

A
Survey
of

THE OLD
TESTAMENT

A Series of Lessons

by
Don Titus

The Old Testament BIBLE Survey

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Written by Don Titus while Pastor
of
Home Missionary Baptist Church



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The Old Testament BIBLE Survey

FORWARD

The following is a compilation of Sunday school lessons written by Pastor Don Titus and presented to Home Missionary Baptist Church, many years ago. These lessons contain a very good, concise, survey of the Old Testament of the Authorized King James Version of the BIBLE. Reading them will give you, not only a basic understanding of how the Old Testament is arranged, but also, what each section and book is about. This survey makes a wonderful guide for any in depth study of the Old Testament, as well.

These lessons were originally produced via a typewriter, copied with a mimeograph machine, and distributed to those in attendance. It was from those handouts that these pages were created. Unfortunately, two of the original lessons in the set are missing ... lost in the “shuffle of papers” over the years.

I hope you will enjoy these lessons, about the Old Testament, that remain. Studies and lessons about the Bible are timeless, as God's word does not change. It say's the same things today that it said when it was first penned.

--- Mark Smith

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Introduction:

WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN A VERY EXCITING AND BENEFICIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY. WE ARE GOING TO STUDY THE BIBLE ITSELF.

It is important that everyone attend Sunday School regularly during this study in order to become most familiar with this glorious and greatest of all books.

Many people say, “I want to learn more about the BIBLE, but I just do not know where to begin”. Others have attended Sunday School and Church for many years and still have only a vague idea of the BIBLE itself.

Although the BIBLE is owned by more people than any other book, it is probably read and understood by only a small percentage of them.

The BIBLE was given by God for the personal use of the ordinary person. Just because it contains many things that are difficult to understand, we should not give up our study of the BIBLE.

SOME REASONS WHY EVERYONE SHOULD WANT TO STUDY THE BIBLE:

1. The BIBLE contains the only complete and authoritative record of the beginning of all things.
2. The BIBLE alone reveals who God is and what his will for man is.
3. There are within it many exciting biographies of individuals just like us, with accounts of their lives and experiences with God.
4. The BIBLE tells the story of God's son and man's only savior.

WE URGE EVERYONE TO TRY TO ATTEND EVERY SINGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL, AT LEAST UNTIL THIS STUDY IS COMPLETED.

We are confident that when you have completed this course of study, it will be one of your most rewarding and helpful experiences.

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Some items that will prove helpful to you in this study.

1. A good BIBLE. Preferably one with center column references.
2. A note book for personal notes.
3. A BIBLE dictionary.
4. A BIBLE handbook.

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Lesson 1: BIBLE FACTS

Our word “BIBLE” comes from the Greek word “biblion”, meaning “a book” or “pages of writing”. In English it pertains only to “the book” considered by believers in Christ to be THE WORD OF GOD.

When “The Word of God” is referred to in the New Testament, the word Scripture is used. This is understood to mean “The Writing of God”.

Every true believer in Jesus Christ, who wishes to be as happy and useful as they should be, needs to have a good basic understanding and general knowledge of the BIBLE. Read 2 Timothy 2:15 carefully, then write in your own words why we need to study the BIBLE.

Most Christians wonder how the BIBLE came into existence. The BIBLE itself provides the truth of this. Read 2 Peter 1:21 and write in your own words how the BIBLE was written.

2 Peter 1:21 is exactly what we believe. The BIBLE is the very Word of God. He used many different men to write for him, but God is the real author.

We believe in the plenary (complete), verbal (word for word), inspiration (breathed by God) of the BIBLE as originally written.

Even a casual examination of how the BIBLE was written and how it has been miraculously preserved through the ages, will prove, undeniably, it's divine origin. The following will express this:

1. No one man or group of men could possibly have planned and produced such a monumental work.
2. Moses began writing the BIBLE about 1500 B.C. It was not completed until about 100 A.D., some 1600 years later.

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3. The BIBLE was written by about 40 different men, from all walks of life, in different parts of the country, separated sometimes by hundreds of years in time. Yet, there is a unity and continuity in their writings which only GOD could have accomplished.
4. Although the BIBLE was written in the middle east and completed nearly 1900 years ago, it adapts perfectly to all people everywhere, of any nationality or culture.
5. The BIBLE has been translated into over 1000 languages and dialects. More than 30 million copies are sold each year.
TRULY IT IS THE MOST AMAZING BOOK OF ALL TIME.

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Lesson 1: ANSWERS

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Every true believer in Jesus Christ, who wishes to be as happy and useful as they should be, needs to have a good basic understanding and general knowledge of the BIBLE. Read II Timothy 2:15 carefully, then write in your own words why we need to study the BIBLE.

To be acceptable in God’s eyes ... know how to use the tools of your faith ... it’s our road map of life.

Most Christians wonder how the BIBLE came into existence. The BIBLE itself provides the truth of this. Read II Peter 1:21 and write in your own words how the BIBLE was written.

God’s spirit inspired his servants to write as he directed.

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Lesson 2: BIBLE FACTS

MOSES began to write the BIBLE, the “Word of God”, about 1500 years before Christ. Moses was, no doubt, very familiar with the oral traditions of his people concerning the history of the world.

Before the universal flood of Noah's time men lived for many hundreds of years. There were only about six or seven generations from Adam's time to Moses' days. Moses did not simply write down the traditions of men, but also spoke and wrote as he was moved by the HOLY GHOST.

The Genesis account of the beginning of all things is not the work of any traditionalist. It is very obviously a fresh, authoritative and accurate account of exactly how things came to be.

Many times in his writings, Moses clearly states that the LORD spoke to him. Only by the inspiration of God could Moses have so accurately recorded the account of creation, how man was formed, the sin of Adam and Eve, and all the rest.

Writing was well established by the time Moses was born. There are in existence today many “pre-Moses” writings. But, those of Moses are the only ones with moral and spiritual significance that have survived from those times.

Moses was without doubt the greatest man on earth in his day and one of the greatest men who has ever lived. God spoke to Moses “face to face” and through him worked many mighty miracles.

The leaders of the Jews knew that God had used Moses to speak to them and through him they received God's laws. For this reason, they were very careful to preserve all of Moses' writing. All through the centuries the Jews have referred to God's word and God's laws as “The writings of Moses”.

As time went on, God began to raise up other men, demonstrating to his people that they also were most surely his prophets. The Jews added the writing of these other men to those

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of Moses, declaring these writings to be “Thus sayeth the Lord”. So, the “Scriptures” gradually came to be.

The last of the unquestionably inspired writers before the time of Christ was Malachi.

About one hundred years after Malachi was written and about three hundred years before the birth of Christ, a group of carefully selected holy, devout, and most learned men were given the task of examining all of the ancient and modern writings. Their tasks were to determine which ones were indeed “Scripture” and to translate them into the Greek language. Greek had become the predominant language of the world at that time.

Each of the 12 tribes of the Jews chose six men, for a total of seventy-two. This monumental work is called “THE SEPTUAGENT”, which means seventy in the Greek language.

When Jesus was preaching here on earth, the SEPTUAGENT is what He recognized and often referred to as “THE SCRIPTURES”. These scriptures are what our BIBLE calls “THE OLD TESTAMENT”.

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Lesson 3: THE MAIN THEME OF THE BIBLE

The main theme of the BIBLE is the redemption of man's sinful soul.

ADAM, the first and most perfect of all mankind, did knowingly and willfully disobey GOD. In doing so, he did die spiritually, at that very moment, as we are told in Genesis Chapter 3. All of Adam's descendants have been born in that condition. ROMANS 5:12.

God almost immediately declares His intention to provide for the redemption of man's fallen soul. GENESIS 3:15.

This is the first mention in the BIBLE of the savior which is to come. See Romans 5:17-19.

The BIBLE is divided into two main sections called the “Old Testament” and the “New Testament”. The word “testament” means a covenant or agreement between God and his people as to how they are to live their lives and worship him.

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT OR OLD ORDER:

This is primarily the history of the Hebrew or Jewish people through whom the savior would come to crush the head of Satan and provide salvation for men from the power and consequence of sin.

The Old Testament is also a history of the beginning of all things and the giving of the moral and ceremonial law from GOD for his people to observe until the promised savior had come and had paid the price for their sins and fulfilled all of the law of God for them.

2. THE NEW TESTAMENT:

This is the story of the Son of God being born of a woman and of his life, death and resurrection in behalf of all who had trusted in him to come, and those who would believe that he had come to take away their sins.

The New Testament also tells about The Church of The LORD JESUS CHRIST and gives instructions as to how his people are to worship him now and how they are to live until he comes back for them.

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The New Testament has not done away with the Old Testament except in the manner in which believers are to worship.

The ceremonies and sacrifices of the Old Testament pictured the one who was to come to shed his blood and give his life for our sins. Once he had come and accomplished those things there was no more need for such types or pictures. SEE HEBREWS 7:22-25.

All of the rest of the Old Testament where the mind and the will of GOD is revealed about any matter, is just as valid today as it ever was.

There is evidence that all 27 books of the New Testament were in existence by 100 A.D. and were accepted by the Churches as God's Holy Word and have stood the test of time and Satan's most strenuous efforts to destroy them.

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Lesson 4:THE OLD TESTAMENT

There are thirty-nine separate books in the Old Testament. These thirty-nine books fall into three, natural, main divisions.

1. “Historical”. The first seventeen books.
2. “Poetical”. The middle five books
3. “Prophetical”. The final seventeen books.

DIVISION I:

The first seventeen books of the BIBLE, which are basically historical by nature, also have a natural division between the first five and the last twelve.

The first five books, from Genesis to Deuteronomy, were all written by Moses. These are referred to in the BIBLE as “The Books of the Law of Moses”, or “The Law of God”, or just simply “The Law”.

Men refer to these books as “The Pentateuch” (pen-tah-tuke), which in the Greek language means a five volume book. These Books are the history of the beginning of all things until the time that Israel actually became a nation.

The next twelve books, from Joshua to Esther, are basically the history of the Jewish Nation.

DIVISION II:

The five books in the very middle of the Old Testament, from Job to Song of Solomon, are poetical by nature and deal mainly with the problems of the human heart and it's experience with GOD.

DIVISION III:

These final seventeen books of the Old Testament, just like the first seventeen, are divided into two groups of five and twelve.

The first five books, from Isaiah to Daniel are commonly known as “The Major Prophets”. The writings of these four men, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel, are truly monumental works and contain the main portion of prophecy concerning the Messiah and Israel being cut off, and ultimately re-gathered or restored and reconciled to God.

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The last twelve books are known as “The Minor Prophets”. They deal only with certain aspects of Israel’s prophetic future and are much smaller in scope than the five previous books.

The chart on the below will help us to see the orderly arrangement of these Old Testament books and help us to learn them by memory.

THE THIRTY-NINE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

	Historical	Poetical	Prophetical	
5 Books of Moses	1. GENESIS 2. EXODUS 3. LEVITICUS 4. NUMBERS 5. DUETERONOMY		23. ISAIAH 24. JEREMIAH 25. LAMENTATIONS 26. EZEKIEL 27. DANIEL	5 Major Prophets
12 Israel as Nation	6. JOSHUA 7. JUDGES 8. RUTH 9. I SAMUEL 10. II SAMUEL 11. I KINGS 12. II KINGS 13. I CHRONICLES 14. II CHRONICLES 15. EZRA 16. NEHEMIAH 17. ESTHER	18. JOB 19. PSALMS 20. PROVERBS 21. ECCLESIASTES 22. SONG OF SOLOMON 5 Personal Experience	28. HOSEA 29. JOEL 30. AMOS 31. OBADIAH 32. JONAH 33. MICAH 34. NAHUM 35. HABAKKUK 36. ZEPHANIAH 37. HAGGAI 38. ZACHARIAH 39. MALACHI	12 Minor Prophet

We surely can see a wonderful, orderly arrangement here which seems to testify that God not only took care of the preservation of his Holy Word, but that he also carefully watched over the way it was arranged and put together.

We have seventeen books that deal with the past and seventeen books that deal with the future, and right in between are the five which deal with the individual human heart.

“I WILL WORSHIP TOWARD THY HOLY TEMPLE, AND PRAISE THY NAME FOR THY LOVING KINDNESS AND FOR THY TRUTH: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.” Psalms 138:2

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Lesson 5: GENESIS, The “Book of Beginnings.”

AUTHOR: The Jews have never questioned the fact that Moses was the author of the book of Genesis as well as the other four of the first five books in the BIBLE. The Lord's churches as a whole have also accepted this and Jesus declared it in Luke 24:27.

Genesis is the record of the beginning of the world, of time, of mankind, of sin, of the promise of redemption, of the worship of God, of crime, of the Hebrew race and many other things. Genesis gives us at least two thousand years of record. It is a spiritual interpretation of history.

The following are the principal events which we will learn about in our study of the book of Genesis.

1. Creation.
2. The fall of man.
3. The first murder.
4. Noah's ark and the great flood.
5. The Tower of Babel and the confusion of languages.
6. The call of Abraham. The story of his life and family.
7. Abraham's descendants moving down to Egypt.

CREATION:

Genesis Chapters 1 and 2.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” He created all things by “THE POWER OF HIS WORD”. He spoke, and it was done. Psalms 33:6-9.

Once we have received faith to believe in Jesus Christ as our savior, we also have faith in and believe all of God's word without question, especially his record of creation.

Some people have difficulty believing in this type of instantaneous creation because the earth appears to be much older than the BIBLE tells us that it is. In regard to this, let us consider Adam. We believe that God created Adam as a mature adult man. If God created the first man in an already developed stage could he not have done the same with the earth?

Hebrews 11:3 tells us very plainly that nothing was made in the manner that men would think by the appearance of things.

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God made everything in six days. Genesis 1:31 and Exodus 20:11. There is no real reason to believe that a day of creation was any longer than any other day.

The final act of creation for God was the making of a man from the dust of the earth and a woman from the man.

There are two laws of God to especially remember in these two chapters.

Chapter 1:24 and 25. Each creature is to produce only its own kind and

Chapter 2:17 where man is forbidden to eat of one tree in the garden.

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Lesson 6: SIN ENTERS THE WORLD

GENESIS CHAPTER 3: “SIN ENTERS THE WORLD”.

God has made a man from the ground and out of the man he made a woman. He has placed them in a beautiful garden where there was an abundance of everything they could possibly want or need.

He had given them one restriction. One law to obey. Genesis 2:17.

ADAM and EVE were the only two people who ever lived to have the privilege of perfect bodies with perfect and pure minds, who lived in a perfect environment and who had God himself as a companion and confidant.

With all of this they could not resist the temptation to listen to Satan and disobey God.

Satan came into the garden to try to ruin everything and was successful. This is the greatest tragedy in all of the history of mankind.

1. He tempted them to believe that God would not keep his word and punish them for disobedience.
2. He tempted them to want to be like God and to be able to judge for themselves what was good or bad.

We should learn several very important lessons from all of this.

1. That God knows the hearts and minds of everyone.
2. That God always punishes sin and always means exactly what he says.
3. That man will always try to shift the blame when it comes to sin.
4. That man should believe anything to be right or wrong simply because God says so.

THE RESULTS OF THEIR SIN:

They had a guilty conscience - Their fellowship with God was spoiled - They were driven from their beautiful perfect home - Man was caused to sweat and labor for his bread - The woman was to have pain and sorrow in childbirth.

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In verse 15 God gives the first promise of a deliverer from sin and Satan.

This teaches us that we should always trust the Lord and not follow our own sinful desires nor listen to the lies of the devil.

GENESIS CHAPTER FOUR: “THE FIRST MURDER”.

The first crime against another man is none other than that of murder. God had taught the Law of Sacrifice for sin to Adam and Eve and their two Sons brought their offerings to God. Abel brought a blood offering as God had required and CAIN PREFERED TO BRING WHAT HE THOUGHT SHOULD PLEASE THE LORD. When his offering was rejected and Abel's was accepted by the Lord, Cain flew into a rage and killed his brother.

READ I JOHN 3:12-13. and JOHN 15:18-19.

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Lesson 7: NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD

From the time of Adam's creation to the great flood was 1656 years, according to the genealogy of Adam found in Genesis Chapter 5.

During these almost 16 centuries the world had become greatly populated and very advanced. Great cities had been built and men had become skilled in construction of buildings, metal working industries, music and the arts as well as agriculture. GENESIS 4:17-24. Evidence of all these things has been uncovered by archeologists in the areas described in Genesis which became desert wastelands after the flood.

The BIBLE shows us that the civilization builders and the industrial leaders, as well as the musicians were for the most part Godless descendants of Cain. They trusted in their own wisdom and did everything that seemed good to them and therefore became totally corrupt in God's eyes.

The same thing is true today and has always been. This world is governed and owned, for the most part, by Godless men. They have built their great factories, become famous in the entertainment industry, powerful in government and have religion without faith in the blood of Christ. God is also going to destroy them and their deeds. JUDE 14 and 15.

Lamech, a descendant of Cain boasted of killing two men and had at least two wives in defiance of God's law given in Genesis 2:24. "They two shall be one flesh", not, "they three or they four".

Later on in Genesis 6:1-2, the Godly descendants of Seth (described in chapter 5) began to marry the ungodly and worldly descendants of Cain and God's anger was great against them. Here also, men having more than one wife is suggested in verse two where it says, "And they took wives".

Then as always, when a believer disobeys God and chooses to marry an unbeliever, they become like their ungodly partners or even worse most of the time instead of the ungodly repenting and becoming godly.

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After these things the world became even worse than it was. Genesis 6:5 and Genesis 11-13.

It is very important for us today to understand the conditions of the world and the ways of the people in the days of Noah because this is how we are to know that the return of the Lord is near at hand. MATTHEW 24:37-39.

The LORD said that he was going to destroy all men and purify the earth, but Noah found grace, and through faith in God's word, his family was delivered. Genesis 6:7-8 and 13.

God instructed Noah in just what to do and Noah did exactly as he said. GENESIS 6:14-22 and all of chapter 7.

The first thing Noah did upon leaving the Ark after being in it one year plus ten days, was to build an altar and worship God. God then promised never to send another such flood. Genesis 9:11-13.

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Lesson 8: AFTER THE FLOOD

“Mankind makes a new beginning.” GENESIS 9 and 10.

The Adamic race has been reduced to just 8 souls, and God, through them must set out to populate the earth all over again. Nothing remains from the pre-flood world. No roads, no buildings, no towns and no neighbors any where for these four couples to enjoy.

God has done more than just remove the other inhabitants and their effects. Many things will now be different for men than before. All of the changes which become evident represent something taken away from man because, or as a result of, sin and his natural tendency to rebel against God.

1. People will live much shorter lives.
2. There will now be much more fluctuation of the weather and man must depend upon the rain for his crops to flourish. LEVITICUS 26:3-4.
3. The wild beasts now become man's adversaries and God puts an instinctive fear of man in them to save mankind. GENESIS 9:2.
4. God now demands that men execute those of their own number for certain crimes. No greater falsehood has ever been taught than that God is against capital punishment, for he is the very one who instituted it.

THE ORIGIN OF DIFFERENT LANGUAGES: GENESIS 11:1-9

One other very great and significant change had to be made by the Lord before long. This was “The confusion of tongues.”

God wanted men to move out and inhabit all of the earth but the people after the flood didn't want to do that.

The people said, “Let us build a great tower and a name for ourselves to prevent our being separated.” This seems to have been an act of outright rebellion against God. An act of open defiance to the very one who had once destroyed the world for the very same thing. Proof enough that the nature of men never changes and that all need to be “Born Again” before they can live right.

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These people were saying ,”Let us do as we please,” even as those in our day, who are saying:

1. Let us APPROVE ADULTERY.
2. Let us APPROVE HOMO-SEXUALITY.
3. Let us APPROVE DIVORCE.
4. Let us kill OUR BABIES.
5. Let us denounce CAPITAL PUNISHMENT. This is what is referred to in PSALMS 2:1-5.

God caused the people to separate by changing their languages according to Noah's three sons. GENESIS 10:5, 20 and 31. The descendants of Shem settled there in the middle east and on to the Far East. The son's of Japheth went north to Russia and west to Europe. The son's of Ham went southward and into Africa. This probably took place between 2 or 3 hundred years after the flood. According to the time table given in Chapter 11:10-19, Peleg died 340 years after the flood and this came in his time.

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Lesson 9: THE BEGINNING OF A SPECIAL CHOSEN PEOPLE

GENESIS 11:10-30. God chooses one branch of the family of Noah from among whom he begins to bring out a special people to reveal himself and his will for mankind through.

He chooses the family of Shem. These are the people called “Semites” by the rest of the world, although the term is generally used today when referring to Jews.

In Genesis 11:15 we see the name Eber and it is probably from his time that the name Hebrew began to be used. As early as Genesis 14:13 we see Abraham being called an Hebrew.

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM: GENESIS 12:1-9.

The flood had destroyed a corrupt civilization but another one quickly took its place.

God called one man out from all of the rest to begin to separate unto himself a people through whom he would give the world his word, his will and a savior.

This man's given name was “Abram”, which means High Father. Later on, God changed his name to “Abraham”, which means Father of Multitudes.

In Genesis 12:2 God told Abram that he would make him the Father of a great nation. Later on in, Chapter 17:5, God said he would make him the father of many nations and changed his name to Abraham.

GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS WORD:

1. Abraham's natural seed became the Nation of Israel.
2. Abraham's spiritual descendants are all of those from all nations whose faith is the same as Abraham's and is also counted unto them for righteousness. GALATIANS 3:6-9 and ROMANS 4:16-17. Abraham's faith was in Jesus Christ. Compare GAL. 3:16 with GEN. 22:18.

ABRAHAM'S LIFE: GENESIS 12 - 23.

Abraham stands out as the supreme example of a man living by faith. He went out from his home when God called him out, not knowing where he was going, just trusting in God's divine

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guidance and believing his wonderful promises. ROMANS 4:18-25. He suffered occasional set backs, made painful mistakes, received divine reassurance, was greatly blessed, and came to be called the Friend of God. JAMES 2:23. Read HEBREWS 11:8-19.

ISAAC, THE PROMISED SON:

This is the son which God gave to Abraham and Sarah in their old age. He was a child of faith and his conception and birth were the result of God's miraculous power. GEN. 21:2, HEB. 11:11 and 19. Isaac was always the obedient son and was willing to die at his fathers command. GEN. 22:9. In all of these things Isaac is a type of our savior.

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Lesson 10: THE LIFE OF JACOB.

The life of Jacob is certainly an important chapter in the History of God's chosen people. The Sovereignty and the Grace of God are plainly seen.

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons born to them which they named Esau and Jacob. GENESIS 25:19-26.

Esau was born shortly before Jacob and would normally have received the special honor and blessings which were reserved, in those days, for the eldest son of the family. But God had chosen Jacob to receive these blessings and also to receive the promise which he had made to Abraham and later had renewed to Isaac, that he would be the Father of A Great Nation. ROMANS 9:11-12.

The Biblical account of the Life of Jacob is especially famous for the following four special episodes related within it.

1. How that Jacob sought to possess the birthright of the eldest son by buying it from him for a “Mess of Pottage” GENESIS 25:30-34.
2. How, with the help of his mother, he deceived his father into bestowing upon him the blessing intended for his brother Esau. GENESIS 27.
3. The vision he had of a LADDER or STAIRCASE which reached from Heaven to Earth, old hymns and spirituals speak of “CLIMBING JACOB'S LADDER”, when referring to working their way to heaven. This vision is explained in JOHN 1:51, and confirms that JESUS is the only way to reach GOD. GENESIS 28:12.
4. How that he finally returned home after many years being away, and wrestled all night with the Angel of God, whereupon he surrendered his life to God and began to live for him as he should. Here his name was changed to “ISRAEL”, the name God also gave to the Jewish nation which came from Jacob, GENESIS 32:24-30. According to verse 30 This was Cod himself.

The twelve sons of Jacob became the heads of the twelve tribes of ISRAEL:

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Rueben Judah Gad Zebulon Simeon Dan
Asher Joseph Levi Naphtali Issachar Benjamin

The largest and most famous of the tribes of Israel was the Tribe of Judah which is the one our LORD JESUS came out of. GENESIS 49:10, MATTHEW 1:2 and REVELATION 5:5.

The best known Son of Jacob is Joseph who will be the subject of the next lesson.

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Lesson 11: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

THE STORY OF JOSEPH AND HOW GOD'S PEOPLE MOVED INTO EGYPT: GENESIS Chapter 37 through Chapter 50.

Joseph was Jacob's eleventh son and Rachel's first child. CHAPTER 30:22-24. The

Life story of Joseph in the BIBLE is one of the most beautiful stories ever told. This story ranks, in the field of literature, as one of the greatest classics of all time.

As for Joseph himself, there is no more admirable or wonderful person to be found in all of the OLD TESTAMENT.

From the experiences of this man we learn that God sometimes allows the most faithful and loving of his children to suffer greatly, but that he always has a perfect reason and will always cause their trial to bring to them great blessing in the end which will be more than worth it all. We can see how that God uses even the sins of men to bring about good to his children and how he always honors those who continue to obey him in bad times as well as the good.

CHAPTER 45:7-8.

JOSEPH, A VERY GREAT MAN:

At the age of 17 he was sold into slavery by his own brothers. CHAPTER 37:28. He continued to trust God and to walk with him and became the best slave his master ever had. CHAPTER 39:7-6.

He was falsely accused by his masters wife and thrown into prison. CHAPTER 39:19-20.

He still continued to walk with God and the LORD richly blessed him. By the age of 30 he became the GOVERNOR of the richest and most powerful nation in the world. CHAPTER 39:27 and 41:38-44.

He was thereby able to save his family, the Israelites, from starvation by having them brought down to Egypt, where they were greatly blessed because of him.

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THE THINGS WHICH MADE JOSEPH GREAT:

1. The unchanging love and devotion he had for his family. CHAPTER 42:23-24, CHAPTER 45:1-2 and 14-15, CHAPTER 46:29. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.
2. The way he completely forgave the unjust hatred and criminal treatment he received from his brothers.
3. The kindness and compassion he always showed for others.
4. The total unselfishness he always displayed.
5. His own personal moral excellence. CHAPTER 39:9
6. His wisdom and ability to handle the affairs of a great kingdom.
7. THE MOST OUTSTANDING of all of Joseph's wonderful ways was his constant never wavering, absolute faith and trust in his God.

As a boy he is a shining example for all children. As a young man he conducted himself as all young men should. As a servant he was unquestionably honest and hard working. When falsely accused and put into prison he was an example to all Christians. As a powerful Ruler he remained humble and full of compassion. LET US PRAY FOR MORE JOSEPH'S IN THE WORLD.

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Lesson 12: FINAL LESSON ON GENESIS.

Joseph's life is a perfect example of God's providence and just how he is able to make all things work together for good to those who love and trust in him.

He was sold into slavery at 17 and became ruler of Egypt at age 30.

Ten years later his father Jacob, now called Israel, entered Egypt with the rest of his family to escape the great famine.

For many years the Israelites were treated exceptionally well and were given their own part of Egypt, called Goshen, to live in. There they did multiply greatly both in wealth and number. GENESIS 45:17-21 and 47:6.

Please read the last 3 chapters of Genesis and Jacob's dying words to his sons. We see again the promise of the Savior in Chapter 49 verse 10.

Jacob commanded his sons to take him back home for burial in the family plot and Joseph asked his brothers to see to it that his remains went with them when God led them back out of Egypt. GENESIS 49:29 and 50:24.

Joseph was sure that this would happen because he knew that God had said to Abraham that he would give that land to his children. GENESIS 17:8.

REVIEW:

Please try to answer the following questions and if you cannot then please look back in the lesson sheets to find the answers. They will be a great help to you in remembering the story of the People of God.

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1. What two very important things do we learn about in the BIBLE which can be found no where else?
1 _____ 2 _____
2. What do we believe that the BIBLE actually is?
_____ (lesson 1)
3. What is the main theme of the BIBLE?
_____ (lesson 3)
4. Who is the man we believe God inspired to write the first 5 books of the BIBLE? _____ (lesson 2)
5. What are the two main divisions of the BIBLE called?
1 _____
2 _____ (lesson 3)
6. What do we call the three main divisions of the Old Testament?
1 H _____ 2 P _____ 3
P _____ (lesson 4)
7. Give one of the three most common names used when referring to the first five books of the BIBLE. _____
(lesson 4)
8. Genesis is called, “The Book of _____”?
(lesson 5)
9. God created all things by the power of his _____
Psalms 33:6
10. How long did God work at creating all things?
_____ (lesson 5)
11. From what did God make the first man?
_____ (lesson 6)

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12. From what was the woman made?
_____ (lesson 6)
13. Who tempted them to disobey God?
_____ (lesson 6)
14. Tell two of the things that resulted from their disobedience to God.
1 _____
2 _____ (lesson 6)
15. Name the first two sons of Adam and Eve which are mentioned in the BIBLE.
1 _____
2 _____ (lesson 6)
16. Which of their sons killed the other? _____
(lesson 6)
17. What particular sin is mentioned in chapter 6 that seemed to lead to the corruption of the whole human race?
_____ (lesson 7)
18. Who did God tell to build an ark? _____ (lesson 7)
19. Why did God choose to spare Noah. What reason does the BIBLE give?
_____ (lesson 7)
20. How many people were in the ark?
_____ (lesson 7)
21. What was the first thing that Noah and his family did upon leaving the ark after the flood?
_____ (lesson 7)

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22. Name the place where the people tried to build a tower and caused God to confuse their languages.
_____ (lesson 8)
23. What was Abraham's name before God changed it?
_____ (lesson 8)
24. Name the son born to Abraham by Sarah.
_____ (lesson 9)
25. Name this man's twin sons.
1 _____ 2 _____ (lesson 9)
26. Which one was renamed "Israel" by God?
_____ (lesson 9)
27. How many sons did this man have?
_____ (lesson 10)
28. Who became the greatest of his sons?
_____ (lesson 10)
29. Who sold this great son into slavery when he was just 17 years old?
_____ (lesson 11)
30. Did he hate them later and refuse to forgive them?
_____ (lesson 11)
31. What was the main cause of Israel and his family moving to Egypt from the promised land?
_____ (lesson 12)

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Lesson 12: ANSWERS FINAL LESSON ON GENESIS.

Jacob commanded his sons to take him back home for burial in the family plot and Joseph asked his brothers to see to it that his remains went with them when God led them back out of Egypt. GENESIS 49:29 and 50:24.

Joseph was sure that this would happen because he knew that God had said to Abraham that he would give that land to his children. GENESIS 17:8.

REVIEW:

Please try to answer the following questions and if you cannot then please look back in the lesson sheets to find the answers. They will be a great help to you in remembering the story of the People of God.

1. What two very important things do we learn about in the BIBLE which can be found no where else?
1 Creation 2 God's will for man Where man came from
2. What do we believe that the BIBLE actually is? very word of God (lesson 1)
3. What is the main theme of the BIBLE? to redeem man's soul (lesson 3)
4. Who is the man we believe God inspired to write the first 5 books of the BIBLE? Moses (lesson 2)
5. What are the two main divisions of the BIBLE called?
1 Old Testament 2 New Testament (lesson 3)
6. What do we call the three main divisions of the Old Testament?
1 History 2 Poetry 3 Prophetical (lesson 4)
7. Give one of the three most common names used when referring to the first five books of the BIBLE. The Law (lesson 4)

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8. Genesis is called, “The Book of **Beginnings**”? (lesson 5)
9. God created all things by the power of his **word** Psalms 33:6
10. How long did God work at creating all things? **6 days** (lesson 5)
11. From what did God make the first man? **dirt** (lesson 6)
12. From what was the woman made? **from man** (lesson 6)
13. Who tempted them to disobey God? **Satan** (lesson 6)
14. Tell two of the things that resulted from their disobedience to God.
1 **lost fellowship with God** 2 **driven out of Eden** (lesson 6)
15. Name the first two sons of Adam and Eve which are mentioned in the BIBLE.
1 **Cain** 2 **Abel** (lesson 6)
16. Which of their sons killed the other? **Cain** (lesson 6)
17. What particular sin is mentioned in chapter 6 that seemed to lead to the corruption of the whole human race? **Inter-marriage with the lost**(lesson 7)
18. Who did God tell to build an ark? **Noah** (lesson 7)
19. Why did God choose to spare Noah. What reason does the BIBLE give? **Noah found grace in God’s eyes** (lesson 7)
20. How many people were in the ark? **8** (lesson 7)

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21. What was the first thing that Noah and his family did upon leaving the ark after the flood? **Worshipped God** (lesson 7)
22. Name the place where the people tried to build a tower and caused God to confuse their languages. **Babble** (lesson 8)
23. What was Abraham's name before God changed it? **Abram** (lesson 8)
24. Name the son born to Abraham by Sarah **Isaac** (lesson 9)
25. Name this man's twin sons. 1 **Jacob** 2 **Esau** (lesson 9)
26. Which one was renamed "Israel" by God? **Jacob** (lesson 9)
27. How many sons did this man have? **12** (lesson 10)
28. Who became the greatest of his sons? **Joseph** (lesson 10)
29. Who sold this great son into slavery when he was just 17 years old? **Judah (his brothers)** (lesson 11)
30. Did he hate them later and refuse to forgive them? **No** (lesson 11)
31. What was the main cause of Israel and his family moving to Egypt from the promised land? **famine** (lesson 12)

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Lesson 13: THE BOOK OF EXODUS.

The meaning of the Greek word Exodus is “to go out” or “to depart”. At the beginning of this book, which is a continuation of Genesis, the children of Israel have been living in Egypt for almost 400 years.

Joseph was long dead and a new line of Kings were ruling in Egypt. the Hebrew people were seen to be a real threat to the government because of the way they had prospered and multiplied.

Their freedoms were taken away. Guards and slave drivers were set over them. They were driven relentlessly to do the most strenuous kind of work.

In spite of this cruel and inhumane treatment the people of God continued to multiply. Finally the King commanded that all male Hebrew babies were to be killed at the instant of birth. This is all described briefly but vividly in Chapter one.

Under this set of circumstances and these terrible conditions, a baby boy is born who was to become the most important man in all of the Old Testament.

At different periods of uncertainty and great persecution many people have questioned whether or not it would be right to bring children into the world. We should leave that up to God. Just think, what if you were supposed to have a Moses or a Paul.

Chapter two is the story of this little boy, how God caused his life to be spared, how he prepared him, and educated him for possibly the greatest work that he would ever ask a mortal man to undertake for him.

Moses lived until he was 40 years old in the King's Palace. He was schooled in all of the wisdom of the Egyptians, excelling in every way. Even today men marvel at the learning of the Egyptians. This training would be invaluable to Moses in organizing his people and governing them as they made their way to the Promised Land, for they now numbered more than 2 million.

At age 40 Moses felt the need to renounce his adopted family, to give up the royal life, and to take his place as one of the Hebrews. God, however, was not finished with Moses' education.

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God knew that his people were going to spend 40 years in the desert wilderness. So he caused Moses to have to flee for his life to that very wilderness, and spend the next 40 years of his life learning all about it.

We can read of these things and Moses' faith in ACTS 7:17-30 and HEBREWS 11:23-27. In all of these 80 years during which God was busy preparing this great man to lead his people to freedom, it seemed as though he was doing nothing. We must always remember that GOD never gets in a hurry and is never late. At the same time he was preparing Moses, GOD was also preparing the Land of Canaan, preparing the Hebrew people where they were willing to leave Egypt and face the hardships necessary to take possession of their own land.

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Lesson 14: EXODUS 3 and 4:

The call and commission of Moses by the Lord.

Moses fled to the Land of the Midianites who were descendants of Abraham and Ketura. Abraham married Ketura after the death of Sarah.

Moses was looking after the sheep of a man called Jethro, who became his father-in-law. Here he spent the next 40 years learning the ways of the desert tribes, the sources of food and water, and the lay of the land through which he was to lead the Hebrew people in the long, trying years of wandering between Egypt and Canaan.

One day Moses saw a bush on fire and was puzzled when he noticed that the fire kept burning but the bush was not consumed. When Moses drew near to the bush, he heard the voice of God.

God identified himself to Moses as “The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob”. He went on to say that he had heard the cries of his people and that he was soon going to free them from the Egyptians.

God then revealed to Moses that he had been chosen for the task of being the Leader of all the people of God as well as God's personal spokesman to both the Hebrews and Pharaoh. The work which God there commissioned Moses to do was no doubt the greatest ever to be undertaken by a human leader. But, behind him lay 80 years of training and preparation, as well as the power and authority of the living GOD.

Moses, naturally, felt incapable of such a task but God gave him miraculous signs to perform which would convince the Hebrews of his divine call and authority. EXODUS 4:1-8 God then said, “I will be with you and teach you what to say”. EXODUS 4:10-12. He then gave him his own brother, Aaron, who was an eloquent speaker, to be his helper. 4:28.

Moses and Aaron first went to their own people and established their authority and leadership over them and then went

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to the King and demanded, in God's name, that he let the Hebrews leave the country.

This required a great deal of courage and faith even though they knew that God would surely keep his word and go with them.

EXODUS 5 through 12:

These chapters tell of Pharaoh's stubborn resistance to God's demands and of the ten terrible plagues which God caused to fall upon the Egyptians. God sent these plagues to force Pharaoh to free His people and to assure His people Israel as well as to make His power and His name known to all of the world so that they would be afraid to do harm to his people as they went from Egypt to Canaan. EXODUS 6:6-7, 7:5 and 9:16.

Skeptics would call these nothing more than a series of natural disasters, but the way they increased in severity and came as Moses said they would, exactly when he said they would, could only have meant that they were of and by the hand of ALMIGHTY GOD.

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Lesson 15: EXODUS CHAPTER 12: “THE PASSOVER”

The Passover is the main event in the book of Exodus. Other than the creation, the Passover is the main event of the entire Old Testament.

It is from the Passover Feast that we can best understand that Jesus truly is “THE LAMB OF GOD”, as declared by John The Baptist when Jesus came to him for Baptism at the beginning of his public earthly ministry. For even Christ our Passover, is sacrificed for us. 1 CORINTHIANS 5:7.

This was the first National Religious feast for the Hebrews as the “People of God”. This Passover feast was observed by them before the last plague as God had instructed Moses. The last plague, the death of the first born in every home, was sent upon the Egyptians.

Each Israelite family killed a lamb and applied it's blood over the door to their home as well as on the side posts of the door. That very night the death angel from God came down into the land and took the life of the first born child from every home where there was no blood on the door posts. Those homes where the blood of the lamb had been applied were PASSED OVER and the first born therein was spared. EXODUS 12:23.

This is the outstanding type in God's word of our own soul's salvation. It is the BLOOD OF CHRIST, God's perfect lamb, applied to our hearts by faith, which cleanses us from all sin and delivers our eternal souls from everlasting punishment and separation from God.

EXODUS 12:29-36. It came to pass and the Egyptians had had enough. They sent the Hebrews out of their land with great urgency. The Egyptians also gave the Hebrews much of their wealth to take with them.

EXODUS 13:18-22. The great journey to the promised land had begun. The descendants of Abraham were now free men. The LORD HIMSELF took over the leading of his people, even as he does when we are saved. JOHN 16:13.

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EXODUS 14. God led them to a point of crossing the Red Sea where it appeared impossible. There was impenetrable wilderness on either hand and the Egyptians were coming to attempt to recapture them.

Moses called upon the Lord and was told to “GO FORWARD”. He cried to his people, “Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord”. He stretched out his rod and the sea parted. The Hebrews went across to safety and the Egyptians followed, whereupon the waters were closed upon them and they perished.

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Lesson 16: EXODUS CHAPTERS 14 through 18.

The crossing of the Red Sea marked the real beginning of the Hebrew Nation. This was no longer just a tribe of people struggling to survive, but were now, with God watching over them, a real force to be reckoned with by the rest of the world.

The Lord led them with the pillars of the cloud and fire. He provided for their needs with fresh blessings every day, many times, in a miraculous way. In the evening he brought them quail to eat, and in the morning he gave them Manna from heaven...EXODUS 16:13-15. This Manna which came from HEAVEN to provide for their physical life is a picture of Jesus and GOD'S PROVISION FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE. JOHN 6: 31-35...PLEASE READ.

In EXODUS 17:5-7 there is another picture or type of the blessed Savior as the ROCK of GOD who was smitten for our sins. The Lord told Moses to use his rod and strike a certain Rock. When he did, water came forth for all of the people. This is explained in 1 COR. 10:4. Please read.

THEN CAME AMALEK: CHAPTER 17:8-16.

These Amalekites fought with the people of God and would have prevented them from reaching the promised land. They are a type of the flesh, our most persistent enemy. In this story we see how important it was for the Man of God, Moses, to have faithful men to help him and to stand by him in his work. These two men stood by him and helped him to hold up his hands until victory was assured. This is most likely what the Apostle Paul is referring to in 1 TIMOTHY 2:8..READ.

About this time, in chapter 18, Moses' father-in-law met him with his wife and two sons. CHAPTER 18:5. God leads us in many different ways and Moses was not above listening to good advice. When his father-in-law saw how Moses was trying to handle every problem and settle every difference which arose among the people, he made a very wise suggestion. Read the story of this in CHAPTER 18:18-26.

It is now the third month since the Hebrews had left Egypt. They have now come to the mountain where God spoke to Moses

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by the burning bush. Read EXODUS 3:12. That which had seemed so impossible to Moses when he first heard God say it, had come to pass.

Until this time, God has dealt with his people in love and mercy. EXODUS 19 reveals to the people that if they would continue to have the special blessings and fellowship with God upon them as a people, they would have to learn and obey HIS LAWS.

It seems to be a real surprise to many people, when they are told after salvation that they must obey God's word in order to have his blessings on their lives. But the BIBLE calls it REASONABLE... ROMANS 12:1.

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Lesson 17: EXODUS CHAPTERS 19 and 20

THE RECEIVING OF THE LAW OF GOD

CHAPTER 19:1-8: God declares unto the people of Israel that if they will agree to live by his laws and regulations, in both civil and religious life, He would make them to be His special people out of all the other people on earth, and that He would be their GOD.

Without any hesitation all of the people agreed. They said, “We want God to rule over us. We want His laws to be our laws as a nation. We will worship and obey Him in everything.”

This reminds us of how easy it is at first to say, “I will do anything and everything God wants me to”, before we have heard and been taught all of the particulars of the Christian life according to the word of GOD.

CHAPTER 19:18-19 and CHAPTER 20: Moses prepared the people and gathered them before the Holy Mountain. God came down in a flame of fire. The mountain was covered with smoke, there was thunder and lightning, then an exceedingly loud trumpet blast. With a loud voice which all of the people could hear and caused the earth to tremble, GOD declared unto his people His Holy Law, the TEN COMMANDMENTS. These commandments are God's law for all mankind, for all ages and, therefore, are in full force today.

These laws have to do with man's relationship to God and man's relationship to his fellow man. They are timeless and UNCHANGING. No civilized nation could exist for very long without these laws as a basis for the life of it's people. LET US LEARN THEM BY MEMORY.

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THEY ARE:

1. THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.
2. THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE to bow thyself down to.
3. THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN,
4. REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY.
5. HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.
6. THOU SHALT NOT KILL.
7. THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
8. THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.
9. THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINBT THY NEIGHBOR.
10. THOU SHALT NOT COVET ANYTHING THAT IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.

CHAPTER 20:18-20: All of the People were terrified by the voice and presence of almighty God. They insisted that Moses go up to speak to God alone.

VERSE 21. MOSES THEREFORE DREW NEAR ONTO WHERE GOD WAS WHILE THE REST OF THE PEOPLE STOOD AFAR OFF.

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Lesson 18: THE LAW OF MOSES

EXODUS CHAPTER 20:22 through CHAPTER 31:

GOD gave unto Moses all of the detailed laws for the worship and conduct of His people. God told him to write them down, except for the Ten Commandments, which God wrote in stone with his own finger. Chapter 24:12 and 31:18.

These laws which God gave to his people through Moses, covered three main categories.

1. THE MORAL LAW. The Ten Commandments.
2. THE CEREMONIAL LAW. This contained the details of worship, such as sacrifices, the priesthood, Holy days and seasons and many others.
3. THE CIVIL AND JUDICIAL LAW, These laws covered such things as, civil rights, property ownership, court proceedings and punishment of criminals.

The giving of these laws is one of the most important events in the history of all mankind. Many of the values which are taught in these laws are just beginning to be realized by modern man.

CHAPTER 32. Moses was gone into the mountain at one time for forty days and forty nights. CHAPTER 24:18. He was gone almost six weeks without a word to the Hebrew people. While Moses was gone the people did an almost unbelievable thing. They had decided to wait no longer for God to lead them and were getting ready to leave that place on their own, probably to go back to Egypt.

They said, “We will have to make our own god to lead us”, and melted down their gold jewelry and formed it into the shape of a Calf.

THIS was in direct disobedience to the first and second commandments which they had all heard GOD himself speak. This seems to have been an incredibly stupid, foolish and rebellious thing for them to do.

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THEY BOWED DOWN BEFORE IT, OFFERED SACRIFICES TO IT AND CALLED IT THEIR GOD.

CHAPTER 32:7-14. God was furious and declared his intention of destroying them all. But Moses pleaded with him to spare them. God did spare most of them, but they all suffered much who took part in such wicked disobedience.

CHAPTER 32:25-28. Three thousand of them were killed and many others were plagued by God in ways not described, VERSES 34 and 35.

WE MAY BE SURE OF TWO THINGS, GOD IS NOT MOCKED AND OUR SINS WILL FIND US OUT. NUMBERS 32:23 and GALATIANS 6:7.

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Lesson 19: THE TABERNACLE AND THE PRIESTHOOD

EXODUS CHAPTERS 25 through 40.

These remaining chapters of the Book of Exodus deal with the establishment of formal worship and the building and setting up of the worship center, according to the very specific instructions of the LORD.

The people of God were camped by this mountain for something over one year in order for these things to be accomplished.

The Tabernacle represented God's presence among them and the tabernacle was always located in the center of the camp. This was a portable house of worship and place of sacrifice and everything which pertained to it was designed to be transportable.

God gave to Moses the instructions for just how to build all of these things, down to the very smallest detail, while he was alone with him in the mountain. EXODUS 25:8-9.

This was an enormous and difficult project which anyone can appreciate by reading the instructions for it in EXODUS Chapters 24-27.

God cautioned Moses continually to make everything just exactly like he was told. CHAPTER 25:9 & 40, 26:30, 27:8 and ACTS 7:44.

MOSES did just as God told him to. EXODUS 40:16 and 33.

These things were patterns and figures of God and Jesus and things in heaven and no man dare misrepresent them. HEBREWS 9:19-24.

Men today who are so careless about how they teach others to believe about God and Christ and salvation and the Lord's body, just do not realize what a dangerous and harmful thing they are doing nor yet what a terrible sin they are guilty of.

The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ has today superseded the Tabernacle and the Temple which later took its place, is The Holy of Christ and is not universal or invisible as most men teach

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it to be. 1CORINTHIANS 1:2, GALATIANS 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and many others.

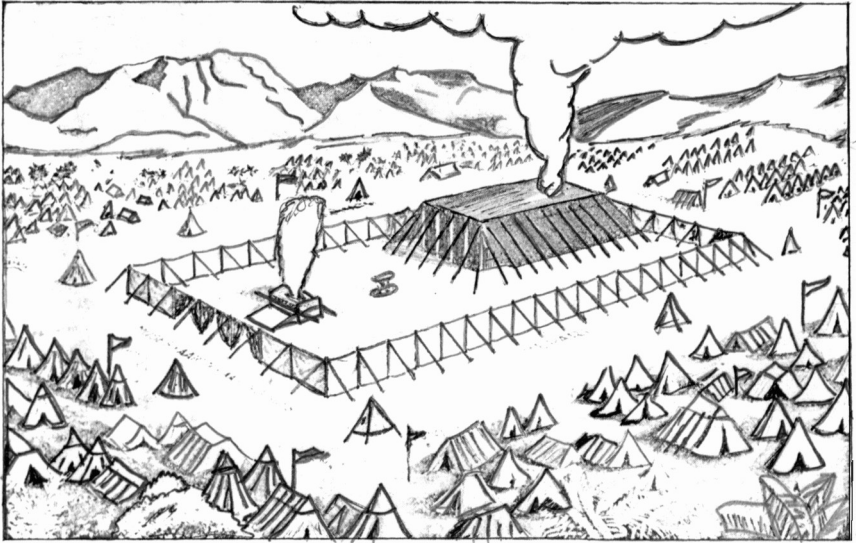
EXODUS CHAPTER 35.

It is very important to see how that God instructed Moses to finance this great project. He didn't tell him to have the women put an a "BAKE SALE" nor for the young people to have a "CAMEL WASHING DAY" nor for some of the people to stand by the trade routes and beg from the caravans which came by. These things shame and dishonor God and his people.

Chapter 35 verse 5 tells how to finance the work and verse 10 tells who is to do the work...When God's people are willing and wise, there will always be plenty of both.

EXODUS CHAPTER 40 Tells of the work being finished and God moving in. Verses 33 through 38.

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ISRAEL ABIDING IN THEIR TENTS IN THE PLAINS OF MOAB—
NUMBERS XXII and XXIII

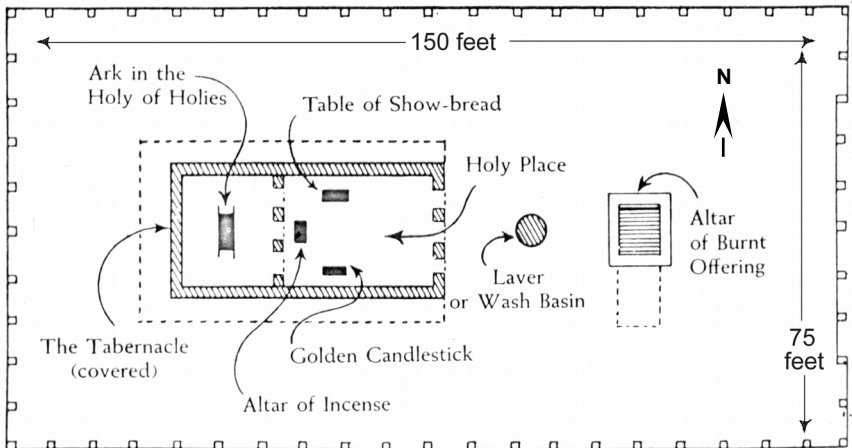


Diagram of the Tent of Meeting. Enclosed within a court were an altar, a laver, and the Tent. Within the Tent were a large room called the Holy Place and a smaller, inner room called the Holy of Holies which contained the Ark of the Covenant.

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Lesson 20: REVIEW OF EXODUS

The word Exodus means “To depart from” or “To go out of”. This is the account of how God delivered his chosen people from slavery in Egypt and began to lead them to the land which he had promised Abraham that he would give them some day.

The book of Exodus was written by Moses as The Holy Spirit of God directed him.

THE IMPORTANT EVENTS TO REMEMBER RECORDED IN EXODUS:

LESSON NUMBER 13.

1. Israel reduced to slavery. Chapter 1.
2. The birth and training of Moses. Chapter 2.

LESSON NUMBER 14.

3. Moses and the Burning Bush. Chapter 3.
4. The ten plagues which God sent upon Egypt. Chapters 5 through 12.

LESSON NUMBER 15.

5. The Passover story. Chapters 12 and 13.
6. The great deliverance at the Red Sea. Chapter 14.

LESSONS NUMBERS 17 and 18.

7. The giving of The Law of God at Mt. Sinai. Chapters 19 and 20.
8. The Golden Calf and Israel's terrible sin. Chapter 32.

LESSON NUMBER 19.

9. The building of the Tabernacle and setting up of the Priests. Chapters 35 through 40.

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QUESTIONS ON EXODUS:

1. Israel's primary task as slaves was to make _____.
2. Moses' Mother made an _____ of _____ and placed him in it and hid him by the edge of the river.
3. How many years did Moses live as a Prince in Egypt? _____.
4. Moses fled from Egypt to the Land of _____.
5. Name the man who became the father-in-law of Moses.

6. What did the Lord tell Moses to remove at the burning bush?

7. God told Moses to tell his people that his name was ____ ____ that ____ ____.
8. Name the first and the last of the ten plagues which God caused in Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let his people go free. 1st _____ 10th _____
9. What name does the BIBLE give for the food that God sent from heaven for the people to gather every morning?

10. Name as many of the ten commandments as you can.

11. Name the three main divisions of the Laws of God.

12. How many days and nights was Moses in the Mountain with God? _____
13. The Offerings of Material and labor for the building of the tabernacle were to be received from those who were _____.

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Lesson 20: ANSWERS

REVIEW OF EXODUS

The word Exodus means “To depart from” or “To go out of”. This is the account of how God delivered his chosen people from slavery in Egypt and began to lead them to the land which he had promised Abraham that he would give them some day.

The book of Exodus was written by Moses as The Holy Spirit of God directed him.

THE IMPORTANT EVENTS TO REMEMBER RECORDED IN EXODUS:

LESSON NUMBER 13.

1. Israel reduced to slavery. Chapter 1.
2. The birth and training of Moses. Chapter 2.

LESSON NUMBER 14.

3. Moses and the Burning Bush. Chapter 3.
4. The ten plagues which God sent upon Egypt. Chapters 5 through 12.

LESSON NUMBER 15.

5. The Passover story. Chapters 12 and 13.
6. The great deliverance at the Red Sea. Chapter 14.

LESSONS NUMBERS 17 and 18.

7. The giving of The Law of God at Mt. Sinai. Chapters 19 and 20.
8. The Golden Calf and Israel's terrible sin. Chapter 32.

LESSON NUMBER 19.

9. The building of the Tabernacle and setting up of the Priests. Chapters 35 through 40.

QUESTIONS ON EXODUS:

1. Israel's primary task as slaves was to make **brick**.
2. Moses' Mother made an **ark** of **bulrushes** and placed him in it and hid him by the edge of the river.

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3. How many years did Moses live as a Prince in Egypt? 40
 4. Moses fled from Egypt to the Land of Midian.
 5. Name the man who became the father-in-law of Moses.
Jethro
 6. What did the Lord tell Moses to remove at the burning bush? Shoes
 7. God told Moses to tell his people that his name was I am that I am.
 8. Name the first and the last of the ten plagues which God caused in Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let his people go free. 1st blood 10th Passover
 9. What name does the BIBLE give for the food that God sent from heaven for the people to gather every morning?
Manna
 10. Name as many of the ten commandments as you can.
-

11. Name the three main divisions of the Laws of God.
Moral, Ceremonial, Judicial
12. How many days and nights was Moses in the Mountain with God? 40
13. The Offerings of Material and labor for the building of the tabernacle were to be received from those who were willing and wise.

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Lesson 21: LEVITICUS:

INTRODUCTION:

Leviticus means “Pertaining to the Levites”. The word originated from Jacob's son, Levi. The tribe of Levi was the one which God chose to provide all of the priests for all of Israel and to them was given all of the care and service of the tabernacle of GOD.

The book of Leviticus was given by God to all Israel but to the Levites in particular because it pertained mainly to their work and offices.

This book gives in detail the many and different types of sacrifices and offerings which God required that his people make to him and just how and when they were to be offered.

If this book is read as just a list of the details of the Jewish religious system, it will seem very dull, but if we study this book to see and understand just how the symbols and figures do picture Jesus and his redemptive work, it will become very rich and interesting.

All of the offerings and feasts of Leviticans, in some way picture Jesus Christ and his atoning work. HEDREWS 8:1-5, 9:23, 10:1-12.

In Genesis we were given the record of Man's spiritual ruin by sin. In Exodus we were told of God providing redemption for many. In Leviticus we are told how the redeemed may worship God.

In Leviticus we are told that there can be no fellowship with God by sinful man until the problem of the man's sin has been taken care of.

All through this book we see that the only way to God for sinful man is through the shed blood of an innocent sacrifice.

The book of Leviticus opens with the people of God still camped by the Mountain of Sinai.

Leviticus deals with two main things which God requires of people.

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1. We see that the way to God is by sacrifice. The sacrifices listed in the first half of this book picture the suffering of Jesus for our sins. It requires all of the different types of offerings listed just to picture our Lord and what he did for us in a shadowy imperfect way.
2. The second half of the book of Leviticus teaches that those who wish to walk with God must live holy and separated lives. They must not so mix with and live like the world as to lose their easy identification as “The people of God.”

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Lesson 22: LEVITICUS

THE BOOK OF SACRIFICE AND SHEDDING OF BLOOD

The world today wants no part in a religion of sacrifice. They want a “bloodless” religion that teaches them that one can be morally right without any sacrificing or shedding of blood.

This we know is impossible.

1. Because God's word tells us so. Leviticus 17:11 makes it very clear that sin and guilt cannot be removed without shedding of blood.
2. We can see for ourselves that all evil comes from seeking to fulfill the lusts of the flesh, without regard to the cost or consequences to ourselves or to anyone else.

THE AWFULNESS OF SIN. If nothing else is seen in these bloody sacrifices, surely the “Awfulness of sin in the sight of God” is. Nothing less than the loss of life, which is pictured in the shedding of the blood of the sacrifices, can possibly represent the covering of or the payment for sin.

ATONEMENT FOR SIN. This word “Atonement”, which is used some 45 times in Leviticus, means primarily, “to cover”.

The blood of the Old Testament sacrifices was never said to bring about the removal of any ones sin or guilt thereof. HEBREWS 1:1-4. Only the “One Sacrifice Forever”, which was made by God's son on the Cross of Calvary, can possibly take away sin and it's eternal consequence.

The blood of the Levitical sacrifices only accomplished the “Covering” of ones sin and pictured his faith to be in the “True Lamb of God” who would some day come and “Take away his sin”, by shedding his own blood on the Altar of God.

Sacrifices never take away sin. The soul is saved when absolute faith is exercised in God's Holy word and one has believed that complete redemption and salvation has been accomplished for them, in and through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

PICTURES OF CHRIST. The sacrifices and offerings of Leviticus are very graphic symbols and pictures of Christ and how

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he accomplished our salvation and redemption through his own life and death as a man.

There are five special groups or types of offerings described in this book which picture the various aspects of the person and work of our blessed savior.

1. The Burnt Offering.
2. The Meal Offering.
3. The Peace Offering.
4. The Sin Offering.
5. The Trespass Offering.

It would be good to memorize these.

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Lesson 23: THE FIVE SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEVITICUS CHAPTERS 1 through 7

1. THE BURNT OFFERING. CHAPTER 1.

This offering symbolizes the complete “giving of himself” by our Lord and his complete dedication to the task of accomplishing our perfect redemption and reconciliation to God. He truly gave his all . PHIL. 2:5-8.

This offering had to be a male with no blemish. In order to represent the perfect Son of God it had to be the best specimen available and also because it was being offered to God it should have been the best a man could find. READ 1 PETER 1:18 and 2:21-24 along with MALACHI 1:1-8.

Every bit of this animal was to be burned up on the altar which shows how entirely our Lord gave his all on the altar of God for us.

2. THE MEAT (meal) OFFERINGS. CHAPTER 2.

These offerings were ground into fine powder or flour to show the absolute flawlessness of the life and character of JESUS.

The mingling with oil did show that the Spirit of God was with him in all that he did.

The frankincense represented just how well pleased that his Father was in everything that he did. READ MATTHEW 3:16-17 and JOHN 10:17.

3. THE PEACE OFFFRINGS. CHAPTERS 3 and 17:11-21

This offering shows the fellowship and communion with GOD enjoyed by the sinner as a result of the effectual sacrifice for sin having been offered to and accepted by GOD.

In this offering, one part was offered directly to GOD and burned with fire, while another part was returned to the worshipper for his own satisfaction and nourishment.

JESUS CHRIST first offered himself to God to pay for our sin and then to us as savior and mediator, and through him we have peace with GOD and even fellowship. HE IS OUR PEACE. EPH. 2:14 and COL. 1:20-21 and 1 JOHN 1:3.

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4. THE SIN OFFERING. CHAPTER 4.

This offering shows CHRIST on the cross taking the sinners place. He was made to be sin for us. By his stripes we are healed. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 and ISAIAH 53:5. This offering was burned outside the camp as Christ suffered outside the camp for us. HEBREWS 13:13.

5. THE TRESPASS OFFERING. CHAPTER 5:1 through 6:7

This was for sins against God and men. With this offering to God, restitution had to be made to the person the sin was against. Restitution is a very important BIBLE Doctrine.

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Lesson 24: THE PRIESTS

LEVITICUS CHAPTERS 8 thru 10

The Tabernacle and the Priesthood were very carefully set up according to the very explicit instructions which God had given to Moses.

These things, along with the offerings and sacrifices, did not evolve or grow with man's experience. All of man's thoughts and ideas only corrupt and detract from the business of serving and worshipping God.

Traditions in religion are nothing more than the evolving of man's thoughts and ideas, and to regard them as any more than that or to rely upon them and to feel that they must be observed is to imply that man has been able to improve on God's methods and means. Let us read carefully and remember always what we are told in ISAIAH 55:8, PROVERBS 3:5-7 and 1 PETER 1:18-19.

There are three very important rules or laws of God for us to learn and remember and observe, here in the book of Leviticus. These are just as true and essential to proper worship of God today as they ever were.

1. God will accept but one right sacrifice for sin. It will be a blood sacrifice. LEVITICUS 17:11 and HEBREWS 9:22. Animal sacrifices are no longer necessary because they were simply types and shadows of the one true sacrifice which Jesus Christ has now made upon the cross of Calvary and fulfilled them all. HEBREWS 9:12 and 10:11-14. God will accept no other sacrifice for sin. ACTS 4:12 and 10:43.
2. The sacrifices we offer to God may only be offered where he tells us to bring them. God chose the Tabernacle door in the Old Testament, the place called Calvary for the sacrifice of his son Jesus, and today, those who have been cleansed from sin by faith in the blood of the lamb, may offer their sacrifices of praise and worship acceptably, only in and through the CHURCH of THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. EPHESIANS 3:21.
3. God required that man approach him through a mediator of GOD'S OWN CHOOSING. The Israelite who desired to

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approach God with a sacrifice was told to bring it to the door of the Tabernacle and put his hand on it's head that it may represent his guilt and repentance and the animal was then killed and the priest offered it to Cod in the man's behalf.

Only Jesus Christ, our high Priest of God's choosing was allowed to make the supreme offering for our sin, as he offered himself upon the cross of Calvary. HEBREWS 5:1-6 and 9:14 and 25.

Today there is no need for a special order of priests after the order of those in Leviticus because there are no more sacrifices for sin to be made. HEBREWS 10:9-10.

GOD CHOSE THE ONE TRIBE OF LEVI out of the rest to care for the tabernacle. God chose the one family of Aaron, Moses brother, to be the priests who offered the sacrifices of themselves and the rest to God. All of the priests and Levites were supported by the tithes and offerings of the others.

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Lesson 25: THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

INTRODUCTION: This third book of Moses is the record of God's People as they wandered in the wilderness because of their inability or unwillingness to walk by faith in God's promises.

This is called the book of Numbers because of the census which God had them to take at the beginning and near the end of it. The first census was taken while they were still camped by Mt. Sinai, Numbers 1:2 and again just before they finally entered into the promised land. Numbers 26:2 and 63. There is about 38 years between the numberings of the people. Because of their unbelief and consequent refusal to enter into the promised land the first time, and God's judgment upon them for it, they were fewer in number at the end of the 38 years than at the beginning.

There is a very practical spiritual lesson to be learned from the study of this book today. God always honors faith and punishes unbelief in his people.

LET EVERYTHING BE DONE DECENTLY AND IN ORDER. 1 CORINTHIANS 14:33 and 40.

God has given the people his laws, the tabernacle has been built, the Priesthood has been consecrated and appointed to their services and now God calls for them to be numbered and assigned each tribe a specific place to camp in relation to the tabernacle and each tribe was to move when the trumpet sounded especially for them. NUMBERS 2:3,10,18 and 25.

The trumpets and their sounds, NUMBERS 10:1-8.

God's presence was in the tabernacle and his children were gathered around him and they only were to move when he said and to rest when he told them to. NUMBERS 9:15-23.

This all seems so perfect and it would seem that these people would surely be able to trust the Lord and follow him after seeing first hand so many great miracles and evidences of his almighty power, but they could not.

This is the sad story of constant murmuring and complaining and rebelling against God by his chosen people.

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This book of Numbers tells of a long period of time, nearly 40 years, in which a whole generation of God's people made no progress and suffered great disappointments and failures, all because of their unbelief. HEBREWS 3:7-19.

It soon becomes very clear to the student of this book that the only way for God's people to be happy and to prosper, both physically and spiritually, is simply to “TRUST AND OBEY”, just like the old hymn tells us.

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Lesson 26: NUMBERS

MURMURING AND COMPLAINING

There is no question that these people believed in God but they just could not walk by faith and trust his leadership. Those Christians who have the same trouble today are the most unhappy of all people living. They cannot be satisfied with the way the word of God and the Spirit of God leads them to walk, and they cannot be any more satisfied by walking the way of the world...

These people who saw more evidence of the power and goodness of God than any people have ever seen besides them, were the most unable to simply trust him to guide them. We are able to see then that faith and trust are not the result of beholding great miracles but hearing and receiving the word of God. People who believe God as they should never have to see anything to prove his power, they never doubt it. All of the evidence they need is what they feel in their heart, ROMANS 10:17 and 2 TIMOTHY 1:12.

These Israelites questioned and doubted everything God led them to do, until even he could put up with it no longer.

Example:

Chapter 11:1-2. God's anger flared up against them.

Chapter 11:4-6 They complained against the “bread from heaven”

18-20, 31-33 God gives them flesh and then they suffered his wrath again, but they still complained against him.

Examples:

Chapter 12 and 16. Moses' brother and sister, the high priest and the first woman's libber, protested against his authority and position being higher than their own and God soon changed their minds.

Two hundred and fifty of the great men of the congregation protested about the same thing and declared themselves to be equally able to know the will of God for his people.

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Each of these accused Moses of taking the position of leadership on his own. The truth is that he tried to talk God out of it but could not. God made it very clear after terrible things happened to many of them, that he would choose who was to lead his people and that he would lead them no other way. We should read these chapters very carefully and see just how serious a matter this is.

NEXT WEEK, THE CAUSE OF THEIR HAVING TO WANDER AROUND IN THE WILDERNESS FOR 38 YEARS. CHAPTERS 13 and 14.

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Lesson 28: WANDERING IN A WILDERNESS

THE CAUSE OF THE 38 YEARS OF WANDERING AROUND IN A WILDERNESS. NUMBERS 13 and 14.

In these two chapters we have the story of the outright refusal of God's chosen people to follow his leadership and to believe that he could give this wonderful land to them.

Twelve men were chosen to go ahead into the land to spy things out. They were to reports on the condition of the land and the strength of the people who inhabited it. CHAPTER 13:1-20.

On their return the spies brought back ripe fruit and the report that it was a rich and fruitful land. CHAPTER 13:21-27.

Ten of the spies brought back a report that discouraged the hearts of the people, They said that there was no way that the land could be taken because the people were too large and fierce and the cities too welt fortified. CHAPTER 13:31-33.

Two of the spies were great men of faith and believed God and pleaded with their brethren to go on into the land and trust the Lord. CHAPTER 14:6-9.

Who were the two men who wanted to go ahead and take the land?

1. _____ 2. _____

What did the rest of the people want to do to these two faithful witnesses?

THESE people seem completely without faith as they readily believe the majority report. The two faithful men along with Moses and Aaron and God bearing them witness were a far greater majority and the people were without excuse and GOD'S wrath was kindled against them.

GOD WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE FERVENT PLEADING BY MOSES IN THEIR BEHALF. CHAPTER 14:11-19.

THE JUDGEMENT OF AN ANGRY GOD ON HIS PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT TRUST HIM:

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\ The Lord pardoned the people in so much as he didn't destroy them, but he declared that they must wander in this wilderness until all who were over twenty years old had died but for the two faithful men, Joshua and Caleb, CHAPTER 14:20-23 and 29-30.

The ten men who gave a bad report and discouraged the people died of some disease by the hand of the Lord. CHAPTER 14:36-37.

Read the attitude of the people and the feelings of God which they provoked. CHAPTER 14:1-4. the attitude of the people.

CHAPTER 14:11-12 with 27-29 and 34-35.

It is just as great a sin today as it was then for us to question the wisdom and profitability of obeying God and living by his word.

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Lesson 28: UNENDING DISOBEDIENCE AND COMPLAINING

A SAD STORY OF UNENDING DISOBEDIENCE AND COMPLAINING.

The rest of the Book of NUMBERS is the story of a people whose lives are wasted for no other reason than that they never believed God enough to live their lives his way.

CHAPTER 33 gives a detailed account of their endless wandering in circles, camping here and camping there and moving often but never getting anywhere.

This will be the result of the life of any true child of God who will not live by his word and be led by his Spirit. Those who just cannot believe that God's way is always the best way for them.

NUMBERS 20:1-12. THE GREAT FAILURE AND DISOBEDIENCE OF MOSES AND AARON.

Israel is murmuring again because of a shortage of water and their dislike for the MANNA from God.

They complained bitterly against Moses and God and again expressed the wish that they were still slaves back in Egypt.

No greater insult can ever be given to God than for his saved people to express, either by their words or their actions, that they were better off before God, in his great love, grace, and tender mercy, saw fit to deliver them.

The LORD told Moses to gather the people around the Rock, to just speak to the Rock this time, and water would come forth. In EXODUS 17:5-6 the LORD had told him to smite the Rock with his Rod to bring forth the water.

God has said that Moses was one of the most humble and obedient men who had ever lived. But, even Moses lost his patience with God's people and in a fit of anger, forgot God's explicit instructions and smote the rock, not once but twice. Verse 10.

Moses had every right to be angry with these people. The pressures of trying to lead such a people to follow the LORD were staggering. But God would not excuse his disobedience. He

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declared that Moses would also die without entering the promised land, just like the others who had not trusted God as they should.

CHAPTER 20:12 and 27:12-14.

It is interesting to note here that Aaron shared in Moses guilt as well as in his punishment. Chapter 20:12 and 24. God considered him equally guilty. He, evidently, didn't remember God's orders either and did nothing to try to stop Moses.

There were at least three things wrong with what they had done.

1. Outright disobedience to God.
2. Letting it appear as though they, not God, had brought forth the water.
3. The ROCK was a type of CHRIST, the only source for the WATER OF LIFE and He was to be smitten only one time for our sins. See JOHN 4:10 and 14 with 1 Cor. 10:4 and HEBREWS 10:10-12.

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Lesson 29: THINGS TO REMEMBER IN NUMBERS:

1. THE ALMOST CONSTANT MURMURING AND OPEN DISCONTENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND HIS GREAT DISPLEASURE WITH THEM BECAUSE OF IT. NUMBERS 11.

Whenever we complain too much about the circumstances of life and question whether God loves us as he should Because of them, we too can expect to feel his anger and suffer great loss

Many times God permits Christians to have things which they just refuse to be content without, and as a result they do not prosper spiritually.

It is very needful for God's people and an outstanding example of true faith for them to learn to be content with such things as they have in this life. READ HEBREWS 13:5-6 and 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-11. This is what the Apostle PAUL said that he had learned by experience. PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13 and 19.

2. THE REBELLION OF MOSES' OWN BROTHER AND SISTER AGAINST MOSES' AUTHORITY AS GOD'S CHOSEN LEADER. NUMBERS 12.

These two people had more reason to believe in Moses divine call than any of the others and yet they turned on him. This teaches the servants of God never to be too surprised at who it is that is suddenly opposing their leadership in the congregation.

There is also warning here to all church members to be very careful lest they find themselves guilty of going against God himself.

3 THE TWELVE SPIES AND THEIR REPORTS ON THE PROMISED LAND AND THE EFFECT THESE REPORTS HAD UPON THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION. NUMBERS 13 and 14.

Only two out of the twelve believed that they should obey God and march in to take possession of the land he had said he would give them. The others rebelled and greatly discouraged the people from trusting the Lord and continuing into the Promised Land.

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What a responsibility they, who do not believe God, take upon themselves, using their influence to turn others from believing Him. The ten who gave the evil report died almost immediately. They were, in a great measure, responsible for all of Israel rejecting God's plan and causing the Hebrew people to wander for 38 years, in sorrow, until everyone over 20 years old had died.

This example proves that the majority is not always right, that, many times, it is the few among the congregation who really believe and try to follow the Lord.

4. THE GREAT REBELLION OF MANY WHO WERE LED BY ONE CALLED KORAH NUM. 16. It is not those who desire God's glory, rather than their own, who try to take over and run things. This was a costly rebellion. 15,000 of them died.

5. THE GREAT MISTAKE OF MOSES IN SMITING THE ROCK OF GOD. NUMBERS 20. This rock represented Christ who was to be smitten only once for our sins. For this reason Moses and Aaron were not permitted to enter the Promised Land.

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Lesson 30: DEUTERONOMY

The last of the five books of Moses

The name of this book means “SECOND LAW”. This does not mean another or a new law, but a restating of the law already given. In this book we have the laws of God, which were given in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, summed up, explained more fully, and made more personal.

This book was written near the end of the forty years God's people had spent living in the wilderness since leaving Egypt. It was just prior to their entering into the Promised Land.

It was needful, at this time, to restate the laws of God for two reasons.

1. This was a new generation, many of whom were not even born when the law was given the first time.
2. Many of the laws pertained to when they were settled and in possession of their own land.

This book of Deuteronomy is referred to in the New Testament, more often than any other Old Testament book. Jesus almost always quoted from this book when referring to “The Scriptures.” For example, LUKE 4:4,8 and 12.

The book contains three farewell addresses by Moses, the account of his death, and the ordaining of Joshua to take his place.

THE FIRST FAREWELL ADDRESS BY MOSES.

“LOOKING BACK” The first four chapters of DEUTERONOMY.

It is a sin to live in the past, but we will never be able to understand the present and prepare for the future as we should, without a good understanding of the past.

Someone has said, “THOSE WHO CANNOT REMEMBER THE PAST ARE CONDEMNED TO REPEATING IT.”

The exact time of this first address to God's people by his faithful servant, Moses, is given in Chapter 1:3. This Grand old man of God is now 120 years of age. He knows that he will not be allowed to go into the land with them, but wants them to go and be

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able to enjoy the blessings of God. He pleads with them not to make the same mistakes their fathers made.

Moses reminds them of God's faithfulness in spite of their sinfulness, and urges them to make a new beginning, as a nation, by being grateful and obedient to God in order for Him to show them his great goodness instead of his displeasure, all of the time.

DEUTERONOMY 2:7 and 4:40

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Lesson 31: MOSES SECOND FAREWELL ADDRESS

DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 5 through CHAPTER 26

In these chapters, the LAW of GOD is explained and enlarged upon and made to apply to daily living.

Having reminded the people of the past, Moses exhorts them to see how necessary it is to obey GOD in the present.

CHAPTER 5:29. This verse clearly expresses the desire of God for his children. “Oh, that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all of my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever.”

What MOSES is telling them is, that God has chosen them because He loves them, that He will take care of them, and that He only asks that they trust in Him and obey Him for their own good.

CHAPTER 7:1-2. He warns them to keep separate from the enemy and not to compromise with them for any reason.

CHAPTER 7:3-4. He warns against marriage between their children and the children of the enemy. The devil is the enemy of all of God's children and Jesus, calling all unbelievers children of the devil in JOHN 8:42-44.

In 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-16, the word of GOD warns against believers marrying unbelievers, likening it to a union between Christ and evil.

CHAPTER 8:11-18. He warns them against forgetting God when the fighting was all over and they were enjoying all of the riches of the land. Verses 19-20 tells what God will do to them if they do forget him.

No wonder God has preserved these saying for us today. We are no different than the Israelites. When times are difficult and we must depend on God for everything, we remember to obey Him, but when times are good we forget. He must sometimes chasten us to cause us to remember.

They are warned never to forget their own past and therefore to be kind to strangers and the poor of their own number. CHAPTER 15:11-15.

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It is very important that we Christian never forget that we are “SINNERS” who have been SAVED by God's grace. We should not scorn those who are still bound by sin.

CHAPTER 16. Moses warns the people not to forsake the formal worship and gathering together before the Lord at his appointed times, as well as the paying of their tithes and supporting of the Priesthood in CHAPTER 18.

READ CHAPTER 12 in connection with these on assembling to worship.

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Lesson 32: THE THIRD FAREWELL ADDRESS OF MOSES DEUTERONOMY chapters 27 through 30.

THE THIRD AND LAST FAREWELL ADDRESS OF MOSES TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CHAPTER 27:1-8. The first thing they must do upon entering their new land was to set up huge stones, to write the law of God on them, and erect an altar to offer burnt offerings to God thereon.

Where ever we may go and for whatever purpose, we must set the proper and lawful worship of God as of first importance and order.

CHAPTER 27:14-26. The laws which they will have to obey in their new land, if they would have God's blessings and not his curses, are briefly stated. All of the Hebrew people say "Amen".

CHAPTER 28:1-14. Here we have the details of the blessings which they can expect from the LORD as long as they obey his word. VERSES 15-68. These verses give, in great detail, all of the terrible things that will happen to them if they should break their promise to live by his word and turn from following after him.

CHAPTER 29. This is a sermon by MOSES urging the people not to take these warning from GOD lightly. Moses is reassuring them that God means exactly what he says, that these things will surely happen if they turn and disobey God, and that they will suffer absolute and complete destruction as a nation and great personal sorrow.

The covenant which these people had made with God is recorded in EXODUS 19:8, 24:3-8 and in DEUTERONOMY 26:16-19.

VERSES 17-28 of CHAPTER 29, where God warns them what will happen to them if they disobey Him, forsake Him, and serve other gods, is exactly what eventually happened to Israel. They did all of those things he warned them not to. They have been scattered among all the other nations of the world. As a people,

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they have had little rest since that time and suffered great persecution most of the time.

CHAPTER 30. In this chapter, Moses tells the people that some day, at the end of the age, God will re-gather them to this land and restore it to it's original fruitfulness and beauty. He tells them that they will confess and repent of their sins and turn completely back to God. They will be forgiven and restored as His blessed people. We are told elsewhere in God's word that CHRIST will reveal himself to them, show them where he was pierced by them. They shall believe and be saved. ZECHARIAH 12:9-10.

CHAPTERS 31-34. These are Moses' final words and deeds. He ordains Joshua, one of the faithful spies in NUMBERS 14, to take his place and to lead the people in taking possession of the LAND WHICH GOD HAD GIVEN THEM. The account of Moses going alone to the top of the mountain with God, his death and burial by the LORD should touch all of our hearts.

CHAPTER 31:15-20 and especially verse 19 tell just how important it is for all people to believe in and obey GOD'S HOLY WORD.

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Lesson 33: Part 1 - REVIEW OF THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS.

GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS and DEUTERONOMY.

FROM CREATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S PEOPLE AS A NATION.

GENESIS

GENESIS 1. The creation of the earth and all things therein in six twenty four hour days.

GENESIS 2. How God made the man and woman. Adam from the earth and Eve from Adam.

GENESIS 3. Man sins against God. God curses the man and the woman and drives them out of the Garden of Eden. God promises to send one through the woman who will destroy the enemy and overcome sin.

GENESIS 4. Two sons born. Cain the eldest, murders his brother Abel. God curses Cain and his descendants.

GENESIS 5. Seth is born and a Godly line of people is established in contrast to the ungodly Cain and his children.

GENESIS 6. The two lines begin to mix. Believers marry unbelievers until the entire race of Adam is corrupted and ruined. NOAH finds Grace in the Lord's eyes. Builds an ark and warns --hiss- fellow man that God's judgment is coming.

GENESIS 7. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives enter the ark. God seals the door, the rains come and every living thing on the earth is destroyed except for those in the ark with Noah.

GENESIS 8-10 Man starts over. Man attempts to build a tower to heaven and make a name for himself. God sends confusion of language and causes men to separate into different groups and to spread into different areas of the world.

GENESIS 12. GOD calls Abraham whom he would make the Father of a great nation and a blessing to all families of the earth for through his seed would come their savior. GOD gives him a son in his old age.

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GENESIS 28-36. God chooses Jacob, names him ISRAEL and gave him twelve sons who became the people of God and later the nation called Israel.

GENESIS 37-50. The story of JOSEPH and how he was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, how God made him to be the most powerful man on Earth and how his father and brothers moved down into Egypt where he could provide for them because of the seven years of famine the world was suffering at that time.

EXODUS

EXODUS 1. God's people had become slaves to the Egyptians and were suffering great abuse and persecution.

EXODUS 2. Moses was born and raised as a prince in the palace of the king.

EXODUS 3. God speaks to Moses at the “ burning bush” and calls him to challenge the King and to lead God's people to freedom.

EXODUS 5-12. God smites the Egyptians with ten terrible judgments or plagues, the last one being the death of the firstborn child of each family in Egypt.

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Lesson 33: Part 2 - REVIEW OF THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS.

EXODUS 12. THE PASSOVER. The Angel of Death is sent through the land of Egypt by the LORD. There is a death in every home in the land except for the homes of the Israelites who believed God and had applied the blood of a lamb on their door posts.

The People of God are set free and urged to leave the country by the Egyptians and to take anything they might need with them.

EXODUS 14. THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA. GOD holds back the waters for his people and closes them on Pharaoh's army.

EXODUS 16. THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN.

EXODUS 17. WATER FROM THE ROCK. A type of Christ.

EXODUS 19-20. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GIVEN. THE VOICE OF GOD IS HEARD BY ALL.

God makes a covenant with the children of Israel. He promises to make them "His Special People" above all other people and to make them an holy nation with his special protection, if they will agree and obey his voice and follow him and keep his law. The people all agree and the covenant is sealed by blood.

EXODUS 21-40. THE TABERNACLE IS BUILT. GOD dwells among his people. The PRIESTHOOD is established and GOD makes Aaron the High Priest.

LEVITICUS

ALL OF THE LAWS for sacrifice and worship and civil government are added to the moral law as well as punishments for disobedience.

NUMBERS

NUMBERS 1-12. The PEOPLE OF GOD come to the Jordan River which borders the Land of Promise.

NUMBERS 13-14. The twelve spies sent to check out the land. Ten of the spies give a bad report and discourage the people from trusting God to be able to give them the Land. ALL of the people

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believe the evil report instead of GOD, and refuse to go in. GOD'S wrath is aroused against his people and he condemns all who are over 20 years of age to die in the wilderness.

NUMBERS 15-36. THIRTY EIGHT YEARS OF WANDERING, REBELLING AND DISCONTENT. MOSES disobeys God and is denied entrance to the promised land, by striking the rock a second time and spoiling the type of Christ.

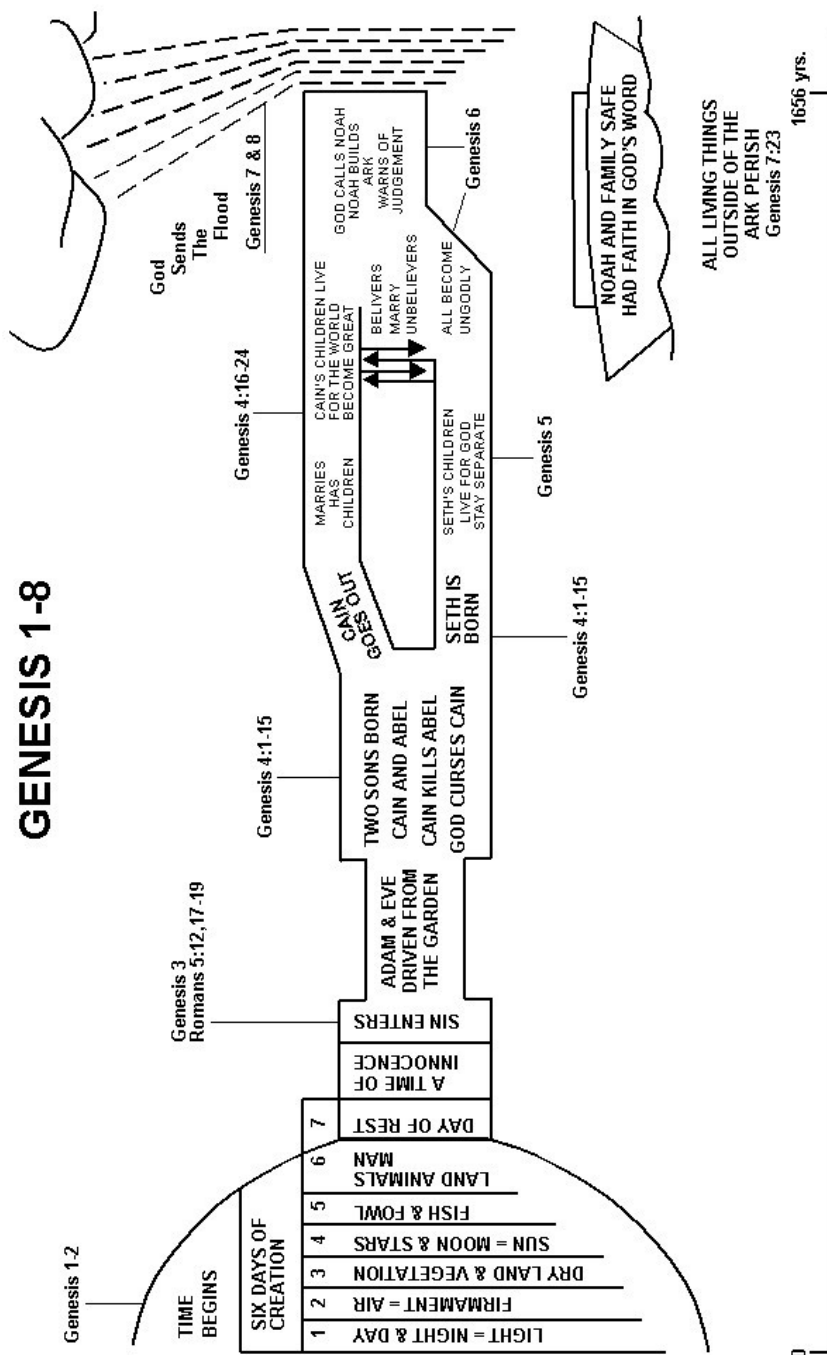
DEUTERONOMY

In this book, Moses preaches the law of God with personal application and reminds the people of their past failures. Jesus points out the great Power of God as well as his mercy, kindness and faithfulness, and urges them to obey him and trust him completely, as they prepare again to enter the Land of Promise.

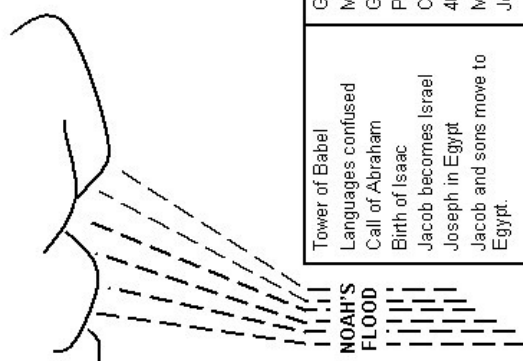
The last chapter tells the very touching story of the death of Moses and then the ordaining of Joshua to take his place.

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GENESIS 1-8



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NOAH'S
FLOOD

<p>Tower of Babel Languages confused Call of Abraham Birth of Isaac Jacob becomes Israel Joseph in Egypt Jacob and sons move to Egypt.</p>	<p>God's people become slaves Moses is born and called God sends plagues on Egypt People granted freedom Cross Red Sea – Receive God's Law 40 years wandering Moses dies and Joshua leads across Jordan and conquers the land.</p>	<p>Anarchy The time of the Judges Othniel – first of Judges Among others judges are; Shamgar, Gideon, Samson, and Samuel The last of the Judges</p>	<p>The time of kings Saul – First king of Israel David – builds a strong central government and military force. Solomon – Leads Israel to her greatest glory. Builds God's temple</p>
<p>GENESIS: Chapters 7 through 50</p>	<p>EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY, AND JOSHUA</p>	<p>JUDGES to SAMUEL 7</p>	<p>I & II SAMUEL I KINGS 1-7, I CHRONICLES and II CHRONICLES 1-9</p>

2463 B.C.

1500 B.C.

1000 B.C.

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Lesson 34: EVENTS QUIZ

SEE IF YOU CAN PUT ALL OF THE EVENTS ON THE RIGHT IN THEIR PROPER ORDER.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1. _____ | A THE DEATH OF MOSES |
| 2. _____ | B THE FLOOD |
| 3. _____ | C THE BIRTH AND CALL OF MOSES |
| 4. _____ | D THE CREATION OF THE WORLD |
| 5. _____ | E THE TOWER OF BABEL |
| 6. _____ | F THE GIVING OF THE LAW |
| 7. _____ | G THE CREATION OF MAN AND WOMAN |
| 8. _____ | H THE BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE |
| 9. _____ | I CAIN KILLS ABEL |
| 10. _____ | J GOD'S PEOPLE IN SLAVERY |
| 11. _____ | K THE CALL OF ABRAHAM |
| 12. _____ | L THE PASSOVER |
| 13. _____ | M JACOB NAMED ISRAEL |
| 14. _____ | N THE FIRST SIN |
| 15. _____ | O NOAH BUILDS THE ARK |
| 16. _____ | P THE RED SEA CROSSING |
| 17. _____ | Q THE STORY OF JOSEPH IN EGYPT |
| 18. _____ | R WATER FROM A ROCK AND MANNA FROM HEAVEN |
| 19. _____ | S UNBELIEF AND FAILURE TO ENTER THE LAND OF PROMISE |

1.D, 2.G, 3.N, 4.I, 5.O, 6.B, 7.E, 8.K, 9.M, 10.Q, 11.I, 12.C, 13.L, 14.P, 15.R, 16.F, 17.H, 18.S, 19.A

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Lesson 35: THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

THE CONQUEST OF THE LAND OF CANAAN.

The first five books take Israel to the River of Jordan which is the eastern border of the Land of Canaan.

The book of JOSHUA takes them into the land and settles them there where they remain for nearly one thousand years.

THIS BOOK covers the entire time that Joshua was GOD'S leader over his people. He was given the task of leading them into the Promised Land, conquering all of the cities and driving out all of the inhabitants thereof and dividing up the land among the different tribes.

All of this covers about 25 years and ends with the death of JOSHUA, one of the greatest Generals of all time.

The book begins with Joshua taking over to complete the job which Moses had begun. MOSES IS DEAD BUT GOD IS NOT THROUGH. When one man passes off the scene, GOD always has another one prepared and ready to take his place. JOSHUA had been the chief assistant to Moses for most of the years since leaving Egypt's bondage.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA MAY BE DIVIDED INTO THREE main PARTS.

1. CHAPTERS 1 through 5: "ENTERING THE PROMISED LAND."
2. CHAPTERS 6 through 12, "CONQUERING THE LAND."
3. CHAPTERS 13 through 24. "DIVIDING AND SETTLEING THE LAND."

This Book tells of many great battles and many glorious victories for the People of God. God promised them victory, but they had to put on their armor and take up their weapons and engage the enemy in battle in order to get it.

GOD HAS PROMISED HIS PEOPLE VICTORY TODAY ALSO, but we cannot expect our old sinful nature, Satan or the world, to give up without a fight.

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This fight will continue as long as we are in these bodies, living here on Earth, but we know we shall be victorious if we stay close to God and follow his leadership.

THIS Land of Canaan, known in History as Palestine, was no larger than our state of Maryland, less than 90 miles at it widest point and about 150 miles in length.

There were, however, many large and well fortified cities within it's borders.

Scholars estimate that JOSHUA and his men needed about six years to completely conquer the land.

This 25 years is a very important part of Israel's history and the BIBLE.

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Lesson 36: ENTERING THE LAND

JOSHUA CHAPTERS 1 through 5. “ENTERING THE LAND”.

CHAPTER 1. VERSES 1-9. GOD ASSURES JOSHUA THAT HE WILL BE WITH HIM EXACTLY THE SAME WAY HE WAS WITH MOSES. He promises him complete victory over any and all enemies and warns him not to deviate from the law he has given.

Joshua was a mighty man of faith, with great courage and military know how. EXODUS 17:9-13. He had been Moses-assistant and military commander for 40 years EXODUS 24:13. HE WAS ONE OF ONLY TWO MEN who were still living of all who had been at least 20 years old when God had led them to Canaan land the first time, 38 years earlier. NUMBERS 14:29-30.

Joshua was well prepared tried and proven, and chosen of God to take the place of Moses. NUMBERS 27:15-20. GOD speaks directly to Joshua now as he had spoken to Moses before him NUMBERS 12:6-8.

VERSES 16-18. The people promise to obey and to follow Joshua as he leads them in the name of the Lord and pray for God to be with him. The only hope for God's people to ever be in his will depends altogether upon their having God's chosen man to lead them, and their willingness to follow and to stand behind him.

CHAPTER 2. Two spies were sent out by Joshua whose lives were saved by a woman named RAHAB at the risk of her own because of her faith in their God. They promised to save her and her household when they returned and Joshua honored their promise. Verses 18-20 and Chapter 6:17.

This woman's daring act of kindness, showed her belief in Israel's God and that is what saved her. Her name is found in the genealogy of CHRIST and is listed among the heroes of faith . MATTHEW 1:5 and HEBREWS 11:31.

CHAPTER 3. “CROSSING THE JORDAN.”

The people are now ready to enter the land and are faced with the Jordan river to cross at flood stage. The people lined up behind the ARK of GOD which was carried by the priests, in faith

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and obedience, not knowing how they would be able to cross the river. GOD waited until the feet of the Priests were in the water before holding back the waters of the river so that they could cross. This is what FAITH AMOUNTS TO obeying and following GOD, without regard to present circumstances. VERSE 4 gives one very good reason for just following the Lord. “Ye have not been this way before.”

CHAPTER 4 tells of the memorials which God instructed them to erect. It is very important that we don't forget what God does for us.

CHAPTER 5. Before going to battle with the enemy, they performed those religious duties they had been neglecting and which marked them as the people of GOD.

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Lesson 37: THE MILITARY CONQUEST

THE MILITARY CONQUEST OF “THE PROMISED LAND”.
CHAPTERS 6 THRU 12.

“THE FALL OF JERICHO”. CHAPTER 6.

After we are saved by faith, we must keep on having faith for all things, for without faith it is impossible to please GOD. HEBREWS 11:6.

The disciples of Jesus prayed that he would increase their faiths LUKE 17:5.

1. FAITH will lead us to first seek to know the will and word of GOD.
2. FAITH WILL then lead us to obey without question.
3. FAITH in GOD'S leadership will give us assurance of victory from the outset.

“THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.” HEBREWS 10:38.

GOD gave JOSHUA very explicit instructions for the taking of Jericho. JOSHUA and the people obeyed and did just as God directed them. THEY marched around the city, once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day.

They never spoke a word as they marched. VERSE 10. It is so hard to obey GOD in the little things that it seems could not possibly effect the outcome. Why should this be so? How do we know which of GOD'S instructions may safely be disobeyed.

In the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus told the Church to teach people to do all things he had commanded them to, whatsoever they were.

ON the seventh day, after the seventh time around, before anything had happened, JOSHUA told the people to give the shout of victory. WHEN they did, the walls fell down and they took the city ... FAITH ALL OF THE WAY...

EVEN so will FAITH bring us sure victory today. WE must believe whole heartedly with ABRAHAM, that what God has promised, he is able to perform. ROMANS 4:17-22.

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CHAPTER 7. “FAITH DISABLED BY SIN.”

ONE MAN SINNED BY TAKING WHAT GOD HAD FORBIDDEN THEM TO TAKE CHAPTER 6:18-19.

This shows us just how careful we all must be in the LORD'S CHURCH. What effects one of us, effects all. Achan alone had sinned but GOD said they were all guilty. VERSES 1 and 11. THIS illustrates the great importance of CHURCH DISCIPLINE. WE should want to see all offenders disciplined because their sin will bring defeat to the whole church. VERSE 24 shows us that ACHAN'S family were guilty with him for covering up his sin.

CHAPTER 9. “THE GREAT DECEPTION” This is an interesting chapter which tells how JOSHUA and his advisors were fooled by the GIBEONITES into sparing their lives when God had said to destroy them. They were deceived because they didn't seek the counsel of GOD but rather trusted their instincts. MANY CHURCHES AND PASTORS have been deceived into worldly compromises, especially when it comes to methods of service, and allowing that which appeals to the flesh.

CHAPTERS 10-12. FAITH. assures victory but everything gained must be fought for. THE WORLD, OUR OWN FLESH, AND THE DEVIL, WILL NEVER JUST GIVE UP.

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Lesson 38: DIVIDING THE LAND

JOSHUA CHAPTERS 13 through 24. “DIVIDING THE LAND”.

JOSHUA proves to be a faithful servant of God, a great soldier and general, and a very able and fair administrator.

Not many men have been able to be all of these things, even from among the other great men of the BIBLE.

Probably the most difficult of all the great tasks he was called upon to do, was the proper division of the Land to the people.

This would ordinarily be a thankless task in which it would be impossible to please everybody. This situation is different from most however, in that there was far more rich and fruitful land than there were people. THERE WAS SIMPLY MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY TO BE PERFECTLY HAPPY.

This will be true of all us children of GOD when we get to heaven. We will have abundantly above all that we could ever ask or even think, so that there will never be the slightest complaint from anyone.

We should be just as contented in this life, and will be as long as we are able to believe that our GOD is giving us just exactly what is best for us.

Let us accept our lot with thanksgiving and put away grumbling and complaining, and run with patience the rest of the race that is set before us.

CHAPTER 14:5-14. Here we have Caleb, the other faithful spy besides JOSHUA who had lived to enter the promised land, asking to be given the most difficult part of the land to conquer. NUMBERS 14:29-30.

VERSE 8 gives his testimony that from his youth he had “WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD HIS GOD”. VERSE 10 tells that he is now 85 years of age and just as strong in body and spirit as he had ever been. VERSE 12 tells of how he asked to be given the stronghold of ANAK to conquer which had so frightened the other spies the first time. NUMBERS 13:33.

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CALEB didn't want special treatment nor an easy task. He was old but he gloried in doing the most difficult things for the Lord. HE believed like the Apostle Paul, IF THE LORD BE WITH ME, THEN I SHALL BE ABLE. VERSE 12.

We should stop praying for the Lord to remove mountains from our path but just that he give us strength to climb over them.

THE LEVITES: Only the tribe of LEVI were not given ownership of any land.

CHAPTER 13:14 and 33. The PRIESTHOOD OF GOD was their inheritance.

CHAPTER 18:17. Theirs was the business of ministering to the people. They read the Law of God to them and officiated in the offering of sacrifices. A FULL TIME MINISTRY is needed and should be provided whenever possible. THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIVE AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE with the rest of God's people providing for them. This is why they made deacons in the first church, when they became great in number. ACTS 6:1-4

CHAPTERS 23 and 24. JOSHUA IS OLD AND HIS WORK IS FINISHED. He reminds the people of all God has done and issues a great challenge. Chapter 23:6-15 and 24:14-15. READ GOD'S great Eulogy of JOSHUA, Chapter 24:31.

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Lesson 39: THE BOOK OF JUDGES. Part 1

This book is a continuation of the story of God's people in their own land after the death of JOSHUA.

This is a very dark part of Israel's history. A story of defeats shame and terrible disgrace.

During this time of “THE JUDGES”, there was no king or any form of central government in the land. This was a time when “EVERY HAN DID THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN SIGHT.” CHAPTER 17:6 and 21:25.

The Israelites became disorganized and worldly and forsook the LORD and even served false gods. Their greatest mistake was in not driving out all of the inhabitants of the land. CHAPTER 1:21, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 33.

CHAPTER 2. This chapter is actually a summary of the entire book.

VERSES 7-9. These verses cover the time from JOSHUA'S death until the next generation.

VERSE 10. Another generation arose which knew not the LORD and had not seen any of His great works themselves. Doesn't it seem very sad that one generation is never able to learn and profit as they should by the experience and teaching of the previous one?

VERSE 11-13. They forsook the LORD and served false gods.

VERSES 14-15. The anger of the LORD was hot against them and He delivered them into the hands of their enemies round about them. We have all seen many second generation Christians forsake the LORD and have seen them become the slaves of the devil. Let us pray and hope for God to have mercy on them and some day deliver them as He did the Israelites.

VERSES 16-19. After allowing their enemies to oppress them for a few years, the LORD would have pity on His people and raise up a judge to deliver them. He would be with that JUDGE and bless His people through him as long as he lived. When the JUDGE would die, the Israelites would soon turn away

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from following the LORD and the same thing would happen all over again.

This happened 10 times to Israel over a period of about 300 years. God's people it seems, never learn.

SPIRITUAL LESSONS: After “CROSSING THE RIVER” or entering into our spiritual inheritance and life, by faith in Christ, we are in danger of letting down and compromising with the enemy. This will bring much needless suffering upon ourselves if we do. GOD's people must deny all ungodliness and separate ourselves from all the wrong influences we possibly can. Just a little social drinking, a little sexual permissiveness, a little time with lost friends and a little immodesty can lead to total ruin. 1 COR. 5:6.

We also can learn from this that God's people are only blessed and safe as long as they obey God and follow Him through His appointed leader.

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Lesson 40: THE BOOK OF JUDGES. Part 2.

The Israelite people, at this time, had the greatest opportunity ever given to any people in the history of GOD'S creation, other than Adam and Eve.

They had the opportunity and privilege to be governed as a nation by GOD Himself, and to live under the most perfect and peaceful conditions possible since the Garden of Eden.

If they would only have their kept promise to Him and obeyed His laws and followed His leadership, God would have kept His promises to them, and let them live in perfect peace and happiness.

There would have been no sickness in all of the land and everyone would live to a full age. God would have caused all of their enemies to flee from before them. EXODUS 23:25-27. He had promised them prosperity and fruitfulness in every way. There would be no "Hard Times" and no seasons with too much or too little rain. LEVITICUS 26:3-6. Even their cattle and sheep and other animals would be free from sickness and none would be barren.

Beside all of these things, they would have enjoyed the continual presence of God among them. LEVITICUS 26:11-12.

However, as we learned in the previous lesson, the Israelites failed to follow and to obey The LORD as completely as they should have. They didn't drive the enemy completely out of the land nor did they even destroy all of their places of worship. GOD therefore allowed these heathen idolaters to remain among His people to prove and to test their loyalty and devotion to Him. JUDGES CHAPTER 2:20-23 and 3:4.

The Bible is so true when it teaches that a little leaven (sin) will soon leaven the whole lump, 1 CORINTHIANS 5:6, and evil communications corrupt good manners, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33.

Just a little gambling, a little alcohol, a little sexual license, a little wrong company, etc, will some day lead to total ruin if not forsaken.

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CHAPTER 3:5-14 tells a story which was basically repeated over and over by the Israelites for the next 300 years or more. The natural, fleshly lusts of God's people always seemed to be stronger than their love and devotion for Him.

CHAPTER 6. The story of Gideon is a good example of how God would have mercy on His people and give them a man to lead them out from the hands of the enemy.

These men called “JUDGES” whom GOD called to lead His people, were very ordinary people, with no formal or special training. They were just ordinary men who believed God and were willing to be used by Him to save His people. 1. GOD chose him. CH. 6:12. 2. God told him what He was calling him to do. CH. 6:14. 3. GOD promised to be with him all of the way. CH. 6:16.

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Lesson 41: THE BOOK OF JUDGES. Part 3.

CHAPTERS 7-8. These chapters describe how that God used just 300 men, under the man he had chosen to lead them, to conquer 135,000 of his enemies.

Gideon had started with 32,000 volunteers but through the various methods of testing them which God had told him to use, their number was reduced to the three hundred most dedicated.

Men make a great mistake in thinking that God is only interested in great numbers of men to help us defeat the enemy. GOD is not looking for help but simply for men who are willing to be used as instruments in his hands.

It is very important for us to understand here that this great victory was not the result of the methods used but because they trusted God and followed his instructions to the letter.

CHAPTERS 13 through 16. This is the woefully sad story of Samson and his unwillingness to surrender to the Spirit of God and keep his vows to God.

CHAPTER 13. God gave Samson to a Godly couple who prayed for GOD to show them just how he should be trained up. VERSES 8 and 12. God told them that he was to be a Nazarene from birth on. VERSE 5. We are told in the book of NUMBERS Chapter 6:2 that a Nazarene is one who vows to separate himself unto the LORD until a certain service has been accomplished, and verse 5 tells that the symbol of their separation would be not cutting their hair. For their hair to be cut before finishing what they had vowed to do for the Lord would end their separation and mark them as failures.

Samson's trouble was that he never took his vows as seriously as he should have and never really dedicated himself to accomplish GOD'S purposes at any cost.

CHAPTER 14.

VERSE 1-4. He defied both his godly parents and god by choosing to marry a daughter of god's enemies, contrary to god's law. DEUTERONOMY 7:3.

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Both chapters 14 and 15 show how Samson was more interested in foolishly indulging himself and getting revenge on his enemies than he was in doing what God had chosen for him to do.

CHAPTER 16. When anyone sets out in rebellion against God and his word without realizing their sin and repenting of it, they will just go from one sin or foolish mistake to another worse one.

Samson fell in love again with an unbeliever named Delilah and allowed her to make a complete fool out of him and bring about his downfall. He was already guilty of breaking his vow of separation and when Delilah cut his hair off and his identity as GOD'S servant was gone completely, both because of his conduct and his appearances the enemy was able to overcome him. GOD WITHDREW THE SPECIAL POWERS AND GIFTS WHICH HE HAD GIVEN HIM. VERSE 21 shows how pitiful he had become who started out with such promise.

VERSES 22-31. Samson repented and accomplished in death what he could not in life.

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Lesson 42: THE BOOK OF RUTH.

These books of Ruth and Esther are the only two in the Bible which are named after women.

CHAPTER 1. This chapter gives us all of the background details of the story to be told.

An Israelite man of the tribe of Judah whose name was Elimelech and his wife Naomi, took their two sons and left their own land and people to “sojourn” among the ungodly in the Land of Moab, because of a famine.

They had not planned to stay very long but Naomi was there for ten years. Her husband had died and her sons married there and then they both died.

For Elimelech to have taken his family away from the rest of the people of God because of temporary hard times was a great mistake. In so doing he had taken them away from the place the LORD had led them and had promised that he would bless them. They also left the proper worship of God which may only be done IN HIS APPOINTED WAY, and at HIS APPOINTED TIMES, in HIS APPOINTED PLACE. DEUTERONOMY 12:13-14, and 16:1-13 and 16.

We may safely say that the premature deaths of this man and his sons, was nothing else but GOD'S discipline upon them. Chapter 1:13, 20 & 21. No matter how difficult the circumstances may be, the only right place for GOD'S people is in his will, where he wants them.

Whenever we leave that place where God is with us to go out into the world away from him, we must expect to pay a great price.

VERSE 6. Naomi decides that it is time to go home.

VERSES 7-13. Naomi's daughters in law would both have went with her but she urged them to stay in their own country with their own people. To this we say, “BEWARE OF THE ADVICE OF THE WORLDLY MINDED CHRISTIAN.” She would send them back to worship their false god's and to marry a heathen .

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VERSES 14-18. Orpah loved her Mother in law but not more than her own mother or homeland and she turned back, but Ruth stayed with NAOMI. RUTH was moved by far more than love for her mother in law. She had come to trust in THE TRUE GOD and Was being led by him, and wanted to serve him with the rest of his people.

Giving up the old life to follow JESUS, which sometimes yet requires some to give up their own family and friends is painful and difficult but GOD will always bless and take care of those who do. READ MATTHEW 16:24-27 and 19:27-29.

VERSES 19-22. These verses reveal the bitterness of Naomi's heart. She is not yet in the right spirit and seems to be blaming God more than self. The key thought for us to remember here is the words of Naomi in Verse 21, “I went out full and the LORD has brought me back empty.” After her husband died she became fully responsible to get herself and her sons back with GOD.

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Lesson 43: THE BOOK OF RUTH

CHAPTERS 2-4.

These remaining chapters tell a love story which is a beautiful and practical illustration of how the SON OF GOD became a near kinsman to all of us by becoming one of us by births and how he paid the full amount due for our sins, which we could never have done , and with his own shed blood bought our souls back for God.

CHAPTER 2. RUTH went out to glean in the fields to provide food for herself and her mother in law, because they were very poor.

DEUTERONOMY 24:19-22 and LEVITICUS 19:9 explain the law of God's people which gave the poor the right to go into a man's field and gather the leftovers and what was dropped or missed by the reapers. This was called leaning.

GOD led Ruth to the field of Boaz for them to get acquainted with each other because he had chosen Boaz to be the one who would redeem her husband's inheritance and to marry her and raise up a child in her husband's name.

NAOMI'S husband, Elemelech, had mortgaged their lands during the famine and now Ruth is the heir to them. The Old Testament law provided that a near kinsman had the right to buy back or to redeem property which had been lost due to poverty, in the name of the one who had lost it and to keep it in the family it had been given to by the Lord. LEVITICUS 25:23-25. When a man died having left no heirs, his brother or near kinsman who was not married, could marry the widow and their first born child would be given the name and inheritance of the dead man. DEUTERONOMY 25:5-10.

A careful reading of these chapters will show that Ruth was a wonderful person. She was a virtuous and pure woman, humble and willing to work to support herself and her mother in law. CHAPTER 2:2,10 and 13. WE SEE ALSO that Boaz was a kind and generous? God fearing man full of integrity and honesty . He admired Ruth because of her love and devotion to Naomi and her

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willingness to leave her own people, and for her faith in the true God. CHAPTER 2:4, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16.

CHAPTER 3. NAOMI instructed Ruth in the law and custom of God's people concerning the kinsman's rights of redemption, and when she lay at the feet of Boaz in that manner she was claiming her right to ask him to redeem her property and to marry her. BOAZ was very flattered and happy. He felt it was Ruth who was being kind to him because he was an older man. VERSE 10. IT IS VERY EASY TO SEE the hand and providence of GOD in all of this. 1. SHE HAPPENED TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT FIELD. 2. THEY WERE BOTH ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER AND DESIRED THE SAME THING. Kindness, virtue, humility, and FAITH in the LORD, are far more important than age or looks when seeking a mate. They married and had a son who became King David's grandfather and fleshly ancestor to our Lord Jesus. We all were as Naomi and Ruth, both hopeless and strangers, until JESUS came and bought us on Calvary and God granted unto us repentance and faith in him after hearing the blessed Gospel. EPH. 2:12-13 & 19.

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Lesson 44: THE BOOK OF 1 SAMUEL.

This book is named for the last of the JUDGES of the Israelite people. Samuel became one of Israel's greatest leaders. He led his people to renounce the worship of all false gods and to return to the proper worship of JEHOVA who delivered them from bondage and gave them their own land.

This book begins in the time of the judges and ends with the death of SAUL, Israel's first king. We are introduced to three major characters in this book: SAMUEL, SAUL, AND DAVID. Nearly everything in this book has to do with these three men.

THE first part of the book tells of the birth, childhood and early ministry of Samuel.

1. THE BIRTH OF SAMUEL. Chapter 1:9-11 tell of his mothers servant prayer for God to give her man child. In those days it was a sign of God's displeasure with a woman who was childless. EXODUS 23:25-26. Each Hebrew woman also secretly hoped to be the mother of the promised Messiah. Knowing these things, we can better understand how desperately Hannah wanted to have a son.

When she went before Eli the priest, she was so distressed and weeping and groaning that he thought her to be drunk. VERSES 10 and 13-17.

GOD answered Hannah's prayer and gave her a son whom she called SAMUEL, which means, "Asked of God". VERSE 20.

HANNAH kept her promise to GOD and took Samuel while he was still a very young boy to live with the high Priest, to be his attendant and helper. CHAPTER 1:26-29 and 2:11. MANY people have surely promised to dedicate their children to the Lord who never gave it another thought after they were born, but God will hold them all accountable.

2. SAMUEL'S early years with Eli. He lived in a corrupt environment. Eli had failed to discipline his sons and even to win them to know the Lord, and they were very evil. CHAPTER 2:12, 17, and 22.

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As Samuel grew it became very evident that he was different and very special. With everyone knowing of the wickedness of Eli's sons, Hannah must have worried much about him but God had put him where he was to prepare and to train him for his life's work as religious and political leader of all Israel. Chapter 2:18-19 and 26.

CHAPTER 2:27-36. God sent a messenger to warn Eli of what he was going to do to him and his sons because he had allowed them to (10 what they did, and that he would raise up a Priest that would be faithful to him to take the place of Eli. VERSES 29 and 35 especially.

WHEN SAMUEL was still a very young boy God called him and gave him a message for Eli the high priest...CHAPTER 3:1-15.

SAMUEL GREW UP WITH THE LORD BLESSING HIM AND TALKING TO HIM AND TEACHING HIM until it was plain to all of the people that he was GOD'S PROPHET. CHAPTER 3:19-20.

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Lesson 45: 1 SAMUEL CHAPTERS 4 through 15.

CHAPTER 4. The nation Israel whom God had raised up to represent him and to be especially blessed by him, are defeated and disgraced by the enemies of God because of their sins against him. Much of the blame must be laid upon ELI because if he had been a faithful and just leader, God would have blessed his people through him.

The nation was defeated, the high priest and his sons were dead and the “ARK of the COVENANT”, which was the symbol of GOD'S presence with them, was taken away.

These are the conditions under which the staggering responsibilities of the spiritual and political leadership of God's people fell upon Samuel's young shoulders. But God had prepared him well and his faith was strong. Through his faithful leadership the people were revived and restored to favor with God.

Two things marked the life and work of Samuel. 1. He was always without any question, “GOD S MAN”. 2. HE was a man of PRAYER. He never started to do anything until he had carefully sought the LORD for guidance and strength.

WHEN the people of God had grown weary of suffering for their sins and were ready to repent, GOD had a man ready to show them the way.

CHAPTER 7.

VERSE 3. SAMUEL went about preaching that before they could expect the LORD to bless them again, they would have to repent of their sins against him and put away all false gods and the worship of them. Mere confession of sin is never enough to restore a right relationship with God. There must always be true repentance or a real turning to GOD from wrong practices. Separation from the world is still necessary today if we want God to bless. 1 CORINTHIANS 6:17 and 2 CHRONICLES 7:14.

VERSE 4. The people heard and obeyed and gathered before the Lord and confessed their sins and disobeyedly. **VERSES 4-6.**

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VERSES 7-14. The Enemy came after them again which he always will do whenever we get right with God and promise to live for him.. This time the people pleaded with Samuel to pray to God for them and went to do battle. Samuel prayed to the Lord for victory and God heard him because the people had repented and gotten those things out of their lives that kept him from blessing them before. The enemy is defeated and they had peace all of the days that Samuel was their Judge and they followed the Lord through him.

VERSES 15-17. SAMUEL didn't Just sit at home but he went from city to city in a regular circuit to teach them and show them the ways of the LORD.

CHAPTERS 8 through 15. As Samuel grew older and it became obvious that his sons were not faithful men and would not lead the people in the right way, as their father had the people came to Samuel and asked him to set up a kingdom over them like the other nations had. God didn't want his people to be like the other nations but in this matter he told Samuel to give them what they asked. GOD made it very clear whom he had chosen to be king and Samuel anointed him and presented him to the people. CHAPTER 9:17 and 10:24. SAUL started out well but his fear of people and insane jealousy of DAVID led him to disgrace and failure.

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Lesson 46: 1 SAMUEL CHAPTERS 16 through 31.

CHAPTER 16. David is secretly anointed to be the next king.

With King Saul disregarding God's orders and making one foolish and costly mistake after another, God instructed Samuel to go to Bethlehem and to the house of Jesse, the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. Jesse had eight sons and God had chosen one of them to be the next king. VERSE 1.

God chose David the youngest of the eight brothers. David was a very handsome young man who had absolute faith in the Lord and was very brave. David was also a very talented musician, singer, and song writer and was inspired of God to write many of the Psalms. God immediately began to prepare young David for the day he would be king. VERSES 11-13.

CHAPTER 17. DAVID and GOLIATH.

Goliath was a giant of a man about nine feet tall and David was still a very young man. Though there were many mighty men of war among the children of Israel, not a single one felt that he could defeat this giant in man to man combat. VERSE 11.

David's offer to accept the challenge and face this man, armed only with his shepherds staff and sling was an unheard of act of bravery and faith in the LORD. VERSE 32.

CHAPTERS 18, 19, and 20. The King tries to kill David.

David's victory over Goliath made him the hero and idol of the entire nation and the King became very jealous of him. The more popular David became with the people the more jealous Saul became and he began to try to kill David but could not watch over him. It is very important to note in these chapters that David treated Saul with honor and respect even though Saul hated him ... 18:14.

The friendship between Saul's son Jonathon and David and how Jonathon tried to protect David from his father, is one of the most beautiful stories of friendship in all of history. Chapter 18:1 and all of Chapter 20.

CHAPTERS 21 through 31. David's years of exile and Saul's death.

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David was forced to become a fugitive and live the life of an outlaw for several years. He gathered a band of 400 to 600 men who fought with him and followed him until the death of Saul. Most of these men were in his service the rest of their lives. He didn't forget they When he became King.

The great character of this young man is shown when at least two times he could easily have killed Saul and went home. Please read Chapter 24:10 and 26:9-11.

During this time when Saul was beyond help, old Samuel died. Chapter 25:1.

Saul's faulty and uncertain leadership brought confusion to the nation and the Philistines were encouraged to come against them once more and were victorious. Saul was seriously wounded and fearing capture and torture he took his own life. Chapter 31: 3-6.

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Lesson 47: 2 SAMUEL

DAVID'S RISE TO POWER AND REIGN AS KING.

CHAPTER 1. DAVID mourns the death of Saul and his son Jonathon. David, in his early years had looked up to Saul and learned to love him. When Saul later became consumed with jealousy and tried to kill him, David continued to treat him with love and respect and truly mourned because of his death. This shows us that David truly was a man after God's own heart, a very special kind of person. READ MATTHEW 5:43-46.

CHAPTER 2. David is made King of his own tribe Judah while Ishbosheth, one of the sons of Saul, becomes king of the other eleven tribes.

CHAPTERS 3-4. There was war between the two kingdoms for seven years but the Lord was always with David. Chapter 3 verse 1.

CHAPTER 5. DAVID IS CROWNED KING OF ALL ISRAEL. It had been more than twelve years of hard trials and painful disappointments since Samuel had told the boy David that God had chosen him to become Israel's next King, and now at last it had come to pass. He had been God's choice all of the time and now has become the people's choice as well. CHAPTER 5 verses 1-6.

CHAPTER 6. David immediately establishes Jerusalem as the capital city and center of worship for God's people and has the ARK OF THE COVENANT brought there. The ARK represented the presence of God with his people and also contained the great symbols of his power and blessings toward his people. These were: The original stone tablets upon which God himself had written the Ten Commandments, the Pot of Manna which never spoiled, and the Rod of Aaron which had blossomed and bore fruit.

CHAPTERS 7-10. These chapters tell of David's victories, over all of the enemy nations round about Israel and his establishment of a strong central government and great kingdom as God led and protected him. CH.8:6. Be sure to read the story of MEPHIBOSHETH in Chapter 9.

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CHAPTERS 11-12. These chapters tell the story of David's terrible sin and it's never ending consequences for him. Every child of God should study these chapters very carefully and prayerfully and take warning. They tell of how one of the greatest men who ever lived stooped to the very lowest levels of sin and hypocrisy. David's sin of adultery with Bathsheba is not only a great blemish on his life but also has been used as a reproach upon God's children in all ages. Even today ungodly men use his failure as occasion to speak against God and those 'who choose to follow him and live for him. The words of Nathan, the Man of God, to David tell it all. Chapter 12 verse 13 and 14. PSALMS 51 is David's prayer for mercy and restoration.

CHAPTERS 13 -24. God forgave David and continued to give him victory over his enemies and to strengthen and establish his kingdom, but he paid dearly all of the rest of his life for the disgrace he had brought upon himself and God's people by yielding to the lusts of his flesh. The greater the influence of the one committing the sin, the greater sin it becomes. The baby boy died, 12:18. His loving daughter was raped by her brother, 13:14. Another son had the guilty brother killed, 13:28-29. His son Absalom turned traitor and tried to take the kingdom away and kill David his own father, 15:13-14 and 18:32-33. David's poor heart was broken over and over again as he continued to reap what he had sowed.

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Lesson 48: 1 KINGS.

CHAPTERS 1-11. THE LIFE AND REIGN OF KING SOLOMON.

Under David Israel had become the most powerful nation on Earth at the time and under Solomon it became the most wealthy.

Solomon was David's son by Bathsheba, the woman he had taken unlawfully but who became his wife after the death of her husband. David had other sons who it would seem should have come before Solomon in a line of succession to the throne, but David chose Solomon with God's approval.

CHAPTER 2:1-4. These words of wisdom by the dying king to his son make up the best possible advice that any father could ever give or that any man could ever hear. David had made many mistakes but his absolute faith in God and his word can never be questioned. Solomon loved the Lord and believed these words from his father to be right in the beginning, but must have forgotten them along with much more he had learned about God and his law as he got older and the temptations multiplied.

CHAPTER 3:5-14. God appeared to Solomon soon after he became king and asked him what he would desire the most for the Lord to give him. He asked that the Lord give unto him an understanding heart whereby he would be able to always make the right decisions in ruling over God's people. Verse 9. God was so pleased that Solomon had not asked for riches and honor or a long life for himself, that he gave him promise of these also. This agrees with the teachings of JESUS in Luke 14:11, "He that humblers himself shall be exalted", and MATTHEW 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all of these things shall be added unto you."

CHAPTER 4:20-34. No other kingdom in the history of the world of comparable size, has ever been as rich and prosperous as that of Solomon's. These verses give a fair picture of Solomon's wisdom, wealth and power. According to God's promise, Solomon's wisdom in leading his people to peace and prosperity, proved greater than any other man until the Son of God himself

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came to this earth . MATTHEW 12:42 ... Jesus said, “Behold a greater than Solomon is here.”

CHAPTERS 5-7. The building of the TEMPLE of GOD was by far the greatest of all the other things undertaken and achieved by Solomon. Seven years he was in building it. It was in that day, the greatest most expensive building ever built by pen and because of the great amount of pure gold in it, none of the nations on earth today could afford to build such a building.

CHAPTERS 9-10. These chapters give many details of the wealth and splendor of Solomon's kingdom. He developed and controlled, by land and sea, much of the commerce of the entire World of his day ... Chapter 10:22-24.

CHAPTER 11. Solomon's great wisdom did not seem to apply to his personal life. He disobeyed God's law in marrying many strange wives who worshiped false gods. Verses 4-8 tell the sad story of how even a man so endowed with wisdom as Solomon, could make such a ruin of his life by failing to stay true to God and his word. READ NEHEMIAH 13:26. God's anger was aroused and he warned Solomon but Solomon refused to listen and God began to bring about the downfall of his Kingdom. Verses 9-11 and 14, 23, and 25.

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Lesson 49: 1 KINGS CHAPTERS 12 through 22.

CHAPTER 12. "THE KINGDOM TORN APART".

Upon the death of Solomon his son Rehoboam was about to be made King. The people came to him and made an earnest request for him to lighten the terrible tax burden which Solomon had put upon them, and promised to serve him faithfully if he would. VERSES 1-4.

This spoiled and foolish young man listened to the counsel of the wise old men and then to that of his reckless young friends. He didn't seem to know enough to seek God's will. He took the wrong advice and spoke harsh and scornfully to these sincere men whereupon they led all but the tribe of Judah to revolt against and reject Rehoboam as their King. VERSES 5-11, and 19-20. The ten tribes which revolted made Jereboam their King and he led them back into Egyptian Calf worship which caused Israeli eventual and permanent ruin. VERSE 28. Just so have most young men been ruined by listening to their foolish young friends instead of their alders.

CHAPTER 13. THE TRAGIC COST OF DISOBEDIENCE BY A YOUNG PREACHER.

This is the story of a fine young MAN OF GOD who believed a lying old compromising preacher and disobeyed God and lost his life. How sad it is when a compromising older preacher will encourage young preacher to follow them just to further their own cause.

CHAPTERS 17 and 18. ELIJAH STANDS UP TO KING AHAB AND JEZEBEL.

Chapter 16:30-33 tell of AHAB becoming King of Israel and how evil and ungodly he was. He had married the woman Jezebel and the worship of her god called BAAL.

GOD raised up ELIJAH, one of the most fearless and bold of preachers and prophets of God who ever lived. ELIJAH faced up to the wicked King and declared to him that there would be neither dew nor rain in the land until he said so. CHAPTER 17:1. This brought on a great famine and CHAPTER 17:2-24 Tell how

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God then miraculously provided for his servant Elijah during the famine. Especially read verses 4, 15-16, and 22-24.

Over three years later Elijah confronts the King and challenges him to a meeting on Mt. Carmel where it would be proven who really was the true God. God pours out fire from heaven in answer to Elijah's prayer and consumes both the Altar to Baal and the one to himself. CHAPTER 18:36-39.

CHAPTER 19. GOD'S TENDER CARE OF HIS OVERWORKED PROPHET.

After such a great victory, Elijah is filled with fear because of Jezebel's threat on his life and runs away into the desert and stops under a JUNIPER TREE and asks God to just let him die. 19:1-5. God doesn't rebuke him but tenderly cares for him and restores his strength. READ VERSE 18.

CHAPTER 21:1-16. THIS IS THE STORY OF AHAB & JEZEBEL STEALING POOR NABOTH'S VINEYARD. God then sends Old Elijah to pronounce his terrible judgment upon them. 21:17-20 and 23.

CHAPTER 22. Verses 41-50. This book ends with the account of one of the few good kings over God's people. This was Jehoshaphat, king of JUDAH. Much more may be learned about him in 2 Chronicles chapters 17 through 20.

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Lesson 50: 2 KINGS.

This book covers the remaining years of history for the two kingdoms into which God's people had been divided, until they were totally defeated and carried away from their land as captives.

The northern kingdom which was called Israel had 19 kings in its 200 and some years of existence all of which were idol worshipers and very evil men.

The southern kingdom which was called Judah lasted over 300 years, having 20 kings. Judah was not quite as evil and ungodly as was Israel and of her twenty kings, seven were mostly good and tried to lead the people to follow God.

CHAPTERS 1 through 2:11. These verses give the final works of Elijah and the beginning of Elisha's ministry in his place.

Every student of God's word should carefully read chapter 2, which tells of how the LORD took Elijah to Heaven without dying, in a Chariot of Fire. Enoch is the only other man who went to heaven without dying. GENESIS 5:24 and HEBREWS 11:5. These two men are types of those believers who will be living on earth just before the time of the tribulations who will be caught up to meet the LORD in the air. 1 THESSALONIANS 4:14-17.

CHAPTER 2:12 through Chapter 13. These chapters tell mostly of Elisha's ministry and the miracles he performed in the name of the LORD. In 2:23 where the term, "little children is used", it is important to know that the original language denotes them as young men.

There are many wonderful lessons in these chapters and carefully. ESPECIALLY THE FOLLOWING:

4:8-16. "The great Woman of Shunam". She made special provision for God's man.

5. The wonderful story of the healing of Naaman's leprosy.

6:13-17. The opening of one's eyes to behold the are always around us when we need them.

7. The story of how God frightened away the enemy just before his people all would have starved to death and how he used leprous men to tell the good news.

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9:30-37. The terrible death of evil Jezebel. Just the way God foretold.

13:20-21. The Elisha and how even his bones were used by the Lord.

CHAPTERS 14 through 17. These tell of the gradual decline and final destruction of the Northern kingdom. Read especially chapter 17:7-18 where we are told of the sins of this people, for which the LORD caused their downfall.

CHAPTERS 18 through 20. Judah was blessed with revival under good king HEZEKIAH. 2 CHRONICLES CHAPTERS 29 through 32 gives many more details of this revival .

CHAPTERS 21 through 25. One more good King tried desperately to turn Judah back to God but he succeeded only temporarily. They found that they were so steeped in worldliness and sin that they were unable to stay true to God for very long. The story ends with Judah also being conquered and carried away. HOW SAD. All Because they couldn't stay true to God and say no to the world.

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Lesson 51: 1 and 2 CHRONICLES .

Much of the material found in these books has already been given in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 KINGS.

The books of 1 and 2 KINGS gave the history of both the Northern and Southern kingdoms, but 1 and 2 CHRONICLES deals only with the Southern or Judah. This was the throne of David which Christ is the rightful heir to and will re-establish in the latter days upon this earth, upon his return.

It is believed by most Bible Scholars, that these books were written when many of the Jewish captives were allowed to return and resettle their land. They could be considered a sort of refresher course in the history of David's kingdom from the time it was established until it's fall.

The long period of captivity, which was 70 years for most of them, made necessary for these things to be reaffirmed for new generation.

SPECIAL LESSONS IN 1 CHRONICLES:

CHAPTERS 1 thru 9. These Jews who were returning to the land of their fathers, would be able to regain ownership of the land which had been given to their families when the Israelites first conquered the land.

None of the land could be sold permanently, but according to God's law had to be returned to the original family ownership every 50 years. LEVITICUS 25:11-13 and 23. Land could be sold for only the years remaining until the JUBILEE.

These GENEALOGIES in the first nine chapters would help establish who owned what land.

CHAPTER 17. This chapter tell that it was David's own desire and not God's command, for a permanent "House of God" to be built. Verses 1 & 6. God would not permit David to build the house because he had been a "Man of War" and shed much blood, but he would let his son Solomon build it. CHAPTER 22:8-9.

CHAPTER 22. This tells about David gathering the materials and preparing them for SOLOMON to build the temple with.

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CHAPTERS 23 and 24. Here we have the genealogies of the Priests and the duties of the different families. This was needed because the priesthood was also hereditary.

CHAPTER 29. This is a great chapter on giving. It tells how willingly and generously the people gave both their goods and their abilities for the building of GOD'S HOUSE.

SPECIAL LESSONS FOUND ONLY IN 2 CHRONICLES

Chapter 7:14 Here is God ' s great promise to forgive and restore lost blessing when his conditions are met.

CHAPTERS 14, 15, and 16. These chapters must be carefully studied by all who desire to learn more about living by faith.

CHAPTER 20:15. Victory is certain if the battle we are in is the LORD'S.

CHAPTERS 29-31. Good King Hezekiah and how God blessed him.

CHAPTER 36. How God's patience ended and he gave his people over to their enemies. Verses 15 And 16.

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Lesson 52: THE BOOK OF EZRA.

The people of God have been captives for as many as 70 years because of their disobedience to God and their worshipping of other gods , which they had vowed that they would never do. The one sin which contributed the most to their downfall and their turning to false gods was that of wrong and unlawful marriage to those of other faiths.

God had sent one prophet after another to warn them, and bad caused terrible things to happen, but they would not change. God therefore allowed the destruction of their country and the captivity of all survivors as we are told in 2 CHRONICLES 36:15 through 17.

The book of Ezra should be divided into two parts:

Part one: Chapters 1 through 6 and Part two: Chapters 7 through 10.

The first six chapters tell of the first group of Jews being allowed to return to their own land to reclaim and resettle it.

The last six chapters tell of Ezra and his ministry and the work he undertook restoring in Israel the true worship of God. Between Chapter 6 and chapter 7 there is an interval of approximately 60 years.

PART 1.

God had foretold through the prophet Jeremiah, just how long the captivity would last. JEREMIAH 29:10 through 14. He even told Isaiah the name of the ruler who would give them their freedom before he was even born. ISAIAH 44:28. The people just were not listening or caring what God's preachers were saying.

CHAPTER 1. Verse 1. Cyrus had conquered Babylon and formed the PERSIAN EMPIRE. VERSE 2. Tells how God caused him to declare freedom for all Jews and gave them the holy vessels that had been taken from the Temple of God: and called upon others to give them any help they would. VERSES 2 through 11.

CHAPTER 2. This is the record of names of those who returned at this time which was close to fifty thousand all together. VERSES 64 and 65.

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CHAPTER 3. After they were all situated they gathered together in Jerusalem and built the altar of God and prepared to begin again their worship of God in the way He had instructed them by Moses.

The Altar of Sacrifice is the heart and foundation of all true worship of God. Our Lord Jesus offered up himself as the one sacrifice forever. HEBREWS 10:12-14.

The feast of Tabernacles was the first one due to be observed after the altar was rebuilt. This seems especially fitting because it served to remind them of their humble beginnings when they wandered for forty years in the wilderness and dwelt in tents out of necessity.

VERSE 8 through 13. A few months later they began the foundation of the temple. After the foundation only had been built the people stopped to praise God for his wonderful mercy and shouted for joy. There were many of the older ones who had seen and even served as priests in the magnificent temple which Solomon had built, and they were grieved as they thought of what was and even could still have been, if God's people had stayed true to him. VERSE 12.

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Lesson 53: EZRA, Part 2.

CHAPTER 4. The heathen neighbors in the land around Jerusalem resented the return of the Jews and tried to hinder them in the or work. The best way to hurt the work of the Lord is from the insides and these people said, “Let us help”. Verse 2.

The leaders of God's people would not let them take part in the work of the LORD for many reasons. Ungodly, unbelieving people will hinder and not help in the work of the Lord, and God doesn't need their help. God has always enabled his own people to give and to do all that was necessary for his work.

It greatly dishonors God for those claiming to be his people to stand in public places and solicit help from the ungodly. This is also true of selling cakes, cookies, ice cream, car washes or any other thing in order to finance any undertaking in God's name.

Then the adversaries hindered them in getting the supplies they needed and troubled them in any way possible. Verse 4. Finally they hired counselors and sent letters to the king, protesting the work and falsely accusing GOD'S people of all kinds of rebellion. Verses 11-16. They finally succeeded in stopping the work for a period of about 15 years.

CHAPTER 5. Then the two preachers, HAGGAI and ZECHARIAH exhorted and encouraged the people to not give up. VERSES 1 and 2. And God kept stirring them up until they received authority to finish the Temple. VERSE 5.

CHAPTER 6. Another man becomes King and has the matter checked out and found the first decree of Cyrus which was given in Chapter 1. He orders the work to be allowed to continue and issued his own decree ... VERSES 7-8. After about four years the work was finished and the temple of God completed.

Special note should be given to verse 14, where it tells that the preaching of these two prophets caused the work to prosper. God's people must have a faithful declaration of the word of God in order to stay spiritual and faithful.

CHAPTER 7. A time period of almost 60 years passes with no further progress being made and EZRA, a direct descendant of

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Aaron the first High Priest makes request of the king to go to Jerusalem with authority to restore and establish full and correct worship of God and observance of his laws by the people the people who had gone back there. VERSE 6. His request was granted and he was given all he might need and full authority. Verses 18-20 and 25-26.

CHAPTER 8. Under the direction of God Ezra gathered able men to go with him and then called a fast and prayed for God's leadership and protection in this tremendous undertaking, which should always be done. VERSE 21-23.

CHAPTER 9. When Ezra and his group arrived in the Land they found a sad and very disappointing situation. Those first Jewish people to return to the Land and rebuild the temple, had freely intermarried with their idol worshiping neighbors. The very thing which caused God's wrath against them in the first place.

Verses 1 and 2. Ezra was astounded, Verses 3-4. He confessed their sins to God, verses 5-15.

CHAPTER 10. They repented, put away their strange wives and made sacrifices to God. God means business and we will not prosper in disobedience to his word.

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Lesson 54: THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH.

NEHEMIAH was a Jew who had been born in exile and had been very successful and risen to the high position of official Cup Bearer to the King of Persia.

CHAPTER 1. VERSES 1-3. Nehemiah was told by his brother that the people who had returned to Israel were suffering great affliction. That the walls of the city of Jerusalem had never been repaired and that they were at the mercy therefore of their enemies round about them. This bad news made Nehemiah very sad and he wept and mourned and fasted and prayed to God about it for several days.

CHAPTER 2. VERSES 1-3. Four months later he was still so full of sorrow that it showed on his face and caused the King to ask him the reason for it, which he explained with much feeling and sincerity.

VERSES 5-8. Nehemiah then asked for permission and authority to go to Jerusalem and lead in Rebuilding and repairing the walls and gates, so that his people could once more defend themselves and the city against their enemies.

The King gave Nehemiah everything he asked. Verse 8. This was according to the “GOOD HAND OF GOD”, which was upon Nehemiah to cause him to feel so strongly about these things that he should want to leave his comfortable position and go to Jerusalem, and undertake this tremendous task himself.

VERSES 11-20. Nehemiah went to Jerusalem and quietly checked everything out and determined what needed to be done and the best way to do it, before telling anyone what he was going to do. He then challenged his fellow Israelites to join in the work of rebuilding the walls of their beloved city. He then took over as Governor of his people there and Ezra kept to the business of teaching the Word of the Lord.

CHAPTER 3. The task seemed impossible for them in the light of their small number and equipment as well as the fierce opposition of their enemies. Nehemiah urged them on and organized the work so that each group had one particular job to do and not to worry about the rest. If we will each one just do our part

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to the best of our ability, God's work will always get done and we will always be fully blessed.

CHAPTER 4. VERSES 1-3. The enemy was furious and ridiculed them by saying that any wall they could build would fall down when a little fox walked upon it. This may seem a small thing to most readers of God's word, but the devil has probably caused more people to deny the Lord and quit the work through ridicule than any other thing.

VERSES 4-15. Nehemiah just prayed to God and kept urging the people on. When the enemy planned to attack them by surprise, God seen to that the Israelites were always tipped off. Verses 11-12. They then worked around the clock with sometimes one hand to work with while holding their sword in the other. Verse 17.

CHAPTER 5. There was also much wrong among themselves which had to be made right. Our enemies without cannot harm us as much as our own wrong treatment of and lack of love for one another.

CHAPTER 6. The work was finished in just 52 days, CAUSING even the enemy to admit that it had to be the work of Cod himself.

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Lesson 55: NEHEMIAH

Part 2. CHAPTERS 7 through 13.

CHAPTER 7. Jerusalem is now a large and well fortified city and Nehemiah sets up a security system and appoints his own brother and another trusted and capable man to be in charge. verses 1-3.

VERSE 4. Not nearly enough of the Israelites had taken up residence within the city of Jerusalem to properly defend it or to do the work of carrying out the judgments of God and providing for proper worship of him. Something needed to be done to remedy this.

VERSES 5-73. Nehemiah gathered together all of the names of the men and their families who had returned to the land from Captivity, and one out of every ten of them were asked to leave their homes and move into the city, according to chapter 11 and verses 1 and 2. This would be a great sacrifice for some of them but it seems they were willing to do it for the sake of their people and their city and above all, their GOD.

CHAPTER 8. The beginning of a great revival and return to living by GOD'S WORD. VERSES 1. Here the people gather themselves together and call upon Ezra and those who helped him, to read and to explain the word of God to them.

Ezra and his men read the word of God to them and explained it's meaning, from 6:00 in the morning until 12:00 noon and this caused the people to weep and to sorrow greatly, because they had not understood nor kept God's law as they should, have. Verses 3, 8, and 9.

VERSE 10. Ezra and Nehemiah encouraged the people to stop weeping and start rejoicing because the Lord had spared them and given them repentance and another opportunity. to live for him. HERE is a great truth which they tell to God's people in Verse 10. "THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH." Not the joy of the world and this life, but the joy of a right relationship with GOD.

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CHAPTERS 9-10. This great revival continues through these two chapters and results in the people gathering again and making a new covenant with God to live according to his word and to correct all things that were presently wrong. CHAPTER 9:1-3, 38, and 10:29. They promised especially to enter into no more wrong marriages, to pay all the tithes and support the priesthood, and to properly observe the laws of the Sabbath.

CHAPTER 12. Finally the time is right for the dedication of the walls, which is accomplished with great companies of people and pomp and ceremony. VERSES 27-43. This served to remind the people again of the great work which God had done for them.

CHAPTER 13. NEHEMIAH HAD GONE BACK TO Persia to make his report to the King, according to the time they had agreed upon in Chapter 2:6. While he was gone, the people had lapsed once more into the same old sins which had caused all of their suffering and they had so recently promised God they would never do again. Nehemiah wasted no time in correcting each situation. It may seem humorous to us in the way he went about it but it certainly wasn't easy for him. Read this chapter carefully, especially noting verses 8, 10, 21, 25, and 28. GOD'S SHEEP must have a shepherd and he the man of GOD'S choosing and not their own.

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Lesson 56: THE BOOK OF ESTHER.

This book comes after Nehemiah in the arrangement of the Scriptures but the events recorded therein actually took place about 30 years before.

The Book of Esther is the story of how a young woman's courage and influence was used by God to, prevent the extermination of his people, the Jews.

Although there is not a single direct reference to God is all of the Book of Esther, it is very obvious that he alone could have brought to pass-the amazing order of events that take place therein.

CHAPTER 1. Vashti is removed as queen for refusing her husbands command to display herself before his drunken princes and dignitaries. It is interesting to read the fear expressed by these powerful men of losing their authority over their own wives. VERSES 11-22. Vashti actually showed great courage and character but this all really happened according to God'- purpose for Esther to become the Queen.

CHAPTER 2. Esther was an exceptionally beautiful young woman but she could never have become queen and had the opportunity to help save God's people if she had not been a woman of virtue and morally pure as well. Verses 3 and 15-17.

Esther was warned by her Uncle Mordecai, not to tell anyone that she was a Jew. verse 10 and 20. God causes Mordecai to overhear a plot to kill the king whereby he is enabled to save his life and gain his favor. Verses 21-23.

CHAPTER 3. A very evil man by the name of Haman becomes the most powerful prince in the empire under the King. His hatred for the Jews is stirred up when Mordecai refuses to bow and scrape before him. Verses 2-5. Haman then plans for the destruction of all Jews and convinces the King that it is the best thing to do. Verses 6-15.

CHAPTER 4. The decree goes forth that in one year's time, all Jews must die. This cause great mourning and fasting and prayer among the Jews and Mordecai calls upon Esther to risk her

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life and use her influence with the King to seek deliverance for her people. Verses 7-16.

CHAPTER 5. Esther's great courage is rewarded and the King gladly allows her to enter his presence. Verse 2. His great love and admiration for her is expressed in his words we find in Verse 3

CHAPTERS 6 and 7. Esther manages to completely turn the tables on Haman who has already ordered a special gallows, about 75 feet high, to hang Mordecai on. 5:14. The King hears of this scaffold in Haman's own yard and orders him to be hanged upon it. 7:9-10.

CHAPTERS 8 and 9. Esther appeals to the King to reverse his decree against the Jewish people. 8:5. The Jews are delivered and many of their enemies perish and Mordecai becomes Second only to the King in power, and the Jewish people still celebrate these happenings yearly in what is called, "The Feast of Purim", which was instituted by Esther and Mordecai at this time. Chapter 9:20-28. These are the most amazing sequence of events which show the providence of God and the truth of ROMANS 8:28.

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Lesson 57: A continuation of review lesson number 33.

REVIEW: The history of GOD'S people from JOSHUA through NEHEMIAH

JOSHUA

JOSHUA 1-5. The descendants of Abraham finally enter the land which God had promised to give them. GENESIS 15:18 and 17:8. These first chapters of Joshua include the story of Rahab the harlot whose name is in the genealogy of our Lord, MATTHEW 1:5, and of the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River with God holding back the waters.

JOSHUA 6. The walls of Jericho fall and the first city of the land is taken.

JOSHUA 7. Their first military defeat because of the sin of Achan.

JOSHUA 13-24. The entire land is conquered and divided among the Israelites, and no one is disappointed with their lot for it was a rich land.

JUDGES

JUDGES 1 Most of the tribes disobeyed God and did not drive out all of the former inhabitants of the land.

JUDGES 2 Tells how that after the death of Joshua the people became as sheep without a shepherd and disobeyed God and worshiped false gods. This is a time of confusion and anarchy and God, in his anger, delivering them into the hands of their enemies. VERSE 16. God would raise up special men to deliver his people from time to time who were called JUDGES. The most famous of these being GIDEON and SAMSON.

RUTH

This is the beautiful story of another woman who is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus. MATTHEW 1:5. This is also the story of a man and woman who left the place where God had promised to bless them to look for blessings among the ungodly, and of the terrible price they paid.

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1 SAMUEL

SAMUEL is the last, the longest serving, and by far the greatest of all those who were called JUDGES.

1 SAMUEL 1-3. The very interesting account of Samuel's birth and early life.

1 SAMUEL 9. Samuel anoints Saul to be Israel's first king.

1 SAMUEL 17. DAVID kills the giant Goliath and becomes a national hero while still in his teens.

1 SAMUEL 17-28. DAVID is forced to live as a fugitive and outlaw because of the jealousy of Saul and his endless attempts to kill him.

1 SAMUEL 31. Saul dies having been a miserable failure as King.

2 SAMUEL

2 SAMUEL 1-5. These chapters tell of David's finally becoming KING of all Israel.

2 SAMUEL 11-12. David sins grievously and God chastises him,

2 SAMUEL 15-18. David's son Absalom almost succeeds in overthrowing his father and becoming King himself.

2 SAMUEL 19-24. The rest of the life and reign of David. He builds a strong central government and establishes Israel as a military power greater than those nations around it. 1 KINGS

1 KINGS

1 KINGS 1-11. The life and reign of King Solomon. These are the glory years of Israel as a nation. Solomon builds the Temple of God and leads Israel into becoming one of the richest nations in the world.

1 KINGS 12. After the death of King Solomon, the Northern ten tribes rebel and form a rival kingdom, which retains the name ISRAEL. The Southern tribe became known by the name of JUDAH and continue to be ruled by the descendants of King David.

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1 KINGS 17-18. Elijah the prophet of God, enjoys a glorious victory over false prophets and priests on MT. CARMEL.

1 KINGS 19. Queen Jezebel threatened to have Elijah killed and he fled to the desert and sat down under a Juniper tree and begged God to let him die, because he believed himself to be the only Israelite living who still served God.

2 KINGS

2 KINGS 1-13. Elijah is taken to heaven in a CHARIOT OF FIRE and Elisha carries on as the Prophet of God in his place.

2 KINGS 14-17. The Northern Kingdom continues to decline spiritually and disobeys God until they are finally overthrown and destroyed by the King of Assyria, who takes the survivors back to Assyria to be slaves.

2 KINGS 18-25. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was blessed with a few kings who feared the Lord and so continued about 100 years after the fall of their northern brothers, but they also continued to go away from God and suffered the same fate at the hands of the Babylonians.

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EZRA

EZRA 1-6. After many years of captivity and exile, God's people are freed and allowed to go back to Jerusalem and build a new Temple, of GOD.

EZRA 7-10 About 60 years after this, Ezra and several hundred chosen men go to Jerusalem with authority to establish proper worship of GOD, as it was written in the Law of Moses.

NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah came 14 years after Ezra and together they finished rebuilding the city of God and repaired the walls and gates of it, and established order among the Jewish people who had returned there .

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Lesson 58: JOB

THE FIRST OF THE POETICAL BOOKS OR BOOKS OF WISDOM.

This book helps to answer the age old question as to why the righteous must suffer.

The book of JOB is proclaimed by many scholars or world renown to be the single greatest piece of writing in the history of human literature.

This is believed by many to be the first of all the books of the Bible to have been written. The story and the events found therein would have to have taken place somewhere between the time of Abraham and Moses. The ancient Jews have always held that Moses wrote the book.

The Land of Uz and that of Midian where Moses lived for forty years are both in the same region. Moses could have either known Job personally, or simply become very familiar with the facts of the story and was led of the Spirit to record it .

The subject matter of the story is of a righteous and very godly man, who suddenly lost all of his worldly wealth, his ten children were killed at the same time, and he himself stricken with the most painful and horrible of all human diseases. These things were all done to him by Satan, with God's permission, to see whether or not his faith and trust in the LORD could possibly endure such tragic and catastrophic experiences.

God's people need to remember that Satan is a very real and powerful being who still seeks to ruin our testimonies and our lives by causing us to sin and to deny or disobey God. 1 PETER 5:8.

CHAPTER 1. VERSES 1-5. These verses tell us of JOB and his complete devotion to God and of his greatness as a man.

VERSES 6-12. Satan or his representatives are always present when believers come together before the LORD. He complains to GOD about the special protection he has been giving to Job and the way he had blessed him and said that if God would take them away that Job's faith would fail. GOD then gave Satan permission to take everything away from Job.

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VERSES 13-19. These verses describe how this man, without any warning, suddenly received the tidings of one terrible event after another. He lost all of his earthly wealth, and all ten of his children were killed.

VERSES 20-22. IN ALL OF THIS he sinned not nor charged God foolishly. Real faith rests in God himself and should only become stronger in trouble.

CHAPTER 2. Again the LORD and Satan talk about Job.

VERSE 3. What a wonderful testimony by the Lord about his servant.

VERSES 4 and 5. Satan still believes that if Job was made to suffer great pain and physical affliction, that he would yet fail. With God's permission Satan then afflicts this poor man with one of the most horrible and painful diseases known to man.

VERSES 9-10. The faith of Job's wife now fails but not Job's.

VERSES 11-13. Three friends came to comfort Job and they didn't even recognize him. His condition was so pitiful and his suffering so great, that they just wept and said nothing for seven days and seven nights. Sometimes our presence and the support we show, is better than words.

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Lesson 59: THE BOOK OF JOB CONTINUED.

CHAPTER 3. In this chapter we see Job as shocked, afraid and bewildered. As great as his faith was it did not prevent him having these very human and most natural feelings after experiencing such an onslaught of personal tragedy.

He had always enjoyed God's blessings and special protection and now it seemed that he had none of either one. He could not see any reason for what had happened unto him nor any possible good that could result.

CHAPTERS 4 through 31. Job and three of the friends, who seemed to be more like accusers and critics than friends, carry on a series of debates as to why these things had happened unto him and what he should do for his deliverance.

Their understanding of the situation was generally, that God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked that there is no other reason for anyone to suffer. They continued to make their accusations and Job continued to maintain his complete innocence until they all became angry and indignant. As Job became more and more miserable and the unanswered questions continued to plague him, he would cry out from the depths of his soul some grand expressions of his unwavering faith.

Let us consider some of them and praise God:

CHAPTER 13:15. “THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST HIM.”

CHAPTER 19:25-27. “I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVETH”

CHAPTER 23:10. “WHEN HE IS THROUGH TRYING ME I SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD.”

CHAPTERS 32-37. The fourth man finally speaks. Elihu was younger than the others and waited until they had all finished speaking before he began.

This man seemed to understand the ways of the Lord much better than the others did. He proved that suffering does come upon the righteous and unrighteous both and seemed to believe that God

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allowed the righteous to suffer to keep them from sinning. He wasn't any real help to Job either.

CHAPTERS 38-41. GOD begins to speak to them all out of a whirlwind. The sum of what he tells them is that no man is in any position to explain or question anything God does.

God then makes it very plain to them just how much greater he is than their puny ability to understand him, by asking them a multitude of questions.

CHAPTER 38:4-6. “WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I SET UP THE EARTH?”

CHAPTER 38:11 “WHO SET THE BOUNDARIES FOR THE PROUD WATERS OF THE SEAS?”

He questions them of all the great mysteries of the universe and of nature and the animal world, all of which he designed, created, and fully controls. SURELY THE GOD who has done all of these things is too high for any man to attempt to judge or to criticize.

CHAPTER 42. JOB had not cursed God nor denied him but he had done a lot of talking about things he didn't understand and he repents of these and all of his doubts and fears and complaining. VERSE 6.

God expressed his anger with the three friends and told them that Job was right and would pray for them. Job could not have been resentful of them and have prayed for them at the same time.

The Lord gave Job back twice as much as he had before and 10 more children. Although Job was described as perfect and upright he had room for improvement as a man and did improve as a result of his trials. God had broken his pride and softened his heart. CHAPTER 17:11 and 23:16. LET US REMEMBER JOB WHEN WE FEEL DISCOURAGED AND WHAT WE ARE TOLD IN JAMES 5:7-11. and BELIEVE ROMANS 8:28 more than ever.

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Lesson 60: THE BOOK OF PSALMS.

The Hebrew name for these 150 songs was, “THE BOOK OF PRAISES.” The word PSALMS carries the meaning of songs or poems which have been put to music, and each of these had been. The Psalms were the national hymnbook of Israel. They are referred to many times as the Psalms of David because he was the author of the largest number of them and probably wrote the music for most of them. A small number of them had been written before David's time and several added after, but he is known to be the author of 73 of them.

The oldest Psalm is probably number 90 which was written by Moses. A couple of them were written by Solomon and a dozen by Asaph who was one of the leaders of David's great orchestra and choir which had over 4,000 members. There are over 40 psalms whose author is unknown and David probably wrote many of them also. They had many musical instruments in that day, many of which had been made or invented by David also. READ 1 CHRONICLES 23:5 and 2 CHRONICLES 29:25-27.

The Harp and Psaltery were stringed instruments while the Flute, Pipe, Horn, and Trumpet were wind instruments, and besides these they had the Timbrel and Cymbal.

A WONDERFUL description of how all of these joined together in praise of the LORD GOD, and how it so pleased God that his glory filled the house of GOD, is given in 2 CHRONICLES 5:11-14.

In these Psalms are found the expressions of every kind of human feeling and experience, ranging from the depths of sorrow, remorse and failure, to the heights of unbelievable joy, happiness, and victory.

The Psalms may be divided into many categories a few of which are as follows:

1. THE MESSIANIC PSALMS. CHAPTERS 2, 8, 16, 22, 40, 45, 69, 110, and 118 and others. These tell a great deal about the coming of Christ and describe in detail much of his sufferings on the cross. READ especially CHAPTERS 22 and 69.

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2. THE PENITENTIAL PSALMS. These include CHAPTERS 6, 32, 38, 51, and 143 especially. These are confessions of sin and tell of repentance and pleading for forgiveness and restoration of fellowship and joy. READ especially CHAPTERS 6 and 51.

3. THE HALLELUJAH PSALMS. Some of which are CHAPTERS 106, 111 through 113, 135, and 146 through 150. These Psalms begin with, “PRAISE YE THE LORD”, which is precisely what the word HALLELUJAH means. Many of the Psalms end with these words also.

4. PSALMS OF TRUST AND REST. Chief of these is the SHEPHERD PSALM, CHAPTER 23, the most beloved chapter in the Bible. There are psalms on the history of Israel, on the earth, nature, and the universe.

THESE PSALMS are quickly recognized to have been written to all believers of all times, both Hebrew and Christian. Whatever our circumstance, trouble, or need, we can open the Book of Psalms and find just what we need to express our feelings and to give us strength and help.

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Lesson 61: THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

A PROVERB IS A SHORT WISE SAYING. A short way of saying what would otherwise require many words.

Most of these proverbs were written by King Solomon, who was uniquely qualified. READ 1 KINGS 4:29-32 where we are told that Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs.

This book is a collection of wise sayings which represent centuries of learned wisdom,, and generally places all people into two categories , either the wise or the foolish.

The sayings of this book are directed mostly to the young, meaning from childhood to mature adults. They were meant to help them as they made their way through life and those all important decisions that must be made while quite young but will affect, and have to do with our happiness, all of the rest of their lives. To get and use wisdom is stressed as the greatest need of the young, if they are to have a good life, and that all real wisdom comes of God and begins with “THE FEAR OF GOD”.

KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM, ALONG WITH RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FEAR OF GOD ARE TAUGHT AND APPLIED TO EVERY ASPECT AND AREA OF LIFE ON THIS EARTH.

These proverbs deal with advice for our relationships between, Husbands and Wives, Parents and Children, Friends and Enemies and Master and servant.

They tell how to deal with misfortune and how to maintain a right attitude when wealthy.

THEY BASICALLY TELL that a wise man or woman will be a devoted husband or wife, a true friend, a kind and charitable neighbor, and an honest and fair judge, exercising in everything a real faith in GOD.

Morality is wisdom and warnings against sexual sins, drunkenness, laziness and idleness abound throughout these proverbs.

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THE FOLLOWING PROVERBS WOULD SURELY BLESS AND STRENGTHEN THOSE WHO WOULD LEARN THEM AND LIVE THEM:

1:7. "THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE." 1:10. "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not." 3:5. "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." 4:18. "But the path of the just is as the shining light." 4:14-16. "ENTER NOT INTO THE PATH OF THE WICKED." 6:17-19. "Things that are detested by GOD." 11:28. "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall." 11:30. "He that winneth souls is wise." 13:5. "A righteous man hateth lying." 13:10. "ONLY by PRIDE cometh contention." 13:24. "He that spareth his rod, hateth his son." 14:9,11 "Fools make a mock at sin." 14:29. "HE that is slow to wrath is of great understanding." 15:1. "A soft answer turneth away wrath." 15:3. "The EYES of the LORD are in every place." 15:16. "Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith." 15:32. "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul." 17:17. "A friend loveth at all times." 18:24. "A MAN that hath friends must show himself friendly." ALSO 20:1, 20:20, 21:23, 22:1, 22:6, 23:23, 24:1, 24:10, 24:17, 25:17, 26:20, 27:1, 27:2, 28:13, 29:1, 29:15, 29:25, 30:5, 30:17, 31:10 and 31:30.

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Lesson 62: ECCLESIASTES

KING SOLOMON IS THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK. This book is an autobiography Of his experiences and the conclusions he came to as a result of them.

GOD allowed Solomon to prosper until he was able to partake of every pleasure known to man until he had his fill.

He was given the strength and riches and power to do and to have, anything he desired. If happiness could possibly be found in any earthly possession or physical experience, then Solomon would have been able to find it.

There is a distinct note of sadness throughout this book however, that Solomon realized too late that all is vanity apart from the will and favor of GOD.

CHAPTER ONE: VERSES 12 and 14. “ALL IS VANITY AND VEXATION OF SPIRIT.” He set his heart to try everything there was to try and to taste everything there was to taste, instead of seeking the LORD and living for him. He found it all to be of no benefit whatsoever but rather the cause of much sorrow.

CHAPTER 2:

Verse 1. He tried all pleasure and fun.

Verse 3. He tried wine and foolishness.

Verse 4. He tried building great buildings such as the Temple of THE LORD, and his own Palace which rank among the greatest buildings ever.

Verse 5. He tried planting the most beautiful vineyards and gardens anyone had ever grown.

Verse 6. He built dams and irrigation systems.

Verses 10-11. He had more servants and fed more people and had more horses and chariots than anyone in the world. He gathered vast treasures of Gold and silver and peculiar treasures of the Kings of the world. BUT HIS SAD TESTIMONY should be a lesson for us all.

CHAPTER 3. He learned that there is a time and purpose for all things. Just as surely as we expect to get we should be

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prepared to lose. Most important though , he realized there would be a time for JUDGEMENT.

CHAPTERS 4-11. These are mostly some proverbs which Solomon learned by painful experience. ESPECIALLY read and consider CHAPTER 5:1-6, CHAPTER 6:12, CHAPTER 7: 1-4, CHAPTER 8:11-12, CHAPTER 9: 9-11 and all of CHAPTER 11.

CHAPTER 12. SOLOMON closes this book with a vivid description of old age which will come to rich and poor alike. He concludes that the only right and satisfying life is to seek GOD'S will and do it. VERSES 1, 13 and 14. HE URGES THIS TO BE DONE AS EARLY IN LIFE AS POSSIBLE.

ECCLESIASTES 3:14. A good verse to memorize.

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Lesson 63: THE SONG OF SOLOMON

This is called the song of songs in the first verse. Solomon was the author of 1,005 songs of which this was no doubt the greatest. 1 KINGS 4:32. We also could very well believe that the HOLY SPIRIT is telling us here that this is the greatest song of all time.

This is a song which portrays the ideal love which every bride and groom should have for each other before marrying. If this were always the case there would be very few if any who would ever want a divorce.

Another name for this book which is used in many bible commentaries is the Latin word, "CANTICLES."

The Jewish people have always believed this to be the expression of God's love for them as his wife. God does often refer to himself as married to them as a people, ISAIAH 54:5 and JEREMIAH 3:14, and he did always show his love to them but they were never faithful nor returned that love to him as they should have.

In this book we have the expressions of ideal love for one another by a bride and bridegroom who as yet were not married, and best represents that special relationship and love of CHRIST FOR HIS CHURCHES.

The New Testament often refers to Christ as the Bridegroom and to his church as his bride. Please read JOHN 3:28 and 29, 2 CORINTHIANS 11:2 and EPHESIANS 5:23, 27, and 32.

All of these verses in Ephesians and those in between them, make it very plain that the relationship between CHRIST and his churches is that of husband and wife. Verse 27 is especially clear in that God's perfect and holy Son would only present unto himself a wife.

This book must be very carefully and prayerfully read and even though no one will understand it all,, they will clearly sense the love and adoration which each feels for the other and the great longing to be together.

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In chapter 1 the bride speaks of her beloved and declares his love to be better than anything else to her. Verse 2. That his name is a “Ointment poured forth”. This is true of all those in his churches who are truly his, for all of their hope and comfort is in his Name and all that it stands for.

In chapter 2 the Bridegroom speaks of himself as “The Rose of Sharon” and the “Lily of the Valley.” VERSE 1. Who else could this truly mean other than Jesus Christ ?

Also in chapter 2 the Bridegroom speaks of his Bride as a “Lily among thorns.” verse 2. This is just the way Christ views his true churches among the institutions and organizations of the world.

In Chapter 2 and verse 4 we find the true testimony of the Lord's Churches. He came to Calvary's cross and bought us and then to where we were one day and brought us unto himself ...

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Lesson 64: ORDER OF THE BOOKS

Books of Law or Books of Moses					Historical Books															Books of Poetry				

1 SAMUEL

JOB

ESTHER

GENESIS

DEUTERONOMY

SONG OF SOLOMON

SAMUEL

RUTH

JUDGES

EZRA

PROVERBS

1 KINGS

NEHEMIAH

ECCLESIASTES

1 CHRONICLES

LEVITICUS

2 KINGS

JOSHUA

PSALMS

2 CHRONICLES

EXODUS 2

NUMBERS

1. See if you can place each of the books in the proper category by putting an L for law, an H for history, or a P for poetry, in front of them,
2. Try to place each book in the correct block in the chart above.

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Lesson 65: THE PROPHETICAL BOOKS

As we enter into this section of the Bible, we are confronted with a new type of book from all of the rest. These are the writings of “THE PROPHETS.”

The first seventeen books of the Old Testament, from Genesis to Esther, are historical by nature and are basically the story of the Hebrew people and their rise and fall as a nation.

The next five books, from Job to Song of Solomon, are a form of poetry and expressions of the human experience. They belong to that time which is known as, “THE GOLDEN AGE” of the Hebrew nation.

We have now come to the last seventeen books of the Old Testament which are the writings of the Prophets of God. These are divided into two groups and are known as “The Major Prophets”, from Isaiah to Lamentations, and the Minor Prophets, those from Hosea to Malachi. These all belong to the years of decline and final destruction of the Hebrew nation.

THE PROPHET AND HIS WORK:

The title of Prophet basically means, “a man called and inspired by God to declare his message to his people.”

Some of God's men in various other positions have been prophets also, such as MOSES, who certainly was a great prophet besides being many other things.

In the days of Samuel some men came to be known simply as Prophets of God, who were especially chosen and called by God and who did nothing else.

The last Prophet on record of the Old Testament was Malachi who lived some 400 years before the birth of Christ. There were no more until JOHN the BAPTIST came on the scene preaching repentance in the wilderness outside of Jerusalem.

These prophets are famous for their foretelling of things to come, but they were just as much used to tell forth God's warnings and commands for the people of their own day. They preached and proclaimed God's word with strong exhortations and many times

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with tears seeking to turn their people back to God's ways and laws.

These men, unlike the priests, did not inherit their office. They were men from all walks of life who were by the Lord to preach and to write the words he gave them for his people and to the whole world. JEREMIAH 1:4-8

Their classic line was, “THUS SAYETH THE LORD”, as they would begin to preach or write. ISAIAH 43:1, 44:2 and 45:1 and countless other places.

The Bible does not tell us in just what manner the Lord gave these divine revelations to these men other than he spoke to them. 7

They were valiant and honest and true to the Lord and showed favor to no man. Because of this, many of them were put to death by evil kings or stoned by outraged mobs. As men of courage and integrity they are without equal.

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Lesson 66: THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

This book bears the name of the one who wrote the words of it by the divine inspiration of God. The name ISAIAH means “Salvation of Jehovah” in the original Hebrew language.

He is called the “Evangelist of the Old Testament” or the “Evangelical Prophet”. He lived to be about ninety years of age from about 690 to 780 years before the birth of Christ.

It is believed that Isaiah was a Prophet of God for about 65 years and that the writing of this book was in process for most of that time.

There are very clearly two separate sections in the Book of Isaiah. Chapters 1 through 39 and 40 through 66. The first section dealing mainly with conditions of his own time and one hundred or so years into the future. The second section having more to do with the very distant future, foretelling the birth and death of Jesus, over 700 years in the future to his return to earth thousands of years after that.

Isaiah is quoted or made reference to in the New Testament, more than all of the other prophets combined. Some 308 times it is said, many of which were by Jesus and his Apostles.

Several of the other prophets begin by telling of their divine call but ISAIAH tells of his in chapter 6.

He was a man of unquestionable character and integrity. He used the plainest of language and pulled no punches. He rebuked the Kings as quickly and severely as he did the people. CHAPTERS 7:13 and 38:1.

HE calls Jerusalem a sinful nation, 1:4,21 and denounces hypocrisy and rebellion 29:13 and 30:9, then weeps bitterly for them because of their punishment.

SPECIAL PORTIONS OF ISAIAH:

1. The great invitation to all sinners from GOD. Chapter 1:18.
2. The promise of the virgin born savior to come. CHAPTER 7:14

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3. A wonderful passage concerning the birth of Christ and then his work and kingdom yet to come.
4. Where and how for God's children to find peace. CHAPTER 26:3.
5. The sermon about the short bed and narrow covering. CHAPTER 28:20. this meaning that all of man's efforts to justify himself with God will fall short.
6. The blessed journey of the righteous on their way to heaven. CHAPTER 35.
7. The Glorious Substitute Suffering Savior chapter.
8. Great invitations to sinners. CHAPTERS 45:22-25 and 55:1-9. MOST OF THESE ABOVE MENTIONED VERSES SHOULD BE MEMORIZED. There are many verses in the latter chapters about the MILLINIAL KINGDOM which should bless any who read. them

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Lesson 67: THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

JEREMIAH began to preach and prophesy about sixty years after the death of Isaiah, in the most difficult time of his peoples existence since they had been delivered from Egyptian slavery.

He was a Prophet of God for about 45 years and at the same time as Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

This truly great man was called to preach by the Lord at about 20 years of age. He was the Son of a Priest and was born and raised in one of the towns of the priests. JOSHUA 21:13 and 18. In view of these things we may believe that he was especially qualified for the work of the Lord in spite of his being so young.

Jeremiah is known as the “Weeping Prophet” because of his sorrow for the condition of his people.

God called Jeremiah especially to warn the people of Judea to turn back to observing God's laws and to turn away from the worship of idols.

The Northern Kingdom had already been destroyed and taken away captive by the Assyrians and the same thing was about to happen to the people of Judea by the Babylonians.

Jeremiah was completely misunderstood by his fellow Jews and they thought him to be personally attacking them and he was often beaten, thrown in prison and called a traitor.

THEY COULDN'T have been more wrong in their judgment about any man, for Jeremiah's heart was broken because of their wickedness and what he knew the LORD was going to do to them if they repented not. He wept and mourned for his people more than any other of the prophets. JEREMIAH 13:14-17.

Jeremiah aroused the wrath of his people by likening them to a wife who had forsaken her husband and then became a shameless prostitute. CHAPTER 3:14 & 20.

He preached against their personal immorality as well as their Spiritual adultery and unfaithfulness to God by worshiping false gods. CH. 5:7-8,19, 26-29.

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HE WAS SO SINCERELY HOPEFUL as all true men of GOD are., that they would heed the truth and repent of their sins and turn back to God before it was too late.

CHAPTER 1. This account of Jeremiah's call to preach by the LORD is full of instruction for us all. God had chosen him for this task before he was born.

He protested that he was too young and was not an eloquent enough speaker. God told him that he was to speak only what he told him to. VERSE 7. He then promised to make him invincible until his work was finished. VERSE 19.

One of the most sad problems among the LORD'S people has always been the idea that one should wait until they are older to get serious about serving the LORD. He called Samuel when just a small boy and David when he was about 16 years old. The younger one starts the better equipped he can become and the more opportunity he will have. We should think also of judgment to come for those wasted years as well as the uncertainty of how long we may live.

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Lesson 69: LAMENTATIONS

This book is listed among the Major Prophets because it is written by one of them. It is believed to be the work of Jeremiah and actually an extension of his greater work.

In the final Hebrew version of the Old Testament, which is called the SEPTUAGENT, There is found the following words by way of introduction to the Book of Lamentations: “And it came to pass, after Israel was led into captivity and Jerusalem laid waste, that Jeremiah sat weeping, and lamented this lamentation over Jerusalem.”

This is a song of heartbreak over the destruction of Jerusalem. It was inspired and written for the scattered Jews everywhere to memorize and sing. In this way reminding them of their homeland and that it was their sins which caused God to drive them from it.

The book expresses the sorrow of God for his people because they would not repent and turn from their disobedience and idolatry. God chastens all those whom he loves for their good, and his love is far deeper than any human is capable of. HEBREWS 12:6. “For whom the LORD loveth he chasteneth.”

The sorrow and heartbreak of the Prophet are also expressed, for no one ever loved his country and people more than did Jeremiah. HE witnessed all of these terrible things as they came to pass. The city of Jerusalem as it was destroyed, the Temple of his God as it was demolished, The sacred and holy furniture dismantled and carried away, along with the killing of thousands and the rest being carried away to be slaves.

The main purpose of the book however was to promote in all Jews the great sense of sorrow and loss expressed therein and hopefully to promote in each one of them true repentance. EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD TODAY where Jews gather together, on the ninth day of their fourth month (July) this book is read. JEREMIAH 52:6.

The book consists of five poems, In the Hebrew language there are 22 letters. Three of these poems. Chapters 1, 2, and 4 are written with each verse beginning with a different letter in

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alphabetical order. Chapter 3 has 66 verses and in it every third verse started with a different letter also in alphabetical order. This would have made them much easier to memorize.

CHAPTER 1. A description of the total destruction of the city of God. In some verses it is as though the city itself is speaking. The main emphasis of this chapter is that the people brought all this upon themselves. VERSES 5, 8, 9, 14, 18, 20, & 22.

CHAPTER 2. God's just anger is emphasized in this chapter. His anger can be as terrible as his love is wonderful. Verses 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 21 and 22.

CHAPTER 3. Here is expressed Jeremiah's grief but also his trust that God will yet have mercy. Verses 21 through 40 are the highlight of the whole book. We should especially take note of verses 22, 25, 27 and 31.

CHAPTERS 4 and 5. A description of the awful sufferings while under siege. The aim of the book was to cause every remaining Jew to confess as Jeremiah did in Chapter 5 verses 7, 15, and 16. The purpose of the destruction and captivity was to teach them obedience to God and break them of worshipping idols.

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Lesson 70: EZEKIEL

The name of this prophet means, “GOD STRENGTHENS.”

THE KING OF BABYLON had actually made three invasions of JERUSALEM. The first two times he took spoil and carried away many people as captives but didn't destroy them because he would rather collect tribute money from them.

The first invasion of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar was twenty years before he finally destroyed it. This is told of in DANIEL 1:1-6. The captives who were taken back to Babylon at that time were the “Cream of the Crop”. The greatest of the Jews in science and other special skills as well as the best physical specimens. A young Prophet to be and future great servant of God named Daniel was among these first captives.

The people of Jerusalem soon rebelled and Nebuchadnezzar had to send his army back again to Jerusalem and it fell to him again, nine years after the first time.

This time all of the best people were taken captive to Babylon, over 10,000 of them, and Zedekiah was set up as the puppet king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. EZEKIEL was taken captive at this time. 2 KINGS 24:14-16.

We know that Ezekiel was taken at this time because a little over eleven years after this Jerusalem was destroyed, as we learned in JEREMIAH 52:1& 5-7, and in Chapter 33:21 Ezekiel tells us that Jerusalem was taken in the Twelfth year of his captivity.

By the time Ezekiel was brought to Babylon, Daniel was already a very important and famous man who lived in the Palace of the King. The Lord chose for Ezekiel to live among and preach to those Jews who were slaves. We can easily see the hand of God here as Daniel remained true to God and his people in spite of his unusual opportunities to have fame and fortune. DANIEL was sent ahead to gain influence and power in the government of Babylon which he no doubt used on many occasions to help and protect EZEKIEL and his fellow Jewish captives.

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EZEKIEL like JEREMIAH, was first a priest and then a prophet. He had most likely been one of Jeremiah's students for he preached many of the same messages that Jeremiah did.

God called upon EZEKIEL to suffer much hardship and do many difficult things. He was made an object lesson to his people on many occasions.

The Lord told him to lie on his left side where the people would see him for more than a year. Chapter 4:4 & 5. There were other times when the Lord didn't allow him to speak for long periods of time. 3:26, 24:27 and 33:22.

The Lord took his wife with a stroke suddenly and then commanded him not to weep or show any sorrow in order to show his fellow Jews how terrible they had been when they had shown no sorrow for their sins after they had been told that they were the cause of all these tragic events. 24:15-21.

EZEKIEL was given more visions by the Lord than any of the other prophets. Many of these visions have never been fully understood but clearly point to the eventual and final restoration of the Jews to their homeland and its becoming prominent among all of the nations on earth. Some of them are almost identical with those of the Apostle John in the book of REVELATION.

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Lesson 71: DANIEL

Daniel was taken to Babylon while yet in his teens. He was among the very first Jews to be taken from Jerusalem more than twenty years before it's final destruction.

He and his three friends were all handsome and brilliant and were given Babylonian names and three years of special preparation and training. This was probably to teach them the language and customs of their new land so that the King could then make full use of their individual talents. Their outstanding intelligence and knowledge is described in CHAPTER 1:17-20.

As we read about Daniel in God's word we will see that he stands out as one of the greatest of the great among all men of all time. In Ezekiel 14:14-20, God places Daniel with Noah and Job as among the most righteous men who ever lived. In Daniel 9:23, and 10:11 and 19, the messenger of God tells Daniel that his prayer was answered because God greatly loved him and delighted in him.

Daniel lived to be over 90 years of age and served many kings, all of which continued to honor him and value his great wisdom.

Daniel lived some seventy years among the world's most rich and immoral people in the most glamorous city in the world and yet never did like they did. He never compromised his faith and trust in God and his word. HE WAS A SHINING LIGHT FOR GOD IN THE DARKEST OF PLACES.

CHAPTER 1:8-17. Daniel and his three friends resolved not to eat the King's meat and thereby disobey God's law for them, regardless of the consequences. The meat had probably been sacrificed to idols, been cooked with the blood in it, and was probably from one of the unclean animals they were forbidden to eat by the Law of Moses. Leviticus 11 and 17:10-14. They were able to prove that those who trust and obey the Lord will always be better off than those who do not.

CHAPTER 2. The King had a dream which he could not remember and was ready to kill all of his wise men because they

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could not tell him what he dreamed as well as the meaning of them. Verses 5 and 11-13.

Daniel asked for more time from the King and then called his friends together for a prayer meeting, after which the Lord revealed to him what the King wanted to know.

Daniel then worshiped and praised the Lord. VERSES 16-23.

CHAPTER 3. The three Hebrew children and the burning fiery furnace. What a great and wonderful lesson in Courage and conviction for all of God's children. VERSES 14-15. SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO WERE ARRESTED FOR REFUSING TO BOW to an image of the king and were given a second chance. Their fearless and forthright answer is as great a testimony of faith as there is to found anywhere in the word of God or man's history. VERSES 16-18. The Lord was with them in the fire and we know that he will never leave nor forsake us. VERSES 24 and 25.

CHAPTER 4. King Nebuchadnezzar is driven insane by God until he has no doubts that he is the true God and rules over all men including such kings as himself.

CHAPTER 5. “THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL....”

CHAPTER 6. DANIEL IN THE LIONS DEN. He passed every test and stayed true to God.

CHAPTERS 7-12 are all Prophetical and deal with what shall be from Daniel's time until the crucifixion of Christ. Daniel and Revelation go hand in hand and one cannot be properly understood without studying the other.

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Lesson 72: HOSEA.

We now begin to study the last group of Old Testament Books known as the “MINOR PROPHETS”. They are called this because the size of their writings are much smaller than those we have just finished studying.

HOSEA is placed first in the Bible although he was not first in time. Amos, Jonah and Joel were all Prophesying before Hosea. He was a Prophet unto the Northern tribes while Isaiah and Micah were prophets to Judah.

Hosea lived and preached a very long time, probably over ninety years, and saw Israel Go down from the time of it's greatest Power unto the time of her destruction and captivity by the Assyrians.

This is a very interesting and unique book in which the Prophet and his wife are made to represent JEHOVAH GOD AND ISRAEL his adulterous wife.

Here in is a strong message on the duration of a marriage. This story deals with the unfaithfulness of the wife, the faithfulness of the husband and the one goal of eventual reconciliation.

When the people of Israel turned from God to the worship of Idol gods, they became guilty of Spiritual Adultery. They had many times swore to be ever true and faithful to God who had brought them out of bondage into their own land.

God referred to them as his bride, the ones he had chosen and taken unto himself out of all the peoples on the earth.

As Jehovah's Bride, Israel had forsaken him and given herself to the worship of other gods and the Bible tells that God looked upon this the same as he did a married woman who would give herself to another man.

CHAPTER 1. It seems that God told Hosea to choose a wife who had been a very sinful woman, even an harlot. This is what Hosea did and he fell deeply in love with her. He married her and gave her his name she became a Prophets wife. She was a faithful wife to him until after their third child and then she forsook

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him for other lovers whom she thought could make her much happier than she had been with Hosea.

CHAPTER 2. Gomer left her Husband and their three young children thinking that she would find more happiness with her lovers. 2:5.

God had other plans and saw to it that things became much worse for her instead of better, as she had hoped. 2:6-7. She ended up deep in sin and finally sold as a slave.

CHAPTER 3. God told Hosea to “show the same kind of love for her that he had for Israel and pay whatever he had to and buy her back unto himself. 3:1.

Through it all, Hosea's love for Gomer remained-Strong and true. In order for his love to Gomer to be a sign and token of God's love for his people, it had to be so strong that the very worst possible behavior by her would never be able to kill it.

All of this is to show how much God loved Israel and how much he had put up with from her. How hurt he was and how he yearned for her return to him.

Even at the height of Israel's unfaithfulness, God promises that they will one day be reconciled forever unto him. 2:19. Once a marriage has been lawfully established, God's word teaches that it cannot rightfully be ended for any reason.

A forsaken husband or wife should remain true and live in the hope of eventual reconciliation for they are bound to them for life. ROM. 7:2-3, and 1 COR. 7:39.

Hosea took her back but did not receive her into his arms as his wife for a time as a sign to Israel she would have to wait until God was ready. 3:2-5.

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Lesson 73: JOEL and AMOS.

JOEL: Joel was a Prophet of God sent to preach to Judah, but his message is for all of the “ Sons of Jacob “, and much of it for all men of all times.

The Book of Joel tells us nothing about himself or when and how long he preached, but many of the other prophets do quote from him, telling us that he must have been before them.

CHAPTER 1. A terrible plague of insects, primarily locusts, had devoured everything in the fields and vineyards accompanied by a drought and the land was left desolate 1:4 and 10.

This must have really happened in Joel's time and he used it to describe the way the armies of the countries to the North would come mercilessly upon them if they didn't repent of their sins and get right and stay right with GOD.

CHAPTER 2:12-21. Be sure and read these verses for they tell us how to go about getting right with God and having blessings restored that have been lost through disobedience and sin.

CHAPTER 2:28-32. These verses foretell of the great outpouring of GOD'S Spirit on the day of Pentecost “ according to the Apostle Peter in ACTS 2:15-21.

CHAPTER 3. JOEL sees beyond the Day of Pentecost even unto the end of the Church Age and tells of the return of the Lord to the Earth, and how he will put down his enemies and restore Israel to first place among the nations.

AMOS: This man was called of God to preach to the Northern Kingdom of Israel at the beginning when they first withdrew from the Kingdom of Judah. He was a Prophet to them during the height of their wealth and power. His words of prophecy against them concerning what God was going to do because of their sins against him, seemed ridiculous at the time but in less than 50 years they had all came to pass.

AMOS had no training or preparation to be a prophet but God called him and gave him a message, just as he has done with many others from Noah until the present time. The main qualification for any Man of God has always been the divine Call”

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from God himself to “GO PREACH.” AMOS 7:14-15, GAL. 1:15-16.

The northern kingdom had incurred the wrath of GOD upon them from the very beginning, as they willingly began to worship the golden calves which had been set up on false altars with false priests in charge, by their first king Jereboam. 1KINGS 12:27-28.

Israel just became more and more ungodly and immoral. Murder, adultery, and abuse of the poor became commonplace along with the worship of idols. Amos tried as hard as he could to turn them back to God and his ways but , like all of his fellow prophets, was unable to convince enough of them to make a difference. CHAPTER 1 thru 3. He preaches of God's judgment to come on the Heathen nations around about Israel. AMOS 1:1 thru 2:3.

He then Preaches to God's people that they are not exempt from judgment for ungodliness and immorality any more than anyone else. 2:4 thru 3:2.

CHAPTERS 4 thru 6. These are GOD'S charges against Israel and how that he utterly refused their brazen or foolish attempts to worship him, even at the same time they were living in rebellious contempt of him and his word. 5:21-23.

CHAPTERS 7 thru 9. These chapters tell what is going to happen because of the! sins and that a remnant of them will one day be restored to glory at the coming of the Lord in the last days. 9:11-15.

SOME GREAT SAYINGS IN AMOS: 3:3 “Can two walk together except they be agreed?” 3.12 “Two legs and a piece of an ear.” describing how much of Israel would be left when God was through. 6:1 “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.” Those who enjoy the sinful times instead of grieving over the certain judgment to come.

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Lesson 74: OBADIAH and JONAH.

OBADIAH:

This book has the distinction of being the shortest one in the Old Testament.

Obadiah was a prophet of Judah during the time of Ezekiel and Daniel which was during and after it's destruction.

Two definite future happenings are prophesied in this book.

1. God's punishment of the Edomites.
2. God's final restoration of the Jews to prominence and favor.

The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin brother whose birthright he had stolen. They never ceased to hate the Jews and were always ready and anxious to attack them and help any other army in it's efforts against God's people. God therefore declared that he would not only punish them, but that he would destroy them as a people forever. VERSES 3, 4, and 10.

At the time of this prophesy it was Israel which seemed to be doomed and Edom which seemed secure, but nothing can prevent the word of God from coming to pass, and he promised that Israel would one day be finally restored to power and favor. VERSES 17-21.

JONAH:

This is the story of something that actually happened to Jonah, a prophet of the Lord in the Northern kingdom.

Nineva was the capital of the growing Assyrian Empire which was already making raids on the Jewish nation and preparing to seek to conquer it.

Jonah resisted going to Nineva and warning them of God's coming judgment because it would have seemed like to him the act of a traitor to his own people.

Many preachers have portrayed Jonah as a racial bigot and that being his only reason for refusing to do God's bidding, but it seems more logical to me that he couldn't believe that it would be right for him to seek the deliverance of the very ones who were bent on destroying his own people.

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Because of the miracles recorded in this book, many believe that it must be of a symbolic nature and not historic fact. This argument should have been settled once and for all when Jesus spoke of it as actual fact. MATTHEW 12:39-41.

The English translators in Matthew and Luke should have stuck to the term “Great Fish”, as they did in Jonah, instead of Whale. This was a special prepared fish, made for this very purpose by the LORD and there need never to have been another like it , either before or after.

The Main message of Jonah is that God will forgive all who truly repent and have faith in his word, and that his grace, mercy, and salvation are not only for JEWS.

This was the same lesson which God gave to the Apostle Peter in ACTS 10, many years later from the same city of JOPPA. JONAH 1:3 and ACTS 10:5.

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Lesson 76: HABAKKUK and ZEPHANIAH.

HABAKKUK: Another Prophet to Judah not long before they fell to the hands of the Babylonians.

CHAPTER 1:1-4. This prophet of God knew well enough all that was wrong in the lives of his countrymen, but he had a real problem accepting what The Lord had said he would do to them.

He couldn't see how a just God could let the fierce and wicked Babylonians have victory over his own people. As bad as the Jews had become, they were not nearly so wicked as the Foreign invaders. It appeared to his eyes as though God was blessing the enemy over his own people, but God was simply using them to carry out his purposes. Verses 5-11.

CHAPTER 1:12-2:1. Habakkuk still does not understand but he declares his confidence in God and his Righteousness and that he will keep on doing what he is supposed to until God sees fit to tell him more. This is a great lesson for us all.

CHAPTER 2. God promises justice to the wicked, both Babylonian (Chaldean) and all others. He declares four great woes for specific act of wickedness by men and nations.

- A. Woe to him who takes for himself that which rightfully belongs to someone else. God will some day make them pay. VERSE 6.
- B. Woe to the one that coveteth an unlawful possession. VERSE 9.
- C. WOE to all who build cities through the lives of others or the revenues of sinful activities. Such as gambling, drinking, prostitution, etc. VERSE 12.
- D. Woe to the person that giveth his neighbor to drink. VERSE 15.
- E. Woe to those who bow down and worship before any idol. VERSE 19.

We could add one more ourselves. Woe to those who would laugh at any of these.

CHAPTER 3. The man of God prays. In this prayer he expresses his great personal faith in The Lord and his creative

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powers. He especially gives a beautiful testimony concerning his own salvation and sure glorification in VERSES 16-19.

Great verses in Habakkuk: 2:4, 2:14, and 2:20.

ZEPHANIA: This Prophet begins with a strong warning that the day of God's wrath has about come. He calls it the Great Day of the Lord. Verse 14. This term is also used elsewhere of that day when Jesus shall come again To-this earth to put down all his enemies and right all wrongs and rule for 1,000 years.

CHAPTER 2:1-3. He pleads for those who will to confess their sins and repent to God, even if the majority will not, and maybe God will spare them from his anger.

After pronouncing Judgment on certain nations and also describing the terrible moral condition of Jerusalem, God gives a look at some of the glories of Israel in the Kingdom age. CHAPTER 3:9-20.

Special verse: 3:17.

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Lesson 78: HAGGAI AND ZECHARIAH

These two men lived and preached after the seventy years of captivity were finished and many thousands of Jews had been allowed to return home and were given the task of rebuilding Jerusalem and the TEMPLE OF THE LORD.

They began all over again to possess the land which God had given them and later taken away, because they had refused to keep their part of the covenant which they had made with him. EXODUS 19:3-8 and 24:3-8.

HAGGAI:

CHAPTER 1. Verses 1-5, Haggai calls their attention to how they were busy finishing their own houses and had failed to build the House of God. Verses 6-11, He explains that many things had gone wrong for this very reason.

This clearly illustrates the truth of MATTHEW 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all of these things shall be added unto you."

Verses 12-15, God stirred up some of the leaders to begin the work and finally everyone got busy and obeyed the Lord.

CHAPTER 2, Haggai continues to preach and to encourage them and to remind them of The former Glory and of God's ability to provide all their needs. Especially in Verses 3-9.

ZECHARIAH:

This preacher came along in the time of Haggai and joined him in urging the people of God to keep on until the work was finished and God's House was ready.

The people were now very poor and discouraged and Zechariah knew how important it was to their Spiritual and Physical welfare to have the Temple of the LORD completed.

Without Proper worship of God being established the people would never stay together and separate from the ungodly, and would fall right back into lives of sin and disobedience. God gave Zechariah many visions and an ability to foretell wonderful future events, especially concerning the Coming Savior and King.

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CHRIST and his coming Kingdom still works to stir up God's people to lives of obedience and faithfulness.

ZECHARIAH 9:9 Clearly foretells of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on an ass, told of by Matthew in Chapter 21:4-11 of his Gospel.

ZECHARIAH 11:12 Tells of the Thirty Pieces of silver, Judas betrayed him for.

ZECHARIAH 12:10 and 13:6 Tell of his Pierced hands and side.

ZECHARIAH 14:4-8 Tell of Christ's Triumphal return to Earth.

ZECHARIAH 4:6 is a statement we must all learn to trust in and to rely upon.

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Lesson 79: MALACHI

THE LAST PROPHET OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

This man directed his message to all of Israel but it is very profitable for God's people today as well.

Malachi lived somewhere around 400 to 450 years before JESUS was born. The Jewish people had returned home from exile and rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple of the LORD, then settled down to await the coming of their Messiah.

Though the Jews had now been forever cured of worshiping idols and false gods, they had become very careless and sinful in their worship of the True GOD.

There were four prevailing sins that Malachi deals with:

1. Unfit polluted sacrifices being offered to God.
2. Unholy marriages between Jews and non-Jews.
3. Divorce.
4. Robbing God by withholding the Tithe.

CHAPTER 1. We have here a description of priests that despise the Lord's name. VERSE 6. They are just “going through the motions” of serving GOD. They offered polluted bread and sick and diseased animals to the Lord in sacrifice.

They would never have thought to offer such corrupt gifts to the governor. God lets them know that this was an insult to him and he would not receive such offerings nor bless them for their effort. VERSES 7-10.

Not only were the offerings unacceptable but they were in contempt of the Lord for the manner in which they offered them. VERSES 11-14. What they really were saying is, “THIS IS SO BORING, WHAT GOOD IS IT DOING ANYWAY.”

CHAPTER 2. The priests are warned of what God will do if they change not.

VERSES 1-3 and 8-9. They are told what an honorable office they hold and what a priest is supposed to be to God and the people. VERSES 4-7. They should be truthful and counsel the people in the law and urge them to turn from iniquity.

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These Jews were divorcing the wives of their youth to marry those who knew not GOD. VERSES 11-14. The reason they should not marry out of their faith is given in VERSE 15, So that their children will remain true. MALACHI declares that GOD hates “ Putting Away “, which is the scriptural term for divorce. VERSE 16.

CHAPTER 3. The sins of the people are described further in VERSES 7-15. They were guilty of robbing God by withholding the first Tenth of all their increase. This was right before Moses ever was given the Law. GEN. 14:18-20 and 28:22. VERSE 1-6 and 16-18. Tell of The Lord's coming and some of his judgments.

CHAPTER 4. More promises to the faithful.

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Lesson 80: REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

GENESIS: The Book of Beginnings.

- God creates the world, plant life, creatures for land and sea, and Man. CH. 1&2.
- The man and women break God's law and die spiritually. CH. 3.
- CAIN kills his brother Abel. CH. 4.
- NOAH builds the Ark. CH. 6.
- GOD sends the flood. CH. 7.
- GOD confuses the languages at the Tower of Babel. CH. 11.
- GOD calls Abraham. CH. 12.
- GOD chooses Jacob the younger instead of Esau. CH. 25:23.
- JOSEPH delivers his family from famine. CH. 37 through 50.

EXODUS:

- ABRAHAM'S descendants become slaves in Egypt. CH. 1.
- MOSES is born and then Called by God to lead his people to freedom. CH. 2&3.
- GOD sends ten great plagues or judgments upon the Egyptians. CH. 5 through 12.
- THE Red Sea held open by the Lord for his people to cross. CH. 14.
- THE Ten Commandments given at Sinai. CH. 19&20.
- THE Tabernacle of God is built. CH. 21 Through 40.

NUMBERS:

- The people refuse to enter the promised land. CH. 13 and 14.
- GOD makes them wander in the wilderness for almost 40 years. CH. 15 through 36.

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DEUTERONOMY: Moses dies. CH. 34.

JOSHUA: The people enter the promised land and conquer and divide it under JOSHUA.

JUDGES: There is a long period when the people each do as they see fit. “ANARCHY.”

1 SAMUEL: GOD gives them Saul to be their king.

2 SAMUEL: DAVID becomes King.

1 KINGS: SOLOMON is made king, builds Temple of GOD, lives in unbelievable luxury and dies. The Nation divides to form two separate kingdoms, Israel and Judah.

2 KINGS 17: Israel the Northern kingdom is conquered and taken away captive by Assyrians.

2 KINGS 25: The southern Kingdom falls to Babylonians 100 years later.

EZRA and NEHEMIAH: After about 70 years the people are given liberty to return home and rebuild.