in Jacob's family reveals, in part, why this is not the practice in God's Church today (read Titus 1:6).

### **JACOB'S FAMILY GROWS**

For seven more years Jacob worked for Laban as he had agreed. Leah bore him several sons during this time while Rachel was childless. Rachel became so jealous of her older sister that at one point she foolishly demanded of Jacob, "Give *me* children as you have Leah or I will die!"

"Am I God?" Jacob answered. "Only He can remove the barrenness of your womb!"

Rachel, of course, knew that her demand was foolish. She next decided to use the same plan that Sarah had tried many years before. She offered her personal servant, Bilhah, to Jacob that she might bear a child for her. This only increased the jealousy between the two sisters just as it had between Sarah and Hagar. Next, Leah offered her handmaiden to Jacob for the same purpose.

By the end of the seven years Jacob had eleven sons by these four women. Only one son was born of his favorite wife, Rachel. Meanwhile, Jacob's work during these fourteen years had made Laban a much richer man. But Jacob had nothing to show for his years of labor other than a temporary home and a large family. He now asked Laban to allow him to go out on his own and begin to build an inheritance for his sons.

"I know that your efforts have made me a richer man," Laban replied. "But you don't have to leave me to begin earning for yourself and your children. Name your wage and I will pay you what you desire."

After discussing the matter they agreed that Jacob would keep as his wages all the spotted and ring-marked animals from Laban's flocks and herds. However, before Jacob could count these animals, Laban sent his men to remove all the males with these markings. By doing this he felt he could prevent all but a very few animals with spots or ring-marks from being born.

As the years passed, however, it became clear that God caused Jacob to prosper in spite of all that Laban did to try to prevent it.

After working six more years for his father-in-law, Jacob's herds and flocks far outnumbered Laban's. Because of this Laban and his sons openly scorned Jacob (Gen. 31:1-2).

Now God once again appeared to Jacob. "Return to the land of your fathers and I will be with you and bless you there as I have done here in Haran," God told him (verse 3).

Jacob was eager to leave Haran now but he was fearful that Laban would try to stop him again. So Jacob waited for a chance to leave secretly. This chance soon came. When Laban was several miles away overseeing the shearing of his sheep, Jacob instructed his workmen to take down his tents and pack all his family's belongings for a long journey.



---

## LESSONS FOR US TODAY

At this point we should pause in our story and review a valuable lesson Jacob was learning — a lesson that we all must learn also. Through the dream at Bethel, God told Jacob to trust not in himself but in God. He and his mother, Rebekah, had tried to work things out their own way rather than turning to God and trusting in Him for the blessings He had promised to Abraham. Their way led to distrust, hatred and even a planned murder.

God wanted Jacob to learn to be open and honest in his dealings — not secretive, scheming and dishonest. He wants these same character traits in each of us as well. We must also learn to be honest and to trust in God to direct events to fit His overall purpose for us.

An important point to remember about God's laws is found in the New Testament in Galatians 6:7. Turn to it and write this scripture on the lines below.

---

---

---

---

---

This verse shows that our actions toward others will determine how others act toward us. If we are honest in our dealings with others, God will see to it that in the long run we will receive like treatment in return. Jacob learned this principle of God's Law. Because of his deceitfulness toward Esau, he was

treated in the same way by Laban years later.

Remember this New Testament scripture and Old Testament example whenever you are tempted to be dishonest or deceitful. Do not deceive yourself into thinking you can get away with breaking God's Law in any way. God's penalty for sin is *automatic* and *sure*! Weeks or months or years may pass, but eventually "you will reap what you have sown."

Jacob learned this lesson well. After twenty years of working for a deceitful father-in-law, he was totally cured of treating others this way. As you continue to read about Jacob's life you will see this clearly. From this point on, his dealings with Laban, Esau and others were always open and honest.

How honest are you? It's not too early for you to practice this lesson in your own life. Try it. You will see God's laws in action in your own life just as you have seen them in Jacob's life.

### Do You Remember?

1. Jacob worked many years in order to marry \_\_\_\_\_, Laban's younger daughter.
2. Crafty Laban deceived Jacob into marrying \_\_\_\_\_, his oldest daughter.
3. By the time Jacob left Haran his sons numbered \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A basic principle of God's Law is that we shall reap \_\_\_\_\_.



## BIBLE MEMORY

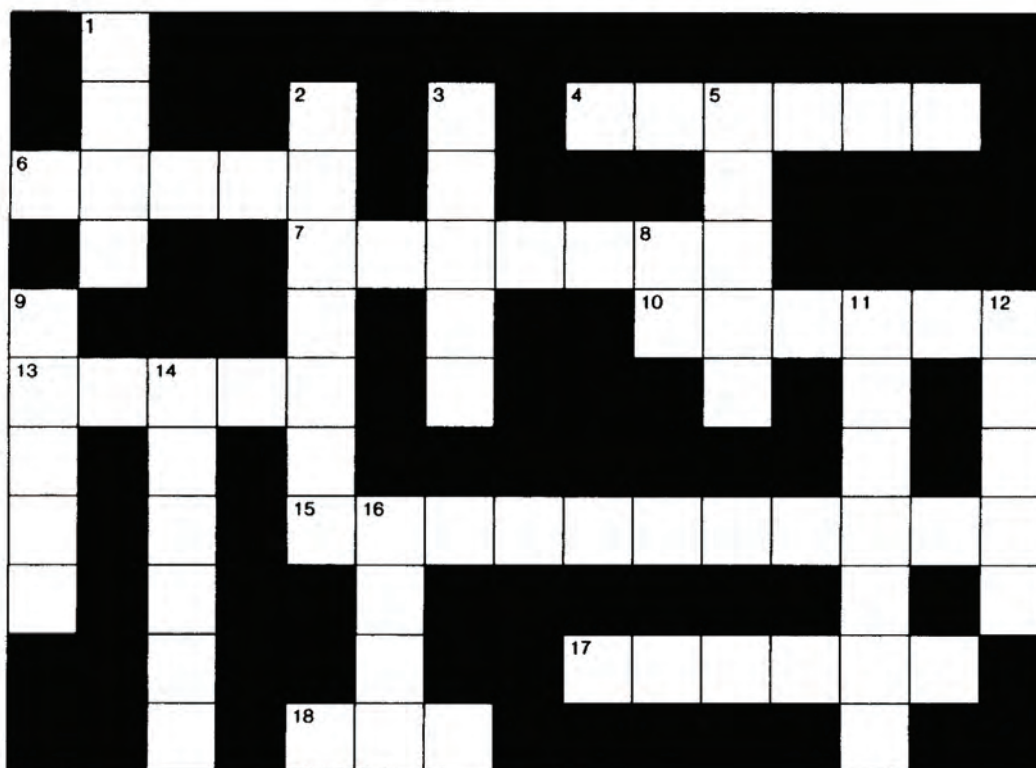
Twelve Tribes  
of Israel

Reuben  
Simeon  
Levi  
Judah

Zebulun  
Issachar  
Dan  
Gad

Asher  
Naphtali  
Joseph (Ephraim, Manasseh)  
Benjamin

## PEOPLE AND PLACES CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

4. Name of land promised to Abraham
6. Isaac's younger son
7. Isaac's wife
10. Name of land where Isaac was to be sacrificed
13. Abraham's wife
15. Land of Abraham's nativity
17. City name, means "House of God"
18. City near where Jacob dreamed of a stairway into the sky

The answers will be in your next lesson.

### DOWN

1. Jacob's first wife
2. "The Father of the Faithful"
3. Jacob's father-in-law
5. Abraham's brother
8. "I \_\_\_" — name of God
9. Abraham's promised son
11. Isaac's half-brother
12. City where Laban lived
14. Jacob's second wife
16. Jacob's brother



---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

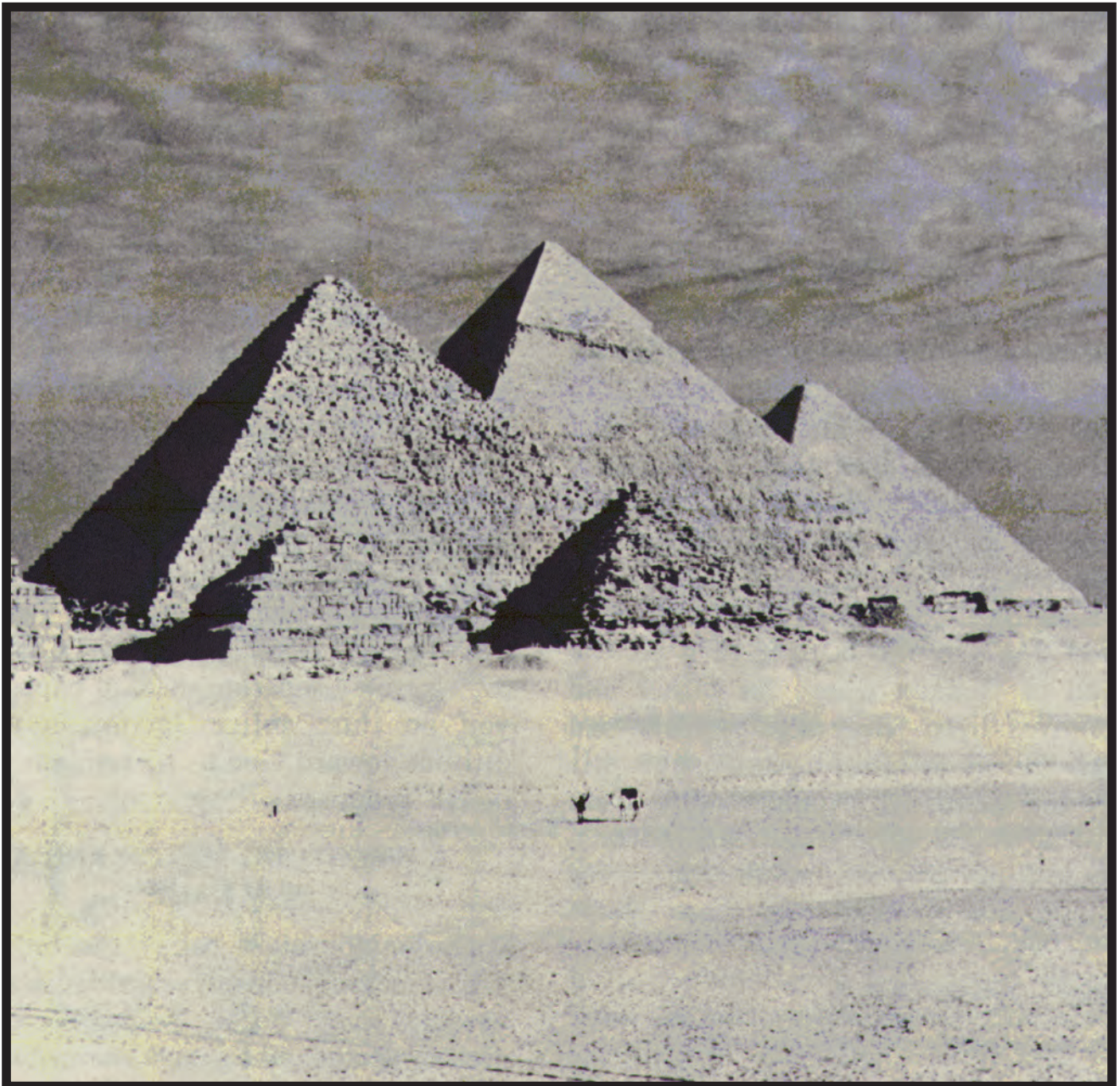
# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 5

---



A Family Becomes a Nation



---

# A FAMILY BECOMES A NATION

---

**W**e learned in earlier lessons of the promises of national greatness and wealth that God made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendants. In this lesson we will continue the story of Jacob's life and see how God was directing events that would lead to the fulfillment of these promises.

## JACOB RETURNS TO CANAAN

Recall that Jacob worked for his uncle Laban for over twenty years. An older man by now, Jacob learned to trust God to guide his whole life. As a blessing for his obedience, God greatly increased Jacob's wealth.

What did God now tell Jacob to do? (Genesis 31:3) \_\_\_\_\_

God wanted Jacob to return to the land of Canaan where his father and relatives lived. But twenty years had passed since Jacob had seen his brother Esau. He wondered how Esau would treat him upon his return. Would he try to punish Jacob for taking his birthright so many years

before? Esau wanted to *kill* Jacob then!

Jacob sent messengers on ahead to where Esau lived. He instructed the messengers to tell Esau that his brother was returning to Canaan and hoped they could meet as friends. The messengers returned with word that Esau was approaching, accompanied by four hundred of his men! Jacob quickly separated his family and possessions into two groups, hoping that one group would escape in case Esau and his men attacked. He also sent gifts for Esau on ahead of the caravan.

After Jacob had done all he could to prevent possible harm to his family, he turned to God in prayer and asked for His help and protection. Write Jacob's prayer, which is found in Genesis 32:9-12, on a separate sheet of paper. As you do this, notice Jacob's humble attitude toward God as he reminds God of His promises.

## A WRESTLING MATCH AND A NEW NAME

During the night before the brothers met, somebody suddenly seized Jacob and a wrestling match began. Neither one could overpower the other, and the wrestling

---

### ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

The magnificent pyramids of Giza in Egypt. From left to right are Mycerinus, Chephren and Cheops.

Wide World Photo

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton

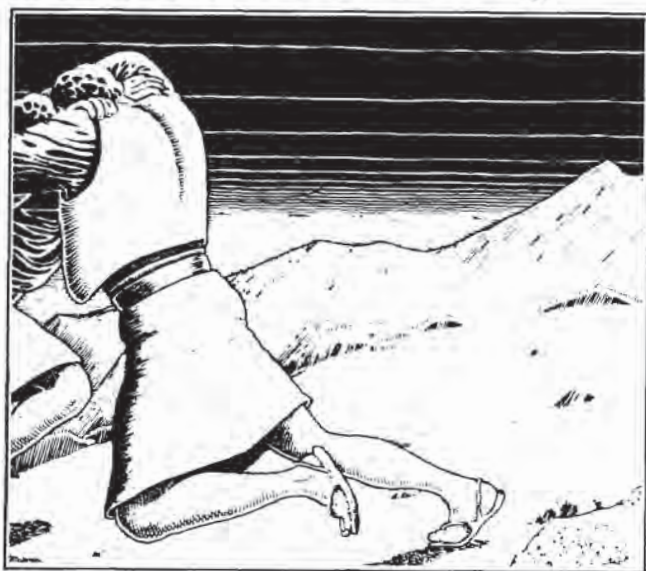


continued throughout the night.

Sometime during the wrestling match, Jacob realized that his opponent was not just an ordinary man. Seeing that He could not prevail against Jacob, the Being struck Jacob's thigh and knocked his hip out of joint. But even while in pain, Jacob still continued the struggle.

Just before the break of day, Jacob's opponent told him to let Him go. But Jacob replied, "I will not release you unless you bless me." The Being to whom he made this request was actually the God of the Old Testament—the One who later came to earth as Jesus Christ (Genesis 32:28-30; Hosea 12:3-5).

Jacob proved during this night of wrestling that he was not a quitter. He showed that he was an overcomer—a prevailer with God. God was testing Jacob's character just as He had tested Abraham's when He commanded him to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering.



Jacob proved to be an overcomer through his all-night wrestling match with the One who became Christ.

God was well pleased with Jacob and gave him a new name. His old name (Jacob) means "supplanter"—"one who takes the place of another unfairly." (Remember when Jacob unfairly took Esau's birthright?) God would not give the blessings of Abraham and Isaac to a man who had this kind of character flaw. However, Jacob proved to God that he was now an overcomer.

Jacob's new name, *Israel*, means "one who overcomes," or "a champion with God." Israel's character was now very different from the character of the Jacob who fled his homeland, after cheating his brother out of his birthright and blessings (Genesis 32:28-30).

God requires each of us to make this kind of change in our lives before He will give us eternal life as members of His Family. We must finally come to see how wrong our attitudes and actions have been. And then, with God's help, we must overcome wrong ways and habits and develop Godly character by obeying God's commandments just as Jacob did. We call this change "conversion."

Before the time comes when you are ready to become a baptized member of God's Church like your parents, you should be learning about God's Law and His way of life. You can be building right character now by doing what you have been taught is right and not doing those things which are wrong in God's sight.

This won't always be easy and you won't be able to do it perfectly all the time. But by trying hard and asking God in prayer for His help, you can begin to



---

build the *habit* of obedience to God and your parents.

### **GOD RENEWS HIS COVENANT WITH JACOB**

The morning after the wrestling match, Esau and his army of men arrived at Jacob's camp. Rather than being angry and vengeful, Esau was overjoyed to see his brother. Tears of happiness filled both men's eyes (Genesis 33:4). God answered Jacob's prayers! After meeting Jacob's wives and children, Esau returned to his home in the Mount Seir region.

Jacob continued his journey, eventually arriving in Bethel, where God reminded him that his name was changed from Jacob (supplanter) to Israel (overcomer). He also renewed with Jacob His promises of national greatness made to Abraham, Isaac and their descendants (Genesis 35:11-12).

Israel then traveled southward to Hebron where his father Isaac lived. On the way, Rachel gave birth to Israel's twelfth son Benjamin, but she died during childbirth.

Isaac was now a very old man. Soon after Israel arrived in Hebron, Isaac died at the age of \_\_\_\_ (Genesis 35:27-29). Israel was now the patriarch of the family God had chosen to receive His special blessings.

### **Do You Remember?**

Circle the correct answer to each of the following statements.

1. Jacob wrestled all night with (Laban, Esau, Jesus Christ).

2. Jacob's name was changed to (Canaan, Ishmael, Isaac, Israel).
3. Jacob's new name means ("overcomer," "supplanter," "savior").

### **JOSEPH AND HIS DREAMS**

Rachel's first son, Joseph, was born in Haran shortly before Israel started back to Canaan. Because he was the firstborn of Israel's chosen wife Rachel, and born in Israel's old age, Joseph was very special to his father. The special affection and attention his father continually gave him did not go unnoticed by his ten older half-brothers. They became very jealous of him and eventually came to hate him.

By the time Joseph was seventeen years old he was already helping his brothers tend their father's flocks. One day Joseph told his brothers about a dream he had. "We were all in a field tying bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle arose and stood upright in the field while all your bundles stood around mine and bowed down before it," said Joseph. His brothers immediately thought they knew what this dream meant. "Shall you indeed rule over us? Are we going to be your servants?" they scornfully asked. Joseph's brothers hated him even more after hearing of this dream (Genesis 37:2-8).

Joseph couldn't seem to do anything to make his brothers like him. When he said or did something, it usually turned against him. To them he was only a younger brother who dreamed of becoming an important person one day.

Joseph soon had another dream which





Midianite slave traders agreed to buy Joseph for twenty pieces of silver.

he again unwisely related to his brothers. In this dream he saw the sun, moon and eleven stars bowing before him. When Israel heard about the dream he rebuked Joseph. "Shall your mother and I and your brothers bow down before you?" (Genesis 37:9-11.)

Joseph's envious brothers plotted how they might be able to get rid of him. One day while tending their flocks several days journey from home, they suddenly grabbed Joseph, ripped off his coat, and dropped him alive into a nearby well.

A short time later, they noticed a caravan of Midianite traders moving by slowly on its way to Egypt. The brothers decided to pull Joseph out of the well and sell him to the Midianite traders for twenty pieces of silver.

When the brothers returned home, they deceived their father by leading him to believe that Joseph had been killed and eaten by a wild animal. Israel was heartbroken at the thought of losing his favorite son.

This was a very cruel and disrespectful way to treat an aging father. His sorrow was far greater than the sons expected. They tried to comfort him, but did not succeed. "I shall go down to the grave mourning for him," Israel said as he wept (Genesis 37:35).

### JOSEPH IN EGYPT

Meanwhile, the Midianite caravan made its way southward into Egypt. The men had no difficulty selling the handsome Hebrew lad. Potiphar, captain of the guard for the king of Egypt, bought Joseph to be a servant in his home.

You may wonder why God, who is aware of everything, was allowing these events to happen to Joseph. Actually, God was allowing all of this to fulfill a great purpose. In the end, as we shall see, Joseph and his father's family would be greatly blessed by God. Even now, Joseph was being blessed. He was now away from his brothers who hated him. He was still alive, rather than dead in a well, and God was blessing his efforts (Genesis 39:2). We can learn a very important lesson from this—a lesson we can apply in our own lives.

Write down verse 28 of Romans chapter 8 on the following lines. \_\_\_\_\_



---

In this verse is an important principle that Joseph was learning. We should learn it as well. If we seek to live the way God wants us to, He will make sure everything that happens to us will turn out for our *good!*

Sometimes it is difficult, or impossible, to see any good in events as they are happening. But later, when you look back on them, you can often see why God allowed them to occur. This happened many times in Joseph's life.

Look up and write down verse 11 of Hebrews chapter 12. \_\_\_\_\_

---

God often allows us to experience troubles and problems. They are usually a result of our own wrong actions. But God wants us to learn from these experiences. They never seem pleasant when they occur, and usually only later can their value be clearly seen. The most important thing they can teach us is the need to obey God's laws.

Potiphar quickly realized that he had made a wise choice when he bought his new servant. Because Joseph kept God's commandments, God was with him and gave him great favor in the sight of his master.

As a result of Joseph's honesty and hard work, Potiphar came to trust him completely. He soon put Joseph in charge of all the servants in his household and made him manager over all he owned. Because of God's blessings on Joseph, Potiphar and his

household also prospered (Genesis 39:3-6).

All went well for Joseph for many years until his master's wife falsely accused him of trying to assault her. When Potiphar heard her accusations against Joseph, he became so angry that he ordered soldiers to take him at once to the king's prison. Some might think that this was another terrible tragedy for Joseph. But don't judge too quickly!

As time passed, Joseph continued to conduct himself honestly. The head jailer saw this and asked Joseph to help him keep order in the prison. God was still watching over Joseph and blessing him for his honesty, hard work and obedience to Him. After some time, the head jailer put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners and made him responsible, under him, for all matters inside the prison. Yet, Joseph was still a prisoner and continued to live in the dungeon.

### **Do You Remember?**

Fill in the blank and circle the correct answers to the statements.

1. Joseph's dreams seemed to show that one day he would \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Joseph's brothers got rid of him by (killing, deserting, selling, beating) him.
3. Joseph became a servant in (Canaan, Haran, Hebron, Egypt).

### **THE PRISONERS' DREAMS**

While Joseph managed the prison, he became acquainted with two prisoners



---

who had served in the king's court. One was the king's butler; the other his baker. Both were thrown into prison when a plot against Pharaoh was discovered. Neither man was yet found guilty of having been a part of the plot.

One day Joseph noticed that both men appeared very troubled. When he asked them what was wrong, both told him that each had an unusual dream the night before. But they could not find anyone in the prison who could tell them what the dreams meant.

Joseph told them that only God can reveal the correct meaning of a dream. He then asked the men to tell him their dreams. Joseph would then ask God to reveal the true meanings.

As it turned out, the dreams had opposite meanings. Within three days the butler would be released from prison and restored to his former position. And at that time the baker would be hanged!

"When the right time comes," Joseph said to the butler, "Please tell Pharaoh that I am an innocent man who was unfairly put in prison. Perhaps he will free me also" (Genesis 40:13-15).

Three days later during a feast held by the king, Pharaoh sent word to the prison keeper to have the two men taken out of the dungeon. He then restored the butler to his former job and hanged the baker—just as God revealed through Joseph.

In his excitement at being freed, the chief butler forgot all about Joseph and his request. Two more years went by and

Joseph was still a prisoner in the royal dungeon!

### **PHARAOH'S DREAMS**

One night Pharaoh had two troubling dreams. In the first dream, he saw himself standing by the Nile River. Suddenly seven fat, healthy looking cows came up out of the river and began grazing in a nearby meadow. Then, seven thin, sickly cows came up out of the river. These skinny animals walked into the meadow and ate up the fat cows! But afterwards, they looked just as thin as before.

In the second dream, Pharaoh saw seven plump heads of grain growing out of one stalk. Afterwards, seven thin, withered heads of grain grew out of the same stalk and ate up the plump ones!

When morning came, the king sent for all his magicians and wise men. After telling them about the two dreams, Pharaoh asked them, "Which of you can tell me what they mean?" He waited impatiently for an answer, but no one spoke up.

It happened that the chief butler was serving the king when this took place. Suddenly he remembered his experience in the prison two years before. He told the king what happened and that Joseph correctly told him three days in advance what would become of the baker and himself.

Pharaoh immediately sent for Joseph. A short while later, after being cleaned up and properly dressed, Joseph stood before the powerful king of Egypt.

"I've heard that you have the power



to tell the meanings of dreams,” Pharaoh said to Joseph.

“I do not have the ability to do this of myself,” Joseph replied respectfully. “However, there is a God in heaven who can and will reveal the meaning of your dreams.” The king then described both his dreams in great detail.

“Both your dreams, sir, have the same meaning,” Joseph began. “God has chosen to show Pharaoh what He is about to do. The seven fat cows and the seven plump heads of grain both picture a period of seven years. Also, the seven thin cows and the seven withered heads of grain are seven years following the first seven.

Here is what God will do. There will first come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. Then there will come seven years of terrible famine—famine so severe that the seven years of plenty will be totally forgotten” (Genesis 41:1-31).

The king was so shocked by Joseph’s words that he sat speechless on his throne. “In view of these coming events,” Joseph continued, “let Pharaoh find a wise, honest, and capable man to set over the farm production of the land of Egypt during the seven years of plenty. Let him appoint officers throughout the land who will collect one-fifth of all the produce of the land during the years of plenty. Let them store this grain by the authority of the king so that it may be saved for the years of famine. In this way the nation will not perish.”

Can you imagine yourself in Joseph’s

place at this time? You are a foreigner who has been in the royal dungeon for about three years. You are suddenly brought out of prison, cleaned up and dressed, and now you are standing before Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

Would you have the courage and faith to tell this powerful ruler that seven years of plenty are coming, followed by seven years of terrible famine and drought? Would you then continue to instruct him on how to prepare for it? Joseph did! He knew God was faithful. He was certain God would do exactly what He revealed in the dreams!

### **JOSEPH BECOMES SECOND IN COMMAND**

After carefully considering the matter, and deciding that Joseph’s advice was good, Pharaoh asked his advisors, “Where can we find such a man as this to oversee our farming? What better man could there be but Joseph, in whom the Spirit of God dwells?” They agreed that Joseph should do the job.



Pharaoh’s dream revealed that Egypt would be stricken with seven years of severe famine.



Pharaoh then spoke to Joseph and said, "I have set you over all the land of Egypt. All my people shall be ruled according to your word. Only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you" (Genesis 41:39-41). So in one day, Joseph went from the dungeon to the second highest office in Egypt!

Joseph was only thirty years old at this time (verse 46). He worked for Potiphar about ten years and had been in prison about three years. During this time, God gave him the training and experience he needed to become a qualified leader and ruler of Egypt. He learned to be both a servant and a master.

God was carefully guiding Joseph's life. He will also guide our lives if we allow Him. If we look to God and ask Him in prayer to lead and direct our ways, He will do so just as He did for Joseph.

Though we may not become great national leaders in this life, we *will* become even greater leaders in God's government in the World Tomorrow. But this depends upon our continual trust and obedience to God throughout our lives.

Joseph was given the Egyptian name Zaphnath-Paaneah, which means "The man to whom secrets are revealed." He was also given Asenath, the daughter of a high official in Egypt, as his wife. They had two sons whom they named Manasseh and Ephraim.

### **Do You Remember?**

Fill in the following blanks with the correct answers to the questions.

1. How many years was Joseph in prison? \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Who revealed the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams to Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Whom did Pharaoh choose to oversee preparations for the great famine in Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **ISRAEL ENTERS EGYPT**

During the seven plenteous years, God blessed the Egyptian farmers with record crops. Under the direction of Joseph, one-fifth of these crops were stored in the cities throughout the land of Egypt. Because of the vast amount of food which was being stored, Joseph finally gave up trying to keep accurate records (Genesis 41:47-49).

When the seven years of famine began, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold food to all who came to buy it. This included people from other nations around Egypt, who were also affected by the famine. Among those who came to buy grain were Joseph's brothers. They were sent to Egypt by their father Israel.

Joseph's youthful dreams of his family bowing down before him were about to come true. His brothers made two trips to Egypt to buy food, each time appearing before their brother Joseph whom they did not recognize. After the second trip, Joseph no longer wanted to withhold his true identity from them. They were shocked when he told them who he was, and then shed tears of joy during this happy reunion.



---

“Don’t blame yourselves for what you did to me many years ago,” Joseph told his brothers. “It was God who sent me here so that the lives of many people, including yours and your father’s, would be preserved during this famine.” He also told them that the worst of the famine was still ahead. “Two years of famine have passed, but five more years are yet to come,” he warned.

“It was God who sent me here,” Joseph reminded them. “He has made me overseer of all of Pharaoh’s house and ruler, under him, over all of Egypt” (Genesis 45:8). Joseph then instructed his brothers to return to Canaan and bring their father and all their families, flocks and possessions to the land of Goshen in northeastern Egypt where they would then live.

When Israel heard that Joseph was still alive and was ruler over all Egypt under Pharaoh, he fainted in surprise. It was difficult for Israel to believe what he was told until he saw the many wagons Joseph sent to carry the families and their belongings to Egypt. They soon packed up their belongings and after many days’ journey, arrived in the land of Egypt (Genesis 46:27).

### **ISRAEL BLESSES HIS CHILDREN**

Israel lived a total of seventeen years in Egypt. During this time, His children’s families increased greatly in numbers. His descendants would later become the nation of Israel, and would be called Israelites.

Believing his life was about over, Israel sent for Joseph and his two young

sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. When they arrived, Israel reminded Joseph about God’s promises of national greatness and prosperity to him and his descendants (Genesis 48:1-4).

He then told Joseph that he was adopting his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, as his own. They would now be equal to his own twelve sons. They would be “as Reuben and Simeon” (verse 5). This meant that God would give them the greatest family blessing since Reuben and Simeon were Israel’s two oldest sons.

The two boys then approached their aged grandfather. Joseph arranged the boys so Manasseh (the oldest) would be under his grandfather’s right hand and Ephraim under his left, because the right hand blessing would be the greater. As Israel stretched out his hands to ask God’s blessings upon the two boys, he crossed his arms. This would give the birthright blessing to the younger brother, Ephraim.

Because Israel’s eyesight was very dim, Joseph thought his father had confused the two boys. However, when he tried to correct what he thought was a mistake, Israel told Joseph he knew what he was doing. “Manasseh,” he said, “shall become a great nation. But his younger brother shall be greater, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations” (Genesis 48:17-20).

Israel then called the rest of his sons together. “Gather around me and I will tell you what shall befall you in the latter days,” he said. He described the kind of nation each of his twelve sons





Israel asked God to greatly bless his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

would become. The forty-ninth chapter of Genesis records the prophetic words God inspired Israel to speak. Read this chapter with your parents and discuss the meaning of the prophetic remarks Israel made about each of his sons.

The families of these twelve sons of Israel have become the most important nations on earth today. Many of them can be easily identified by the descriptions given in this chapter. The identity of these nations is one of the important keys to understanding Bible prophecy. If you and your parents would like to learn more about this fascinating subject, read Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

After blessing his sons, Israel told them not to bury him in Egypt. "Bury me with my fathers in the cave near Mamre in the land of Canaan—the cave Abraham bought as a burial place for Sarah, and where Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah are buried."

Israel was 147 years old when he died. Joseph ordered his servants to embalm his father. After 70 days of national mourning, a great number of people journeyed to Canaan for the burial. Showing their respect and honor to Joseph and his father, all the top ranking Egyptian government officials, nobles, and elders of Pharaoh's house and all the nobles and elders of Egypt attended the funeral (Genesis 50:7). After the funeral all returned to Egypt.

The Israelites multiplied and prospered greatly in the land of Goshen during Joseph's rule. He was now the head of the families of Israel. Joseph lived to see his great, great grandchildren.

When he was about to die, Joseph reminded his descendants and brethren that God would bring them out of Egypt and lead them back to Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He asked them to carry his bones out of Egypt with them when they went.

Joseph died at the age of 110. His body was embalmed and placed in a temporary coffin and grave so it could be carried back to Canaan when the time came to return (Genesis 50:24-26).



## BIBLE MEMORY

Twelve Tribes  
of Israel

Reuben  
Simeon  
Levi  
Judah

Zebulun  
Issachar  
Dan  
Gad

Asher  
Naphtali  
Joseph (Ephraim, Manasseh)  
Benjamin

## WORD ASSOCIATION

Cross out the word that does not belong in each line. The first one is done for you.

1. JACOB	ESAU	<del>COUSINS</del>	BROTHERS	FRIENDS
2. WRESTLING MATCH	STRUGGLE	CHRIST	IDOLS	NIGHT
3. CHAMPION	OVERCOME	LOSER	ISRAEL	JACOB
4. ESAU	FIELD	BUNDLES	GRAIN	DREAM
5. JUDAH	POTIPHAR	REUBEN	BENJAMIN	SIMEON
6. FAT COWS	THIN COWS	WITHERED GRAIN	PLUMP GRAIN	BUTLER
7. JOSEPH	PRISONER	MURDERER	SERVANT	DREAM INTERPRETER
8. RULER	MASTER	JOSEPH	ZAPHANATH-PAANEAH	FAMINE
9. PHARAOH	EPHRAIM	MANASSEH	ASENATH	JOSEPH
10. CANAAN	TWELVE SONS	LOST TRIBES	NATIONS	FAMILIES

**Answers to  
"PEOPLE AND PLACES"  
Crossword Puzzle  
from last lesson:**

### ACROSS

4 Canaan      13 Sarah  
6 Jacob      15 Mesopotamia  
7 Rebekah    17 Bethel  
10 Moriah    18 Luz

### DOWN

1 Leah      9 Isaac  
2 Abraham    11 Ishmael  
3 Laban      12 Haran  
5 Nahor      14 Rachel  
8 Am          16 Esau



---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

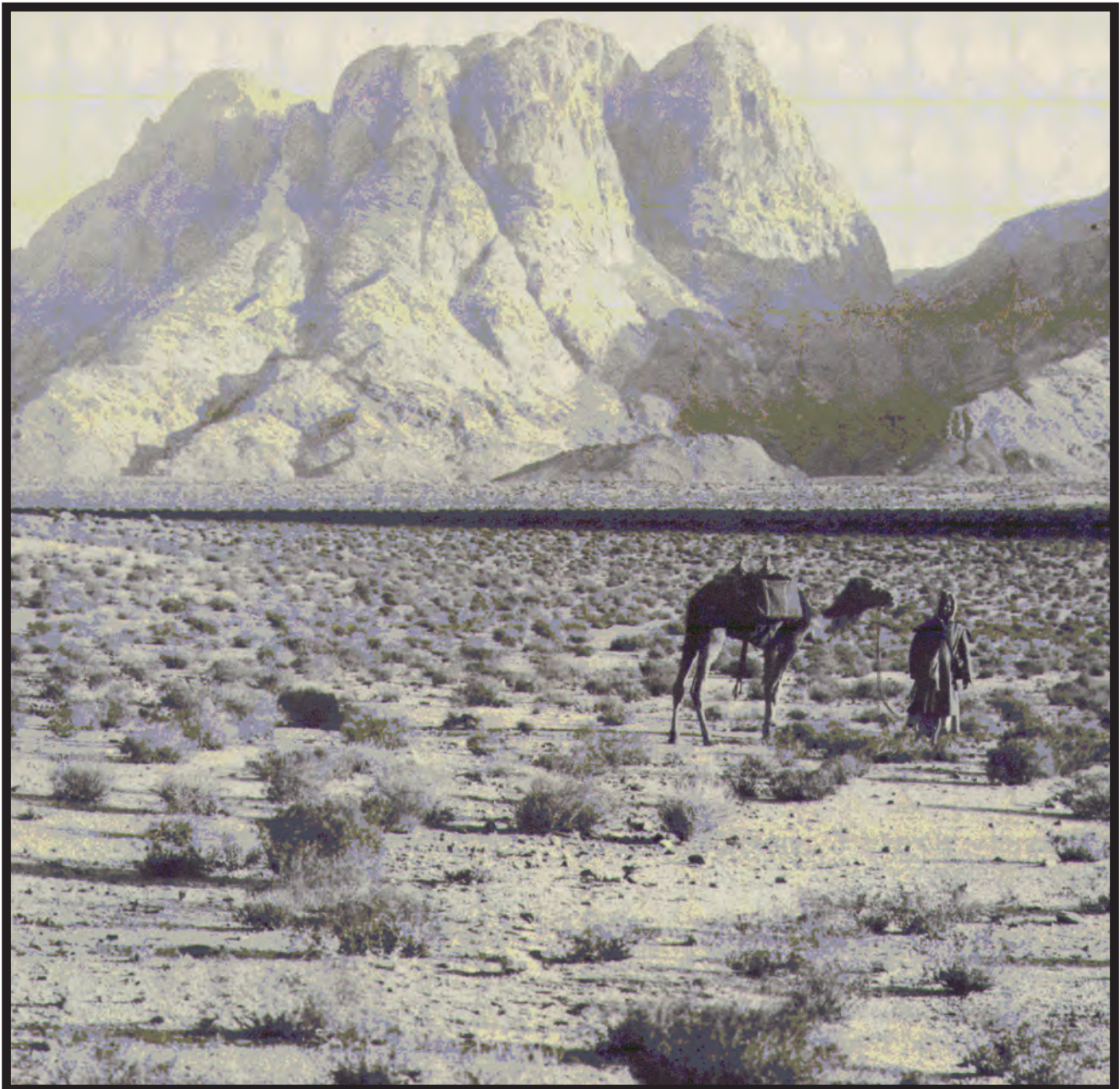
# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 6

---



Israel in the Wilderness



---

# ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

---

**T**he children of Israel continued to grow and multiply greatly in the land of Egypt. After the Pharaoh who knew Joseph died, another took his place. Many years passed. Because there were so many Israelites, the Pharaoh who now ruled the land feared them, and forced them into slave labor.

After about four hundred years in Egypt, God chose Moses to lead the people to freedom. Because Pharaoh refused to free the Israelites, God sent destructive plagues upon Egypt. The tenth and last plague was the death of the firstborn of Egypt. Pharaoh finally let the Israelites go.

But soon after the Israelites left, Pharaoh decided that he had made a mistake in freeing them. So he and his army chased after the Israelites to bring them back to Egypt.

The unarmed Israelites appeared trapped as they faced the deep, broad waters of the Red Sea. Pharaoh's army was rapidly closing in on them. There seemed to be no way of escape!

Moses held up his staff over the Red

Sea, just as God told him to do. Suddenly, the waters of the sea parted, forming a large pathway with towering walls of water on either side. Moses then led the people across the dry sea bed. But Pharaoh and his army began to pursue the Israelites through the sea.

The distance between the Israelites and the Egyptians quickly closed. When the last of the Israelites safely reached the opposite shore, God told Moses to hold his staff in the air. The mighty walls of water thundered back together, crushing the entire Egyptian army!

Free at last, the Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving to the great God of the universe.

Let's now journey with the Israelites through the hot desert sands as they move towards the Promised Land—the land of Canaan which God, many years before, had promised to Abraham and his descendants. As we do, we will learn some important lessons from the mistakes they made.

## MANNA FROM HEAVEN

God led the Israelites, numbering over two million, by a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. The people trudged on through

---

### ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

Mt. Sinai, located in the Sinai peninsula, is where God codified the Ten Commandments on two tablets of stone.

Malson Photo Service

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



the hot desert. After three days, they finally reached water, but it was too bitter for them to drink. So God miraculously made the waters sweet and fresh (Exodus 15:22-25).

The Israelites traveled through the desert for nearly a month. Then they began to complain, saying they didn't have enough food. "Oh, if we had only stayed back in Egypt. We always had plenty of food there. But now we will die from hunger in this miserable desert," they murmured.

Little did the people know that God would give them a very special food. The next morning the people found little, round, white flakes all over the ground. Because they had never seen anything like it before, they called the food "manna", meaning "What is it?" It was bread from heaven, also known as angels' food (Psalms 78:25). The manna tasted like small wafers made with honey.



The Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry ground between two towering walls of water.

God sent manna every day, except on the Sabbath. On the day before the Sabbath the Israelites were to gather a double portion. God was taking care of His people (Exodus 16:11-22).

### **GOD THUNDERS OUT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt, they arrived at Mount Sinai. (Look on a Bible map to see where Mount Sinai is located.)

With the people camped around the base of the mountain, God thundered out the Ten Commandments for all to hear (Exodus 20:1-17). He then commanded Moses to go up the mountain to receive more laws that would help the people to have happy lives.

God wanted the Israelites to be a model nation for all other nations to see. These nations would see, by looking at Israel, that the nation which obeys God and keeps His commandments is blessed. For God had told the Israelites that if they obeyed Him they would have happy and abundant lives. But if they disobeyed, they would be miserable.

### **THE GOLDEN CALF**

Moses was up in the mountain forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:18). During that time, what were the Israelites doing? Let's let an imaginary person tell the story:

"My name is Arnan. I was ten years old when Moses went up Mount Sinai. Many days passed and still he didn't return. My parents told me not to worry, because God was with him.



"One day, while I was out taking care of the goats, a large group of people walked past me. These were some of the same people who often complained and talked against Moses.

"Being a curious person, I left my sister with the goats and followed these people at a safe distance. The angry crowd stopped in front of Aaron's tent. Aaron came out. I moved closer to hear what they were saying.

"The leaders of the group talked about making some gods. Aaron, who had been left in charge of the camp during Moses' absence, looked frightened.

"As the mob continued talking, I thought, 'Don't these people understand that we're commanded not to worship idols? Surely they must have heard God thunder out the Ten Commandments just a short time ago. Had they forgotten how God led us through the Red Sea and then drowned the entire Egyptian army?'

"I was really surprised to hear that they wanted to make a calf out of gold! This wild crowd meant nothing but trouble (Exodus 32:1-4).

"During the next few days, workmen built a large shiny calf of pure gold. 'Don't go near that calf,' my father warned me. 'Something evil is bound to happen.'

"The next morning, the smell of roasting meat filled the air. Our neighbors told us Aaron had just declared a feast day (verse 5). I heard one man ask my father if he was going to worship the golden calf. When my

father said 'No,' the man laughed and went on his way.

" 'How foolish it is for them to think a false god like that has any power,' my mother said. 'I know,' was my response.

"Soon we heard wild shouts coming from the area where the golden calf was. My father said that people were losing control of themselves and partying wildly.

" 'It's time we prayed for the return of Moses,' he said quietly.

"A short while later Moses did return from the mountain. When he saw the golden calf and the people dancing and shouting, he became so angry that he threw down the two tables of stone on which God had specially written the Ten Commandments. They hit the base of the mountain and smashed into many pieces.

"Moses gave the order to build a large



The flames were so hot, the golden calf, built while Moses was away on Mt. Sinai, soon melted down to the ground.



bonfire around the shiny calf. It was so hot that we had to move back. The idol melted into a large puddle (verses 18-20). The gold was then ground up into fine powder and sprinkled into our drinking water.

“When I drank the water with the gold in it, all I could think about was how disobedient some of the people had been. If they had only listened to God when He told them not to worship idols, everything would have been fine.

“I will never forget that unfortunate day. My uncle was killed because he had taken part in the idolatrous festival. About three thousand men died that day as a result of their sins (verses 27-28). I made up my mind to never worship any idols. I would only worship the one, true God who led us out of Egypt.”

### **ISRAELITES NOT SATISFIED WITH MANNA**

The Israelites now began to complain about the manna God gave them. Turn to Numbers 11:5 and fill in the blanks. “We remember the \_\_\_\_\_, which we did eat in \_\_\_\_\_ freely; the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ . . . .”

Many of the Israelites didn’t like the manna. They wanted meat. The fact that God was providing them with manna wasn’t satisfactory. They wanted to eat the kinds of food they had eaten back in Egypt.

God said he would give them meat. In fact, He said they would receive so much of it that it would become

loathsome to them (Numbers 11:20). God then sent the Israelites enough quail to feed them for an entire month! The complainers received the meat they wanted, but then suffered from a great plague sent by God as punishment for their complaining (Numbers 11:32-34).

### **Do You Remember?**

1. The word manna means, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Who was left in charge while Moses was on Mt. Sinai? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What did the rebellious Israelites build and then worship? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **MOSES IS CRITICIZED**

Miriam and Aaron, the sister and brother of Moses, spoke against Moses. They criticized him because he had married an Ethiopian woman. They said, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?”

But it was not their job to criticize the man *God chose* to lead the Israelites!

God heard them, as He hears everything that we say, and corrected them. God afflicted Miriam with a fatal disease. The disease is called \_\_\_\_\_ (Numbers 12:10). Moses prayed for her, and after seven days God healed her.

This is a lesson to us that we should not criticize or speak against those in authority. It is wrong, for example, to criticize our parents when they do something we don’t agree with.

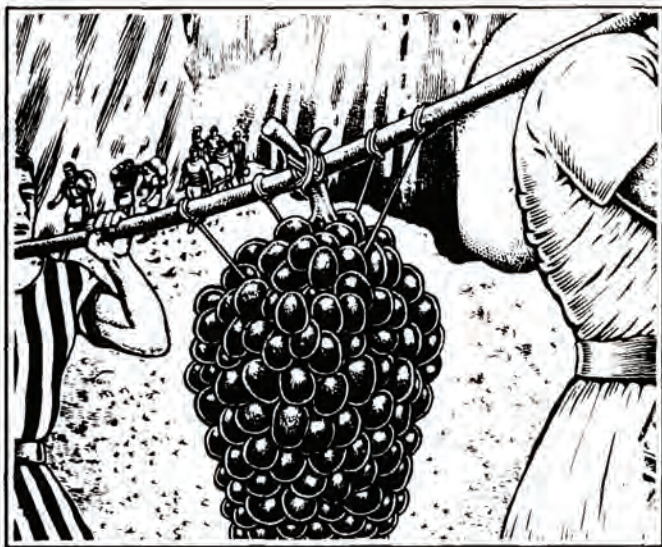


## ISRAEL REFUSES TO ENTER CANAAN

After Miriam was healed, the Israelites continued their journey. They stopped in the Wilderness of Paran, which was near the Promised Land.

Before entering the land of Canaan, Moses sent twelve scouts to look it over. They passed the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on the face of the earth. They traveled to the Sea of Galilee, where many years later, Jesus spent much of His life. They saw the Mediterranean Sea, the Jordan Valley, farmlands, cities and people. The scouts brought back some of the food from the area, including grapes as large as plums! (Numbers 13:17-24.)

When the scouts returned, they reported to the people what they had seen. Two of the scouts, Joshua and Caleb, told the Israelites about the wonderful land, advising them to go up to the land at once and take possession of it.



The scouts who searched Canaan brought back grapes as large as plums.

The other scouts, however, gave a bad report. They advised the people not to enter the land because the inhabitants were much stronger than the Israelites. "In fact, the land is inhabited by a race of giants so large that ordinary men look like grasshoppers in comparison!" they said.

Most of the Israelites believed the scouts who gave the bad report. They refused to enter the land. In fact, they chose a leader to take them back to Egypt (Numbers 14:4). This was rebellion against God and His servant Moses!

Because of this, God pronounced a punishment on the Israelites. The \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ against me shall in this. . . (verse 29). They were to wander forty years in the wilderness until all those twenty years and older (except for Joshua and Caleb) died. It was the children—those under the age of twenty—who would have the wonderful opportunity of entering the Promised Land.

## EARTH SWALLOWS REBELS

Arnan continues the story:

"One day, as I played in the dirt outside our tent, I saw some of our neighbors, Korah, Dathan and Abiram walking toward Moses' tent. They were talking about replacing Moses and Aaron, and leading the Israelites themselves.

"I wondered about this, because my father told me that it is God who chooses the leaders, and that He had chosen Moses. I followed at a distance to



---

see what these men and their followers would do.

“They stopped in front of Moses’ tent. ‘Could they be serious about this?’ I thought.

“Moses came out of his tent. Korah said something about Moses and Aaron trying to do everything themselves. The men appeared very disrespectful.

“Moses then said something that sent shivers up and down my spine. Speaking to Korah and his followers, he said, ‘By tomorrow morning God will reveal who His true servants really are!’

“I thought surely these men would be afraid and say they were sorry, but they weren’t. They all went home. I followed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram back to their tents. They seemed to think they would soon be in charge of Israel.

“Just after supper Moses and Aaron came to visit the men. I followed at a small distance again, anxious to hear what was happening. Moses said something about God causing the earth to swallow up these men! (Numbers 16:30.)

“I was frightened and raced for home, wishing I had stayed there instead of being so curious. After I reached my tent, I turned around to look over in the direction of the three men. The ground suddenly began to rumble and shake in the area these men were standing. ‘It’s happening just as Moses said,’ I thought to myself.

“People were screaming and running in all directions. Suddenly, the ground caved in, swallowing up these men, their households and possessions, and

those who had conspired with them. The earth closed over them and they perished!

“The next day, as I walked through the camp, I heard some people saying that Moses and Aaron had caused the earth to open up like that. Why, even I knew that only God could have performed a miracle like that! ‘If these people keep talking like that, they may fall into the ground too,’ I thought. ‘It would be so much better if they would just keep quiet and mind their own business.’

“Suddenly, some of these same people began to die. As time passed, more and more fell to the earth dead. As far as I could see, dead people were scattered on the ground.

“Far ahead I saw Aaron waving a lighted censer. Behind him no one seemed to be dying. I ran toward Aaron and passed him. The plague stopped. Later, I learned that 14,700 people had died. I realized that talking about God’s servants in a wrong way was very serious business. If only these people had obeyed God, He would have spared them” (verse 49).

### **NEAR THE PROMISED LAND**

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, it was now time for the Israelites to enter the land of Canaan. But again, the people complained. They said they didn’t have enough food and water.

God instructed Moses to speak to a rock and then He would cause water to flow out from it. However, Moses did



not follow God's instructions properly. In a fit of anger, because of the rebellious people, Moses struck the rock with his staff, instead of just speaking to it.

God sent the water, but He was upset with Moses and Aaron for not following His instructions. As a result of their disobedience, God did not allow them to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 20:12). Aaron died soon thereafter at the age of one hundred and twenty-three.

### Do You Remember?

1. Miriam had leprosy for \_\_\_\_ days.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were the two scouts who told the truth.
3. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

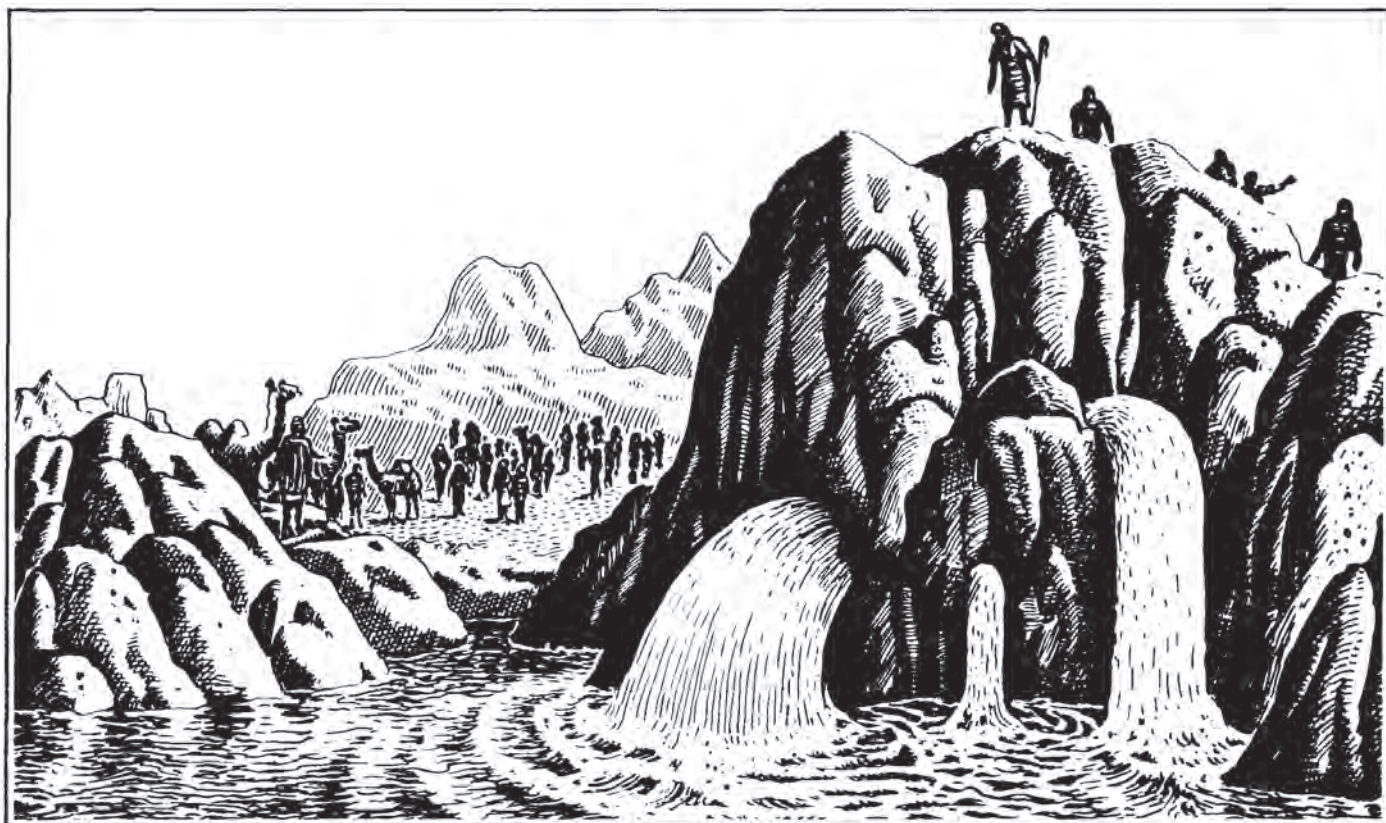
\_\_\_\_\_ disappeared into the earth.

### GOD SENDS SNAKES TO PUNISH THE COMPLAINERS

Reu, the imaginary son of Arnan, our imaginary story-teller, now continues the story:

"After Aaron died, the people mourned for him thirty days. I cried when he died on the mountain. I still remember father telling me about the time he ran past Aaron during one of the plagues. That was many years ago, before I was born.

"We began to travel toward Canaan once again, but then some of the people started to complain. 'Oh, no!' I thought. Of course, desert travel was hot and



Moses disobeyed God's instructions and struck the rock with his staff.



---

tiring, but I knew that we would soon be in a wonderful land where I could raise goats and have my own garden.

“Soon, a large crowd of people arrived at Moses’ tent. They angrily complained that the manna was not good enough for them (Numbers 21:5). My mother told me that without the manna which God faithfully sent us everyday, we would starve to death.

“Having a curious nature just like my father, I followed the crowd at a safe distance. They used nasty words and behaved badly. I remembered my parents telling me how God dislikes complaining. Thinking the situation might become too dangerous, I turned and started walking home.

“Just then I heard a strange noise. ‘It sounds like people screaming,’ I thought. As I looked through the camp, I saw my friend Ethan’s parents running from their tent. On the ground, I could see large snakes wriggling after them. Worse yet, they were coming in my direction!

“Before they ran much further, one of the snakes bit Ethan’s father. Another bit his mother. Both screamed in pain, and after taking a few more steps they died. ‘They must have been some of the complainers,’ I thought. Trembling, I raced for my tent. I saw snakes all through the camp. I could only think of one thing—‘I hoped my parents hadn’t complained.’

“As I reached the tent, I could see that everything was fine. No snakes were near our tent, but they were wriggling into some of the neighbors’

tents. I ran into my father’s arms. All around us were screams of pain and terror (verse 6).

“‘You didn’t complain about the manna, did you?’ I asked my parents.

“‘No, son, we didn’t,’ my father said. ‘I learned that lesson years ago.’

“God soon told Moses to make a bronze snake and put it on a pole. When those who were bitten looked at it, they were healed by God (verse 9).

### **A GIANT IS DEFEATED**

“On the way to Canaan, my father was chosen as one of the soldiers to fight against a giant and his army who did not want us to enter the Promised Land. This giant, whose name was Og, stood about twelve feet tall! I was worried that my father would get hurt or killed in the battle. But my father reassured me, saying, ‘Don’t worry, God will fight for us.’

“As the men went off to battle, I was sure I would see my father again. Sure enough, my father did return. God had delivered Og and his army into the hands of the Israelites. We thanked God for giving us the victory.”

### **A TALKING DONKEY**

After the defeat of Og and his nation, the king of Moab was afraid. He wanted to destroy the Israelites, but knew he was not powerful enough. He thought of a plan. He asked the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites (Numbers 22:5-6).

God told Balaam not to go to Moab. But he disobeyed and went anyway. On the way, God sent an angel with a sword to kill him. The donkey Balaam was



riding saw the angel, which was blocking the road, but Balaam did not. The animal kept trying to get out of the way, but Balaam kept forcing it back on the road. Finally, Balaam became so angry that he beat the donkey with his staff. Then the donkey spoke!

It said, "What have I \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_, that thou hast \_\_\_\_\_ me these \_\_\_\_\_ times?" (Numbers 22:28.) God spoke to Balaam through the donkey! The angel blocking the road suddenly became visible. Balaam was so fearful that he immediately fell to the ground. The angel then told him he must now go on to Moab. While there he was to speak only what God wanted him to.

Balaam then blessed the Israelites instead of cursing them, as the king of Moab had wanted him to do (Numbers 24:1, 10). He could only do what God allowed, and God wanted him to bless—not curse—the Israelites!

### LESSONS FOR US TODAY

In this lesson we have learned of the many calamities which came upon the Israelites because of their disobedience to God.

But why were these things preserved in the Bible for us today? "Now these things were our examples, to the intent *we* should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted" (I Corinthians 10:6).

God intends for us to learn from the experiences of the ancient Israelites and to avoid following their bad examples, which only led to suffering and misery.

The Israelites made many serious

mistakes. One of these was idolatry. We should not worship things such as actors, actresses, athletes, television and music. Although these things may not be wrong in themselves, we should not allow them to consume most of our time. We should always try to put God *first* in our lives.

The Israelites also tempted God. We shouldn't try to see how much we can get away with at home, before receiving correction. For example, if our room is untidy, we should clean it *before* we are asked. We should also obey our parents immediately.

The Israelites also complained. Let's try not to be guilty of this. Try going a day without complaining—about anything! Complaining didn't bring the Israelites happiness, and neither will it bring us happiness!

We should also practice the way of "give"—not "get"—by being kind to others and helping them in whatever way we can. This is showing real love and concern for our neighbors.

Learning from the mistakes of the ancient Israelites will help us to lead happy and abundant lives. So let's strive to obey God and keep His commandments, and to ultimately be in His Kingdom!

### Do You Remember?

List five mistakes the Israelites made.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



# FRACTION-NITIONS

Find the phrases below by using their "fraction-nitions." A fraction-nition is a word consisting of fractional parts of other words. To find the words and fraction-nitions below, read each clue and select the correct letters. Enter them in the next empty solution box(es). The first question is done for you as an example.

**A**

One of the miracles God performed for the Israelites:

B I

**B**

The way the Israelites should have lived their lives, and the way that will make us happy:



**1**

The first 2/5 of  
BIBLE

**2**

The last 4/7 of  
QUITTER

**3**

The first 3/5 of  
WATCH

**4**

The last 2/5 of  
CHEER

**5**

The first 2/5 of  
MARRY

**6**

The last 2/5 of  
ABIDE

**7**

The first 3/5  
of SWELL

**8**

The last 1/2  
of MEET



**1**

The first 1/4 of  
GOMORRAH

**2**

The last 1/3 of  
CLOUDS

**3**

The last 3/4 of  
AWAY

**4**

The first 1/4 of  
OFFERING

**5**

The last 4/7 of  
FORGIVE

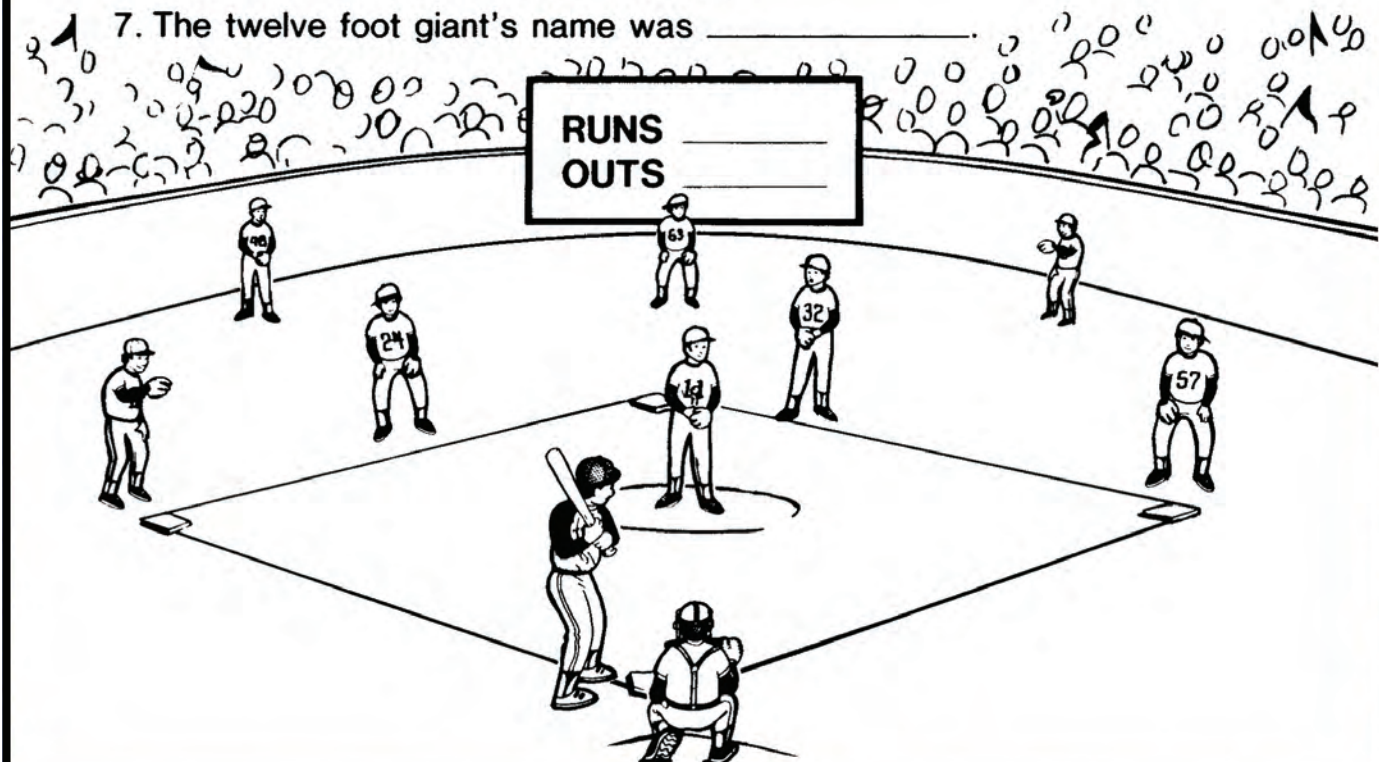


**BIBLE MEMORY**    Ecclesiastes 12:13 -14

## BIBLE BASEBALL

See how many runs you can score by filling in the blanks below. Fill in the correct answers in order and record your score on the scoreboard in the diagram after answering each question. Each right answer is a home run. Each wrong answer is an out. If you make three outs you lose the game. Play Ball!

1. God delivered the Ten Commandments from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Honor thy father and mother is the \_\_\_\_\_ commandment.
3. The two scouts who told the truth were Joshua and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The lowest point on earth is the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. \_\_\_\_\_, Dathan and Abiram perished in the earthquake.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ died at the age of 123.
7. The twelve foot giant's name was \_\_\_\_\_.





---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 7

---



Israel Enters the Promised Land



---

# ISRAEL ENTERS THE PROMISED LAND

---

**G**od led the Israelites forty years through the wilderness of the Sinai peninsula. During those years, the adult generation which had rebelled against God, by fearing to enter Canaan, had died. Moses, Joshua and Caleb, however, were still alive. Now, another generation had grown and it was time to enter the Promised Land.

You may remember from your last lesson that the Israelites defeated the giant, Og, and his army. Also, many of the Israelite men were punished for marrying the Moabite and Midianite women, and taking part in their sinful practices.

## **BATTLING THE MIDIANITES**

The time had come for God to punish the Midianites, because they had led many of the Israelites into idolatry. Moses ordered his officers to choose a thousand men from each tribe to fight against the Midianites.

After the men were chosen, the small army of Israelites began their march towards the Midianite camp. The

Midianite spies who were watching Israel quickly reported this to the five rulers of Midian.

In the meantime, scouts ran hurriedly into the Israelite camp with news that the Midianite army was fast approaching. "There are thousands of soldiers coming!" the scouts shouted. "Their army is much larger than our own!"

As the two armies came closer and closer, the Midianite army suddenly rushed towards the oncoming Israelites. They were trying to quickly surround the Israelites. Then, at Joshua's command, trumpets were blown, signaling for the army of Israel to attack the enemy. The Israelites moved much faster than the Midianites and surrounded them first.

Even though the Israelites were far outnumbered, they quickly killed all of the Midianite soldiers (Numbers 31:7-12).

Afterwards, the men who had gone to battle were not allowed to enter the camp for seven days.

What did the Israelite soldiers have to do during the seven days? (Numbers 31:21-24) \_\_\_\_\_

---

## **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

The Jordan River in the area of Galilee, Israel. God miraculously stopped the flow of the waters, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground. YES Photo

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



\_\_\_\_\_.

This was done so that harmful diseases would not be brought into the camp of Israel. God wanted Israel to obey the laws of health. It is very important for us to obey good health laws, too. Can you think of things we should do, so that we will be healthy? If so, write them on the lines below. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Later, a count was taken of all the men who had gone to battle. Not one Israelite had been hurt or killed.

### **LAND EAST OF THE JORDAN**

The area east of the Jordan River had now been conquered by the Israelites. Much of the land in this area was dry, but there were some parts suitable for grazing cattle and sheep.

The leaders of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh came to Moses with a very special request. They asked if they could live in the land east of the Jordan River. They thought it was good land for grazing their animals.

Moses was shocked when he heard their request. Moses feared that these tribes were rebelling against crossing the Jordan River and entering the land of Canaan. Moses promptly reminded them of what happened to their forefathers who had rebelled.

What was the answer from the leaders of the Reubenites and Gadites?

(Numbers 32:16-18) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Moses agreed, and gave them permission to settle on the eastern side of the river. So, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh soon set out to rebuild the broken buildings and houses that had been destroyed in the earlier battles. They also worked very hard to restore many of the broken shelters and corrals for their animals (Numbers 32:34-42).

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN**

During the time that the Israelites were camped on the east side of the Jordan River, God, through Moses, gave more instructions to the Israelites. Moses told the Israelites that when they entered the land of Canaan, their duty would be to kill all the people who lived there. Also, they were to destroy all idols and pagan altars (Numbers 33:50-53).

Why did God want Israel to do this? What did God say would happen to the Israelites if they spared any Canaanites? Read Numbers 33:55 and fill in the blanks.

"But if you do not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
the land from before you; then it shall  
be that \_\_\_\_\_ whom you  
let \_\_\_\_\_ shall be  
\_\_\_\_\_ in your eyes, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ in your sides, and shall  
\_\_\_\_\_ you in the \_\_\_\_\_  
where you dwell."



God did not want any Canaanites in the same land as the Israelites. He knew that they would lead the Israelites into serving false gods.

### **DIVIDING THE LAND**

The land of Canaan was to be divided among the nine and one half tribes, according to the amount of people in each tribe.

Moses was instructed by God to choose a group of men to help divide the land. He also gave forty-eight towns to the Levites, because they were not to inherit any land (Numbers 34).

Six of these towns would become "cities of refuge." These special towns were for the protection of those who accidentally killed a person. If they fled to a city of refuge, they would be safe from angry relatives or friends who might want to kill them.

Moses reminded the people of what had happened since they left Mt. Sinai. Moses also told them that he would not be allowed to enter Canaan because of his disobedience in striking the rock. However, God would allow him to view the land from a high mountain.

The Israelites were told that God would deal harshly with them if they broke His commandments. But, he would also be merciful to them, and never forsake them if they observed His laws.

The Israelites were to observe the weekly and annual Sabbaths. These days were to be kept by all generations forever.

Today, those in God's Church keep the weekly and annual Sabbaths, too.

On the lines below, list the seven annual festivals found in Leviticus 23. \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Laws such as tithing, letting the land rest during the seventh year, and rules for civil government were also given by God through Moses.

### **ISRAEL'S NEW LEADER APPOINTED**

After Moses had finished speaking to the people, he brought Joshua to stand with him in front of everyone. He appointed Joshua to be the one to lead Israel into the Promised Land. Read what Moses said to Joshua in Deuteronomy 31:7 and fill in the blanks.

"Be \_\_\_\_\_ and of good \_\_\_\_\_: for \_\_\_\_\_ must go with this \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ which the \_\_\_\_\_ has sworn to their \_\_\_\_\_ to give them; and \_\_\_\_\_ shall cause them to \_\_\_\_\_ it."

God then called for Moses and Joshua to come before Him in the Tabernacle. When they had entered the Tabernacle, God appeared to them in a pillar of a cloud. He told them that not long after Moses' death, the people of Israel would once again turn from obeying God.

Moses wrote a song from the words that God had spoken, and it was to be sung by the children of Israel as a reminder of God's promises. When



Moses had finished teaching the people the song and had given them final instructions, he prepared to climb Mt. Pisgah, a tall peak near Mt. Nebo. It was from the top of this mountain that he would view Canaan.

Before reaching the very top, Moses told those whom he had taken with him, probably, Joshua, Eleazar and the elders of Israel, not to follow him any farther. They were very sad to see him leave.

From the top of Mt. Pisgah, Moses saw the beautiful land of Canaan. After a short time, he turned and waved to the people of Israel and then walked over and down the other side of the mountain. The people of Israel would not see Moses again.

### Do You Remember?

1. Which tribes wanted the land on the east side of the Jordan River? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Which tribe was not to inherit land? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What were the cities of refuge? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### JOSHUA TAKES CHARGE

God spoke with Joshua, after the death of Moses, and told him that he would be Israel's new leader. God promised that He would never leave him if he would obey His commandments. Read what God said to Joshua in Joshua 1:5, and fill in the blanks.

"No man shall be able to \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_

all the days of your life: as \_\_\_\_\_ was with \_\_\_\_\_, so I will be with you: I will not \_\_\_\_\_ you, nor \_\_\_\_\_ you."

Joshua was very encouraged to hear these words from God.

Joshua then began to assemble the tribes. In three days they would be crossing the Jordan River. Joshua reminded the tribes of Reuben, Gad and one half of Manasseh of their promise to lead the army of Israel in battle against the Canaanites.

"Remember your promise that you made to Moses," Joshua said. "Remember that you are to lead the army of Israel with your strongest and bravest fighting men until all Israel is settled in this new land" (Joshua 1:12-15).

### SPIES SENT TO JERICHO

Before the Israelites entered Canaan, Joshua sent two spies across the Jordan River to the city of Jericho. Jericho was a major city along one of the trade roads through Canaan. The spies, dressed as Canaanite travelers, walked through the large gateway and into the city. As they



Rahab informed the two spies that soldiers had come to arrest them.



---

looked around the city, they stopped at an inn located on top of one of the outer walls of Jericho. A woman named Rahab invited them in for a meal.

While the men were eating, the sun began to set. This meant the gates of the city would be closed.

The two spies were now trapped inside the city. Suddenly there was a loud knock on the door. It was soldiers who had come to arrest the two Israelites. Rahab quickly led the scouts to the roof where she covered them with stalks of flax.

Rahab told the soldiers that the Israelites had already eaten and left the city. "Go after them, quickly, and you will probably catch them," she said (Joshua 2:5).

After the soldiers had gone, Rahab helped to lower the men down the wall to safety. But, before the spies left, Rahab made them promise to spare her and her family when the Israelites attacked the city.

"We will spare you and your family if you remain in this inn when we destroy the city," one of the spies said. "Put a red ribbon in this window so our men will know where you are," said the other.

After promising Rahab that she and her family would be spared, the two spies returned to the Israelite camp.

### **Who's Who**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ became the new leader of the Israelites.
2. Two Israelite \_\_\_\_\_ were sent to Jericho.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ helped lower the two spies down the walls of Jericho.

### **CROSSING THE JORDAN**

After hearing the report from the two spies, Joshua ordered the Israelites to break camp and move to a place near the Jordan River. It took most of the day to arrive at the river.

It was the springtime and the river had become very deep because of the spring rains. It was impossible for everyone with all their flocks and belongings to cross the river. But God had a special plan.

Early the next morning, Joshua did as God commanded. Joshua told the priests to take the Ark and wade into the water's edge and stop. God would do the rest.

The priests did as they were told and stepped into the Jordan River at the water's edge. Suddenly, the water to their left flowed away, and at the same time, the water on the right stopped flowing. The Israelites then crossed on dry land to the other side of the river.

This was a fantastic miracle by God. We should keep in mind that even though Joshua gave the orders, it was God who performed the miracle.

When all the Israelites had finished crossing, Joshua chose a man from each tribe to bring a large stone from the river. He then built a monument for the people of Israel. The stones were to be a reminder of the miracle that God had just performed.

The Israelites then moved to a place called Gilgal. While at Gilgal, they kept



the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. At this time, the people began living off the produce of the land. Manna, which had been the main food for forty years, ceased to appear on the day after the Passover. Do you remember what the word “manna” means?

### **JOSHUA MEETS GOD**

One day while Joshua was out looking at the city of Jericho, he came face to face with a man holding a sword. Joshua boldly walked up to the man and said, “Are you a friend of Israel or an enemy?” The man said he was the commander of the army of God. Joshua realized he was speaking with God, the One who would later come as Jesus Christ. He quickly fell face down on the ground.

“What would you ask of me?” Joshua humbly asked.

“Remove your shoes—for where you are standing is holy ground,” God replied (Joshua 5:13-14).

God went on to tell Joshua how the Israelites were to destroy the city of Jericho.

The people in the city were very fearful, because they had heard how the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry ground. So, no one was going in or out of the city (Joshua 6:1).

### **THE BATTLE OF JERICHO**

The next morning, Joshua rose early to prepare the army of Israel to march on Jericho. God had given very specific instructions as to what Israel was to do. According to God’s instructions, all the mighty men of Israel were to march



God held back the water of the Jordan River when the priests stepped into the water.

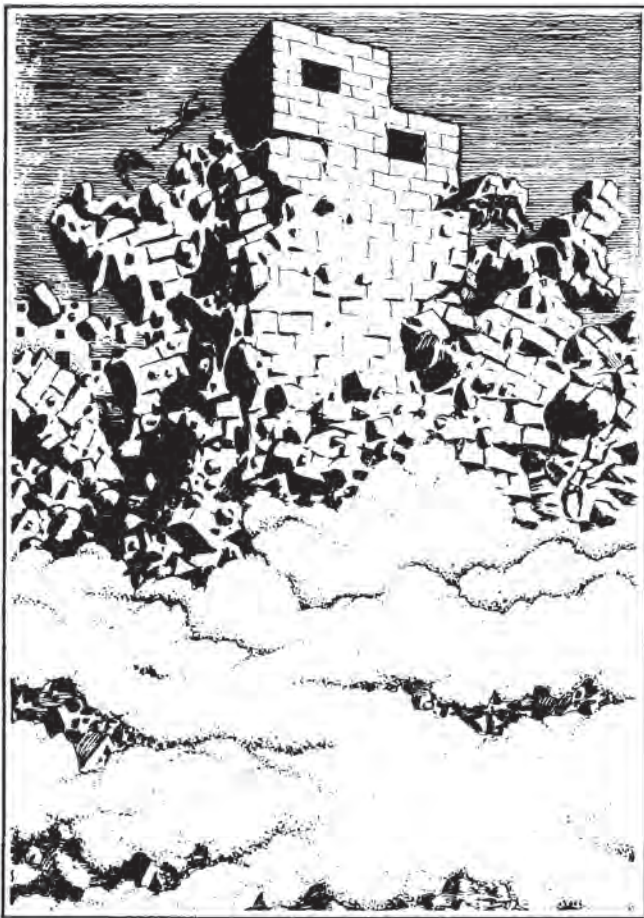


around the walls of Jericho once every day for six days.

Following the army would be seven priests. Each of the priests had a trumpet made from a ram's horn. Behind the priests were the Levites who would carry the Ark.

On the seventh day, they were all to march around Jericho seven times, and the priests were to blow their trumpets. When everyone heard the final blast from the trumpet, they were to give a loud shout!

The Israelites did as they were told, and on the seventh day when they had marched around the city seven times,



Only part of the Jericho wall where Rahab lived remained standing.

the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted.

With a great roar the walls of Jericho came crashing down. The Israelites charged in and conquered the city.

Part of the city was not destroyed. That was the house where Rahab lived. God spared her and her family from harm, because she had helped the two Israelite spies when they were trapped in the city. Rahab had great faith in God to protect her and her family (Hebrews 11:31).

The Israelites then collected certain precious metals that were in the city, but they were not allowed to take anything else or they would bring a curse upon Israel. The city of Jericho was then burned.

### TROUBLE AT AI

News of the fall of Jericho spread very quickly (Joshua 6:27). The people of Ai were very fearful that they would soon be conquered by the Israelites. Ai was a much smaller city than Jericho. So Joshua decided to send only about three thousand men to the city of Ai.

The Israelite soldiers boldly marched towards the city. They were very confident that God would be with them. As they approached the gates of the city, the gates of the city swung open and thousands of Amorite soldiers came rushing down upon them.

The Israelites were so surprised, they began running away from the city. When the Israelites finally regrouped they learned that thirty-six of their men had been killed by the Amorites.



---

Joshua was shocked when he heard the news of what had happened. What did he do then?

“Then Joshua \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, and fell to the \_\_\_\_\_ on his \_\_\_\_\_ before the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ until evening, he and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and they put \_\_\_\_\_ on their \_\_\_\_\_” (Joshua 7:6).

Tearing one's clothes and placing dust on one's head was a sign of great sorrow and humility. Many people were very sad about the death of the thirty-six Israelites.

Joshua then prayed to God. He asked God why He allowed this to happen. What was God's answer to Joshua's prayer? Read Joshua 7:11 and summarize what God said on the lines below.

---

---

---

---

---

---

God showed by the casting of lots that a man named Achan had taken some valuables from the city of Jericho. Because of his sin, he was stoned to death by the people of Israel.

### THE FALL OF AI

God promised to help Israel this time when they went to attack the city of Ai. During the night, Joshua sent troops to hide near the city of Ai. The next morning, he took troops towards the city. Once again, the soldiers in Ai

rushed out against the Israelites. As Joshua planned, the Israelites began running away, causing the Amorite army to chase them farther and farther away from the city.

When the Amorites were far enough away, the troops that were hiding near the city attacked and burned it. When the Amorite army saw the flames rising from the city, they turned to race back. But they were cut off by more Israelites who were coming from the city. God brought a great victory for Israel that day (Joshua 8:10-28).

Not long after Ai had been conquered, the people of Israel, led by Joshua, gathered on the slopes of Mt. Ebal, and Mt. Gerizim. Offerings were made to God, and Joshua explained to them the many blessings that would come from obedience to God and curses for disobedience. These laws were also written on stones (Joshua 8:30-35).

### JOSHUA'S TREATY

One day, Joshua noticed some weary looking travelers coming toward the Israelite camp. They requested to see the leader of the Israelites.

Joshua stepped forward to hear what they had to say. “We are ambassadors from a distant nation,” they said. “We have come a long way to make a treaty with you and your people.”

Joshua asked them to prove they were from a far country. The messengers showed him their belongings which appeared as if they had been on a long journey.

Joshua agreed to make a treaty with



them. He shouldn't have done this without consulting God first.

When the messengers left, Joshua sent spies to follow them. After only a few days the spies returned to report to Joshua.

Joshua was angry when he heard that these men had tricked him. They were really Hivites from four neighboring cities. Joshua sent an army to the city of Gibeon, one of the Hivite cities. After speaking with the leaders of the Hivite cities and discussing the matter with the elders of Israel, he decided to keep his agreement (Joshua 9:1-27).

### Definitions

Find these words in the lesson, and write their meanings on the lines below. You may use a dictionary if you need help.

1. FLAX \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. MONUMENT \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. TREATY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. IDOL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### THE SUN STANDS STILL

Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard of the treaty between the Israelites and the four Hivite cities. He wanted to punish the Hivites for this, so he gathered a large army from other cities to attack



God miraculously caused the sun to remain in the same place until all the Canaanites were killed.

them. When the people of Gibeon heard that a large army was swiftly approaching, they sent messengers to Joshua for help (Joshua 10:4-6).

When Joshua heard the news, he asked God what to do. What did God say to Joshua? "Do not fear them for I have \_\_\_\_\_ them into your \_\_\_\_\_; not a \_\_\_\_\_ of them shall stand before \_\_\_\_\_" (Joshua 10:8).

Once again, God encouraged Joshua by telling him that He would be with Israel.

Joshua assembled the troops and they marched during the night to reach Gibeon. It was dawn when they arrived,



and they could see the Canaanite troops preparing to attack the city. Just as the Canaanites were about to attack, the Israelites rushed down on them.

The battle lasted for several hours. Joshua noticed that it wouldn't be long before night would come and many of the Canaanites would escape.

Joshua asked God for help in defeating the Canaanites. Read Joshua's prayer in Joshua 10:12 and fill in the blanks. "Sun, \_\_\_\_\_ still over Gibeon; and \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Aijalon."

God performed another mighty miracle. The sun stayed in the same place until all the Canaanites were killed.

### THE ALTAR

The Israelites continued to conquer many of the Canaanite armies. God worked miracles to help Israel win their battles.

After much of the land had been conquered, the tribes were divided and each lived in the area where God wanted them (Joshua, chapters 13-21).

The two and one-half tribes which helped to conquer Canaan were now sent back home across the Jordan. When they returned they began building a large altar of stones near the Jordan River. News quickly reached Joshua and the elders of Israel as to what they were doing.

The elders of Israel went to see the altar and the people from Reuben, Gad and one-half of Manasseh. The elders said to them, "What \_\_\_\_\_ is this

that \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ away this day from \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, in that you have \_\_\_\_\_ for yourselves an \_\_\_\_\_, that you might \_\_\_\_\_ this day against the \_\_\_\_\_?" (Joshua 22:16.)

The elders were relieved to hear that the two and one half tribes were not building an altar to a false god. What was the reply of the Reubenites, Gadites and Manassites?

"Far be it from \_\_\_\_\_ that we should \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_" (Joshua 22:29).

### THE DEATH OF JOSHUA

Joshua was very old by now, and he called the people of Israel together. He then reminded them that God had fought their battles for them. He also told them that they had inherited a good land, and should continue to keep God's commandments. He told them how God brought them from Egypt where they were slaves.

Afterwards, when Joshua had finished speaking, he told the people to return to their homes. Shortly after this, Joshua died. He was 110 years old. The people of Israel were very sad because of his death.

The Israelites continued to obey God after the death of Joshua, during the time of the elders.

In our next lesson we will learn about what happened to the Israelites during the time of the Judges.







---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 8

---



Israel During the Times of the Judges



---

# ISRAEL DURING THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

---

**A**fter the death of Joshua, the Israelites failed to completely rid the land of Canaan of its inhabitants as God had instructed. So the Israelites gradually adopted the idolatrous ways of the Canaanites and other nations around them.

As punishment, God allowed enemy nations to attack the Israelites and to oppress them. But when the people cried out to God for help, He would raise up a judge to lead and deliver them.

This lesson will show what happened to the Israelites during the time of the Judges.

## **A MESSAGE FROM GOD**

One day an angel appeared to the people of Israel at Bochim. He had come to deliver a message from God. The people gathered around him to hear what he had to say.

"I have brought you up from Egypt and into this land I promised to your fathers," he said. "I made a covenant with you that if you would obey Me, I

would help you conquer the land. You were to destroy all pagan altars. You were forbidden to make agreements of any kind with your enemies. But you have not obeyed me. As a result, I will no longer help you drive out the inhabitants of the land. I will let them be as thorns in your sides. No longer will I protect you!" (Judges 2:1-3.)

Years later, God allowed a cruel man named Eglon, king of Moab, to invade the land of Israel. Eglon forced the Israelites to pay him tribute each year. God was no longer watching out for the Israelites as He once had. Enemy soldiers now told them what to do.

When the Israelites finally cried out to God for help, He raised up a man named Ehud to deliver them.

Before continuing, we should realize that some of the things that happened in Old Testament times were very bloody. Although God does not permit such violence among His people today, it was He who allowed, and in some cases commanded, His people to kill their enemies. God could do this because it is He who gives life, and therefore has the right to say when it shall be taken away. As we'll learn in the Fall Festival lesson, these same people will be brought back

---

## **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

Roman remains of Ashkelon, a seacoast city in Southern Israel. It was a major Philistine city during the days of Samson.

YES Photo

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



to life in the future and be taught God's way.

### **EHUD'S BOLD MOVE**

Ehud sharpened a dagger on both sides and hid it under his clothing. He then went to King Eglon and told him he had a secret message for him. The king sent his guards away, leaving the two men alone.

"Quickly now, what is this important message you have for me?" Eglon demanded.

"It's a very important message from God," replied Ehud.

Then Ehud quickly removed his dagger from beneath his clothes and thrust it into Eglon. The king slumped over, dead, then rolled to the floor (Judges 3:16-22).

Ehud quietly left the room, locking the door behind him. By the time Eglon's body was discovered, Ehud had



King Eglon demanded that Ehud tell him the secret message.

already reached safety.

When Eglon's soldiers in Israel learned that he was dead, they panicked and fled to their homeland. But Ehud and an army of Israelites met them as they tried to cross the Jordan River. A battle began, and ten thousand of the enemy were killed. God had rescued Israel!

Ehud became a judge in Israel, and under his leadership God gave the people peace and safety from their enemies (Judges 3:30).

### **GOD DELIVERS ISRAEL THROUGH DEBORAH**

After Ehud died, the Israelites returned to their evil practices. Again God allowed a pagan king to punish them. This time it was Jabin, a strong ruler of the Canaanites. He oppressed the Israelites and made them servants for twenty years. The general of his army was the dreaded Sisera.

Again the Israelites cried out to God for mercy. God heard their cries and used a woman named \_\_\_\_\_ to rescue them (Judges 4:4). God told her to choose a man named Barak to lead Israel's soldiers into battle. But Barak feared to do it alone. He wanted Deborah to go along with him. Deborah agreed to go, but told Barak that because of his lack of courage, God would allow a woman to get credit for the victory.

Israel's army stood waiting on the flat area of Mt. Tabor, located near the Sea of Galilee. Sisera's army camped on the plain below. His large and well-equipped



---

army included nine hundred chariots plated with iron. Only God's supernatural help could save Israel from this dreaded foe!

Inspired by God, Deborah informed Barak that the Israelites should charge down the slope at once and attack. "God will be with us and deliver the enemy into our hands," she told Barak.

Barak and his men quickly ran down the mountain to attack the Canaanites. Caught off guard, Sisera's army turned and fled.

God then sent a heavy rain, causing a river, that the enemy hoped to cross, to turn into a raging torrent. Their chariots became stuck in the mud. Soldiers who tried to escape by crossing the river were swept away, while others were killed by the Israelites.

General Sisera, however, escaped on foot. After running many miles, he came to the tent of a woman named Jael. She met him at the entrance and offered to help. Tired and weary, Sisera went inside to rest. Before going to sleep, he asked for a drink of water to quench his thirst. Jael gave him milk to drink, and soon he fell into a deep sleep. Jael then killed him as he slept and later informed Barak.

Once again, God helped the Israelites achieve a great victory over their enemies! (Judges 4:22-24.)

For the next forty years, Israel had peace. During that time, a new generation of Israelites grew up. They began to take it upon themselves to decide what was right and wrong, choosing to worship idols instead of the true God.

## **GOD CALLS GIDEON TO RESCUE ISRAEL**

God was angry at the rebellious Israelites for having returned to idol worship. This time He allowed the Midianites to invade their land. The Israelites were forced to live in caves and dens in the mountains in order to be safe. They lived this way for seven long years.

One day an Israelite named Gideon was working in an area hidden from the Midianites. While working, he suddenly noticed someone sitting under a nearby tree. This individual was an angel sent by God with an important message. He said to Gideon, "I am sending you to save Israel from the Midianites. You will defeat the Midianites as though their army had only one man" (Judges 6:14-16).

That night, Gideon and ten of his servants destroyed a large idol of Baal the Israelites had been worshipping.

The next morning, some of the Israelites were enraged when they discovered their idol had been destroyed. They wanted to kill whoever had done it. After learning that Gideon was responsible, an angry crowd confronted Joash, Gideon's father. They demanded that Gideon be handed over to them.

"What makes you people think you have to defend your idols?" Joash asked the crowd. "Isn't your god strong enough to avenge himself? It's an insult to Baal for you to fight for him!" The crowd had no answer, and quietly returned to their homes.



## GIDEON ASKS FOR A SIGN

The Midianites soon heard rumors that Israel had a great leader. So they formed a large army to attack Israel. Gideon also formed an army. But before going to battle, he wanted to be sure that God was really with him. Gideon had begun to lose faith in God.

"I need a sign," Gideon told God. "Please show me again that I am the one You have chosen to lead Israel against Midian. I will spread a fleece of wool on the ground tonight. If it's wet in the morning and the ground is dry, then I'll know that You are with me."

The next morning, the fleece contained enough water to fill a bowl, but the ground was dry. God had answered Gideon with a miracle (Judges 6:38).

But Gideon wanted another sign. "I will lay the fleece out again tonight,"



Gideon holds the fleece that proved God had chosen him to lead Israel against the Midianites.

Gideon prayed. "This time if the fleece is dry and the ground is wet, I'll be certain you are with me."

"And \_\_\_\_\_ did so that \_\_\_\_\_ It was \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, but there was \_\_\_\_\_ on all the \_\_\_\_\_" (Judges 6:40).

The next morning Gideon ordered the Israelite soldiers to advance against the enemy. There were thirty-two thousand men in his army, while the Midianites had more than one hundred thousand men!

"You have too many men," God told Gideon. "All those who are afraid and want to leave, may go," Gideon told his men. Twenty-two thousand returned home.

## GOD FIGHTS THE BATTLE

God told Gideon that he still had too many men. "Take the men to the nearest stream to drink. Send home all those who kneel down to drink. Keep all those who cup their hands and bring the water to their mouths," said God. Only three hundred men cupped their hands to drink the water. This wasn't much of an army!

Gideon then divided his small band of men into three groups as God instructed. When night came, they surrounded the Midianite camp. Instead of weapons, each man carried a \_\_\_\_\_ and a lighted torch hidden inside a \_\_\_\_\_ (Judges 7:16).

The men waited silently for the signal from Gideon. Finally, it came. Gideon's shrill trumpet blast pierced the still night air. Then he broke his pitcher,



holding his torch high for all his men to see. They did the same. Then they all shouted, "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_" (verse 18).

The sleeping Midianites awoke at the sound of the trumpets and shouts of Gideon's men. Alarmed and confused, they thought the Israelites were attacking. Chaos broke out and the Midianites began to kill each other in the darkness of night.

Meanwhile, Gideon and his men waited and listened. Soon, after killing many of their own men, the fearful Midianites fled toward the east.

When they reached the Jordan River, Israelites from Ephraim were waiting for them. The tired and weary Midianites were quickly defeated. Once again, God had delivered Israel from her enemies.

Because of Gideon's success in defeating the Midianites, the people wanted to make him king. "God is your king" he told them, refusing their offer.

For the next forty years, God allowed Gideon to judge, or administer the laws of God to Israel. During that time, the people enjoyed peace and quiet from their enemies.

### Do You Remember?

1. A judge named \_\_\_\_\_ was chosen by God to free the \_\_\_\_\_ from King \_\_\_\_\_ of Moab.
2. General \_\_\_\_\_ was killed by a woman named \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ helped \_\_\_\_\_ small army defeat the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Each of Gideon's men carried a \_\_\_\_\_ and a lighted \_\_\_\_\_ hidden inside a pitcher.

### JEPHTHAH'S FOOLISH VOW

Again, however, the people of Israel returned to pagan practices. They were not thankful to God for the many blessings He gave them. Instead, they made idols and worshipped them.

Therefore God sent the Ammonites to punish the people for their disobedience. They oppressed the Israelites for eighteen years. It appeared as if Israel would be destroyed by the Ammonites. Severely distressed, the people cried out to God and repented of their sinful ways. God answered their prayers by sending a man named Jephthah to lead Israel.

Jephthah did not want war. He sent messengers to the king of Ammon, saying, "Why are you trying to take this land away from us? God gave it to us. Would you let someone take away your land if your god gave it to you?"

The king's reply to Jephthah was, "Come out and fight us if you won't give us the land!"

Before going into battle, Jephthah did a foolish thing. He vowed to offer as a burnt offering whatever came first out of his house to meet him, if God would make him victorious!

With God's help, Jephthah and his army defeated the Ammonites. When Jephthah came to \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, there \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ coming out to \_\_\_\_\_ him with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (Judges 11:34).



Jephthah suddenly realized what a foolish thing he had done. His happiness turned to grief at the thought of fulfilling the vow he foolishly had made.

Though the Bible does not directly say that Jephthah sacrificed his daughter to God, a lesson we can learn from this is that one should never make rash or hasty promises.

In Old Testament times, God allowed people to make vows. But today, Christ tells us to never make oaths or vows (Matthew 5:33-37).

### **SAMSON AND THE PHILISTINES**

Again the Israelites rebelled against God. As punishment for their sins, God allowed the Philistines to subdue them. In time, however, God chose a special person, even before his birth, to eventually deliver Israel from the Philistines. His name was Samson. He was to be a Nazarite from birth.

A Nazarite was a person who gave himself or herself over to special service to God for a period of time. The promise to enter such special service was known as the Nazarite vow. Anyone who made such a vow was not to do three things. He was not to drink any alcoholic beverage nor consume grapes or any product of grapes such as vinegar or raisins; not to touch any dead bodies; and not to cut his hair (Numbers 6:1-8).

In Samson's case, he was to observe these rules all his life. As long as he did, God gave him great strength.

Even though he knew better, Samson



Samson quickly killed the fierce lion with his bare hands!

liked Philistine women. One day he met a young lady he wanted to marry. His parents were greatly upset by this, but Samson insisted on the marriage (Judges 14:1-4).

While on the way to visit his soon-to-be bride, Samson met a fierce lion. The beast lunged at him, paws clawing the air. With the supernatural strength given to him by God, Samson killed the lion—bare-handed! He then went on to see his fiancée, and later returned home.



## **SAMSON'S RIDDLE**

After some time, Samson returned to see the woman, this time to marry her. While on his way to the wedding, Samson went off the road to see the remains of the lion. Nothing but bones remained. Inside the skeleton he found a beehive. Samson scooped out some of the honey and ate it as he went on his way (Judges 14:8-9).

During the seven-day wedding feast, Samson posed a riddle to thirty Philistine men who attended. "I've got a riddle for you," he said. "If you can answer it before the feast is over, I'll give each one of you a fancy shirt and an expensive robe. If you can't, then you must give me thirty of each."

The thirty men agreed. "Now, what is this riddle?" they asked.

Samson then said, "Out of the \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_ to eat, And out of the \_\_\_\_\_ came something \_\_\_\_\_" (Judges 14:14).

The men tried to figure out the answer, but could not. Finally, in desperation, they went to Samson's wife to learn the answer.

"Tell us the answer or we'll burn down your father's house with you in it!" they said.

Fearing for her life, she pleaded with Samson for the answer. As a result of her continual pleading, Samson finally told her. Then she went to the thirty men and told them the answer.

On the last day of the feast the men confronted Samson.

"We have the answer to your riddle,"

they said. "What is \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_? And what is \_\_\_\_\_ than a \_\_\_\_\_?" (Judges 14:18.)

The men smirked as they waited for Samson to reply. Samson realized his wife had told them.

"Very well, I'll get those clothes I promised you," he said. Samson then left in anger. He soon returned, carrying a large sack. "Here are the clothes," he said. Later, thirty dead Philistines were found in the city of Ashkelon without shirts and robes!

Still angry, Samson returned home without taking his wife with him.

## **REVENGE UPON THE PHILISTINES**

When his anger had cooled, Samson returned for his Philistine wife. He knocked on the door of her father's house.

"I've come to see my wife," Samson told his wife's father.

"She's not here," her father replied. "I didn't think you were going to return, so I gave her to another man."

Samson burned with anger. "Why not marry her younger sister?" the father quickly suggested, trying to calm him.

This only made Samson angrier. He stormed off, intending to get even with the Philistines.

Samson caught three hundred foxes and tied their tails together two by two. He then tied a torch to each pair of tails. After lighting the torches, Samson released the foxes in the Philistine grain fields. The raging fires that were started burned through the fields, destroying the grain as well as vineyards and olive



trees (Judges 15:4-5).

When the enraged Philistines discovered that Samson had started the fires, they went to his father-in-law's house and set fire to it. Both Samson's wife and her father were burned to death.

When Samson heard about this, he appeared before the Philistines and told them that he would cause them trouble until the score was settled. So Samson and the Philistines fought until he had killed a great number of them.

Feelings between Samson and the Philistines were now very bitter. But God was allowing these events to occur in order to eventually free the Israelites from the Philistines.

### **SAMSON IS CAPTURED**

Samson then left the area and hid in a mountain cave in the area of Judah. The Philistines encamped in Judah and threatened violence unless Samson was captured and delivered to them. Soon men from Judah came to capture him. Instead of fighting his fellow Israelites, Samson surrendered peacefully.

The men from Judah bound him with ropes and then took him to the Philistines. When Samson reached the enemy camp, Philistine soldiers began to taunt him.

Samson flexed his muscles with all his might. The ropes snapped as if they were mere threads! Samson was now free. But strong Philistine soldiers quickly surrounded him. Samson was unarmed and outnumbered!

Nearby lay the skeleton of a donkey. Samson dashed to it and snapped off the

jawbone, providing himself with a weapon. Then the soldiers surged in on him.

Samson swung the bone so hard and fast that every Philistine soldier who came within reach was killed or severely wounded by the sharp blows. The remaining soldiers quickly retreated. When the battle was over, one thousand Philistines lay dead on the ground around Samson! (Judges 15:16.)

After this, Samson was very thirsty and tired. He prayed for water, and God caused a spring of cool, clear water to bubble up, thus saving his life.

Samson then went to the Philistine capital city of Gaza. Because of his long hair and bulging muscles, the Philistines easily recognized him. He entered an inn to stay for the night. The Philistines planned to ambush and kill him the next morning as he left.

But Samson outfoxed them by leaving the inn at midnight. When he reached the main gates of the city, he discovered they were locked and barred.



God caused a spring of cool, clear water to bubble up, thus saving Samson's life.



Using his mighty strength, Samson  
“... took \_\_\_\_\_ the doors of the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and the  
two \_\_\_\_\_, pulled them up,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and all, and put them  
on his \_\_\_\_\_, and  
\_\_\_\_\_ them up to the \_\_\_\_\_ of  
the \_\_\_\_\_ that faces \_\_\_\_\_”  
(Judges 16:3).

No matter what attempts the Philistines made to kill Samson, they failed. God helped fight Samson's battles for him. He would have been helpless without God's miraculous help, as he would soon discover.

### **SAMSON AND DELILAH**

Samson loved another Philistine woman named Delilah. Unfortunately for Samson, she loved money more than she loved him. For a rich reward, she agreed to tell the Philistine leaders what gave Samson his great strength.

Many times she asked Samson what the secret of his great strength was. At first, Samson tricked her. He told her that if he was tied with new ropes he would lose his strength. Another time he told her that if his hair was put in a loom, he would lose his strength.

Finally, through her continual asking, she persuaded Samson to tell her the truth. “It's my Nazarite vow,” he said. “If my hair was cut off, I would be as weak as any other man” (Judges 16:16-17).

This was the answer Delilah had been waiting for. Immediately she went to the Philistine leaders and told them the secret to Samson's strength. Now they

would act to rob him of his strength. Soldiers came and hid behind one of Delilah's walls, waiting for Samson to fall asleep. Finally, Samson fell into a deep sleep.

A Philistine came into the room and gently clipped off Samson's long hair. Then the Philistine soldiers rushed in and tied him up. Samson strained at the ropes, but couldn't break them. His great strength was gone. God had taken away Samson's supernatural strength because his Nazarite vow had been broken.

The Philistines proceeded to blind Samson and then lead him off to prison. There he was forced to push a heavy millstone in the grain-grinding room of the prison.

### **GOD ANSWERS SAMSON'S PRAYER**

One day the Philistines held a great feast in honor of their pagan god, Dagon. During the feast, Samson was led into the temple where about three thousand Philistines were gathered.

When the people saw Samson being led in by a little boy, they began taunting him and praising their god. “Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands; the one who laid waste our land and killed so many of us,” they shouted.

The entire roof and balcony of the temple were supported by two pillars that were very close to each other. Samson told the boy to lead him over to the pillars so that he could lean against them.

Samson spread his arms out and felt





Samson was forced to push a heavy millstone in the grain-grinding room of the prison.

the two pillars. He then made a special request of God.

“Great God, help me to avenge the sight of my eyes on the Philistines. Give me strength once more. Let me die with the Philistines.”

“And \_\_\_\_\_ took \_\_\_\_\_ of the two \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and he \_\_\_\_\_ himself \_\_\_\_\_ them” (Judges 16:29).

God answered Samson’s prayer and gave him tremendous strength. Samson

pushed with all his might and the pillars buckled. The heavy stone pillars came crashing to the ground, followed by the stone roof and balcony, killing Samson and 3000 Philistines with him. Samson thus killed many more when he died than while alive.

Thus ended twenty years during which time Samson judged Israel and helped deliver them from the Philistines. He was one of the last of the judges sent by God.

Following the death of Samson, the people of Israel returned to doing what seemed right to them. In Judges 21:25 we read that “In those \_\_\_\_\_ there was no \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel: \_\_\_\_\_ did what was \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.”

In our next lesson we will learn about a young man named Samuel. We’ll see how God called him to be a great prophet in Israel.

### Do You Remember?

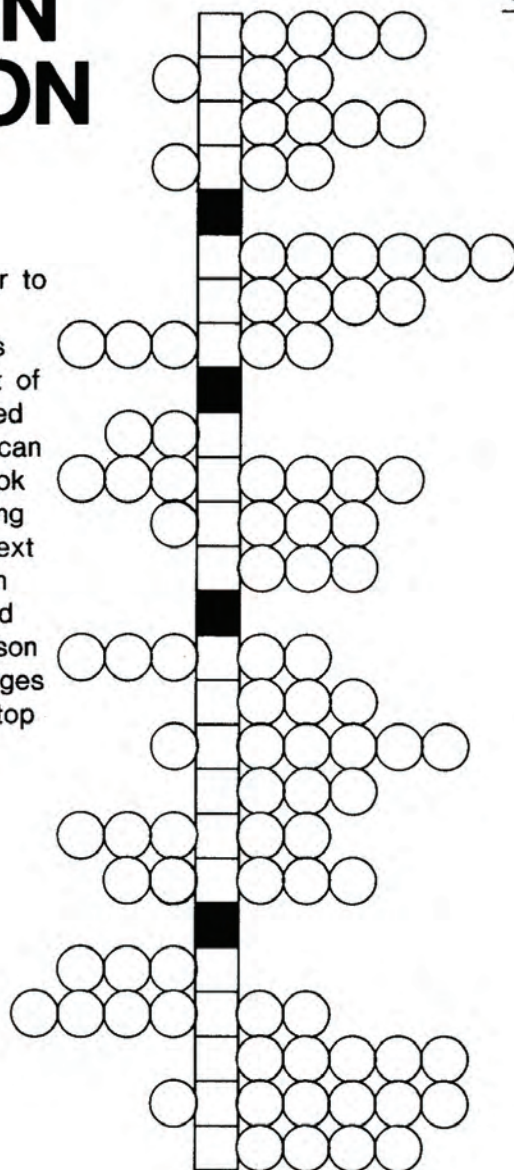
1. A lesson we can learn from the experience of Jephthah is that one should never make \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ promises. Also, Christ tells us not to make oaths or \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Samson’s \_\_\_\_\_ vow was broken when a Philistine cut off his \_\_\_\_\_. As a result, he lost his God-given \_\_\_\_\_.
3. According to Judges 21:25, “...\_\_\_\_\_ man did that which was \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.”



**BIBLE MEMORY** Judges 21:25  
 Proverbs 14:12  
 Galatians 6:7-9

# HIDDEN LESSON

Write in the answer to each clue in the circles and squares provided to the left of the clue. If you need help, the answers can be found in the book of Judges by looking in the chapter(s) next to each clue. When you have completed the puzzle, the lesson of the book of Judges can be read from top to bottom in the answer column.



CHAPTER	CLUES
3	King of Moab
4	Woman who killed Sisera
3	Othniel's older brother
3	Left-handed Benjamite judge
4-5	Woman judge and prophetess
12	Judge from Bethlehem
11-12	River flowing south into Dead Sea
11	A solemn promise to God
11-12	Judge of Israel from Gilead
4-5	Commander of Israel's army
10	Judge from Issachar
13-16	A Nazarite of great strength
12	Judge from Zebulun
16	Woman who deceived Samson
3	Nation that oppressed Israel
4	Jabin's general; killed by a woman
6	Nation driven out by Gideon
10	Gileadite judge with thirty sons
3	Early judge; Caleb's brother
6-8	Delivered Israel from Midianites
3	Judge after Ehud
4	Barak went up this mountain



---

# YOUTH

---

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

---

LESSON 9

---



Samuel – Last Judge of Israel

---



---

# SAMUEL—LAST JUDGE OF ISRAEL

---

**N**ear the end of the Period of the Judges, the Israelites were suffering from attacks by the Philistines. God allowed the Philistines to oppress the Israelites because they were following the idolatrous ways of the surrounding nations.

During this time, a Levite named Elkanah lived in the hill-country of Ephraim, in the southern part of Israel. He had two wives, one named Hannah and the other Peninnah.

Elkanah loved Hannah more than he did Peninnah, which made Peninnah very jealous. So Peninnah, who had several children, would often taunt Hannah, who had none. This made Hannah very sad.

## **SAMUEL IS BORN**

Each year Elkanah and his family went to God's Tabernacle at Shiloh, the center of worship during the Period of the Judges. As they were eating a meal near the Tabernacle one year, Peninnah began taunting Hannah again for not

having any children of her own.

Hannah was unable to bear Peninnah's frequent insults any longer. She became so upset that she lost her appetite and began to cry. Elkanah tried to comfort her, but she politely left the table and went over to the Tabernacle. There she began to pray (I Samuel 1:1-10).

"Oh God, please make it possible for me to give birth to a baby boy," Hannah fervently prayed. "If you will do this for me, I will gladly give him to you to use in your service all the days of his life."

Hannah continued to pray silently, her lips moving as she prayed. She was unaware that Eli, the high priest, was watching. Thinking that she was drunk, Eli came over and said, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine!"

"I assure you, sir, that I am not drunk," Hannah said respectfully. "In my sorrow I was praying fervently to God. Do not consider me a wicked woman, for I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

Eli recognized Hannah's humble attitude and said, "Go your way in peace, and may God grant your request."

---

## **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

Ruins of the Philistine city of Ashdod near the Mediterranean Sea. To this city the Ark was taken and placed before the idol of Dagon.

Matson Photo Service

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



Hannah was comforted and rejoined her husband. She believed that God would answer her prayer. The next day Elkanah and his family returned home.

God did answer Hannah's prayer. The following year she gave birth to a boy. She named him Samuel, which means "asked of God" (I Samuel 1:20).

When Samuel was weaned, Hannah kept her promise. She and her husband took Samuel to the Tabernacle and dedicated him to God's service for the rest of his life.

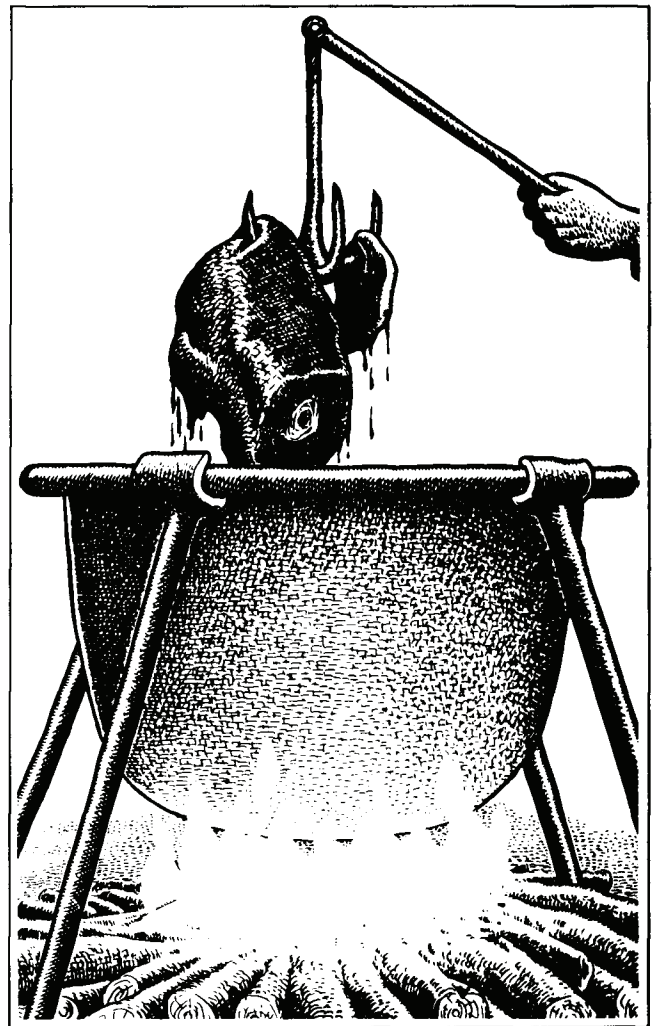
### THE PROPHECY AGAINST ELI

In the years that followed, young Samuel served Eli in the Tabernacle. Also serving in the Tabernacle were Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, who were priests directly under him. However, the two sons did not obey God.

When people came to sacrifice animals at the Tabernacle, Hophni and Phinehas would steal large portions of meat for themselves.

Hophni and Phinehas were careful to hide these and other evil deeds from their father. But God knew what they were doing. God sees all and knows all. He can see and hear us now. He also knows what we are thinking. It is wrong to try to deceive our parents, as Eli's sons tried to deceive him.

As time passed, Eli began hearing reports of the many terrible things his sons were doing at the Tabernacle. One day he called them to him and asked, "Why \_\_\_\_\_ do \_\_\_\_\_? For I \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_"



Hophni and Phinehas often stole large portions of meat for themselves.

\_\_\_\_\_ from all the \_\_\_\_\_"  
(I Samuel 2:23).

Hophni and Phinehas paid no attention to their father's words. Nevertheless, Eli neglected to take any action to correct them.

One day a man came to visit Eli with a message from God. "Here is what God says," the man began. "'I am well aware that you and your sons have failed to do what is right. You have honored your sons above me.

"Therefore, you will see an enemy



come and attack Israel. As for your two sons, they will both die the same day. I will choose a high priest who will be faithful and obedient to me. Others in your family will beg him for food and work. Furthermore, all your male descendants shall die before they reach an old age' ” (I Samuel 2:30-36).

### **GOD SPEAKS TO SAMUEL**

As Samuel grew, he learned the various duties around the Tabernacle and diligently served Eli. He slept near Eli's bedroom at night in case the aging priest needed help.

One night, Samuel was awakened by a voice calling his name. Thinking that Eli had called him, Samuel ran to the elderly priest's bedroom. "Here I am," he said.

"I didn't call you. Go back to bed," Eli muttered.

Samuel returned to his room and went back to bed. Then the voice called his name again. Samuel went to Eli's bedroom and once more announced his presence to the sleeping priest. But Eli again informed Samuel that he had not called.

So Samuel went back to bed. He was



Young Samuel was awakened by a voice calling his name.



startled when the same voice, for the third time, called, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Sure that Eli had called, Samuel hurried to the priest's bedroom. "Here I am," he said.

By this time Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. "Go back to bed," Eli said. "And if God calls your name again, say, 'Yes, Lord, I hear you.'"

Samuel obediently went back to bed. Again the voice called out, "Samuel! Samuel!"

This time Samuel answered: "Speak; \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 3:10).

God then told Samuel that He would do something that would astonish everyone who heard it. "Samuel, I am going to punish Eli and his sons for their evil ways," God said. "Eli must bear responsibility for his sons' conduct because he did not stop them" (I Samuel 3:11-14).

Samuel was frightened, and lay in bed until morning. He then arose as usual and set about to fulfill his routine duties in the Tabernacle. Samuel tried to avoid speaking to Eli because he was afraid to tell him the bad news. However, Eli called for him and said, "Samuel, tell me all that God has told you. Do not hide anything from me."

After listening to Samuel tell him everything, Eli said, "Let God do what seems just to Him."

In the years that followed, Samuel grew up to become a well-known young man. All of Israel came to know him as one whom God had chosen as a

prophet. Notice that Samuel did not ask to be a prophet. He did not apply for the job or get elected by the people. God inducted, or called him into the office.

### **Do You Remember?**

1. Elkanah's two wives were named
  - A. Hannah and Peninnah.
  - B. Hannah and Penelope.
  - C. Peninnah and Helen.
2. Eli's two wicked sons were named
  - A. Hophni and Peter.
  - B. Hophni and Phinehas.
  - C. Phinehas and Barnabus.
3. Eli was a
  - A. priest.
  - B. tentmaker.
  - C. farmer.
4. Hannah named her son
  - A. Elkanah.
  - B. Eli.
  - C. Samuel.
5. Samuel
  - A. served Eli in the Tabernacle.
  - B. was selected by God to be a prophet.
  - C. was both A and B.

### **THE PHILISTINES ATTACK ISRAEL**

While Samuel was serving in the Tabernacle, the Philistines attacked the Israelites with a large army and badly beat them. Israel's army staggered wearily back to camp, having lost nearly 4,000 of its men (I Samuel 4:1-2).

The Israelite elders were stunned by this defeat, wondering why God had allowed them to lose. It did not occur to



them that the Israelites lost the battle because of their continued sins against God.

The elders thought that if they had the Ark of the Covenant with them, their army would be able to defeat their enemies. So they sent soldiers to Shiloh for the Ark. The soldiers soon returned with the Ark and Eli's two sons, who accompanied it.

A thunderous cheer went up from the waiting soldiers as the Ark was brought into camp. The shouting was so loud that the Philistines plainly heard it in their camp several miles away. They were alarmed, wondering what the noise could mean.

When the Philistines learned what it meant, what was their reaction? "So the \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_, for they said, \_\_\_\_\_ has come into the \_\_\_\_\_. And they said, \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_! For such a thing has \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 4:7).

"Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods?" many of the



The Philistines were alarmed by the loud cheers coming from the Israelite camp.

Philistines said. "These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with plagues!"

Some of the soldiers, however, were not afraid. "Be strong and fight like men!" they said. "Otherwise, we'll become servants of the Israelites! Conduct yourselves like men and fight!"

After hearing this, the Philistines marched out to fight against the Israelites. The Israelites also felt brave, because they had the Ark of God. However, as the battle raged, it became obvious that the Ark was not going to save them. Over 30,000 Israelites were killed, while the rest fled for their lives. Hophni and Phinehas were killed also, and the Ark was captured!

Later that day, a tattered Israelite soldier, who had escaped from the Philistines, staggered wearily into the main streets of Shiloh. With torn clothes and dirt sprinkled on his head as a sign of remorse, he wailed, "We've lost! All is lost!" Soon the whole town was crying out in misery.

When Eli heard the outcry he sent for the soldier. "What is the meaning of this uproar?" Eli asked.

"The Philistines attacked our camp and killed a great number of our troops," the soldier replied. "Hophni and Phinehas were killed too, and the Ark has been captured!"

Eli was so shocked at the news that he fell backward from his elevated chair beside the gate, killing himself in the fall (I Samuel 4:18).

The terrible tragedies that befell the nation came to pass as God had said. These events would not have occurred





Eli was so shocked at the news that he fell from his elevated chair, killing himself in the fall.

had the Israelites been obeying God.

### **GOD PLAGUES THE PHILISTINES**

Following their victory, the Philistines carried the Ark to Ashdod, a chief city located near the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea. In Ashdod was a temple dedicated to the pagan god Dagon. Inside the temple was the half-human, half-fish statue of Dagon.

The Philistines set the Ark in front of Dagon, whom they thought gave them the victory.

Early the next morning, as the priests entered the temple, they were shocked at the sight before them. Some time during the night the statue of Dagon had toppled to the floor on its face in front of

the Ark, as if to be worshipping it! (I Samuel 5:3.)

The priests spent the next few hours putting the idol back into place. But they were in for an even greater surprise the following morning. What happened during the night? “\_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ fallen on its \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and both the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ were cut broken off upon the threshold; only Dagon’s \_\_\_\_\_ was left of it” (I Samuel 5:4).

The destruction of their idol was embarrassing and unpleasant for the Philistines. But God did not stop there in



dealing with them. He also struck the entire city with a terrible plague. The people of Ashdod became afflicted with painful sores. This plague became so serious that the rulers of the city hastily called a meeting.

"We must take the Ark of the God of Israel away from here quickly!" they said. So they decided to send it to the nearby city of Gath.

Soon the people of Gath were stricken with the same agonizing sores. They demanded that the Ark be sent elsewhere. So where was it sent? "Therefore they \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 5:10).

When the Ark arrived in the Philistine city of Ekron, what happened to the people there? (Read and summarize I Samuel 5:11-12) \_\_\_\_\_

Many people became so sick they died. At the same time hordes of mice overran the city, scurrying through fields, barns and homes!

All this was too much for the inhabitants of Ekron. "Take this Ark away immediately!" they pleaded. "Take it out of our nation. We do not want the Ark or the plagues that it brings!"

### THE ARK IS RETURNED

The leaders of the Philistine nation met together to discuss the problems that had beset their nation during the past seven months. But they could not decide what to do about the Ark. So

they consulted their priests. "What shall we do with this Ark?" they asked.

The priests recommended sending the Ark back to the Israelites. "If you return it," they advised, "include a trespass offering with it. The offering should consist of five golden images of each of the things that have plagued us.

"Also, should you return the Ark, place it on a newly built cart drawn by cows that have never pulled a cart. Let them pull in whatever direction they desire as a test. If the cows take the Ark to Beth-shemesh (a village in Israel about 12 miles southeast of Ekron), then we will know that the God of Israel has caused the plagues. But if they take the Ark in any other direction, we will know that the plagues happened by chance" (I Samuel 6:1-9).

The Philistine leaders followed the advice of the priests. They built a new cart and hitched it to the untrained cows. After placing the golden images and the Ark on the cart, the cows were let loose.

In what direction did they walk? "Then the \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, and went \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, lowing as they went, and did not turn aside to the \_\_\_\_\_ or the \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 6:12).

Some Israelite harvesters just outside the village of Beth-shemesh spotted the cows pulling the cart. They ran to the road, stopped the animals and swarmed around the cart to see what it contained. When they saw the Ark, they rejoiced.





The Philistine leaders anxiously watched to see which direction the cows would pull the cart.

Soon the whole village knew about the discovery. The cows were killed and offered as a burnt offering, with the wood from the cart serving as fuel.

The Philistine leaders, who had followed the cows, were now convinced that God was responsible for the plagues. So they returned to Ekron.

Even though the villagers should have known better, the Ark was opened and many of them looked inside. What happened to them? "Then \_\_\_\_\_ the men of \_\_\_\_\_, because they had \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 6:19).

Many years earlier, God had warned the Israelites that death would come to any who touched the Ark except by its carrying poles—or showed any lack of respect or reverence for God in their conduct toward it (Leviticus 16:2; 26:2; Numbers 4:5-6, 15).

The people of Beth-shemesh were upset, and sent messengers to the nearby town of Kirjath-jearim to ask men there to come and take the Ark. Men soon came and carried it away. They took the Ark to the home of a Levite named Abinidab, where it was to remain for 20 years (I Samuel 7:1-2).



## THE PHILISTINES ATTACK AGAIN

During the next few years, the Israelites were repeatedly troubled by attacks from the Philistines. Samuel continually reminded the people that if they would repent of their idolatry and turn to God, He would deliver them from their enemies.

Finally the people listened. They destroyed their pagan idols and began to worship God. Pleased with their conduct, Samuel called for a large gathering of people at the town of Mizpeh. There the Israelites prayed, fasted and acknowledged their sins (I Samuel 7:5-6).

When the Philistine rulers heard about the large gathering of Israelites at Mizpeh, they sent a large army to attack. When the Israelites heard about the approaching army, they became fearful. "Ask God to save us from the Philistines," they said to Samuel.

Samuel quickly offered a lamb as a burnt offering and prayed to God for deliverance. God answered the prayer by sending a terrifying thunderstorm upon the Philistines. Panic-stricken, the army broke ranks and fled before the pursuing Israelites. The Philistines were soundly defeated, and as a result, no longer invaded Israel during the remainder of Samuel's lifetime.

## THE ISRAELITES WANT A KING

Samuel judged Israel for many years. When he was old, he made his two sons, Joel and Abiah, judges over Israel. Unknown to Samuel, they did not follow



God answered Samuel's prayer by sending a terrifying thunderstorm upon the Philistines.



his good example. Instead, they took bribes and judged unfairly.

One day a group of the leading men of Israel came to tell Samuel about the conduct of his two sons. "We know that you are a just judge, but your sons are evil," they said. "We want a king to rule over us, like all the other nations" (I Samuel 8:5).

Samuel was displeased at their request, realizing that it meant they did not trust God. So he prayed to God about it.

What was God's reply? "\_\_\_\_\_ the voice of the people in all that that they say to you; for they have \_\_\_\_\_ but they have \_\_\_\_\_, that I should not \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 8:7).

God then told Samuel to tell the Israelites what a king would be like.

"Here is what you can expect from a king," Samuel began. "A king will take your sons and use them as horsemen and chariot drivers. He will also use them as army commanders, as farmers for himself, and to make instruments of war. As for your daughters, he will take them to be his servants and cooks."

Read I Samuel 8:14-17 and list on the lines below some of the other things a king would do. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What further warning did Samuel

give the people? "And you will \_\_\_\_\_ in that day because of your \_\_\_\_\_ whom you have \_\_\_\_\_ for yourselves, and the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ in that day" (I Samuel 8:18).

After listening to the warning, what decision did the Israelites make? "Nevertheless the people \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the voice of Samuel; and they said, \_\_\_\_\_; but we will have a \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 8:19).

The Israelites wanted to be like the nations around them. But they were making a big mistake.

This event marks the end of the Period of the Judges, a period spanning over 400 years of Israel's history. It began after the death of Joshua and ended with Samuel.

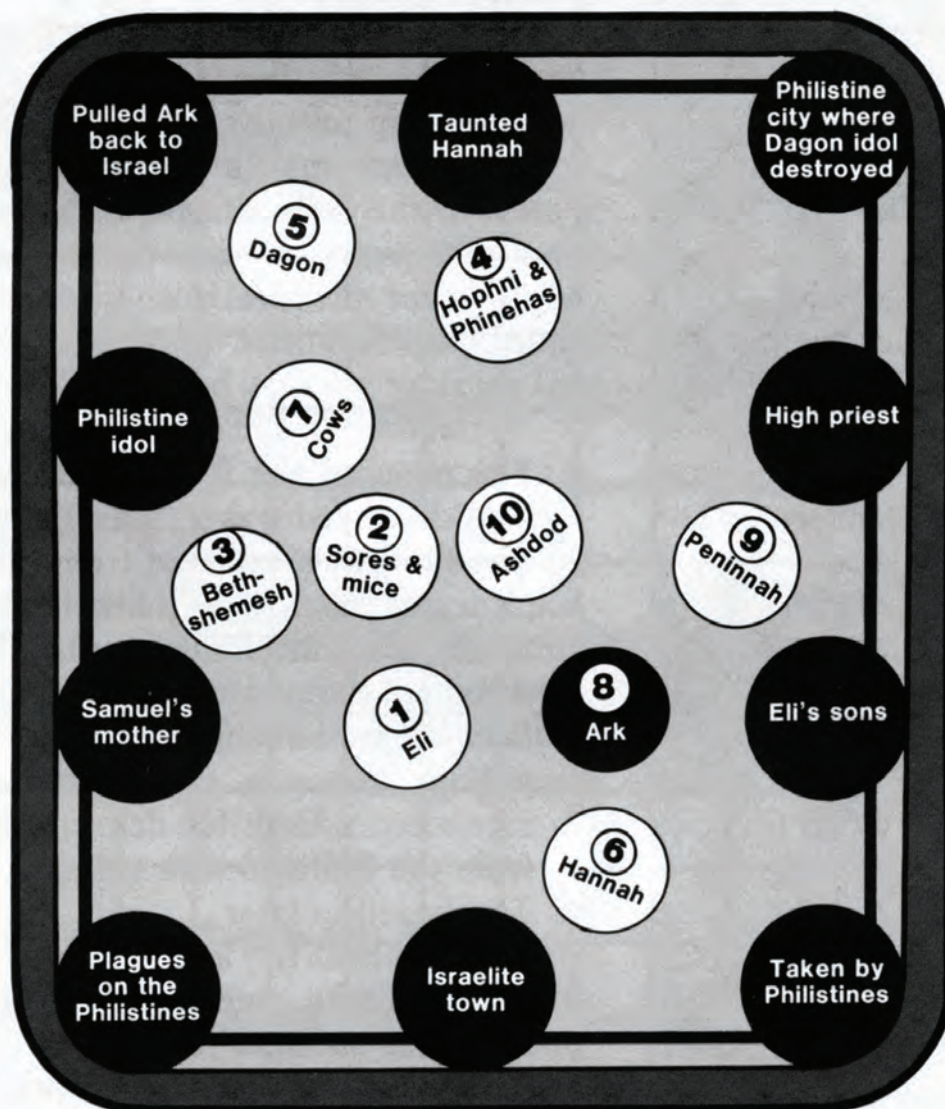
### Do You Remember?

1. The name of the Philistine idol that God destroyed was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Philistines suffered from painful \_\_\_\_\_ and hordes of \_\_\_\_\_ after they captured the Ark.
3. Because the Israelites destroyed their pagan \_\_\_\_\_ and began to \_\_\_\_\_ God, He delivered them from the Philistines at \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Israelites later \_\_\_\_\_ God, not Samuel, and wanted a \_\_\_\_\_ to rule over them like all the other nations.
5. The last judge of Israel was \_\_\_\_\_.



**BIBLE MEMORY** Romans 3:23  
Romans 6:23  
1 John 3:4

## BIBLE BILLIARDS



Knock each billiard ball into its correct pocket by drawing an arrow from the ball to its matching pocket.





---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 10

---



Saul Becomes King of Israel



---

# SAUL BECOMES KING OF ISRAEL

---

Samuel was displeased that Israel's leaders wanted a king. He warned them that having a king would only bring them more problems. But the people insisted despite Samuel's warnings. They wanted to be like all the other nations around them.

## A KING IS CHOSEN

In Israel there lived a young man named Saul. He was a strong and handsome man from the tribe of Benjamin. He was also the tallest in Israel (I Samuel 9:1-2).

One day, Saul and a servant went to find his father's donkeys. They searched for many days, but could not find them. Finally, Saul suggested they return home. "Let us return home before my father begins to worry about us instead of his donkeys," Saul said.

"There is a man of God who is in a nearby town," Saul's servant replied. "Let us ask his help in finding your father's donkeys."

"But we have nothing to give him,"

Saul said. "We have already eaten all of our bread."

"I have some silver," said the servant. "We can give that to him."

Saul and his servant then went to see the prophet Samuel. As they came near the town, they met a group of young women going to draw water from a well (I Samuel 9:11).

"Do you know where we could find the prophet Samuel?" Saul asked the young women.

"He is in the town for a feast," they replied. "You will find him there."

God had told Samuel the day before that a young man from Benjamin would be coming to see him. God also instructed Samuel to anoint Saul as king over all Israel.

"So when Samuel saw Saul, the \_\_\_\_\_ said to \_\_\_\_\_, "There he is, the \_\_\_\_\_ of whom I \_\_\_\_\_ to you. This \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ over my \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 9:17).

As Saul came near to Samuel he said, "Do you know where I may find the prophet Samuel?"

"I am the one you are looking for. Come with me to the feast," Samuel replied to Saul.

"Do not worry about your father's

---

## ABOUT OUR COVER...

The ruins of Gibeah in Israel. King Saul and his men camped here during the Philistine invasion.

Photo by J.A. Ubieta

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



donkeys. They have been found,” Samuel continued. “As for you, I want you to stay until tomorrow. I have many important things to tell you.”

Later that evening, Samuel took Saul to the roof of the house. Samuel explained to Saul that God had chosen him to be king of Israel.

Early the next morning, Samuel told Saul that he should now return to his home. As the three men were leaving the town, Samuel asked for the servant to go on ahead. Samuel then took a small vial of oil from his pocket and poured it on Saul’s head (I Samuel 9:26-27; 10:1).

“The Lord has anointed you to be king over His people, Israel,” Samuel said.

Samuel then gave Saul further instructions: “When you leave here, you will soon meet two men with news about

your father’s donkeys. Later, you will meet three men going to worship at Bethel. They will give you two loaves of bread. After this you will meet a group of prophets. These things will happen as a *sign* to you that you may know that God is with you.”

Then Saul and his servant began their journey home. And just as Samuel had prophesied, Saul met each of the people Samuel talked about (I Samuel 10:9).

### SAUL MEETS THE PEOPLE

Samuel called the people to Mizpeh to witness the choosing of their king. As the people drew near, Samuel said to them, “God is the One who brought you out of the land of Egypt and saved you from your enemies. But now you have rejected Him by asking for a human king!”

After drawing lots to determine



Saul and a servant search for his father's donkeys.





Embarrassed and nervous, Saul hid himself among a large pile of equipment.

which tribe and family their king would come from, Saul was chosen. The people became excited. They waited with suspense for Saul to come forward onto the platform.

But Saul did not appear. He could not be found anywhere (I Samuel 10:20-21).

What did Samuel do next? (I Samuel 10:22) \_\_\_\_\_

After being discovered, Saul reluctantly went to stand before the people. Embarrassed and nervous, Saul followed Samuel onto the platform.

“And \_\_\_\_\_ said to all the \_\_\_\_\_, Do you see \_\_\_\_\_ whom the \_\_\_\_\_ has chosen, that there is no one like him among all the \_\_\_\_\_? So all the people \_\_\_\_\_, and said, \_\_\_\_\_”  
(I Samuel 10:24).

Then Samuel sent all the people back to their homes. Saul also went home to his father’s house in Gibeah.

### SAUL BATTLES THE AMMONITES

After Saul became king, Nahash the Ammonite came with a powerful army and surrounded the Israelite town of Jabesh-gilead. The terrified leaders of the town, realizing it was hopeless, tried to make an agreement with Nahash.

“Let us live and we will be your servants,” the town leaders said.

“I will let you live,” Nahash scorned. “But I will take out the right eye of every man in your town!”

The Israelite leaders were shocked. In desperation they came up with a plan. “Give us seven days that we may send messengers for help,” they said.

“If no one comes to save us, then you may do as you wish,” the Israelite leaders added.

Soon messengers from Jabesh-gilead were traveling all over Israel with a plea for help.

When the news reached Saul, he became furious. He immediately took two oxen, cut them in pieces, and sent



them by messengers to all parts of Israel (I Samuel 11:6-7).

“Whoever does not come to follow Saul and Samuel will have his oxen cut up just as these!” Saul shouted to the messengers.

The people responded to Saul’s message. The number of those who came to help was 330,000 men.

Saul divided his army into three parts and marched for Jabesh-gilead. The next morning, the Ammonites awoke to discover that they were surrounded. Nahash had no other choice but to face Saul’s army.

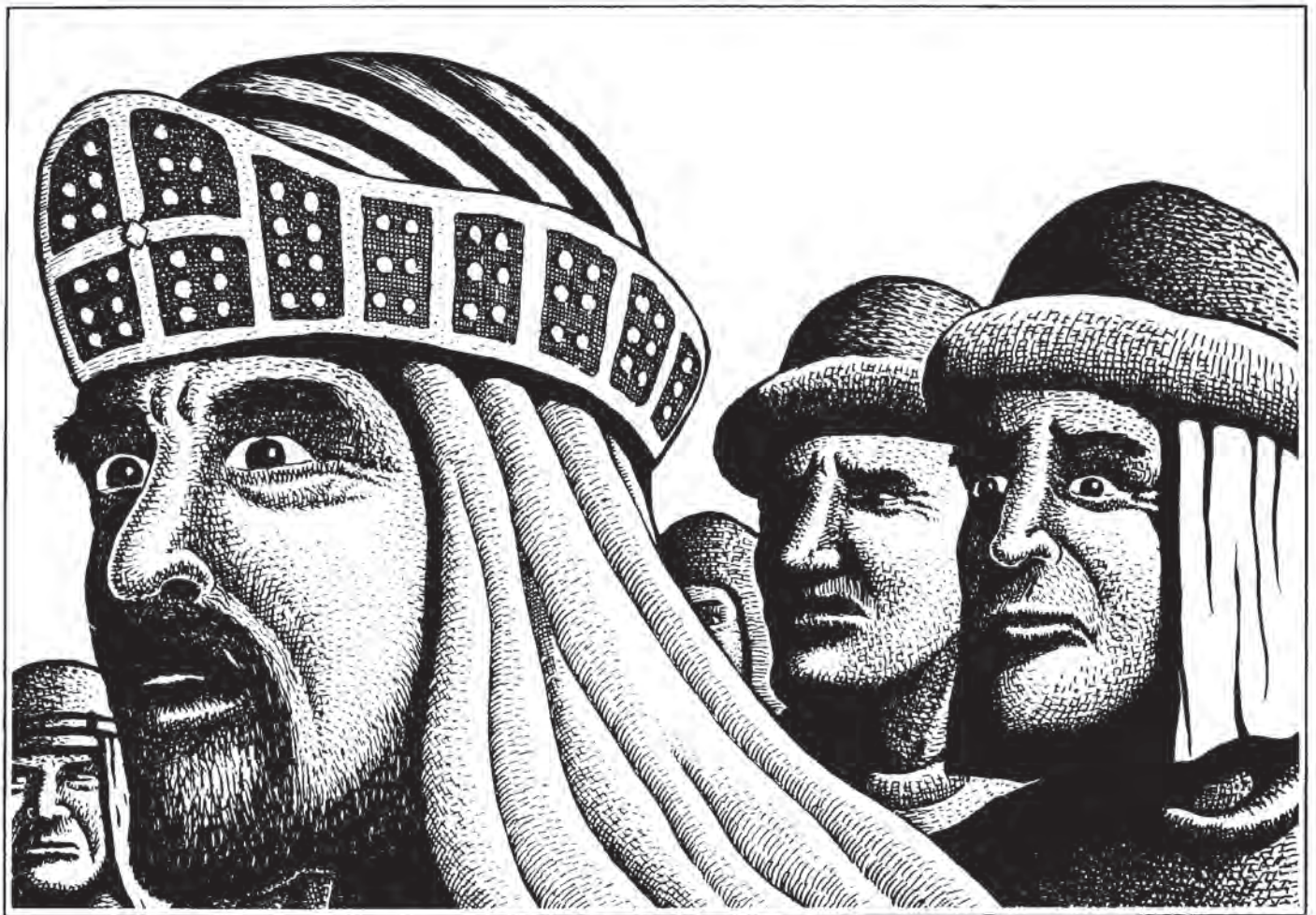
The Ammonites fought hard, but it

was no use. It became obvious that God was helping the Israelites. By the middle of the day, the Ammonites had either been killed or had run away in fright.

After the battle, Saul and his men returned with Samuel to Gilgal for a victory celebration.

### Do You Remember?

1. Saul was from the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ anointed Saul king of Israel.
3. The people of Israel came to \_\_\_\_\_ to witness the choosing of their king.



Nahash is alarmed to discover that he has been surrounded by Saul's army.



4. True or False. Saul was afraid to appear before the people.
5. Who was the Ammonite king who attacked the Israelite town of Jabesh-gilead? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **SAMUEL WARNS THE PEOPLE**

Samuel again warned the people at Gilgal that God was displeased that they had chosen a human king. "I have listened to you and given you a king. He stands before you now. And now I am old, and have faithfully served you from my childhood. Have I ever done anything wrong to any one of you?"

"The Lord is a witness against you that I have not done you any wrong. Therefore, respect the Lord and obey Him. If you rebel against God, many evils will come upon you.

"And to show you how wicked you have been for wanting a king as the other nations, I am going to ask God to send a thunderstorm upon you," Samuel concluded.

Then Samuel prayed and asked God to send rain. Suddenly the sky became dark. Large black clouds formed directly over the anxious crowd, followed by jagged streaks of lightning. Thunder cracked, causing the crowd to cover their ears. Then torrents of water came raining down upon the people.

The terrified, drenched people pleaded with Samuel to ask God to stop the storm. "We have sinned by asking for a king!" they cried to Samuel.

Samuel prayed and asked God to stop the rain. Then as suddenly as it came, the rain ceased. "Do not turn away from

God," Samuel told the people. "If you do, you and your king will be destroyed" (I Samuel 12:17-25).

### **SAUL DISOBEYS GOD**

While in Gibeah, Saul's son, Jonathan, took a small group of men and captured the Philistine garrison at Geba. The Philistines soon discovered the raid, and brought a large army to fight against Israel (I Samuel 13:3-5).

When Saul's men saw the mighty Philistine forces, they panicked. Thousands ran away and hid in caves, behind rocks and in holes in the ground. Some even fled across the Jordan River. Saul was left with only a few hundred unarmed men (I Samuel 13:15).

While the Philistines controlled much of Israel, they had not allowed the Israelites to make instruments of war. The Israelites even had to go to the Philistines to have their farm tools sharpened (I Samuel 13:19-22).

Before going to battle, Saul was instructed to wait seven days until Samuel arrived to offer sacrifices.

Seven days passed. Samuel had not yet arrived. Saul became impatient and decided to offer the sacrifices himself. This was breaking one of God's laws.

"Bring a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ here to me." And he offered the \_\_\_\_\_ (I Samuel 13:9).

Samuel arrived just as Saul finished the sacrifice. "What have you done?" Samuel asked Saul. "Why have you disobeyed by performing the sacrifice yourself?"



"My soldiers ran away and I was afraid you would not come in time. The Philistines are ready to attack us at any moment and we are outnumbered. So I forced myself to offer the sacrifice," Saul replied.

"You have been foolish!" Samuel retorted. "If only you had obeyed God, He would have made your descendants kings over Israel forever. But now God will choose another man to take your place."

Samuel then went to Gibeah, followed by Saul and his men. The Philistines, however, remained where they were. Later they began to move across the countryside, stealing whatever they pleased from the people in small towns.

## JONATHAN ROUTS THE PHILISTINES

One day Jonathan and his armor-bearer secretly crossed the valley to the Philistine camp. At that time only a few of the Philistine soldiers remained at the garrison (I Samuel 14:1).

"Perhaps God will work through us. I know that God is not limited by numbers," Jonathan told his armorbearer.

Jonathan and his armorbearer boldly climbed the hill that led to the Philistine garrison.

"If they tell us to wait here until they come to us, we will not go up to the garrison," Jonathan said. "But if they tell us to come up, that will be a sign that God will fight for us!"

Just as the two men neared the top of



Jonathan and his armorbearer secretly cross the valley to the Philistine camp.



a cliff, the Philistine guards said to them, "Come up here! We will show you the strength of our army."

That was the sign that Jonathan and his armorbearer were hoping for. Quickly they climbed to the top of the cliff.

At the top, Jonathan drew his sword and began striking the guards. His armorbearer followed closely behind and felled those who remained. Before the Philistines could defend themselves, about 20 of them lay dead (I Samuel 14:13-14).

Some of the Philistines panicked and began running through the camp. They thought the Israelites were mounting an attack.

The camp fell into a state of confusion. Soldiers ran in all directions. In their haste to flee from the imaginary Israelite army, they began fighting each other. Soon a battle was raging in full fury right in the middle of the Philistine camp.

What happened while the Philistines were fighting among themselves? (I Samuel 14:15) \_\_\_\_\_

### **SAUL ENTERS THE BATTLE**

The sounds of battle reached across the valley to Saul and his men. Saul quickly took his men and crossed the valley to the Philistine camp. And there, through the dust, Saul witnessed the Philistines fighting each other.

Saul's small band of men crept up to take needed swords and spears. Then they began fighting the Philistines, who

only continued fighting among themselves. Soon, Saul and his men were chasing the entire Philistine army.

Saul rashly ordered his men to keep fighting and not to eat anything until sundown. Although the soldiers became weak from hunger, not one of them dared to eat.

"But Jonathan \_\_\_\_\_ heard his father \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_" (I Samuel 14:27).

As Jonathan passed through the woods, he picked up and ate some honey that was on the ground.

One of the soldiers saw him eat it and said, "Why did you eat that honey? Your father has pronounced a curse on anyone who eats before sundown!"

"But I feel so much better," Jonathan replied. "If we would all eat, we could better fight the enemy!"

When sundown finally arrived, the hungry men hastily butchered many of the captured animals. They were so hungry they began to gorge themselves. Some ate the flesh half-raw, leaving much of the blood in the animals, something God forbids (Leviticus 17:10-13).

When Saul was told what was happening, he commanded that a large stone be rolled to him. He ordered all animals to be bled on that spot.

Later that evening, Saul decided to attack the remaining Philistines while it was still dark. But the priest suggested that they ask God first (I Samuel 14:36).

Saul knew it would not be wise to ignore the priest, and agreed to first ask God. But God did not answer.





Saul's men hastily gorge themselves on the raw meat of the butchered animals.

### JONATHAN IS FOUND GUILTY

"Bring everyone here," Saul announced. "God has not answered because someone has sinned. When I discover who he is, he will surely die—even if it is my own son Jonathan!"

Lots were drawn to find the guilty person. Sadly, Jonathan's lot was drawn (I Samuel 14:42).

"Tell me what you have done!" Saul blurted.

"I ate some honey that I found in the woods," Jonathan replied. "I did not learn of your orders until after I had eaten."

"You must die for this!" Saul exclaimed.

"We cannot let him be killed," the soldiers said to Saul. "For it was

Jonathan who brought us this great victory over the Philistines. We shall not allow one hair of his head to be hurt."

Saul stared at the people as the moments passed. Then Saul's voice broke the stillness, "Let him go!"

### Do You Remember?

1. Samuel asked God to send a \_\_\_\_\_ to show the people He was displeased that they had chosen a human king.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ controlled much of Israel at the time Saul became king.
3. Saul was instructed to wait for \_\_\_\_\_ days before going into battle.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ and his armorbearer brought a great victory against the \_\_\_\_\_.





Samuel prayed all night after learning that God no longer wanted Saul to be king of Israel.

5. Saul pronounced a curse on anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ before \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Why do you think God did not answer Saul? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### SAUL IS TESTED

One day Samuel came to see Saul with special orders from God. "God has an important task for you," Samuel said to Saul. "God remembers the evil way Amalek treated Israel when He called them out of Egypt. God wants you to destroy the Amalekites. Do not leave anything alive—including their animals."

Saul quickly gathered 210,000 men and marched toward the city of the Amalekites. The army waited in a nearby valley, then made a surprise at-

tack against the city. The Amalekites were quickly defeated (I Samuel 15:7).

"But \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ spared \_\_\_\_\_, and the best of the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and all that was good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them: But everything \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, that they utterly destroyed." (I Samuel 15:9)

God, of course, knew that Saul had disobeyed. That night God told Samuel that He was sorry that He had chosen Saul to be king (I Samuel 15:11).

The next morning Samuel met with Saul. "You will be happy to know I have done everything that God has commanded," Saul said to Samuel.

"What is all that noise I hear?" Samuel asked.

"Those are the animals that the people wanted. They spared the best of the



animals to sacrifice them to God,” Saul nervously replied.

“Listen to me!” Samuel said. “When you were a humble man, God made you king over all of Israel. He told you to destroy all of the Amalekites and all of their animals. You have disobeyed!

“Do you think God cares more about sacrifice than He does about obedience? To obey is better than sacrifice! Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as the sin of idolatry. Because you have rejected God, God has rejected you as king” (I Samuel 15:22-23).

“I have sinned,” Saul said. “Please go with me to offer sacrifices to God.”

“I cannot,” Samuel said. “I have already asked God to forgive you. But He has rejected you as king!”

As Samuel turned to walk away, Saul grabbed his coat to prevent him from leaving. The coat that Samuel was wearing suddenly ripped. Saul stood there holding part of Samuel’s torn coat in his hand.

“Just as you have ripped my coat, God has ripped the kingdom from you,” Samuel said to Saul. “He will give it to another man who lives nearby. Nothing will change God’s mind.”

“I have sinned. Please come and worship with me,” Saul said.

“For the sake of the people, I will appear with you,” Samuel told him.

Later, when Agag was brought before Samuel, he quickly ended Agag’s life. Afterward, Samuel returned to the town of Ramah. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day he died.

There is no end to the amount of excuses a person can have. The best thing to do is to admit when you are wrong, and make up your mind to change for the better. Saul made excuses for his actions and did not really change his attitude.

Samuel felt sorry for Saul and did not give up on him. One day God said to Samuel, “How long are you going to sorrow for Saul? His days as king will soon come to an end. Take your vial of oil and go to a man named Jesse in Bethlehem. There you will anoint one of his sons to be the next king of Israel.”

#### **MULTIPLE CHOICE**

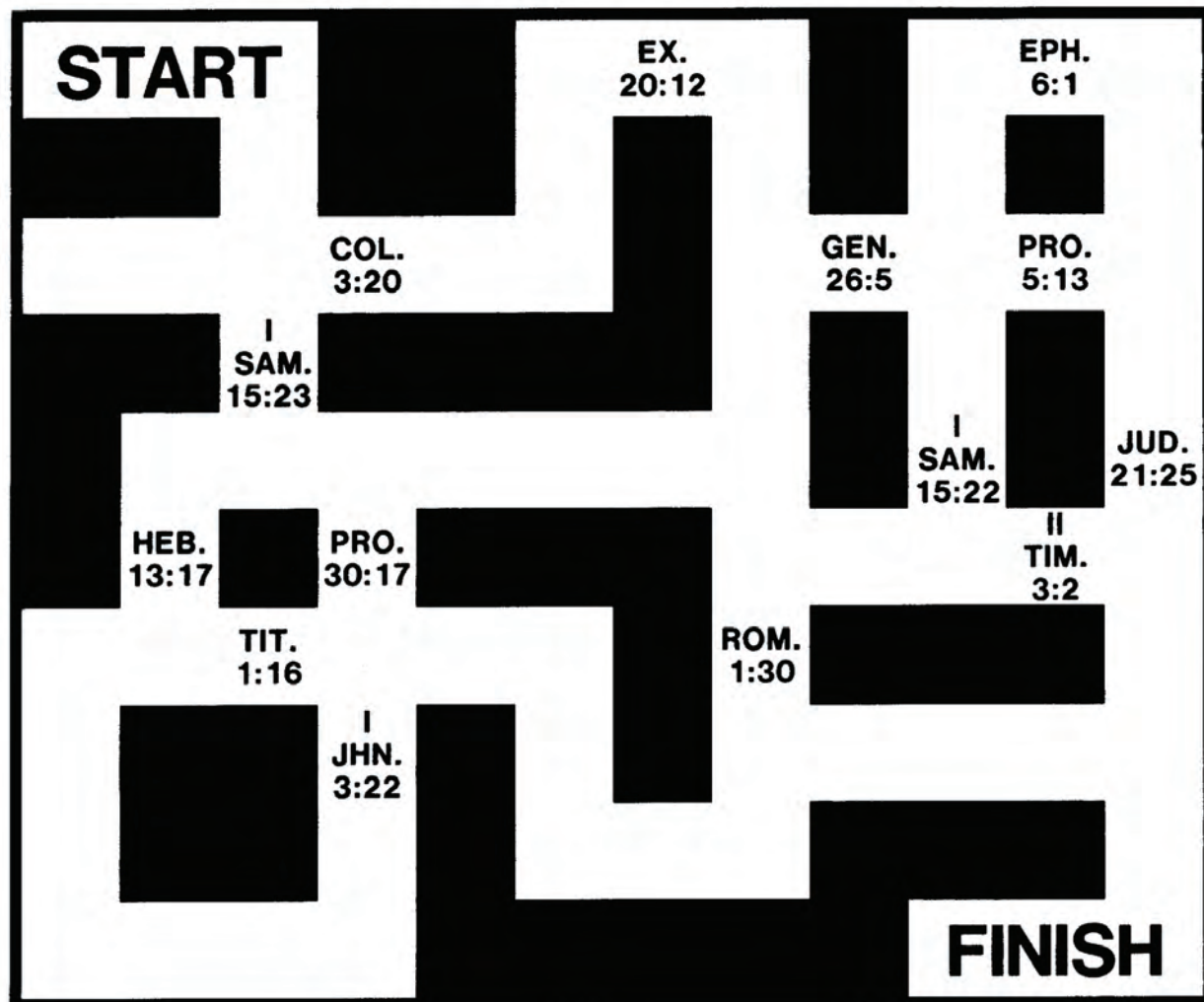
1. God wanted Saul to destroy all
  - A. the Ammonites.
  - B. the Israelites.
  - C. the Amalekites.
2. Saul disobeyed by sparing king
  - A. Nahash.
  - B. Agag.
  - C. Jonathan.
3. Rebellion is as the sin of
  - A. stubbornness.
  - B. witchcraft.
  - C. idolatry.
4. To obey God is better than
  - A. idolatry.
  - B. sacrifices.
  - C. both A and B.
5. The next king of Israel was a son of
  - A. Jesse.
  - B. Saul.
  - C. Jonathan.



**BIBLE MEMORY**    Psalm 1:1-6

## MAZE OF OBEDIENCE

Draw a line through the "Maze of Obedience" from START to FINISH. As you go through the maze, look up each scripture in your Bible as you come to it. If the scripture talks about obedience, you are on the right track! If the scripture talks about disobedience, you must stop and try another way.





---

# YOUTH

LEVEL 5

---

# BIBLE

---

# LESSONS

LESSON 11

---



David is Anointed King of Israel



---

# DAVID IS ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL

---

**G**od searched among the families of Israel for a suitable king—one who would set his heart to obey God’s laws. No person perfectly obeys all of God’s laws, but God greatly appreciates those who try and who are willing to change when they see they are wrong.

That is the kind of man God chose to be the next king of Israel. His name was David.

## DAVID CHOSEN TO BE KING

Saul had been popular with the people of Israel because he was tall and handsome. People are often attracted by the appearance of a person. But God is not deceived by looks. He knows how a person thinks and feels.

Write out I Samuel 16:7 on the lines below. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God rejected Saul from being king of Israel because Saul allowed his human

---

## ABOUT OUR COVER . . .

Samuel pours oil on David’s head, anointing him king of Israel.

Illustration by Mike Rider

pride and vanity to get in the way of obedience to God.

God told His prophet, Samuel, that He had chosen the next king from a family in the small town of Bethlehem (I Samuel 16:1).

The surrounding hills and valleys of this town provided good pastureland for grazing sheep and goats. The children there spent many hours watching after the flocks of sheep. Young boys would sometimes sit under a tree in the cool evening breeze playing a harp.

Many of the young Israelite boys learned to use leather slings to hurl rocks at rodents or birds. Some fathers taught their sons to use the sling to scare away lions or wolves. To be good with the sling required many hours of practice.

Once a boy had learned to use the sling, he was sent into a field alone. A small loaf of bread was placed on a high pole. The boy was not allowed any food until he knocked the bread off the pole. He could then eat the bread.

Some who used a sling could hit a small animal several feet away—using either the right hand or the left! Others could hit a target several hundred feet away.

Illustrations by Basil Wolverton



When Samuel arrived in Bethlehem, he went to the home of a man named Jesse. God had told Samuel that the new king would be one of Jesse's sons. The problem was, Jesse had eight sons. Samuel did not know whom to anoint as king.

Jesse's sons were surprised to learn that one of them would be king. One by one, seven of Jesse's sons were brought before God's prophet. But God told Samuel that they were not the ones He had chosen to be king (I Samuel 16:6-10).

Only seven sons were home that day. The youngest, David, was in the fields tending the sheep. Samuel then told Jesse to send for David.

"We will not sit down to eat until he comes," Samuel said.

When David arrived, Samuel may have wondered how this young man would someday be a king. He was a handsome young man, but his reddish, curly hair and youthful appearance did not look like a king.

But God inspired Samuel to know this was the young man who would someday rule as king. Samuel then took his jar of oil and anointed David king of Israel (I Samuel 16:13).

God knew what kind of ruler David was going to be as king. God knows how a person thinks and feels. David had proved to be a faithful worker for his father. He also tried to obey his family's instruction.

David had become a skilled musician, and he composed beautiful poems for songs. He developed his skills and ath-

letic abilities and, on top of all his ability, continued to have the right attitude.

David was humble instead of proud. He was respectful. God found in David a man who could rule Israel. David was a man who would also prove qualified to rule over all Israel in the future Kingdom of God.

## DAVID PLAYS THE HARP FOR SAUL

In the meantime, King Saul continued to rule over Israel. He was unaware that a new king had been selected. Because Saul had departed from God's ways, God no longer blessed him.

What began to happen to Saul? (I Samuel 16:14) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Saul's servants suggested they find someone who could play beautiful music on the harp. They thought it would make the king feel better. Saul liked the idea. But whom would they find?

One of the servants knew that David from Bethlehem was a skilled player on the harp.

"He is a brave and wise young man," Saul's servant said. "He is also handsome, and God is with him."

Saul sent for David to come to his court. So the future king was invited to live with the present king. It was to be a time of training for David. However, it was not to be without problems. But David was thrilled to be of service to the king.

What happened when David played





David returned from the king's palace to continue caring for his father's sheep.

the harp for Saul? (I Samuel 16:23)

---



---



---

## DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH

The Israelites were at war with the Philistines. The two armies had camped on each side of a valley.

The champion of the Philistines was a giant named Goliath. He was nearly 10 feet tall! (I Samuel 17:1-4.)

In those days, the armor of an average-sized soldier weighed about 60 pounds. That is a lot of weight. But do you know how much Goliath's armor weighed? About 270 pounds! His spear alone weighed more than 18 pounds. His coat was made of woven metal and weighed 156 pounds.

The Philistine giant challenged Saul and the Israelites to a one-man battle. Goliath would fight any Israelite who dared to face him. But if the Israelites

lost, they would have to surrender and serve the Philistines.

Not one Israelite soldier wanted to fight Goliath (I Samuel 17:11).

During this time, David had returned home to care for his father's sheep. One day Jesse, David's father, asked David to take food and supplies to some of David's brothers who were in the Israelite army camp.

Shortly after he arrived at the camp, David heard Goliath's challenge. He was shocked that no one would fight the giant (verses 22-23).

David was a man who prayed and was close to God. He knew God had intervened in his life on many occasions. He also knew that God would help him now.

"I will fight the giant!" David shouted to the nearby soldiers.

David's brothers were surprised and angered. King Saul was amazed.

When David was brought before King Saul, Saul said: "You are too young to fight against the giant. You are not experienced in battle. Goliath has been a soldier most of his life. You will surely be killed" (I Samuel 17:33).

What was David's answer to King Saul? (Summarize I Samuel 17:34-36 on the lines below.)

---



---



---



---



---



---

David knew that God had delivered



him from the bear and the lion. And David knew that God would deliver him and the Israelites from the Philistine giant (verse 37).

David was the only man who had that kind of trust in God. Yet he was a young man. You do not have to be old to trust in God. You can learn to trust in God at an early age.

What did Saul want David to do? (I Samuel 17:38) \_\_\_\_\_

But David had not been a soldier. He did not know how to handle armor and military equipment.

What did David take with him as he crossed the valley to fight Goliath? (I Samuel 17:40) \_\_\_\_\_

When the Philistine giant saw young David, he became furious. In the name of his gods, Goliath shouted curses and threatened to feed David's dead body to the birds and beasts.

What was David's reply to Goliath? (Summarize I Samuel 17:45-47.) \_\_\_\_\_

David, with his youthful ability and



In the name of his gods, Goliath shouted curses and threatened to feed David's dead body to the birds and beasts.

his hours of practicing the sling, along with his trust in God, was about to make history.

As Goliath plodded under the weight of his armor, David rushed at him. David quickly placed a smooth, rounded stone in his sling and whirled it around. Then, with all his strength, he hurled the stone from the sling.

Both the Philistine and Israelite armies gasped in amazement as the stone struck Goliath between the eyes.



---

Goliath staggered forward a few steps, then fell on his face (I Samuel 17:49).

David swiftly ran to the giant, grabbed his huge sword and cut off Goliath's head.

The Philistine army retreated in fear. A boy had slain their champion. In their haste to escape, they left behind jewels, military equipment, food and many animals. The Israelites hurriedly gathered these and took them back to their own camp.

David was a hero. However, it was God who gave David the victory over Goliath, not the greatness of David.

### **SAUL BECOMES JEALOUS OF DAVID**

Saul called for David after watching his courageous deed. What happened at the king's court? (I Samuel 18:1-2)

---

---

The king's son, who would some day inherit the throne, became David's best friend.

The friendship of David and Jonathan is one of the most beautiful relationships of two friends mentioned in the Bible. Each was loyal to the other. Each would have given his life to protect his friend (I Samuel 18:1-3).

Saul placed David in a responsible position in the army. Then Saul and his army made plans to parade through the towns after the victory over the Philistines. But by this time, news had spread throughout the land that David

had killed the Philistine giant.

What did the young women sing as the soldiers marched through the towns? (I Samuel 18:7) \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

How did King Saul react to David's popularity? (I Samuel 18:8) \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Saul was so angry and jealous, an evil spirit again began to trouble him. The king's servants quickly called for David to play soothing music on his harp.

As David played the harp, what did Saul do? (I Samuel 18:11) \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

After David's escape, Saul began to fear David. After all, David now knew Saul had become jealous enough to kill him. Saul knew any normal man would be out for revenge.

But David was not a normal man. David knew that God made Saul king of Israel. He respected the king's office and did not try to hurt the king. He did not even speak an evil word against Saul.

Because of David's heroism, Saul had no choice but to make him a captain in the army (I Samuel 18:13).

### **SAUL PLOTS TO KILL DAVID**

Saul thought of a plan to have David marry one of his daughters. Believing his own daughter would be loyal to him,





While David played the harp, Saul suddenly hurled his spear at David.

Saul thought he would have a spy in David's home.

Saul also planned that David would not live long enough to be married. David was not wealthy and could offer Saul no gifts for marrying the king's daughter. But the king's only request was for David to kill 100 Philistines. Saul thought that no man with a small group of soldiers could kill 100 enemy soldiers (I Samuel 18:21-25).

What happened in the battle with the Philistines? (I Samuel 18:27) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Saul did not know he was struggling against God. He had no choice but to give his daughter Michal to be David's wife. Saul became more fearful of David.

Saul's hatred grew for David daily. One day Saul shouted orders to his son and guards, "Go out and kill David!" (I Samuel 19:1.)

David and Jonathan had become the best of friends. How would you feel if

your father wanted something terrible to happen to your best friend?

Risking his own life, Jonathan talked to his father and begged him not to kill David. Jonathan told his father how loyal David was and how wrong it would be to kill him. After listening to Jonathan, Saul changed his mind and let David come back to the city.

A short time later, another battle broke out against the Philistines. Again, God helped David. The Israelites were victorious.

Now Saul could no longer contain his jealousy. The evil spirit came back to trouble him. David was again called to play his harp. While David played, Saul suddenly hurled his spear at David. David darted aside and ran for his life.

### DAVID FLEES FROM SAUL

Saul sent several men to watch David's house and kill him in the morning. But David's wife, Michal, warned David of the plot. She helped David escape through a window by night, and the soldiers did not see him leave. David then fled to where Samuel lived (I Samuel 19:11-12, 18).

David knew someday he was to become king. He probably thought he was in training at the king's court and in the army. But instead of training him, King Saul continually tried to kill him. So David stayed with God's prophet for a time.

Later, David and his friend Jonathan met for one of the last times. The warmth and affection they had for one another was renewed (I Samuel 20:1-4).



Jonathan was willing to try to save David. He would again try to speak to his father. But if Saul still wanted to kill David, Jonathan planned how he would warn him.

Jonathan would shoot three arrows into a field where David would be hiding. If he shot the arrows past David, it would be a sign that David should flee for his life. If he shot them short, it would mean it was safe for David to return.

By this time, Saul knew that David would be the next king. Saul also knew Jonathan was David's best friend. This made Saul angry.

Saul was furious to hear that David had gone home to his family. Saul would not accept David. He insisted

David must be killed. In his anger he hurled a spear at Jonathan, who jumped out of the way just in time (verses 29-33).

The next day, Jonathan went to the field where David was hiding. He shot his arrows well past David. David now knew he had to flee for his life.

David escaped to the wilderness where he would spend many months in hiding. When his family learned where he was, they came to join him. Many others who were unhappy with King Saul also came to be with David (I Samuel 22:1-2).

Saul was enraged to learn that one of the priests had helped David. In his anger, the king ordered the priests and their families killed (verses 18-19).



Jonathan's young servant ran to get the arrow that Jonathan had shot past David.





David quietly crept from the back of the cave to cut a piece of cloth from Saul's robe.

We can see from Saul's example how dangerous anger and jealousy can be. It is important that we all learn to control our tempers and emotions. Many people have been hurt or killed because of jealousy and hatred. We should try to follow David's example, and not the example of King Saul.

### DAVID IN THE WILDERNESS

Later, David fled into the dark caves of the wilderness near the Dead Sea. It was difficult for David and his men. There was not much food or water. But they knew Saul would have trouble finding them there. The mountains near the Dead Sea were filled with huge caves (I Samuel 24:1).

Saul was so enraged, he led a small

army into the wilderness to find David. One day, while David and his men were hiding deep inside a dark cave, Saul happened into the same cave.

David could have easily killed Saul. But what did David do? (I Samuel 24:4, last part of verse.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After David cut a piece of cloth from Saul's robe, he was sorry. He realized he had made fun of the king of Israel. David knew he should not have done this to someone who was in authority.

That is a good lesson for us today. Sometimes we say bad things about peo-



ple who are in important positions or offices. This should not be done. We should not make jokes about leaders, teachers or our parents. We must learn to respect others.

David felt badly for what he had done in the cave. He rushed out of the cave and shouted to Saul. Saul was shocked to see David and to discover how close he had come to being killed (I Samuel 24:5-16).

Saul then knew how righteous David was. What did Saul say to David? (I Samuel 24:17, 20) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Soon after this event, God's prophet Samuel died. He had served God faithfully many years. He is one of the most outstanding patriarchs mentioned in the Bible (I Samuel 25:1).

### THE STORY OF NABAL

After the death of Samuel, David and his men continued to live in the wilderness. On some occasions, bands of thieves would attack innocent farmers and their families. Because David and his men traveled throughout the area, the people who lived there were protected by David and his men.

One day, when David and his men were tired and hungry, David sent a group to a sheep rancher named Nabal. Nabal was a very foolish man. The name *Nabal* means "fool." But somehow, Nabal had managed to



Nabal only scowled and continued shearing his sheep as David's men rode up.

marry a beautiful and intelligent woman named Abigail (I Samuel 25:2-3).

David sent his men to get food and drink for his troops. Remember, David had made it safer for this rancher and his family. He and his men protected Nabal's workers from thieves.

What was Nabal's answer to their request for food? (I Samuel 25:10-11)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The men returned to tell David all that had happened. David was so angry with Nabal that he took 400 men and set out for Nabal's ranch. What did Abigail do when she heard what had



---

happened and realized that many people could be killed? (summarize I Samuel 25:18-23.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This respectful and beautiful woman helped David change his mind. David and his men kindly accepted the food and went their way.

But when Nabal heard what Abigail had done, giving away food to David, he was furious. He quickly became ill and died 10 days later.

David received word that Nabal had died and was glad that Abigail had stopped him from killing the man. David was impressed with Abigail and he sent for her to become his wife (I Samuel 25:39-40).

Meanwhile, events were not going well for King Saul. He now had to battle thousands of Philistine troops. Saul did not know what to do or where to turn. The prophet Samuel was dead. Saul still hated David bitterly, and he had forsaken God's ways (I Samuel 28:1-4).

What did Saul do next? (I Samuel 28:7) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Many people today let themselves be influenced by evil spirits. Some of them claim to foretell the future. Some are

lying spirits. God's people should never consult witches or others who deal with evil spirits. This includes fortune-tellers and astrologers.

The woman Saul and his officers went to see claimed to bring Samuel back from the grave. What the king saw was not Samuel, but a lying spirit who appeared as an elderly man. All the vision could tell Saul was that he and his sons would die in the battle with the Philistines (I Samuel 28:14, 19).

### THE END OF SAUL'S LIFE

The battle with the Philistines could not be avoided. The Israelites prepared for the first wave of enemy troops.

The Philistine archers fired a volley of arrows into Israel's ranks. By chance an arrow struck Saul, severely wounding him. Knowing the Philistines would capture and kill him, Saul asked his armor bearer to kill him. The armor bearer could not bring himself to kill the king.

How did Saul's life end? (I Samuel 31:4, last part of verse) \_\_\_\_\_

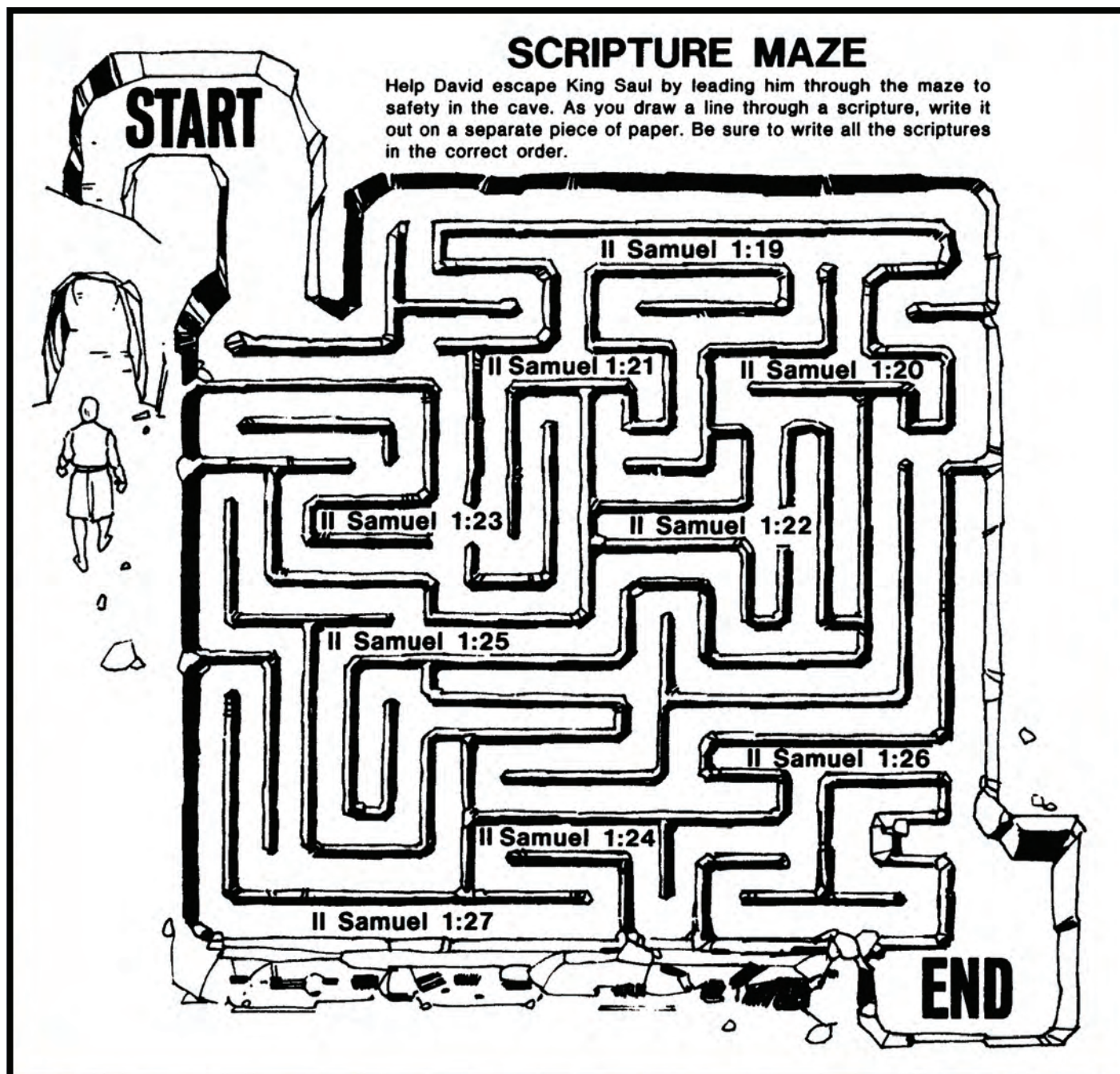
\_\_\_\_\_

During the battle, the Philistines killed Saul's three sons, including Jonathan, David's beloved friend. Many other Israelites also died that day. An important turning point in the history of Israel was about to occur.

In our next lesson we will see how David began to rule the people of Israel and take his place as one of the truly great men of history.



**BIBLE MEMORY**    1 Corinthians 13:1-8





# YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 5

SPECIAL FEAST  
LESSON



The Spring Feasts



---

# THE SPRING FEASTS

---

People in God's Church all over the world are looking forward to the spring festival season. It is a time of deep meaning and great rejoicing for God's people.

Do you know why?

The spring festivals reveal the beginning steps in God's great plan of salvation for all mankind!

## **GOD'S FEASTS PICTURE HIS PLAN**

It is God's purpose for all who have ever lived to become a part of His universe-ruling Family. And God has a plan by which He is accomplishing this wonderful purpose. He has set aside 7,000 years for its completion.

Each of God's seven annual festivals pictures a separate step in His plan of salvation. God commands us in the Bible to keep these festivals year after year, *forever*! This is because God wants His people to never forget His great purpose and plan for mankind.

## **THE SPRING AND FALL HARVESTS**

The ancient Israelites, to whom God

originally gave His festivals, once lived in the land of Palestine. God uses the two yearly agricultural harvests of that area as a type or picture of the future *spiritual harvests* of human beings into the God Family. The first harvest is of the spring grain, which is the early or small harvest. The second is the much greater fall harvest.

The Day of Pentecost, which comes at the time of the spring harvest, pictures the "firstfruits," or the first spiritual harvest of people who will be born into the God Family. Just as the spring harvest is smaller, those God is calling now are small in number compared to the billions who will be born into His Family later.

When Christ returns to earth, the whole world will then be taught God's way of life and be given the opportunity to become part of His Family. The firstfruits are now being trained to become teachers in the World Tomorrow. When the great fall harvest of billions of people begins to be reaped after Christ's Second Coming, the firstfruits will teach these people God's laws and way of life so they in turn can be born of God.

The festivals that occur during the

---

### **ABOUT OUR COVER . . .**

The Days of Unleavened Bread, the second step in God's Master Plan, symbolizes the putting away of sin from our lives.

YES Photo



fall harvest season picture the completion of God's plan for mankind. They all come in the seventh month—and their complete fulfillment will be the latter great harvest of the billions of people who have lived and died, but who have never heard or understood God's truth.

### Do You Remember?

1. What do the seven annual festivals remind God's people of? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the two harvests in Palestine and what do they picture in God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_



Members of God's Church are the "firstfruits" being trained to become teachers in the World Tomorrow.

## THE FIRST PASSOVER

God first began to reveal His festivals to the people of Israel while they were slaves in Egypt. It was then that God gave His people the Passover, which pictures the first step in His plan.

After God sent nine plagues which devastated the nation of Egypt, Pharaoh still refused to release the Israelites! (Be sure to read about the first nine plagues in Exodus 7:14 through Exodus 10:27 and then list them on a separate sheet of paper.)

God then decided to send one more plague on the Egyptians. He intended it to be so terrible that Pharaoh would finally free the Israelites. God told Moses that He would kill all the firstborn of both people and animals in the land of Egypt (Exodus 11:4-5).

It was at this point in time that God taught the Israelites about His true calendar. God told them that the month of Abib, in which the tenth plague was to occur, is to be the first month of the year.

God said that He would spare the Israelite firstborn if each family would kill a perfectly healthy, unblemished male lamb less than a year old. The lamb was to be killed just after sunset, at the beginning of the fourteenth day of Abib. Its blood was to be smeared on the doorposts of their houses. During the evening, the lamb was to be roasted and then eaten.

On the night of the fourteenth of Abib, God brought the final plague on Egypt (Exodus 12:29). The Israelites who had the



blood on their doorways were spared, or “passed over” by the death angel who killed the firstborn of Egypt. The lamb’s blood was a “token” or sign showing that the people and animals in the household should be spared.

### **MEANING OF THE PASSOVER**

The passover lamb “without blemish” pictured Jesus Christ, who would come hundreds of years in the future and live a sinless life, without spot or blemish (I Peter 1:19). The lamb was a symbol of Christ who is called the “Lamb of God” (John 1:29).

The lamb’s blood sprinkled on the doorposts, which saved the firstborn from death, represented the blood of Christ, our Passover lamb who was sacrificed for all mankind (I Corinthians 5:7).

Those who repent of their sins and accept Christ’s sacrifice are protected from the penalty of sin, which is eternal death. Christ gave His life to pay that penalty which we would otherwise have to pay as a result of breaking God’s laws.

God commanded that the Passover be kept as a memorial each year forever (Exodus 13:10). It was a memorial of God’s “passing over” and sparing the firstborn of the Israelites in Egypt. It also pictured the time when Jesus Christ would come as the Passover lamb to shed His blood to pay the penalty of the sins of all mankind.

### **CHRIST KEPT THE PASSOVER**

While on earth over 1900 years ago, Jesus Christ observed the Passover (John 2:13, 23). On the evening of the



Y.E.S. Photo

The unblemished Passover lamb represented Jesus Christ who was called the “Lamb of God.”



Passover before His crucifixion, Jesus changed the way His disciples were to observe the Passover from that time forward.

During this Passover meal, Christ washed His disciples' feet (John 13:4-5). Foot washing in Jesus' time was a menial task that servants performed when visitors entered a house. Since open-toed sandals were the common type of footwear worn at that time, people's feet became very dusty and were washed before entering someone's house.

By washing His disciples' feet, Christ showed that He, the Creator of all life, had come to *serve* mankind. He was willing to do this by giving His life to pay the penalty of the sins of every human being who has ever lived.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that if He, God in the flesh, had humbled Himself by becoming a mere human being to serve mankind, then His disciples should also be willing to serve others.

When God's people wash one another's feet each year at the Passover service, they show their desire to follow Christ's example, and to serve others with humility.

### **BREAD AND WINE— THE NEW SYMBOLS**

Instead of shedding the blood of the lamb and eating its roasted body again in the future, Christ taught His disciples to break and eat unleavened bread on Passover night. This bread was to be a *symbol* reminding them of Christ's body which was to be brutally beaten so that

they and we today could be healed when sick (Luke 22:19; I Peter 2:24).

Christ also told His disciples to drink a small amount of wine. The wine was to be a *symbol* of Christ's shed blood, which makes it possible for our sins to be forgiven. Christ commanded His disciples to observe the Passover in this way each year in remembrance of His great sacrifice for mankind.

The apostles and the New Testament Church did keep the Passover as Jesus had taught. The Apostle Paul wrote the Church members at Corinth, reminding them to keep the Passover with the new symbols of bread and wine just as Jesus Christ had done (I Corinthians 11:23-26).

### **Do You Remember?**

1. What was the last plague God sent upon the Egyptians? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the first month in God's true calendar? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Christ observe the Passover just before His crucifixion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does foot washing express humility? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What do the bread and wine taken during the Passover service symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



---

## THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Returning to the story of the first Passover in Egypt, the final plague—death of the firstborn—brought great fear and sorrow upon the Egyptians. Pharaoh called for Moses that same night and urged him to take the Israelites out of Egypt immediately.

The following morning, on the fourteenth of Abib, the Israelites received much gold, silver and clothing from the Egyptians who were anxious for them to leave. That night, the fifteenth of Abib, the Israelites began their exodus from Egypt. They were overjoyed with their newfound freedom from over two hundred years of slavery!

God also commanded the Israelites to observe a special seven-day festival as a memorial of His delivering them from Egypt. This seven-day festival is described in Exodus 12:14-20 as beginning with a Sabbath and a holy convocation (Church service) in the first day, and ending with a Sabbath and Church service on the seventh day.

During these seven days, the Israelites were commanded to eat unleavened bread. All leavening was to be out of their houses during this time. Leaven is an ingredient used in baking which makes bread and cakes rise up to be light and puffy. Yeast, baking powder and baking soda are common types of leaven.

In Numbers 28:16-17 we notice that this seven-day festival begins on the fifteenth day of Abib—on the same day the Israelites left Egypt. It was on the

beginning of this first Holy Day that a “Night to be Much Observed” was celebrated by the Israelites. This celebration took place on the night they left Egypt and was to be observed every year forever (Exodus 12:42).

## LEAVEN—A SYMBOL OF SIN

The land of Egypt is sometimes referred to in the Bible as a symbol of sin. Just as the Israelites departed Egypt the day after the Passover, so we, too, must depart from *sin*!

The Bible shows that leaven also is a symbol for sin (I Corinthians 5:8). Just as the Israelites were commanded to put leaven out of their homes, so God commands His people to put *sin* out of their lives and to keep His laws. When a small amount of leaven is put into bread dough, it spreads through the whole lump causing it to puff up and rise. In the same way, our sins, which often begin small, can lead to more and greater sins, eventually affecting most everything we do. This is why we need to “put away” sin and do what is right in God’s sight.

The apostles and New Testament Church faithfully kept the Days of Unleavened Bread. In Acts 20:6, we find that Paul and those traveling with him kept the Days of Unleavened Bread at Philippi in northern Greece.

Because God commanded that this festival be kept as a memorial forever, members of God’s Church today put all leaven out of their houses and keep the Days of Unleavened Bread, including the “Night to be Much Observed.” This





Y.E.S. Photo

Only a small amount of leaven is required to make bread dough rise and puff up.

festival pictures the second step in God's plan. It is a special *reminder* for God's people to carefully examine their lives, put sin out, and strive to obey God's commandments.

### Do You Remember?

1. On which day of the month of Abib did the children of Israel leave Egypt? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How does sin act like leaven? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do the seven Days of Unleavened Bread show that we must be striving to do? \_\_\_\_\_

### PENTECOST

The third and final festival occurring during the spring is Pentecost. Also

called the "Feast of Firstfruits," it pictures the third step in God's great plan.

To understand what this day pictures, we must again look at the two annual harvests in Palestine. The first one is the small harvest. The second harvest occurs during the late summer and early autumn, and is known as the fall harvest. It ends just before the "Feast of Ingathering," otherwise known as the Feast of Tabernacles.

At the beginning of the spring harvest, the stalks of the grain planted earlier, have grown to maturity. They are ready to be harvested. But the ancient Israelites were not permitted to harvest any of this early crop until the day of the wave-sheaf offering (Leviticus 23:14). (This and other rituals pictured a future event which has since occurred, and therefore are not practiced today.)



The wave-sheaf offering took place on the Sunday immediately following the weekly Sabbath which usually fell during the Days of Unleavened Bread. On this day, in a solemn ceremony, the priest waved a small handful of newly-cut sheaves (a bundle of cut stalks) of grain to be accepted by God. This was called the wave-sheaf offering and represents the *first* of the firstfruits or early harvest.

On the morning after His resurrection, Christ presented Himself before God the Father to be accepted, just as the priest in



H. Armstrong Roberts

The wave-sheaf offering pictured the first of the firstfruits, in the time of ancient Israel.

Old Testament times waved the sheaf of grain to be accepted by God before the spring harvest could begin. And so the wave-sheaf offering pictured the *resurrected* Christ ascending to heaven to be accepted by His Father as the very *first* human to be actually born of God—the first of the *firstfruits* or first harvest of people into God's Family!

### COUNTING PENTECOST

The word Pentecost is a Greek word meaning “fiftieth (day).” It specifically refers to counting fifty days beginning with the day of the wave-sheaf offering (during the Days of Unleavened Bread). With Sunday as day number one, Pentecost always ends up on a Sunday fifty days later.

### MEANING OF PENTECOST

God is not dealing with the vast majority of people in the world today. God shows that those whom He calls before the second coming of Christ are His “firstfruits” (James 1:18). Just as the spring harvest is smaller, the number of people God is calling now is smaller compared to the billions who will be born into His Family after Christ comes.

And so Pentecost, or the “Feast of Firstfruits” as it is also called, pictures the first and smaller spiritual harvest of people who will be born into the God Family. This includes the spirit-begotten members of God's Church today who overcome and endure until Christ's return. It also includes the dead in Christ of past ages.



## HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN ON PENTECOST

Pentecost, the third step in God's plan, also pictures His people receiving the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:1 we notice that the disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost in A.D. 31. In an awesome display of power, God gave His Holy Spirit to the disciples on that day. Their receiving of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost also began the New Testament Church!

It is the Holy Spirit which enables those in whom it dwells to overcome sin, to understand God's truth and to grow in God's character. At Christ's Second Coming, they will be born into the Family of God as the "firstfruits" of God's *spiritual* harvest. They will then be perfect, having the very character and nature of God, and be composed of spirit.

In this lesson, we have studied the first three festivals picturing the first three steps in God's great plan. The last four steps in God's plan are pictured by the four fall festivals, and will be covered in the Fall Festival Lesson.

### Do You Remember?

1. What was the wave-sheaf offering and what does it symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How is the day on which we are to keep Pentecost determined? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. How did the New Testament Church begin? \_\_\_\_\_

## MATCHING

Match the meanings listed below with the words on the left which are used in this lesson. Simply print the correct letters of the matching meaning in the blanks.

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| ___ 1. DISCIPLE    | A. Something that helps us to remember important events of the past.                                   |
| ___ 2. HUMILITY    | B. The first produce of a harvest, either physical or spiritual.                                       |
| ___ 3. HOLY SPIRIT | C. A substance added to dough to cause it to rise and puff up.   |
| ___ 4. WAVE-SHEAF  | D. Humbleness and meekness. Willing to serve—not feeling more important than others.                   |
| ___ 5. FIRST-FRUIT | E. One who is now learning the ways of Christ so he can be a teacher later.                            |
| ___ 6. GOD'S PLAN  | F. A small handful of newly cut stalks of grain presented to God by the priest in Old Testament times. |
| ___ 7. SYMBOL      | G. An annual Sabbath on which we attend Church services.   |
| ___ 8. LEAVEN      | H. The power God puts in Christians to help them overcome sin and grow toward Godly perfection.        |
| ___ 9. MEMORIAL    | I. Is pictured by God's seven annual festivals.  |
| ___ 10. HOLY DAY   | J. Something that represents something else, helping us to understand its meaning.                     |



# SEVEN STEPS OF GOD'S PLAN

## AS PICTURED BY THE SEVEN FESTIVALS

Fill in the meanings of the first three steps in God's plan which are pictured by the three spring festivals.

**LAST GREAT DAY**—Dead of past ages given their chance for salvation, completing God's great spiritual harvest of mankind.

**FEAST OF TABERNACLES**—1000-year reign of Christ during which God's great spiritual harvest of mankind is reaped.

**DAY OF ATONEMENT**—Binding of Satan, allowing all mankind to be "at one" with God.

**FEAST OF TRUMPETS**—Return of Christ as King of kings; the first resurrection.

**PENTECOST**—

**DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD**—

**PASSOVER**—



[illegible]

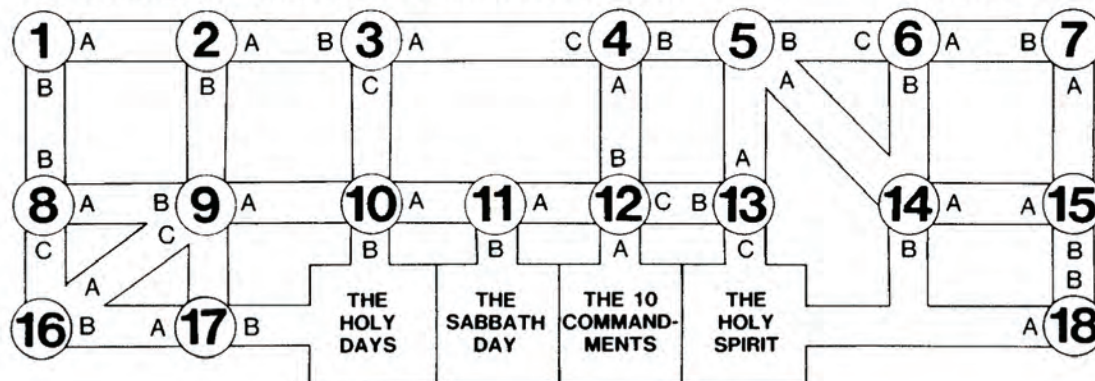


## ROAD OF GOD'S TRUTH

What did God give Christ's disciples on the Day of Pentecost after His resurrection and ascension to heaven? To find out,

read the statements/questions carefully that correspond to the numbers on the road map. Then circle the correct answers—either A, B or C on the map. After completing the statements and answering the questions, go back and trace the one complete road filled with correct answers. This will lead you to the answer to the question asked above.

1. God's festivals
  - A. Are to be kept today.
  - B. Were to be kept only by the Israelites.
2. The festivals of God remind us of
  - A. God's plan for mankind.
  - B. The Ten Commandments.
3. There are \_\_\_ steps in God's plan.
  - A. 4    B. 3    C. 7
4. There are \_\_\_ harvests in Palestine.
  - A. 1    B. 2    C. 3
5. The \_\_\_ festival pictures the firstfruits.
  - A. Fourth    B. Third
6. God first began to reveal His festivals to Israel in
  - A. Egypt.
  - B. The wilderness
  - C. The Promised Land.
7. Passover today is a memorial of
  - A. Christ's death.
  - B. The ninth plague.
8. The first month of God's calendar is
  - A. Abib.
  - B. April
  - C. Sivan
9. Egypt is a symbol of
  - A. God's Kingdom.
  - B. The lake of fire.
  - C. Sin.
10. Foot washing pictures our
  - A. Serving others.
  - B. Cleanliness.
11. The Days of Unleavened Bread picture
  - A. Putting out sin.
  - B. Fasting.
12. Leaven is a symbol of
  - A. Satan.
  - B. The Red Sea.
  - C. Sin.
13. Wine at the Passover is a
  - A. symbol of
  - B. Christ's shed blood.
  - C. The crucifixion.
14. The early harvest in Palestine was not to be gathered until
  - A. After Pentecost.
  - B. After the wave-sheaf offering.
15. The wave-sheaf offering pictured
  - A. Plentiful food.
  - B. The resurrected Christ.
16. How many days are counted to determine Pentecost?
  - A. 7    B. 50
17. Pentecost pictures the
  - A. Return of Christ.
  - B. First spiritual harvest into God's Family.
18. What was given to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost in A.D. 31?
  - A. The Holy Spirit.
  - B. Eternal Life.



**CORRECT ANSWERS**

1. A    2. A    3. C    4. B    5. B    6. A    7. A    8. A    9. C    10. A    11. A    12. C    13. A    14. A    15. A    16. B    17. B    18. A



# YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS

LEVEL 5

SPECIAL FEAST LESSON



God's Festivals

FALL FESTIVAL  
EDITION



---

# GOD'S FESTIVALS

---

**H**ow do you feel each year when your friends at school observe Christmas and you don't? There are parties, school is let out, and your friends receive gifts. Everyone seems to be having good, harmless fun. But what does God think about observing Christmas and other religious holidays, such as Easter? Are these the days He wants us to keep, or are there other days we should know about and observe every year?

Many people know that these holidays began in pagan idolatry long ago, but they feel this connection with the past is harmless since the customs observed today supposedly honor Christ, not pagan gods. But in His Word, the Bible, God condemns copying religious customs from the pagans who worshipped false gods!

Read Deuteronomy 12:29-32 in your Bible, and complete the verses below beginning with verse 30.

"Take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you \_\_\_\_\_

---

Front Cover: Feasting and fellowship are a big part of God's festivals. They give us a foretaste of the World Tomorrow.

YES Photo

\_\_\_\_\_, saying, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

\_\_\_\_\_.  
You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way; for every abomination to the Lord, which He hates they have done \_\_\_\_\_; for they burn even their sons and their daughters \_\_\_\_\_."

Notice especially verse 32. "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it:

\_\_\_\_\_.  
God commands us to keep His law and *only* His law. He forbids us from changing it in any way, either by taking away anything He said to do, or by adding anything to His commands!

## **GOD'S GREAT MASTER PLAN PICTURED BY HIS FESTIVALS**

God *Himself* has set apart certain days for us to observe. And there is real meaning and purpose in keeping His days! The festivals that God has given us in His Word teach us His great master plan for mankind.

All seven of God's festivals are listed for us in the book of Leviticus, chapter 23. Turn there and list these festivals on the following lines. You may want



to ask your parents to help you find the names of some of the festivals listed there.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 5)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 6)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (verses 16, 21)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 24)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 27)
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 34)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (verse 36)

It is important to know these festivals, so take the time to memorize them. Test yourself by reciting them to your father or mother.

### THE SPRING FESTIVALS

The Feast of Tabernacles, which comes in the fall, is certainly a very exciting time of the year. But before we take a closer look at the autumn festival

season, let's quickly review the three spring festivals.

Each of God's festivals pictures a part of His great plan and purpose for mankind. The first annual festival is the Passover. This festival pictures Jesus Christ's death for us so that our sins can be forgiven.

The second festival pictures our putting sin out of our lives, and keeping the law of God. During the seven Days of Unleavened Bread God reminds us that a tiny amount of sin can spread through one's whole mind just like a tiny amount of leaven will spread through a whole loaf of bread and cause it to rise. So God commands us to put leaven out of our homes and to eat unleavened (flat) bread during these days to help us remember this lesson.



H. Armstrong Roberts



Y.E.S. Photo

Above, lamb pictures Jesus Christ who gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. At right, Passover service today includes wine which symbolizes Christ's shed blood, and bread symbolizing His beaten body.





Before the Days of Unleavened Bread, all foods with leavening must be put out of the house.

The third spring festival is the Day of Pentecost. It shows us how God is calling only a *few* people to understand His truth now. The vast majority of mankind will be called to understand later!

That brings us to the last four festivals. They picture breathtakingly exciting events that are *yet* to happen!

### **FEAST OF TRUMPETS PICTURES CHRIST'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN**

Look at the world around you. What do you see? A safe world? A happy world? A *fair* world? No! Everywhere you look you can see the results of mankind going its own way—the way of “get.” There are wars almost continually. There is constant crime. People killing, hurting

and taking from others. There is starvation, famine and disease throughout much of the world. You hear about these things every day on radio and television or read about them in the newspapers. And these conditions are getting *worse*, not better!

How will all these problems be solved? Who has the power and authority to stop wars and teach mankind God’s way of peace and cooperation—of helping one another instead of hurting one another?

You already know the answer. Jesus Christ is coming to put an end to all the world’s problems. This is what the Feast of Trumpets is all about! Turn to I Thessalonians 4:16 and fill in the blanks as you read this verse.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and \_\_\_\_\_: And the dead in Christ will rise first.”

Think back to when you heard the sound of a trumpet. Perhaps you have heard several trumpets blown together at a concert. Remember how loud and piercing the sound was? When the event that the Feast of Trumpets pictures takes place, the whole earth will be *filled* with the sound of a loud trumpet!

Look now at Revelation 11:15. Fill in the blanks as you read it.

“And the \_\_\_\_\_ sounded; And there were \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, saying, The kingdoms



\_\_\_\_\_ have become \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_; and He shall \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_.” At the sound of the seventh trumpet, Christ will return as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Revelation 19:16) to rule all nations on earth.

The great trumpet blast that announces Jesus Christ’s return will also signal the time of the resurrection of those in God’s Church who have died through the ages. They, together with your parents who are in God’s Church as well as other faithful Church members, are the “firstfruits” pictured by the Day of Pentecost. They will be changed to spirit beings when Christ comes and will join Him in ruling the world God’s way.

Turn to I Corinthians 15:52 and fill in the blanks below as you read it. This verse talks about the coming resurrection at Christ’s return.

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an

eye, at the \_\_\_\_\_: for the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

When Christ comes, Satan’s rulership of this earth (II Corinthians 4:4) will finally come to an end. Christ will set up the government and laws of God to rule over the entire earth. This day is coming soon—in *your lifetime!* But before this event takes place, the world will be at war. Many people will suffer and die. Suffering is the result of living the way of this world, which is Satan’s way of *get* as opposed to God’s way of *give*. If you are obedient to your parents and trying your best to do what is right, God will protect you from all this in a place of safety with your parents.

The Feast of Trumpets is a joyful day because it pictures a happy new beginning under God’s government. But before God’s government can make this



Presse- und Informationsamt der Bundesregierung

Pentecost comes at the time of the spring harvest. This festival pictures the “first fruits”—the first spiritual “harvest of people”—in God’s plan.



world a happy, peaceful place, God must first remove Satan's influence. That brings us to the next festival.

### **DAY OF ATONEMENT PICTURES SATAN BOUND, WORLD AT ONE WITH GOD**

"Oh, why do we have to fast today?" Maybe you have asked your parents this question before on the Day of Atonement. It's a good question. Why *do* we go without food and water for 24 hours on the Day of Atonement?

Fasting is a way of humbling ourselves and bringing us closer to God. When we become weak from not eating, we realize how frail and delicate our human lives are. We realize how much we need God—not just to provide the food we eat, but to



Wide World Photo

In the Millenium, Satan will be restrained from influencing people to wage war and commit other sins.

enable us to overcome Satan and his way of get.

Satan likes to tempt God's people to sin and then accuse them to God. Notice this in Revelation 12:10 as you fill in the blanks.

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: have come for the

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_."

Satan has influenced mankind to sin ever since Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The Day of Atonement pictures the time when all our sins will be placed back where they belong—on Satan, after they have already been removed from us (forgiven) by God through the sacrifice of Christ. Then Satan can no longer accuse us!

God will place the blame on Satan for being the author of man's sins and then imprison him so he cannot influence anyone. The world will then be able to draw close to God and be *at one* with Him!

Notice Revelation 20:1-3 to see how God will put Satan away. Remember to fill in the blanks as you read these verses.

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold on the dragon, \_\_\_\_\_, who is the \_\_\_\_\_, and bound for a \_\_\_\_\_, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, that he should



---

\_\_\_\_\_, till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”

After Christ has returned to the earth and Satan has been put away, everything will be ready for the next wonderful step in God’s plan.

Now read Revelation 20:6. What does it say about those who will be in the first resurrection? Rewrite this verse on the lines below using your own words. \_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

### **FEAST OF TABERNACLES PICTURES THE GREAT SPIRITUAL HARVEST**

Those who understand God’s truth look forward to the Feast of Tabernacles with great anticipation. This feast is a time of great rejoicing. That is because it pictures the time of the Millennium—the 1,000-year period when Christ and resurrected Christians will rule on earth, bringing peace, happiness and great joy to all people! But this Feast pictures much more.

The Millennium begins another important step in God’s great master plan. After the resurrection of the “firstfruits” at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and after God has placed the sins of mankind on the head of Satan and separated him from humanity, then the wonderful government of God will be established and the *great spiritual harvest* will begin!

In the land of Palestine (Israel today) there are the two agricultural harvest seasons—the smaller spring harvest and the larger fall harvest. As we shall learn shortly, God is going to give everyone who has ever lived a chance to be born into His Family and live forever. But until the time pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles, He will have given that chance to only a few people—the “firstfruits” of God’s plan. This *small harvest* of people into His Family is pictured by the Day of Pentecost which comes in late spring—the time of the smaller spring harvest.

The Feast of Tabernacles, which comes during the great fall harvest season, pictures the Millennium and the beginning of the *great harvest* of people into God’s Family. All the many millions who will have survived the terrible events of the Great Tribulation and world war will be taught to live God’s way. They will be given their opportunity to receive eternal life in God’s Family.

Isaiah 11:4-9 tells us what life will be like in the Millennium under the rule of Jesus Christ. There will be honesty and justice in all the earth. There will be no prejudice or unfairness, only *righteous* judgment. Write Isaiah 11:4 below in your own words. \_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Even the nature of animals will be changed. They will no longer kill and eat one another, nor will they hurt people. Notice Isaiah 11:6-9: “The wolf also

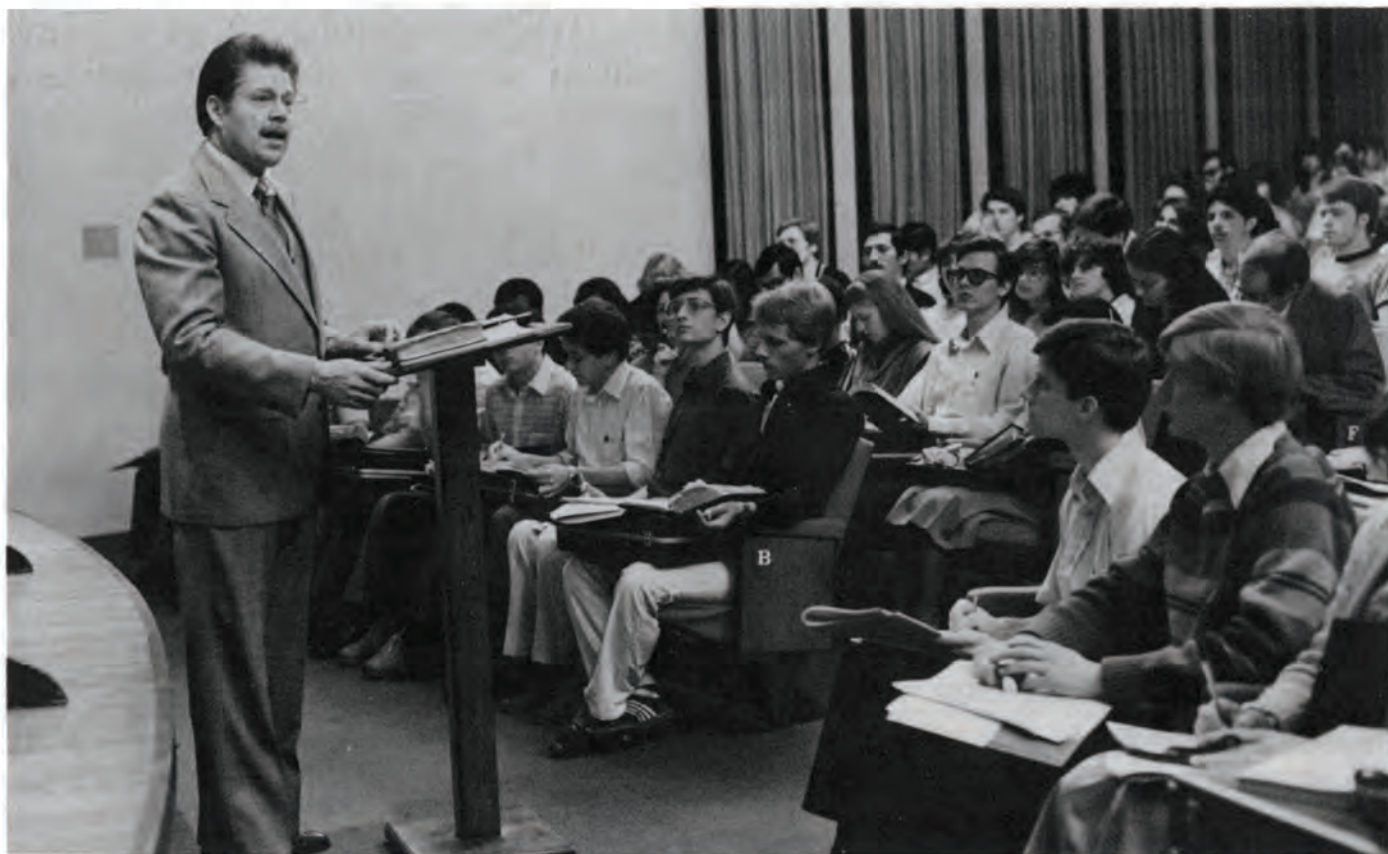


shall dwell with the lamb. The leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The \_\_\_\_\_; and a \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall graze. Their young ones shall \_\_\_\_\_.: And the lion shall eat \_\_\_\_\_. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's \_\_\_\_\_, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the \_\_\_\_\_. They shall not \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_ in all my holy mountain: For the earth shall be full of \_\_\_\_\_, As the waters cover the sea."

The knowledge of God and His wonderful way of life will spread around the world through teaching and instruction from Jesus Christ and the now-spirit-born kings and priests ruling with Him.

This is where you can have a big part in God's master plan. You can have a part in rebuilding the world and teaching the millions of repentant people God's way of give. As you grow and learn to live God's way as taught by your parents and God's Church, you are preparing to at first be a human leader in the Millennium, and then become a member of God's Family.

But up to this point in God's plan, still only a small fraction of the total number



Y.E.S. Photo

In the World Tomorrow, you will have the wonderful opportunity to be a teacher and teach God's way of give to the rest of the world.





American Stock Photos

After the Millennium, you will be able to help show God's way of life to those who have never known God's truth. You might even be teaching some of your own relatives!

of human beings who have ever lived have had an opportunity to become a part of the God Family by being born into it as spirit beings. The great majority of humans are still dead at this time, never having known the truth of God. That brings us to the "Last Great Day"—the final step in God's master plan for mankind!

#### **THE LAST GREAT DAY PICTURES THE FINAL JUDGMENT IN GOD'S PLAN**

The day that immediately follows the Feast of Tabernacles, the "eighth day," is actually a separate feast! In the book of John it is called "the *last day*, that *great day* of the feast" (John 7:37).

God's seventh festival pictures the resurrection to physical life of all those who ever lived and died without knowing God's way of life. These many billions of people will be brought into a beautiful and happy world to learn the way of peace under God's perfect government!

This period of time, which will last 100 years (Isaiah 65:20), is also called the *Great White Throne Judgment*. Read Revelation 20:11-13 and see if you can tell why. All who are brought back to life at this time will be given *their chance* to live God's way and receive eternal life in God's Family. Many of your relatives and friends will be made alive at this



time. You will then have the opportunity to help teach them to obey God's law so they, too, will learn to be happy and enjoy life to the full!

### How Well Do You Remember?

List again below the seven yearly festivals God commands His people to keep. But this time, after each one explain its meaning in just a few words.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

### KEYS TO REMEMBER FOR HAVING A GOOD FEAST

1. *Listen to your parents and obey them.* Read Ephesians 6:1-3 for instructions about this.

2. *Set a good example for other children.* Remember the meaning of the Feast. Show others the way children *should* behave and *will* behave in the World Tomorrow. Do your part in keeping things clean, putting litter in proper containers. Respect other people's property at all times.

3. *Obey all rules and regulations.*

Follow directions and obey signs in the auditorium where services are held. Obey traffic signals. Remember to avoid running inside buildings or making loud noises.

4. *Make at least one new friend each day.* Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to someone new and get to know them. Keep a list of names and addresses of new friends and make sure you write to them within one month after the Feast.

5. *Take notes at services.* In the back of this lesson are pages especially for notes. While you are listening to God's ministers preach during this year's fall festivals, keep in mind the scriptures you have studied in this lesson. Listen for them during the sermonettes and sermons, and write down other scriptures used to further explain the meaning of these very important days. This will help you learn more about the Feast and about God's way. You will find services much more interesting when you listen closely to the sermons and sermonettes and take notes.

6. *Be a help to others.* Especially try to help your parents. Do all they ask, and offer to help in other ways as well. Keep your things picked up and put away. Try to do things before your parents ask you.

7. *Enjoy the activities, sights and visiting that your parents arrange for you and your family.* Do what you can to make each activity more enjoyable for everyone. This will help *you* have more fun and make the Feast of Tabernacles a really memorable occasion!



## FESTIVAL JUMBLE

First, unscramble the words in each line to spell out the name of one of God's seven festivals.

Then, using the blanks on the left, number the seven festivals in their proper order.

#\_\_\_\_\_ SAFET FO EMPRSTTU

□ □ ○ □ □    □ □    □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

#\_\_\_\_\_ TALS EGTAR AYD

--	--	--

#\_\_\_\_\_ AEFTS OF AEEELNUDVN REDBA

#\_\_\_\_\_ YDA FO MOTEANNT

--	--	--

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

# \_\_\_\_\_ SPROVESA

0							
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

#\_\_\_\_\_ SETFA OF AABEELNSTRC

A visual representation of base ten blocks. It shows one large square representing 100, one long rod representing 10, and one small cube representing 1.

#\_\_\_\_\_ DYA FO CONEPSTTE

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Now unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below. (HINT: The circled letter from the name of God's *first* festival goes in the blank over number *one*.)

## THESE SEVEN ANNUAL FESTIVALS ARE TO KEEP US REMEMBERING WHAT?

OOO's  
7 5 3

○○○○  
1 6 4 2



# SERMON NOTES

# SERMONETTE

**MR.**

# SERMON

**MR.**

# SERMONETTE

**MR.**

# SERMON

**MR.**



# SERMON NOTES

**SERMONETTE** **MR.** \_\_\_\_\_

MR. \_\_\_\_\_

**SERMON** \_\_\_\_\_ **MR.** \_\_\_\_\_

MR. \_\_\_\_\_

**SERMONETTE** **MR.** \_\_\_\_\_

MR. \_\_\_\_\_

**SERMON** **MR.**

MR. \_\_\_\_\_



---

# SERMON NOTES

---

**SERMONETTE**

**MR.**

**SERMON**

**MR.**

**SERMONETTE**

**MR.**

**SERMON**

**MR.**



---

# SERMON NOTES

---

SERMONETTE	MR.

SERMON	MR.

SERMONETTE	MR.

SERMON	MR.

---



---

# SERMON NOTES

---

SERMONETTE	MR.

SERMON	MR.

SERMONETTE	MR.

SERMON	MR.

---



---

# SERMON NOTES

---

SERMONETTE

MR.

SERMON

MR.

SERMONETTE

MR.

SERMON

MR.



---

# FEAST HIGHLIGHTS

---

**DAY 1**

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

**DAY 2**

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

**DAY 5**

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:

**DAY 6**

MORNING:

AFTERNOON:

EVENING:



---

Keep the memories of this Feast of Tabernacles for years to come.  
Describe the activities and experiences that made each day special.

---

### **DAY 3**

**MORNING:**

**AFTERNOON:**

**EVENING:**

### **DAY 4**

**MORNING:**

**AFTERNOON:**

**EVENING:**

### **DAY 7**

**MORNING:**

**AFTERNOON:**

**EVENING:**

### **DAY 8**

**MORNING:**

**AFTERNOON:**

**EVENING:**



## Feast Friends

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_



# Fulfilling Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20



*Continuing Church of God* [www.ccog.org](http://www.ccog.org)  
*Daily Bible News Prophecy* [www.cogwriter.com](http://www.cogwriter.com)

**CCOG.ASIA** This is a website focused on Asia. It has articles in Mandarin Chinese as well as some in English, plus some items in other Asian languages.

**CCOG.EU** This is a website targeted towards Europe. It has materials in many European languages.

**CCOG.IN** This is a website targeted towards those of Indian heritage, and includes materials in Hindi.

**CCOG.NZ** This is a website targeted towards those in New Zealand.

**CCOGCanada.CA** This is a website targeted towards those in Canada.

**CDLIDD.ES** La Continuación de la Iglesia de Dios. This is the Spanish language website for the Continuing Church of God.

**PNIND.PH** Patuloy na Iglesia ng Diyos. This is the Philippines oriented website with items in English and Tagalog.



**BibleNewsProphecy** channel  
**CCOG Animations** channel  
**CCOGsermones Spanish** channel  
**ContinuingCOG sermon** channel  
**ContinuingCOG Africa** channel



**BibleNewsProphecy** channel



**COGAfrica** channel  
**COGAnimations** channel  
**COGTube sermon** channel  
**Prophecy** channel



**BibleNewsProphecy** channel

The *Continuing Church of God* also uses printed and electronic magazines, books, and weekly letters to the brethren to also support Matthew 24:14 and Matthew 28:19-20.