

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 1

Level 4

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: “By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth.... For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded and, it stood fast.” (Ps. 33:6, 9)

Lesson Truth: The Covenant Kingdom of God is instituted.

Lesson

There was a time when there was nothing of what we now see all around us—nothing at all. Only God was there. You may ask, “If there was nothing at all that we see around us, then from where did everything come?” The answer comes from the first words in the Bible. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen. 1:1)

When God decided to create the world, He did so because He wanted to glorify Himself in it. He wanted mankind to share in His blessings. He wanted them to share in His joy. God knew that if mankind was ever to share in His blessings and joy, then He (God), would have to make this sharing possible. Man could not do this for himself.

In order to make it possible for man to share in His blessings and joy, God instituted His Covenant Kingdom on earth. He did this by His creating power. Once at the beginning of the time in which we live, God brought forth heaven and earth out of His fullness. He created the earth, making it dependent on the blessing of heaven.

Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.” Out of this formless and void state, God made light. He called it into being. He calls materials that do not exist, and suddenly, there they are! He created it out of nothing (*ex-nihilo*). That was how He created the light. He spoke and it was so! “God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. So the evening and morning were the first day.”

The second day God made a partition between the earth and the rest of what he had created under heaven. This partition we call the atmosphere or the firmament.

On the third day, God separated the water from the land, and caused vegetation to grow. God adorned the earth on that third day with a glorious array of flowers and trees.

The fourth day, God gave order to His light by making the sun to rule the day, and the moon and stars to rule the night.

The fifth day, God added life into the waters and forests, by making fish of every variety to live in the waters, and birds of every description to live in the forests and trees.

For the sixth time darkness came as God prepared to make the crown of His creation. In the light of the sixth day, He filled the earth with all kinds of animals and creeping things. The making of the animals was the last step before the creation of man.

Then God took counsel with Himself to make man. He gave man dominion over all He had made. Man was to rule the earth in God's name and glorify God in the process. Man was the crown of God's creation. "Then God saw everything He had made and indeed it was very good." (Gen. 1:31)

God had established a Covenant Kingdom on earth in which all things were subject to man, who exercised dominion over them in God's name. In order to demonstrate in a special way that His Covenant Kingdom on earth was a Covenant Kingdom of peace, God brought His creation work to a close with the seventh day. On the seventh day, He did no more creating. Instead He instituted a day of rest. This day of rest has become an enduring sign that God remembers the world with His grace.

Questions

1. Where did all things come from and how did they come into existence? (Amos 4:13)
2. Into whose image and likeness was man made? (Gen. 1:27)
3. Is the world and everything God created evil? (Gen. 1:31a)
4. How did God make all things at the time of creation? (Ps. 33:6)
5. Whom did God put in charge of everything He had made? (Gen. 1:26)
6. Why is it important to know that God made each plant and animal according to its kind?

7. What did God do on the seventh day, after He had created everything? (Gen. 2:2)

8. Could man have come from animals as evolution teaches?

9. How was the creation of man different from the rest of creation?

10. When God instituted His Covenant Kingdom on earth at the time of creation was Christ involved in this work? (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-20)

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: “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” (Genesis 2:16-17)

Lesson Truth: The covenant of God's favor is established so that man can live in fellowship with God.

Lesson

After God had created man and woman and told them to be fruitful and multiply and to fill the earth and subdue it, He placed them in a beautiful garden. God wanted man to take care of this garden so that every plant and animal He made would be as productive and beautiful as He intended them to be. In order to bring this all about God lived in a special fellowship with man. Because God had made man in His very own image, He wanted man to choose to live in this beautiful fellowship with Him. This was possible for man to do if he would obey God's test command.

God's test command was that man could eat of any tree in this beautiful garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which was in the middle of the garden. Man was perfectly capable of obeying this command because he had been created different from all the other creatures. He was made so he could live in conscious fellowship with God in the covenant. While it is true that he was made of the dust of the ground and was like the other creatures, it was by a special act of God that Adam began to live. God Himself breathed the breath of life into his nostrils. Yes, man was made so that he could live forever in fellowship with God, if he would choose to do so. (Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 6, 7, 8, and 9)

What was this covenant of God's favor? Why is this idea of a covenant so important? It is important because if God had not made a covenant of His favor with man, no fellowship between God and man would be possible. Man would be no more than a puppet in God's hand. Man was capable of responding, and was able to assume the position of a partner, in a covenant with God. We must never forget that the covenant was initiated by God. Man would receive the promise if he obeyed.

Not only was man given the promise of God's favor he was also given the fellowship of another human being. After Adam named all the animals he became aware that there wasn't any animal who could return the love of his heart. He needed another human being who would also be human and yet different from him. God filled this need by creating Eve from Adam's rib. She was his peer and partner. Therefore, Adam could give her all his heart's treasures and Eve could return these treasures. In their marriage, which was also a covenant, his heart opened to her and hers to him. Through the marriage covenant man gained an even deeper understanding of what God intended with the covenant He had made with man. God and man were to give each other the love and dedication that was in them, without fear, without reserve, and without shame.

Just think, God's favor would be man's forever, if he would obey the command concerning the tree in the midst of the garden. But, this was not to be. Man failed the test command. Because the covenant was broken by sin, must we now live outside of fellowship with God? The answer is “no,” because the covenant of God's favor that was broken by the first man, Adam, was taken up and restored by the Lord Jesus Christ! Now Adam is no longer our covenant head. The Lord Jesus Christ has taken his place. This new covenant is the subject of our next lesson. (Romans 5:12ff.)

Questions

1. What is a covenant?
2. What is the “Covenant of God’s Favor” that He made with Adam?
3. What was the test command God gave to Adam to see if he would choose to live forever in fellowship with God? (Gen. 2: 16-17)
4. Who initiated the covenant? Why is this so important?
5. Where did God place man so he could live in fellowship with his Creator? (Gen. 2:8)
6. How was the creation of Adam different from the creation of other creatures God made? (Gen. 2:7)
7. How did God fill man’s need for a creature with whom he could share his heart? (Gen. 2:20-21)

8. How was the “Covenant of God’s Favor” broken?

9. Because the covenant was broken, can man ever live in fellowship with God?

10. Who restored the covenant broken by Adam?

Lesson 3

The Covenant of God's Grace

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

Scripture: Genesis 3

Memory Verse: “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.” (Genesis 3:15)

Lesson Truth:

The Covenant of Grace is revealed to man so that he may believe.

Lesson

In Genesis 2 we learned that God had created a perfect heaven and earth. He created a beautiful garden in which Adam and Eve could live. God placed Adam and Eve in this garden and put them in charge of dressing and keeping it. He also made a covenant with them so they could live in a special fellowship with God. The tragedy of today's story is that God had an enemy in the world. This enemy was a fallen angel who became a devil and was given the name Satan.

This devil, Satan, hated God and the whole perfect heaven and earth that God had made. He particularly hated the fellowship between God and Adam and Eve. So, he set out to destroy everything God had made. Satan knew that God had put the man and woman He had made in charge of His creation, so he directed his attack against the man and woman who were in charge.

Satan knew of the beautiful relationship Adam and Eve shared with God, because of the Covenant of God's Favor He had made with them. He also knew about the test command God gave to Adam and Eve to see if they would choose to obey God and live in fellowship with Him. It was in the form of a serpent, one of the created creatures, that Satan decided to approach man's helper, Eve. Notice how Satan intentionally misrepresented God's purpose in making the command not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil by asking: “Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” After he made the command of God seem too restrictive, he spurred a desire in Eve to disobey. He went on to contradict 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 temptation to live in a world in which man could be the highest authority instead of God, caused Eve to see the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden in a new light. She could eat of the tree and demonstrate her complete independence. She could know good and evil just like God. Eve yielded to that temptation and invited Adam to do the same. Adam also yielded to the temptation to be the highest authority and ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree. Now they both felt wretched and ashamed. They hid from God because they became conscious of their nakedness. They became fearful of everything, even the God with whom they had lived in such sweet fellowship. Not only was man alienated from God, but the whole world became hostile to God. In pain we call out with Adam and Eve: “Must mankind live forever in this alienation from God and in hostility to Him?” Thank God the answer is no, because God promised a new covenant with man that would be fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

After Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's temptation, and thus broke the covenant of God's favor, what was God to do? Would He allow His world to perish because of disobedience? This would have been just. But God in His mercy chose to give man a new promise. In His grace He turned to His world again with a plan to conquer and destroy sin, death and Satan.

Not long after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God came to the garden to talk with them. As they heard God approach, they hid themselves because they were frightened. The man and woman who once lived in fellowship with God were now afraid and tried to hide from God. How grateful man should be that God came looking for him. God asked Adam and Eve about the change in their attitude toward Him. Why were they afraid of God? Had they eaten of the forbidden fruit? Adam saw no way of escaping God's judgment, so he offered an excuse: "The woman you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate." Eve then followed with her excuse: "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Adam and Eve did not yet know of a way of escaping judgment. They had not yet heard of grace or a way of deliverance. God then told Satan that he would be cursed, and be conquered by the seed of the woman.

Just think, right after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and listened to Satan, God again draws them to His side and promises them that Satan will be destroyed by the seed of the woman. Just as a man destroyed the world by disobedience at the beginning, another man, the seed of the woman, would rebuild it. That man is Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom. 5: 12ff)

When Adam and Eve heard the promise from God, they believed. They understood that even as God drove them out of the garden in judgment, God would reach out to them in grace. They had to leave the garden to prevent them from eating from the tree of life in their lost condition, because they would partake unworthily and be judged. Now they had to live by faith alone. Faith in God's promise that the seed of the woman would destroy Satan. Once again God entered into a covenant with man against Satan. This covenant is known as the covenant of grace.

Questions

1. What question did Satan use to get Eve to look at the forbidden fruit with desire? (Gen. 3:1b)
2. How did Satan contradict the Word of God? (Gen. 3:4)
3. What did Satan promise Eve if she ate of the fruit of the tree? (Gen. 3:5)
4. Whom did Adam see as the highest authority in the world when he was tempted?

5. How did Adam and Eve feel and think after they had yielded to Satan's temptation?

6. What was Adam's response when God asked him if he had eaten the forbidden fruit? (Gen. 3:12)

7. What was Eve's response when God asked her about eating the forbidden fruit? (Gen. 3:13)

8. What was God's response to Satan after he tempted Adam and Eve? (Gen. 3:14-15)

9. What is God's beautiful promise to Adam and Eve after they disobeyed?

10. Who is the promised seed of the woman, who will crush Satan's head?

Lesson 4

Living Seed

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

Scripture: Genesis 4

Memory Verse: “And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, ‘For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.’” (Genesis 4:25)

Lesson Truth: The Promise receives its initial fulfillment in the birth of a living seed.

Lesson

The lesson today, from Genesis four, once again tells us of God’s faithfulness. God promised Eve that her seed would crush the head of Satan. If this promise of God was ever to be fulfilled, then Adam and Eve needed to have children. We are told of the birth of three sons to Adam and Eve, two who were men of faith, and one a man of unbelief.

What a joy it must have been for Adam and Eve to have a child after they had been sent out of the Garden of Eden. The birth of their first son was surely a sign of God’s favor in their new life outside the garden. But, they were to learn that Cain, their first born, was not the son of promise. When he was born Adam and Eve gave him the name Cain which means, “the one obtained,” because he had surely been obtained from the Lord.

When their second son was born, Adam and Eve indicated that they had become aware of the struggles of life outside the garden. They named him Abel, which means, “insignificance, or a mere breath.” In spite of the awareness of trials in life after their sin, Adam and Eve still demonstrated a life of faith.

Their life of faith was seen in the way they instructed their sons. They told them about their sin, but also about God’s grace and His promise of complete deliverance in the seed of Eve. They taught their sons to offer sacrifices to God by bringing animals or produce from the ground. Like all believing parents they most likely noticed the difference in their sons. They saw that Abel offered sacrifices with a heart of faith, but Cain only performed a duty in the sacrifices he offered.

So it was, that one day Cain and Abel both offered sacrifices to God, as they had been taught. Abel from a heart of faith, and Cain from a sense of duty. In some way God made known to Cain and Abel that He had respect for Abel’s sacrifice, but not for Cain’s. This should have made Cain humble so that he would no longer offer sacrifices as a lie, but from a heart of faith. But it didn’t. Rather, Cain began to hate his brother. He also began to hate God’s promises and God’s covenant which required him to live by faith.

When Cain thought about God respecting his brother Abel’s sacrifice but not his, he became very angry. The Bible says his countenance fell, and his hatred for his brother became intense. Even worse than the hatred he had for Abel, was the hatred he had for God. When God said: “If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well sin lies at the door, and its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” Cain lost control of his anger and killed his brother Abel.

Once again we see the boundless mercy of our covenant God. Instead of destroying Cain he put a sign on him to protect him. So Cain rejected God’s covenant promises, and God’s people, and settled in the land of Nod. In the land of Nod, Cain’s family appeared to prosper, but they did not think of the Lord. Their selfishness, revenge, and pride were clearly seen in Lamech a descendant of Cain. Lamech not only took more than one wife, but he also boasted to his wives that he killed a man and that he had more hatred and murder in his heart than did Cain. It almost seems that God’s promise to Adam and Eve, for seed that would crush the head of

Satan, could not be fulfilled. But God's promises are sure. Surely the faith of Adam and Eve was tested severely with the death of Abel, and the sinfulness of Cain, but God did not forget His promise.

God gave Adam and Eve another son, a son who would live by faith as Abel had done. They named this son Seth, because he was appointed by God to replace Abel. How we thank God for his faithfulness in giving Adam and Eve another son who lived by faith and became the ancestor of our Lord. Following the announcement of the birth of Seth and his son Enosh, we read one more beautiful statement: "Then men began to call on the name of the Lord."

This is the Bible's first indication that God's people gather for worship. If we are to live a life of faith as did Seth, we too must faithfully gather for worship. We worship the God who is faithful to His promises in providing a living seed for Adam and Eve, even after they were sent out of the garden.

Questions

1. What does the name Cain mean?
2. Why did Cain become angry after he offered his sacrifice? (Gen. 4:5)
3. Who, from today's story, is the "hero of faith" listed in Hebrews 11?
4. How was the faith of Adam and Eve severely tested?
5. Is the story in Genesis 4 really about Cain, about Abel, or about God's faithfulness to Adam and Eve?

6. Who was Lamech, and of what sins was he guilty?

7. How did God show His faithfulness to Adam and Eve after their son Cain had killed Abel?

8. Who is the promised son from the line of Seth who would crush the head of Satan?

9. How did Cain, the first murderer, receive mercy from God?

10. Why did Eve name her third son Seth?

Lesson 5

Saved by Water

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

Scripture: Genesis 6–9

Memory Verse: “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” (I Peter 3:18-20)

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

Lesson

As we follow the history of Adam and Eve’s family, we are reminded that Abel is no longer living, because Cain killed him. Cain and his family were living as fugitives because of God’s curse following the murder of his brother. This left Seth as the only son of Adam to carry the promise of a Savior that God had shared with Adam and Eve. For a few generations Seth’s sons and daughters remained faithful to the Lord. One of Seth’s faithful sons was Enoch, who did not suffer death because the Bible says: “He walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.”

How sad to know, that in time, the sons and daughters of Seth also became unfaithful. The sons of Seth were attracted to the daughters of Cain and married them instead of daughters of the covenant, who were faithful to the Lord. In this way Seth’s family was infected with the ungodliness and sin of Cain’s family. When God saw that the people He placed on the earth to serve Him, were unfaithful, sinful people, He was sorry that He had made man. The Bible says; “He was grieved in His heart.” So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth.”

Our hearts break when we think of God about to destroy the people He had made to serve Him, because they were unfaithful. Will God forget the promise to send a seed of the woman to crush the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15)? No, God will never forget His promises! As God looked down on mankind He saw one man who still feared the Lord and remained faithful. For Christ’s sake God would save humanity through this one man and his family. God planned to destroy sin from the face of the earth without destroying mankind completely. This one man whom God found to be faithful was Noah. God told Noah He was going to send a flood to destroy the whole earth; except Noah, his three sons, and two of every kind of animal. In order to save Noah, his sons, and the animals, God instructed Noah to build a huge ark and make it waterproof. Because Noah believed that God would do what He said, he built the ark and prepared for the flood.

It was not easy for Noah to build an ark, as God instructed him, because his neighbors ridiculed him. Yet Noah continued. He told the scoffers that God was going to send a flood to destroy the whole earth. Noah believed that God had to destroy life, in order to save life. He went on building as a witness against that unbelieving generation (II Peter 3:3-7). Now the moment had arrived for the Lord to separate those who were to be destroyed from the ones who would be saved. What an awful moment when the Lord separates the believers from the unbelievers, as He did when Noah finished gathering his family and the animals into the ark. This is

the way it will happen again when the Lord Jesus Christ separates the believers from the unbelievers for all eternity.

Then it happened just as God promised. The floodgates of heaven and the fountains of the deep were opened and water covered the whole earth. For forty days the water continued to rise until even the highest mountains were covered. Every creature on earth, except those in the ark with Noah, was destroyed. Now God would carry out His promises through Noah and his family as they left the ark. God's wisdom is seen in His decision to destroy the earth with a flood. The evil of the covenant breakers had to be removed if the world was to live in fellowship with God again.

After Noah and his family left the ark in which he had been saved, two significant events took place. First, Noah, as the head of the people on the renewed earth, offered a sacrifice to the Lord. He used the clean animals and birds that had been on the ark for this sacrifice. God not only accepted Noah's sacrifice, but also remembered His covenant promises. He promised He would never again destroy the earth with a flood. He also decreed that the rainbow would be a sign of the covenant He made with Noah. The second event showed how desperately Noah and his family needed a Savior. He drank the fermented wine he had produced in his vineyard and became completely drunk. As Noah lay drunk and naked in his tent, we notice that his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth demonstrate that both faithful and unfaithful people continue, even after the flood. When Noah woke from his drunken stupor he spoke prophetically. He prophesied that Ham's son Canaan would be a slave to his brothers, and that the line of Shem would be blessed. In the conflict between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, that God had shared with Adam and Eve, the line of Shem would achieve the victory for the Lord.

Sometimes it seems that wickedness will prevail in our world. But, because of Noah's prophecy, we know better. One day Christ will be recognized as the Victor.

Questions

1. Who was the first murderer mentioned in the Bible? (Gen. 4:8)
2. Who is the "hero of faith" listed first in Hebrews 11?
3. Why did Eve call her third son Seth? (Gen. 4:25)
4. Who was the son of Seth that walked with God? (Gen. 5:24)

5. How wicked had men become before the flood? (Gen. 6:5)

6. What was Noah known for, according to II Peter 2:5?

7. How many people went into the ark with Noah? (Gen. 7:7)

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

9. When will conditions again be like those before the flood? (Matt. 24:37-42)

10. How must we await the last days? (Matt. 24:42-44)

Lesson 6

The Emergence of Distinct Peoples

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

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Memory Verse: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” (John 17:20-21)

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

Lesson

Fear was the central motive that led the people on the plain of Shinar to build the Tower of Babel. After the sons of Noah left the ark, the human race expanded around the mountains of Ararat. From the region of Ararat the people migrated to the plain of Shinar. Here at Shinar they became skilled in the art of brick making. Along with their skills; however, they also developed vanity and fear. They thought they could build a tower that would reach to the heavens. They believed this tower would ease their fear of being separated, and their fear that mankind might disappear from the earth.

Sadly, they forgot God’s promise to Noah, that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. They forgot that God promised seed time and harvest, and summer and winter as long as the earth remained. But, God did not forget!

We know that God is always everywhere present, yet the Bible says that when God saw what the people on the plain of Shinar were doing, He came down. God knew that the building program at Shinar was man’s solution to separation and annihilation, not God’s. God’s solution is accomplished by grace. In His grace He came down to stop the unbelief and self-will He saw on the plain of Shinar. It was His purpose and will to preserve and redeem mankind through His promised Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. In order to bring this about He had to stop the building of the tower. How was this to be done? Because of His promise to Noah, He could not send another flood. He wanted the people to obey His command to subdue the earth. If they were to subdue the earth they had to be scattered over the whole earth. What a demonstration of God’s grace that He chose a way to scatter the people without destroying them. He chose to confuse their language.

What had been one language, now became many languages. The people could no longer understand one another. They began to think differently, so they could not continue building the tower. They were forced to go their own way. In this way we have the beginning of nations. As the people forgot one another they also began to distrust each other. They attacked each other in warfare. Through all this separation and distrust God kept His promise that mankind would not be totally destroyed even in war.

As the human race developed and filled the whole earth, there was a deep spiritual poverty, and hunger for true happiness. We see how our covenant God broke down the outward unity of unbelief, seen on the plain of Shinar, to show His children the true unity that comes from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. God has shown us what true unity really is. This does not mean we must erase all differences. We must be careful not to struggle for an outward unity, as they did at Babel. We must, rather, seek for a unity in the Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Word tells us there will be another attempt made to have outward unity, as there was at Babel. This will happen when the Antichrist appears. How grateful we must be that the Antichrist will not be able to lure the

true believers into this outward unity. The one true Church of the Lord will one day find complete unity in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Where did the descendants of Noah find a place to live? (Gen. 11:2)
2. What kept the people together out on the plain? (Gen. 11:1)
3. What did this group of people on the plain decide to do? (Gen. 11:4a)
4. Why did the people want to build these huge structures? (Gen. 11:4b)
5. Why was the Lord displeased with their building project? (Gen. 11:6)
6. What did the Lord decide to do, to force them to discontinue building? (Gen. 11:7)
7. What happened to these people when they discontinued building? (Gen. 11:8)

8. Why was the place named Babel? (Gen. 11:9)

9. Who will once again try to convince all people to join in an outward unity? (II John 7)

10. Who will one day overcome all the confusion of languages in true unity? (Rev. 11:15)

Lesson 7

Blessed in The One

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

Scripture: Genesis 12

Memory Verse: “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3)

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

Lesson

The people on the plain of Shinar demonstrated that they did not want to live by faith in God’s promises. They chose rather to depend on themselves and the security they felt by building a city and a tower. We must be very grateful that God, in His mercy, decided to confuse their language and scatter the people. The people had to know that their only real security was faith in the Word of God.

How wonderful it would have been if the people on the earth, after Babel, had lived by faith in God’s Word. A faith that believed God’s promise that a man of Shem’s line would be the Savior of mankind. But, this was not to be. Instead of living by faith the people of the earth lived in disobedience and pride. They forgot God and his promises. Yet God did not forget! He promised that a Redeemer would come, and His promises are always sure. But, how could the Redeemer come from sinful people, unless God once again intervened? God, in His mercy did intervene.

He chose one man through whom He would make a great nation. He would send His prophets to that nation and that people. He would teach them His promise once again that a Redeemer would come. The man whom God chose to be the father of that nation, was Abram. Why did God choose Abram? Was his family better than other families? Not at all, in fact, Abram came from a family who worshiped idols. We can only say that God in His will and mercy chose Abram.

God wanted the nations to know that the Redeemer would be unlike anyone else. He would not share in the ungodliness of mankind. God caused the nation from which the Redeemer would be born to live a completely separate life. In order to introduce the separate life of that nation God told Abram that he had to leave his fathers house, his family, and his land. Abram had to learn that a life of faith is entirely different from the life to which he was accustomed. So, too we must learn to separate ourselves from the sin in our lives, and live by faith in the Redeemer.

After Abram left his fathers house, his family, and his land, we see how God strengthened him by entering a covenant with him. Can you imagine, the God who made all things, makes a covenant with a man? The covenant He made with Abram had four special parts: First, God gave Abram a promise, “I will bless you...” Second, He told Abram why he was blessed, “And you shall be a blessing.” Third, He gave Abram a rich prophecy, “And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:2-3). Fourth, He promised a land to Abram. Strengthened by these promises from God, Abram left everything and followed the Lord. The Lord gave him faith. At work in his life was the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Abram obeyed God’s command and moved on to the land of Canaan. When he arrived at Shechem, which was in the very heart of Canaan, the Lord appeared to him and told him that this was the land He was going to give

to Abram and his descendants. The Lord had not appeared to any human being since the flood. But, now He appeared to Abram. He appeared to him again on several occasions. Just think, the Lord wished to dwell with man again! How wonderful it is that God wants to live in fellowship with man - despite his sin! God intends to overcome sin and atone for it. Abram must have been thrilled to have the Lord appear to him and give him such rich promises. You and I should be even more thrilled, for we know of the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through His Spirit, God now wants to dwell in our hearts.

Because God made a covenant with Abram and gave him such rich promises, we think, he would surely trust God in every situation. But, he didn't. When God sent a famine in the land and Abram decided to go to Egypt he became afraid that the Egyptians might hurt him so they could take his beautiful wife, Sarai. He decided to lie to protect himself. He and Sarai agreed to tell the Egyptians that she was Abram's sister. It happened just as they feared. Pharaoh heard of the beauty of Sarai and had her brought to the court, so she could become his wife. But how could Sarai become the mother of the promised child and the promised people if she became the wife of Pharaoh? Thankfully, God had other plans and He brought plagues on Pharaoh and made him know that the plagues were because he was going to take another man's wife. Pharaoh then admonished Abram for lying and gave his wife back.

In this way the Lord protected Sarai in her marriage to Abram. She was to be the mother of the promised people and the promised child. For the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord, the marriage of Abram and Sarai was protected. God's promise to Abram was sure, "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Christ Jesus would come from Abram's family.

Questions

1. Which son of Noah was Abram's great grandfather? (Gen. 11:10, 26)
2. Jehovah God asked Abram to leave three precious things. What are they? (Gen. 12:1)
3. Why did God want Abram to leave his country? (Josh. 24:2-3)
4. What specific promises did God give to Abram in Gen. 12:2?

5. What is the great promise, which included all people, that God gave to Abram? (Gen. 12:3b)

6. Where did Abram settle in Canaan? (Gen. 12:6)

7. When God promised the land of Canaan to his descendants, how did Abram show his gratitude? (Gen. 12:7)

8. Was Abram chosen to receive God's promises because he was good? (Gen. 12:10-13)

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

10. Did Abram learn to trust God to care for him and Sarai 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 Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out not knowing where he was going.” (Hebrews 11:8)

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

Lesson

You recall that God asked Abram to be separate. He asked him to leave his family, his father’s house, and his country. It was by faith that Abram obeyed God and took Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his brother’s son, and went to the land of Canaan. Except for a time in Egypt, during a famine, Abram and Lot continued to live in Canaan as a separate people. Abram continued to believe God’s promises that he would become a great nation, and that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. This blessing to all the families of the earth would come through the promised son, who is our Lord Jesus Christ. However, before the Lord Jesus could come from Abram’s seed there had to be one more separation. Abram and Lot had to separate. Abram’s children had to be a different and a separate people. Life in the Lord Jesus Christ must be completely different from human life that is apart from Him.

Once again we see how God worked out His plan of salvation. He made sure that Abram became completely separate, even from his nephew, Lot. Since Abram was to be a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, he had to part company with Lot and live alone.

By God’s guiding hand, a reason for Abram and Lot to separate soon arose. Both Abram and Lot were very wealthy and had large amounts of livestock. Because they had so much livestock the herdsmen of Lot began having trouble with the herdsmen of Abram. The only way to settle their disputes was to separate. So Abram generously offered to Lot the first choice. He said to Lot: “If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or if you go to the right, then I will go to the left.” Abram acted as if he already possessed the whole land of Canaan, when in truth, he did not own a single acre of it. He was so certain of God’s promises that he already owned Canaan in his mind. Even more than possessing land Abram believed God’s promise, that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. What a gracious God we see in the life of Abram. He took everything away from his servant, so that this servant could find complete assurance in the promise God had given. We too must be willing to leave everything behind, and find our assurance in Christ alone.

After Abram and Lot separated, God again appeared to Abram and renewed the promises about land and descendants. The God whom Abram served was truly a God of grace. He showed this grace by giving the land of Canaan to Abram’s children. But, in a much greater way He showed his grace by sending the promised seed. The promised seed of Abram was the Lord Jesus Christ. Just think how God fulfilled His promise in a way that Abram could never have imagined. The children of Abram, by faith, have become a great people, a multitude which no man can number, for all who believe in Him belong to that people. God gave to Abram’s children, not just the land of Canaan, but the whole earth. Our Lord rules over all God’s creatures and provides a dwelling place for His people on earth. He inspires His people to worship the Lord and will one day give them the new earth as a dwelling place.

Questions

1. How wealthy were Abram and Lot? (Gen. 13:6)
2. What problem arose between Abram and Lot? (Gen. 13:7)
3. What solution to the problem did Abram propose? (Gen. 13:9)
4. Why did Lot choose the plain of Jordan for his flocks and herds? (Gen. 13:10)
5. Why was this a foolish choice for Lot to make? (Gen. 13:12-13)
6. What promises did God repeat to Abram after he and Lot separated? (Gen. 13:15-16)
7. How many seed (children) was Abram promised? (Gen. 13:16)
8. Are you Abram's seed? (Galatians 3:29)

Lesson 9

Blessed by the Greater

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

Scripture: Genesis 14

Memory Verse: “And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.” (Heb. 7:15-16)

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 great truth we should see, as we study Genesis fourteen, is that grace did not come from Abram, but apart from him and above him. It was necessary for Abram, the great man of faith, to place his hope in the promised seed. Abram was the one who received the promise, but he was not the Savior. He had to meet his superior in Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God. What a story God gives us in His Word to tell us how Abram came to be blessed by this priest.

After Abram and Lot separated, Lot chose to dwell near the city of Sodom. He may have wanted the protection of the walls of Sodom. Instead of protection, Lot suffered the same defeat as the city of Sodom. Five cities in the Valley of Siddim rebelled against the powerful king, Chedorlaomer. One of these cities was Sodom, where Lot lived among the people. They refused to pay tribute to him any longer. This powerful king, joined by three other kings, moved in battle against the five cities and defeated them. In addition to defeat everything in their cities was carried off. Lot, his family, and all his possessions were carried off. We may think this will be the end of Lot, but God shows His providential care. Someone escaped and told Abram that Lot had been captured. Abram not only needed to rescue Lot but he also needed to meet Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High.

Abram, with a small band of men, defeated the powerful king Chedorlaomer and rescued Lot. This was possible, because God was with Abram. The defeat of this powerful king and the rescue of Lot became a temptation for Abram. Because he defeated their enemy, the Canaanites honored Abram and wanted him to be one of them just as Lot was. What a temptation for Abram to once again trust in himself rather than in the promise of God. How thankful we must be that Abram did not yield to that temptation. He continued to trust in the promises of his God.

God then did a wonderful thing for Abram. He once again strengthened Abram’s faith by having him meet Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High. This priest was someone who was greater than Abram, he could surely give Abram a blessing. Not only did Abram receive a blessing, but he also could see, in this priest of God Most High, a glimpse of the Redeemer who would come from his descendants. That Redeemer is the true and Holy Priest of God. What a reminder, that we too, must always look to someone greater than ourselves for our salvation. We must look to our Lord Jesus Christ.

In response to this great encounter with Melchizedek, Abram, by the grace of God did two remarkable things. He gave Melchizedek a tenth of all he owned, and he refused to take the spoils of war from the king of Sodom. He was truly a man who wanted to keep his vow, for he said: “I have raised my hand to the Lord God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you say, ‘I have made Abram rich...’”

Abram knew that his refusal to take the spoils of war from the king of Sodom would keep him from being accepted by the Canaanites. He would always be a stranger. In this way God kept the chosen people separate from the evils of Canaan. Abram remembered the promises God had given him. His descendants would become a great nation, and would be a blessing to all people through the Redeemer. We too, must be people who will keep our vows and rely on the rich promises of God. In this way we can also be channels of blessing to others.

Questions

1. Who was Melchizedek? (Gen. 14:18)
2. What special thing did he do for Abram? (Gen. 14:19-20)
3. Who is the priest of the Most High God, like Melchizedek? (Heb. 6:20)
4. What is a tithe? (Lev. 27:32)
5. What did Abram give to Melchizedek? (Gen. 14:20)
6. Why did Abram refuse to take the spoils of war from the king of Sodom? (Gen. 14:22-23)
7. Who delivered Abram's enemies into his hand? (Gen. 14:20)
8. Who is the priest forever who made a sacrifice for you and me? (Psalm 110:4)

Lesson 10

The Lord in the Covenant

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

Scripture: Genesis 15

Memory Verse: “Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘so shall your descendants be.’ And he believed in the Lord and He accounted it to him for righteousness.” (Gen. 15:5-6)

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

Lesson

In Genesis fifteen God tells us the unusual method He used to confirm the Covenant of Grace He made with Abram. What an act of mercy for God to show Abram, in a vision, the promise that was so hard for him to understand. It was hard for him to understand because God had promised that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed, but he had no children. He said my only heir is Eliezer my servant.

God then brought him outside and asked him to count and number the stars if he was able. He said Abram’s descendants would be as many as the stars. It is amazing that Abram believed the Lord. The Bible says his faith was accounted unto him for righteousness. Then God made another promise to Abram about inheriting the land of Canaan. Once again Abram questioned the Lord, “How shall I know I will inherit it?” This is when the Lord confirmed the covenant by giving Abram a vision.

The main purpose of the seed promised to Abram was to bring forth the Savior of the world. God repeated His promises to Abram. He made a covenant of grace with him, and He instituted circumcision, now He adds a solemn oath. The vision God gave to Abram was a vision of making an oath in the custom of the people of that day. It was their custom to cut three-year-old animals in two, right down the middle, and have the two parties making a covenant pass between the two halves. Passing between the two halves was the oath they used to assure both parties that the oath would be kept.

In the vision God gave to Abram, it was only God who passed between the two halves of the animals. He passed between the halves in the symbol of a smoking oven and a burning torch. God alone passing between the animal halves assures us that the continuation and stability of the covenant rested in God alone. The covenant will last forever, because God is faithful.

Today God’s people can live with confidence that God will surely keep His promise. We still have signs of God’s covenant today, in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord’s supper. Just as Abram was given the sign of the oath, by having God pass between the two halves of animals, we are given the signs of the sacraments. They should always be considered sacred. What beautiful reminders that God will keep His covenant with us. This lesson reminds us that the real seed of Abram is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in His death and resurrection that our sins are atoned for, and the new heaven and the new earth become ours.

Questions

1. How did Abram’s faith waver? (Gen. 15:2-3)

2. How did Jehovah God strengthen his faith? (Gen. 15:4-5)

3. What does the Bible tell us about Abram's faith? (Rom. 4:1-3)

4. How are you and I made righteous? (Rom. 4:5)

5. How long would Abram's descendants be strangers in a strange land? (Gen. 15:13-14)

6. When was this Word of the Lord to Abram fulfilled? (Exodus 12:40-41)

7. What symbol of the presence of Jehovah was seen in Abram's vision? (Gen. 15:17)

8. Who is the only one who can surely keep God's covenant? (Heb. 13:20)

Lesson 11

God Hears

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

Scripture: Genesis 16

Memory Verse: “Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, ‘Have I also seen Him who sees me?’” (Genesis 16:13)

Lesson Truth: God hears the oppression of life, within the covenant circle.

Lesson

When we read God’s word from Genesis sixteen, it tells the story of Hagar, Sarai’s maid. We are told how Hagar conceived a child by Abram, Sarai’s husband. The story continues by telling about Hagar running away. We may really think the story is about Sarai’s maid, Hagar. However, to think that the story the Bible is telling is about Hagar is to miss the importance of the covenant God made with Abram.

We are told the story of Hagar only because she was from Abram’s household. In this story we understand that when God makes a covenant with a man, the promises of that covenant include even the servants of the household. We are told about Hagar because she was from the house of Abram, with whom God made a covenant.

Just imagine the conversation in the tent of Abram and Sarai. Sarai, Abram’s wife, asked, “Didn’t God promise that you would have children as many as the stars, Abram? Didn’t God say that in your children all the nations would be blessed? But, Abram I am infertile, I haven’t given you any children. Why don’t you produce children with my maid, Hagar? Maybe God will work His promise through a child from my maid.” Abram apparently consented to give Sarai’s suggestion a try. The result was that Hagar did conceive Abram’s child.

When Hagar knew she was carrying Abram’s child she quickly forgot who she was. She did not want to have a child and give it her mistress, Sarai. The Bible tells us she despised Sarai. When Sarai saw she was despised she complained to Abram. Sarai realized that she and Abram made a mistake by trying to have the child of promise through a maid. Following this complaint, Abram allowed Sarai to do what she wanted, to Hagar. The Bible tells us Sarai dealt harshly with her. The result was that Hagar ran away. She wanted the baby she was carrying to be her own.

Hagar soon learned that she could not run away from God. She learned that she, even as a maid, was of the household of Abram, the man with whom God made a covenant. As a member of that household, Hagar was approached by an Angel of the Lord. What a merciful God we serve. Even a run-away servant, who belonged with the household of faith, was not forgotten by our God. Hagar was told she must return to her mistress, Sarai, and submit to her hand. She was also told that she would have a son who would be named “Ishmael,” which meant, God hears.

Even though Hagar was an Egyptian slave in Abram’s household, she responded to the Angel of the Lord by recognizing Abram’s God. The Bible says she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, “You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, ‘Have I also here seen Him who sees me?’” The well where the Angel appeared to Hagar was given the name “Beer-La’Hai-Roi” because this is where Hagar came to realize she was under the care of the Lord.

Hagar did go back to her mistress, Sarai, and her master Abram. When she gave birth to Abram’s son, it was Abram who gave him the name, Ishmael, meaning, God hears.

Questions

1. Who told Abram to go in to Sarai's maid, Hagar? (Gen. 16:2)
2. How did Hagar feel toward Sarai after she knew she was with child? (Gen. 16:4-5)
3. How did Sarai treat her maid when she found she was with child? (Gen. 16:6)
4. Abram had more than one wife, is this a good practice? (I Tim. 3:12)
5. Why was the son born to Abram and Hagar called Ishmael? (Gen. 16:11)
6. What would be Ishmael's future? (Gen. 16:12)
7. What was the name of the well, or spring, where the Angel appeared to Hagar? (Gen. 16:14)
8. How old was Abram when Ishmael was born? (Gen. 16:16)

Lesson 12

God the Almighty

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

Scripture: Genesis 17

Memory Verse: “When Abram was ninety nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.’” (Genesis 17:1)

Lesson Truth: As the covenant of grace unfolds, God reveals Himself as the Almighty.

Lesson

What an encouragement for Christians of all ages to learn what Abram learned as a ninety-nine-year-old man when God appeared to him. God told Abram that He was Almighty. He assured Abram that He would fulfill the promises He made by His miraculous power. What He asked from Abram in response was that he walk before the Lord blameless.

The story from Genesis seventeen is such a beautiful story of God giving Abram a triple assurance that the promises He made in the covenant would surely come true. God gave this assurance by changing the names of both Abram and Sarai and by instituting the sacrament of circumcision.

In earlier lessons we learned that God had come to Abram and promised him both children and land. We also remember that Abram believed God, and that it was accounted to him for righteousness. Even though Abram believed God, he could not understand how these promises could be fulfilled, since he did not have a child. Do you remember how he and Sarai thought they could maybe raise a child that would come from Hagar, the maidservant of Sarai? But this was not God’s plan.

Now we come to the thrilling message of Genesis seventeen. “Abram, I am Almighty God, I can do all things. It is not necessary for you to understand how it will come about. I, Almighty God, will do the impossible. Your name, Abram will now be Abraham, ‘for I have made you the father of many nations.’ Your wife, Sarai, will no longer be called, Sarai, but Sarah, ‘and she shall be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.’ It doesn’t matter, Abraham, that both you and Sarah are very old. It doesn’t matter that people your age never have children, I am God Almighty. I can do all things!”

Again, we see Abraham puzzled by what God was saying. His response is, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” “Yes, God, I could have children in whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed, if Ishmael, my son with Hagar, would live before You. But he doesn’t!” God, then assured Abraham that, even in his old age, he and Sarah would have a son and they would call his name Isaac. God said, “I will establish my covenant with Isaac.” Certainly, it would be a miracle, but that is what God’s covenant of grace is. It is a miracle that God reaches down to His children and gives them salvation through Jesus Christ their Lord.

God then told Abraham, that as a sign of the covenant, Abraham should circumcise every male child in his household. The Lord warned Abraham that any male in his household, who would not be circumcised would be exiled from God’s people. Today we remember God’s covenant by the sign of baptism. Today, if covenant children reject the sign of baptism, they are excommunicated from the church, instead of being exiled.

What a wonderful God we serve. He not only gave the promise of the covenant, but He also gave the assurance that it would be fulfilled. We know that the promise of the covenant has been fulfilled in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Questions

1. What title did God give Himself when He appeared to Abram? (Gen. 17:1)
2. What did God ask of Abram before He again promised the covenant? (Gen. 17:1)
3. What promise was given to Abram when God named him Abraham? (Gen. 17:4-5)
4. What promise was given to Sarai when God named her Sarah? (Gen. 17:16)
5. By what sacrament (sign) was Abraham commanded to keep the covenant? (Gen. 17:10-11)
6. What would happen to those who did not receive the sign of the covenant? (Gen. 17:14)
7. Why did Abraham doubt God's promise that he and Sarah would have a son? (Gen. 17:17)
8. With whom would God establish His covenant following Abraham? (Gen. 17:19)