

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 20
Level 1

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.

The Victory of the Word of Grace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 35

Scripture: Acts 12:1-24

Memory Verse: “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” (Psalm 34:7)

Lesson Truth: The Lord’s Word of grace is His gift of love to sinners. This grace can do all things. This grace opened the prison doors and set Peter free.

Lesson

What is the Word of grace? The Word of grace is the love God shows to us even though we do not deserve it. This love never quits. It has the power to do anything. In this lesson the power of the Lord’s grace defeated evil men. This Word of grace defeated king Herod. The Lord’s Word of grace set Peter free from prison.

Our story today is about the church after Jesus went to heaven. The church is the group of believers. These were the believers that Saul tried to harm. These were the people that helped Saul. They helped him after God stopped him on the road to Damascus. These believers sent Saul and Barnabas to Antioch to share the story of Jesus with the Gentiles at Antioch. This upset the Jewish people. The Jews thought that only Israelites could be saved. They thought that only Israelites could be part of God’s covenant.

At this time King Herod was the ruler of the Jews. He knew that the Jews were upset. Do you know what king Herod did? He put the apostle James to death. Herod saw that this made the Jews happy. Do you know the next thing Herod did? He had the apostle Peter arrested. Peter was arrested during the Passover feast. Herod could not have a trial for Peter during the feast. So, he put him in prison. Herod told four squads of soldiers to guard Peter. The soldiers wanted to make sure that Peter could not escape. So, they tied

him with chains between two soldiers. They also had soldiers guard the prison doors. But God's grace is stronger than soldiers. The Lord's Word of grace is stronger than a prison. Do you know what happened?

During the night an angel came to stand by Peter. A light shined in the prison. Then the angel told Peter to do an amazing thing. He told him to stand up. How could Peter stand up? He was tied with chains between two soldiers. But God's Word of grace was stronger than chains. Peter listened to the angel. He stood up, and his chains fell off. Then the angel told Peter to follow him. He led Peter past the guards. The iron gate of the prison opened by itself. Peter walked out of the prison and onto the street.

Now Peter decided to go to Mary's house. He knew other believers would be there. They would be praying for Peter. At Mary's house Peter knocked at the door. Rhoda the maid came to the door. She was so surprised to see Peter. Rhoda forgot to unlock the door. Instead, she ran to tell the others. They did not believe Rhoda. They said that she saw Peter's angel. How could Peter have escaped from prison? But Peter kept knocking. At last, the believers let him in. He then told them to tell the other James. Now the believers knew that God's Word of grace set Peter free.

Peter went to preach at other places. Herod killed the soldiers. He was angry because Peter had escaped. Herod was a proud king. He allowed the people of Tyre and Sidon to call him a god. God did not allow Herod to be so proud. An angel of the Lord came and struck Herod. Worms ate Herod so that he died. Herod was defeated by God's Word of grace. God's grace won the victory over wicked Herod. God's grace won the victory over the prison.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Saul and Barnabas shared the story of Jesus at (Jerusalem – Antioch).
2. The Jews thought that only (Israelites – Gentiles) could be saved.

3. King Herod put the apostle (Peter – James) to death.
4. King Herod had (John – Peter) arrested and put into prison.
5. An (apostle – angel) came to Peter in prison and told him to get up and follow him.

The Door of Faith Opened to the Gentiles

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 36

Scripture: Acts 12:25–14:28

Memory Verse: “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47b)

Lesson Truth: Gentiles were given the gift of faith. God’s Spirit and Word gave them this gift.

Lesson

In our lesson today we will learn about faith. Faith in Jesus makes it possible to believe that He is the Redeemer. We will learn that God gave the gift of faith to Gentiles. This was a wonderful gift. This gift made it possible for Gentiles to be in God’s Kingdom. Let’s hear the story of how God gave this gift to Gentiles.

God chose Barnabas and Saul to teach the Gentiles. The church at Antioch sent them out to preach. They did this because God’s Holy Spirit told them to. Some bad people in the Gentile churches tried to stop their preaching. In one church a man of magic tried to harm them. In another church they said that only Israelites could be saved. In still another church they worshiped idols. They tried to worship Barnabas and Saul like idols. Yet God gave Gentiles the gift of faith. God opened the door of faith so they could believe.

Saul and Barnabas went to a Gentile church at Paphos. There they met a man who did magic. His name was Elymas. Elymas did not like Saul and Barnabas. He did not want them to tell the governor about God’s grace. Elymas wanted the governor to believe in his magic. Saul was filled with God’s Holy Spirit. So, he told Elymas the truth. He told him that he was filled with lies. Saul even told him that he was a son of Satan. Saul said that the Lord’s hand was on Elymas. The Lord’s hand made Elymas go blind.

This surprised the governor very much. He then believed that Jesus was the Redeemer.

At a synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia Saul told the Jews that God chose Abraham and the Israelites to be His people. He told them that God chose David to be the king. And God also brought Jesus the Redeemer from David's children. He told them that Jesus was put to death. But God raised Him from the dead. He is the Redeemer.

Sadly, some of the Israelites believed that the Redeemer was only for them. They believed that they were good enough to be God's children. They did not understand that only God's grace could make them His children. Saul told them that God's Word of grace came to Israel first. But they rejected this Word. Now they told the Gentiles about God's grace. Many Gentiles believed this Word. They knew that Jesus was their Redeemer.

Saul also preached at Lystra. At Lystra there was a crippled man. He had been crippled all his life. Saul saw that this man had faith. So, he told him to stand up. At once he stood up. Then the people at Lystra did a bad thing. They tried to worship Barnabas and Saul. They wanted to worship a human idol. They did not understand God's grace. Later some Jews from other synagogues came. They stirred up the people. They even stoned Saul and threw his body out of the city. But he did not die. God wanted Saul to preach to other Gentiles.

Many Gentiles became believers. Saul and Barnabas then decided to go back to Antioch in Syria. On the way back they visited the Gentile churches. They chose elders in these churches to lead God's people. Isn't that a wonderful story? It is the story about God giving faith to the Gentiles. Now the Gentiles knew that Jesus was their Redeemer.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The man (Barnabas – Elymas) wanted the governor to believe his magic.

2. Saul told (Paphos – Elymas) that he was a son of Satan.
3. Saul told the Jews at Antioch that God chose Abraham and the (Edomites – Israelites) to be His people.
4. Some (Israelites – Edomites) believed that the Redeemer came only for them.
5. At (Paphos – Lystra) the people tried to worship Saul and Barnabas as if they were idols.

Freedom of Faith

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 37

Scripture: Acts 15:1-34

Memory Verse: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” (Acts 10:44)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit gave believers the gift of faith. Gentiles were free to believe without having to keep the Jewish laws.

Lesson

What is freedom of faith? Freedom is doing something because you want to. It is doing something without having a law to tell you that you must do it. The Gentiles at Antioch were free to believe in Jesus. They had freedom of faith. Sadly, some Jews tried to hinder them in their faith. They said the Gentiles had to follow Jewish laws. They said the Gentiles could not be saved unless they followed these laws. Thankfully, the apostles said the Gentiles could believe in Jesus without following the Jewish laws.

This is the story of the Gentile church at Antioch. Paul and Barnabas taught the believers at this church. Many Gentiles believed that Jesus was the Christ. Then a sad thing happened. Some Jews from Judea came to visit. They told the Gentiles that they could not be saved. Why couldn't they be saved? It was because they did not keep Jewish laws. But the Jewish laws only pointed people to Jesus Christ, and the Gentiles already believed in Jesus. Still, the Israelite Jews said the Gentiles had to keep the Jewish laws or they could not be saved. This was not what Paul and Barnabas taught the Gentiles. So, who was right?

The believers at Antioch decided to ask the apostles who was right. They sent some elders with Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem. They would ask the apostles at Jerusalem about the law of circumcision. Some Pharisees said the Jews were right. They said the Gentiles had to keep this law. The Pharisees

said the Gentiles had to keep the Law of Moses. Then the apostle Peter stood up to talk.

Peter said that God told him to share the story of Jesus with the Gentiles. He also said that God gave the Gentiles His Holy Spirit. God did not make the Gentiles follow the Jewish laws. They should not demand what God did not demand. The Gentiles were free to believe in Jesus. They were free to do this without the Jewish laws.

The apostle James agreed with Peter. He said that the Prophets told about Gentiles believing in Jesus. But James warned the Gentiles about idols. The apostles sent a letter to the Gentiles at Antioch. The letter warned about strangled things and blood. It warned about impure sexual things. The letter also told the Gentiles that they were free to believe in Jesus. This made the Gentiles very happy. Now they knew that they could believe in Jesus. They could believe in Jesus without keeping Jewish laws. This was the Gentiles' freedom of faith.

The Holy Spirit guided the believers to this truth. You and I also have freedom of faith. We may believe in the grace of the Lord Jesus. We may believe this without keeping Jewish laws. Aren't you happy that Jesus is your Redeemer?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Paul and (Peter – Barnabas) taught the believers at the Gentile church at Antioch.
2. The (Jews – Apostles) said that the Gentiles had to keep the Jewish laws.
3. The believers at Antioch decided to ask the (Jewish leaders – Apostles) at Jerusalem who was right about Jewish laws.

4. The apostle (John – Peter) said that God told him to share the story of Jesus with the Gentiles.

5. The apostle (Thomas – James) agreed with Peter that the Gentiles were free to believe in Jesus without following Jewish laws.

Overlooking the Times of Their Ignorance

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 38

Scripture: Acts 15:35–18:22

Memory Verse: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Lesson Truth: The Holy Spirit led Paul and Silas to Europe. He used them to bring the gospel to many nations. Before Paul and Silas came, the people of these nations did not know Jesus. But now, the Holy Spirit commanded them to repent and believe.

Lesson

God chose Paul and Silas to go to Europe. The nations in Europe did not know God. They did not know the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet God overlooked their lack of knowledge. He told them to repent and believe in Jesus. This is what happened.

Paul and Barnabas were no longer together. They argued about Mark. Barnabas wanted Mark to go with them. But Paul said Mark should not go along. Barnabas then took Mark and went to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas to go with him to Derbe and Lystra. At Lystra Paul and Silas found Timothy. Timothy was a believer. Paul wanted to take him along to preach the gospel. So, he had Timothy keep the Jewish laws. Then both the Jews and Gentiles would listen to Timothy.

Paul and Silas went through the region of Galatia. But the Holy Spirit said they could not preach in Asia. Instead, the Holy Spirit showed Paul a vision. In this vision Paul saw a man from Macedonia. This man asked Paul and Silas to come and help them. Paul and Silas believed that the Lord called them. So, they went to Macedonia to the city of Philippi. At Philippi they met Lydia. Lydia was a merchant. She believed the words of Paul and Silas.

She believed that Jesus was her Redeemer. Paul and Silas stayed at Lydia's house. Then something sad happened at Philippi.

Paul and Silas were on their way to pray with other believers. As they walked, they met a slave girl. This girl had a spirit that could tell fortunes. Her masters got a lot of money for the fortunes she told. The spirit in this girl knew Paul and Silas. This bad spirit told her to cry out. She said, "These men are servants of the Most High God" (Acts 16:17). She also said that they told others the way of salvation. Still, neither she nor her masters believed.

So, Paul commanded the spirit to come out of her. The spirit did come out. Then she could no longer tell fortunes. This made her masters angry. So, they dragged Paul and Silas to the city officials. The officials beat them with rods and put them in prison.

That night Paul and Silas were praying and singing. About midnight God sent an earthquake. The prison shook and the doors flew open. The chains fell off the prisoners. This made the jailer very frightened. He thought the prisoners had escaped. So, he took his sword to kill himself. But Paul told him all the prisoners were there. Then the jailer asked Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). They told him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Then he would be saved and the people in his house.

Later, Paul and Silas went to other cities. At Athens Paul saw many altars to idols. He told the people in Athens that he knew they were religious. They had altars for many gods. They even had an altar to an unknown god. Paul said he would tell them about this unknown God. He was the God who made everything. He was the God who would overlook their lack of knowledge. But this God told them to repent. Some of the people believed Paul's words. Others mocked him. This was the way the Holy Spirit worked. He caused the gospel to be preached to many nations.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Paul chose (Mark – Silas) to go with him to Derbe and Lystra.

2. At Lystra the apostles found (Barnabas – Timothy) who was a believer.
3. Paul saw a man from (Macedonia – Galatia) in a vision saying, come over and help us.
4. A spirit in (an official – a slave girl) cried out, “These men are servants of the Most High God.”
5. When Paul and Silas were in prison God sent (a wind – an earthquake) to shake the prison and all the doors flew open.

The Way of the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 39

Scripture: Acts 18:23–20:38

Memory Verse: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35c)

Lesson Truth: Believers in Jesus were called the people of the Way because they walked in the way of the Lord.

Lesson

Believers were called the people of the Way. This meant that they followed the way of Jesus. The people of the Way were filled with the Holy Spirit. Apollos was one of those people. So were believers in the city of Ephesus. The apostle Paul helped the people of the Way.

Apollos was a teacher. He walked in the way of the Lord Jesus. Still, he did not know about the Holy Spirit. Apollos did not know that God gave His people the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Aquilla and Priscilla heard Apollos teach. They noticed that he did not talk about the Holy Spirit. Do you know what they did? They talked to Apollos. They told him that the Holy Spirit was part of way of the Lord. Apollos believed them. He was then filled with the Holy Spirit. Now he taught the Jews that Jesus was the Christ.

The apostle Paul found some believers in Ephesus. They were just like Apollos. They did not know about the Holy Spirit. They told Paul that they had never heard of the Holy Spirit. They said they repented of their sins and were baptized. This was the kind of baptism that John the Baptist told them about. Now Paul told them about the Holy Spirit. He told them that the Holy Spirit pointed to Jesus. John also pointed to Jesus. These people believed Paul. They asked to be baptized in the name of Jesus. Then a wonderful thing happened. They also received the Holy Spirit. These believers were now people of the Way. Paul also told the people at the

synagogue about Jesus. Some of them believed and were people of the Way. Others spoke evil of the people of the Way.

God allowed Paul to do miracles at the church at Ephesus. Some people were healed when they touched Paul's handkerchief. Bad men then tried to use Paul's power. They tried to cast out a demon. Do you know what they said to the demon? They said the demon had to leave in the name of Jesus, whom Paul proclaimed. The demon answered them. He said that he knew Jesus. He also knew Paul. But he did not know these men. The man with the demon then jumped on the men. This made them run away. The people were afraid. But many of them believed in Jesus. They became people of the Way.

A man named Demetrius also hurt Paul. He made silver idols of Diana. Diana was the goddess of the Ephesians. But when people became followers of the Way, they did not buy idols. This upset Demetrius. He started a riot. He got the crowd to yell about the goddess Diana. Thankfully a city clerk calmed the crowd.

Later, Paul started to make his way to Jerusalem. On the way he called the elders from Ephesus. Paul told them how he showed them the way of the Lord. He warned them that bad men would try to hurt them. They would try to hurt the people of the Way. Then Paul said goodbye. He knew that he would never see these elders again. The Holy Spirit urged Paul to go to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit said that Paul would suffer and die. Still, Paul was ready to go. He said he wanted to finish the race of life with joy. Paul was ready to serve God in life and in death. Are you ready to serve God in everything?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Aquilla and Priscilla told (Ephesus – Apollos) about the Holy Spirit and the way of the Lord.

2. Paul told the believers at (Ephesus – Corinth) about the Holy Spirit and the people of the Way.
3. These believers asked to be baptized in (Paul’s – Jesus’) name.
4. Some bad men tried to use (Demetrius’ – Paul’s) power to cast out demons.
5. Paul told (Diana – the elders from Ephesus) that bad men would try to hurt the people of the Way.

Imitator of the Christ

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 40

Scripture: Acts 21:1–23:35

Memory Verse: “And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.” (Acts 21:5c)

Lesson Truth: Christians follow Christ.

Lesson

Paul was a Roman citizen. He was also a Jew. He was taught by a famous rabbi named Gamaliel. God used all those parts of Paul’s life to spread the good news of the gospel. For Paul, the most important thing he could do in life was to spread the gospel. He was even willing to die for the sake of Christ’s name. Paul knew that Jesus died for sinners. Paul wanted to imitate Christ by offering his life for the spread of the gospel.

In this lesson, we will learn about Paul traveling to Jerusalem. It was very dangerous for Paul to do this. Many people were afraid for Paul. They urged him not to go. But that did not matter to Paul. He wanted to go to Jerusalem. He wanted to show the Christians in Jerusalem that Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians were the same. They were the same because Jesus saved them all. They did not all have to follow the Jewish laws to be the same. It did not depend on anything they did. Rather, it depended on what Jesus Christ did for them.

Paul did go to Jerusalem. When he arrived, the Christian leaders asked him to join other Christians in following a Jewish law called a Nazirite vow. A Nazirite vow was a promise to live in a certain way for a specific amount of time. Paul agreed to do this to show Jewish Christians that he was not against Jews following Jewish laws. However, when he entered the temple as part of the vow, some other Jews thought he broke a different law. They thought he had taken a Gentile into the part of the temple that only Jews were allowed to enter. They raised the alarm, and soon the whole city was in an uproar.

The Roman commander arrested Paul because Paul was at the center of the trouble. He thought Paul was an Egyptian who had lately been causing trouble. When Paul told him he was a Jew, he let Paul speak to the crowd before he took him away. Paul explained to the crowd that he was a faithful Jew. He spoke to them in Hebrew. He told them that he studied under a famous rabbi. He also told them how he was so committed as a Jew that, at one time, he tried to arrest Christians. But he also explained that being a faithful Jew meant following Jesus. When he was on the road to Damascus, Jesus called to him and told him to stop hurting Christians. He said that he wanted Paul to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

When the crowd heard Paul say that he preached to the Gentiles, they said that he deserved to die. The crowd did not want the Gentiles to hear the good news that Jesus died for our sins. The Roman commander had to keep Paul in prison to protect him from the crowd. The Jewish leaders even tried to kill Paul. But the Roman commander found out and sent Paul to Felix, the governor.

When Paul was in prison, Christ came to him at night and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul, for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome” (Acts 23:11b). Paul was ready to go to Rome for the sake of Jesus Christ. He was willing to obey Christ wherever Christ would send him. Paul was an imitator of the Christ. Are you ready to be an imitator of Christ Jesus?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Paul was told through the Spirit not to go up to (Jerusalem – Rome).
2. (Jewish – Christian) leaders asked Paul to join other Christians in fulfilling a Nazirite vow.

3. When Paul entered the temple, Jewish leaders (thanked Paul for coming – raised an alarm among the people).
4. The Roman commander arrested (Paul – the Jewish leaders).
5. When Paul was in prison, (an angel – the Lord) came to him at night to encourage him.

Standing before Kings and Governors

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 41

Scripture: Acts 24–26

Memory Verse: “I appeal to Caesar.” (Acts 25:11c)

Lesson Truth: Kings and governors hear about Jesus.

Lesson

Today’s lesson describes how Paul preached the gospel to kings and others who ruled over him. Paul preached before a governor named Felix. He also preached to Festus, who replaced Felix. And he preached to King Agrippa and Bernice.

After Paul was arrested in Jerusalem, he was sent to Caesarea and placed in prison. The governor, whose name was Felix, heard Paul’s case there. Some Jewish leaders traveled to Caesarea to accuse Paul. They said that Paul had caused trouble in Jerusalem. This would have been a serious crime. The Roman leaders thought that anyone who caused trouble would start causing trouble for the Roman government. And they wanted to make sure that people would never cause trouble for the Roman government. So, they punished troublemakers harshly. The Jewish leaders also said that Paul broke Jewish laws by bringing a Gentile into a part of the temple where only Jews were allowed.

Paul did not do anything the Jewish leaders accused him of doing. He denied all the charges. But when he was asked to defend himself, he turned the conversation to God’s judgment at the end of the world. He said that the only possible complaint the Jewish leaders could have against him was that when he was before the Sanhedrin, he cried out, “Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day” (Acts 24:21). Paul said that one day everyone who has died will be resurrected. To be resurrected is to be brought back to life after being dead. Paul said the just

will be resurrected, and the unjust will be resurrected. Paul wanted Felix to know this because Felix was a very unjust governor. Paul wanted Felix to seek forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Two years later, Festus replaced Felix as governor. Festus also asked Paul to defend himself against the charges of the Jewish leaders. But Festus wasn't interested in knowing if Paul was guilty or not guilty. He was more interested in making sure the Jewish leaders knew that he was willing to do them a favor. The favor he was thinking of doing for the Jewish leaders was to send Paul back to Jerusalem to be tried there. But Paul knew that if he was returned to Jerusalem for trial, he would not be shown justice. The Jewish leaders may even have had a plan to kill Paul before he got to Jerusalem. So, Paul did what he had to do. He appealed to Caesar. Because Paul was a Roman citizen, Festus had to accept Paul's appeal.

Paul also argued his case before Agrippa. Agrippa was king over several Roman provinces in the northern part of Judea. He visited Festus, and Festus told him about Paul. Agrippa said he would like to hear Paul himself. Agrippa was familiar with Jewish laws and customs, but he was not a believer. Paul knew that Agrippa had a knowledge of the Old Testament, and so Paul showed him how the Old Testament prophesied about Jesus Christ. Agrippa knew what Paul was doing. But Paul did not care. Paul wanted Agrippa to become a Christian like himself. Paul did everything he could to tell others about Jesus Christ.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. After Paul was arrested, he was sent to (Jerusalem – Caesarea).
2. Festus wanted to send Paul back to (Athens – Jerusalem).
3. Paul appealed to (Caesar – the Jewish leaders).

4. (Agrippa – Felix) said to Festus that he would like to hear Paul himself.

5. Paul showed Agrippa how the (Old Testament – New Testament) prophesied about Jesus Christ.

Christ's Global Reign

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 42

Scripture: Acts 27–28

Memory Verse: “When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage.”
(Acts 28:15b)

Lesson Truth: Christ rules the whole world.

Lesson

In our story today, Paul is a prisoner. A Roman soldier, called a centurion, guarded him and brought him all the way to Rome. But the centurion was nice to Paul. He let Paul bring his friends Luke and Aristarchus with him.

The trip to Rome was very dangerous. They had to travel on a sailing ship. One time, the wind was blowing against them and not with them. Another time, there was barely any wind at all, so the ship travelled very slowly. But the worst problem was when a storm from the north blew very strong winds against them and blew them off course. The storm was so bad that the sailors thought the ship would sink. But an angel came to Paul and told Paul that even though the ship would be lost, God would make sure Paul got all the way to Rome. The angel even said that God would make sure that no one who traveled with Paul would drown in the storm. Isn't it wonderful how God showed his care for Paul and the people with him?

The sailors tried to put the ship on a beach on the island of Malta, but the ship got stuck on a reef and broke apart before it could get to the beach. The soldiers on the ship wanted to kill the prisoners, because they were afraid the prisoners would escape. It would have been very bad for the soldiers if they let any prisoners escape. But the centurion wanted to save Paul, so he made everyone jump overboard and either swim or cling to parts of the ship until they all made it to the shore.

The people of Malta were very kind to Paul and the others. They built a fire on the shore to help them stay warm. But even this was dangerous for Paul. As he was putting some sticks on the fire, a snake came out from the heat and bit Paul on the hand. Paul shook it off, but the people of Malta were certain Paul would die from the snake's bite. But nothing happened to Paul. Just as God protected him from the storm, so God protected him from the snakebite. Paul even healed many people on Malta, including the father of Publius, the ruler of the island. This made the people of Malta very willing to honor Paul and to help him on his way when it was time to leave for Rome.

Three months later, Paul and the others arrived in Italy on a different ship. The centurion let Paul visit with Christians who came to greet him. In Rome, Paul was allowed to live in a house and invite others to visit him there. This was important for Paul since he relied on these Christians to provide for him. It also allowed Paul to continue his ministry in Rome. Paul invited Jewish leaders to the home and preached the gospel to them. Some believed, but others did not. Paul continued to preach the gospel not only to Jews, but also to Gentiles in Rome.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Paul was put on a ship headed to (Jerusalem – Rome).
2. When the ship that Paul was on was caught in a storm, God told him in a dream not to be afraid because He wanted him to be brought before (Caesar – Herod)
3. After the shipwreck, they discovered that (only five people died – everyone survived).

4. When Paul laid some sticks on a fire a (snake – badger) came out from the fire and bit him.

5. When Paul arrived in Rome, he was (put in prison – allowed to stay in a house with a soldier to guard him).

The Victory of the Kingdom

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 43

Scripture: Matthew 24–25

Memory Verse: “But he who endures to the end will be saved.” (Matt. 24:13)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is coming again.

Lesson

The temple in Jerusalem was a beautiful building. Even the disciples thought it was beautiful, and they pointed it out to Jesus. But do you know what Jesus said? He said that one day, the whole building would be torn down. The disciples thought that when the temple was destroyed, Jesus would establish His Kingdom on earth, so they asked Him if that would happen. They longed to see the Kingdom of Jesus Christ established. And they wanted to be prepared when it came.

But Jesus said it would be a long time between when the temple was destroyed and when He would come again. We know today that the temple has already been destroyed, but we are still waiting for Jesus to return to establish His Kingdom. So, if the temple is already destroyed, why hasn't Jesus already come? Why are we still waiting for Him to come again?

Jesus explained why we have to wait so long. He said that many things would happen before He came again. One thing that had to happen was that the gospel would need to be preached to all the nations. But Jesus said that even though many would hear the gospel, not everyone would believe it. He said that some people would be led astray by false prophets. The false prophets would point to someone who was not the Christ and say, “Look, here is the Christ!” (Matt. 24:23). But Jesus said that we should not believe them. He said that when He returns, everyone will know right away that He is the real Christ.

Jesus also said that before He returns, the world would become very troubled. He said there would be wars and rumors of wars. Nations would fight against other nations. There would be famines, where people would not have enough to eat. There would be pestilence, where crops would be destroyed. Jesus also said there would be earthquakes and other natural disasters. But He said, all of this would be just the beginning.

Jesus said that Christians would encounter even more trouble living in this world. The world will become more and more wicked, and Christians will have to try to step away from all that wickedness. He said that people would hate Christians and even try to kill Christians. He said that because of all the lawlessness, love would grow cold.

This all sounds very scary. But Jesus said that Christians do not have to be afraid. He said that all this trouble is not the end. After all this trouble, Jesus will come again. He will put a stop to all the bad things that are happening in the world. He will wipe away every tear from our eyes. He will take all those who believe in Him into the Kingdom that He has prepared for them. But for those people who do not believe, He will cast into everlasting fire. Will you be ready for Jesus when He comes?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jesus said that in the last days, (true – false) prophets will rise up and deceive many.
2. Jesus said that many people would hear the gospel (but not all would believe – and everyone would believe).
3. Jesus said that before He returns, there will be (everlasting peace – wars and rumors of wars).

4. Jesus said that before He returns, the world will (hate – love) Christians.

5. Jesus said that when He comes again, He will tell all those who (believe in Him – do not believe in Him) to inherit the kingdom He prepared for them.

The Victory over Satan

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 44

Scripture: Revelation 12

Memory Verse: “So the great dragon was cast out.” (Rev. 12:9a)

Lesson Truth: Jesus saves.

Lesson

Have you ever had a dream? Did you dream about happy things? Did you have a scary dream? Sometimes dreams can be very happy. Other times, dreams can be very scary. The story we are going to talk about today is kind of like a dream. It was a vision that John had when he was on the island of Patmos. A vision is kind of like a dream, except a vision happens when you are awake. Dreams happen when you are sleeping.

Jesus gave John this vision, and he told John to write it down so that people like us could also learn about this vision. Parts of the vision can be a little scary, but don't worry, in the vision we learn that Jesus is stronger than any of the scary things that happen.

The vision is about a woman who is about to have a baby boy. And it is about a dragon who chases the woman and wants to destroy her baby. The dragon looked very scary. It was fiery red. It had seven heads and ten horns. And on each of its heads it had a crown. The dragon is Satan, and the baby is Jesus Christ. And we know that even though Satan wants to destroy Jesus Christ, he will never be able to do it.

But that doesn't stop Satan from trying. Satan does not want God's people to have a good relationship with God. He wants to break us apart. He wants us to follow him instead of Jesus. And so, he tried to destroy Jesus because he thought if he could destroy Jesus, he could also destroy us and our relationship with God. But God protected Jesus. The story in Revelation 12

tells us that the woman fled into the wilderness, where she was protected in a place prepared for her by God.

The vision then describes a war in heaven, where Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. Michael and his angels won, and Satan was cast out of heaven forever. Revelation 12:10 says, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.” Isn’t it wonderful to know that Satan is already defeated? John said that “they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 12:11). When Jesus died on the cross, Satan was defeated. We can all rejoice with the angels in heaven because of what Jesus did for us.

But Satan was not happy about what Jesus did. In fact, he was very, very angry. When he saw that he could not defeat Jesus, he decided to attack everyone who follows Jesus. We know he can’t win, but he still tries. Even today, we all struggle against sin and the temptations that Satan brings to us.

But even here, there is hope. We know that one day, Jesus is going to come again. And when He comes again, He is going to judge Satan and all those who follow him. They will no longer be able to trouble God’s people. And Jesus will set up a new heaven and a new earth that won’t have any sin in it. And we can live perfect, righteous lives in the presence of Jesus forever.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. In Revelation 12, a great, fiery, red (dragon – teddy bear) appeared.
2. The dragon (protected – chased) the woman.
3. The woman bore a (baby boy – baby girl).

4. Those who overcame the dragon did it by (the blood of the Lamb – fighting really hard).

5. When the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth and could not defeat the woman, he (attacked all those who followed Jesus – told the woman he was sorry).

The Victory over the Beast

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 45

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-21

Memory Verse: “His name is called The Word of God.” (Rev. 19:13b)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is faithful and true.

Lesson

Do you remember the story in our last lesson? A woman was about to have a baby boy, and a dragon was chasing her. He wanted to destroy the baby. In the story, the dragon was Satan, and the baby was Jesus Christ. Satan does not like Jesus. He wants to fight against Him. But Satan can never win against Jesus. When Satan figured out that he couldn't win, he got so angry that he tried to fight against everyone who loves Jesus. That fight has been going on for a very long time. It will continue until Jesus comes again.

John also had visions about the way that Satan has tried to fight against Jesus. In one vision, he saw two beasts. One beast was from the sea and the other beast was from the land. The beast from the sea tried to make everyone in the world worship the dragon. And when he saw people who worshiped Jesus, he would fight against them. That was very bad for him to do.

The other beast, the one from the earth, lied to people. He was called a false prophet. Do you know what a false prophet is? He is someone who makes up things that are not true and then tells people that God said it. The beast from the earth makes up lies to try to get everyone to worship the beast from the sea. He also makes it look like he can do miracles to trick more people into worshiping the beast from the sea. That is also a very bad thing to do.

Some people in this world are like the two beasts. They do not want to follow Jesus. They do not want Jesus to be King. Instead, they want to be kings themselves. They want to set up their own kingdoms. In the Old Testament,

Babylon was a kingdom like that. It did not want to worship God. It wanted all the glory for itself instead of giving glory to God. It acted just like the two beasts.

But Babylon did not continue forever. And no one who tries to take God's place can do that forever. In another vision, John showed what Jesus will do when He comes again. John described Jesus as a rider on a white horse who would come to judge everyone who fought against Him. When He comes again, he will fight against all those who follow the dragon and the two beasts. And best of all, we know that He will win the fight. When Jesus comes again, He will defeat everyone who fights against Him. And He will be King forever. And everyone who loves Jesus will be able to serve and worship him forever. What a wonderful day that will be.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. When heaven opened a rider on a (yellow lion – white horse) appeared.
2. On the head of the rider were many (crowns – hats).
3. The armies of heaven were clothed in (battle armor – fine linen).
4. Out of the mouth of the rider was a (sharp sword – waggly tongue).
5. The rider will rule the nations with a (soft feather – rod of iron).

The Age to Come

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 4, Lesson 46

Scripture: Revelation 21–22

Memory Verse: “Surely I am coming quickly.” (Rev. 22:20)

Lesson Truth: Jesus is coming soon.

Lesson

Someday Jesus is going to come again. And when He comes again, He is going to make some changes in this world. We call the time after Jesus comes again the Age to Come.

In the Age to Come there will not be any sin. Won't that be wonderful? In the world today, we struggle with sin every day. Sometimes we do not do what God would want us to do. We do not obey our parents like we should. Or when we are playing with our friends or brothers or sisters, we are mean to them and start fighting with them. All that comes because we sin. But in the Age to Come, we will not have to struggle with that anymore.

We also will not have to struggle with many other things that sin brings with it in this world. In the Age to Come, “God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, or crying” (Rev. 21:4). All that comes because of sin. But when Christ comes again, we will not have to deal with any of that either.

But there is something even better about the Age to Come. In the Age to Come we will live in the presence of Jesus Christ forever. In the book of Revelation, John gave us a picture of what life will be like then. The Holy Spirit gave John a vision, and he wrote it down in Revelation 21–22. In his vision, John saw a city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven. It was filled with the glory of God. This city will be so glorious that it will not

even need the sun or the moon to give it light. God's glory will fill it so that it will be even better and brighter than sunlight.

Everyone who believes in Jesus will be there. Believers in the Old Testament like Abraham, Moses, and David will be there. Believers in the New Testament like Peter, John, and Paul will be there. Even believers from today will be there. Everyone who ever lived and who trusted in Jesus will be allowed to enter the city. But everyone who did not trust in Jesus will not be allowed to come in. The names of all the people who believe in Jesus are "written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Rev. 21:27). If you believe in Jesus, your name will also be written there.

The city will be filled with precious stones and pure gold. And a river will be there. It is a river that brings life, and it will flow from the throne of God. A tree of life will be on the banks of the river bearing fruit continuously. We will serve the Lord there, and will never have to worry about sin ever again. Isn't that a wonderful vision that John saw? It gives us something to look forward to when Jesus comes again. And the best part is that Jesus said, "Surely, I am coming quickly" (Rev. 22:20).

John said that when he first saw the visions, he tried to worship the angel that explained the visions to him. But the angel stopped him. The angel knew that only God should be worshiped. But he told John to write down the visions so that others could read the visions and be prepared when Jesus comes again. Are you ready for Jesus to come again? Are you looking forward to that day when He brings the New Jerusalem with Him?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The city that will descend from heaven when Jesus comes again is called (New York City – the New Jerusalem).
2. In the New Jerusalem, God will wipe away every (tear from their eye – smile from their face).

3. The New Jerusalem will get its light from (the sun – the glory of God).
4. (Anyone – People who believe in Jesus) can enter the New Jerusalem.
5. Jesus said that He is coming (quickly – a long time from now).