

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 1

Level 3

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

Lesson 1

The Kingdom of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 1

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–2:3

Memory Verse: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1)

Lesson Truth: The Covenant Kingdom of God begins.

Lesson

Everything we can see and hear and touch and taste and smell came from God. He made everything so the people He created could share His blessings and His joy. Everything God made is His Covenant Kingdom in the world. He made it all out of nothing (*ex-nihilo*).

God made the world in a very wonderful way. He spoke and the world began. This is called “*fiat*.” At first the land and the water and air and sky and light were all mixed up without any form or shape. The Bible tells us that darkness was everywhere. But there was more than darkness, because the Spirit of God was in the darkness, and over the deep.

Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. Isn’t it exciting to know God just had to say, “Let there be...” and it happened the way He said?

The first day God made the light. Then He separated the light from the darkness. The light He called day and the darkness He called night. God still makes the daylight come every morning and He sends the darkness each night.

The second day God made the sky above the earth, and the air we breathe that we may live.

On the third day God separated the land from the seas. He also made the huge mountains appear. He then made flowers, plants and trees to cover the land and the mountains.

The fourth day God made the sun to shine each day, and the moon and stars to shine each night. Now day and night are ruled by God’s great lights the sun and the moon.

The fifth day God made all kinds of fish to be in the oceans, lakes, and streams. He made all kinds of birds to be in the trees and forests. God still wasn’t finished with His creation. He still was going to make some very amazing creatures.

On the sixth day He made all kinds of animals to fill the earth. He made big and little animals, and tame and untamed animals. Then last of all God made Adam, the first man. Later, He made Eve, the first woman, to be with Adam. God made Adam and Eve to be caretakers of everything He made.

After God made all the beautiful things, He rested on the seventh day.

God also declared the seventh day to be a day of rest for man. On Sunday we should rest from our daily work, and we should worship God, with His people, at church.

Questions

1. Who created the heavens and the earth? (Gen. 1:1)
2. How did God make all things? (Gen. 1:3)
3. How many days did it take for God to make everything? (Gen. 1:31)
4. What was the earth like before God began forming things from nothing? (Gen. 1:2)
5. What did God create on each day of creation?

Lesson 2

The Covenant of God's Favor

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 2

Scripture: Genesis 2:4-25

Memory Verse: “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2: 16b-17)

Lesson Truth: God makes a covenant with man so he can live in fellowship with God.

Lesson

After God had created man and woman, He placed them in a beautiful garden. God wanted this man and woman to take care of His garden so it would be beautiful and grow fruitful crops. In order to make sure this would happen, God wanted to live in a special fellowship with man. Because God made man with a mind that could think and choose, He wanted man to choose to live in this special fellowship with Him. This was possible for man to do if he would obey God's command about not eating from “The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

God told man that he could eat from any tree in this beautiful garden except the tree that was in the middle of the garden. Because man was created in God's image, he was smart enough to be able to obey God's command. He could live as a special friend of God if he obeyed. This is the covenant (agreement) God made with man.

Why is the covenant that God made with man so important? It is important because, if God had not made this covenant, man could never have shared a fellowship with God. God had to reach out to man! How sad that man chose not to obey.

God gave the man he had made another wonderful gift. God gave the man, Adam, a helper. This helper was a person so very much like Adam that he could share everything in his heart with his helper. This helper God made for Adam was called, a woman, because she was taken from the rib of the man. Adam named this woman, who was his wife, Eve. The love and the sharing that Adam and Eve enjoyed should have reminded them of the love God wanted them to share in the covenant.

Just think, man could have lived as a special friend of God forever, if he obeyed God's command. How sad that man failed the test. Maybe you are wondering: “Can't man ever live as a special friend of God again, because he disobeyed God's command?” The answer is: “Yes he can, because God loved us so much that He made a new covenant, through the Lord Jesus Christ, to take the place of the one that was broken when Adam and Eve ate from “The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.”” Now, Adam is not the one who lived as a special friend of God by obeying God's command. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the one who did that because He obeyed God the Father. Our next lesson is about that new covenant.

Questions

1. What is a covenant?
2. God made an agreement to live in fellowship with man; What did He ask of man?
3. What command did God ask man to obey?
4. Why is it important that God made a covenant with man?
5. After God made man; where did man live?
6. How did man begin to live after he was made by God? (Gen. 2:7)
7. Whom did God make to be a helper and friend for Adam? (Gen. 2: 20b-22)
8. How was the covenant of God's favor broken? (Gen. 3: 6)

9. Will man ever be able to live in fellowship with God after he broke the covenant?

10. Who made a new covenant to replace the one broken by Adam and Eve?

Lesson 3

The Covenant of God's Grace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 3

Scripture: Genesis 3

Memory Verse: "The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant." (Ps. 25:14)

Lesson Truth: God told Adam and Eve about a new covenant He made with them shortly after they had eaten the forbidden fruit.

Lesson

In today's lesson we are going to learn about two events that greatly affected mankind. The first is about Adam and Eve's fall into sin, and the second is about God's new covenant which He made in a promise after they disobeyed.

Do you remember that God made a perfect heaven and earth? And that He made a beautiful garden in which Adam and Eve could live? What was even more special was the covenant of His favor that He had made with Adam and Eve. This covenant meant that Adam and Eve could live as special friends of God. The sad message in today's lesson is that God had an enemy who hated Him. This enemy was a devil who earned the name Satan. Satan wanted to destroy everything God had made. He especially wanted to destroy the special friendship between God and man.

How could Satan destroy everything God had made, even God's special friendship with man? He decided to do this by coming as a serpent to tempt Adam's helper Eve. Satan knew about God's command not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. So, he came to Eve with a question that would make it seem unfair that she could not eat of every tree in the garden. He asked: "Has God indeed said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" After he made the command of God seem unfair, he went on to deny the Word of God by saying: "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The idea of being like God, to know good and evil, appealed to Eve. So, she listened to Satan and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree. Adam, too, liked the idea of being like God, so he also ate of the forbidden fruit. After they disobeyed God, they both felt afraid and ashamed. They hid from God because they became aware that they were naked. The special friendship they had with God was broken, and God's beautiful heavens and earth were no longer perfect. Now we ask the question; must mankind live forever in this imperfect world without a special fellowship with God? The answer is no because God made a new promise to Adam and Eve.

After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God, they tried to hide from God when He came to the garden to talk with them. Isn't that silly to think anyone can hide from God? How grateful we must be that God came to look for them. When God found them, He asked them why they were afraid, and why they tried to hide. Adam knew he did not have a good answer, so he gave God an excuse. He said, "The woman you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate." When God asked Eve why she had eaten the fruit of the tree, she too made an excuse. She said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Adam and Eve did not yet know that God would show them His grace and make a way for them to escape judgment, so they made excuses.

Now Adam and Eve learned of God's grace and mercy. After they had disobeyed God and should have been destroyed, God found them in the garden and gave them a new promise. God told Adam and Eve and Satan that the seed of the woman would crush Satan's head. Adam and Eve could no longer live in God's beautiful garden in their lost condition. Now they had to live by faith in the promise God had made. They had to believe what God had told them when He said to Satan, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." This is God's promise to us. We know it as God's covenant of grace.

Questions

1. What question did Satan use to get Eve to think it wasn't fair not to eat of one tree? (Gen. 3:1b)
2. How did Satan deny God's Word? (Gen. 3:4)
3. What did Satan tell Eve would happen if she ate the fruit of the tree? (Gen. 3:5)
4. Tell how Adam and Eve felt and thought after they disobeyed God.
5. What was Adam's excuse when God asked him about eating the forbidden fruit? (Gen. 3:12)

6. What was Eve's excuse when God asked her about eating from the tree? (Gen. 3:13)

7. What beautiful promise did God make to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed? (Gen. 3:14-15)

8. Who is the one who will crush the head of Satan as God promised?

Lesson 4

Living Seed

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 4

Scripture: Genesis 4

Memory Verse: “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” (Genesis 4:1)

Lesson Truth: God’s promise to Adam and Eve starts to be fulfilled when He gives them children.

Lesson

As you study the Bible lesson today try to catch the truth of the two stories found in Genesis chapter four. One story is a tragic one, about hate and murder. The other one is about a faithful God who keeps His promises. You should remember the important story is the one about our faithful God who keeps His promises.

Imagine what Adam and Eve felt like after they were sent out of God’s beautiful garden, because they had disobeyed God. They must have been very sad, until they remembered what God had promised. He had promised that the seed of Eve would crush the head of Satan. The only way this could happen was if Adam and Eve had children.

The faith of Adam and Eve can be seen when their first son was born, and Eve said: “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” They knew that God had given the seed He had promised when Cain was born, and they rejoiced again when brother Abel came to join Cain.

From what the Bible tells us, we know that Adam and Eve taught their sons to live a life of faith. They taught them to offer sacrifices to God from the fruits of their labor. Cain brought a sacrifice from his crops, while Abel brought an animal from his flocks. How sad that Cain did not offer his sacrifice from a heart of faith as his brother Abel did. The Bible says the Lord respected Abel and his offering but not Cain and his offering.

Now we see the real difference between these two brothers. Abel was a man of faith and Cain was a man of unbelief. Cain in his unbelief became very angry when the Lord showed respect for Abel’s offering but not for his. Cain began to hate his brother Abel. He also hated the promises God had made to his parents about seed that would crush the head of Satan. In his hatred and anger Cain killed his brother Abel. Now what would happen to the promises God had made to Adam and Eve about seed that would crush the head of Satan? One of their sons was not a believer and the other one was dead. But God did not forget His promise. Adam and Eve would still have a son of faith.

God again shows His faithfulness when he gave Adam and Eve another son whom they named, Seth. “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” Oh yes, the faith of Adam and Eve had been tested. But when Seth was born they once again showed their faith. They knew that God would keep His promise. God not only kept His promise to Adam and Eve, but He also kept his promise to Cain that he would be cursed from the earth.

We see the promises of God fulfilled in the generations that followed Cain and Seth. In Lamech, the seventh generation from Adam through Cain, we see a very profane man who boasted about having more than one wife and about having more hatred and murder in his heart than Cain had. In Enoch the seventh generation from Adam through Seth, we see a man who loved the Lord. We are told he walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

Yes, once again we are reminded of the faithfulness of our God. Even after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were sent out of the garden, God still kept His promise to give them children. A son of Adam and Eve in the generations to follow will surely crush the head of Satan.

Questions

1. Who was the son of unbelief born to Adam and Eve?
2. Who were the two sons of faith born to Adam and Eve?
3. What is the story in Genesis 4 about? About Cain? About Abel? About God's faithfulness to Adam and Eve?
4. Who is the "hero of faith" from Genesis 4, listed in Hebrews 11?
5. Who was the man of unbelief that demonstrates that God kept his promise of a curse to Cain and his sons?

6. Who was the son of Adam and Eve that replaced Abel?

7. How did Adam and Eve show, in the life of their sons, that they were people of faith?

8. Who is the seed of Eve who will crush the head of Satan?

Lesson 5

Saved by Water

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 5

Scripture: Genesis 6–9

Memory Verse: “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.” (Matthew 24:37)

Lesson Truth: The world is saved by water to make a new fellowship with the Lord possible.

Lesson

Following the murder of Abel only two of Adam and Eve’s sons remained. Cain and his family lived as fugitives because of God’s curse. Seth and his family lived as faithful followers of the Lord for a number of generations. One of Seth’s sons was known as a man who walked with God. This man, Enoch, did not even die, because God took him straight to heaven.

It makes us sad to know that even this faithful family of Seth, became unfaithful. The wicked sons and daughters of Cain became attracted to, and married the sons and daughters of Seth, so they too became wicked covenant breakers. When God saw that this wickedness became very great, He was sorry that He had made man. He was so sorry, that He said He would destroy man from the face of the earth.

This makes us ask, if God destroys all mankind from the face of the earth, will He forget the promises He made to Adam and Eve? The answer is, no, God will never forget His promises! How happy we are that God still found one man who, by God’s grace, was faithful to the Lord. This man was Noah. God told Noah He was going to destroy the world with a flood. All the sinful people on the earth would be destroyed. Only faithful Noah and his family would be kept alive. In order to keep Noah and his family alive, God told Noah to build an ark and make it waterproof. God was going to save Noah and his family, and seven males and females of every clean animal, and two males and females of every unclean animal in the ark.

God in His wisdom knew He had to destroy the sin in the world, if He was going to keep the promise He made to Adam and Eve. Even though Noah believed God, it was still hard for him to begin building the ark. It was hard because his neighbors did not believe, and they made fun of his claim that God was going to destroy the whole world with a flood. Then the moment arrived. The moment when Noah and his family entered the ark to be saved, and all the other people were to be destroyed in the waters of the flood. This kind of separation will happen again when the Lord Jesus Christ separates the believers from the unbelievers for all eternity.

When Noah and his family were safely in the ark, the floodgates were opened both from above and below. For forty days the floods continued until the whole earth was covered—even the highest mountains. Every living thing was destroyed. Now God could carry out His promise through Noah and his family. When Noah left the ark after the ground dried, he offered a sacrifice to God. He used the clean animals and birds for a sacrifice. God accepted Noah’s sacrifice and also gave him a promise. He promised that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. As a sign, to help Noah remember His promise, God gave the rainbow. Each time we see the rainbow we too should remember the promise made to Noah.

What a joyful story this would be if Noah and his family would have remained faithful. This was not to be. Noah became drunk from the fermented grape juice from his vineyard. Then we see his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth continue the lines of both faithful and unfaithful people. When Noah awoke from his drunkenness he spoke as a prophet. He foretold that Canaan, a son of Ham would be a slave to his brothers, and that the family of Shem would be blessed. The line of Shem would bring the Lord Jesus, who would crush the head of Satan as God had promised Adam and Eve. One day Christ will be recognized by all as the promised Savior.

Questions

1. Who killed Abel? (Gen. 4:8)
2. Who was the son God gave Adam and Eve to replace Abel? (Gen. 4:25)
3. Who was the wicked son of Cain who boasted about his killings? (Gen. 4:23)
4. Who was the faithful son of Seth that walked with God? (Gen. 5:24)
5. How bad was man's heart that God decided to destroy him? (Gen. 6:5)
6. Name the three sons of Noah. (Gen. 6:10)

7. What did God promise Noah would continue as long as the earth remains? (Gen. 8:22)

8. What was the sign God gave as a reminder that He would never again destroy the earth with a flood? (Gen. 9:13)

9. Who was the son of Ham that was cursed? (Gen. 9:25)

10. Who was the son of Noah that was specially blessed? (Gen. 9:26)

Lesson 6

The Emergence of Distinct Peoples

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 6

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Memory Verse: “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (I Corinthians 1:10)

Lesson Truth: The outward unity is torn down to make room for true unity in Christ.

Lesson

Noah and his sons came off the ark in the mountains of Ararat. It was in this area that the human race expanded after the flood. In time, these people migrated to the plain of Shinar. It was here that the people of the earth developed skills in building and brick making. They also began to think that they could manage the affairs of their life so they would never be separated, and never be destroyed from the face of the earth. Their plan was to build a city and a tower which they thought would protect them.

In their fear, they forgot that only God could be their protector. They should have remembered God's promises to Noah, that there would always be seed time and harvest and summer and winter. How sad, when man thinks he can control his own destiny. In this story, from God's Word, we see that God, in His love, prevented man from building a false unity.

When God saw the people in the plain of Shinar were trying to build an outward unity; He knew this would keep them from ever knowing true unity in Christ. The people could not be allowed to continue building a tower, which they thought would save them from separation and destruction. The Bible tells us God “came down” to put a stop to their building. We know that God is everywhere present, yet in this story we are told He “came down.” Could it be that He came down in a special way to show his grace, favor, and love? God had to stop their way of unbelief and show them the way of faith. The way that would lead to the Redeemer. To stop their way of unbelief, God had to stop their building, but how was He going to do this? He promised Noah He would never destroy the whole earth with a flood again. He had to find a way to stop them without destroying mankind. He decided to stop them by confusing their language. If they couldn't understand one another they could not continue to build.

As the people began speaking in different languages, they also began to think differently. Not only did they quit building the city and the tower, but they also migrated and settled in different parts of the earth. In this way we see the beginning of nations. Red and yellow, black and white, all made in God's image, followed, after the people were scattered at Babel. In this way God broke down the outward unity of unbelief, built on man's trust in himself, to teach His children the true unity that comes from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because the Redeemer has sent the Holy Spirit into our lives, we can look forward to new unity with all people through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word tells us that the Antichrist will come and try to convince us to build an outward unity by trusting in ourselves. But we know we

should only seek true unity with all people in Christ. Only in Christ can we become one with red and yellow, black and white. Only in Christ can we be sure the Antichrist will be destroyed.

Questions

1. Where did the people decide to build the tower of Babel? (Gen. 11:2)
2. What kept the people on the plain unified? (Gen. 11:1)
3. What materials were used to build the tower of Babel? (Gen. 11:3)
4. How high did they want the tower to reach? (Gen. 11:4a)
5. Who came down to see the tower that was built? (Gen. 11:5)
6. What did God do to make the people stop building the tower? (Gen. 11:7)

7. Where did God want people to live on the earth? (Gen. 9:1)

8. What does the name Babel mean? (Gen. 11:9)

9. Who will try to get people to join in an outward unity? (II John 7)

10. Who overcomes the confusion of languages in true unity? (Col. 3:11)

Lesson 7

Blessed in The One

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 7

Scripture: Genesis 12

Memory Verse: “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2)

Lesson Truth: The blessing of all is given in the One, so that all might cling to the One in faith.

Lesson

When the people at Babel built a city and a tower, they showed that they put their trust in themselves rather than in God and His promises. What a blessing that God confused their language and helped them see that they should put their trust in the Word of God.

What a sad story that even after Babel, the people did not continue to live by faith in the Word of God. They forgot the Word of God. But, God did not forget! God had promised that He would send a Redeemer. What a wonderful story to learn how God decided to bring the Redeemer. He chose one man from whom He would make a great nation, and from that great nation His Redeemer would come. God chose, Abram, to be that man. We don't know why He chose Abram, because he was a sinner who worshiped idols much like the people of his day. Could it be that Abram was from the line of Seth and Noah? It was only God's love and grace that made Him choose this one man, Abram.

God had decreed that the Redeemer He would send would be unlike any other human being. The Redeemer would not be sinful or ungodly. In this way the Redeemer would be separate. God also asked Abram to be separate. He asked Abram to leave his father's house, his family, and his land. God wanted Abram to live by faith in His Word. How grateful we must be, that Abram obeyed God and went to the land of Canaan.

God gave some very special promises to Abram, promises that gave him strength. God told Abram: “I will make you a great nation, I will bless you and make your name great, I will give you a land, and you shall be a blessing... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” God also gave Abram the faith to believe these rich promises. At work in his life was the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Abram's God had not appeared to anyone since the flood. But now He appeared to Abram. Just think, the God of all the earth came down to fellowship with man once again. How grateful Abram must have been. You and I should be even more grateful, because we know that the Lord Jesus Christ has appeared. The Spirit of our Lord now dwells in our hearts.

After God gave Abram such rich promises, do you think he trusted God in every situation? The truth is, that he didn't. When he and Sarai went to Egypt because of a famine, he told Sarai to lie and say she was his sister. He was afraid the Egyptians would kill him and take his beautiful wife. How sad that he didn't trust God to care for him. Pharaoh did bring Sarai to the court to become his wife, but God stopped his plans by sending plagues on Pharaoh. Once again God cared for Abram and Sarai. God had said that Sarai was to be the mother of the promised child so she could not become the wife of Pharaoh. For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, Abram and Sarai's marriage was protected.

Questions

1. Which son of Noah became the forefather of Abram? (Gen. 11:10, 26)
2. Why did God want Abram to leave his country? (Joshua 24:2-3)
3. What specific promise did God give to Abram in Genesis 12:2?
4. What is the great promise, which included all people, that God gave to Abram? (Gen. 12:3b)
5. Where did Abram settle in Canaan? (Gen. 12:6)
6. Was Abram chosen to receive God's promises because he was good? (Gen. 12:10-13)

7. How did God direct events so His plan of salvation was carried out in spite of Abram's sins? (Gen. 12:17-20)

8. Did Abram learn to trust God after he lied to Pharaoh? (Gen. 20:2)

Lesson 8

Christ Alone

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 8

Scripture: Genesis 13

Memory Verse: “By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise.” (Hebrews 11:9)

Lesson Truth: Only in Christ do we participate in the communion of the saints and receive our place among the saints.

Lesson

Abram was given the command, from God, to leave his family, his father’s house and his country. The Bible tells us, in Hebrews 11, that he obeyed that command by faith. How thankful we should be that Abram obeyed God. He was willing to leave everything and follow the Lord’s command. We are told he took Sarai, his wife, and his nephew, Lot, and went to a country, which he knew nothing about. You and I would think, after Abram obeyed by leaving his family and his country, God surely would not ask him to be more separate than that. But He did. God had made the promise to become a great nation, to Abram alone. Not to Abram and Lot. God had promised, to Abram alone, that in this nation, and this people, all the families of the earth would be blessed. So, Abram had to experience one more separation. He had to separate from his nephew, Lot. Abram and his descendants had to be different and separate because of their life in the Lord Jesus Christ. He and his family were to be a symbol of the new life to be given in Christ.

Once again, we see how God worked out His plan of salvation. He brought about some conflicts between the herdsmen of Abram and the herdsmen of Lot. Both Abram and Lot were very wealthy. They both had large flocks and herds. Therefore, it was not strange that these herdsmen had some disagreements about where their flocks could graze. What is surprising, is the generosity of Abram in offering a solution to the disagreements. He said to Lot, “The whole land is before you. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if you take the right hand I will go to the left.” Abram believed the promises God had made. He was so certain of God’s promises that the land of Canaan would belong to his children, that he acted as if he already possessed the land. We too, like Abram, should believe the promise God has given us, that we have a Redeemer.

After Abram and Lot separated, God again appeared to Abram and renewed the promises He had previously given. These promises were about land and children. They were about all the families of the earth being blessed by Abram’s children. In this way God strengthened Abram’s faith. Abram’s God not only promised that a Redeemer would come from his seed, He also kept that promise. The promised child of Abram is our Lord Jesus Christ. All the promises God made to Abram were fulfilled in a most glorious way. He became a great people, a multitude which no man can number, for all who belong to Him belong to that people. He was given not just the land of Canaan, but the whole earth. God inspires His people to worship the Lord Jesus Christ and will, one day, give them a new earth as a dwelling place.

Questions:

1. What riches did Abram possess? (Gen. 13:2)
2. Who did Abram take with him to Canaan? (Gen. 13:5)
3. What problem arose between Abram and Lot? (Gen. 13:7)
4. How did Abram propose to solve the problem? (Gen. 13:9)
5. What did Lot choose for himself? (Gen. 13:11)
6. Was Lot's choice a good choice? (Gen. 13:12-13)
7. How many would the seed of Abram be according to God's promise? (Gen. 13:16)
8. Who are the seed of Abram today? (Galatians 3:29)

Lesson 9

Blessed by the Greater

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 9

Scripture: Genesis 14

Memory Verse: “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (Psalm 110:4)

Lesson Truth: Abram, the lesser, is blessed by Melchizedek, the greater, to make Abram recognize that only the Lord’s blessing makes man rich.

Lesson

The story of Genesis fourteen is a remarkable story of God’s grace to Abram. God showed Abram that he had to look beyond himself for his hope. He had to remember the promises, about land and seed, that God had given. In order to remind Abram to look to someone greater than himself, God had Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High, give him a blessing. The way this came about is the story of Genesis fourteen.

Abram and Lot had separated, and Lot settled near Sodom. Because Lot lived with the people of Sodom, he and his family were carried off when the city was captured by the powerful Chedorlaomer, king of Elam. Because Lot was a believer, the Lord remembered Lot. God made sure Abram learned that Lot was taken captive. He also gave Abram the desire to take men of his household to go and rescue Lot.

God was surely with Abram when he went to rescue Lot. He and his small group of men defeated the powerful king of Elam. After the defeat of Elam, Abram was honored by the Canaanites, because of his bravery. We can see how this honor could be a temptation for Abram. He could be tempted to put his faith in himself, as the leader of the victorious band, rather than in God. Abram must have struggled with that temptation, but by God’s grace he overcame it. God then arranged a strange, but beautiful, encounter for Abram.

As Abram returned from battle and from rescuing Lot, he was met by Melchizedek. This Melchizedek was not only the king of Salem, but he was also the priest of God Most High. God arranged for this priest to bless Abram. Note the blessing Melchizedek gave to Abram when he said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” How joyful we must be that Abram did not hesitate to receive a blessing from a Canaanite king. God gave Abram the faith to believe that this priest-king foreshadowed the promised seed, the Redeemer. In response to this unusual encounter Abram did two wonderful things.

First he gave a tenth of all his goods to Melchizedek. He considered Melchizedek to be God’s priest. In this way he really gave his tithe to the Lord. Abram knew that there was no gift too great to give to his wonderful Lord. The second thing Abram did was, he refused to take the spoils of war from the king of Sodom. Abram told the king of Sodom that he had taken a vow to not take any of the spoils of war. He said I made a vow not to take a even a thread or a sandal strap which might cause the king to say: “I have made Abram rich.”

Because Abram refused the spoils of war (booty), he would always remain a stranger to the Canaanites. Abram knew his friendship and wealth came from his Lord. He believed the promises of God about seed and land. He believed the Redeemer would come from his children. We too, must put our trust in the God of Abram. This God alone is the one who can give us true joy and help us to be a blessing to others.

Questions

1. Who was Chedorlaomer? (Gen. 14:9)
2. Who was Melchizedek? (Gen. 14:18)
3. What did Melchizedek do when he met Abram? (Gen. 14:19-20)
4. What was Abram's response to Melchizedek's blessing? (Gen. 14:20b)
5. Who is the High Priest like Melchizedek? (Psalm 110:4)
6. Why did Abram pursue Chedorlaomer in battle? (Gen. 14:12-14)

7. What was Abram's response to the offer of the goods from the war? (Gen. 14:22-23)

8. What is a tithe? (Heb. 7:1-2)

Lesson 10

The Lord in the Covenant

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 10

Scripture: Genesis 15

Memory Verse: “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God.” (James 2:23)

Lesson Truth: In the covenant, the Lord reveals Himself as the One in whom all promises are fulfilled.

Lesson

The story of Genesis fifteen is a remarkable story of how God visited Abram in a vision. In this vision God assured Abram that the promises He had given in the covenant would surely come true. God had promised that in Abram’s children all the nations of the earth would be blessed, but Abram had no children. No wonder that he said, “Lord God what will You give me, seeing I go childless...?”

In answer to Abram’s question, we read the reply of a God of love and mercy. “Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceeding great reward. Your heir will not be Eliezer of Damascus, your servant, as you have suggested. No, Abram, you will have a child that will come from your own body.” God then, in the vision, brought Abram outside and asked him to count the stars in the heavens and number them if he could. Once again, He promised Abram that his children would be as many as the stars. Isn’t it amazing that the Bible tells us that Abram believed what the Lord told him?

God added one more promise for Abram. He promised him the land of Canaan. This is when Abram asked God, “How shall I know that I will inherit it?” Abram did not ask this question because he didn’t believe God. He asked it because he didn’t understand how this could happen. How could he have children like the stars of the sky, and how could these children possess the land of Canaan? God then did another special thing for Abram. He showed him a ceremony that made His promise certain.

It was a custom in Abram’s day for two parties, who wanted to make a promise certain, to cut animals in half and have both parties walk between these halves. It was this ceremony that God asked Abram to prepare in his vision. When Abram had prepared the animals, it was God alone who passed between the halves of the animals. This was real assurance for Abram. Now he knew that God alone made the promises of the covenant certain. Abram could only be faithful if the Lord made him faithful. God passed between the halves of these animals in the symbol of a smoking oven and a burning torch.

God then told Abram some things that would happen to his descendants in the future. He said Abram’s children would be strangers in a land that they did not possess, for four hundred years. God said they would be afflicted in this land. But one day He would judge this nation and Abram’s children would leave with great possessions.

What a blessing for us to know God’s covenant promises are sure. The things He told Abram would happen to his children did happen just as He said. It is in the covenant that the Lord gives man everything, including faith. The seed of Abram in whom all the families of the earth would

be blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that He will be a God to us and our children forever, because His promise is certain.

Questions

1. What assurance did the Lord give Abram in a vision? (Gen. 15:1)
2. How many descendants did the Lord promise Abram? (Gen. 15:5)
3. Why did Abram wonder about God's promise about children? (Gen. 15:2-3)
4. What was Abram's response to God's promise about children? (Gen. 15:6)
5. What did God ask Abram to do with the heifer, the goat and the ram? (Gen. 15:10)
6. What indicated the presence of the Lord passing between the animal halves? (Gen. 15:17)

7. How long would Abram's descendants be afflicted in a strange land? (Gen. 15:13)

8. What relationship does the Bible say Abram had with God? (James 2:23)

Lesson 11

God Hears

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 11

Scripture: Genesis 16

Memory Verse: “He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.” (Psalm 145:19)

Lesson Truth: God hears the cries of hurt from anyone connected to the covenant circle.

Lesson

Isn't it wonderful to know that God always keeps His promises. He promised Abram in a special agreement, called a covenant, that Abram would have children and also the land of Canaan. What a joy to know that God kept His promise to Abram and to all of Abram's household. Sarai and Abram tried to help God produce the promised child. They did this by giving Hagar, Sarai's maid, to be Abram's wife. When this plan failed and Hagar ran away. God heard Hagar's cries near a spring in the wilderness. He heard Hagar because she was a servant in Abram's house.

Abram and Sarai must have talked about the promise God had given. Particularly the promise that Abram would have many children. One day Sarai asked Abram, “How can God's promise come true if we don't have a child? Why don't you take my maid, Hagar, as a wife and have her produce a child for us?” Abram should have trusted God, but instead he followed Sarai's suggestion. He took Hagar as a wife, and she became with child. When Hagar knew she was carrying Abram's child, she hated Sarai. She hated her mistress, because Sarai thought Hagar's baby should be hers. When Sarai asked Abram what to do, he said do whatever you want. Sarai then treated Hagar so mean that she ran away. She ran into the wilderness.

Because Hagar was a member of Abram's household, God heard her cries in the wilderness. An Angel of the Lord went to talk to her by a spring of water. He told Hagar she must go back to her mistress, Sarai, and be obedient to her. He told Hagar she would have a son who would become a mighty nation. He said she should name her son Ishmael, because Ishmael means “The Lord Hears.” Hagar responded to the Angel of the Lord by calling Him, “You-Are-The-God-Who Sees.” She knew that God heard her cries so she went back to Abram and Sarai.

The God we serve is a God who hears the cries of His covenant people. Just think, when Hagar's son was born, Abram did give him the name Ishmael. Abram knew that God is the God of the covenant. He knew that God heard the cries of Hagar in the wilderness because she was from the house of Abram, the man with whom God made a covenant.

Questions

1. Who was Sarai's Egyptian maidservant? (Gen. 16:1)
2. How did Hagar feel toward Sarai after she was with child? (Gen. 16:5)
3. Who appeared to Hagar in the wilderness? (Gen. 16:7)
4. What did the Angel tell Hagar to do? (Gen. 16:9)
5. What name was Hagar told to give her son? (Gen. 16:11)
6. What does the name Ishmael mean? (Gen. 16:11)
7. What did Hagar call the name of the Lord who spoke to her? (Gen. 16:13)
8. What was the name of the well, or spring, where the Angel talked to Hagar? (Gen. 16:14)

Lesson 12

God the Almighty

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 12

Scripture: Genesis 17

Memory Verse: “Also God said to him, ‘I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.’ ” (Genesis 35:11)

Lesson Truth: God reveals Himself as the Almighty in His covenant relationships.

Lesson

The story of Genesis seventeen is a story of encouragement for Christians of all ages. It is encouraging because it tells how God appeared to Abram and assured him that the promises of the covenant would surely come true.

God appeared to Abram earlier and promised that his descendants would be as many as the stars of heaven. He promised Abram, that all the nations of the earth would be blessed through descendants. God even passed between the halves of animals to assure Abram that He would keep His covenant promise. At Sarai’s suggestion Abram thought they might be able to produce a son from, Hagar, Sarai’s maid. But this was not God’s way.

Abram must have wondered how God would make His promise come true. The only son he had was Ishmael, the son of Hagar. Abram knew that Ishmael did not live before the Lord. How could the promises God had given come true through a son who did not live before the Lord? After Abram lived for a number of years wondering how God could fulfill His promises, God appeared to Abram again.

God said to Abram, “I am Almighty God.” “Abram My covenant promise will come true. You and Sarai will have a son even though you are old. Things that seem impossible to you, are possible with God. ‘I am Almighty God.’ Your name will no longer be Abram, but you will be called, Abraham. Your name will be called Abraham because you will be the father of many nations. Your wife will no longer be called, Sarai, but, Sarah, will be her name, because she will be the mother of nations. Kings of people will come from her.”

God gave Abraham and Sarah new names and promised again that they would be the father and mother of nations. The Bible then tells us that Abram fell on his face and laughed. This was not a laugh of disbelief, but a laugh that his God would do something that is impossible for mankind. He said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?” Abraham laughed because he knew that God can bring life from the dead. God can have old people bear a child. It was a miracle that Abraham and Sarah would have a child. In the same way redemption, through Jesus Christ our Lord, is a miracle. God can do these miracles because He is “Almighty God.”

God then asked Abraham to remember His covenant promise with a sign. This was the sign of circumcision. People who get married exchange rings as a sign that they will be faithful to each

other. In this way God asked Abraham to remember the covenant with the sign of circumcision. God also gave Abraham a warning. He said that anyone in Abraham's house who was not circumcised, must be cut off from the people, or exiled. Today we remember the covenant with the sign of baptism. We must also remember the warning God gave to those who do not keep the sign.

Questions

1. What did God tell Abram about Himself? (Gen. 17:1)
2. What name did God give to Abram? (Gen. 17:5)
3. What did Abram's new name indicate? (Gen. 17:5)
4. What name did God give to Sarai? (Gen. 17:15)
5. What did Sarai's new name indicate? (Gen. 17:16)
6. By what sign did God ask Abraham to remember the covenant? (Gen. 17:11)

7. What was to happen to those who broke the covenant? (Gen. 17:14)

8. With whom would God establish His covenant? (Gen. 17:19, 21)