

Sunday School Member Quarterly

Fall 2020

Genesis 1 – 25

The Beginning of Grace

Sunday School Lessons for Adults and Youth

Written by John O. Yates



Morningside

B A P T I S T C H U R C H

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Sunday School – 8:45 each Sunday Morning

Sunday School Lessons

September through November 2020

Genesis 1 – 25

The Beginning of Grace

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Sunday School Member Quarterly, Spring 2009, Genesis 1 – 25.

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Daily Bible Reading Guide

Read the following scripture passages each day and complete the learning activities in this book each week. This will prepare you for Sunday School class, and God will bless you as you read, study, and memorize His Word.

Week of August 31 – September 5

Mon: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3; **Tues:** Colossians 1; **Wed:** Psalm 19;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 1:1; **Fri:** John 1;
Sat: Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

Week of September 7 – 12

Mon: Genesis 2; **Tues:** Matthew 19; **Wed:** Matthew 5;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 2:24; **Fri:** Ephesians 5;
Sat: Genesis 2

Week of September 14 – 19

Mon: Genesis 3; **Tues:** Romans 3:9-28; **Wed:** 1 John 1;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 3:1; **Fri:** Psalm 51; **Sat:** Genesis 3

Week of September 21 – 26

Mon: Genesis 4; **Tues:** Genesis 5; **Wed:** Psalm 32;
Thurs: Proverbs 1; **Fri:** Genesis 4; **Sat:** Genesis 5

Week of September 28 – October 3

Mon: Genesis 6; **Tues:** Romans 1; **Wed:** Ruth 2;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 6:7-8; **Fri:** John 3;
Sat: Genesis 6

Week of October 5 – 10

Mon: Genesis 7; **Tues:** Genesis 8:1-14; **Wed:** Psalm 1;
Thurs: Proverbs 3; **Fri:** Genesis 7; **Sat:** Genesis 8:1-14

Week of October 12 – 17

Mon: Genesis 8:15 – 9:7; **Tues:** Genesis 9:8-29;
Wed: Genesis 10; **Thurs:** Memorize Genesis 9:16;
Fri: Genesis 11:1-9; **Sat:** Genesis 9

Week of October 19 – 24

Mon: Genesis 11; **Tues:** Genesis 12; **Wed:** Genesis 13;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 12:2-3; **Fri:** Genesis 12;
Sat: Genesis 13

Week of October 26 – 31

Mon: Genesis 14; **Tues:** Genesis 15; **Wed:** Hebrews 7;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 15:6; **Fri:** Genesis 14;
Sat: Genesis 15

Week of November 2 – 7

Mon: Genesis 16; **Tues:** Genesis 17; **Wed:** Galatians 4;
Thurs: Hebrews 11:1-19; **Fri:** Genesis 16; **Sat:** Genesis 17

Week of November 9 – 14

Mon: Genesis 18; **Tues:** Genesis 19; **Wed:** 2 Peter 2;
Thurs: Proverbs 7; **Fri:** Genesis 18; **Sat:** Genesis 19

Week of November 16 – 21

Mon: Genesis 20; **Tues:** Genesis 21; **Wed:** Genesis 22;
Thurs: Memorize Genesis 22:8; **Fri:** Genesis 21;
Sat: Genesis 22

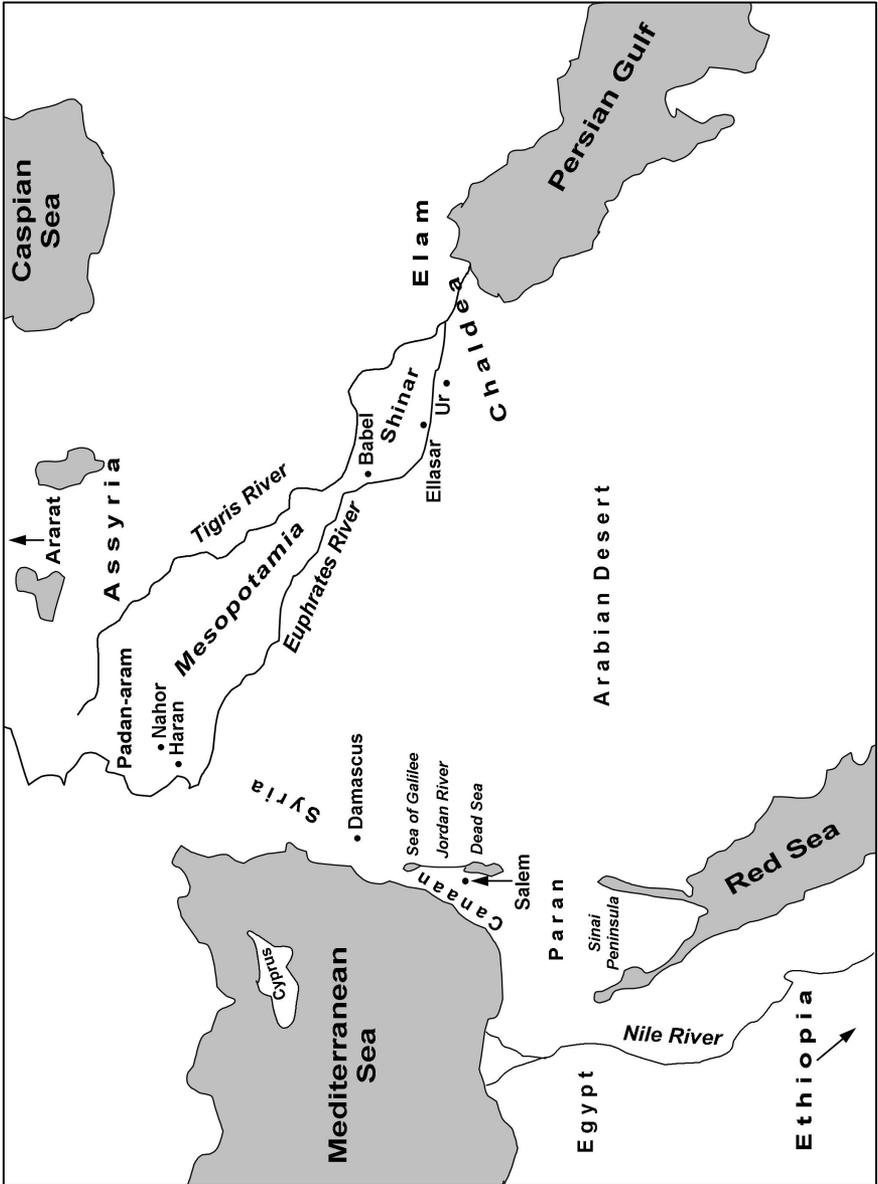
Week of November 23 – 28

Mon: Genesis 23; **Tues:** Genesis 24; **Wed:** Genesis 25;
Thurs: Ephesians 5; **Fri:** Genesis 24; **Sat:** Genesis 25

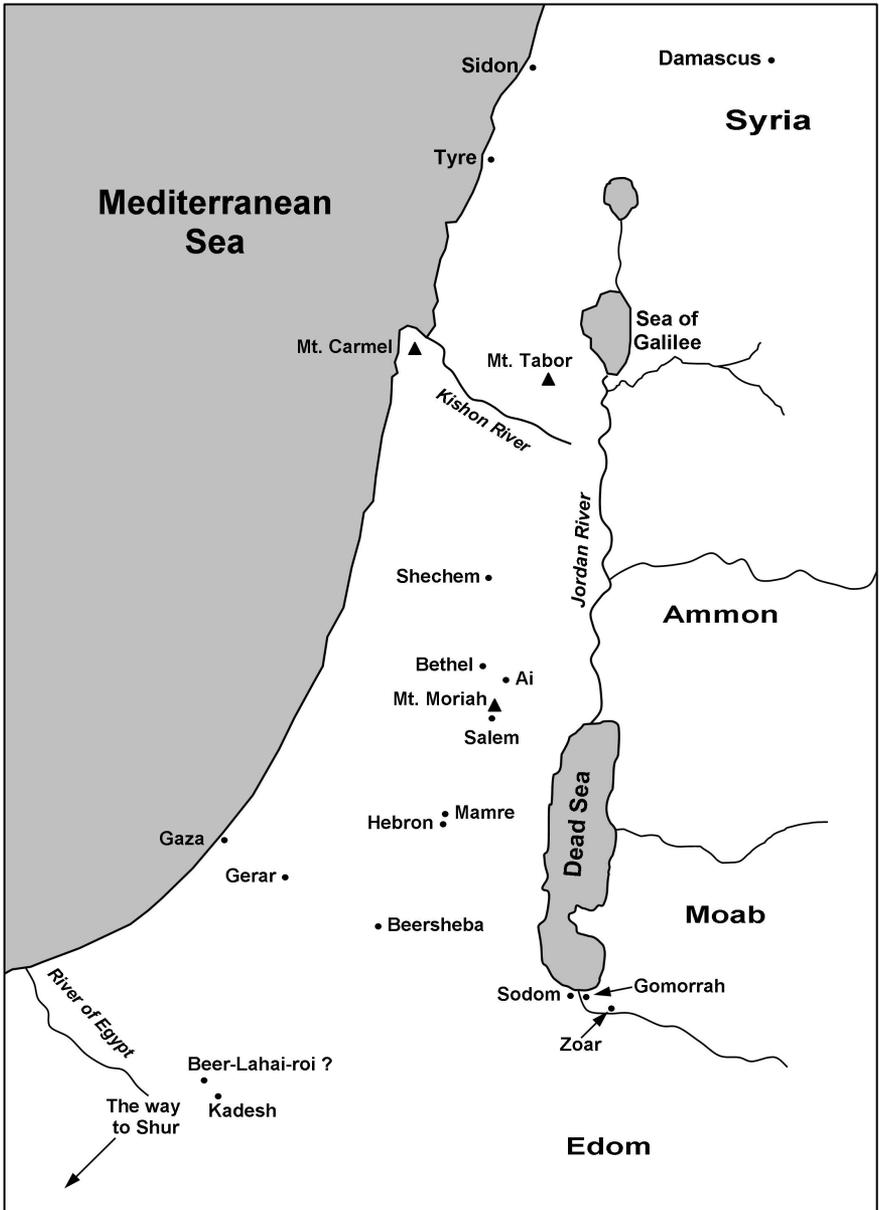
Coming Next Quarter
(December 2020 – February 2021)

Genesis 26 – 50

Map of the Ancient World



Map of Canaan



Introduction to Genesis

Author: Moses

Date: 1450-1400 B.C.

Genesis is the book of beginnings. Its name comes from the Greek translation of the book's first word, which simply means "beginning." In the book of Genesis we find the beginning of the created universe, the beginning of life on earth, the beginning of God's relationship with man, the beginning of sin, the beginning of civilization, the beginning of the various languages and mankind's spreading throughout the earth, and the beginning of God's covenant relationship with the Israelites. The first messianic prophecy is found in Genesis 3:15. Genesis tells about the beginning of God's grace toward mankind.

The time frame described in the book of Genesis stretches from creation to about 1800 B.C., when the children of Israel migrated to Egypt. Moses wrote the book sometime during the Israelites' wilderness wanderings. Numerous Old Testament and New Testament writers, including the Lord Jesus Christ, affirm that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch).

This quarter's study of the first half of Genesis focuses on four important characters: **Adam** (chapters 1 – 5), **Noah** (chapters 5 – 9), **Abraham** (chapters 11 – 25), and **Isaac** (chapters 21 – 25).

General Outline of Genesis 1 – 25:

Creation – Chapters 1 – 2

The Fall and its Aftermath – Chapters 3 – 5

The Flood – Chapters 6 – 8

From the Flood to Abraham – Chapters 9 – 11

The Life of Abraham – Chapters 12 – 25

September 6, 2020

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3

The First Week

Look up Genesis 1:1. What is the fourth word in that verse? Whose name appears 32 times in the first 34 verses of the Bible? Who created the world and mankind? The answer to all those questions is the same: **GOD**.

The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to mankind. The first book of the Bible, Genesis, is about God creating the universe and establishing a relationship with man – *The Beginning of Grace*. God is the central character in the book of Genesis.

This lesson is about creation. In the timeless eons of eternity past there was nothing but God. He has always existed and He has always been completely self-sufficient. He chose to create the universe and create human beings so He could demonstrate His great mercy and grace. That is the purpose for creation.

Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God _____ the heaven and the earth.”

You and I make things out of pre-existing materials, but God created everything there is out of nothing. You will discover how He created things in verses 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, and 26.

Gen. 1:2 How would you describe the earth?

Was there any light?

Where was the Spirit of God?

Gen. 1:3 How did God create light?

Gen. 1:4 What was God's opinion about the light?

What did He do with the light and darkness?

Gen. 1:5 He called the light _____ and the darkness _____ . “The evening and the morning were the first _____.”

Even though the earth was not yet complete or inhabited, it was already spinning on its axis, resulting in alternating light and darkness: **day** and **night**. Genesis 1 describes six days of creation; **God created the universe in six 24-hour days**. There is no need to assume those days were more than 24 hours long unless you don't think God was capable of doing it all in one week.

Gen. 1:6 What did God speak into existence next?

The word **firmament** literally means an expanse that is stretched and spread out. The firmament is the visible sky above the earth.

Gen. 1:7 What was above and below the firmament?

Gen. 1:8 God did these things on the second _____.

Gen. 1:9 What did God do with the waters under the heaven?

What appeared as a result?

Gen. 1:10 What did He call the dry land?

“And God saw that it was _____.”

Gen. 1:11-12 What did He tell the earth to bring forth?

“And God saw that it was _____.”

Gen. 1:13 This marked the end of the _____ day.

Gen. 1:14-15 What did God speak into existence next?

Gen. 1:16-18 What did He create next?

“And God saw that it was _____.”

Gen. 1:19 God did these things on the fourth _____.

Gen. 1:20-21 What did God create next by His spoken word?

“And God saw that it was _____.”

Gen. 1:22 What did God tell the sea creatures and birds?

Gen. 1:23 This marked the end of the _____ day.

Gen. 1:24-25 What did God speak into existence next?

“And God saw that it was _____.”

Gen. 1:26 “And God said, Let _____ make _____ in _____ image, after _____ likeness.” The eternal Godhead is a Trinity, consisting of Father, Son, and Spirit, all of whom are God. How was man to relate to all the other creatures?

Gen. 1:27 How did God create humans?

Gen. 1:28 What did God tell the man and woman?

The word **replenish** here is the exact same Hebrew word translated **fill** in verse 22. God told them to fill the earth with their offspring.

Gen. 1:29 What did He give them to eat?

Gen. 1:30 What were the animals to eat?

Gen. 1:31 What did God say about all of His creation?

This marked the end of the sixth _____.

Gen. 2:1 All of creation was complete.

Gen. 2:2 Did God create anything on the seventh day?

Gen. 2:3 “And God _____ the seventh day, and _____ it.”

Why are our calendars divided into weeks of seven days each? Every other major measurement of time – day, month, and year – is based on the movements of celestial bodies. Only the week is different. We have a seven-day week because God created the universe and rested within a seven-day period of time. The week is a **God-ordained** time period! Every time you state the day of the week or use a calendar divided into weeks, you are honoring God for His creation of the universe in seven days.

Concluding Thoughts: God’s name appeared 32 times in the verses you studied today. Before Genesis 1:1 there was nothing but God. The three persons of the triune Godhead – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – have always existed. God has always been completely self-sufficient; but out of His great mercy and love He chose to create man and put him in a place where he could learn about and experience God’s grace.

God spoke and every aspect of creation came into being. God spoke and announced that His creation was good. God spoke and blessed the animals, telling them to be fruitful and fill the earth. God spoke and blessed the humans, too. He told them to be fruitful and fill the earth. He also told them to subdue and have dominion over all the other living creatures. Finally, God blessed and sanctified the seventh day, forever establishing the pattern that man should work six days and then have a day of rest.

We are created beings living in a created universe. Thank God for everything He has created. Thank Him and praise Him when you see the beauty of His creation this week. When you use a calendar or refer to the day of the week thank God for being your Creator.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 1:1**. Thank God for creating everything. Do the **Daily Bible Readings** (found on pages 3 and 4) each day this week.

Man, Woman, and Marriage

How would you define marriage? That used to be an easy question to answer. A dictionary from the 1990s defined marriage this way: “*The legal union of a man and woman as husband and wife.*”¹ If you look up marriage in a newer dictionary or online you will probably find something different. For example, one definition reads, “*The state of being a married couple voluntarily joined for life (or until divorce).*”² and the Merriam-Webster online dictionary includes a note stating, “*Same-sex marriages ... were legally validated throughout the U.S. by the Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015.*”³

There is no doubt modern society is trying to redefine marriage. In this week’s lesson you will learn about God’s creation of man, woman, and the institution of marriage. Chapter 1 gave us an overview of the creation of the entire universe; chapter 2 goes back and focuses on the creation of man on the 6th day (Gen. 1:26-31).

Gen. 2:4 Verses 4-6 tell us a little about the early earth. This verse contains the first use of God’s personal name, **Yahweh** (or Jehovah). Every time the word LORD appears in capital letters that is what it means.

Gen. 2:5 What had not yet happened on earth?

Gen. 2:6 How did God water the earth?

Gen. 2:7 Out of what did God form man?

What did He do for the man?

¹ *The American Heritage College Dictionary*, Third Edition, Copyright © 1993 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

² <http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=marriage>

³ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/marriage>

What did man become?

Gen. 2:8 Where did God put the man?

Gen. 2:9 God provided fruit-bearing trees to feed the man. What two special trees did He put in the garden?

Gen. 2:10-14 God provided abundant water for the garden.

Gen. 2:15 Why did God put the man in the garden?

Gen. 2:16 What could he eat?

Gen. 2:17 What was the one rule in this wonderful garden?

Gen. 2:18 Previously God said everything about His creation was good. What did He say was not good?

What did He say He would do?

Gen. 2:19 What did God bring to Adam?

Gen. 2:20 What was Adam unable to find among the animals?

Gen. 2:21 What did the LORD God do to Adam?

What did He do while Adam slept?

Gen. 2:22 What did God make from the rib?

Woman is unique among all of God's creations. God formed the animals out of the ground and made Adam from dust, but the woman was made from a part of man. Matthew Henry stated so beautifully three hundred years ago that the woman was "*not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.*"

Gen. 2:23 What did Adam say about the woman?

Gen. 2:24 “Therefore shall a man _____ his father and his mother, and shall _____ unto his wife: and they shall be one _____.”

Gen. 2:25 Was there any shame in this new relationship?

Concluding Thoughts: God established the first human institution in the Garden of Eden – marriage. He said it was not good for the man to be alone, so He graciously created a helper suitable and appropriate for him (this is the literal meaning of “help meet”).

God established that first marriage between a man and woman, not a man and another man, or a woman and another woman, or a man and animal. God joined one man and one woman together in marriage. That system has worked well for 6,000 years.

Verse 24 reveals a very important timeline for marriage. First, the man should **leave his father and mother**. He must leave their home and be financially and emotionally ready to provide for a wife. (Since Adam had no parents this instruction must have been given for our edification.) Secondly, the husband and wife must **cleave to one another** (cling, adhere), indicating a committed, close, and permanent relationship. Finally, they should be **one flesh**, indicating a physical union exclusive of all others.

Sadly, many today have turned God’s pattern upside down by engaging in sex before entering into marriage or even leaving their parents. Violating God’s order **always** brings heartache.

Thank God for the institution of marriage and the safeguards He has placed upon it. Look for opportunities this week to tell others about God’s establishment of and pattern for marriage.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 2:24**. Attend Sunday School this Sunday morning.

The Fall and its Results

When Tommy's mother found him drawing on the wall with a crayon, he said that his friend Jimmy told him to do it.

Hank was reprimanded by his boss about some mishandled work. "I did it just the way George told me to," was his answer.

When Shelly was caught speeding she told the officer (choose one): (a) the speedometer was broken, (b) she was hurrying to an important appointment, or (c) she was trying to keep up with the rest of the traffic.

When we get in trouble most of us respond by making excuses for our actions and blaming others. That is human nature. Why do we have such a nature? Why are we naturally inclined toward sin? You will find the answers to those questions in this lesson.

Gen. 3:1 What was the first thing the serpent said?

Satan's first tactic is always to question God's truthfulness. That is why the world casts so much doubt on the truths of the Bible.

Gen. 3:2 How did the woman answer?

Gen. 3:3 The woman repeated God's prohibition (Gen. 2:17). Did she quote God exactly?

Gen. 3:4 What did the serpent say next?

Satan's second tactic is to deny God's Word.

Gen. 3:5 What did the serpent say to make the fruit appealing?

Satan implied that God was keeping something good from them.

Gen. 3:6 What three things did the woman see about the tree?
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What did she do?

Gen. 3:7 What happened after they ate the fruit?

They lost their innocence and felt shame for the first time. How did they try to cover their shame?

Gen. 3:8 What did they do when they heard God coming?

Gen. 3:10 Adam told God, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was _____."

God questioned them about eating the fruit.

Gen. 3:12 Who did the man blame for his sin?

Gen. 3:13 Who did the woman blame for her sin?

Gen. 3:14 What did God tell the serpent?

Gen. 3:15 "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her _____; it shall bruise thy _____, and thou shalt bruise his _____."

This is the **first messianic prophecy** in the Bible. The "seed" of the woman is Jesus, who will gain ultimate victory over Satan.

Gen. 3:16 What did God tell the woman?

Gen. 3:17-18 What did God tell the man?

Gen. 3:19 What did He say would eventually happen to them?

Gen. 3:21 What gracious thing did God do for them?

Innocent animals died to cover Adam and Eve's shame. This is the **first death** in the Bible, and it was brought about by sin. This reminds us of Romans 6:23a: "*For the wages of sin is death.*"

Gen. 3:22 God did not want man to live eternally in a fallen, sinful state.

Gen. 3:23 What did God do?

Gen. 3:24 What did He do to prevent anyone from entering the Garden of Eden?

Concluding Thoughts: This is a very important chapter. In Genesis 3 we find mankind's first encounter with Satan, the first temptation, and the first sin. We also find the first shame, fear, and attempt to deceive. Ever since Adam's sin (the Fall) the human race has lived under the curse of sin. Shame, fear, and deception are common to all of us.

Adam and Eve tried to blame others for their sin but it didn't work. Their sins brought consequences. In fact, God killed some of His beautiful, innocent creatures to cover the shame of Adam and Eve's sin.

This is a sad chapter in the history of mankind; but there is also some Good News. God graciously promised to send a Savior who will win the final victory over Satan. Like the innocent animals God killed to cover Adam and Eve's shame, God sent His holy and sinless Son to die on the cross to pay the price for our sins.

You, like all humans, were born under the curse of sin. Have you ever trusted Jesus to pay for your sin and give you eternal life? If not, please read the verses printed on the back of this book, confess and turn away from your sins, and turn to Christ for salvation.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 3:1**. Whenever the headlines remind you of man's sinful condition, thank God for sending Jesus Christ.

Murder!

Have you ever watched one of those crime shows on TV? You know the kind – a murder is committed and it looks like the killer has gotten away without a trace, but thanks to the tireless efforts of detectives and forensic scientists a positive link is made to the killer, who is then apprehended and brought to justice.

Detectives look for clues to solve crimes. Today you will learn about the very first murder on earth; but don't worry – the best detective in the universe stepped in and quickly solved the crime. Also in today's lesson you will learn about the births of two very important men. Turn to Genesis 4 and let's begin.

Gen. 4:1 Adam and Eve had a baby. What did they name him?

Read Genesis 3:15. What do you suppose Eve might have thought this child would do?

Gen. 4:2 What did they name their second son?

“And Abel was a _____ of _____, but Cain was a _____ of the _____.”

Gen. 4:3 In time the brothers brought offerings to the LORD. What did Cain bring?

Gen. 4:4 What did Abel bring?

How did God feel about Abel and his offering?

Gen. 4:5 How did He feel about Cain and his offering?

How did Cain react to this?

Gen. 4:6 What did God ask Cain?

Gen. 4:7 What did God say was lying at the door?

We are faced with choices every day. If we do well by God's standards we will be pleasing to Him. If we don't we will fall into sin, which is always lying in wait to attack us (1 Pet. 5:8). We must **choose** to resist temptation and control our passions.

Gen. 4:8 What did Cain do to his brother?

Gen. 4:9 The LORD interrogated Cain. What did He ask?

How did Cain respond?

Gen. 4:10 God is the greatest "detective" in the universe. How did He know Cain had killed his brother?

You can't hide anything from God: **He knows everything**. Cain brought an insincere offering, got mad, killed his brother, and then lied to God. He was in big trouble!

Gen. 4:11 "And now art thou _____ from the _____, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's _____ from thy _____."

Gen. 4:12 What two punishments did God place upon Cain?

Gen. 4:13 How did Cain respond?

Gen. 4:14 What did he fear?

Gen. 4:15 How did God show mercy to Cain?

Gen. 4:16 "Cain went out from the presence of the _____."

Verses 17-24 describe Cain's godless descendants.

Gen. 4:25 Adam and Eve had another son. What did she say about him?

Gen. 4:26 What happened in the days of Seth's son?

Chapter 5 tells about the death of Adam and about the godly line descending from Seth. Fifteen hundred years of history are contained in this chapter. Seth had a very important descendant.

Gen. 5:28-29 What did Lamech name his son?

What did he say about him?

Gen. 5:32 How old was Noah when his sons were born?

Concluding Thoughts: Cain was a wicked person. He brought an insincere offering, got mad, murdered his brother, and even lied to God. We wouldn't do those things ... or would we?

Do you bring insincere or unworthy offerings to the Lord? Do you ever have trouble with anger? You may not have killed anyone, but the Bible equates hatred with murder (Matt. 5:21-22; 1 John 3:15). Do you hate anyone? Have you told any lies?

God mercifully came to Cain and gave him an opportunity to repent. Cain foolishly rejected that opportunity and continued on his sinful way. He chose to respond in the worst possible way.

What about you? Has God convicted you of some sin and given you an opportunity to repent? That is evidence of His grace.

Don't be a fool like Cain. Confess your sin and turn away from it. Ask God's forgiveness and ask for strength to resist sin in the future. Talk to God about your sin right now.

Project: Confess your sin as soon as you are aware of it. Thank God for His mercy every day.

Judgment and Grace

The moral climate on earth is getting worse by the minute. Evolutionists and humanists contend that mankind is getting better, but the facts prove them wrong. Sin and wickedness are more prominent and more widely accepted than ever before. Years ago there were certain TV shows on certain networks that were explicit and offensive; now even the commercials on supposedly “family friendly” networks are offensive. Promiscuity and perversion are presented as normal and desirable. A whole generation has grown up exposed to the most vile and wicked behavior and images.

Do you ever wonder why God doesn't put a stop to it all? What would it be like if God judged mankind as they deserve?

In this week's lesson you will learn about the one time in the past when God sent judgment upon all mankind. In the midst of that judgment, however, you will also discover that one man found grace in God's sight. This lesson is about judgment and grace.

Conditions Before the Flood

Gen. 6:1 There was a “population explosion” on earth.

Gen. 6:2 What did the sons of God do?

This verse has generated many questions through the years and respected Bible teachers express a variety of opinions. Some believe the “sons of God” were fallen angels who married human women. Others believe they were men from the godly line descended from Seth and the “daughters of men” were descended from the ungodly line of Cain. Satan inspired this to try to corrupt the godly line of Seth so the promised Messiah could not be born.

Gen. 6:3 What did God say about the situation?

How long did He say man had left?

Gen. 6:4 There were giants on earth, and the children of the “sons of God” and “daughters of men” were mighty men of renown.

God Planned to Destroy the Earth

Gen. 6:5 What did God observe about mankind?

Note how great man’s wickedness was: “Every _____ of the thoughts of his heart was _____ evil _____.” People could not even think a pure thought! Everything they thought, said, or did was wicked. Does that remind you of today?

Gen. 6:6 How did God feel about His creation?

Gen. 6:7 What did God say He would do?

How extensive would this destruction be?

God’s Provision of Grace Through Noah

Gen. 6:8 “But _____ found _____ in the eyes of the _____.”

If God had not shown grace to Noah the human race would have ceased to exist. You would not be reading this right now if Noah had not been the object of God’s grace. Thank God for His grace!

Gen. 6:9 “Noah was a _____ man” ... “and Noah _____ with _____.” The words, “*perfect in his generations*” mean he was a descendant of Seth without intermarriage with the ungodly line of Cain.

Gen. 6:10 What were the names of Noah’s sons?

Gen. 6:11-12 Corruption, violence, and sin were everywhere!

God’s Instructions to Noah

Gen. 6:13 What did God tell Noah?

Gen. 6:14 What did He tell Noah to make?

The word **pitch** here literally means, “*to cover.*” It is usually translated “**atonement.**” The ark is a picture of Christ; its covering of pitch symbolizes the atonement Christ purchased on the cross.

In verses 15-16 God told Noah to build the ark 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet tall. It was to have a window around the top, a door in the side, and three decks within. It was huge!

Gen. 6:17-18 God said He would “*destroy all flesh,*” but what was He going to establish with Noah and his family?

Gen. 6:19-21 What did God tell Noah to take into the ark?

Gen. 6:22 Did Noah obey God?

Concluding Thoughts: In this lesson you learned that God determined to judge and destroy the sinful world but He extended grace to righteous Noah. How does this lesson relate to us today?

Our world is under God’s judgment right now. In John 3:18 Jesus said, “*He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*” Fortunately, God is still extending grace to certain individuals. To whom does He give His grace? To those who **believe in Jesus Christ and trust Him for eternal life.** Like Noah, those people have “*found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*” If you know Jesus Christ as your Savior then you have found grace in God’s sight.

If you don’t know Jesus you haven’t found God’s grace. In fact, you are still under His judgment and condemnation for your sin. If you want to receive Christ as your Savior read the verses printed on the back of this book, repent of your sins, and turn to Jesus.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 6:7-8.** Thank God for His gift of grace every day this week.

October 11, 2020

Genesis 7:1 – 8:14

The Flood

On December 26, 2004 a magnitude 9.1 earthquake deep in the Indian Ocean unleashed energy equivalent to 23,000 atomic bombs. It was the largest earthquake in 40 years and actually caused the entire planet to shudder. Worst of all, the earthquake produced killer tsunami waves that radiated out in all directions, killing more than 225,000 in 12 countries and leaving millions homeless. The waves actually traveled more than 5,000 miles, killing people on the coast of Africa.

Search online for images and videos of the aftermath of that deadly tsunami. The incredible power of those great waves of water destroyed everything in their path. Buildings were flattened and people were dragged out to sea to drown. Bodies were everywhere. The world marveled at nature's destructive power.

Thousands of years ago God unleashed killer floods to destroy the earth. Rather than being limited to one part of the planet and only touching the coastal regions like the tsunami of 2004, the great Flood covered the entire earth. Turn to Genesis 7 to learn more.

Gen. 7:1 What did God tell Noah to do?

Why did He choose Noah?

Gen. 7:2 How many clean animals was Noah to take?

How many unclean animals was he to take?

Long before God gave the Law to Moses He had already told His people which animals were clean and which were unclean. The additional clean animals were needed to provide for sacrifices (Gen. 8:20) and for food after the Flood (Gen. 9:3).

Gen. 7:4 How soon would the rain begin?

Remember that it had never before rained on earth (Gen. 2:5). How long would it rain?

Why was God doing this?

Gen. 7:5 Did Noah obey God?

Gen. 7:7 Who did he take with him into the ark?

Gen. 7:10 What happened after seven days?

The Flood began on the 17th day of the 2nd month of the 600th year of Noah's life. The water came from two sources. The **fountains of the great deep** refers to an immense underground water source that burst forth from the rivers and oceans, while the **windows of heaven** refers to rainfall from the vast amount of water held in or above the atmosphere (Gen. 1:7). There was water from below and water from above sufficient to flood the entire earth!

Gen. 7:12 How long did it rain?

Gen. 7:16 Noah and his sons had built the ark and installed the door, but who shut them in?

Gen. 7:18 Where was the ark?

Gen. 7:19-20 How high was the water?

Gen. 7:21-23 What happened to everything that wasn't in the ark?

Gen. 7:24 How long did the water remain on the earth?

Gen. 8:1-2 God remembered Noah. What did He do?

Gen. 8:4 Where did the ark come to rest (see map on p. 5)?

This was five months after the Flood began. After waiting almost four more months Noah tried some experiments.

Gen. 8:9 Why did the dove return?

Gen. 8:10-11 What happened the next time he released the dove?

Gen. 8:12 What happened the third time?

Gen. 8:13 What did Noah see when he looked out of the ark?

Gen. 8:14 This was 1 year and 10 days after the flood began.

Concluding Thoughts: Thousands of years ago God flooded the entire world and killed all the people, land animals, and birds. The only ones who survived were those in the ark with Noah.

Why did God destroy the earth and almost all of its inhabitants? Because man was so sinful that his sin had corrupted everything. Why did God choose Noah as the one through whom He would preserve human and animal life? Because Noah was a just and righteous man who found grace in the sight of the Lord. Why did Noah have to stay inside the ark? Because outside was death.

Sin is still terrible, destructive, and deserves God's judgment. Like the ark, Jesus Christ is the only way to escape God's judgment. Those who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior are like the poor people of Noah's day – helpless in the face of God's judgment. If they do not receive Christ they will spend eternity in hell. The only hope is Jesus. If you don't know Jesus please read the verses printed on the back of this book, turn away from your sins, and place your trust for eternity in Jesus Christ.

Project: When you see or hear of natural disasters this week use that as a reminder of earth's worst "supernatural disaster" – the great Flood.

October 18, 2020

Genesis 8:15 – 11:9

Covenant, Corruption, & Confusion

Jerry signed the papers for the mortgage on his new home, agreeing to make a certain payment every month for a specified number of years. Later he quit making the payments, defaulted on his loan, and lost his house. Susan and Tom stood at a wedding altar, promising to remain together “for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health.” A few years later Tom found someone he thought was more exciting and captivating so he left Susan. Lindsay’s boss promised her a big raise if she won a certain contract for the company. She worked hard, put in extra hours, and got the contract. Unfortunately, her boss told her the company couldn’t afford to give her the promised raise.

What do all those stories have in common? Broken promises. This lesson includes an important covenant – a promise made by God to mankind. Fortunately, God doesn’t break His promises.

Gen. 8:15-17 What did God tell Noah to do?

Gen. 8:18-19 Did Noah obey God?

Gen. 8:20 What did Noah do next?

One reason God told Noah to bring seven pairs of clean animals (Gen. 7:2-3) was so he would have the animals necessary to make such offerings.

Gen. 8:21 God was pleased with Noah’s offering. What promises did He make?

Notice that God made these promises in spite of the fact that “*the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth.*”

Gen. 8:22 God promised the earth would remain.

Gen. 9:1 What did God do and say next?

Gen. 9:2 What did He say about the animals?

Gen. 9:3 What were humans allowed to eat?

Prior to the Flood people ate only plants but afterward God told them they could eat meat. Another reason they brought seven pairs of the clean animals was so they could begin eating meat after they left the ark. They were not to consume the blood.

Gen. 9:5 What did God require of any beast or man who killed a human?

Gen. 9:6 “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by _____ shall his blood be _____.” Why did God command this?

God instituted capital punishment because man is made in God’s image. Those who commit murder disrespect God, so executing the murderer declares the value of human life.

Gen. 9:9-11 What did God establish with Noah and his seed?

What did God promise?

Gen. 9:12-13 What is the token (sign) of that covenant?

Gen. 9:15-16 What does the rainbow cause God to do?

What is His promise?

Gen. 9:20-21 Noah planted a vineyard, made wine, and got drunk. What did his drunkenness cause him to do?

Ham looked upon his father’s nakedness with some sinful motive.

Gen. 9:23 What did Shem and Japheth do?

Noah pronounced a curse upon Ham's son Canaan. His descendants were the Canaanites, who settled in the Promised Land. Chapter 10 tells where all of Noah's descendants settled.

Gen. 11:1 How many languages were there on earth?

Gen. 11:2 The people settled in the plain of **Shinar**, the fertile area between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers (see the **Map of the Ancient World** on page 5).

Gen. 11:4 What did they plan to build?

Why did they want to do this?

God told mankind to scatter and fill the earth, but these people wanted to stay together and make themselves famous.

Gen. 11:7 What did God do to their language?

Gen. 11:8 What else did He do?

Gen. 11:9 What was the place called?

Concluding Thoughts: God made a covenant with Noah and all mankind. He promised never again to destroy the earth with a flood, and He graciously gave the token of the rainbow as a reminder of that covenant. God made a promise and He has kept that promise.

Soon after leaving the safety of the ark Noah and his son revealed their corrupt human nature. Noah got drunk and did something he wouldn't have done in a sober state (that's the way alcohol always affects people). Ham gleefully looked on his father's nakedness and told his brothers, hoping they would join in, too.

Proud humans decided to build a city and a high tower for their own fame and glory. They wanted to remain together in one place, disobeying God's command to fill the earth. In response to their pride God caused them to speak many different languages and

scattered them all over the earth. This is why there are different languages and races, and why people live all over the planet.

This lesson reminds us that God will keep His promises, man is proud and sinful by nature, and the will of God will be done in spite of our disobedience. We should cling to the promises of God, reject and resist our sinful desires, and do what God says. Why don't you pray right now? Thank God for His promises, confess your sin, and commit to obeying His commands.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 9:16**. Read the Bible every day, following the **Daily Bible Reading Guide** found on pages 3 and 4.

October 25, 2020

Genesis 11:27– 13:18

God Called Abram

Think for a moment about the great sweep of history you have studied thus far in the book of Genesis. God created the world and filled it with plants, sea creatures, and all the other animals. He created man in His image and placed him in a perfect setting; but Adam sinned against God, bringing the curse of sin upon all of mankind. There was a ray of good news, however. God promised that one day the seed of a woman (Jesus Christ) would crush Satan and deliver us from the curse of sin.

After giving that promise God chose and preserved a godly line through which His Son would one day come. God chose godly Seth over fleshly Cain. He chose Noah, the one righteous man in a wicked and corrupt world. After the Flood God continued choosing, selecting Shem's descendants to carry on the godly line.

In this lesson you will learn that God chose a certain man from among Shem's descendants. He called that man to leave his family and homeland to go to a place he had never seen – a place that would become the future homeland of his descendants.

Gen. 11:27 “Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat _____.”

Gen. 11:28 The family lived in **Ur of the Chaldees**, on the lower Euphrates River in southeastern Iraq.

Gen. 11:29-30 Abram married Sarai. Could she have children?

Terah, Abram, Sarai, and Lot traveled 600 miles northwest from Ur to **Haran**, in modern Syria (see the map on page 5).

Gen. 12:1 This verse explains why the family left Ur. God said: “Get thee out of thy _____, and from thy _____, and from thy father's _____, unto a _____ that I will _____ thee.”

Abram did not know where they were going when they left home.

- Gen. 12:2** God promised four things to Abram:
1. "I will make of thee a great _____,
 2. and I will _____ thee,
 3. and make thy _____ great;
 4. and thou shalt _____ a _____."

Gen. 12:3 Who did God promise to bless?

Who did He say He would curse?

Who will be blessed through Abram?

Abram (later known as Abraham) is the father of the Jews. God's gracious promises are still in effect: He still blesses those who bless the Jews and curses those who curse the Jews. That's why it is wise to be on the side of the Jews. Since Jesus Christ was born a Jew, all families of the earth have been blessed through Abraham.

Gen. 12:4 Abram was 75 years old. What did he do?

Gen. 12:5 Where did they go?

Gen. 12:7 Who appeared to Abram?

What did He promise?

What did Abram do?

Abram continued southward to **Bethel** (see the map on page 6), where he built another altar "*and called upon the name of the LORD.*" Abram was a man of faith who obeyed God, but he had human frailties like the rest of us. When famine came Abram's fear caused him to take his family to **Egypt** (see the map on page 5). There he lied about his wife's identity, saying she was his sister in order to protect himself from harm (Gen. 12:10-20).

After that embarrassing event Abram returned to Bethel and called upon the name of the LORD again (Gen. 13:1-4). There's a good lesson for us in that – when we stray away from the Lord we must repent of our sins and return to the place where we left God.

Abram and his nephew Lot had large herds and many servants. When the land became crowded and strife developed between their herdsmen Abram said they should separate. He gave Lot the choice of the land and Lot made a fateful selection. Genesis 13:12 says Lot “*pitched his tent toward Sodom.*”

Gen. 13:14-15 What did God promise Abram?

Gen. 13:16 What did He say about Abram's descendants?

Gen. 13:17 What did He tell Abram to do, and why?

Gen. 13:18 Abram moved to Hebron, in the modern West Bank.

Concluding Thoughts: The land God promised to give Abram's descendants is the land of Israel. That land has been a source of contention for centuries, just as it is today.

God in grace called Abram to leave everything he knew and travel to an unknown land. When Abram faithfully obeyed, God blessed him abundantly. However, when Abram tried to handle things in his own way he got into serious trouble. Afterward he returned to where he had left the Lord and called upon His name. In response, God blessed Abram even more and made more promises to him.

What about you? Has God called you to do something? If so, have you obeyed? Have you left the Lord behind and tried to manage your life on your own? If so, have you made a mess of things? Why don't you repent of your sins and get back to God right now? He will certainly bless you if you do.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 12:2-3**. Listen to God and obey Him in all He says. Where do you find God's instruction? In the Bible!

November 1, 2020

Genesis 14 – 15

How to Be Right With God

How can you be right with God and go to heaven when you die? The Bible word for being right with God is **righteous**. How can a person be righteous?

There are many opinions about that question. Every religious group teaches something different. The most popular opinion in our country today is that God has a big set of scales at the door to heaven. When you die God places all your bad works on one side and all your good works on the other. If the good outweighs the bad then you go to heaven; if not, you go to hell. Those who hold that view believe you get right with God by doing good works. Is that true? If so we'd all better get busy doing good deeds!

The Bible teaches something completely different from that popular opinion. In fact, it clearly says we do **not** get right with God by doing good things. In this lesson you will find out why Abraham was considered righteous, and how you can be, too.

Gen. 14:14 What did Abram hear?

Eastern kings came and plundered many cities around Canaan. The kings conquered Sodom and Gomorrah, seizing their riches and taking many of their people away as captives. Abram's nephew Lot was among those taken.

Gen. 14:14 What did Abram do?

**Gen.
14:15-16** What happened?

Kings came out to meet victorious Abram on his way home.

Gen. 14:18 “And _____ king of _____ brought forth bread and wine: and he was the _____ of the most high _____.”

Salem was an ancient name for Jerusalem. **Melchizedek** was the king of Jerusalem and priest of the most high God. Based on Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 7:1-3 we believe that Melchizedek was actually a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gen. 14:19 What did Melchizedek say to Abram?

Gen. 14:20 What else did Melchizedek say?

“And he [Abram] gave him _____ of all.”

Abram gave a tenth of all he had to Melchizedek (Heb. 7:2, 4, 6). The king of Sodom tried to give great riches to Abram, but he refused to accept a material reward.

Gen. 15:1 “After these things the _____ of the _____ came unto _____ in a vision.” What did God say?

Abram had just won a great military victory over a superior force, and God said He was Abram’s shield. He had just refused a great financial reward but God said He was Abram’s reward.

Gen. 15:2 What did Abram ask God?

The Lord had promised to raise up a great nation from Abram’s descendants, but he still didn’t have any children. He was nearly 85 years old and still did not have an heir. If things didn’t change, his trusted servant Eliezer of Damascus would inherit all he had.

Gen. 15:3 What did Abram tell God?

Gen. 15:4 What promise did God make to Abram?

Gen. 15:5 What did He say about Abram’s descendants?

Gen. 15:6 “And he _____ in the LORD; and He _____ it to him for _____.”

The word **counted** is a banking term that may be used when a sum of money is deposited into your account. Abram was declared to be righteous not based on his works or behavior, but solely because of his faith in God. This important verse is quoted in Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; and James 2:23.

Gen. 15:7 What did God tell Abram?

Gen. 15:8 What did Abram ask?

Read **Genesis 15:9-17**. God used an ancient custom with which Abram was familiar to teach him something important. In ancient times when two persons wanted to make a covenant or contract with one another they would kill some animals, cut them in half, and then walk together between the pieces. God caused Abram to fall asleep and while he slept God (in the form of fire and smoke) passed between the pieces. God made the covenant without requiring anything from Abram. He also prophesied Israel's captivity in Egypt and their return to the Promised Land.

Concluding Thoughts: Abram believed God; in other words, he was **saved by faith**. We must still come to God by faith today. Hebrews 11:6 says, "*without faith it is impossible to please Him.*"

What happened when Abram believed God? The Lord gave him His righteousness as a free gift of grace. In the same way, when we believe in and trust Jesus for salvation He gives us His righteousness. The Bible says it this way: "*For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him*" (2 Cor. 5:21).

There are no scales at the door of heaven. You either get in by faith in Jesus Christ or you don't get in at all. If you've never trusted Christ for salvation please read the verses printed on the back of this book and believe in Him today.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 15:6**. Believe God this week.

November 8, 2020

Genesis 16 – 17

Man's Schemes vs. God's Plans

Steve was praying for a new job. He believed it was God's will for him to change jobs, but every door seemed to close in his face. After two years of praying he was offered a new job. Even though it would keep him from attending church or spending time with his family, Steve took it anyway. His spiritual life soon suffered and in time his family fell apart. Steve grew to hate his new job.

How long will you wait for God to answer your prayer? How patient are you when waiting for something you really want? Most of us are not very patient. If God doesn't come through when we think He should we often take matters into our own hands.

When Abram was 75 years old God promised to give him a son. In fact, He said Abram's family would be as numerous as the dust of the earth or the stars in the sky. After ten years of waiting, Abram and Sarai still had no children. How long would you wait? Turn to Genesis 16 to learn what Abram and Sarai did.

Gen. 16:1 A **handmaid** was a household servant or slave.
What was the name of Sarai's handmaid?

Gen. 16:2 What did Sarai suggest?

As strange as this sounds to us it was not an uncommon practice in those days. Slaves were personal property and had no rights. While this may have been acceptable to man it was not God's plan.

Gen. 16:2-3 Did Abram go along with Sarai's plan?

Gen. 16:4 What happened to Hagar?

How did this make her feel toward Sarai?

It has **never** worked for one man to have two wives (Matt. 19:5)

Gen. 16:5 Who did Sarai blame for the family strife?

Gen. 16:6 What did she do to Hagar?

What a mess! Rather than wait on God's timing they took matters into their own hands. Hagar ran away into the wilderness, but God came to her. In love and grace He told her to return home and submit to Sarai. He promised she would bear a son who would be the father of a great multitude (the Arab nations).

Gen. 16:15-16 How old was Abram when Ishmael was born?

Gen. 17:1 How old was he now?

This was 13 years after Ishmael's birth. How did the LORD identify Himself?

What did He tell Abram to do?

Gen. 17:2 What did God promise Abram?

Gen. 17:3 How did Abram respond?

Gen. 17:4 "As for me, behold, my _____ is with thee, and thou shalt be a _____ of many _____."

Gen. 17:5 What did God do next?

Abram means "*exalted father*," while **Abraham** means "*father of a multitude*." Even though Abraham was 99 years old and had only one 13-year-old son, God changed his name to "*father of a multitude*." God had big plans for Abraham and his descendants.

Gen. 17:6 What did God promise Abraham?

Gen. 17:7 How long will this covenant last?

Gen. 17:8 What did God promise to give him and his seed?

In verses 9-14 God established circumcision as the outward sign of the His covenant with Abraham and his descendants. Anyone who refused to be circumcised was to be cut off from the covenant community and from God's promises.

Gen. 17:15 God changed Sarai's name to _____.

Gen. 17:16 What did God promise concerning Sarah?

Gen. 17:17 How did Abraham react to this promise?

Gen. 17:18 He thought it was impossible for Sarah to have a baby. What did he ask God?

Gen. 17:19 What did God say about Sarah?

God made it clear that **Isaac** would be the promised son and recipient of the covenant promises.

Concluding Thoughts: Have you ever run ahead of God's timing? Abraham and Sarah did. After ten years of childlessness they quit waiting on God and took matters into their own hands. They devised a plan to get a baby. It wasn't God's plan or God's way, but since other folks were doing it they thought it would be okay. The result was family strife and conflict. Abraham's impatience produced the Arab people and the unending Arab-Jewish conflict.

There is no doubt Abraham loved his young son Ishmael, but he was not the promised son and heir of the covenant promises. God promised to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah, even though she was past childbearing age.

God's plans are always better than man's schemes. Confess your sin of getting ahead of God and commit to patiently wait on Him.

Project: Resist the temptation this week to follow man's logic instead of obeying God. God's ways and timing are always best.

November 15, 2020

Genesis 18 – 19

Will God Judge Sin?

Do you ever wonder when God will get around to judging people for their sin? It seems sin and wickedness has never been more widespread and public than it is today. People who do ungodly things often seem to get away with their sin. Not only that, God-haters spew their vile venom on the public airways with seemingly no restraint. Do you ever wonder why God puts up with it all? Why doesn't He wipe sinners and atheists off the planet?

In this lesson you will learn of a time when God stepped in and poured out His judgment on some especially wicked people. His patience came to an end and the result was utter destruction. You will also learn about the price paid by one of God's people who chose to live and raise his family in a wicked, worldly place. Before we get to that, however, you will learn about an amazing encounter Abraham had with the LORD and two angels.

Gen. 18:1 Who appeared to Abraham?

Gen. 18:2 What did he see?

What did he do?

These three "men" were the LORD and two of His angels.

Gen. 18:3-5 What did Abraham invite them to do?

Gen. 18:9 What did they ask?

Gen. 18:10 What did the Lord promise?

Who heard this promise?

Gen. 18:11 Was Sarah still able to bear children?

Gen. 18:12 How did she react to the news?

Gen. 18:14 “Is any thing too _____ for the _____? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and _____ shall have a _____.”

The Lord decided to reveal His plans to Abraham.

Gen. 18:19 What did He know about Abraham?

That is a good testimony! Would you like God to say that of you?

Gen. 18:20 What did God say about Sodom and Gomorrah?

The angels departed for **Sodom** (see map, p. 6), leaving Abraham standing before the LORD. Abraham interceded for Sodom, asking God to spare the city if as few as 10 righteous people lived there.

Gen. 19:1 The two angels arrived at sundown. Where was Lot?

The city gate was a place of prestige and authority in ancient times. Lot brought the men (angels) into his house and fed them.

Gen. 19:4 What happened?

Gen. 19:5 What did the men of Sodom want?

The word **know** here refers to sexual relations (see Gen. 4:1). Lot went out and begged the men not to behave so wickedly. He even offered his unmarried daughters to those wicked men if they would leave his guests alone! Can you believe how low he had sunk?

Gen. 19:9 How did the men respond?

Gen. 19:10-11 What did the angels do?

The angels told Lot to gather his family and leave the city, but his sons-in-law just laughed in his face. The angels took Lot, his wife, and their unmarried daughters out of the city. That was grace.

Gen. 19:17 What instructions did they give them?

Gen. 19:24-25 What did God do to those wicked cities?

God literally poured out fire and brimstone (burning sulphur) upon the cities, killing all the people, obliterating the cities, and even destroying all the vegetation. Sodom and Gomorrah were located on the plain at the southern end of the Dead Sea. The ruins that have been found are all burned and nothing grows there to this day.

Gen. 19:26 What happened to Lot's wife?

Gen. 19:27-28 Abraham was 35 miles away. What did he see?

Gen. 19:29 Why did God spare Lot?

The rest of the chapter tells that Lot's daughters got him drunk, had incestuous relations with him, and gave birth to children who were ancestors of the Moabites and Ammonites, Israel's enemies.

Concluding Thoughts: Will God judge and punish sinners? Yes, in His time and in His way. Wicked people may prosper now, but God will judge them and they will be punished for their sin.

Sodom was an evil place known for homosexuality and other sins. Lot knew this before he moved his family there (Gen. 13:12-13). Even though he was one of God's people (2 Pet. 2:6-8), Lot was enticed by the pleasures of the sinful world. He came to Sodom as a sojourner, but made it his permanent residence. He raised his family there and some of his daughters married men who had no respect for Lot or his God. After continual exposure to sin, Lot and his daughters even adopted the behavior of the wicked.

God will judge and punish sinners in His time. Thank Him for this fact. Resist the temptation to become involved in worldly things.

Project: As you witness unrestrained wickedness in the world this week remember that one day God will judge and punish sinners.

November 22, 2020

Genesis 21 – 22

The Promised Son

Has anyone ever broken a promise to you? People often break promises, either out of carelessness or disregard for the truth. Have you ever had to wait a long time for a promise to be kept?

God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son. God repeated that promise many times, and even promised that Abraham's descendants would become a great and large nation. Read the following verses to refresh your memory about those promises: Genesis 12:2; 13:16; 15:4-5; 17:2, 4, 6, 9, 16; and 18:10. Still, after 25 years of waiting, Abraham and Sarah had no son.

In this lesson you will find out if God kept His promise. You will also learn that God told Abraham to do a very strange thing.

Gen. 21:1 “And the _____ visited Sarah as He had _____, and the LORD did unto Sarah as He had _____.”

Gen. 21:2 What happened?

Gen. 21:3 What did Abraham name the baby (see Gen. 17:19)?

Gen. 21:4 Why did he circumcise the baby (Gen. 17:12)?

Gen. 21:5 How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

Gen. 21:6-8 Abraham and Sarah rejoiced about their new baby.

God kept His promise! After 25 years of waiting Abraham and Sarah finally had their promised son – a gift of grace. They no doubt gave this special child everything he needed and protected him from harm. Sarah and Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away for good, but God still cared for them and blessed them.

Gen. 22:1 The word **tempt** here means to test, try, or prove.

Gen. 22:2 “And He said, Take now thy _____, thine _____ son Isaac, whom thou _____, and get thee into the land of _____; and offer him there for a _____ upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” What a test of faith!

Gen. 22:3 How did Abraham respond to this strange order?

Gen. 22:5 What did Abraham tell his servants?

Gen. 22:6 What did he take up the mountain?

Gen. 22:7 What did Isaac ask?

Gen. 22:8 How did Abraham answer?

Gen. 22:9 What did Abraham do with Isaac?

Gen. 22:10 “And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the _____ to _____ his _____.”

Gen. 22:11 What stopped Abraham from killing Isaac?

Remember that the **angel of the LORD** was a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gen. 22:12 What did the Lord tell Abraham?

What did He now know about Abraham?

Gen. 22:13 What did Abraham see?

Abraham freed Isaac and offered the ram in his place. He called the place **Jehovah-jireh** – “*the LORD will provide.*”

Gen. 22:15-16 God was pleased that Abraham had proved his faith.

Gen. 22:17 The Lord again promised to bless and multiply Abraham's seed (see Gen. 12:2; 13:16; and 15:5). How numerous did He say they would become?

Gen. 22:18 "And in thy seed shall all the _____ of the earth be _____; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

God made this promise on two previous occasions, in Genesis 12:3 and 18:18. The Lord Jesus Christ is a direct descendant of Abraham. People of all tribes, tongues, and nations have received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Thus, all nations truly have been blessed through Abraham.

Concluding Thoughts: Isaac was a type (representation or symbol) of Jesus Christ. God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son, but they had to wait a long time before that promise was fulfilled. God promised to send His Son into the world, but centuries passed before He was born in Bethlehem. Jesus was born of a virgin, while Isaac came from the dead womb of a ninety-year-old woman. Isaac was the son through whom God's promises were passed down to the Jews and Jesus is the One through whom the promise of redemption is fulfilled for all who believe. Isaac was placed on a sacrificial altar, while Jesus was the perfect and final sacrifice. Jesus arose from the dead, and Abraham figuratively received Isaac back from the dead (Heb. 11:19).

God kept His promise to Abraham and He kept His promise to us. In an act of grace He sent his Son into the world to die on the cross to pay the price for our sin. Men often break their promises, but God always keeps His promises; **He cannot lie** (Titus 1:2).

Here's a great promise: "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Rom. 10:13). Have you called on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? If you do He will save you by His grace. Thank God for keeping His promises.

Project: Memorize **Genesis 22:8**. Find some promises in the Bible. Memorize them and believe them.

November 29, 2020

Genesis 23 – 25

A Bride for the Son

Have you been to a wedding lately? Wedding ceremonies can be as different as the couples that are getting married, but most have some common elements. Usually the groom stands down front alongside his most trusted friend. The bride usually enters from the back and is escorted toward the groom by her father, who then gives her hand to the groom. After they are legally joined together the bride and groom leave to establish a new home.

Many of those traditional elements depict the relationship between Jesus Christ and His bride, the church. The Bible even says marriage symbolizes the bond between Christ and His church.

In last week's lesson you learned about the birth of the promised son, Isaac. In this lesson you will learn about the bride who was sought out for Isaac. Just as Isaac represented Jesus Christ, his bride represents the church. This chapter is a beautiful love story, but it also presents a wonderful picture of our salvation.

Gen. 23:1-2 How old was Sarah when she died?

Abraham bought a piece of land in Hebron in which to bury Sarah.

Gen. 24:1 What does this verse tell you about Abraham?

He called his most trusted servant and bound him to a solemn oath. Abraham entrusted the future of his family to this servant.

Gen. 24:3 What did he make his servant swear not to do?

Gen. 24:4 What did he tell the servant to do?

Gen. 24:5-6 What did Abraham warn the servant about?

Gen. 24:7 What did he say God would do?

Gen. 24:10-11 Where did the servant go?

Gen. 24:12 “And he said, O LORD _____ of my _____ Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show _____ unto my master _____.”

Gen. 24:13-14 What did he ask God?

Gen. 24:15 Who came out to the well?

Gen. 24:16 How does this verse describe Rebekah?

Gen. 24:17-18 The servant asked for water. What did Rebekah do?

Gen. 24:19-20 What else did she do?

The servant was amazed and gave Rebekah gifts of golden jewelry. He asked about her family and learned that she was Abraham’s great-niece. She invited him to come to her father’s house.

Gen. 24:26 What did the servant do?

Gen. 24:27 What did he praise God for doing?

The servant went to the house of Rebekah’s father. A meal was set before him, but he wouldn’t eat until he told them all about his mission. He told how God had answered his very specific prayer. He asked if they would let Rebekah go with him to marry Isaac.

Gen. 24:50 What did her brother and father say?

Gen. 24:51 What did they say about Rebekah?

Rebekah’s family asked her to wait ten days before leaving, but she agreed to go at once.

Gen. 24:60 What did they say to Rebekah?

Rebekah left with the servant for the land of Canaan.

Gen. 24:63 What was Isaac doing when he saw the camels?

Rebekah went to meet Isaac, the servant told how God had blessed his journey, and the happy couple was soon married.

Concluding Thoughts: This chapter presents a beautiful picture of salvation. In this picture Abraham represents God the Father, who was seeking a bride for His beloved Son. Isaac represents Jesus Christ, the promised Son, heir of all things, and bridegroom of the church. Abraham placed the responsibility for finding his son's bride into the capable hands of his trusted servant. The servant represents the Holy Spirit, who obediently went out and sought the bride for the Son. The Holy Spirit lovingly draws the bride to the Son and brings her to the wedding. Rebekah represents the church, the beloved and beautiful bride of Christ. Did you notice that she responded immediately when she was called? Her family tried to delay her departure (just as the devil tries to delay us from following Jesus) but she left right away.

Did you notice where Abraham sent the servant to find his son's bride? The bride was called out of a foreign country and brought to the land of promise, just as we (the church) have been called out of the world and will go to dwell with the Son forever. Ancient bridegrooms prepared a dwelling place for their bride, just as the Lord Jesus Christ said "*I go to prepare a place for you.*"

If you are truly saved then you are part of the bride of Christ. You have been sought, called, brought, and forever united to God's Son. The beautiful illustrations of this story apply to you. You are the object of the Son's love and grace and will live with Him forever. If you are not truly saved then **none** of these things apply to you. Read the verses printed on the back of this book, turn away from your sins, and turn to Jesus today. You'll be glad you did.

Project: Pick up a *Sunday School Member Quarterly* for the new quarter and begin the **Daily Bible Reading Guide** on Monday.