Major events in the bible

November 20, 2016

**LESSON 1 (11-20-16)**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Bible trumps every other source of information.

a. People usually judge the reliability of information based on the credibility of the source of the information.

b. Credibility is determined using different criteria, Experience, education, credentials, reputation, publications, and if a person is well-known.

c. How do all these measurements of credibility compare to “Thus sayeth the Lord.”?

d. We have the ultimate and final word from God on every subject so why are we so afraid to use it? Could it be because we don’t know it well enough?

2. Over the years, biblical literacy has diminished significantly.

a. The New England Primer

1) Read introduction

2) Alphabet

3) “Praying will make us leave sinning or

sinning will make us leave praying.”

“Have communion with few, be intimate with one, deal justly with all, speak evil of none.”

3. This study will be somewhat different than going through a book of the Bible exegeting it verse by verse. Some verses will be exegeted but not every verse. It will also be somewhat different than teaching topically where the focus is on one particular topic.

4. We will be focusing on the major events of the Bible moving from one to another. We will start with creation, the fall, the flood, and the tower of Babel, and so on.

5. Things you will need: 1. +vol, hunger for the Word, 2. Humility, 3. An open mind, 4. A Bible and a notepad, 5. The filling of the H.S.

6. Studying the Major Events of the Bible will definitely strengthen your faith, stimulate your interest in His Word, increase your confidence, courage, and stability, and create or enhance your personal sense of eternal destiny, **IF** you keep up with the teaching.

**CREATION**

This is a sensitive subject and a controversial one as well. People feel very strongly about this topic even if they don’t know much about it. This is because one’s view of creation tells a lot about ones view of God.

There are many theories and speculations as to how our universe came into existence. The most popular being the theory of evolution and the eternal existence of matter. However, there is no reason to speculate or hypothesize because God has answered this question in the first verse of the Bible.

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֵת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ

eretz e shamayim et Elohim bara berishith

**In the beginning** God created the heaves and the earth.

Let’s focus on the first phrase “***In the beginning***”. *be reshith* is a prepositional phrase. be = in, reshith = beginning

There is no definite article “*the*”.

Can you think of another place in the Bible that uses the phrase, *“In the beginning”*?

***John 1:1 In the beginning*** *was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) He was* ***in the beginning*** *with God.*

The Word of course refers to Jesus Christ.

***John 1:14*** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Even though the same phrase, *“In the beginning”,* is found in *John 1:1* as in *Genesis 1:1*, there is a big difference. The beginning in Genesis refers to a point in eternity past when the heavens and earth were created by God. But the beginning in John refers to the countless ages of eternity past before anything existed.

It is actually referring to a beginning that was not really a beginning. You see eternity past has no beginning and eternity future has no end. In our finite minds, we can only relate to the Word (Jesus Christ) having a starting point or a beginning which He did not have because He has always existed.

By the way, this refutes the idea of the eternal existence of matter.

***Colossians 1:17*** *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

***Psalm 90:2*** *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting* [eternity past] *to everlasting* [eternity future]*, You are God.*

“In the Hebrew, everlasting means “from the vanishing point to the vanishing point.” God is from the vanishing point in the past and reaches to the vanishing point in eternity future. Just as far as you can see, from vanishing point to vanishing point, He is still God. How majestic is this thought!” J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, vol. 2, (Thomas Nelson, 1997), 815.

Time Line Power Point Here

(The following verses are given in connection with the timing of the creation of angels.)

***Job 38:4-7*** *"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding, 5) Who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? 6) "On what were its bases sunk? Or who laid its cornerstone, 7) When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?*

**PP *Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***

You may notice that the Bible does not try to convince people that God exists, it simply states the fact that God created the heavens and the earth.

Notice that it does not say that in the beginning the heavens and earth were made, molded, or fashioned out of material but it was **created**.

The Hebrew word for “created” is **bara** and it means to create something out of nothing. So God in the beginning created the heavens and the earth, not merely the materials out of which they were afterwards formed.

***Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.***

The heavens refers to the multitude of stars and planets that occupy space. Earth is a planet but it is specifically mentioned in this verse because it has tremendous significance since this is the one place in all the universe where the angelic conflict continues to rage and where the Son of God redeemed mankind.

*At the very outset of our study we have to encounter a deeply-rooted popular fallacy in regard to the creation of the world – a fallacy which can boast of long antiquity, and which seems originally to have sprung from a sort of compromise between revelation and the legends of Pagan cosmogony* (a theory or story of the origin and development of the universe). G.H. Pember, Earth’s Earliest Ages, p. 27

Many if not most orthodox Christians have accepted the popular belief that the first verse of Genesis refers to: “*a confused mass of elements, out of which the heavens and earth were formed during the six days, understanding the next sentence to be a description of this crude matter before God shaped it.” Ibid p. 28*

There are several serious problems with this viewpoint.

1. God, in the beginning created the heavens and the earth, not merely the materials out of which they were afterwards formed.

2. God is omnipotent and can in an instant create a universe out of nothing that is perfect and complete. Why would a perfect God create an imperfect heavens and earth?

3. The Scriptures tell us that in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth; but they never affirm that He did this in the six days. The work of those days was quite a different thing from the original creation.

*“ They* [the six days] *were the time of restoration, and the word asah is generally used in connection with them. Now asah signifies to make, fashion, or prepare out of existing materials*.” *Ibid p. 29*

4. “*Therefore, in the second verse of Genesis no first detail from a general statement in the preceding sentence, but the record of an altogether distinct and subsequent event, which did not affect the sidereal heaven, but only the earth and its immediate surroundings.”*  *Ibid p. 31*

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth was formless*** *(tohu)* ***and void*** *(bohu)****, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

“was” is a verb that is often used in the sense of “to be made” or “to become.” An instance of this is Lot’s wife, of whom we are told that “she became a pillar of salt” (Gen. 19:26).

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth became formless and void,*** This word is far better and fits the context.

We have strong evidence to demonstrate that this is the translation.

***Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created*** (bara) ***the heavens (He is the God who formed*** (yatsar) ***the earth and made*** (asah) ***it, He established it and did not create*** (bara)***it a waste*** *(tohu)* ***place, But formed*** (yatsar) ***it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else.***

So the big question is, “What happened to the earth that was not originally created a waste place, to become desolate (*tohu*) and empty (*bohu* – absence of life)?” Why was there darkness over the surface of the deep and what does that mean?

**LESSON 2 (11-27-16)**

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

1. This is definitely not referring to Noah’s flood because man was not yet created.
2. The terms “surface of the deep” and “surface of the waters” suggest a universal flood.

3. Why would God destroy the earth with water?

4. Why was it dark and why was the Spirit of God moving over the surface of the waters?

Before we address these questions it is important to note that there are many well intentioned, well-educated theologians and pastors who disagree about the origin of the heavens and earth. The following are a few of their beliefs:

1. There is no gap between Gen. 1:1 & Gen. 1:2.

2. The elements for earth where created in verse 1 and verse 2 and it took six days to make the earth inhabitable.

3. The six days were not literal days but each day could have lasted thousands of years in a process of evolution.

4. There is an unknown period of time between Gen. 1:1 and 1:2, a pre-Adamic age when Satan fell and was subsequently condemned along with the earth and the angels who followed him. Gen. 1:3 and following is the record of the restoration of earth. **Creation / Chaos / Restoration**

5. During this pre-Adamic age, there were animals and a race of beings that existed along with the angels but they were wiped out when God judged the world with a flood (Gen 1:2) due to their alliance with Satan. Some believe that these pre-Adamic beings are demons who are now seeking to indwell/possess other beings.

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth became desolate and empty, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

Are there any scriptures that allude to a pre-Adamic universal flood?

***2 Peter 3:3-4*** *Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4) and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."*

The mockers echoes the intent of the present day theory of naturalism which contends that nothing happened in days gone by that does not happen today.

**2 Peter 3:5-7***For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6) through which the world**at that time was* *destroyed, being flooded with water. 7) But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the Day of Judgment, and destruction of ungodly men.*

Peter says there is a former, a present, and a future form of the created cosmos.

**The first**, the ***“heavens and the earth existed of old”*** were brought into existence by “the word of God” (vs. 5) [*Psa. 33:6* ]. But then, “the world (Gr. kosmos - condition of orderliness) that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.”

**The second**, the “heavens and the earth which are now” are being “kept in store, reserved unto fire” (vs. 7). The day will come when the present heavens “shall pass away” and the “earth and the works therein shall be burnt up” (vs. 10).

**The third** will be “new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness” (vs. 13). Thus the original cosmos was brought into existence by special creation, and was radically changed into the present cosmos by a global deluge. This in turn will be utterly destroyed (as a cosmos, that is, not annihilated in the absolute sense) by a global holocaust of fire, in order to be remade by divine power into the final and eternal cosmos. Henry M. Morris, “Biblical Creationism and Modern Science,” Bibliotheca Sacra 125 (1968): 21–22.

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth became formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

*“There is no need of going in detail into this order of creation as taught by modern science and Genesis 1. For there is grave reason to doubt if anything in Genesis 1 after verse 1 relates to the original creation of the universe. All the verses after the first seem rather to refer to a refitting of the world that had been created and had afterward been plunged into chaos by the sin of some pre-Adamic race, to be the abode of the present race that inhabits it, the Adamic race.”* R. A. Torrey, [*Difficulties in the Bible: Alleged Errors and Contradictions*](https://ref.ly/logosres/difbible;art=4;off=4615;ctx=en_in_that_chapter.$0A~There_is_no_need_of_) (Willow Grove: Woodlawn Electronic Publishing, 1998).

*“The reasons for so thinking are, first, that the words translated “without form and void” (“waste and void,” RV) are used everywhere else in the Bible of the state of affairs that God brought upon persons and places as a punishment for sin. For example, in Isaiah 34:11 we read of the judgment that God shall bring upon Idumea as a punishment for their sins in these words: “He shall stretch over it a line of confusion, and the plummet of emptiness” (RV). The Hebrew words translated “confusion” and “emptiness” are the same that are translated “without form and void” in Genesis 1:2. We read again in Jeremiah 4:23–27: “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was waste and void.” In both instances the words “waste and void” refer to a ruin which God had sent as a punishment for sin, and the assumption is very strong that they have a similar significance in Genesis 1.” Ibid*

*“In Genesis 1:2 we have a brief but suggestive account of how the earth became involved in desolation and emptiness, presumably through the sin of some pre-Adamic race. Then all after verse 2 does not describe the original creation of the earth, but its fitting up anew* [restoration] *for the new race God is to bring upon the earth—the Adamic race.” Ibid*

Jeremiah was so disturbed by the coming judgment of God on Judah that he compared it to the cataclysmic destruction of the pre-Adamic world of *Genesis 1:2*.

***Jeremiah 4:23-26*** *I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void; And to the heavens, and they had no light. 24) I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. 25) I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. 26) I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were pulled down before the LORD, before His fierce anger.*

Some claim that this is describing only what Judah would look like after the invasion of Babylon but there are terms that do not seem to fit that scenario: “formless and void”, “the heavens had no light”, “mountains quaking”, “hills moved to and fro”, “there was no man”.

These verses seem to describe the destruction of the original earth given in *Genesis 1:2* than the aftermath of a battlefield.

Here is another interesting verse:

***Hebrews 2:5*** *For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.*

It would seem that this verse would not be necessary if the world had had not already been subjected to angels.

The word “world” is the translation of oikoumene (οἰκουμενε), literally, “the inhabited earth,” here the Millennial Kingdom of the Messiah. This kingdom will not be administered by angels. An angel once was the regent of God on the first perfect earth, which angel with his associated angels administered the affairs of a pre-Adamic race. Kenneth S. Wuest, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), Heb 2:5.

**LESSON 3 (12-4-16)**

So far we have established that in ***Genesis 1:1***, God created the heavens and earth which were perfect and complete out of nothing (Latin: *ex nihilo*).

***Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning*** [which was not the beginning, in eternity past] ***God created*** [*BARA* out of nothing] ***the heavens and the earth*** [the universe] ***.***

We found in ***Genesis 1:2*** that the earth became formless (Heb. *tohu* - desolate) and void (Heb. *bohu* – empty).

***Genesis 1:2 - But*** [a disjunctive ] ***the earth became*** [HAYAH, became, not was] ***formless*** [TOHU, waste, desolate] ***and void*** [BOHU, empty]***, and darkness*** [no electromagnetic radiation, no heat] ***was over the surface of the deep*** [TEHOM, raging waters]***; and the Spirit of God***  [God the Holy Spirit] ***was moving*** [RACHAPH, to brood, incubate, radiate heat] ***over the surface of the waters*** [MAYIM, melted waters]***.***

We also found that ***Isaiah 45:18*** says that God did not create it (Heb. BARA – out of nothing) to be a waste place (Heb. *TOHU*) which is the same word we find in *Genesis 1:2*.

***Isaiah 45:18 -*** *For thus says the LORD, who created* [BARA. created out of nothing] *the heavens (He is the God who formed* [YATSAR, fashioned preexisting matter] *the earth and made it* [ASAH, to manufacture out of existing material]. *He established it and did not create it* [BARA, create out of nothing] *a waste place* [TOHU, desolate]*, but formed it* [*YATSAR,* sculpted the topography] *to be inhabited),"I am the LORD, and there is none else.”*

**PERFECT DISORDER PERFECT**

**Original After Satan’s Restoration**

**Creation Fall 6 Days**

**Adam’s Fall Chaos Millennium**

We are focusing today on the disorder recorded in *Genesis 1:2* which we will see was caused by the fall of Satan, previously known as Lucifer.

We also went to scriptures that demonstrated that the pre-Adamic earth was inhabited by angels, animals, and plants before something caused it to become desolate and empty. We first went to ***2 Peter 3:5-7*** and found that the pre-Adamic earth was destroyed by a great flood. We then went to ***Jeremiah 4:23-26*** where it appeared that the pre-Adamic earth was being described as becoming formless and void, the same Hebrew words used in *Genesis 1:2*. The mountains were quaking and the hills moved to and fro. This was caused by the catastrophic flood.

It also said that there was no man, the birds had fled, the fruitful plain was a wilderness, and all the cities were pulled down. Again it appears that all this was also caused by the pre-Adamic flood.

We also went to ***Hebrews 2:5*** that ***“****He* [God] *did not subject to angels the world to come…”* Why would this verse say this unless the world had already been subjected to angels in the pre-Adamic earth?

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth became formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

We will shortly address the reason why the pre-Adamic earth fell into ruin, but first let’s look at the condition of the earth.

Verse 2 describes it as being enveloped in darkness and covered with water. We can conclude that since there was no light, there was no heat so the waters froze solid which archeologists call the ice age. We have no idea how long the earth was in this condition but we do know that nothing can evolve when there is no light and everything is frozen.

The earth at that time can be compared to an unbeliever. There was nothing, nor no one, who could save the earth from that condition except God. That is the same condition of an unbeliever, apart from God’s grace, there is no hop and no salvation.

G.H. Pember in his book, “Earths Earliest Ages” p. 34 describes it this way:

*“We see, then, that God created the heavens and the earth perfect and beautiful in their beginning, and that at some subsequent period, how remote we cannot tell, the earth had passed into a state of utter desolation, and was void of all life. Not merely had its fruitful places become a wilderness, and all its cities been broken down; but the very light of its sun had been withdrawn; all the moisture of its atmosphere had sunk upon its surface; and the vast deep, to which God has set bounds that are never transgressed save when wrath has gone forth from Him, had burst those limits; so that the ruined planet, covered above its very mountain tops with the black floods of destruction, was rolling through space in a horror of great darkness.*

*But what could have occasioned so terrific a catastrophe? Wherefore had God thus destroyed the work of His hands? If we may draw any inference from history of our own race, sin must have been the cause of this hideous ruin: sin, too, which would seem to have been patiently borne with through long ages, until at length its cry increased to Heaven, and brought down utter destruction.*

*For, as the fossil remains clearly show, not only were disease and death-inseparable companions of sin-then prevalent among the living creatures of the earth, but ferocity and slaughter. And that fact proves that these remains have nothing to do with our world; since the Bible declares that all things made by God during the Six Days were very good, and that no evil was in them till Adam sinned.*

In other parts of the Bible we learn that there was a super creature, even Satan himself, who rebelled against the almighty God, the One who created him.

In *Isaiah 14:1-11* we have a taunt against the king of Babylon who was brought low just as Satan is brought low in verses 12-15.

***Isaiah 14:12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!***

The KJV and NKJV use Lucifer, the Latin derivation of הֵילֵ֣ל, *heilel* in Hebrew which means “*shining one*” translated usually “*the morning star*” in most other translations. Usually he is called Satan which is a title, not a name, meaning “one who opposes”, “accuser”, or “adversary”. He is referred to as *“the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night,”* in *Revelation 12:10*.

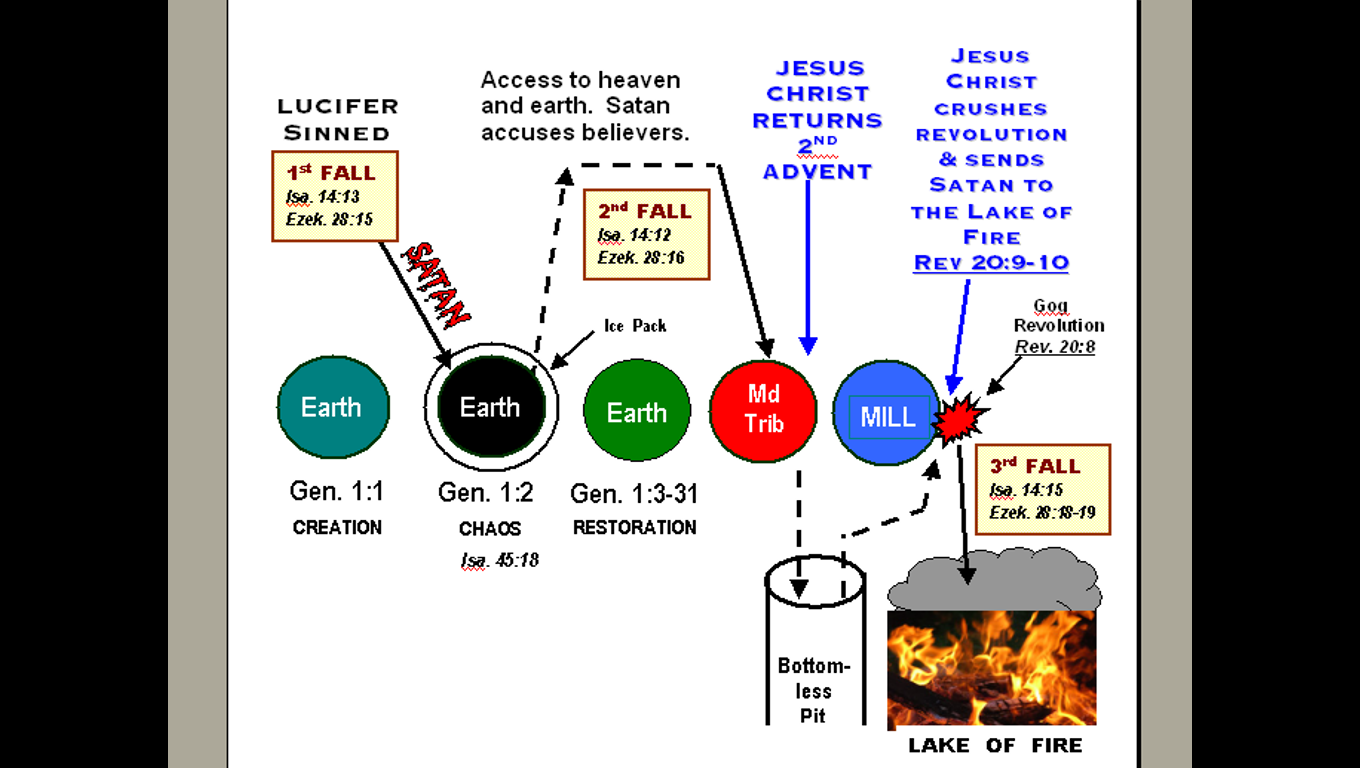
This verse is describing when Lucifer fell; he falls three times but the falls are not listed in chronological order here. **The Second Fall** is found here in ***Isaiah 14:12*** and his **First Fall** is mentioned in the next verse ***Isaiah 14:13.***

This Second Fall takes place at the midpoint of the Tribulation.

***Revelation 9:1-4*** *Then the fifth angel sounded: And I saw a star fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2) And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. 3) Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4) They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*

***Luke 10:18*** *And He [Jesus] said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”*

***Revelation 20:1-3*** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottom- less pit and a great chain in his hand. 2) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3) and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*



***Isaiah 14:13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;***

Now we have the **First Fall of Satan** that was brought on by mental attitude sins. We don’t know how long Satan existed before he sinned but his arrogance finally got the best of him.

When Satan said, **“*I will ascend into heaven”,*** he meant the 3rd heaven, the throne room of God. He intended to kick God out of His place. Satan had been to the 3rd heaven and wanted to have it for himself. Someday, we will live there – “In My Father’s house (3rd heaven) are many dwelling places” (*John 14:1-3*)

The **“*stars of God”*** refers to angels. Satan had the unholy ambition to rule over and receive worship from not only angels but from mankind as well. He intended to rule over all creatures in place of God.

***“I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north”;***

To ***“sit”*** means to sit on a throne to rule. ***“The mount of the congrega- tion”*** = “the mount of the assembly” which was a place Jews assembled (*Psa. 48:1-2*). The significance of this phrase is that Satan wanted to rule not only over the angelic realm, but the human realm as well.

***Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'***

Out of some 150 references in the Bible to ***“clouds”,*** over one hundred of them have to do with Divine Presence (*Ex. 16:10, 40:38, 1 Kings 8:10, Psa. 104:3, Isa. 19:1, Matt. 24:30*, etc.) Satan had the audacity to try to displace God as Sovereign of the universe and take over the functions of God. Talk about biting off more than you can chew!

***“I will be like the Most High”*** Satan actually thought he could be God. But he is the opposite of God. The only thing he can do is to imitate God through his phony counterfeit religions that which deify man.

***1 John 3:8*** *He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning.*

**LESSON 4 (12-11-16)**

It was after Satan’s first fall that a trial was held in heaven and he was found guilty. We know this because we have the outcome of that trial.

***Matthew 25:41*** *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed,* ***into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:***

The verdict was guilty but the sentence will not be carried out until the end of the Millennium. Why? Because man was created to vindicate God’s perfect essence and character proving that He was righteous in condemning Satan to the lake of fire.

The key to understanding this is the fact that angels and humans have something very important in common – volition (free will). Satan refused to acknowledge that he was responsible for his sin. He must have alleged that since God gave him volition which enabled him to sin that God was responsible for it. Yes, God gave us free will but we, not God, are responsible for how we use it.

No one can legitimately blame God when we use our volition to sin, but anyone can use that same volition to accept God’s grace provision of the gospel. This demonstrates that volition is not the problem, our attitude toward God is the problem. So God is righteous and just in sending Satan to the Lake of Fire because he has been, is, and will continue to use his volition to be the bitter enemy of God rather than using it to seek His favor and grace.

(Review Satan’s three falls power point.)

**Satan’s First Fall** came about as the consequence of the most arrogant and audacious mental attitude sins, known as the “five I wills of Satan”, found in ***Isaiah 14:13-14.***

Now we come to **the Third and Final Fall** of Satan.

***Isaiah 14:15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.***

He will be released from the abyss for a short time to lead a rebellion against believers but they will be consumed with fire from heaven.

***Revelation 20:7-9***  *And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8) and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9) And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*

**LESSON 5 (12-18-16)**

He will finally experience his eternal doom in the Lake of Fire.

***Revelation 20:10*** *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Now we will go to Ezekiel 28 to get a description of the first sin in the universe and revelation of the three falls of Satan in chronological order.

*“A convincing proof that the Bible is a supernatural book is found in the fact that without hesitation or uncertainty it discloses conditions which antedate human history and as freely penetrates into and unveils the ages to come. Its message is not restricted to the field comprehended by human observations, but treats of other parts of the universe as familiarly as it treats of the earth. Among its disclosures concerning other spheres and the dateless past, a revelation is given of what appears to be the first sin that was committed in the universe. That sin, we are told, was committed in heaven and by the highest of the angels, and, after having wrought its tragic results in those realms, was, upon the creation of man in the Garden of Eden, suggested to and reënacted by unfallen Adam. It is stated in Romans 5:12 that “by one man sin entered into the world”; thus revealing the truth that man was not the first to sin, but was rather the medium through whom that form of sin which was already wrought in heaven secured entrance into earth.”* Lewis Sperry Chafer, “The Doctrine of Sin,” Bibliotheca Sacra 91 (1934): 400–401.

*“This revelation distinguishes important differences between the estate of man as in contrast to the estate of the angels. Among these differences we note that the divine method of securing a race of beings on the earth was to create a man and a woman to whom God gave instructions that they multiply and replenish the earth; but the divine method of securing the uncounted hosts of angels was by a fiat of omnipotent, creative power. Of these heavenly beings thus created, Christ intimated that they neither increase by propagation nor are they decreased by death.” Ibid*

Background: The first ten verses of Ezekiel 28 deal with the leader/prince of Tyre (*Ittobaal II*) who typifies the anti-Christ and parallels Satan in the sense that he was once great but arrogance was found in him and God punished him even unto death.

Verses one though ten: “*Convey a divine message to “the prince of Tyrus,” whose two-fold blasphemous assumption is that he claims to be God, and that he sits in the seat of God. There is a clear identification here which relates this prince of Tyrus to Satan’s superman, the Man of Sin, who is yet to appear, and of whom the Apostle prophesied saying: “And that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God” (2 Thess. 2:3, 4; cf. Matt. 24:15; Rev. 13:5–8).*  Lewis Sperry Chafer, [“The Doctrine of Sin,”](https://ref.ly/logosres/gs-bsac-091;ref=biblio.at$3DThe$2520Doctrine$2520of$2520Sin$7Cau$3DChafer,$2520Lewis$2520Sperry;off=25122;ctx=ontext,_preceded_by_~ten_verses_which_con) *Bibliotheca Sacra* 91 (1934): 402.

**PP** Tyre

***Ezekiel 28:11-19*** is a funeral dirge for the King of Tyre which does not refer to a human, but a super creature which could only be Satan.

*“Thus the most exalted and heavenly among created beings is described and of him it is also revealed that iniquity was found, or uncovered, in him. The proof that this has reference to Satan, the highest of angelic beings, is disclosed in the fact that, so far as revelation goes, this description could apply to no other.”* Lewis Sperry Chafer, “The Doctrine of Sin,” Bibliotheca Sacra 91 (1934): 404.

***Ezekiel 28:12*** – This is no longer about the prince of Tyer which was a man but the King of Tyer who is a super creature – Satan.

*Seal of perfection* – Something is not sealed until it is completed.

*Full of wisdom* - “The sum” implies the full measure of wisdom

*Perfect in beauty* – Simply the most stunningly beautiful creature that ever was created by God.

How many people throughout history have believed he myth that the Devil has red skin, horns, and a tail and holds a trident?

***Ezekiel 28:13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God;***

It is true that Satan was in Eden when he tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit but many believe that this is not the Eden mentioned in this verse. Some believe that it is referring to a pre-Adamic Eden that existed before the earth became desolate and empty.

*“Though Satan did appear in the Eden described in Genesis (and this no king of Tyrus ever did), it is probable, considering the details set forth in this passage, that reference here is to the primal Edenic glory of the earth before it became “without form and void.”* Lewis Sperry Chafer, “The Doctrine of Sin,” Bibliotheca Sacra 91 (1934): 403.

Others believe that it refers to a heavenly Eden in the garden of God which also is in heaven. We know for sure that the Eden described here is not the garden of Eden where Adam and Eve were created.

*Every precious stone was your covering:* - Some say that this suggests that Satan wore some kind of a breastplate that had stones in it like the one the high priest of Israel wore on occasion.

Others believe that the “covering” refers to a pavilion or palace of Satan which is described as being made of gold and every precious stone. This reminds us of the New Jerusalem with it’s pure gold and its foundations garnished with all manner of precious stones (Rev. 21:19-20).

The precious stones mentioned here are only found three times in the Bible and they have great significance.

1. *Exodus 28:17* – The breastplate of the high priest

2. *Rev. 21:19-20* – The New Jerusalem

3. *Ezek. 28:13* – The garden of God

**LESSON 6 (1-8-17)**

*And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets* – Some say the settings and sockets refer to the sockets and groves used as settings for the precious stones.

Others say that they have to do with music or the phenomenal voice of Satan and his ability to sing.

(NKJV) *The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes* – timbrels = tambourine and pipes = a pipe organ

*On the day that you were* ***created***(bara) *They were prepared.*

(NASV) ***Ezekiel 28:14 You were the anointed cherub who covers***

(ESV) ***Ezekiel 28:14 You were an anointed guardian cherub***

This is a very high angelic office that is represented by the cherubim that sit atop of the Ark of the Covenant.

***Ezekiel 28:15*** – **Satan’s First Fall Satan’s 3 Fall PP**

***Ezekiel 28:16 –* Satan’s Second Fall**

***Ezekiel 28:17*** – Recap of the first two falls

***Ezekiel 28:18-19 –* Satan’s Third Fall**

**LESSON 7 (1-15-16)**

**CREATION *Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created*** *(bara)* ***the heavens and the earth.***

God created (bara) the heavens and the earth out of nothing. It was perfect and complete, ready to be inhabited.

***Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created*** *(bara)* ***the heavens (He is the God who formed*** (yatsar) ***the earth and made it, He established it and did not create*** *(bara)* ***it a waste place*** (tohu)***, but formed*** (yatsar) ***it to be inhabited), "I am the LORD, and there is none else*.**

SATAN FALLS:

**Isaiah 14:14-17**

Verse 14 **Satan’s 2nd Fall** (He will be tossed out of heaven during

the mid-point of the millennium.)

Verse 13-14 ***Satan’s 1st Fall*** (Satan sinned) This is the only fall that has occurred.

Verse 15-17 **Satan’s 3rd Fall** (Satan tossed into the lake of fire.)

**Ezekiel 28:15-19**

Verse 15-16a ***Satan’s 1st Fall*** (Satan sinned)

Verse 16b **Satan’s 2nd Fall** (He will be tossed out of heaven during

the mid-point of the millennium.)

Details on the **2nd Fall**: It will occur half way through the Tribulation. Jesus mentioned it:

***Luke 10:18 And He*** (Jesus) ***said to them*** (70 followers)***, "I was***

***watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.***

***Revelation 12:6-9 And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days*** [3 ½ years]***. 7) And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, 8) and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. 9) And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.***

***Revelation 9:1-4 Then the fifth angel sounded: and I saw a star*** [Satan] ***fallen from heaven to the earth. To him was given the key to the bottomless pit. 2) And he opened the bottomless pit, and smoke arose out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. So the sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke of the pit. 3) Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4) They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads*** (unbelievers)***.***

***Revelation 20:1-3 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2) He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.***

Verse 17 Recap of verses 15 and 16.

Verse 18-19 **Satan’s 3rd Fall** (Satan tossed into the lake of fire.)

The King of Tyre presented in *Ezekiel 28:12-19* which refers to Satan, describes his third fall by the phrase, *“****he will be no more forever****.”* (verse 19).

***Ezekiel 28:19 - All who know you among the peoples are appalled***

***at you; You have become terrified, and you will be no more***

***forever."***

This does not mean that he will be obliterated and cease to exist. It means he will never again, for all eternity, be the super creature he once was. Just as the serpent in the Garden of Eden was the most shrewd and possibly the most beautiful animal to the most ugly and detestable one, Satan will lose his power, beauty, and fame and be tormented for evermore.

***Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

God pronounce the same curse, “*and you will be no more*” on the city of Tyre in ***Ezekiel 26:21*** and ***Ezekiel 27:35-36*** but the city of Tyre still exists but it is insignificant, just a small fishing village remains. It is no longer the great thriving metropolis it once was.

**CHAOS** As a consequence of Satan’s first fall where he rebelled against God, the perfect beautiful pre-Adamic earth became desolate and empty by a universal flood. The absence of light and heat brought on darkness, so the waters froze into ice. It wasn’t until the Spirit of God moved (to brood or incubate) over the surface of the waters that the ice could melt.

***Genesis 1:2 And the earth was became formless*** (tohu) ***and void*** (bohu)***, and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.***

The following verse seems to be a description of the verse above:

***Jeremiah 4:23-26 I looked on the earth, and behold, it was***

***formless and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. 24)***

***I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all***

***the hills moved to and fro. 25) I looked, and behold, there was no***

***man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. 26) I looked, and***

***behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were***

***pulled down Before the LORD, before His fierce anger.***

So it appears that the pre-Adamic earth was inhabited by angels,

animals, and plants before Satan sinned, but afterward, were

destroyed when God destroyed the earth with water.

***Isa. 14:7*** ***Who*** (Satan) ***made the world like a wilderness”.***

**RESTORATION *Genesis 1:3*** starts the account of God restoring the earth by restoring the light.

Some reject this explanation calling it “the gap theory”. But they have a hard time explaining the chaotic state of the earth in verse two and explaining when Satan’s fall occurred if it didn’t happen between verse one and verse two. If the earth was originally created as described in verse two and made inhabitable in six days, when did the angelic rebellion take place? Was it after Adam was formed? That would mean that Adam could have fallen before Satan, does that makes sense? How could Satan tempt Adam to sin if Adam had already sinned but Satan had not?

Some reject this **Creation** / **Chaos** / **Restoration** explanation based on:

***Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man*** [Adam] ***sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned…***

They think this verse proves that no creatures on the original earth could have died in a universal flood because death did not enter into the world until Adam sinned.

“*The fossil record reveals a picture of death, decay and destruction. Romans 5:12 indicates there was no death in the animal kingdom until Adam sinned, which nullifies the possibility of the pre-Adamic creation. How can we harmonize the gap theory—a concept of a billion years of struggle for existence, extinctions without number, disease, confusion, disorder, decay, slaughter and death—with a God of perfect wisdom, order, power, and grace—Who could easily have created all things complete and perfect from the beginning? How could a Christian, knowing the character of God, ascribe to the gap theory which teaches He chose the tortuous route of evolution? This is a serious theological problem that leads to a dead end.”* *Dennis Gordon Lindsay, The Dinosaur Dilemma: Fact or Fantasy, Creation Series (Dallas, TX: Christ for the Nations, 199*

But ***Romans 5:12*** is not pertinent to the pre-Amamic earth because it refers only to Adam and his descendants. It informs us that Adam was a representative of all mankind so when he was condemned for his sin, all of us, his progeny, were condemned. Furthermore, there is no genetic link or relationship between Adam and the creatures of the original earth. What is true about the restored earth of Adam’s time is hardly relevant to the pre-Adamic earth.

Another writer says:

“Biblically, the summaries of *Genesis 2:1–3* and *Exodus 20:11* clearly show that the entire cosmos, including heaven and earth and all things therein, was ***created*** and made in the six days, and thus that the work of *Genesis 1:1* was a part of the divine work of those days, with no room for a five-billion-year gap.” *Henry M. Morris, “Biblical Creationism and Modern Science,” Bibliotheca Sacra 125 (1968): 27.*

Note that the word “**created**” is not found anywhere in *Exodus 20:11*

***Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the LORD made*** [Heb. ASAH: to make out of existing materials] ***the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.***

***Genesis 2:1-3 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2) And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. 3) And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.***

The Heb. word *BARA (created out of nothing)* is found in ***Gen. 2:3****,* but it refers to God creating the soul and spirit of Adam and Eve out of nothing, not creating the pre-Adamic earth out of nothing.

**LESSON 8 (1-22-17)**

***Genesis 1:3-5 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4) And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5) And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.***

Notice that God spoke the light into existence. But what produced the light? Was it the sun or something else? The sun and the moon were not formed until the 4th day, *Gen. 1:16*.

Some think it was an electrical light similar to the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights.

*“This light was not sunlight, for the clouds did not break away and permit the Sun to shine on the earth. That did not happen until the “forth day.” The light was doubtless “Electric Light,” similar to the Aurora Borealis for we now know that electricity is one of the primary forces and has always been in the atmosphere.” Clarence Larkin, “Dispensation Truth”, p. 25*

The light very well could have been the Shikinah glory light that comes from God.

***Revelation 22:5 And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.***

The light separated from the darkness when the earth started to rotate on its axis.

Observations:

1. A pattern for each of the days of Creation is established here. There is (a) the creative word, (b) the report of its effect, (c) God’s evaluation of it as “good,” (d) at times the sovereign naming, (e) the numbering of each day. Bible Knowledge Commentary

2. Only God can speak something into existence. It demonstrates the power of God’s word.

3. God called the light good but He did not call the darkness good. Throughout the Bible, light is used symbolically for good and darkness is symbolically used for evil.

It is interesting that one of the 10 plagues in Egypt was darkness for three days but during that time the Israelites had light in their homes (Ex. 10:21-24). They also had a column of fire that gave them light at night as they were lead through the wilderness (Ex. 13:21).

4. ***And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*** The earth passed out of its darkness into the brightness of its restoration day. Each day’s work was an advance on the previous day’s work so the evening and morning was designated as a day. There are several basic interpretations as to what the word “*day*” Heb. *yôm*.

1. A 24 hour period

2. Part of a 24 hour period

3. A six day period (Gen. 2:4)

4. An age or a long extended time. ex. *the day of the Lord* = 1,007 yrs.

The question is, “What does it mean in *Gen. 1:3-31*?” There are three

basic interpretations:

1. Each day of Creation refers to extended geological ages prior to

man’s presence on earth. This is sometimes called “theistic evolution”.

“*Theistic evolution, theistic evolutionism or evolutionary creationism*

*are views that regard religious teachings about God as compatible*

*with modern scientific understanding about biological evolution.”*

*Wikipedia*

2. The days are 24-hour periods in which God *revealed* His creative acts.

3. A 24 hour period

It is number 3 that best fits the context and meaning of “day” in this verse.

a. When the Hebrew word for “day” *yôm* is used with an ordinal (first,

second, etc.) adjective, it means 24- hour days wherever this con- struction occurs in the Old Testament.

b. Also the normal understanding of the fourth commandment (Ex. 20:11)

would suggest this interpretation.

***Exodus 20:11 "For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day;***

c. The term, “evening and mornings” is used in the book of Daniel and

in the Psalms in a way that wouldn’t make sense if it didn’t refer to 24

hour days.

***Daniel 8:14 He said to me, "For 2,300 evenings and mornings;***

***then the holy place will be properly restored."***

***Psalm 55:17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain***

***and murmur, And He will hear my voice.***

d. The six days of creation correspond to the normal human work week

preceding the Sabbath.

***Genesis 1:6-8 Then God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." 7) God made*** (asah) ***the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8) God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.***

*“The fact that the “Firmament“ is called “Heaven” and by the word Heaven we are to understand our atmosphere, implies that the “Chaotic Earth” either had no atmosphere, or that it was not adapted to the formation of clouds, that in the form of vapor, would support water, and thus divide or separate the waters in the atmosphere from the waters of the earth.” Clarence Larkin, “Dispensation Truth”, p. 26*

*“It is worthy of note that the words “And God saw that it was good,” are not spoken of this day’s work, as it is spoken of the other day’s work.” Ibid*

This might be significant when we take a look at *Eph. 2:2*

***Ephesians 2:1-2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2) in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince*** [Satan]***of the power of the air of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience***.

It is possible that as soon as the atmosphere of the earth again became habitable when the “forces of evil,” with Satan as their leader, swarmed into it, with the intention of making it their habitation which would cause God to not call the expanse or atmosphere, also called the first heaven, good.

***Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.***

The work of the third day was twofold, the separation of land from the sea (*Gen. 1:9-10*), and the reappearance of vegetable life *Gen. 1:11-13*).

***Genesis 1:9-10 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. 10) And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.***

*Without a clear body of atmospheric air between the waters, human life could not have existed. And equally without the watery clouds swimming in the atmosphere, both vegetable and animal life would perish*. H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., [*Genesis*](https://ref.ly/logosres/tpc01;ref=Page.p_16;off=1984;ctx=ers._(2)_Necessary._~Without_a_clear_body), The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 16.

*Without the air man could not live. His physical being would perish without its oxygen. Without its pressure his bodily structure would fall to pieces. The uses of the atmosphere to man as a resident on earth are manifold. It supports animal and vegetable life around him. It conveys, refracts, and decomposes light. It transmits sound. It draws up noxious vapours from the soil, and disperses them by its winds. It assists him in a variety of his mechanical, chemical, commercial, and scientific enterprises. Ibid*

***Genesis 1:11-13 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12) And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed accord- ing to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13) So the evening and the morning were the third day.***

The phrase “*according to its kind*,” is first found in this verse but it is a common thread for the living things that God brought forth on the earth. It indicates that the different species of plants were already fixed, each having their own unique DNA.

*It is noticeable that the vegetation of the third day sprang from the soil in the same natural manner in which all subsequent vegetation has done, viz., by growth, which seems to resolve the well-known problem of whether the tree was before the seed, or the seed before the tree, in favour of the latter alternative, although in the order of nature the parent is always before the offspring. In all probability the seed forms were in the soil from the first. Certainly they were not evolved from the dead matter of the dry land. H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 18.*

***Genesis 1:14-19 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; 15) and let them be for lights in the expanse of the*** [1st & 2nd]  ***heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16) God made*** (asah) ***the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. 17) God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18) and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. 19) There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.***

The stars, the sun, and the moon are used as signs for navigation as well as discerning the seasons. Again we have the repetition of the phrase concerning the evening and the morning and the day number given.

**LESSON 9 (1-29-17)**

***Genesis 1:20-23 Then God said, "Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens." 21) And God created the great sea monsters, and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. 22) And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23) And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.***

*“The work of the “Fifth Day” was the CREATION of fish and fowl. Gen. 1:20–23. Here is the first time we come across the word “CREATE” since we read of the original creation of the earth in verse one. This shows that all animal life was destroyed in the catastrophe that overtook the Pre-Adamite Earth. The fish and fowl that were created on the “Fifth Day” were the same that we have today. The fossil remains of huge marine animals and gigantic birds belong to the Pre-Adamite Earth.” Clarence Larkin, Rightly Dividing the Word (Philadelphia, PA: Clarence Larkin, 1921), 15–17****.***

The words “*creatures*” or “*creature*” are found in verse 20, 21, and 24.

***Creature*** – NEPHESH - *breath* , inhalation, which makes a person and an animal a living being *Gen. 1:20* ( 250 times), soul (but markedly different from the Greek concept of the soul) Ludwig Koehler et al., The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 712. It is also translated *soul*, *life, living being, people, and personality*

*“In Gen. 1:20 God says, “Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that has life [lit., let the waters swarm a swarm of the soul of life (nepeš ḥayyâ)].” And in 1:21 it is said that “God created every living creature that moves [lit., God created every living soul of life that creeps]” (see also 1:24). The irrational animal is here denominated a “soul of life” as man is; but it is not added, as in the case of man, that* *God “breathed” the “soul of life” into him. On the contrary, the origin of animals is associated with the material world alone. When God creates man, he addresses himself: “Let us make man in our image” (1:26). But when he creates animals, he addresses the inanimate world: “Let the waters bring forth the moving creature” (1:20); “let the earth bring forth the living creature” (1:24). The “soul of life” in the instance of the animal is only the animal soul, which is physical and material in its nature, and perishes with the body of which it is the vital principle. The “soul of life” in the instance of the man is a higher principle, the rational soul, which was inbreathed by the Creator and made in his image. Hence it is said in Eccles. 3:21 that “the spirit (rûaḥ) of man goes upward,” and “the spirit (rûaḥ) of the beast goes downward to the earth*.” William Greenough Thayer Shedd, Dogmatic Theology, ed. Alan W. Gomes, 3rd ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Pub., 2003), 430.

***Genesis 35:18 And it came about as her soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni; but his father called him Benjamin.***

***Ecclesiastes 12:7 …then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.***

*Living creature is the same Hebrew expression used for man in 2:7, translated “living soul.”* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 1:24.

***Genesis 9:4 Only you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.***

***after their kind*** – This phrase is used ten times in Genesis chapter one.

“*The word “kind” does not mean species, as even Darwin said, but it means more than that. The word is* ***phylum****. I have been reading that one scientist said he had been looking around for another word. Well, I had a professor in seminary, a very brilliant man, who gave phylum as a synonym for “kind.” If you will look up that word in the dictionary, you will see that it means a direct line of descent within a group. For instance, it would include not just one horse but every animal in the horse family. God created one like that, and there has been development from each one, tremendous development. Also there has been devolution—that is, there has been development, then later there has been degeneration.”* J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 15.

**phy•lum** fī-ləm\ *noun, plural* **phy•la**

**1 a** **:** a direct line of descent within a group

**b** **:** a group that constitutes or has the unity of a phylum; *especially* **:** one of the usually primary divisions of the animal kingdom Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

*“An important factor is the exact time frame of each day, “and it was evening and it was morning, one day.” Each day builds upon the other and describes the sequential process of preparatory conditions necessary to support the ultimate creative purpose of God.”* John M. Jr. Baze, “A Dispensational Model: The Essentials,” Conservative Theological Journal Volume 2 2, no. 7 (1998): 441.

***Genesis 1:24-25 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it was so. 25) And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.***

*“The creative work of the “Sixth Day” was twofold, that of land animals and of man. Gen. 1:24–28. These land animals were doubtless the same kind as we have today. The fact that they were created, “AFTER THEIR KIND,” which is 5 times repeated, shows that they were not “evolved” from one common species. That all the different species of animals were created “separately” is proven from the fact that when species are crossed their offspring are sterile. The crossing of the jackass and a mare is the mule, and a mule is a hybrid and is sterile. If the “Evolutionary Theory” of the development of animal and vegetable life was true, we should expect to find evidence to that effect in fossil remains of the intermediate links, and we should also see “evolutionary processes” at work now whereby higher orders of animal and plant life are coming into being. But we see nothing of the kind. Animal and plant life exists today in the same form that it has existed in the knowledge of man.”* Clarence Larkin, Rightly Dividing the Word (Philadelphia, PA: Clarence Larkin, 1921), 17.

***Genesis 1:26-28 Then God said, "Let Us make man*** (“adam”) ***in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27) And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28) And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."***

The entire Trinity was involved in creating man; the Father planned it, the Son executed it, and the Holy Spirit reveals it.

***Let Us make man in Our image …***

***Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil;***

***Genesis 11:7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."***

It is interesting that the Heb. word for man is *adam,* the Heb. word for Adamis *adam*, and the Heb. word for the dust of the ground, from which he was taken, is *adamah*.

*“Man was made in the “IMAGE OF GOD,” not in the image of an ape, and was not formed from a brute but of the “Dust of the Earth.” While Adam and Eve were not both fashioned in the same way, Eve being “builded” from a rib taken out of Adam (Gen. 2:21–23), they were not evolved from some lower creature, but were both direct creations of God, “male and female CREATED He them.” Gen. 1:27.* Clarence Larkin, Rightly Dividing the Word (Philadelphia, PA: Clarence Larkin, 1921), 18.

*“In contrast to animals in verses 20 and 24 where God said, “Let the waters bring forth” and “Let the earth bring forth,” He now says, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. All others reproduce after “their kind,” but man is the only one made in the image of God and reproducing in that image (5:3).*

***Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.***

*The terms image and likeness are used synonymously, and refer primarily to man’s spiritual resemblance (rationally and morally) to his Maker. God placed a great chasm between man and the beast, for only man has the capacity for eternal life, fellowship, moral discernment, self-consciousness, speech, and worship. Even after the Fall, man retains this image of God (cf. 9:6; James 3:9), though it has been marred.*

***Genesis 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.***

***James 3:9 With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;***

*Man is used in a generic sense which is amplified by the phrase male and female, even though Eve’s physical formation is not detailed until 2:18–24. These words are not the usual Hebrew words for “man” (˒^icsh) and “woman” (˒ishah). The words used here specifically distinguish the sexes—male and female. Sexes are only implied with regard to animals, but not here. The reason is that a completely unique relationship was to develop, namely, holy marriage (cf. 2:22–24) King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 1:26.*

*God’s purpose in creating human life in His image was functional: man is to rule or have dominion (1:26, 28). God’s dominion was presented by a “representative.” However, because of sin all things are not under man’s dominion (Heb. 2:8). But Jesus Christ will establish dominion over all the earth (Heb. 2:5–8) at His second coming. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 29.*

***Hebrews 2:5-8 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking. 6) But one has testified somewhere, saying, "What is man, that Thou rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him? 7) "Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, And hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands; 8) Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet." For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.***

**LESSON 10 (2-5-17)**

Man is made in the image of God in THREE different ways:

***Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky…***

**1**. This does not refer to the body of man, since God is spirit, but the

soul and spirit of man is made in the image of God because man has abilities, in a very small measure, that are similar to God’s.

a. Man can create but God can create out of nothing

b. Man has knowledge but God is omniscient.

c. Man has relative righteousness but God has perfect righteousness.

d. Man has a measure of strength but God is omnipotent.

e. Man can communicate but God has an infinite ability to

communicate.

*“Man was created in both the image and likeness of God. An image is a representation or replica of one person or thing by another. Illustration: An image may be similar but not necessarily identical to its original. The term likeness is used as a gauge of comparison, or analogy. When man fell, he retained an impaired image of God (9:6).*

***Genesis 9:6 - "Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood***

***shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man.***

After Adam fell, he still retained the soulish abilities he had before he fell so he retained the image of God in that sense, but he lost his spiritual abilities because he died spiritually when he sinned.

*Regaining a likeness of God is one of the accomplishments of*

*salvation. Our spiritual likeness is restored in justification.*

**2**. When a person believes the gospel, he is born again, he then is in

the image of God in a spiritual sense. He receives God’s perfect

righteousness as a gift, he acquires a human spirit, and has a

permanent relationship with God as His son (or daughter). Where

he was once dichotomous (body and soul), now he is trichotomous

(body, soul, and spirit). We call this Positional or Initial Salvation or

Justification.

***2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away*** [condemnation, spiritual death, slavery to our OSN] ***; behold, new things have come.*** [eternal life, +R, baptism of the H.S., indwelling & filling of the H.S.] ***18) Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,***

**3**. When a believer grows to spiritual maturity by consistently studying

and applying the Word of God, he or she is conformed more into the

image of God’s Son (***Rom. 8:29***). We are called on to put on the

new self which is in the likeness of God in an experiential way. We call

this Experiential Sanctification (***Ephesians 2:22-24***).

***Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;***

***Ephesians 4:22-24 … in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.***

*Our character likeness is being continuously developed in the process of sanctification. We will be like Christ physically when we are glorified* (1 John 3:2). *Application: God’s purpose in our lives today is to conform us to the image of Christ. King James Version Study Bible .,*

***1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.***

**LESSON 11 (2-12-17)**

Power Points inserted here:

**3 Ways to be in the Image and Likeness of God**

**1**. **In our SOUL 2. In our SPIRIT 3. In our LIFE**

**1. Our SOUL**

***Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky…***

Everyone’s **Soul**, in small ways, is in the likeness of God.

1. *Man can create but God can create out of nothing*
2. *Man has knowledge but God is omniscient*
3. *Man has relative righteousness but God has perfect +R*
4. *Man has a measure of strength but God is omnipotent*
5. *Man has volition, mentality, language, moral discernment, and self-consciousness*

Adam was created with a body, soul, and spirit. When he fell, he still retained the soulish attributes he had before he fell, so he retained the image of God in that sense, but he was separated from God because he died spiritually .

**2. Our SPIRIT**

When anyone believes the gospel, he is born again and acquires what Adam lost, a human spirit. He is no longer separated from God; indeed, he becomes a child of God and now is in the image of God in a **Spiritual Sense**.

a. Goes from dichotomous (body and soul) to trichotomous

(body, soul, and spirit).

b. He’s “In Christ” – a new creature (*2 Cor. 5:17-18*, *1 Cor. 12:13*)

c. He receives Eternal Life and God’s +R = Justification

d. Able to communicate with God through prayer

e. Able to comprehend His Word and have fellowship with Him

f. Able to worship Him and serve Him

***2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away*** [condemnation, spiritual death, slavery to our OSN];  ***behold, new things have come.*** [eternal life, +R, baptism of the H.S., indwelling & filling of the H.S.] ***18) Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.***

***1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit*** [H.S.] ***we were all baptized into one body*** [permanently identified with Christ, “in Chris”]***, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit*** [Indwelling of the H.S.]***.***

1. **Our LIFE**

When a believer grows to spiritual maturity by consistently

studying and applying the Word of God, he or she is **more**

conformed into the image of God’s Son (*Rom. 8:29*). We are called on to put on the new self which is being in the likeness of God in an **Experiential Way**. We call this **Experiential Sanctification** (*Ephesians 2:22-24*).

a. Super Grace blessings are experienced in time

b. Others are blessed by Association

c. Historical impact becomes a reality

d. Surpassing Grace blessings in eternity which include

Crowns, Rewards, Decorations, & Opportunities, which

are part of the inheritance of spiritually mature believers.

We become a **new self Positionally** when *we’re saved* and become a **new self Experientially** when *we put on* the new self.

***Ephesians 4:22-24 … in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.***

Anyone who believes the gospel is baptized by the H.S. and spiritually becomes a new creature ***2 Cor. 5:17.*** ***Becoming a new creature*** spiritually and ***putting on the new self*** is not the same.

***Putting on the new self***only occurs when a believer consistently learns and applies B.D. to the circumstances of life. This is a superior way of being in the likeness of God that He desires for every one of us and is available to every believer.

***Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predes- tined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;***

***conformed to the image of His Son***

1. The make up of man’s soul resemble the essence of God  ***Gen. 1:26-27***

2. Conformed Spiritually by the baptism of the H.S.  ***2 Cor. 5:17-18***

3. Conformed Experientially by learning and applying B.D.  ***Eph. 4:22-24***

4. Conformed physically in our resurrection bodies  ***1 John 3:2***

***1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.***

The believer’s life can be considered according to time and according to his relationship with sin.

**Phase 1** **Salvation** - Being free from the **Penalty of Sin**

*Rom. 8:1 – There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ.*

**Phase 2** **Time** - Being free from the **Power of Sin**

*Rom. 6:2 - How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*

**Phase 3** **Eternity** - Being free from the **Presence of Sin**

*Rev. 21:27 … nothing unclean and no one who practices*

*abomination and lying, shall ever come into it* (the New

Jerusalem)**.**

Before we leave Day 6, let’s take another look at verses 27 and 28.

***Gen. 1:27-28 And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28) And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."***

1. God created (bara) them male and female refers to the soul and spirit

of Adam and Eve. However, God also made their physical bodies so

He is the author of sex, therefore, there is nothing dirty or nasty about

the private sexual parts of males or females.

2. God commanded them (the animals also) to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. He did that before they sinned; no doubt they were having sex before they sinned so it certainly wasn’t sinful. It fact, all of God’s creatures were mating and God blessed them and said it was very good.

3. So why didn’t Eve get pregnant?

a) Eve’s ability to conceive was in God’s hands. *Psalm 127:3*

says that children are a gift of the Lord.

b) Adam and Eve would have lived forever if they had not sinned, so

there was no need for children to be born to replenish the earth.

c) Child bearing would come with great pain and that was part of

the punishment for Eve’s disobedience to God.

Day 6 includes provision for the sustenance of the newly-appointed monarch and his subjects.

***Genesis 1:29-31 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30) and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. 31) And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.***

Vs. 29 – “*God’s statement about vegetation may indicate that originally God did not intend for life to be taken in order to provide food for man or beast, although this is not specifically prohibited in the text. Permission to do this specifically appears later,* [after the Noah’s flood] *in Gen. 9:3.”*  W. A. Criswell et al., eds., Believer’s Study Bible

**LESSON 12 (2-19-17)**

Read: ***Psalm 104:24-30***

Pagans believe that man was created to take care of the needs of the gods, the Bible shows just the opposite, the true God provides for the needs of His creatures.

What had been pronounced good individually (in verse 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25) is now, verse 31, called “very good” collectively.

We come to a close of chapter one and we notice that the word “God” is used 32 times yet there is no attempt to prove that He exists. Why should He? Psalm 14 says that the fool has said in his heart, there is no God.

We can tell quite a bit about God just from this first chapter. The earth was changed from a dark dead ice covered planet to an unbelievably beautiful place teaming with life. The apostle Paul summed it up this way:

***Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.***

READ: ***Deut. 4:15-19***

The heavens and the earth are so incredibly complex and wonderful that all mankind can comprehend the omnipotence and omniscience of the Creator and is held accountable for ignoring His sovereignty and for the failure to submit to it.

**GENESIS CHAPTER 2**

***Genesis 2:1-2 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2) And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3) Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.***

Of course, God did not rest because He was tired, God never gets tired. He rested because His work of creation was completed. Everything was “very good”, we would say “everything was perfect”.

This seventh day rest set the pattern for working six days and resting on the seventh, but Jews were commanded by the Mosaic Law to rest on the Sabbath as a sign of their trust in God to provide for their physical needs. This was a **Ritual Sabbath** to remind the Jews of God’s faithful provision for them.

***Deuteronomy 5:12-14 Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. 13) 'Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14) but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work,***

God offers people a rest that would permanently make them right with God if they would come to (believe in) Him. This is a **Salvivic Sabbath**

***Matthew 11:28-29 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29) "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.***

The people were carrying a heavy load, trying to achieve salvation by keeping the Mosaic Law. They could have given their heavy burden of sin to Christ and rested instead of trying to be accepted by God by their own endless works.

Believers today also have a **Spiritual Rest***, a Sabbath* which is different from the ritual one of the Jews. We call it “Faith Rest” where one secures peace and patience in the soul by claiming the promises of God and thrusting their problems on the Lord, trusting Him to deliver them through the storms of life (*Heb. 4:8-10*).

***Hebrews 4:8-10 For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. 9) There remains therefore a Sabbath rest for the people of God. 10) For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.***

Verse 4 is actually where chapter two begins and it actually acts as a title for chapter two.

***Genesis 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created*** [*bara* – the original heavens & earth]***, in the day*** [6 day period] ***that the Lord God made*** [*asah* – build out of existing materials] ***earth and heaven.***

The first part of this verse, ***This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created,*** refers to Genesis 1:1 when the heavens and earth were created out of nothing. The second part of this verse, ***in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven,*** refers to the six day period when God restored the earth and heaven.

[The six days that God restored the earth] *are summarized in the phrase, “in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.” Here the one day includes the whole six previous ones. Sometimes in the Bible, as also in common speech, “day” indicates a long period of time. We might say that in Abraham Lincoln’s day automobiles were not in use. We would not mean one particular twenty-four-hour day, but the entire period in which he lived. The Bible speaks of “the day of the Lord,” which is clearly a period of many years in duration. Allan A. MacRae, “The Principles of Interpreting Genesis 1 and 2,” Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 2, no. 4 (1959): 4.*

This is the first time the term ***“Lord God”*** is used and it refers here to Jesus Christ. Lord is a Hebrew word, Jehovah; God is Elohim, a plural word. Lord always refers to personality in the Godhead—there are three. Sometimes Lord refers to the Father, sometimes to the Son, and sometimes to the Holy Spirit. God always refers to essence. There are three persons in one essence.

*“The repeated emphasis on the LORD God is significant (2:4–5, 7–9, 15–16, 18–19, 21–22). The sovereign Creator (“God”) of chapter 1 is also the covenant-making Yahweh (LORD). Thus Israel would know that her LORD had created everything, and that He had formed mankind by special design.”* The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 30.

The last part of Gen. 2:4 starts an account of creation that is different than we find in chapter one. Some wonder which one is right, others claim that since there are parts that seem to contradict each other, the Bible cannot be trusted.

*“It is very common today for unbelievers when told that a person believes the Genesis account of creation to say: “Which account of creation do you believe? After all, we know that Genesis starts with two contradictory accounts of creation.”*

*Of course if this is so it immediately destroys all possibility of believing that Genesis was written by one author, whether he had sources or not. It also destroys the possibility of believing that it is a part of the inspired word of God. God would not give us two contradictory accounts of the same thing. He might give complimentary or supplementary accounts which would overlap and which at first sight might seem to contradict one another, but we can be sure that if it is from God the apparent contradictions will disappear on close examination. ibid*

**LESSON 13** (2-26-17)

Last Sunday I said that chapter two begins with verse 4 and it actually acts as a title for chapter two. I have changed my mind about this statement. Verse 4 is actually a summary statement that covers both chapters of Genesis 1 and 2. This summary would normally come at the end of Gen. 2 but was possibly placed here as a sign that the narrative changes to focus on details that were not given in *Gen. 1:1-31*.

***Genesis 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created*** [*bara* – the original heavens & earth***], in the day*** [6 day period] ***that the Lord God made*** [restored the] ***earth and heaven.***

Notice the word order of the creation of the original “*heavens and earth*” *(Gen. 1:1)* is reversed in the second phrase – “*earth and heaven*” to reflect their restoration described in (*Gen.1:3-31*).

The series of events in Gen 2:5–25 obviously occurred prior to *Gen.2:1 - Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts -* yet they are presented afterwards. This chronological reversal serves to give the details of how God made the first man and woman, which was missing in chapter one, but is included in the chapter two narrative that describes earth first and then the heavens.

The simplest way of making the point is, Genesis 2:5–25 elaborates on the creation of the first man and woman who were created on the sixth day of restoration.

In other words, we read Genesis 1 and 2 together when we take 2:5–25

as filling out details of the “sixth day,” amplifying 1:24–31. C. John Collins,

“Adam and Eve in the Old Testament,” ed. R. Albert Mohler Jr., Southern Baptist Journal of Theology Volume 15

15, no. 1 (2011): 9.

*“A great principle of revelation occurs for the first time in this chapter, but it will be found again and again in the Word of God. It is one of the fingerprints of inspiration. It is the law of recurrence or the law of recapitulation. In other words, the Spirit of God, in giving the Word of God, has a practice of stating briefly a series of great facts and truths; then He will come back and take out of the series that which is all-important, and He will elucidate and enlarge upon that particular thing. He is going to do this now in chapter 2 with the six days of creation which were given in chapter 1. This same principle is seen in the Book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is the interpretation of the Law after forty years of experience with it in the wilderness. Deuteronomy is not just a repetition of the Law, but rather an interpretation of it.* J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 18.

***Genesis 2:5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth; and there was no man to cultivate the ground.***

*“In chapter 1 God was preparing a home for the man whom He would make. God is now getting ready to move this man into a place that He has prepared for him.” J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 p. 19*

This seems to describe conditions on the earth found in *Gen. 1:10*, when the dry land appeared but before vegetation appeared.

We know that by the 3rd day of restoration, God provided vegetation in the form of plants and trees which would sustain human life. Man did nothing to earn his food; man did not deserve his food; man did not have to work for this food, everything was provided by God.

***Genesis 2:6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.***

*There was some form of a greenhouse effect that produced the moisture that the plants would need to grow. The means of preservation of vegetation was mist which was entirely provided by God and it came from inside of the earth. Analogy: Just as man receives his physical food from God, so he receives his spiritual food from God—grace. R.B. Theime, Gensis notes*

***Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (soul).***

***formed –*** YATZAR as a potter forms or fashions

God formed Adam from the dust of the ground (Heb. “adamah”). So it appears that Adam was named after the material from which he was made.

*“It is quite interesting that our bodies are made up of about fifteen or sixteen chemical elements. Those same chemical elements are in the ground… If we were to be boiled down into the separate chemical elements of which we are made, we would be worth about $3.00.” J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 p. 19*

The first human from which we all descend was made from dust and like him, we all will return to the dust (excepting those raptured).

***Genesis 3:19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."***

***breath*** – NASHAMAH נְשָׁמָה breath, wind

***of ~~life~~ lives*** – CHAY pronounced (**khah**·ee) meaning life or lives. This word is in the plural and refers to soul and spirit that was given to Adam.

Adam’s soul and spirit was created and his body was made or formed.

Adam’s body was completed and it was perfect but he did not become a living being until God breathed the breath of lives into him. We assume that God did the same for Eve after He had built her from a rib of Adam.

All living creatures must breathe, without breath, there is no life. When a baby is born and never takes a breath, he is said to be born dead. It is God that gives breath and for humans, with that breath comes with a soul that was created out of nothing.

The physical body is essentially a house for the soul. The soul is the real person. It is where the thinking takes place and the Bible says:

***Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks within himself, so he is.***

So on the authority of the Word of God we can boldly declare that man did not evolve from monkey or apes or anything else; he was formed from the dust of the ground and received the breath of lives from God and it took place on the sixth day, a 24 hour period.

***became a living*** - CHAY (**khah**·ee) meaning life, lives, living The same word (lema) as ***breath of life*** in this same verse.

***became a living being (soul).*** NEPHESH – A soul, living being, life

The soul has mentality, self-consciousness, and volition. The heart is the dominate portion of the soul and it contains a memory center, norms and standards, frame of reference, and conscience. Emotions are not part of the soul but are physical reactions or responses to what is in the soul.

Put yourself in Adam’s place the moment when he saw the world for the first time. He was completely and perfectly formed as a mature man. One moment he was dirt, the next moment he was a living, breathing, seeing, and talking adult. What did he think when he saw this wonderful perfect beautiful world that God designed for him?

***Genesis 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.***

The word Eden means the garden of delight. It was the sum total of perfect environment.

*“I cannot tell you where the Garden of Eden is. I am sure it is somewhere in the Tigris-Euphrates valley; in fact it may be the entire valley. Originally, that valley was a very fertile place, and it still is, for that matter. It is part of “the fertile crescent.” At one time, the peoples inhabiting that region did not even plant grain there; they simply harvested it, for it grew by itself.” Ibid*

***Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil***.

There were many trees in the Garden of Eden and since they were very pleasing to the eye. They provided perfect scenery, and they stimulated man in the realm of his soul. He appreciated them and enjoyed them.

They were also good for food so Adam was stirred mentally and physically by the trees and their fruit. No doubt the fruit was so vibrant and fresh and tasted so wonderful that it would make the best blue ribbon organic fruit of our day taste pathetic.

There were two trees that are very important and significant:

*THE* ***TREE OF LIFE –*** The tree of life was located in the middle of the garden as was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

At the time that Adam was on the earth the tree of life seemed to have something to do with God’s provision for man’s perpetuation preserving and promoting life in a perfect environment and in innocence. The tree of life could preserve life while the tree of the knowledge of good and evil had the potential of destroying life. The prohibition of eating the fruit was only for the tree of knowledge, not the tree of life.

When Adam and Eve were removed from the Garden of Eden, God put an angel to stand guard to make sure they would not re-enter the garden in their fallen state and eat of the tree of life and live in their fallen state forever.

***Genesis 3:24 So. He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.***

The tree of life will be in the new Jerusalem in the eternal state.

***Revelation 22:1-2 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2) in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.***

One of the benefits and pleasures that will be limited to the believers who will receive eternal rewards and privileges will be to eat of the tree of life.

***Revelation 2:7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'***

The tree of life is used metaphorically:

***Proverbs 3:17-18 Her*** [wisdom, BD] ***ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. 18) She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.***

***Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.***

***Proverbs 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.***

***Proverbs 15:4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life,***

**LESSON 14**  (3-5-16)

2. **THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL** was also pleasing to the eye. It was the testing tree to determine if our original parents would be obedient to God or not.

Adam and Eve were innocent, and they had no idea what evil was. There was no reason for them to know the difference between good and evil because there was no evil in their perfect environment and they had no Old Sin Nature.

But, God placed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the garden in order to allow them to freely use their volition. Because they had free will, they had the ability to remain in perfect innocence or to sin. The tree was a test. Would they eat of that tree which would be their first sin in disobedience to God’s command not to eat of it? This would constitute rebellion against God’s authority. Satan desperately wanted them to sin and be cursed, too, like him, so he tempted them to do it, thinking it would be proof that no creature given free will could remain sinless. This would also prove that he was not responsible for his sin and that he was right to blame God because God had given him volition in the first place.

It is reasonable to assume that there was a trial in heaven which did indeed hold Satan accountable for his sin because we know that he was found guilty and sentenced to the Lake of Fire, ***Matt. 25:41,*** to which Satan must have yelled, “Unfair!”, and demanded that God grant him an Appeal Trial. Although the Bible does not say this, we can conclude that this happened because his sentence was delayed in order for God to create another creature, Adam, who was also given volition as court room evidence that God is absolutely and perfectly fair.

Adam used his volition, not only to sin against God, but he also used his volition to accept the solution to sin, the cross, in order to be right with God again. He used the same volition in which he rebelled against God to humbly seek His forgiveness.

Satan used his volition to sin, but it appears he never sought to be right with God because he believed he did nothing wrong. He simply exercised the volition God gave him and probably alleged that if God had never given him free will, he would not have sinned. Although the Bible does not give us any details as to whether a grace solution was offered to Satan for his sin, we do know that Satan, like so many men, did not take responsibility for his sin, did not desire to be reconciled to God, and if God took care of his sins by offering some form of reconciliation, apparently, Satan chose to reject it.

So, God held him responsible for his sin and he was justly sentenced to the Lake of Fire. Yes, God’s justice and righteousness has been forever proven to be true and impeccable.

The test for Adam and Eve was to implicitly trust God. They didn’t need to know about good and evil. They just needed to recognize that He was all they needed and if they disobeyed Him by eating of that tree, there would be terrible consequences. They were probably very curious about that tree; they could walk right up to it and even touch the fruit just as long as they didn’t eat it. They seem to have been doing fine until the serpent had a little chat with Eve.

**LESSON 15 (3-12-17)**

***Genesis 2:10-14 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. 11) The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. 12) The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13) The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. 14) The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.***

***Vs. 10*** – There was one source for four rivers which originated in Eden.

***Vs. 11*** - There is no scholarly agreement on whether this reference in Genesis is to a river, or to a larger body of water, such as the Persian Gulf. “The name of the first is *Pishon*,” which is the Hebrew word now for canal,

***Vs. 12*** – It is interesting to note that the river (v. 10), and the precious gold and gems (vv. 11–12) in the garden will also be in the new earth in its eternal state.

***Vs. 13*** – *“Gihon”* Heb., ‘a bursting forth. It is the one which flows around the whole land of Cush.

***Vs. 14*** – The “*Tigris*”, along with the “*Euphrates”* nourished an extensive floodplain providing the physical basis for the rise of civilization in the ancient Near East. Its name *Tigris* is derived from Old Persian Tigra.

The Euphrates is the largest river in western Asia. It served as the northern boundary of Israelite territory under David (2 Sam. 8:3) but was terrain usually under Aramaean control. Paul J. Achtemeier, Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, Harper’s Bible Dictionary (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 286.

***Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.***

***put –*** NOOACH To settle down, rest, repose

***cultivate*** – ABAD To toil, to till the ground. The word “*toil*” in *Gen. 3:17* that was part of the curse on Adam after he sinned is a different Hebrew word which means anxious toil or hardship.

***Genesis 2:16-17 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17) but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."***

These are the first recorded words that God spoke to the first man.

*“They clearly presuppose the person to whom they were addressed to had the power of understanding language, i. e. of interpreting vocal sounds, and representing to his own mind the conceptions or ideas of which they were the signs, a degree of intellectual development altogether incompatible with modern evolution theories. They likewise assume the pre-existence of a moral nature which could recognize the distinction between “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not.* H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 46.

This is the first time the word “command” is used in the Bible. There were positive blessings for obeying and very negative prohibitions for disobeying; it was a matter of life and death.

God gave Adam dominion over the entire earth which was a perfect environment and all earthly goods and pleasures were at his disposal,

but he had to remember that he had a Creator over him to whom he owed respect and obedience.

*“There was ample gratification for all the different parts of his complex nature. (1) For his bodily senses, the fair scenes, melodious sounds, crystal streams, and luscious fruits of the garden. (2) For his mental powers, the study of the works of God. (3) For his social affections, a loving and lovely partner. (4) For his spiritual nature, God.”* The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 48.

There was no sin, no suffering, no worry, no sorrow, no tears, and no regrets. Doesn’t that sound a bit like heaven on earth?

***you will surely die –*** The Hebrew says literally, dying you shall die. Adam and Eve did not die physically when they ate the forbidden fruit but they did die the day they ate of it; they died spiritually. They lost their relationship with God and were alienated from Him.

Remember, when God formed Adam’s body from the dust of the ground, He breathed the breath of lives into him (Gen. 2:7). That included not only soul life, but spiritual life as well. That spiritual life ended when he sinned.

SPIRITUAL DEATH – Being separated and alienated from God resulting in having no relationship within Him and being born spiritually dead.

Adam and Eve could have lived forever but their disobedience meant not only that they would die spiritually, they would also eventually die physically.

Adam represented the entire human race so when he died spiritually because of his sin, spiritual death passed on to the entire human race.

***Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as through one man*** [Adam] ***sin*** [singular - the original sin of Adam] ***entered into the world, and*** [spiritual] ***death through*** [Adam’s] ***sin, and so*** [spiritual] ***death spread to all men, because all sinned—***[when Adam sinned].

Adam died spiritually when he sinned and lost his relationship with God. Since we are identified with Adam and his sin, we are born spiritually dead, separated from God with no hope apart from the cross of Christ..

If you are having a problem with Adam’s spiritual death being passed on to us, let me ask you a question. If you were created innocent like Adam but had the ability to sin by disobeying God, would you eventually sin like he did?

7 Types of Sin

**SEVEN TYPES OF DEATH**

1. **SPIRITUAL DEATH -** Being separated and alienated from God resulting in having no relationship within Him and being born spiritually dead. ***Rom. 5:12, 6:23***
2. **PHYSICAL DEATH** – The separation of the soul from the body.

***Gen. 35:8, Matt. 8:22, 2 Cor. 5:8***

***Genesis 35:18 It came about as her*** [Rachel] ***soul was departing (for she died), that she named him Ben-oni;***

***but his father called him Benjamin.***

1. **TEMPORAL DEATH** – When one has sinned and not

confessed it to God, he is in a temporary state of

carnality. ***Rom. 8:6, Eph. 5:14, 1 Tim. 5:6***

***Romans 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,***

1. **POTIONAL DEATH** – Believers are identified with Christ

in His death. ***Rom. 6:6-14, 2 Cor. 5:8, Col. 3:3***

***Romans 6:8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,***

**5. SECOND DEATH** – What an unbeliever experiences when he is

thrown into the Lake of Fire at the Great White Throne Judgment.

***Revelation 20:14-15 …This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

1. **PERATIONAL DEATH** – A believer becomes operationally dead when he remains in carnality for a long period of time. ***1 Cor. 3:14-15, James 2:26***

***James 2:26 For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.***

**7. SEXUAL DEATH** – The inability to have sexual intercourse.

***Rom. 4:17-21, Heb. 11:12***

***Hebrews 11:12 Therefore there was born even of one man*** [Abraham]***, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.***

**LESSON 16 (3-19-17)**

***Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."***

God said “it was good” many times but this is the first time He said that “it is not good”. But it’s not to be construed as God made a mistake, every- thing in His plan is to come about at the right time.

*“There was a purpose in God’s putting man in the garden alone for a*

*period of time. It was to show him that he had a need, he needed*

*someone to be with him.”* J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, 1997), 21.

***helper*** – EZER – “help meet”, one who assists or helps

God made the woman to be a helper for the man.

Definition: ***helper*** - one who serves or assists another. Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

***suitable*** – NEGED – That which corresponds, opposite number, one who is prober for him, one who fits him.

The woman was created to (1) be a companion to Adam, (2) provide pleasure and comfort (3) replenish the earth, (4) help Adam, and (5) fulfill the promise concerning the Seed of the woman.

She was not created to challenge the man for his leadership role or to compete with him for it. Being a helper in no way implies inferiority nor subservience. Both man and woman were made in God’s image, according to ***Genesis 1:27***.

Husband and wife are to live as one, united in love for God and for one another, modeling the love Christ has for His bride, the Church.

There has never been a man who did not need a woman’s help. God designed women to complement and complete the man. She completes him in his body, mind, and soul.

Trouble begins when a wife reverses the roles and considers herself to be in charge and her husband as her helper. The Apostle Paul addressed this issue when he gave commands for women’s behavior in the church:

***1 Timothy 2:11-15 Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12) But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13) For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14) And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression. 15) But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.***

Notice first of all that Paul took the Genesis account of creation literally. He wrote of a literal Adam and a literal Eve. His report of creation was not allegorical, symbolic, or figurative. Husband and wife are to live as one, united in love for God and for one another, modeling the love Christ has for His bride, the Church.

***Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.***

God put Adam in charge over the earth and he had dominion over all the other creatures. Adam didn’t have to find all the animals and heard them into a corral in order to name them. God brought probably specimens of each animal to Adam to name in a way similar to the way He brought animals to Noah to place in the ark.

God no doubt had the confidence that Adam could manage the task and did not change or question any of the names that Adam came up with.

Adam not only had a perfect vocabulary and mastery of the language that was used then, he also had a tremendous intellect to be able to name the hundreds or maybe thousands of animals that existed at that time.

This completely refutes the myth of an ignorant Neanderthal knuckle dragging oaf that resembled an ape who lived in a cave and could only communicate with grunts and gestures. The ability to think, make decisions, and speak a language were gifts hardwired into Adam and Eve.

It is nothing short of miraculous that without any frame of reference, babies are able to learn the language of their parents in a short period of time.

*“M.I.T. Professor Chomsky is the greatest linguist of our time. He proved that language is somehow an inborn human ability, in tune with the human brain… Prof. Chomsky has recently concluded that a super- intelligent extraterrestrial must have been behind human language.”*

*“Secular linguistics is based on evolutionary thinking. It is therefore presumed that human language evolved over millions of years from the gesturing and grunting of evolving ape-men.”*

No doubt, some names Adam gave were descriptive, based on the appearance of an animal where others were named for their function like English names such as “grasshopper”, “water snake”, and “tree toad.

Adam and Eve didn’t have to learn a language because they were hard- wired with the mastery of language from the moment they were created. The ability for man to use words to communicate is one of the major differences between animals and humans. By the way, in the beginning, there was only one language.

***Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words.***

Many have speculated as to what language it was. In December of 2000, Dr. Isaac E. Mozeson wrote a book entitled: *The Word: The Dictionary That Reveals the Hebrew Source of English.*

An article in the Prophetic Observer, written in February 2001, entitled: *The Language Spoken by Adam and Eve, by Dr. Larry Spargimino said the following:*

*Dr. Mozeson has been doing research for two decades and has been collecting information showing that Hebrew is the mother tongue of mankind and that all languages are dialects of this Edenic language.*

*The Tower of Babel scenario of Genesis 11, and the prophecy of the return of the pure language (Zephaniah 3:9), is verifiably true.*

*Even in some of our English words for various animals we can still find a trace of the Hebrew names given by Adam. “Horse” for example, can be traced to the Hebrew word for “plower”; “gopher” to the word for “digger”; “giraffe” to the word for “neck”; “buzzard” to the word for “looter”; “skunk” to the word for “stinker”. Mozeson gives over 22,000 such examples to back up his claim.*

*If Dr. Mozeson is correct, and the evidence indicates that he is – Adam and Eve spoke Hebrew. It will also be the “pure” language spoken in the Millennium.*

***Genesis 2:20-21 And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.***

Names were very important to the Hebrews. This shows mankind’s authority and dominion over the animals.

Adam probably had pets but could not relate to animals in a personal fulfilling way. He also, no doubt, noticed that all the animals had a mate that were right for them but he had none.

Now in verses 21-22 we have THE CREATION OF THE WOMAN!

In The Revised Version of The Book of Genesis by Herbert E. Ryle, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), p.37, we find the following preface concerning Genesis 2:21-22:

*“The description in these verses is remarkable for its delicacy and beauty. Nothing could be more clear than that we are dealing with the poetry of symbolism, not with the record of literal fact.”*

What a perfect example of what the Chafer Theological Conference 2017 was exposing. Nearly all seminaries today claim they believe in the inspiration of Scripture but their teaching and writings are riddled with this kind of heresy.

***21) So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.***

“*This is the first surgery, and God was the Surgeon. In His kindness,*

*God used an unusually deep sleep as an anesthetic for the task. God’s use of a rib was fitting. He might have started over with dust and clay. But by using a part of Adam himself, the identification of Adam with his partner would be ensured.”* Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 2:21.

She was not made out of his head to surpass him, nor from his feet to be trampled on, but from his side, near his heart to be dear to him.

***Genesis 2:22 And the LORD God fashioned*** [*bana* - built] ***into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.***

The following passages were written by Paul to address the use of head coverings for women in the church but they also are pertinent to the verse above:

***1 Corinthians 11:8-12 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9) for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. 10) Therefore the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels. 11) However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12) For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.***

This was the first time a man and a woman laid eyes on each other and they were both naked. What a moment! Both of their bodies were perfect and the woman, no doubt, was the height of feminine pulchritude, she was drop dead gorgeous.

One can’t help but wonder which one spoke first and what was said. How long was it before either one spoke? It would be the first words ever spoken by one person to another. The response would be the first time ever that a person responded to another person.

***Genesis 2:23 And the man said, "This is now*** [finally] ***bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."***

This might have been the first words uttered but I doubt it. The first words that Adam probably said, once he was able to speak, was WOW!

*“Adam’s poem focuses on naming the delight of his heart in this newly found companion. The man (ish) names her “woman” (isha) because she had her source in him (the root of the word “woman” is “soft”). She truly was made of bone from his bones and flesh from his flesh. Cf. 1 Cor. 11:8. The English words man/woman sustain the same relation- ship as the Hebrew words, hinting at that original creation.”*

John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 19.

***bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh*** is an expression used of a near or close relationship in other verses *Gen. 29:14, 37:27; Jud. 9:2; 2 Sam 5:1, 19:12, 13; 1 Chron. 11:1*

We are not given the details as to how Adam knew what had happened while he was in a deep sleep as God took a rib and built the woman. He did know however that she was taken from him and not from the ground.

**LESSON 17 (3-26-17)**

(KJV) ***Genesis 2:24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave*** (qal. perf.) ***to his wife; and they shall become*** (qal. perf.) ***one flesh.***

***a man shall leave*** – (Heb) *AZAB* to forsake 29 times, to leave 72 times, The sense is to depart and not take along, to depart and leave behind

This point is so important that Moses included it even though there were no mother in laws or father in laws yet. The gist of this verse is that the relationship of the man to his wife is proclaimed to be closer than that to his father and mother.

Unfortunately, many people don’t know this because in-laws have caused so many major problems in marriages with some ending in divorce. When a son or daughter reaches adulthood, he or she is no longer under the authority of his or her parents.

It’s fine for parents to encourage and help their newlywed children and their spouse however they can, but they are not interfere into the newly-weds’ personal affairs!If the couple does not specifically ask for advice, the parents and in-laws need to **BUTT OUT!**

Husbands and wives need privacy so they can communicate with each other, discuss their personal issues in private, so they can work out their problems with each other without interference from in-laws!

It is difficult for parents to be objective, they love their children dearly and are so partial to them that in their mind, no one in the world is good enough to marry them. They are oblivious to the flaws of their child but are very quick to point out flaws in the one their child chooses to marry.

That is the very last thing a person needs to hear when he or she is having marital problems. It can absolutely destroy a marriage!

What they need to do is encourage the husband to love his wife as Christ loves the church and for the wife to submit to her husband as to the Lord. (Read: ***Eph. 5:20-33***). Man and woman were created equal “in the image of God,” but their roles are clearly distinct.

Sometimes the situation is reversed, when adult kids have their own families and intrude into their parent’s life when they remarry. They refuse to give their new step parent a chance and cause all kinds of trouble. They should at least be friendly and cordial and give the newly married couple a chance. If they can’t do that, they need to **BUTT OUT!**

Children should remember that the responsibility to honor their parents (*Ex. 20:12*) does not cease when the children leave to form their own family and if their parents or their in-laws are being intrusive, they still should be treated with respect.

***…and shall cleave*** (qal. perf.) ***to his wife; and they shall become*** (qal. perf.) ***one flesh.***

KJV ***and*** (the man) ***shall cleave to his wife*** (Heb) *DABAK*

NASV*&*NKJV ***shall* *be joined***, LEB ***shall cling to***, ESV ***shall hold fast to***, NET ***shall unite with***

All of these phrases carry the sense of a permanent or indissoluble union.

To unite with a spouse as to be married, implying close association and relationship together. Notice the structure of marriage consists of **ONE MAN UNITED TO ONE WOMAN!**

***they shall become one flesh.*** They were literally one flesh in the sense that Eve was formed from Adam’s body but they also became one flesh in their sexual union.

***1 Corinthians 6:15-16 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? May it never be! 16) Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a harlot is one body with her? For He says, "The two will become one flesh."***

They also become one when their two souls coalesce together as one as they consider each other in their thoughts and decisions. Coming together physically to become one flesh becomes unsatisfying if there is no coming together of the souls. The husband and wife become “we” instead of “me” and “you”.

This verse is so important that it is quoted in the N.T. four times (***Matt. 19:5****; Mark 10:7- 8;* ***1 Cor. 6:16****; Eph. 5:31).*

***Matthew 19:3-6 And some Pharisees came to Him, testing Him, and saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause at all?" 4) And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5) and said, 'For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh '? 6) "Consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."***

For those who claim that the Genesis 1-3 account of creation is only poetry or symbolic but certainly not literal are at odds with the Apostle Paul and our Lord Jesus Christ who declared that they do.

***Genesis 2:25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.***

One thing we can assume is that the weather had to be absolutely perfect for there was no need for clothes.

The Hebrew word for “naked” means to be completely naked rather than just partially or scantily dressed. Since neither Adam nor Eve had no knowledge of evil, there was no embarrassment or shame about being naked. Also, there was no one else other than their spouse to see them.

As the innocence of child does not possess the sense of shame, neither did the first man and first woman until they sinned against God. They were completely comfortable in their physical bodies, in their sexuality, and in their relationship with God and with each other.

Now we go to **Genesis Chapter 3** which is one of the most interesting and fascinating chapters in the entire Bible. We have no idea how long the couple lived in this perfect environment in innocence until they were tempted by the evil one.

***Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"***

***the serpent*** – is identified with the many beasts of the field which the Lord God made. So it is was a literal creature which was more **crafty** than most. Its ability to be wise is noted in the N.T.

***Matthew 10:16 Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be wise as serpents, and innocent as doves.***

*Genesis 3:1 is connected with 2:25 by a Hebrew wordplay: Adam and Eve were “naked” (‘ărûmmîm); and the serpent was more crafty (‘ārûm, “shrewd”) than all.* Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 32.

*The wordplay links the serpent’s shrewdness with the woman’s deception, finally resulting in the self-consciousness of human nakedness.* K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 232.

The serpent is identified with Satan:

***Revelation 12:9 the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan,***

***Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan,***

The serpent wasn’t Satan but Satan had obviously indwelt him and using the creature to tempt Eve. We don’t know what the serpent looked like before he was used to deceive Eve; the slithering creepy serpents we see now are what they look like after God cursed the serpent in verse 14.

***And he said to the woman,*** It is hard to say which is more surprising, that the serpent talked to Eve or that she didn’t find it odd to talk to a snake. It’s possible that the serpent had talked to her before, which is not recorded here, which would explain why she wasn’t surprised. Of course it was Satan talking through the serpent but Eve wasn’t aware of that.

One might ask, “Why did Satan choose the woman to tempt instead of the man?” He knew that if he was successful in turning Adam, then Adam could command Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit and she might feel obligated since she was subordinate to him. In other words, she would have done it against her will.

Some believe that Satan tempted her because she did not hear God’s commands directly (Gen. 2:16–17) since she had not been created yet. But she demonstrated by her answer to the serpent that she had been told what God had said.

***"Indeed, has God said,*** - Satan is the smartest creature in the universe and he chose his words very carefully and deliberately here. Notice that the serpent used the general name, “God” (Elohim), rather than including the sacred name “Jehovah” (LORD, God) which is used eleven times in chapter 2 and is even used in this verse. We will also notice that the woman replied to the serpent in verse 3 by also saying “God” instead of “the LORD God”. She had adopted the serpent’s vocabulary.

Of course he used a question to get the response that he wanted. He controlled the conversation by starting out with a question that would cause her to doubt God.

The word “*indeed*” suggests that the serpent was surprised at what God said. Could it be true that God has said such a thing?

Or the serpent could have been asking what God said by suggesting that maybe He wasn’t really clear in what He said. Maybe He mumbled, or maybe He was ambiguous in what He said, it wasn’t really clear.

The approach the serpent used was insidious. He knew the prohibition; but he feigned ignorance, and asked to be instructed.

The serpent obviously knew what God had said but he purposely misstated what He had said. It didn’t seem to occur to Eve to question the serpent as to how would he know what God had said and what was it him? That would have been a very good time to answer the serpent’s question with a question.

***'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"*** Satan knew this was not what God had said, in fact, He said just the opposite (vs 16), but his lie set Eve up for his next statement. Such a suggestion, however easily refuted, might instill into the mind of the unsuspicious woman a grain of doubt as to whether any limitation was in harmony with perfect justice and kindness.

The word of the Lord God brought life and order; the word of the serpent

brought death and chaos.

**LESSON 18 (4-2-17)**

The book of Genesis is so important because everything stems from the beginnings that are covered in this book. It answers the following questions:

1. Where did the world come from? 2. Where did I come from? 3. What is the purpose for my being on earth? 4. Is there a God? 5. If so, am I account- able to Him? 6. Why is the world in such a mess? 7. Will evil always plague the earth? 8. Is there a solution?

If we want to persuade others that the biblical worldview is correct, we must understand Genesis and be able to discuss it intelligently with them.

***Genesis 3:2-3 And the woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3) but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'"***

The woman corrected the purposely misquoted statement of the serpent, but she added something to it that was not true. God said nothing about dying if they touched the forbidden fruit. So why did she say that?

1. The woman had not yet been created when God forbade Adam

from eating the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil. Is it possible

that the woman got this misinformation from Adam? That seems

unlikely since he had no reason to deceive her.

2. It’s possible that Adam could have embellished the prohibition by

saying that they weren’t even to touch it for her own protection. But

that doesn’t seem to go along with his perfectly innocent mentality.

3. It is more likely that the serpent’s strategy of deception had

already begun to work and she added the part about dying if she

touched it because she started to see herself as a victim of God’s

alleged injustice.

***lest you die*** - A few translations say, “or you will die” but none of them record the woman accurately quoting what God said, “you shall **surely** die”.

“*In using the words “lest ye die,” instead of “ye shall surely die” [Ge 2:17], she spoke as if the tree had been forbidden because of some poisonous quality of its fruit. The tempter, perceiving this* [that she was weakening]*, became bolder.”* Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 19.

*“There is nothing magical about the fruit. It was the way that God was*

*using it* [as a prohibition]*, not anything inherent in the physical qualities*

*of the fruit itself, that made it significant*.” Robert James Utley, [*How It All Began: Genesis 1–11*](https://ref.ly/logosres/bliot01a;ref=Bible.Ge3.3;off=576;ctx=nique_to_the_Bible._~There_is_nothing_mag), vol. Vol. 1A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 58–59.

***Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely shall not die!***

Satan convinced the woman that God didn’t really mean what He said. He did what he always does, he tried to convince someone that it’s alright to sin and you can do it and get by with it.

He had the audacity to call the God of the universe, his creator, a liar! He persuaded her that certainly a loving God wouldn’t kill you just for taking a bite out of a fruit. Oh, He may fuss a bit but it would be unfair for Him to kill you just for one small act of disobedience.

Jesus called Satan the “father of lies”.

***John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.***

Apart form assimilating the truth of God’s Word into our soul, none of us are able to distinguish truth from lies because Satan is more intelligent than us and is able to deceive us just as he deceived the woman.

Our defense against the lies and deception of Satan is the Word of God!

***John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.***

Millions of Christians have been persuaded to believe that homosexuality is not a sin but a legitimate alternative lifestyle. They have accepted co-habitation, fornication, same-sex marriage, radical feminist ideology, post-modernism, Catholicism, socialism, humanism, internationalism, etc.

Satan’s strategy is to make us doubt the reliability of the clear teachings of Scripture.

Example: Satan subtly whispers into a teenager’s ear that there’s really nothing wrong with fornication, after all, it’s the natural thing to do. God just doesn’t want you to have any fun. It isn’t fair for Him to make you a sexual being and then deny you the opportunity to have sex. Most of your friends know this and that is why they are doing what comes naturally.

Add these lies to the strong libido of teens and you wind up with skyrocket- ting sexually transmitted diseases, illegitimate babies (babies born outside of marriage), abortions, psychological damage (guilt and regret), future options limited, poverty, broken homes and broken hearts.

***Genesis 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."***

Satan not only lied to the woman saying she would not die from eating the forbidden fruit, but also said that there would be benefits to eating it.

There was some truth in what he said, her eyes were opened to knowing good and evil, but she would certainly not be like God in the sense that she would be equal with Him.

***Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil;***

It is ironical that the woman tried to grasp from God what was already hers. Both she and Adam, were made in the image of God (Gen. 1:27) so she was already like God. But Satan deceived her into believing that she could be equal with God. Of course this is what motivated Satan to rebel against God.

What Satan hid from the woman was the horrible price she would pay for disobeying God in order to acquire the knowledge of good and evil. **She would know good, but would be unable to do it; and she would know evil, but would be unable to resist it.**

She would also suffer separation from God, shame, guilt, spiritual death, and eventually physical death.

***Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.***

Now we have a classic illustration of how the woman rationalized her way into swallowing Satan’s deceptive bait to rebel against God. She talked herself right into sinning.

We have the details of the process she went through to sin but the under- lying cause is not stated so what was it? It was her desire to act indepen- dently from God. Isn’t that behind every act of sin? She was nieve enough to think that she could usurp God’s role in determining what was good and what was evil. Yes, she gained her independence in exchange for death.

God gave us volition which means we have the ability to act independently from Him, but when we do, there is always painful consequences. Many people say, “I know that God has said such and such, BUT …

Both Adam and the woman depended on God for everything and He provided everything they could possibly want and everything was perfect.

But arrogance is never satisfied and arrogance insists on having its own way.

***James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. 15) Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.***

***The woman’s rationale for sinning was:***

***the tree was good for food,*** - The forbidden fruit was edible so this should be a factor in eating it even though God said that you would die if you ate it?

***it was a delight to the eyes*** – Should this be a determining factor?

***the tree was desirable to make one wise*** – The wise thing to do was to never eat of that tree.

***1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh*** (good for food) ***and the lust of the eyes*** (delight to the eyes) ***and the boastful pride of life*** (desirable to make one wise)***, is not from the Father, but is from the world.***

***Galatians 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please*** [which means we are not to act independently from God]***.***

Through one foolish and rebellious act—eating the fruit God had forbidden—Adam and Eve lost their innocence, their dignity, their home, and their perfect relationship with God. Kurt Strassner, [*Opening up Genesis*](https://ref.ly/logosres/openup01gen;ref=Bible.Ge3.1-5.32;off=562;ctx=n_of_paradise_lost._~Through_one_foolish_), Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 31.

The effect of mankind’s willful rebellion against a loving, caring, providing, fellowshiping God has affected not only their religious life but also their own personhood, their family life, and their world. Robert James Utley, How It All Began: Genesis 1–11, vol. Vol. 1A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 53.

Where was Adam while all this was going on?

***and she gave also to her husband with her…***

The text says nothing about the woman searching for Adam, bringing him back to the tree, and then enticing him to eat of the forbidden fruit.

“With her” may imply that the man was in close proximity all the time. King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 3:6.

What in the world was Adam thinking as he just stood there as a reptile was convincing his wife to betray him and the Lord? Why didn’t Adam protect his wife from this insidious attack?

The woman was deceived by what the serpent said.

***Genesis 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."***

***2 Corinthians 11:3 But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.***

***1 Timothy 2:13-14 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14) And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.***

God gave Adam dominion over all the earth, including all the animals.

Why didn’t Adam tell the serpent to shut-up and get lost? Also, Satan is powerless without man’s assent and consent. Why didn’t Adam say, “This conversation is over” and walk away and take the woman with him?

*“There has been much speculation about this verse. The rabbis assert that Adam ate so that he would not be separated from his wife. This is also asserted by Milton in Paradise Lost. However, it seems from the context, that Eve acted toward Adam as the serpent had toward her, along with the experiential evidence that she had already eaten and was not dead. The rabbis even assert that the serpent used this same technique with Eve; that he forced her to touch the fruit and said, “See, you did not die.” Possibly she told Adam, “See, I’m not dead.” Robert James Utley, How It All Began: Genesis 1–11, vol. Vol. 1A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 59.*

Adam was put in charge and the woman was to follow his leadership but he followed her lead in eating of the fruit. He did nothing to stop the serpent’s deception nor the woman’s treachery but knowingly joined her in her rebellion against their God who had shown them nothing but love.

*“I was amazed to find out that when Jesus “takes” the bread and cup, giving them to His disciples, instructing them to “take” and “eat” and drink, all of them together, the New Testament accounts of the Last Supper use the same verbs that the Septuagint (the first translation of the Old Testament in the Greek) used to translate Eve’s taking of the fruit in Genesis 3:6. Isn’t that amazing? The same words that caused our separation from God are the ones that restored our relationship with God: “take” and “eat”.* Bill Katz, Chosen People Ministries newsletter, April 2017

Eating the unleavened bread and drinking from the cup reminds us of the sinless Son of God who died on the cross to pay for our sins. It is a public expression of our faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for us.

**LESSON 19 (4-9-17)**

***Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.***

Adam and the woman acquired a new kind of knowledge they had never experienced before, one that included guilt. Their first experience of guilt was in recognizing that they were naked.

But they had seen each other naked every day for probably a long time and were never ashamed. God had seen them naked, indeed He made them naked and brought the woman to the mad when they were both naked and no one was shy or embarrassed. They were never shy or embarrassed about being naked before but now they felt the need to cover their bodies.

Is there anything wrong with a man and a woman seeing each other in their birthday suit? Answer: Not if they’re married. Part of the special bond that a husband and wife share is exposing their bodies to each other without any shame, guilt, or embarrassment. It is a manifestation of their love and trust for each other.

So why did Adam and the woman feel guilty and ashamed about their nakedness even though no one else was around to see them? Now, they saw their nakedness not as a manifestation of love and trust, but of sin and guilt.

This radical change in the way they saw each other had nothing to do with their sexuality or sex, but was caused by a new sinful nature they acquired.

For the first time they experienced mental attitude sins.

I have thought for a long time that there was some kind of aura of translucent light that surrounded their bodies when they were innocent but was lost when they sinned.

*“corporeally (bodily), [Adam and the woman] having lost that enswathing light of purity which previously engirt (surround, encircle) their bodies*” H. D.

M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 59.

***Colossians 1:12 …giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.***

***And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.***

Adam and the woman knew immediately that they had sinned and were suffering from guilt and they did what the human race has done ever since they tried to hide their sin. They didn’t know about a principle that is enshrined in the following verse:

***Numbers 32:23 … behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.***

No one gets away with sin. It always consequences no matter how hard we try to hide it and pretend that everything is OK. The first man and woman who committed the first sin would not take responsibility for it and simply acknowledge it to God. No, they tried to cover their sin by covering their body with fig leaves.

Did they think that God wouldn’t notice the fig leaves? What they did wasn’t very smart and it certainly couldn’t have been very comfortable.

Man is still trying to cover his sin today, mostly through religion. He goes through exercises, does penance and rituals, gives money, joins churches, and makes excuses but his sin is still there and he is still guilty.

There is only two ways to get rid of sin and guilt:

1. UNBELIEVERS: By putting your faith alone in Christ alone; accept the

gospel.

***Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool…***

***Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace…***

2. BELIEVERS: By acknowledging our sin to God the Father :

***1 John 1:9 f we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

The fig leaves, of course coming from a fig tree, is the only tree specifically named or indicated in this narrative and its leaves were used to deceive God. It is no accident that Jesus curses the fig tree just after He confronted the Pharisees who were practicing the religion in the Temple (*Mark 11:12-18*).

All

religions make a pitiful effort to cover sin but only the Son of God, Jesus Christ could take away the sins of the world by offering Himself up as a sacrifice for our sins.

***John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!***

***Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.***

It was no doubt the habit of the Lord God to go on walks with the first couple in the evening. Some believe that Jesus Christ was manifesting Himself in visible form as Shekinah light or possible as a theophany. It surly was the highlight of their day but this time they hid themselves like cowards trying to hide their rebellion.

The perfect and wonderful relationship they had with the Lord God was shattered so they separated themselves physically from the Lord because they were already separated from Him spiritually. For the first time, they experienced fear, dread, regret, and sorrow.

***the cool of the day*** - Lit. *“in the wind of the day”; that is, at the time of day when, in the East, a cool wind springs up, and people leave their houses.”*

Herbert E. Ryle, The Book of Genesis in the Revised Version with Introduction and Notes, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), 52.

***Job 31:33 "Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom,***

Possibly worst of all was that they lost their love for God and their trust in His love for them. They hid not only because they were ashamed of what they did, but also because they were afraid of what He might do.

***Genesis 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"***

What is the first thing we should notice about this verse that should jump out at us? God is seeking lost sinners! They should be looking for Him to seek forgiveness but He is graciously seeking them.

God was not enraged and ready to pour out His wrath on these ungrateful sinners who betrayed Him. No, He is like a gentle Father, seeking his children who were lost.

Notice that Satan started his attack on the woman by asking a question and now God is handling the situation by asking a question. The question was directed toward the man because he was in charge and bore the greater responsibility.

Obviously, God was not asking for information; He knew exactly where Adam was. He wants Adam to think about where he was and how he got there. He wanted to give Adam a chance to voluntarily acknowledge his guilt.

***Genesis 3:10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."***

Adam attributed his fear to being naked but that was not the real reason why he was hiding himself. He was suggesting that the problem was that he was naked. You see that he wasn’t taking responsibility for his sin since he wasn’t responsible for being naked.

***Genesis 3:11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"***

Notice that God uses more questions to lead Adam to the crux of the matter which was Adam’s defiance of God’s command.

The first question requires no answer because it was asked to inform Adam that God knew that Adam’s nakedness had nothing to do with the wretched condition in which he found himself. There was no one around to tell Adam that he was naked. The woman, like Adam, was perfectly fine with being naked until she ate of the forbidden fruit.

The second question gave Adam an opportunity to show a true expression of humility by giving a full confession of his disobedience. He was making matters much worse by avoiding accountability. Humility is the big issue here. When sinners humble themselves and acknowledge their sin, they receive forgiveness, when they don’t, they suffer judgment.

Now we have operation – **PASS THE BUCK!**

***Genesis 3:12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."***

This was the perfect time for Adam to be a man and to take responsibility for his actions and acknowledge his sin. Instead he wimps out big time!

Adam was unable to deny the charge so he tried to excuse himself by laying the blame primarily on the woman, and secondarily on Jehovah Himself, for having given him the woman. Guilt made him first a coward, and then insolent.

He tattled on the woman making sure that God knew that she disobeyed first and then tempted him to eat also. This is pitiful, this is ugly, and this is hard to take because this is describing us!

Adam was not deceived by the serpent (*1 Tim. 2:14*) so he knew full well why he was separated from God and under such consternation and it wasn’t because he was naked, it wasn’t because of the serpent, it wasn’t because of his wife, nor was it because of God; it was because he disobey- ed God.

How sad, Adam should have tried to protect his wife but he tries to shift his blame onto her.

To see what Adam should have done, check out *2 Sam. 12:13* to see David’s response when the prophet Nathan indicted him for adultery with Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite, in which he killed in order to cover his sin.

***2 Samuel 12:13 Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die***.

**LESSON 20 (4-23-17)**

***Genesis 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."***

Notice that God also addressed the woman by asking her a question. He gave her an opportunity to take responsibility for her sin by acknowledging it to Him.

Unfortunately, the woman demonstrated that she had no more character or courage than Adam; she too decided to avoid accountability by Passing-the-Buck. We all seem to be born experts at pointing the finger at someone else to take the blame.

She could have redeemed herself a bit from eating of the forbidden fruit and then enticing Adam to eat of it also by urging him to be honest with the Lord God by acknowledging his sin but she obviously did not. She chose instead to excuse herself by blaming the serpent.

No one can be forgiven or learn from their trans- gression as long as they make excuses for themselves.

Once we take responsibility for our sin by admitting it to God and the one that was hurt by it, healing and restoration can begin. The reason why this is often hard to do is because our arrogance gets in the way.

What she said was true, the serpent did deceive her, but that did not absolve her of being culpable for distrusting and disobeying God. When we yield to temptation, pointing to the tempter does not remove our guilt.

The American people usually forgive those in Hollywood and in Washington who have misbehaved and then admitted it, but they have been much harder on those who have tried to cover up their offences. They see the cover-up as being worse than the original transgression.

Think for a moment what the first man and the first woman’s disobedience against God cost them:

1. They lost their wonderful relationship with their

Lord who made them.

2. They lost their confidence in the Lord’s love for

them.

3. Innocence was replaced with shame, guilt, fear,

deception, and pain.

4. A once happy marriage would witness betrayal,

uncertainty & completion for leadership.

5. Once-imperishable perfect bodies began slowly

to decay and die.

6. They were force out of their beautiful bountiful

garden to live among thorns & thistles.

7. Their free supply of delicious food ended and

their struggle to grow food began.

8. They would have to wear clothes that wore out

and would have to be replaced.

***Genesis 3:14 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more*** [AV marg. *from among*] ***than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly shall you go, and dust shall you eat All the days of your life;***

God did not ask any questions of the serpent as He did of Adam and Eve. The serpent is judged as being a tool of the evil one.

We don’t know what the form of the serpent before Satan used it to deceive the woman, but we know that it didn’t crawl on its belly nor eat dust as that was part of the cursing that came from God. Anything that crawled on its belly was considered unclean by the Hebrews (*Lev. 11:42*).

***dust shall you eat*** - This phrase may be a metaphor in the Bible to refer to defeat and shame. It is used this way when referring to the nations who have mistreated the Jews as if they were mongrels. They will be humbled by the Lord when He sets up His kingdom and they will pay proper respect to the Jews who are God’s chosen people;

***Isaiah 49:23 "And kings will be your guardians, And their princesses your nurses. They will bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick the dust of your feet; and you will know that I am the LORD;***

***Micah 7:17 They will lick the dust like a serpent, Like reptiles of the earth. They will come trembling out of their fortresses; To the LORD our God they will come in dread, and they will be afraid before Thee.***

*The word “cursed” is only used in addressing the serpent, as the originator of the temptation, and in reference to “the ground” as the sphere of man’s penalty (v. 17). Jehovah does not pronounce a curse either upon the man or upon the woman.* Herbert E. Ryle, The Book of Genesis in the Revised Version with Introduction and Notes, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), 53–54.

***you eat all the days of thy life*** – The curse wasn’t only on this specific creature but upon all serpents and it will last even into the Millennium.

***Isaiah 65:25 "The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.***

The serpent was the craftiest of all the animals (*Gen. 3:1*) but he wasn’t wise enough to avoid the crushing curse he received from God. The serpent was cursed and then the plan of salvation was given because the plan of salvation belongs only to man and woman, the serpent and Satan are not involved in the plan of salvation.

**LESSON 21 (4-30-17)**

***Genesis 3:15 And I*** [God] ***will put enmity between you*** [serpent/Satan] ***and the woman, and between your*** [Satan’s] ***seed*** [unregenerate mankind] ***and her*** [the woman’s] ***seed*** [Jesus Christ]***;*** ***He*** [Jesus] ***shall bruise you*** [Satan] ***on the head, and you*** [Satan] ***shall bruise him*** [Jesus Christ] ***on the heel."***

This is one of the most important passages in the Bible because it is the first declaration of the gospel. Here, God reveals that He will defeat Satan as part of His plan of redemption for mankind.

It has been said that you can go to the back of the book (the Bible) and see that we win! However, God’s victory in the angelic conflict and over sin and death are declared here also, in the front of the book.

There is enmity between Satan and the woman which represents the ongoing war between good and evil, between God’s people and Satan.

***Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.***

***Satan’s seed*** are the unregenerate, unbelievers; Jesus said the following to unbelievers:

***John 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.***

The ***woman’s seed*** is Jesus Christ, if fact it is His first title in the Bible.

It is very unusual for the word “seed” to be associated to a woman because genealogy was traced through the man.

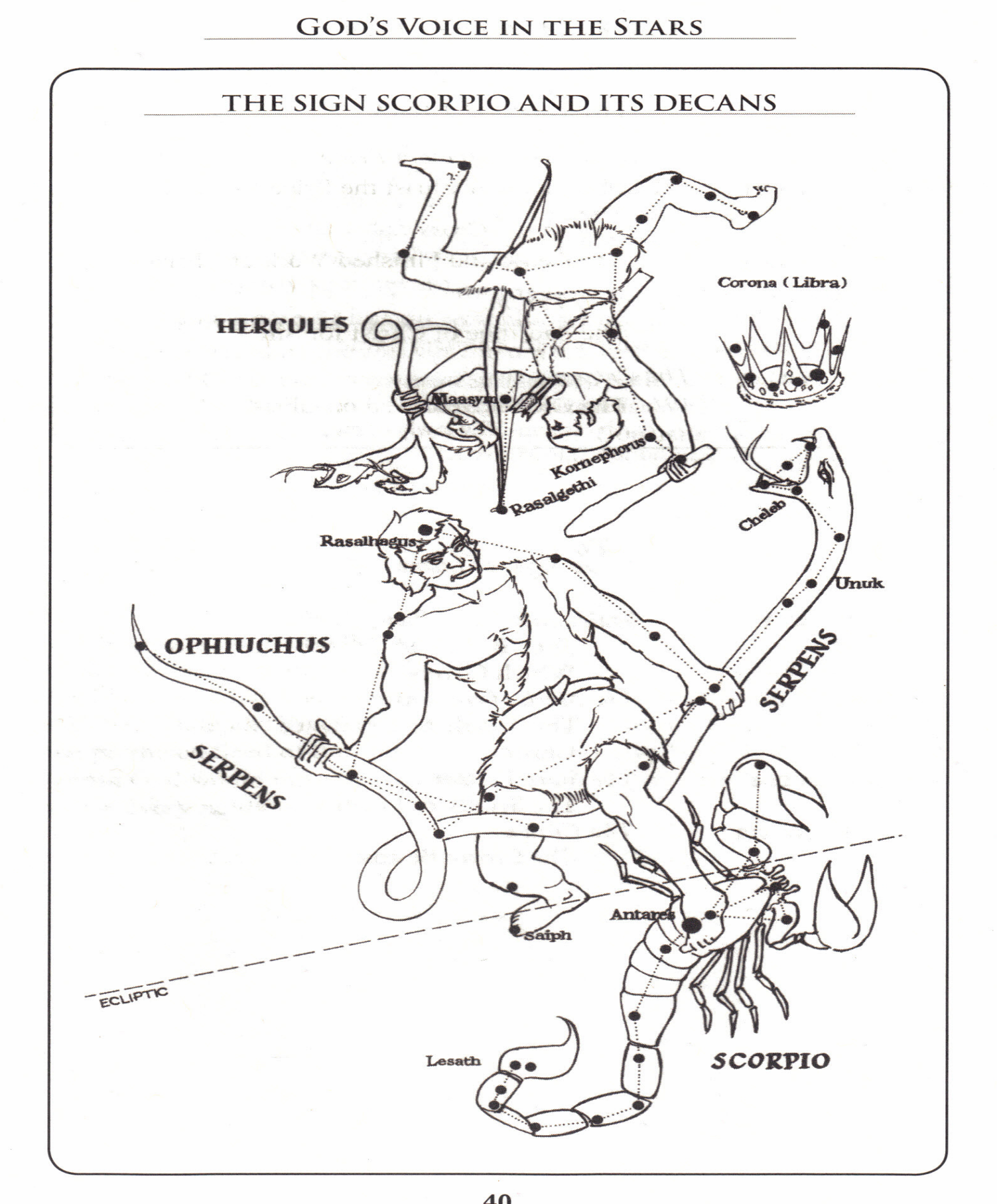
Of course it is related to the virgin birth because Jesus had no human biological father. If He did, there would be no salvation because He would have acquired an Old Sin Nature, which is passed down through the man, which would have disqualified Him from being the perfect sacrifice which was required by GTF to propitiate (satisfy) His justice and righteousness.

***Luke 3:23 And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly the son of Joseph, the son*** [in law] ***of Eli*** [Mary’s father]***,***

***He*** [Jesus] ***shall bruise*** [crush] ***you*** [Satan] ***on the head*** – Jesus will deliver a fatal blow to Satan.

The Apostle Paul knew this:

***Romans 16:20 And the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.***



Jesus had to become a perfect sinless man and go to the cross to save mankind and to defang the Serpent/Satan.

***Hebrews 2:14-15 Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15) and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.***

The fatal blow:

***Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

***you*** [Satan] ***shall bruise*** [strike] ***him*** [Jesus Christ] ***on the heel.***

Our loving and gracious Lord would be wounded in this conflict by suffering spiritual death on the cross, but He wasn’t defeated by His wound because He rose victorious from the tomb, thus conquering sin and death.

*Believers should recognize that they participate in the crushing of Satan because, along with their Savior and because of His finished work on the cross, they also are of the woman’s seed.*

The MacArthur Study Bible, (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 20–21.

***Isaiah 53:5 But He*** [Jesus] ***was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripe~~s~~ we are healed.***

It’s great to know that the struggle between good and evil that we are so familiar with will not go on and on indefinitely; it will come to an end and it is our Lord Jesus Christ who will end it.

The time will come when there will not be even a trace of sin, evil, or wrong-doing. Won’t that be GREAT!

It’s important to note where this verse is positioned; it comes before God judges the woman or Adam which illustrates a principle:

**GRACE ALWAYS PRECEDES JUDGMENT**

* **God never judges the human race without first of all offering the opportunity of grace.**
* **In effect, judgment is always a rejection of grace.**
* **The principle behind this is that man is always given a chance by God and any man who is judged by God has it coming to him!**

The maximum expression of GRACE for all time was our Lord Jesus Christ giving His life to save ours on the cross.

***1 John 4:19 We love, because He first loved us.***

***Romans 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

God always seeks man, just like He sought Adam, with a grace solution to his problem. But, there comes a time when the grace of God ends and the justice of God begins. This is what we see in the next verse.

***Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, but he shall rule over you."***

The punishment is not in God giving a woman a child, but in the difficulty in giving birth.

***Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward.***

This pain in giving birth is a reminder that the woman gave birth to sin in the human race and passes on her judgment to all mothers, just as Adam passes on his judgment in toilsome labor for men.

***Psalm 48:5-6 They saw it*** [enemy’s army]***, then they were amazed; They were terrified, they fled in alarm. 6) Panic seized them there, anguish, as of a woman in childbirth.***

***Isaiah 13:8 And they will be terrified, Pains and anguish will take hold of them; They will writhe like a woman in labor,***

***Isaiah 21:3 Pains have seized me like the pains of a woman in labor.***

***Isaiah 26:17 As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, She writhes and cries out in her labor pains,***

***John 16:21 "Whenever a woman is in travail she has sorrow, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she remembers the anguish no more, for joy that a child has been born into the world.***

***1 Timothy 2:12-15 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13) For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14) And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression. 15) But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.***

*“By an act of grace that would eventually ameliorate the curse of the fall she and her husband were allowed to propagate and to produce the redemptive line that would lead to the One who would crush the head of the serpent. (3:15). Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 41, no. 2 (1998): 221.*

**LESSON 22 (5-7-17)** Communion Sunday

1. How important is the Genesis account of creation?

a. ***Acts 17:18-23*** – Paul started with the Genesis account of creation while talking to a group of pagans in Athens.

b. **The Apostle’s Creed** - I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

c. **The Nicene Creed** - *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*

d. **Westminster Confession** - *Although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to eave men inexcusable…*

2. Most people compartmentalize religion, it’s just one of many areas of their life so when you declare that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, then it takes God out of a box and puts Him over everything in their life.

3. We shouldn’t be hesitant to say that God created the earth because so many people believe in evolution these days. Evolution always starts with something that evolves into something else but where did the original something come from?

What we’ve covered lately:

God interrogates the man; the man blames the woman (3:9–12).

God interrogates the woman; she blames the serpent (v. 13).

God curses the serpent (vv. 14–15).

God punishes the woman (v. 16).

God punishes the man (vv. 17–19).

1. Adam and the woman took action on their own to remedy their situation. *Gen. 3:10*

2. Both of them refused to take responsibility for their sin – operation “Pass-the-Buck”.

3. God used historic facts and evidence to expose their sin and rebellion. *Gen. 3:11-13*

4. God’s questions exposed their already spiritual death and separation from God.

5. Then He gave them the promise of Salvation if they would humbly believe it.

6. Then He pronounced the punishment for their sin.

**LESSON 23 (5-14-17)**

Now we continue with *Gen. 3:16 b*

***Yet your desire shall be for your husband***

The woman’s punishment was pain in becoming a mother and stress in the struggle for dominance in marriage. The effect of the fall was not to create role distinctions, but to corrupt them. God had already appointed the man to take the leadership role and the woman to be his helper.

*“Eve arrogated to herself the right to determine autonomously what was good rather than rejecting the serpent’s blasphemy in union with her husband in light of God’s authoritative word…“Because of sin and the curse, the man and the woman will face struggles in their own relationship. Sin has turned the harmonious system of God-ordained roles into distasteful struggles of self-will. Lifelong companions, husbands and wives, will need God’s help in getting along as a result. The woman’s desire will be to lord it over her husband, but the husband will rule by divine design (Eph. 5:22–25)” ibid*

*“The word desire can also mean “an attempt to usurp or control” as in 4:7. We can paraphrase the last two lines of this verse this way: “You will now have a tendency to dominate your husband”…*

*Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 3:16.*

*“Your desire will be for your husband is the fallen woman’s desire to control her husband. Evidence for this translation of tĕs̆ûqātēk (“your desire”) in 3:16 is to be found in 4:7 where the Lord says to Cain, “But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you (tĕs̆ûqātô), but you must master it.”*

*“Sin is crouching (rôbēṣ) at the door,” coupled with the expression “desires to have” (from s̆ûq), is related to the ancient image of the evil demon at the entrance of a building who threatens to seize and control those inside. In the Genesis context the evil demon is the serpent of chap. 3. In the curse of 3:16 God implies that the serpent will attempt to control the woman through her effort to control the man. In her new and fallen nature she will be cursed to continue her role as autonomous controller because she acted autonomously in the original fall.*

*Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society 41, no. 2 (1998): 222.*

Cain and Able were the first two children of Adam and the woman. They brought offerings to the Lord,Cain brought the fruit of the ground and Abel brought sacrificed animals. God accepted Abel’s but rejected Cain’s. So he became very angry and his countenance fell.

***Genesis 4:6-7 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7) If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master*** [rule over, *Heb. mashal,* same word in Gen. 3:16b] ***it."***

**

These gargoyles are reminders of sin crouching at the door in *Genesis 4:7*.

***but he shall rule*** [have dominion, reign] ***over you.***

*“The implied curse upon Adam in the second clause is that he and his male offspring will be tainted with suspicion of women as designing and controlling and will be cursed to try to rule over them. Yet both man and woman will be impelled by God’s grace to seek marriage and multiply, especially to preserve the redemptive line. The special calling of believing husbands and wives in the OT period, beginning with repentant Adam and Eve, is to bear the redemptive lineage that will lead to the appearance of the serpent-destroyer foreshadowed in 3:15.” Ibid*

*“The judgment on the woman in Gen 3:16 adds a negative dimension to male precedence. Now within the newly fallen world the relationship will be smitten by enmity between male and female: “And he shall rule over you” (yims̆ol-bāk, Gen 3:16d; cf. 4:7d). Pre-fall Adam with temporal and naming priority becomes tainted in the fallen order. The man will attempt to enforce a mastering authority over the woman, while the woman will try to control the man. An inescapable tension enters into the relation between man and woman that will erupt into gender and marital warfare as a consequence of Adam and Eve not having stood together to resist the temptation of the serpent. As the sin, so the curse. The curse works against the natural sexual attraction between a man and a woman, an attraction that nonetheless persists in the created order by the common grace of God to ensure the continuance of the race until the fulfillment of prophecy. False teachers in the Church who demand the celibacy of all marriageable Christian women and encourage autonomous behavior like Eve’s actually repeat the original temptation of the serpent (1 Tim 4:1–3). Ibid*

*“When God judged the woman, saying, “Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you,” it meant that the woman would desire to rule over her husband (instead of joyfully submitting to his leadership) and that the man would domineer the woman (instead of exercising loving, nurturing leadership…The situation at creation is then foundational to the position of men and women in the home and in the church. Kassian affirms that the wife is to submit to and obey her husband. In return the husband is to love his wife, but is not required to mutually submit to her…author* (Mary A. Kassian) *refuses to link women’s submission with a particular stereotypical personality type. Aggressive, energetic women are not to alter their personalities to become quiet and passive. They can be both submissive to their husbands and assertive in their general approach to life. Nor does Kassian believe the role of a woman restricts her giftedness. The Holy Spirit gives gifts of leadership, teaching, and administration to women as well as to men; and if our concept of ministry is correct, women will have many contexts for using these gifts. Women, Creation and the Fall. By Mary A. Kassian. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1990. 192 pages, Emmaus Journal 1, no. 3 (1991): 289.*

*“The pattern of male leadership and female responsiveness or submissiveness in marriage is inherent in the way God created men and women before there was any sin in the world, and that God still intends that pattern to remain valid for all men and women in all societies. Furthermore, it means that the desire of wives to reject their husbands’ leadership and the desire of husbands to exercise headship harshly, thoughtlessly, or for selfish ends, are both the results of the fall, and are both expressions of rebellion against God’s will for marriage.” Trinity Journal 3, no. 2 (1982): 229–230.*

**LESSON 24 (5-21-17)**

Genesis chapter 3 is very revealing and not in a pleasant way because we see the weakness and arrogance of the first man and woman. And when we see it in them, we see it in ourselves.

Pastors must be careful not to sugarcoat anything in the text because it helps us to see ourselves as we really are.

*“It is not our* [pastors] *task to preach what people wish to hear, but what one day, in some sad future, they will wish they had heard.”* Sir Lancelot Andrewes, chief editor and translator of the KJV (Genesis-Samuel; Psalms); Preacher to the Court of St. James

Even though Adam and the woman ruined the harmony they had between God and towards each other, which affects us even today, we can’t blame them for our bad behavior because we are responsible for our own actions.

[Husbands] *How you treat your wife effects your relationship and communication with God. If you abuse the authority that God has delegated and entrusted to you, then your fellowship with God will be hindered. God isn’t listening to you if you’re not listening to your wife.* Joshua Harris, “A Word to Husbands (and a Few More for Wives): 1 Peter 3:1–7,” Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood 16, no. 1 (2011): 38.

Can anything be done to make marriages more peaceful and enjoyable? Yes!

*Encourage husbands to exercise headship and authority with self-giving love and gentleness, and to encourage wives willingly to submit to their husbands’ leadership and authority, in order that the relationship between husbands and wives may more nearly approach its pre-fall beauty and joy, and may receive the greater approval of God. In fact, that is exactly what we find the New Testament – Eph. 5:22-28, Col. 3:18-19 Trinity Journal 3, no. 2 (1982): 230.*

***Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.***

***19) Husbands, love your wives, and do not be bitter toward them.***

***20) Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.***

Any family can change from being a dysfunctional nightmare to being pleasant and contented if the father, mother, and children would obey God’s commands.

***Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.***

(NASV) ***Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,***

(NKJV) ***Because you have harkened to the voice of your wife,***

(NET) ***Because you obeyed your wife,***

The Greek word in the LXX is *akouo*, **ἀκούω** - to hear, listen, and can mean, to hear and obey.

*The clause “listened to the voice”* [of your wife] *is used in the Hebrew in only two texts.* [Here in vs. 17 and in ***Gen. 16:2***] George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 282.

***Genesis 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.***

God had promised Abram and Sarai a son but Sarai lacked the faith and patience to wait on the Lord so she decided to take matters into her own hands. The only thing worse than Sarai’s conniving scheme was the fact that Abram went along with it.

Obviously, *listening to the voice of his wife* does not refer to Adam and Abram just paying attention to what their wives said. Husbands should pay attention to their wives but this is not what this phrase is about. It means Abram allowed himself to be manipulated by his wife rather than being the head of the home that he should have been.

Adam did the same thing which also resulted in disastrous consequences.

So what should we learn from this?

1. It’s not easy to be in charge. The responsibility of making decisions that directly affect the lives of your family can be overwhelming.

2. There is a tendency for husbands to fold under the pressure of being the leader by not asserting their authority or by pawning off the hard decisions to their wives.

3. Every husband’s authority will be challenged, not only by his wife, but also by his children, his parents and/or in-laws, and by friends and even strangers.

4. Husbands who fail to assert their authority, lose it because their wives lose respect for them. Then what happens? They take over the leadership role.

5. The consequences of husbands shirking their leadership responsibilities are devastating. Both Adam and Abram brought calamity on themselves and their wives by failing to assert their authority and thereby taking control of the situation.

6. Wives should submit to their husband’s leadership, not undermine it.

***Genesis 16:3-5 And after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. 5) And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms; but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."***

What a mess, Sarai’s maid and Sarai were at each other’s throat because Abram did not step up and take charge by rejecting his wife’s scheme and let everyone know that they were going to wait on the Lord to fulfil His promise of giving them a son.

“Like Eve, Sarai shifted the blame, and like Adam, Abram failed take control of the situation, deferred to his wife, and would not take responsibility for his actions.

And to make matters worse, Sarai blamed Abram for everything even though it was her plan, she is the one who talked him into going along with it, and she is the one who delivered Hagar to him.

Why would Sarai do that? Because she knew that since Abram was her husband, God had put in charge, so he was ultimately responsible for allowing such a thing to happen.

Both wives, Eve and Sarai tempted their husbands to go contrary to God, so their husbands had to decide whether to please their wife or please God. If they decided to please their wife, there would be consequences from God; if they decided to please God, there would be consequences form their wife. Seems like an easy decision but both husbands chose their wife over God.

Husbands around the world are still doing that today, they cave in to their wives in order to keep the peace in the home but it doesn’t work now any better than it did for Adam or Abram.

We see in the next verse that Abram had another chance to take charge and set things straight but again he failed to handle the situation and shoulder the responsibility that was his by pawning it off on his wife.

***Genesis 16:6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.***

The fact that the Lord mentioned Adam’s abroga- tion of his to his leadership role to his wife first, before his disobedience in eating of the forbidden fruit, indicates how serious God views the lack of leadership in husbands.

God gave Adam dominion over the entire earth but he lost it because he failed to assert his authority when it was necessary and then failed to take responsibility for his actions.

The fact that husbands have authority over their wives and not to defer their responsibility to them doesn’t mean that they can abuse their authority or treat their wives with disrespect or in an unloving way.

**LESSON 25 (5-28-17)**

***…and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.***

God reminded Adam of the prohibition that He placed on eating of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and that he was guilty of disobeying God’s direct command.

Adam did not forget what God had commanded and he wasn’t deceived into believing the serpent’s lie that he would become like God (Gen 3:5, *1 Tim. 2:14*).

However, the following quote insinuates incorrectly that God cursed the ground because Adam ate of the forbidden fruit believing the fantasy that by doing so, he would be like God.

*“The cursing of the ground leads to a life of toil and weakness. Autonomous man is shown his limits. The chains of time clank on the man who reached out for eternity. The fantasy after which he lusted, to be “like God” (cf. Gen. 3: 5), turns out to be sorrow, sweat, and dust. The curse (cf. Rom. 8:18-22), the bondage of corruption, he is told, is “because of you” (Gen. 3:17).* Emmaus Journal 17, no. 2 (2008): 141.

The lie “you will be like God”, was made to the woman, not to Adam; she believed it, he didn’t. So, what was Adam’s motivation to disobey God if it wasn’t to be like God?

He had two options, obey God by not eating the fruit and possibly losing the woman or disobey God by eating the fruit and keeping the woman. He chose the latter. His motivation was to keep

the woman even if it meant choosing her over God.

God cursed the ground because of Adam (even though the woman ate of the forbidden fruit first and then held it out to Adam, tempting him to eat of it), because God put Adam in charge, therefore he was responsible.

***…cursed is the ground because of you***

The earth’s resources are incredible, it has the ability to produce enough food to feed five billion people and billions of animals as well even in its cursed condition.

The earth has been cursed for a long time but it will not be that way forever; the curse will be lifted when Jesus Christ returns to set up His kingdom.

***Romans 8:18-22 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19) For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20) For the creation was subject- ed to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21) that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22) For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23) And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.***

***Genesis 5:29 Now he*** [Lamech] ***called his name Noah, saying, "This one shall give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands arising from the ground which the LORD has cursed."***

Through Noah and his family that were preserved in the Ark, God would preserve a remnant from which Christ would eventually come and give ultimate victory over the curse of the ground.

**LESSON 26 (6-4-17)**

***…in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.***

Man was not allowed to eat animal meat until after the flood so Adam and his descendants would have to survive from whatever they could produce from the ground which was cursed.

*“Adam is given an essentially twofold punishment. In the first place the ground is cursed, resulting in labor, frustration, and perspiration. The man is to be continually reminded of his disobedience.*

*In the second place death will come to the man and his seed. It is not immediate, for a time is given for repentance. But all things shall gradually disintegrate toward disorder and death. The creation becomes subject to vanity and futility, the biblical wording for the Second Law of Thermo- dynamics— namely, that all systems, left to themselves, tend to become disordered (cf. Rom. 8:20; Heb. 1:10-12). Thus the fall finds its evidences in mechanical engineering. The things made are now being unmade, and the ultimate cause is the sin of man and the curse of God. In the eighteenth verse is evidence that man will never subdue the earth in his present condition. “‘Thorns and thistles’ are eloquent signs of nature untamed and encroaching.” Ibid p. 142*

Before Adam sinned against God, his work was easy, evidently, he never broke a sweat. Now he would have to toil in hard labor just to get enough food out of the ground to survive.

***Genesis 3:18-19 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; 19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."***

There were no thorns or thistles in the Garden of Eden and I would suspect that there were no weeds, worms, or insects that would damage the plants. No doubt the soil would make “Miracle Grow” potting soil seem like black gumbo by comparison.

Verse 17 and 18 are tough but verse 19 is the coups-de-grass. Adam and the woman’s perfect wonderful body would grow old, die, and then turn to dust.

*“Arraigned, convicted, judged, the guilty but pardoned pair prepare to leave their garden home—the woman to begin her experience of sorrow, dependence, and subjection; the man to enter upon his life career of hardship and toil, and both to meet their doom of certain, though it might be of long-delayed, death.* H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 72.

***Genesis 3:20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.***

Notice in verse 19 the death sentence is pronounc-ed and now in verse 20 Adam gave his wife a name that means the mother of all living.

“*Even though they were under the sentence of death, Adam named his wife Eve because she was to be the mother of all living (Gen. 3:20). Eve evidently believed her first son, Cain, was the promised Seed, for she said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord” (Gen. 4:1).”* Jack W. Hayford et al., Answering the Call to Evangelism: Spreading the Good News to Everyone, Spirit-Filled Life Kingdom Dynamics Study Guides (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 19.

“Eve’s name in Hebrew, *chawwah*, is related to the Hebrew verb *chayah*, which may be trans- lated “to live.” This is wordplay—Eve is described as the mother of all life. John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 3:20.

“*Although skeptics find it absurd that Eve “was the mother of all the living,” the meaning of her name makes sense in this passage. Her husband recognized that she was the source of the “seed” (v. 15) that would eventually defeat the serpent and restore life. She was the first woman to bear children (4:1), and Adam showed faith in God’s promise that she would bear more in the future.”* Ted Cabal et al., The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 11.

Adam not only believed that God spoke the truth about his, and his wife’s death, but also had faith in the salvation God had promised in verse 15.

***the mother of all the living.*** Eve was the mother of the all the living in two different ways:

(1) Of Adam’s children, and their children, and their children, and their children…

(2) Of all who truly live in the sense of believing in the “woman’s seed” (Jesus Christ), as distinguished from those who don’t, who are identified as the seed of the serpent.

***Genesis 3:21 And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.***

What was wrong with the fig leaves? Why did God not accept them?

1. They were itchy

2. They weren’t durable

That is true, but that isn’t why God made them new clothes of animal skins. The sacrifice of innocent animals was required for Adam and Eve to have a relationship with God. A divinely provided garment was needed so that the first sinners might be made fit for God’s presence.

*“The first physical deaths should have been the man and his wife, but it was an animal—a shadow of the reality that God would someday kill a substitute to redeem sinners. The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 21.*

Notice that it was God who took the initiative to provide a very gracious solution for their sin problem.

This verse set an ongoing pattern in the O.T. Innocent animals were slain in order to provide a temporary cover for sins until J.C. (seed of the woman) would come and take away the sins of the world.

The first couple could do nothing to solve their sin problem. The best solution they could come up with was fig leaves.

God rejected the fig leaf coverings that Adam and Eve provided for themselves (human effort / works). He provide a covering for their sin and shame that was acceptable because it represented our Lord’s future spiritual death on the cross.

***Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,***

***Romans 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,***

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***Philippians 3:9 and*** [I, Paul] ***may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,***

When one believes the gospel, he is wrapped with a robe of righteousness.

***Isaiah 61:10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness,***

An animal’s blood was shed in order to cover the sin of Adam and Eve which was a preview of the blood of Christ, representing His spiritual death on the cross, which atoned for the sins of the world.

God wrapping Adam and Eve’s body with the skins of the sacrificed animals is symbolic of what happens when a person believes the gospel.

God’s own righteousness is imputed to him and he is symbolically wrapped in it, just as Adam and Eve were wrapped in the animal clothes.

**LESSON 27 (6-18-17)**

Looking back at God’s punishment for Adam and his wife Eve: *Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood 8, no. 1 (2003) 9-12.*

*“Adam is to lead, but the ground and the woman now “fight back,” which makes leading difficult. In addition, there is this serpent who may appear again to wreak havoc in his world… For Adam who is “over” God’s creation, the natural judgment is for his role of leadership to become difficult, creating a dependency on God for him to fulfill his created purpose.*

*The woman who is “alongside of” the man as his completer and the bearer of his children, the natural judgment is for her role of responding to become difficult, creating a dependency on God for her to fulfill her created purpose.*

*So she contends for leadership with the man, now requiring submission to respond to him, and childbearing becomes difficult, now requiring pain to fulfill this responsibility. Now, to fulfill one’s created purpose requires repentance* [rebound]*, turning from that which makes sense, our fallen natural tendencies* [OSN]*, and depend- ency on God.*

*This transformation is necessary to being a man or woman of God.* *In a sense, the “difficulty” of the judgment is full of grace in that it makes dependency on something/someone outside of oneself necessary for the man and the woman. This creates a desire for “god.” That which each will choose to depend on essentially will become their “god.”*

*Ultimately, the man’s decision to abdicate his role of leading, as evidenced by his listening to the voice of the woman, and the woman’s decision to abdicate her role of helping, as evidenced by her taking the lead in eating the forbidden fruit in spite of the communication from the man, becomes the present reality of every man and woman. The rebellion in the garden has affected all of humanity. No one can escape. Still today, apart from repentance, the man fails to lead* [properly] and *the woman, apart from repentance, fails to* [submissively] *follow her husband.”*

**LESSON 28 (6-25-17)**

*The transforming process of sanctification “pushes back” the effects of the fall in the life of a man or a woman in the context of marriage…* *It is easier to “blur” the distinctions between men and women, rather than engage in the battle required to fight against our own flesh. It is easier to modify a position than deal with* the *issues that a biblical position will require.*

*As one seeks to do this, it will create tension in the marriage relationship, because living the transformed life will disrupt the natural tenden- cies of sin apparent in every relationship. In a sense, the natural tendencies of the man and the woman encourage natural living in the other.*

*God is the author of the distinctions of male and female, and true joy cannot be known apart from realizing these distinctions, which are central to life and the pursuit of God’s purposes. To know them and to live them will be to glorify God and his perfect plan. Look at Genesis 1–3, the Creation and Fall of the Man and the Woman, and Ephesians 5, the Sanctification of the Man and the Woman in a Redemptive Marriage Context,” Journal for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood 8, no. 1 (2003): 9-12.*

***Genesis 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever "--***

We have already seen the significance of the two words “***Lord God***” in *Gen. 2:4* where it is found for the first time in the Bible and it refers to God the Son, Jesus Christ.

*Lord is a Hebrew word, Jehovah; God is Elohim, a plural word. Lord always refers to personality in the Godhead—there are three. Sometimes Lord refers to the Father, sometimes to the Son, and sometimes to the Holy Spirit. God always refers to essence. There are three persons in one essence. Mike Smith,* Major Bible Events, p.

*“The repeated emphasis on the Lord God is significant (2:4–5, 7–9, 15–16, 18–19, 21–22). The sovereign Creator (“God”) of chapter 1 is also the covenant-making Yahweh (LORD). Thus Israel would know that her LORD had created everything, and that He had formed mankind by special design.”* The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 30.

God is one in essence who exists in three persons. The Bible refers to him both in the singular and the plural.

In Genesis 1:26, the phrase ***"Let Us*** *make man in Our image…*” appears. It also appears in our current verse *Gen. 3:22, 11:7,* & *Isa. 6:8.*

*“****Let Us*** *make …” does not indicate multiple gods. Such a polytheistic view would be inconsistent with the lofty theology of the chapter and with the singular “His own image” (Gen. 1:27).*

*Ancient theories of the universe’s origin typically explained creation as the outcome of either a sexual cohabitation of male and female deities or of a battle between the major deity and some other hostile entity. The Bible uniformly affirms that God…has no corresponding female consort. God made the universe by His authoritative speech, not by battling chaos deities.* Ted Cabal, “Are the Days of Genesis to Be Interpreted Literally?,” in The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith, ed. Chad Owen Brand et al. (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 5.

Throughout the Bible there is a distinct difference made between the Creator God and the creature man. God is not a bigger, better, or more powerful form of man, nor was man made from God. Man was made from the dust of the ground. God is distinct from all that He has created and does not exist as any part of His creation. Furthermore, God forbids any worship of His creation (*Deut. 4:15-18, 5:8*).

***"Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil;***

*“God’s admission that the man “has become like one of Us” does not indicate that the serpent’s suggestion that God was insecure about His position was correct. God was not threatened by the man’s wisdom when He expelled him from the garden, but it was necessary to prohibit the couple’s access to the tree of life or the penalty of death for disobed- ience could not be carried out. Although the human couple would die, it was ultimately merciful to deny them the tree; otherwise they would live forever in a sinful and painful world. God graciously provided for their new environ- ment outside the garden (v. 21- animal skins), and ultimately for their eternal salvation through the promised “seed.”*

***and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever "--***

God had to do something to keep Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life and living forever in their fallen state of sin, decay, disease, and death.

*“God’s concern may also have been that man not live forever in his pitifully cursed condition. Taken in the broader context of Scripture, driving the man and his wife out of the garden was an act of merciful grace to prevent them from being sustained forever by the tree of life.* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 21.

**LESSON 29 (7-9-17)**

***Genesis 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever "***

Another perspective:

*The tree of life stood for the true life, spiritual and natural, that unfallen man would have enjoyed in fellowship with God. After the fall, having forfeited this condition, he is barred from that which symbolized an ideal that can be restored to him only later by God’s grace in Christ. For in* ***Rev. 22:2****, where paradise regained is portrayed, we see redeemed man given access to the tree of life* *once more. He therefore thinks that, before his fall, man may have already enjoyed eating from the tree of life, even though the language of Gen. 3:22 would not seem to bear out this conclusion (e.g., “lest he stretch out his hand … and eat”). “The actuality is,” says Oosterhoff, “that man after his disobedience may no longer eat from the tree of life, that life (which it symbolized) is now barred from him. Misery, suffering and death are hereafter his portion”* Raymond O. Zorn, “Review of Hoe Lezen Wij Genesis 2 En 3? By B. J. Oosterhoff,” Westminster Theological Journal 35, no. 3 (1972): 329–330.

Paradise regained: ***Revelation 22:1-3***

There will be a time when some believers will be able to eat of the tree of life – (***Rev. 2:7***).

***Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'***

***Proverbs 3:18 She*** [wisdom/Bible doctrine] ***is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.***

*“The knowing of good and evil means choosing, deciding, understanding what is good and evil. “Apostasy and sin is then man’s attempt to become like God, to choose and specify what shall be good and evil in the same way as is reserved for God alone” Ibid 330*

Mankind gets into trouble every time he tries to act independently of God.Look what happened to Eve when she believed the serpent’s lies and chose to act independently of God by making the decision herself as to what is good and what is evil.

Most unbelievers and biblically ignorant believers have chosen to act independently of God by living their lives as they see fit rather than by the Word of God. It is God’s Word that enables us to know the difference between good and evil.

***1 Kings 3:5-14***

***Hebrews 5:11-14***

*“it is certain that man would not have been able, had he even devoured the whole tree, to enjoy life against the will of God” (Calvin); nor lest the first pair, through participation of the tree, should confer upon themselves the attribute of undying- ness, which would not be the ζωὴ* *αἰώνιος of salvation, but its opposite, the ὄλεθρον αἰώνιον of the accursed.* H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 73.

*“Lest man should conceive the idea that immortal- ity might still be secured by eating of the tree, instead of trusting in the promised seed, and under this false impression attempt to take its fruit, which, in his case, would have been equivalent to an attempt to justify himself by works instead of faith” Ibid 73*

***Romans 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,***

***Galatians 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.***

***Genesis 3:23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.***

The Hebrew word for ***sent*** is SHALACH, שָלַח

It means to send away and has the nuance of forcing one to leave. Of course, Adam and Eve did not want to leave the garden.

*Adam and Eve had to be driven from the garden. To remain in God’s presence and eat of the tree of life would have resulted in them becoming immortal, thus thwarting the penalty for their transgression (2:17 prohibition verse). John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 3:22.*

***Genesis 3:24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned life.***

It appears that Adam and Eve certainly did not want to leave the garden so they had to be driven out.

*“The way to the tree of life is guarded. Man’s way back to life is not easy; it will be by divine inter- vention. King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 3:22.*

***Cherubim*** – Very high ranking and powerful angels.

The couple were banished from the Garden. Banished from paradise. Banished from the presence of God. That is the worst punishment of all. And there is no way back into paradise just as there is no way back to God apart from the cross.

**LESSON 30 (7-16-17)**

It was impossible for them to get back into the garden just as it is impossible for fallen man to get back to God apart from His grace provision of the cross.

*“That Adam might have no hope nor expectation of life from that or anything else, but Christ the promised Messiah. Adam might think, as this tree was useful to him in his state of innocence to preserve his life, that it would be so now, and thereby be tempted to forget the promised seed, from whom he had reason to expect life and salvation. And now, that he might not lie under this temptation, the Lord God thought it expedient to thrust him out of Paradise and place a guard about the tree. For there is nothing that man is more prone to than to seek life anywhere but in Christ. There seems to be a natural aversion to that. “Ye will not come to me,” says Christ, “that ye might have life.” No, they had rather go to Mount Sinai, yea, travel all the globe over, than go to Christ for life, could they but obtain it any other way. But God has resolved upon this as the only way of life and salvation; and that man shall not come at it by his own works of righteousness, be they what they will. And therefore, [He] has so guarded this way that he who seeks for righteous- ness and life, by his own doings, runs upon the flaming sword of justice; and whilst he is endeavoring to insure his own salvation, he is pulling ruin upon himself. Michael A. G. Haykin, “Baptists Reflecting on Adam & Eve in the ‘Long’ Eighteenth Century,” ed. R. Albert Mohler, Southern Baptist Journal of Theology Volume 15 15, (2011): 99.*

Adam’s only hope of recovering a relationship with God was through the promise of the Seed, Jesus Christ and the cross. Any act or work on his part would be vain and utterly useless.

***Romans 11:6 But if*** [since] ***it*** [salvation] ***is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.***

***Romans 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due.***

***to guard the way to the tree of life.*** It seems that this phrase not only implies that all access to the tree of life was cut off; but it was also guarded to keep the way to it open for the *metachoi* (Gr. word for “partner” or “companion) ”to have access to it (Rev. 2:7).

One can only imagine the despair and the feel of loss that the first couple felt as they were driven out of the Garden of Eden. They were ashamed and were in dread of what the future might bring.

***Genesis 4:1 Now the man had relations with*** (knew) ***his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD.***

Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden knowing that the paradise that God made for them was no longer available to them because of their disobe- dience, but they had hope because they believed God’s promise that the Seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent and Eve thought that Seed would be her first child Cain.

(NKJV) ***and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD."***

Eve thought that her first child would be the anointed One, the Messiah, the Seed who would defeat Satan and remove the curse on the earth.

But Cain certainly was no Messiah:

*“He was “a sullen, self-willed, haughty, vindictive man; wanting the religious element in his character, and defiant even in his attitude towards God.”* M. G. Easton, *Easton’s Bible Dictionary* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).

*Eve must have said, “I have gotten the man from the Lord. God said that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent—and here he is!” But Cain was not the one. He was a murderer, he was no savior at all. It will be a long* *time before the Savior comes. For a minimum of six thousand years.* J. Vernon McGee, [*Thru the Bible Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/thru-bib?ref=Bible.Ge4.1&off=246&ctx=When+Cain+was+born%2C+~Eve+must+have+said%2C+), electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 29.

The account of Cain and Abel represents the conflict between the seed of the Serpent, Cain, and the Seed of the woman, Abel. It represents the ongoing conflict of religion vs. redemption, works vs. grace.

“*Cain: His name means “acquired” – acquisition. Cain was actually religious and was the first of the seed of Satan. By the time that her second son was born she saw what Cain was really like and was discouraged, so she called her second son Abel.*

*Abel: His name means “nothingness.” And that is just what he turned out to be: grace. Nothing- ness turns out to be grace. Abel was the first in the line of grace, he was born again.*

*Cain was religious but not saved; Abel was regenerate but not religious. Cain was a farmer; Abel was a shepherd.”* Genesis Notes from R.B. Thieme Jr.

***Genesis 4:2-3 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3) And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD.***

*“The subject of chapter 4 is the spread of godless society. Here is man in rebellion against God—man who did not obey and who destroyed the godly and denied his responsibility and culpability for it.”* The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 33.

*Genesis 3:19 - “in the sweat of your face you will eat bread.”* Cain cultivated, he worked, he planted, he harvested—work, work, work. Cain’s approach to God was by human works, the product of his own sweat. His offering was produced by the effort and the energy of the flesh is not pleasing to God.

God never has and He never will accept any work by mankind to gain forgiveness or acceptability. Not water baptism, confirmation, promises of doing better, self-deprivation, self-effacement, going to church, giving money to the church, being nice to people you don’t like, feeling sorry for your sins, begging God to forgive you, or being a better person.

The only way is God’s way and God’s way is the grace way. One must recognize there is nothing he can do other than to trust in God’s grace through Jesus Christ to be saved or restored to fellowship with Him.

Cain’s vegetable offering came from the ground which God had cursed.

Cain’s offering is very revealing:

1) He didn’t seem to recognize the seriousness of

his condition. He didn’t seem to realize his

need of God’s grace.

2) His offering seemed to indicate that Cain didn’t

realize the righteousness and justice of God.

3. It also seemed that he had an ego problem.

4. He wanted a cover, not a cure.

5. Both Cain and Abel heard divine viewpoint and

instructions about worship, but Cain rejected it.

***Jude 1:10-11 But these men revile the things which they do not understand; and the things which they know by instinct, like unreasoning animals, by these things they are destroyed. 11) Woe to them! For they have gone the way of Cain, and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam, and perished in the rebellion of Korah. 12) …hidden reefs, …clouds without water, …*** ***trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted 13) …wild waves, …wondering stars***

The way of God is the opposite of the way of Cain.

***the way of Cain*** is human viewpoint

“ is self-righteousness

“ is egocentricity

“ is salvation by works

***Genesis 4:4-5 And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5) but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.***

*“The first thing that Adam and his wife taught the children was how to approach God, how to have salvation. They taught the gospel. There were apparently three things that were taught the children. Genesis 4:3, 16, they were taught there was a place to worship. Since Cain and Abel both brought their offerings to a specified place* [and at a specified time] *we assume that there was an official place* [and time] *for worship and it had been carefully designated to them in their childhood.”* Genesis Notes from R.B. Thieme Jr

Abel came by the blood of an animal, Cain did not. So one approached by blood because he was born again, he was saved. The other approached by good deeds.

***and of their fat portions.*** – Of course this means that the animals had been sacrificed, their blood was shed.

***Hebrews 9:22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***

**LESSON 31 (7-23-17)**

***Genesis 4:4-5 And Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering; 5) but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.***

***Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.***

**Able, as well as Cain, were instructed by their parents about animal sacrifices being the proper sacrifice because they are a preview of Christ’s perfect sacrifice. Able believed them, “*By faith Abel offered to God”,* but Cain did not.**

***5) but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.***

**His offering had nothing to do with a sacrifice but represented his own work because he rejected the gospel. How many children today reject the gospel when it’s given to them by their parents or others? Rejection of the gospel is the main issue.**

**Parents are responsible to give their children the gospel and teach them Bible doctrine but they are not responsible for their children’s rejection of it.**

***Deuteronomy 6:7 you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.***

**Parents teaching is much more effective if they are learning and applying B.D. themselves. Children learn more by example than they do by words. Show them how and when to be gracious, when and how to be firm.**

**Did Cain have a legitimate reason to be angry? Why was he angry? Of course he wanted to do things his way and he didn’t get his way but what was behind that?**

***Back of anger is jealousy, and back of jealousy is pride.*** Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 30.

**When the Lord refused Cain’s offering, he should have had great concern that he displeased the Lord and should have been eager to make things right but since he was arrogant, he became very angry.**

**This is of course typical of arrogant people, they react when their arrogance shows by getting angry and even violent sometimes.**

**When arrogance flares up, countenance always falls. Arrogance is motivated by MAS. We need to be alert to this when it happens to us so that we will humble ourselves and regain our composure.**

***1 John 3:11-12 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12) not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's*** [Able] ***were righteous.***

Jesus condemned the Pharisees telling them that the guilt from the first murder to the last murder committed (in the OT) would be upon them.

***Matthew 23:35 that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.***

***Genesis 4:6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?***

**“*God questions Cain for the same purpose he queried the man and woman in the garden (3:9, 11)—not to scold but to elicit Cain’s admission of sin with the view to repentance.”*** Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 269.

**The Lord teaches us a very simple yet very valuable lesson as to what we should do when someone gets angry – Ask them, “Why you angry?” That gives them a chance to stop emoting and to start thinking which can make a big difference.**

**Cain was angry with God and jealous of his brother Abel. There are a lot of people that are angry with God and it’s usually because they think that God is not fair.**

**Eve was talked into sinning by Satan, but here, we have God trying to talk Cain out of his sin but he wouldn’t listen.**

***Genesis 4:7 "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up*** [you will be accepted]***? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."***

(NKJV) ***If you do well, will you not be accepted?***

**Notice how gracious God was with this arrogant unbeliever.**

**“*God approached Cain in love and offered him a chance to correct his mistake. Again God asked convicting questions. He made no accusations. He gave him the opportunity to do well, that is, to make the right kind of sacrifice with the right heart attitude.*** King James Version Study Bible . (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 4:6.

**The Lord was trying to encourage him and was willing to forgive him if he would “*do well*”. What does that mean?**

**Did it mean to promise that he would do better? Did it mean he had to do volunteer work?**

**Did it mean that he had to do extra chores?**

**Did it mean he had to promise that from then on, he would bring the right offering and have the right attitude?**

**No, it meant he had to believe in God’s promise concerning the Seed of the woman, Jesus Christ, in order to be saved by His work rather than his own good works.**

**Notice that Cain had the ability to choose to do well or to be conquered by sin or to master it.**

**There are so many people who don’t take responsibility for their sins because they claim they can’t help it. This verse says otherwise, being conquered by sin is a choice and so is mastering it, with God’s help.**

**It is mastered positionally by believing the gospel. It is mastered experientially by acknowledging our sins to God and by learning and applying B.D.**

**LESSON 32 (7-30-17)**

**Apart from God’s grace and the empowering influence of the H.S. none of us could master sin, but with it any believer can.**

***“The apostle Paul testified to the inner struggle against the power of sin and conceded that the power of Christ alone could liberate him (Rom 7:15–25). Cain’s refusal to deal rightly with his sin permitted his anger to fester into murder.*** Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 271.

***Genesis 4:8 And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.***

**We are not sure what Cain said to his brother Abel but it is doubtful that he told him what God said since he wanted to pretend that every-thing was normal.**

**Some believe that Cain invited Able to go with him out in the field where he planned to murder him.**

***“The Septuagint (the ancient Greek translation of the OT), and later translations into Syriac preserve a brief statement: “Let’s go out to the field.”*** John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 4:8.

**This seems to go along with the cunning character of Cain.**

***“Under the guise of brotherly familiarity, he concealed his premeditated purpose till a convenient time and place occurred for the murder”.* Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 20.**

**So it appears that the nefarious deed of murder was premeditated**

***“The murder was stunning in its lack of precedent, its suddenness, and its finality. Jesus spoke of this ghastly event as a historical fact (Matt. 23:35).*** *Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 4:8.*

**This hostility against a brother appears that it set a precedent. Ishmael vs. Isaac, Essau vs. Jacob, Israel brothers against Joseph.**

**Cain’s calculated murder of his unsuspecting brother was exceedingly repugnant as he acted no better than a rapid dog. The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 273.**

***1 John 3:11-12 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another; 12) not as Cain, who was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And for what reason did he slay him? Because his deeds were evil, and his brother's were righteous.***

**Just think about how sad Adam and Eve must have been when they found out what their first born had done, especially Eve who thought he would be the Savior promised in Gen. 3:15.**

**Adam and Eve did not have to await their own death to experience the devastating effects of their rebellion in the garden. The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 273.**

**It is important to note that they were not personally responsible for Cain’s crime even though Adam’s sin brought on an OSN and eventually death. It was Cain who refused to humble himself before God and accept His grace and it was jelous Cain who decided to murder his brother.**

***Genesis 4:9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"***

**So God goes to Cain and asked him a question just as he did with Adam and Eve when they sinned. He was giving them a chance to admit their sin to Him. Adam and Eve willingly acknowledged their sin but they did try to avoid responsibility for it.**

**But Cain completely refused to take any respon- sibility for his sin and even lied to the Lord about it. He knew where Abel was. Furthermore, he was sarcastically defiant and insolent in the curt way he answered God.**

**There was no remorse or humility in Cain’s answer, just impudence and defiance. The first human born was totally despicable. Sin was certainly ruling over him (vs. 7).**

***“This murder also had to be a heartbreaking reminder to Adam and Eve that the conse- quence of sin is death (2:17; cf. Rom. 6:23).***  [*King James Version Study Bible .*](https://ref.ly/logosres/kjvstbib?ref=Bible.Ge4.8&off=188&ctx=y+to+his+fellowman.+~This+murder+also+had), electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 4:8.

**Cain added to his condemnation by lying. He attempted to elude the Lord’s question and absolve himself of responsibility by his question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?”**

***Genesis 4:10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.***

***What have you done?* This is reminiscent of *Gen. 3:13* where the Lord asked the same question of the woman.**

**The figure of speech about “*your brother’s blood crying to Me from the ground*” let Cain know that the Lord was aware of what he had done.**

***That blood of Abel cries out until the blood of One even more innocent than Abel is shed as well (Heb. 12:24). In the manner of his death, Abel depicts the Savior Jesus.*** That **blood** of Abel **cries** out until the blood of One even more innocent than Abel is shed as well (Heb. 12:24). In the manner of his death, Abel depicts the Savior Jesus.

***Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion… 24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.***

**The blood of Able brought on cursing because of the horrible act of murder committed by Cain, whereas on the other hand, the sprinkled blood (*representing the spiritual death of Christ on the cross*) brings on salvation and blessing.**

**The blood of Able brought on guilt, the blood of Christ removed guilt.**

***Genesis 4:11 -12 "And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12) "When you cultivate the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you; you shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth."***

It is interesting that Adam and Eve who believed the promise of the Savior in *Gen. 3:15* were punished but they were not cursed whereas Cain was an unbeliever and he, like the serpent, was cursed by God.

***Convicted, if not humbled, the culprit is speechless, and can only listen in conster- nation to the threefold judgment which pronounced him “cursed in his soul, a vagabond in his body, and unprosperous in his labours”*** The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 80.

**Cain was a gardener and was so proud of the vegetables he grew so the curse on the ground was particularly fitting and would make his life very difficult.**

**He would not be able to put down roots and have a place he could call home as he was doomed to be a vagabond and a wanderer.**

**He would be an outcast, a perpetual exile, and his family would not be able make long-term friendships and he would never be a man of substance.**

**The ground was cursed for Adam as well but he was able to provide food for his family from it even though it would be much more difficult than it was in the Garden of Eden. But for Cain, the land simply would not produce for him.**

**Because Cain has polluted the ground with innocent blood, he is “driven” from it as his parents were from the garden (Gen. 3:24). , The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 275.**

**The pattern set here by exiling Cain would later be applied by God to Israel. Israel’s experience of exile was the just penalty for her choosing to live immorally, (*Deut. 28:64-67*)**

**LESSON 33 (8-6-17)**

***Genesis 4:13-14 And Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! 14) "Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden, and I shall be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and it will come about that whoever finds me will kill me."***

Did Cain seek forgiveness at this point? No, he was still arrogant and defiant, he whined and complained about his punishment.

Under the weight of this curse, Cain goes to pieces, though not a hint of remorse. He is full of himself and full of self-pity. He is essentially suggesting that God’s punishment is not just.

Cain was fortunate that God had not yet instituted capital punishment.

Some question why God did not execute Cain for the crime of murder. Here are a few reasons that have been suggested:

1. His punishment was worse than death.

2. He had decedents that were worthwhile. (Genesis 4:20–22 ranchers, musicians, and iron workers)

3. There were too few people on the earth.

***Later, when God instituted the Noahic Covenant, murder became a capital crime (Genesis 9:6). The death penalty was codified in the Mosaic Law in Numbers 35:30–31, 33. Cain lived before God required death as a punishment for murder. So, God provided an appropriate punishment. The Judge of all the earth always does right (Genesis 18:25).*** Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2002–2013).

*Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.*

*Genesis 18:25 "Far be it from Thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from Thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?"*

Cain’s punishment of being a perpetual wanderer is similar to the punishment that God imposed on the disobedient and unbelieving Israelites at Kadesh; the adults would spend the rest of their lives wandering in the wilderness until they died (*Num 14; Deut 2:14–15*).

*In the past, many believed the mark on Cain to be dark skin—that God changed the color of Cain’s skin to black in order to identify him. Since Cain also received a curse, the belief that the mark was black skin caused many to believe that people of dark skin were cursed. Many used the “mark of Cain” teaching as a justification for the African slave trade and discrimination against people with black/dark skin. This interpretation of the mark of Cain is completely unbiblical. Nowhere in the Hebrew Scriptures is ‘owth used to refer to skin color. The curse on Cain in Genesis chapter 4 was on Cain himself. Nothing is said of Cain’s curse being passed on to his descendants. There is absolutely no biblical basis to claim that Cain’s descendants had dark skin. Further, unless one of Noah’s sons’ wives was a descendant of Cain (possible but unlikely), Cain’s line was terminated by the Flood.*

*What was the mark that God put on Cain? The Bible does not say. The meaning of the mark, that Cain was not to be killed, was more important than the nature of the mark itself. Whatever the mark was, it had no connection to skin color or a generational curse on the descendants of Cain. To use the mark on Cain as an excuse for racism or discrimination is absolutely unbiblical.* Got Questions Ministries, Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2002–2013).

*Most have assumed that the others whom Cain feared were sisters and brothers already born but not mentioned or those yet to be born.* Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 4:14.

***Vs. 14 "Behold, Thou hast driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Thy face I shall be hidden,***

**It is interesting to compare this verse with *Gen. 3:8* where Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord after they sinned but here, Cain was not allowed to have access to the presence of the Lord after he sinned. Why the difference?**

**The Lord sought Adam and Eve to give them a chance to humble themselves and rely on the Seed of the woman for forgiveness. The Lord had already given Cain a chance to humble himself and trust in God’s promise of a Savior, but he failed to do so and he remained arrogant and defiant. That is why Cain was denied access to the presence of the Lord.**

***Genesis 4:15-16 So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, lest anyone finding him should slay him. 16) Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.***

**Cain got what he deserved but the Lord was still gracious to him because He did not leave him helpless.**

***“Cain’s complaint is not only that he would be hidden from the face of God, but also that as a fugitive from the justice and wrath of God, he would be more susceptible to the wrath of the population at large. Therefore, God put a mark on Cain to identify him: (1) to show that vengeance belongs to God, and (2) to prove the faithfulness of God’s grace and mercy to sinful man. One can only speculate concern- ing the nature of the mark (cf. Ezek. 9:4). The land in which Cain settled was called Nod, the meaning of which is “wandering” (cf. v. 12). Its precise location has not been determined, but seemingly it was still in Mesopotamia, though at a distance from Eden (v. 16)*.”** Believer’s Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), Ge 4:14–17.

**It should be noted that the mark that protected Cain was also the lifelong sign of his shame.**

***Verse 16 - That Cain founded a city does not contradict the Lord’s declaration that Cain will be a “restless wanderer.” “Nod” sounds similar to the word “wanderer” (Heb. nad), creating a wordplay between the punishment of wandering and the region where he roamed. The point of the curse is that Cain could no longer live a settled life as a farmer. Therefore he developed the first urban center “east of,” that is, no longer affiliated with, his parents and their descendants.*** [*The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith*](https://ref.ly/logosres/aplgstdybbl?ref=Bible.Ge4.12&off=12&ctx=+2:14).%0A4:12%2C+16–17+~That+Cain+founded+a+) (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 12.

**To be apart from the presence of the Lord is to be a vagabond in a “vagabond-land.” It should be obvious that Cain symbolizes unsaved humanity exiled from God “wandering aimless- ly” about and the land of Nod symbolizes the world.**

**LESSON 34 (8-13-17)**

***Genesis 4:17 And Cain had relations with his wife and she conceived, and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city, and called the name of the city Enoch, after the name of his son.***

**The first question that probably comes to mind is where did Cain’s wife come from?**

***Cain’s wife obviously was one of Adam’s later daughters (5:4). By Moses’ time, this kind of close marriage was forbidden (Lev. 18:7–17), because of genetic decay.* The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 22.**

***The name Enoch means “Dedicated One”, “Initiation” or “teacher”—the same name as the godly descendant of Seth who “walked with God” (Gen. 5:21–24). The fact that Cain built a city named after his son speaks of a dramatic, rapid increase in population*. The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 4:17.**

***The first civilization, that which perished in the judgment of the Flood, was Cainitic in origin, character, and destiny*. The Scofield Reference Bible: The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments (New York; London; Toronto; Melbourne; Bombay: Oxford University Press, 1917), 11.**

***This begins a record of Cain’s descendants who were not worshipers of God (vv. 18–24). Even though they had many skills (vv. 21, 22), their sins rapidly proliferated. The first evidence of polygamy appeared with Lamech (v. 19), who also not only committed murder but was boastful and arrogant about it (vv. 23, 24).* W. A. Criswell et al., eds., Believer’s Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), Ge 4:17–25.**

**Vs. 18 – Irad – *a wild ass***

**Mahojael – *God is smiting***

**Methushael – *Man of God***

**The seventh from Adam through Cain was Lamech. His name means “*conqueror*” or “*wild man*”** He would be called a “bad actor” today.

**Vs. 19 – Lamech is the first man recorded that altered God’s plan of marriage by marrying two women. Adah means “*pleasure*” or “*adornment*” and Zillah means” *to hide*”.**

**Vs. 20 – Jabal – *to flow, lead, or carry***

**Vs. 21 Jubal - *Joyful sound; music; jubilee***

**Vs. 22 – Tubal-cain - Flowing forth of Cain*, production You* may notice that Jabal, Jubal, and Tubal-Cain all sound similar and are all depicted as inventors or founders.**

**Tubal-cain’s Naamah – *pleasant, sweetness***

**In spite of the prosperity mentioned in this city, evil was ominously advancing. Success is not measured by prosperity but by the freedom and spiritual vigor of a people.**

**Vs. 23 Lamech had taken the law into his own hands and had murdered someone in revenge.**

**Lamech murdered the man and boy, the word translated “killed” in this verse is the same Hebrew word used for Cain murdering Abel.**

**It could be that Lamech told his wives this as a warning not to cross him in any way.**

**Vs. 24 This is an arrogant boast from Lamech as if he would give 77 times as much retribution on anyone who messed with him as compared to the retribution that applied to those who would try to kill Cain.**

**So he taunted God by his words seventy-sevenfold because he boasted that by himself he would bring more vengeance on anyone who attacked him than the Lord would bring on the slayer of Cain “sevenfold” (v. 15).**

***Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.***

**Vs. 25 Seth’s name in Hebrew is pronounced shēt; for God “*appointed*” (shat) him, a play on words.**

***Seth, meaning the “appointed one,” is so named because Eve interpreted the child as the one “appointed” by God, as a replacement for Abel. He is also confirmation of God’s faithfulness to the promise of a “seed” (or descendant) through whom the strife between humanity and the Serpent would be pursued (3:15). No further allusions to Cain appear in the Genesis narrative* [or the entire O.T.] *because, in his willful sin, he had cut himself off from God’s blessings.* *W. A. Criswell, Paige Patterson, et al., eds., Believer’s Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), Ge 4:25.***

***With the death of Abel (v. 8) and the expulsion of Cain (vv. 11, 12), Adam and Eve had no son to carry on their line for good and for the promise of the Messiah. Hence the importance of the birth of Seth. His name is related to a Hebrew verb meaning “to place” or “to set” for he was appointed to take the place of the murdered son in the plan of God.* *Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 4:25.***

**Vs. 26 *The name Enosh means man. Enos: The word comes from the word for man which means “weak” or “sickly,” denoting man’s frailty. It is translated “desperately wicked” in reference to the heart of man (Jer. 17:9).* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 4:25.**

**The birth of Enosh meant that the line of Seth would continue; the promise of the Lord (see 3:15) would not be forgotten**

**The genealogy of our Lord from Mary, starting in *Luke 3:23* is traced all the way back to Seth and then of course to Adam (*Luke 3:38*).**

**Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD. *These words can hardly mean that only now did people begin to pray to God. Rather, the verb ‘call’ means “to make proclamation.” That is, this is the beginning of preaching, of witnessing, and testifying in the name of the Lord*. *ibid***

***This is a testimony that the religious worship of the community of faith was organized for their public worship of God, together. Ibid***

**LESSON 35 (8-20-17) & LESSON 36 (9-10-17)**

***Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.***

Adam and Eve did not evolve from some lower creature, but were both direct creations of God, “male and female CREATED He them.” *Gen. 1:27*. They did not evolve and there was no gender confusion then, and there should be none now.

Animals reproduce after “their kind,” but man is made in the image of God and reproduces in His image.

***The terms image and likeness are used synonymously, and refer primarily to man’s spiritual resemblance (rationally and morally) to his Maker. God placed a great chasm between man and the beast, for only man has the capacity for eternal life, fellowship, moral discernment, self-consciousness, speech, and worship. Even after the Fall, man retains this image of God (cf. Gen. 9:6; James 3:9), though it has been marred.***

*James 3:8-9 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;*

The likeness of God does not mean that we are like God physically, but that we have some of His attributes in a very very small measure.

Ex. Justice, Righteousness, Omniscience, Omnipotence, Love, etc.

**Nearly everyone is born having these God given capabilities, however believers have the potential to become even more in the likeness of God.**

***Ephesians 4:22-24 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.***

**We positionally become a “new creature” (a *new self* ) when we are born again.**

***2 Corinthians 5:17-18 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away* [condemnation, spiritual death, absolute control of the OSN]*; behold, new things* [eternal life, +R, indwelling, filling, & baptism of the Holy Spirit] *have come.18) Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,***

**Our mission as believers is to *put on the new self* that we received at salvation by becoming a *new creature* experientially. When we do this, we get closer to the image of the One who created us.**

***Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.***

**LESSON 37 (9-17-17)**

**Genesis 5:2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.**

**They were not the Adamses, but Adam. God called *their* name Adam — Eve is the other half of Adam, she came out of him.**

***1 Corinthians 11:11-12 However, in the Lord, neither is woman independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12) For as the woman originates from the man, so also the man has his birth through the woman; and all things originate from God.***

**LESSON 38 (9-24-17)**

***Genesis 5:3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.***

***Adam had a son in his own likeness,—after his image—not the Divine image in which he was himself created, but the image or likeness of his own fallen nature, i. e. the image of God modified and corrupted by sin. H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 94.***

**The Hebrew name Seth means - appointed, substitute; or to replace.**

**Seth replaced Abel who was murdered by Cain in order to continue the physical bloodline of Christ. Able could not be in the bloodline because he had no heir and Cain was an unbeliever.**

**The time of the birth of Cain nor Abel is revealed but the time of Seth’s birth is given here in verse 3.**

**So the bloodline of Christ is traced from Eli, the father of Mary (*Luke 3:23)*, all the way back to Adam:**

***Luke 3:38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.***

**Why is the bloodline of Jesus Christ important? It fulfills the Davidic Covenant (*2 Sam. 7:13-16*) and proves that Christ would be the pure uncontaminated Seed of the woman existing as true unadulterated humanity.**

***Vs. 7* Enosh - man in his frailty; feeble; mortal.**

***Vs. 12* Kenan - One acquired; begotten. Same as Cainan = Possession. Their smith (fabricator).**

***Vs. 15* – Mahalalel - Praise of God; one who praises God; God is splendor.**

***Vs. 18* Jared - Descent; descending; he that descends; (root = to descend; to go down)**

***Vs. 21*  Enoch - Initiated; initiating; teacher; dedicated; consecrated; experienced.**

***Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.***

**Lamech was seventh in the lineage of Cain, as Enoch was the seventh member in the line of Seth but notice the difference between them.**

**Lamech was an arrogant murderer and Enoch was a righteous man who walked with God.**

**Enoch did not die physically but was translated in a way that is similar to the way we will be if we are still alive when Christ returns.**

***Hebrews 11:5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.***

**Most people believe that Enoch was taken up to heaven to be with God but the text doesn’t say that he was taken to heaven, at least not the 3rd heaven (*1 Cor. 15: 20-23*).**

**No one went to the 3rd heaven before Christ was crucified and ascended into heaven. Enoch was taken up to the 2nd heaven and then was probably taken to Paradise/Abraham’s bosom.**

**Elijah didn’t die either but was taken up to the 2nd heaven in a chariot of fire (*2 Kings 5:11*). It appears that he also wound up in Paradise.**

**Enoch is the only break in the chapter from the incessant comment, “and he died”, why do you think this change in routine appears here?**

**Enoch was translated before the flood came. It seems to represent the Church being translated or raptured before the Tribulation comes.**

**Believers today, go to be with the Lord either immediately when they die (*Phil. 1:23*) or when Christ returns at the Rapture (*1 Thes. 4:17*), so we have no reason to fear death or dread it (*1 Cor. 15:53-57*).**

**Enoch gave an interesting prophecy that is found in the book of Jude:**

***Jude 1:14-15 And about these*** [ungodly sinners] ***also Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, 15) to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things* *which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."***

**It appears that Enoch was the first prophet of the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.**

**LESSON 39 (10-1-17)**

***Vs. 25* Methuselah - *When he is dead it shall be sent; i.e., the flood; (root = to send; to dismiss; to stretch out; to be cast out). Messenger of death. It shall be sent (deluge).* Stelman Smith and Judson Cornwall, The Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos, 1998), 173.**

**His name means when he is dead it shall be sent. We know that the flood came the same year that Methuselah died and probably the same day which would be the last day on the earth for unbelievers.**

***He was the eighth member of the Sethite line from Adam to Noah: the son of Enoch, the father of Lamech, and the grandfather of Noah (Gen. 5:21-27; 1 Chron. 1:3). Methuselah lived for 969 years, the longest lived person in the Bible*. Paul J. Achtemeier, Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, Harper’s Bible Dictionary (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 632.**

**There are two kinds of typology to be noticed. The typology between Cain and Abel and then the typology between Abel and Seth. Cain and Abel stand as representatives of the human race.**

**Every member of the human race falls into one category or the other. Cain represents the unbeliever, religious type; Abel represents the believer. So the human race is divided into two categories as delineated in *John 3:36*.**

**There is another bit of typology here: Abel was obedient to God and was killed, which can be seen as a picture of Christ dying on the cross. Seth was born to carry on the plan of God which can be seen as relating to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Abel died a violent death at the hands of his brother; Jesus Christ was crucified by His brethren the Jews.**

***Vs. 28* Lamech is only noted for being the father of Noah.**

***Vs. 29* Noah is the only name commented on in this chapter. His name means rest from work and sounds like the Heb. word comfort.**

***God would indeed bring comfort to humankind by preserving from the Flood a small godly remnant in the ark. After the Flood, recognizing Noah’s sacrifice, God would not curse the ground again. The Open Bible: New King James Version, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998), Ge 5:29.***

***Genesis 8:20-21 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. 21) And the LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.***

Not only would God never destroy all mankind, but he would also preserve His people even though they would be severely punished, they will see His unconditional promises fulfilled.

***Noah, left on the earth, but preserved through the judgment of the Flood, is a type of the Jewish people, who will be kept through the apocalyptic judgments (Jer. 30:5–9; Rev. 12:13–16) and brought as an earthly people to the new heaven and new earth (Isa. 65:17–19; 66:20–22; Rev. 21:1).*C. I. Scofield, ed., The Scofield Reference Bible: The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments (New York; London; Toronto; Melbourne; Bombay: Oxford University Press, 1917), 12.**

It is interesting that Adam was a contemporary of both Noah’s Grandfather, **Methuselah and his father Lamech. So they probably knew each other and Adam probably gave them an eye-witness account of the history of mankind.**

**People had the opportunity to speak to Adam personally about the Garden of Eden, the fall, and God’s promise that the Seed of Woman would become the Savior of mankind who would be victorious over Satan.**

**So first-hand k**nowledge about creation and God was preserved for Noah and his sons because his father no doubt was educated by Adam concerning the true history of creation and man.

***Vs. 32* Noah was 500 years old when his son’s were born. That breaks the record by 318 years of the oldest man who had a son which was his own father, Lamech (vs. 28).**

**Japheth was the oldest son (Gen. 10:21) and Ham the youngest (Gen. 9:24). Shem was the middle son however, he is mentioned first because it was through him that God’s Messiah would come. King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 5:28.**

**Noah was 600 when the flood came (Gen. 7:6) and he lived 350 years after the flood (Gen. 9:28) so he was 950 years old when he died. He was just 19 years younger than Methuselah when he died.**

**LESSON 40 (10-8-17)**

***GENESIS 6***

**To understand the importance of this chapter we must first understand the importance of Jesus Christ becoming true humanity. Satan certainly understood it, that’s why the Bible records how he constantly attacked the Seed of the woman, the line of Christ.**

**The first attack was when Satan inspired the unbelieving Cain to murder his believing brother Able.**

**The second attack is recorded in Genesis chapter six as an angelic infiltration into the human race attempting to contaminate true humanity. It was so successful that the line by which Jesus Christ could come into the world was narrowed down to one family, the family of Noah.**

**Four reasons why Jesus Christ had to be true humanity:**

**1. Deity cannot die for the sins of mankind. Only the humanity of Christ could bear the sins of the world. *Hebrews 2:9-14*; *Philippians 2:5-8*. No true humanity - No Savior.**

**2. He had to be equal with both man and God in order to be the mediator between God and man.**

**3. He had to be human to be our great high priest.**

**4. He had to be human in order to become the Son of David.**

***Genesis 6:1 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them,***

***men* – a generic term for all mankind, people in general**

**Before the flood there was a population explo- sion due to the fact that men could live over 900 years and could produce children for several hundred years.**

***daughters were born to them* - is an idiomatic expression meaning there was an excess of women in the population.**

***Genesis 6:2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.***

***that the sons of God …***

There is much controversy over this verse and the phrase ***sons of God*.**

* Some say the “sons of God” refers to men in the line of Seth and that the daughters of men refer to Cainite women.
* Others say that fallen angels indwelt men and induced them to cohabit with women.
* However, the Scriptures indicate that fallen angels went outside of the rules of engage- ment of the angelic conflict to procreate with women in order to bring true humanity to an end.

Satan knew that God promised in Genesis 3:15 that the Seed of the woman referred to Jesus Christ as true humanity and if there was only half human and half angelic creatures left on earth, God could not fulfill His promise.

The Hebrew phrase *beni ha Elohim* ***sons of God*** is used four times in the scriptures. This word is invariably, without exception, used for angels, never men—*Job 1:6; 2:1, 38:7.*

These ***sons of God were fallen angels who were punished by God by being locked up in a place called Tartarus which is translated “hell” in:***

***2 Peter 2:4-5 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned* [Gen. 6], *but cast them into hell* [Tartarus]*and committed them to pits of darkness,* [ζόφοςrather thanσκοτία]*reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;*** (see Hell PP)

*Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain* [descent to a different sphere of being] *but abandoned their proper abode* [1st & 2nd heaves]*, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*

*Son of God* in the New Testament is used as a designation for Jesus Christ, and *sons of God* in the New Testament is used for believers—

*Galatians 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

**Some claim that “*sons of God*” could not be angels because of *Matthew 22:30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.***

**The point is that believers in resurrection bodies will not get married; angels don’t get married because they all appear to be male. But that doesn’t mean that they cannot take on the form of a man and procreate with women.**

**What appeared to be 3 men stood before Abraham in *Gen. 18:2*. Two were angels and the other was the pre-incarnate Christ. The sodomites in Sodom also thought the two angels were men.**

***Genesis 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."***

We have recently gone over the doctrine of “Common Grace” where the Holy Spirit makes the gospel clear to spiritually dead unbelievers and then convicts or convinces him of his guilt and the need for a Savior (*Matt. 16:17, John 16: 7-8, 1 Thes. 1:5*).

PRINCIPLE: God’s grace always comes before judgment because He loves us and wants to bless us, but if we reject His grace, judgment is certain.

***because he also is flesh - God may be asserting that He has the authority to judge humanity since He is God and not flesh. John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 6:3.***

***flesh*** in this phrase is probably referring to true humanity which would cease to exist within 120 years with the exception of Noah and his family. The flood would kill all flesh which was not 100% pure humanity.

Noah preached the gospel for 120 years and never had a convert. He had to be an expert on how to take rejection.

**LESSON 41 (10-15-17)**

***Genesis 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward (because), when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.***

***Nephilim* – The name means fallen ones. These were the ones who had fallen from the human race because they were no longer true humanity. They were the offspring of the fallen angels who co-habited with women.**

Some versions of the Bible have “giants” instead of “Nephilim”.

*The Hebrew word was left untranslated by the Revisers, however,[they] translated the Hebrew “gibborim”, in Gen. 6:4, “mighty men.” M. G. Easton, Easton’s Bible Dictionary (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).*

The word Nephilim is used only here and in *Numbers 13:33* where it is used as hyperbole. The Nephilim could not have survived the flood because only the eight members of Noah’s family survived (*1 Pet. 3:20,* *2 Peter 2:5)*.

“***also afterward***” – stands for a Hebrew idiom. It should be translated, “*this was the cause” or “because”*.

***Those were the mighty men -*** The Nephilim were much bigger and stronger than normal men.

*Greek mythology reflects this understanding, telling the story of the gigantes being products of the union of earth and heaven.* Michael S. Heiser, “The Term ‘Nephilim,’” in Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016).

*“This brief description of antediluvian times refers to the existence of legendary heroes, perhaps even those mentioned in classical literature, like Hercules, Achilles, and others. The heroes are the offspring of the union of fallen angels (commonly referred to in secular literature as “the gods”) and human women. The pantheons of Greece and Rome pay homage to this time, as does the Mesopotamian literature. Genesis 6:4 validates the existence of these heroes without specifically affirming the truth content of any secular myths. In essence, God says, “Yes, there were angelic-human beings!”*

*As a result, the secular literature of our study seems to gain a limited validity through this single verse. The myths cannot be counted as true or equal to the narrative of Genesis 6–9, but they can now be placed within the time-frame of the antediluvian civilization. God’s word is true and perfectly reliable, whereas the classical myths are just that and no foundation for life and godliness.*

*The eight souls who disembarked from the ark were the only human eyewitnesses of that most ancient of human civilizations. Noah had three sons, who had three wives, and all three couples had offspring. These offspring flourished and spread throughout the earth, and with them they carried the oral history of their forefathers.*

*While the classical myths are the written versions of the oral histories passed down from offspring of Noah’s family, the Genesis narrative of that time is a completely accurate account of the events under the guiding hand of God the Holy Spirit. There is no embellish- ment, no change, and no loss of anything that God wanted to say about that time.* Mark Perkins, “Bible Sources: Truth or Myth Part One,” Chafer Theological Seminary Journal Volume 11 11, no. 1 (2005): 33–34.

*Genesis 6:5-6 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6) And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.*

*5)* **Read: *Psa. 14:1-3,***

*2 Peter 2:4-5 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (Tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; (go to vs. 9)*

*1 Peter 3:18-20 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; 19) In which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, 20) who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.*

*Matthew 15:18-20 "the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. 19) "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. 20) "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."*

*Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?*

**LESSON 42 (10-22-17)**

*6)* The words “sorry” (KJV “repented” and “grieved” *Eph. 4:30 do not grieve the Holy Spirit* ) are anthropopathisms. It is ascribing to God human characteristics that He doesn’t actually possess in order to reveal and explain God’s policy toward mankind in terms of human frame of reference. It is utilizing a language of accommodation.

God is described as being jealous, sorry, grieved, and that He repents, seeks revenge, gets angry, and also scorns and hates.

The Bible also uses anthropomorphisms, ascribing physical characteristics (hands, eyes, face, arms, etc.) that He doesn’t actually possess in order to reveal and explain God’s policy toward mankind in terms of a human frame of reference.

*Genesis 6:7 And the LORD said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them."*

The flood wiped out every living thing except Noah and his family, the animals on the ark and probably fish.

The take away from this verse is that God puts up with sin and rejection from man for only so long and then his justice falls upon men and nations and they are wiped out.

Can this happen to us? Will this happen to us?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoISKKTto3s

*Genesis 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.*

*favor – Heb.* CHEN, AV translates as “grace” 38 times, “favour” 26 times James Strong, Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).

This is the first time that the word “favor/grace” is found in the Bible.

*Lest one believe that Noah was spared because of his good works alone (cf. Heb. 11:7), God makes it clear that Noah was a man who believed in God as Creator, Sovereign, and the only Savior from sin. He found grace for himself, because he humbled himself and sought it. John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 24.*

*Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his house- hold, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

Noah was a believer before he started building the ark; he believed the warning God gave him was true so he acted according to his faith in constructing the ark and thus was rewarded for his experiential righteousness.

*Genesis 6:9 These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God. 10) And Noah became the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.*

*(NASV) blameless in his time*

***(NKJV) perfect in his generations***

***(LEB) without defect in his generations***

These translations seem to indicate that Noah and his generations were not corrupted or defected by the angelic infiltration into the human race.

*“The Hebrew word used here, tamim, refers to being free from defect; it is often used in sacrificial contexts to describe an unblemished animal presented to God (Exod 12:5; Lev 1:3, 10; 3:1, 6).* John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 6:9.

Noah and Enoch are the two antediluvians of whom it is said that they “walked with God” (Gen. 5:24; 6:9)

*Genesis 6:11 Now the earth was corrupt* [NET – ruined] *in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence.*

Corrupt can mean deficient in character but it can also mean something that has been tainted, ruined, or altered. In other words, it could refer to the corrupted genetic makeup of man.

No doubt the Nephilim were perpetrators of violence since they were bigger and stronger than the average man, it would be natural for them to take advantage of others. In fact, verse 11 says that the earth was filled with violence.

There are a few verses in Matthew 24 that seem to contradict the description of the earth being corrupted and violent just before the flood:

*Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. 38) "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39) "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

These verses sound as if everything was normal, nothing out of the ordinary during the time that Noah was building the ark but *Gen. 6:11 & 13* describes the earth as being corrupt and full of violence.

There is no contradiction, Matthew was not pointing out the similarity of circumstances but rather the similarity of the attitude of unbelief and indifference of the people towards God’s promise of impending doom.

The antediluvian unbelievers ignored the warning of the coming flood just as the unbelievers will do prior to the coming of Christ at the 2nd Advent.

The antediluvian unbelievers were destroyed by the flood just as the unbelievers at the end of the Tribulation will be destroyed by *the baptism of fire (Matt. 3:11)* **at the 2nd Advent of Christ.**

So twice in the history of the human race we have a judgment which takes all unbelievers off the earth and believers remain on the earth: once in the days of Noah and once at the Second Advent—the flood and the baptism of fire.

**LESSON 43 (10-29-17)**

*Genesis 6:12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.*

*“God knows at all times what is happening in our world, but his looking upon the earth denotes a special observance of it, as though he had instituted an inquiry into its real condition”* H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary (London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 108.

We know that the entire population of earth (minus Noah and his family) was corrupted morally, desperately wicked, and in rebellion against God, but this could also mean that they were all physically, genetically, corrupted because of the angelic infiltration into the human race.

*Genesis 6:13 Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.*

So God divulges His plan to wipe out the entire population of all the air breathing creatures on earth. But He also has a plan to preserve Noah and his family which He now reveals.

*Genesis 6:14 "Make for yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make the ark with rooms, and shall cover it inside and out with pitch.*

*“The word ark means “a box.” An Egyptian word from which this term may be drawn means “chest”; the same term is used of the box in which the baby Moses was placed in the Nile (Ex. 2:3).”* Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 6:14.

*Pitch* **- This was a type of tar which was used to seal up the wood in the ship. The Hebrew word which is translated “pitch” is the Hebrew word *kaphar*, which means covering or atonement. The principle is pitch kept the judgment of water out and saved Noah and his family, just as Christ’s atonement keeps the judgment of sins out and saves believers.**

**(LEB) *Heb. 2:17* *Therefore he was obligated to be made like his brothers in all respects, in order that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in the things relating to God, in order to make atonement* (*ἱλάσκομαι -* to eliminate *impediments, to wipe out) for the sins of the people.***

*Genesis 6:15-16 "And this is how you shall make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits* [450 ft.]*, its breadth fifty cubits* [75 ft.]*, and its height thirty cubits* [45 ft.]*. 16) "You shall make a window for the ark, and finish it to a cubit from the top; and set the door of the ark in the side of it; you shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.*

*And this is how you shall make it:* **- God was the Architect of the great ark and He didn’t need any suggestions from Noah as to how to make it.**

**Notice the specifications of the ark:**

**There was one door. Only one way to enter the ark, only one way of salvation, *John 14:6*.**

**There was one window. There is only one way to replace spiritual darkness with light and that is by the consistent intake of the Word of God.**

**There were three floors [decks]. God’s plan of redemption through Christ had three parts - Death, Burial and Resurrection.**

*“The gross tonnage of this vessel was 13,960. Not until modern times (1884) was a ship of this size again constructed.* James E. Smith, The Pentateuch, 2nd ed., Old Testament Survey Series (Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co., 1993),

*“The volume of space in the ark was 1.4 million cubic feet, equal to the capacity of 522 standard railroad box cars, which could carry 125,000 sheep. It had 3 stories, each 15 feet high; each deck was equipped with various rooms (lit. “nests”). The “window” may have actually been a low wall around the flat roof to catch water for all on the ark.* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 25.

Ark PP

There are three arks in the Bible: 1. Noah’s Ark (Heb. tebah) 2. The ark Moses was placed in as a baby

*Exodus 2:3 But when she could hide him no longer, she got him a wicker basket* (tebah) *and covered it over with tar and pitch. Then she put the child into it, and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile.*

3. The Ark of the Covenant

*Hebrews 9:3-4 And behind the second veil, there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, 4) having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant.* **PP**

Each one of these arks has special significance as the place of protection from judgment.

1. Noah and his family was protected from the flood

2. Moses was protected from certain death

3. The Ark of the Covenant symbolizes the protection of believers from the penalty of sin.

The ark is an illustration of Christ.

* Noah and his family were in the ark and they were safe from the flood
* Church age believers are in Christ and they are completely safe from eternal condemna- tion.
* Just as all who were not in the ark were destroyed by the flood, all those who are not “in Christ” will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

*Genesis 6:17-18 "And behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. 18) "But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark-- you and your sons and your wife, and your sons' wives with you.*

Only a universal flood over the entire earth would destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven. Furthermore, the length of time it took the water to recede was much longer than if it was a local flood.

Other verses which speak of a universal flood: *Job 12:15, Psa. 104:6-9, Isa. 54:9, Heb. 11:7, 2 Peter 2:5, 3:6*

*“The cataclysmic deluge described in Genesis 6–9 as God’s judgment on the earth is mentioned elsewhere in the OT (Gen 10:1, 32; 11:10; Pss 29:10; 104:6–9; Isa 54:9) and in the NT (Matt 24:38–39; Luke 17:26–27; Heb 11:7; 1 Pet 3:20; 2 Pet 2:5; 3:3–7). That more verses are devoted to the flood than to the creation (Gen 1–2) or the fall (Gen 3) suggests the significance of the account.”* David S. Dockery et al., Holman Bible Handbook (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 1992), 125.

This is the first mention of “*covenant*” in Scripture. The details of this covenant were given after the Flood (9:9)

**LESSON 44 (11-12-17) *also includes Thansgiving***

Read: *Genesis 6:19-22*

*19****)*** *There are less than 18,000 species living on earth today. This number may have been doubled to allow for now extinct creatures. With two of each, a total of 72,000 creatures is reasonable as indicated in the note on 6:15, 16; the cubic space could hold 125,000 sheep, and since the average size of land animals is less than a sheep, perhaps less than 60 percent of the space was used. The very large animals were surely represented by young. There was ample room also for the one million species of insects, as well as food for a year for everyone* *(v. 21).* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 25.

***Insects, worms, and similar small creatures which could not have survived outside of the Ark—would have taken up only the space of about 5,000 sheep, if the space occupied by each, averaged 2 inches. Therefore, only about 21 railroad cars would be needed (out of the 521) to contain over a million insects.*** *Dennis Gordon Lindsay, The Genesis Flood: Continents in Collision, Creation Science Series (Dallas, TX: Christ for the Nations, 1992).*

*20)* The animals came to them.

*21)* They had to gather up enough food for all the animals and for themselves for a year.

*22)* Noah obeyed everything God commanded.

**LESSON 45 (11-26-17)**

***GENESIS 7* –** This chapter will cover Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark; the destruction of all flesh and the salvation of those in the ark.

*(Vs. 1)* This verse gives general information with more detail immediately following.

“*Enter the ark*” This is a Qal imperative which is given as an invitation in the same way that the invitation to believe in Jesus Christ is an invitation. It’s a picture of salvation.

*“for you ~~alone~~ I have seen to be righteous before Me in this ~~time~~ generation.”*

“Why was Noah righteous? It was by faith, just as later on Abraham was counted righteous because of his faith: “And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness” (*Gen. 15:6*). Noah believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. “By faith Noah … prepared an ark …” the writer to the Hebrews said (*Heb. 11:6-7*). That is the reason God saved him. J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Law (Genesis 1-15), electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 130.

*Heb. 11:6-7 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. 7) By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

**LESSON 46 (12-3-17)**

*(Vs. 2-3)*  Distinctions were based on what animals were qualified for sacrifices, those who were not. Clean animals were used for sacrifices and those who were unclean were not.

Later on, these distinctions were used for dietary reasons; only clean animals were allowed to be eaten.

*In Genesis 7:2-3, the Lord commanded Noah to bring seven pairs of each “clean” animal and bird and two of each kind of “unclean” animal in order to repopulate the earth when the Flood had subsided.*

*The number seven is significant in the Bible since it is the number of “spiritual perfection,” therefore, the seven pairs of clean animals brought onto the ark, which portrayed the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, speaks of the “spiritual perfection” of the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. Grace Notes, Genesis 7*

*(Vs. 4)*  The Lord told Noah to enter the ark 7 days before the rains would start. Sure enough, after they were in the ark for seven days, judgment hit. There is an analogy here. Believers in the Church Age are “in Christ” much like Noah was in the ark, both were safe from the coming catastrophe.

Noah, his family, and the animals were safe and sound in the ark for 7 days until the flood came; we will be safe from the 7 years of the horrible Tribulation because our Lord will remove us from earth before it comes.

The 7 days they were in the ark no doubt had a practical aspect to it as well. Both Noah and the animals could get settled in and begin their daily routine before the ark was lifted up by the water.

*“It appears that for seven days the world could have knocked at the door of the ark; they could have come in—God would have saved them. All they had to do was to believe God.”* J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Law (Genesis 1-15), electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 132.

The door to salvation is still open and it’s so sad that most won’t walk through it.

*“I will send rain on the earth forty days and forty nights”* The number forty is a significant number, representing a special fullness of time (*Num. 32:13* Israelites in the wilderness; *1 Kin. 19:8* Elijah running from Jezebel; *Matt. 4:2* the temp- tation of Christ).

The Lord was reiterating to Noah what He told him in *Genesis 6:13* and *17* concerning the end of all flesh.

*(Vs. 5)* Noah was a faithful obedient servant of the Lord. Why? Because he believed the Lord.

Obedience is the supreme test of trust in the Lord and His promises as well as reverence and respect for Him.

*(Vs. 11) The Antediluvian period, there was a single super continent, but the Flood broke this continent up into seven continents during the days of Noah and was responsible for the earth now being tilted on its access, which resulted sudden freezing in the extreme north and south regions of planet earth. Grace Notes, Genesis 7*

**LESSON 47 (12-10-17)**

*(Vs. 16)* The Lord closed the door on them. That shut door was a symbol of closure, safety, and God’s deliverance for those in the ark but it was the death knell for everyone else because they refused to believe Noah’s proclamation of God’s warning of judgment.

No doubt when the rains started and the sub-terranean waters started gushing they desperate- ly wanted inside the ark, but it was too late!

*The fact that the Lord closed the ark behind Noah and that Noah did not do it for himself is a reminder to Noah and his family that the Lord “alone” delivered him and his family from the Flood and that Noah did “not” deliver himself. ibid*

***GENESIS 8***

*Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah…*

Those are the two most powerful words you can find in the Bible. They are used 42 times in the NASB.

Every time that we feel overwhelmed, we should remember these two words, “*But God*”!

In the Bible, remembering individuals means acting on their behalf out of concern for them.

*“Remembered” indicates that God was faithful to His promises to Noah and the whole created order (9:15, 16).” W. A. Criswell et al., eds., Believer’s Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), Ge 8:3.*

The verb remember refers to the special attention or personal care that God gives to His own. The verb is used the same way concern- ing Samson (*Judg. 16:28*); Hannah (*1 Sam. 1:11*); Abraham, for Lot’s benefit (*Gen. 19:29*);

*ibid*

What do you do when you try to dry up water on the floor? You get a fan and aim it at the floor to help the water to evaporate quicker.

The wind that God caused to pass over the earth was used to help drain much of the water off of the surface of the earth. Read: \**Psalm 104:4-9*

*8:2-4 Note the symmetry of time: it took the same amount of time for the waters to recede as it took for them to rage over the earth (7:24).* \****The Genesis Flood, p.266***

*The word “receded” is the same word used of the waters at the Red Sea and the Jordan River that returned after God’s great salvific works*

*Exodus 14:26 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots and their horsemen."*

*Joshua 4:18 And it came about when the priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come up from the middle of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up to the dry ground, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place, and went over all its banks as before.*

*8:7-12 Ravens survive on a broad range of food types. If any food was available outside the ark, the raven could survive. In contrast, a dove is much more selective in its food choices. The dove’s choice of food would indicate that new life had begun to grow; thus Noah and his family could also survive outside the ark. John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 27.*

*8:15-16 Noah and his family had been in the ark for 378 days (cf. 7:4, 10, 11).*

Notice that Noah did not immediately leave the Ark when the earth was dry but instead waited until God commanded him to leave the Ark, thus, demonstrating Noah’s implicit trust or faith in the Lord.

**LESSON 48 (12-17-17)**

*8:20* **Noah did not build an alter and offer sacrifices because God commanded him to make an altar but because he wanted to thank God and worship Him for delivering him and his family through the flood.**

**His first thought and action after leaving the ark was to build an altar, not a house; not shelter for himself but fellowship with God. Here, then, Noah starts out with the right perspective, the right scale of values, the right priorities.**

“Noah built an altar unto the Lord.” **But why an altar?** The altar speaks of the cross, and man cannot have fellowship with God apart from the cross.

*8:21* **– This is about God being propitiated by the sacrifice that was made.**

**The covenant that God made with Noah in this verse was “unconditional”, it was totally and completely depended upon the faithfulness of God.**

**Notice that man’s heart hadn’t changed, it was still evil, but because of God’s incredible grace and love for mankind, He would never curse the ground again and He would never destroy every living thing again by a flood (*Gen. 9:11*)**

**2 Peter 3:10-13 tells us that God will destroy the earth by fire and create a new one but we believers will not be destroyed.**

***2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.***

***11) Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,***

***12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!***

***13) But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.***

**The Noahic covenant also stipulated that God would never again curse the earth on account of man and that day and night and seasons would never cease as long as the present earth remains and that there would be a continuation of humanity until the end of human history.**

*Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.*

*(also see Isa. 65:17, 66:22, 2 Peter 3:13)*

*Revelation 21:23 & 25 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine upon it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb… 25) And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed;*

*8:22* **During the antediluvian period the entire earth was warm all year round, having no storms because of the vast transparent water vapor canopy that was above the earth’s atmosphere but when it collapsed during the flood of Noah, there became “cold and heat, and summer and winter” and the emergence of the North and South Poles.**

**LESSON 49 (1-7-18)**

***GENESIS 9*  This was a new beginning, but it was different from the one in Eden because man was now fallen, so it was necessary for God to tell Noah about the new ground rules that pertain to his new environment on this new transformed earth.**

*9:1* **This same command to be fruitful and multiply was given to Adam (*Gen. 1:28*).**

**“*Blessed*” is the verb *barakah*, This word is transliterated in (*2 Chron. 20:26*) as *berachah* in the phrase, “valley of Berachah (Blessing)”.**

*9:2* ***Noah and his descendants would have dominion over the animal kingdom and implies that the interaction between humans and animals would not be peaceful, just as Genesis 9:6 (capital punishment) suggests the same of human beings*. Grace Notes**

**Even though man has dominion over the animals, he no longer has dominion over the earth as he lost that when he sinned against God.**

***In Genesis 1:28, Adam was commanded to have dominion over the earth but in Genesis 9:1, this is omitted since the earth has been brought under a curse because of Adam’s sin and as a result of this sin, Satan is the “god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4) and “ruler of this world” (Jn. 16:11). Ibid***

**In *Gen. 1:28*, God told Adam and Eve that they had rule over the animals; now (vs. 2), the language is stronger, the animals and birds will have an innate fear of humans, and they are placed under human control. Remember, the animals were not afraid of man when they entered the ark.**

***Genesis 9:3 Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant.***

**This was new, eating animal meat was not allowed before the flood.**

**After the flood, all animals were acceptable for food for man, and that there was no distinction between eating “clean” & “unclean” animals in the pre-Mosaic era.**

***Genesis 9:4 "Only you shall not eat flesh with its life* [living animals]*, that is, its blood.***

**Animals should be killed before eating and the blood should be properly drained from it.**

***Leviticus 17:11 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.'***

***The blood was always offered in sacrifice to God as the most sacred part of the victim, the symbol of its life. The prohibition to eat flesh, with the blood in it, formed one of the strictest rules of Israelite and Jewish life. Herbert E. Ryle, The Book of Genesis in the Revised Version with Introduction and Notes, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), 122.***

**Even today, Jews eat (“Kosher Meat”) that is entirely freed from blood.**

**Since animal blood represented the life of the animal and the blood was used in sacrifices to God, eating it would despoil it, cheapen it, and therefore devalue it as an offering to God.**

**LESSON 50 (1-14-18)**

***Genesis 9:5 "And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.***

***from every beast I will require it.* – If a person had an ox that killed a man, the ox would be killed. That was true for any animal that killed a human being.**

***Exodus 21:28-29 "And if an ox gores a man or a woman to death, the ox shall surely be stoned and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall go unpunished. 29) "If, however, an ox was previously in the habit of goring, and its owner has been warned, yet he does not confine it, and it kills a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death.***

**It also seems reasonable, that any animal that initiates an unprovoked attack against a person, and the person is injured, that animal should be killed because it will probably do it again.**

***And from every man,* - This is the beginning of government and its function of capital punish- ment.**

***Psalm 9:12 For He (*God*) who requires blood (of murders)* *remembers them (and their crimes); He does not forget the cry of the afflicted (victims).***

***Acts 25:11 If then I* (Paul) *am a wrongdoer, and have committed anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die;***

***Romans 13:4 for it* (government) *is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.***

***Genesis 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood* [murders someone]*, By man* [by proper constituted authority] *his blood shall be shed* [he will be executed]*, For in the image of God He made man.***

***Because of the Flood’s destruction of life people might begin to think that God holds life cheap and assume that taking life is a small matter. This covenant shows that life is sacred and that man is not to destroy man, who is made in the image of God.*** The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 40.

**Man is in the image of God in the sense that man has volition and the mental capacity to be held responsible for his actions.**

***The basic principle of government is common law, law enforcement, and the examination of those who appear to be criminals to determine the extent of their crime, if any, and to properly punish them. All government is built around common law and the courtroom. R.B. Theime Jr. Genesis notes***

***No matter how good common law is, it is no better than enforcement, and the ultimate in law enforcement is capital punishment. ibid***

**Capital punishment is what puts teeth in the law.**

***In the antediluvian civilization, God Himself processed all criminal cases. But now the authority is given to man for the first time with this authority we have government.***

**There are three areas where killing is lawful and justified: 1. Warfare 2. Self Defense 3. Capital Punishment**

**Some claim that the 6th Commandment say’s “Thou shall not kill”, therefore, any kind of killing is wrong.**

***Exodus 20:13 "You shall not murder.***

**RATSACH,** רָצַח **- murder**

**Only the KJV translated this Hebrew word “kill” instead of “murder” like all the more modern versions do.**

***Exodus 21:12-14 "He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death.***

***13) "But if he did not lie in wait for him, but God let him fall into his hand, then I will appoint you a place to which he may flee.***

***14) "If, however, a man acts presumptuously (KJV – with premeditation) toward his neighbor, so as to kill him craftily, you are to take him even from My altar, that he may die.***

***Leviticus 24:17 And if a man takes the life of any human being, he shall surely be put to death.***

***Numbers 35:30 'If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death at the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness.***

***31) 'Moreover, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he shall surely be put to death.***

**Read: *Deut. 19:15-21***

***Deut. 19:21 “life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth…* is called Lex Talionis which was the law of justice found in the Mosaic Law.**

**Cities of Refuge – *Deut. 19:1-13***

***Romans 13:4 for it* (gov.) *is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword* (capital punishment) *for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.***

**God has never given man the right to seek revenge:**

***Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written (Deut. 32:35), "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.***

***Hebrews 10:30-31 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31) It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

***“ The American public has consistently backed capital punishment. In a Gallup Poll in 1976, 65%, approved of it. But between 1966–76, no executions occurred in the US. The Supreme Court, in a 5-to-4 decision, abolished capital punishment in June 1972. Death row now has about 450 inmates.***

***However, since the Supreme Court’s decision over 32 of the 50 states have voted to restore the death penalty. On May 25, 1979, John A. Spenkelink, a 30-year-old drifter, who committed murder, was put to death in the electric chair in Florida. The US Supreme Court refused to delay his death. He was the first person to be executed in the US since Gary Gilmore in 1977. Gilmore had actively demanded to die and was executed in Utah under the firing squad.”*** *Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 226.*

***One of our most bitterly fought laws was the New York State statute, passed on June 4, 1888, that substituted the electric chair for the gallows. Its chief opponents were certain public utilities which believed the use of electricity in executions would have a bad effect on the millions who, in those days, were still afraid of it.***

***So the validity of the law was attacked unsuccessfully in several courts on the grounds that electrocution was “cruel and unusual punishment” and therefore its adoption violated the U. S. Constitution. These attacks stopped two years later when experiments on animals proved that such a death was “immediate and absolutely painless.”***

***Meanwhile, manufacturers refused to sell the necessary materials to the man who was to build the chair, making it necessary for him to have a friend in Brazil buy the equipment and ship it back to the United States.***

***Finally, on August 6, 1890, the apparatus went into service in Auburn prison with the execution of Willie Kemler who, paradoxically, had eagerly looked forward to this day when he would go down in history as the first man in the world to die in the electric chair. ibid***

***A colored man Jim Williams got his freedom after the officials who were supposed to pull the switch of his electric chair would not do it. The story: In 1926, after he had been strapped in the electric chair of the Florida State Penitentiary, Jim Williams waited for 20 minutes. Both the warden and the sheriff tried to get the other to pull the switch. Williams was unstrapped and returned to his cell. For having been subjected to this form of torture, Williams’ sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Eight years later, he was fully pardoned after saving two lives on the prison farm. ibid***

**LESSON 51 (1-21-18)**

***Deut. 17:2-13 – hard cases***

***Deut. 21:18-23 – Teens and criminals executed and hung in a tree.***

***Genesis 9:7* - This is a reiteration of what was said in verse 1 which underscores the importance of repopulating the earth.**

***Genesis 9:8-10 -* The covenant with Noah included living creatures as was first promised in *Gen. 6:18.***

***Genesis 9:11-17 –* God will never destroy the earth again by water. The Noahic covenant was an unconditional covenant that was a manifesta- tion of God’s grace. No matter how evil and corrupt mankind would get, God would not destroy the earth by a flood again.**

**God also made a sign with Abraham when He made a covenant with him.**

***Genesis 17:10-11 "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. 11) "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.***

**The rainbow is a beautiful way that God put His signature to this covenant with man.It is very offensive to many believers that the LGBT high- jacked the beautiful and biblically significant rainbow and made it a symbol of their perversion.**

***The rainbow arcs like a battle bow hung against the clouds. (The Heb. word for rainbow, qešeṯ, is also the word for a battle bow.) Elsewhere in the Old Testament God referred to judgment storms by using terms for bows and arrows.***

***The bow is now “put away,” hung in place by the clouds, suggesting that the “battle,” the storm, is over. Thus the rainbow speaks of peace. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 40.***

***Ezekiel 1:28 As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.***

***Revelation 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.***

***Genesis 9:18-19 Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. 19) These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.***

**Noah’s sons were already named (*Gen. 5:32, 6:10, 7:13, 9:18, & 9:23*); the point here was to introduce Canaan which is the focus for much of the rest of the chapter.**

**This mention of Canaan sets the stage for the shameful story that is about to be recalled (vv. *20–23*). Ham was the biological father of Canaan and acting as he did (vv. 20-25), revealed himself as the true “father” of Canaan,**

**The Canaanites were the idolatrous enemies of Israel whose land Abraham’s descendants would later take (*Gen. 15:13–16*).**

**LESSON 52 (1-28-18)**

**Vs. 19 – Every person since the flood can trace their lineage back to Noah’s three sons. All the different races can be traced back to them as well.**

**One reason that population of the earth is mentioned frequently both before and after the flood is because Satan would love to wipe out all humanity so that God’s promise of the “Seed of the woman” would not come about which would make God out a liar.**

***Genesis 10:32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.***

**Genesis chapter 10 gives the genealogy of Noah’s three sons whose off springs eventually developed into nations that were scattered over the earth. Nationalism is biblical, international- ism is not! The Canaanites were Israel’s historical arch enemy.**

***Genesis 9:20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.***

***21) Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.***

***22) And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.***

***23) But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.***

***24) So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.***

**Vs. 20-21 It would appear that grapes did not ferment until after the flood so that may be why Noah got drunk. He probably got warm when he got inebriated so he took off his clothes. The Bible says nothing about drunkenness before the flood .**

**Vs. 22 There are several opinions of what actually occurred in this verse.**

**a. *The rabbis said Ham castrated Noah, thus explaining why Noah had no other sons. Others claim that Ham slept with his mother, thus uncovering his father’s nakedness, and that Canaan was the offspring of that union.***

**Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 41.**

***Leviticus 18:6-8 None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD. 7) 'The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. 8) 'The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness.***

**b. Some say that Ham uncovered his father’s nakedness by simply looking at him and the curse was put on his descendants through Canaan his son.**

**c. *There is no reasonable support for the notion that some perverse activity, in addition to seeing nakedness, occurred. But clearly, the implication is that Ham looked with some sinful thought, if only for a while until he left to inform his brothers. Perhaps he was glad to see his father’s dignity and authority reduced to such weakness. He thought his brothers might share his feelings so he eagerly told them. They did not, however, share his attitude (v. 23).* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 29.**

**d. Some say that Ham was involved in a homosexual attack on his father but it was actually Canaan, Ham’s son, who committed the homosexual act.**

**Both Gen. 9:18 & 22, specifically points out that Canaan was the son of Ham.**

***Apparently Ham, the youngest of the three sons of Noah, wanted to be sure that he became the heir rather than the oldest son. Consequently, apparently he set up a plot. He was involved in this apparently to the extent that he was under the curse. He attempted to discredit his father, or at least to blackmail his father. “And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father.” This simply means that he observed the homosexual act between Canaan, his son, and Noah, his father.***

**e. (*Ham, the father of) words probably inserted by the compiler. If so, in the original narrative there stood in this verse simply the name of “Canaan,” “and Canaan saw the nakedness.” Otherwise the curse pronounced upon Canaan, instead of upon Ham, in v. 25, is unintelligible.***

***According to this view, the old tradition, from which these verses are derived, regarded “Canaan,” and not “Ham,” as the brother of Shem and Japheth.***

**Herbert E. Ryle, The Book of Genesis in the Revised Version with Introduction and Notes, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), 127.**

**f. *Canaan saw* *Noah’s condition first and then***

***told his father Ham which would personally***

***involved him in the wrong doing.*** *New American Standard*

*Version Notes*

**Vs. 25-27 *All the verbal forms should be rendered as prayers of invocation. Noah’s words held no magical powers that destined the fates of future generations. His appeal was to God, whose will alone counted for what would become of the nations.* K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 422.**

***The telling of Noah’s drunkenness, which results in the patriarch’s invocation for curse and blessing, recalls the language of the world before the flood, especially Adam’s story, but also Cain’s rivalry with brother Abel. We have seen in the flood story that the creation (1:1–2:3) and garden accounts (2:4–4:26) are re-presented, especially 9:1–7, so as to picture Noah as the second Adam, the father of the postdiluvian world. In this concluding episode, the parallels are also unmistakable:***

***1. Noah and Adam share in the same***

***Profession:***

***Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man* [Adam] *and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.***

***Genesis 9:20 Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard.***

***2. The language of a “curse” was used:***

***Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you;***

***Genesis 9:25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants He shall be to his brothers."***

***3. The language of a “blessing” was used:***

***Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them;* (Adam and Eve) *and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,***

***Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.***

***4. Both experienced an issue of “nakedness”***

***Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.***

***Genesis 9:22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.***

***5. The transgression of both resulted in strife in***

***their family:***

***Genesis 4:8 And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.***

***Genesis 9:25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers."***

***There are many* [similar] *allusions in both accounts:***

***a. The tree of knowledge “in the middle of [bĕtôk] the garden” (2:9; 3:3, 8) and Noah “inside [bĕtôk] the tent” (9:21)***

***b. the woman “saw” (rāʾâ, 3:6), and Ham “saw” (rāʾâ, 9:22), though the brothers did not “see” (rāʾâ, 9:23)***

***c. Adam and Eve “knew [yādaʿ] they were naked” (3:7), and Noah “knew [yādaʿ] what his youngest son had done to” him (9:24)***

***d. God asked, “Who told [nāgad] you that you were naked?” (3:11), and Ham “told” (nāgad) his brothers.***

***Indeed, Noah is the second Adam both as recipient of divine blessing and as father of a corrupt seed. K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 414–415.***

***Genesis 9:25 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a******servant of servants He shall be to his brothers."***

**The Canaanites were the people with whom Israel had to do battle shortly after they first heard Moses read this passage. Here, God gave Israel the theological basis for the conquest of Canaan. The descendants of Ham had received a sentence of judgment from Noah.**

**It didn’t take long before the Canaanites were enslaved by eastern Kings (*Gen. 14*).**

**The Gibeonites later under Joshua became wood choppers and water carriers for Israel’s tabernacle (*Josh. 9:27*).**

**It may appear that the Canaanites were doomed by a curse and could do nothing about it.**

**However, this was not a curse by God but by an alcohol abusing Noah! The curse and blessing are best taken as an invocation rather than a prophecy.**

***Noah’s words held no magical powers that destined the fates of future generations. His appeal was to God, whose will alone counted for what would become of the nations.* K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 422.**

**The generations of the Canaanites would not become slaves because of what Ham did or because God put a curse on them, but because they chose to live horrible, depraved lives characterized by wickedness.**

***They practiced ritual prostitution, homosex- uality, and various orgiastic rites, and were the center of God’s prophecy of judgment in Genesis 15:16, to be carried out by Israel after their sojourn in Egypt.* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 9:25.**

**The idea that God put a curse on Ham who was supposedly black; therefore, the black race is doomed to be an inferior conquered people is false:**

**1. Noah, not God, cursed Canaan, not Ham.**

**2. *The Canaanites were white. In no way is this to be interpreted as a curse on the black race. The Canaanites inhabited Palestine and were first subjugated by Joshua and later by Solomon (1 Kin. 9:20, 21).* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 9:25.**

***Canaan was the father of those who inhabited Palestine and the Egyptian wall art shows they were not black.* J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 49.**

**3. *The first two great civilizations were Hamitic—both the Babylonian and Egyptian civilizations were Hamitic..* ibid**

**4. Canaanites have pretty much disappeared and some say that line has ended.**

***The Canaanites were partly exterminated by the Israelites, and their western colonies (such as Carthage) were finally conquered by the Japhetic Romans. King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 9:25.***

***Galatians 3:26 & 28 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

***Colossians 3:9-11 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him 11) -- a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.***

**LESSON 53 (2-4-18)**

***Genesis 9:26 He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant.***

**Shem is given precedence over his brothers because Abram, from whom Jesus Christ the Messiah would come, was a descended from Shem (11:10–30). So Shem’s blessing is ultimately a blessing on Israel.**

**Just as Noah blessed (and cursed) his sons before his death, so Jacob was later to bless his sons before his death (ch. 49).** Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 9:26–27.

***Genesis 9:27 "May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant."***

**Japheth is from the verb meaning “to enlarge”.**

***dwell in the tents of Shem –* This means that the Japhethites would not only be on good terms with the Shemites but that spiritual blessings would come to the through the God of Shem.**

**Verses 26, 27, and 28 make the point that Canaan will be the servant of his other two brothers. This pattern of sibling servanthood is carried out also by the blessing of Isaac on Jacob (27:29–30, 39–40) and in Joseph obtaining great power in Egypt over his brothers (37:6–9). When Joseph had a dream of his ascent to power over his brothers, he told them about it and they tried to kill him.**

***Genesis 9:28-29 And Noah lived three hundred and fifty years after the flood. 29) So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years, and he died.***

***Noah’s death was the end of an era. Only he and his family spanned two worlds, that of the earth before and after the Flood. His long life (950 years) gave him opportunity to transmit to his many descendants the dramatic story that he had lived out with his family. Peoples in places and cultures the world over have memories and stories of a great Flood in antiquity. The details differ, but the stories remain.*** Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 9:29.

***GENESIS 10***

***The index or guide to the prophecy of nations. In this index or guide we have some identification of the peoples involved so that generally speaking there would be some way of determining which are the descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth. Starting with verse 1 we now have a breakdown of the various peoples involved so that it will be a little easier in order to work out and see how the prophecy is fulfilled.***

**The names of Noah’s sons only occur in Genesis and in the parallel genealogical list in *1 Chron. Chapter 1***

**Seventy descendants of Noah’s sons are listed, including 14 from Japheth, 30 from Ham, and 26 from Shem.**

**The sons of Japheth are given first.**

***Genesis 10:5 From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, every one according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.***

**This is the first time that the word “nations” is used in the Bible. Also, this verse says that nations were separated into lands by language and families.**

**There was no linguistic division at first, the only division on the earth before Babel was geo- graphyical.**

***Genesis 11:1* *Now the whole earth used the same language and the same words*.**

*Genesis 10:5* actually takes place after *11:1-9.* This is typical of Hebrew writing. First of all they give an outline and then go back and fill in details not previously given.

***Language is mentioned in 10:5, 20, 31. The description of the nations in chapter 10 chronologically follows the tower of Babylon incident in 11:1–9. However, the narrative reverses the order for rhetorical effect, concluding the pre-Abrahamic history with an illustration of the incorrigibility of human sin.***

***Ted Cabal et al., The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 20.***

**Genesis often goes outside the chronological order to arrange the material thematically.**

***The principle of nationalism is stated several times—10:5, “families in their nations.” Then 10:32—“in their nations.” God’s order for the postdiluvian civilization is nationalism, and without nationalism the human race cannot survive. All forms of internationalism are anti-God and anti-Christian.* R.B. Thieme Jr. Genesis notes**

***Acts 17:26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,***

**The boundaries of their habitation refers to national borders, which God ordained.**

***Deuteronomy 32:7-8 Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you. 8) "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel.***

***Genesis 10:8-10 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth. 9) He was a mighty hunter* [of men] *before* [against] *the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD." 10) And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.***

***Nimrod, an ancient Mesopotamian king and conqueror mentioned in Gen. 10:8-12 (cf. 1 Chron. 1:10) and Mic. 5:6 (cf. Heb. 5:5). In the latter passage, the ‘land of Nimrod’ is a poetic term for Assyria. Paul J. Achtemeier, Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, Harper’s Bible Dictionary (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 706.***

***This was the first attempt at world dictatorship and it is an attempt to break the prophecy, to prove God a liar. Nimrod means in the Hebrew, “We will revolt.” And this is a revolt against God. Under the dispensation of the Gentiles nationalism is established, God has ordained it, and Nimrod tries to break down this and to swallow up national entities and have one great empire ruled by Nimrod. He is the author, then, of one of the first political international conspiracies, and this one is against God as all of them are.* R.B. Thieme Jr. Genesis notes**

***Verse 15* gives the genealogy of Canaan. The Canaanites occupied the “land of Canaan” also known as the “Promised Land”.**

***Why did God cause the Canaanites to be destroyed? Because they went in for a system of international religion, and international religion goes hand in hand with degeneracy.***

**Read: *Lev. 18:1-3, 20-30***

**LESSON 53a (2-11-18) (short insertion)**

***Philippians 1:14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.***

**The Philippian believers were embolden to speak out about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God because of Paul’s unhesitating courage to give the gospel while imprisoned in Rome.**

**The boldness to speak the word without fear does not mean speaking boldly to one another, that doesn’t require courage, it refers to family, friends, and strangers who may be indifferent or negative toward God’s Word.**

Read: ***Acts 4:1-29***

***Acts 4:29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak (inf. pa, keep on speaking) Your word,***

**We all need to pray this same prayer, to remove fear, dread, and embarrassment so that we will look for opportunities to speak the Word with boldness. When you look for opportunities, you’ll find them.**

**If you’re not use to engaging folks about the gospel or biblical issues, you may think that you have failed or made a mess of an encounter. Don’t beat yourself up, the only way to fail is by playing it safe and not even trying. Maybe you have learned what not to do which means you will do better next time.**

**(Quick witness - CBC card - Website – Red Button)**

**All believers are responsible to give the gospel (*2 Cor. 5:18-19, 1 Peter 3:15).* For those who rather not engage others with the gospel or spiritual matters, the prayer above (*Acts 4:29*) is for you, in fact, it’s for all of us.**

***Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak* (v. imp. act. ind.) *the word of God with boldness.***

**Remember, be bold, but don’t preach! Ask questions!**

There are believers who are suffering for speaking out and standing for Christ, even in the military:

* We Modder, a 19 year decorated Navy Chaplain was relieved of his duty for quoting the Bible during a private counseling to a homosexual sailor.
* Marine Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling is a Christian who was recently court-martialed and discharged for refusing to remove a Bible verse from her desk.
* Oscar Rodriguez, Jr. is a decorated Air Force veteran who was forcefully dragged out of a retirement ceremony for mentioning the word God.
* Chaplain Gordan Kingenschmidt was discharg- ed for praying in “Jesus’ name”. Congress intervened but he lost his 16 year career, his pension, his home, and the honor of serving his country.

No believer is allowed to sit comfortably on the side-

lines watching other believers exert the effort and take the risks necessary to fulfil their duty in serving the Lord. 20 / 80 Rule = 20% do their job, 80% don’t.

*Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

***Romans 12:10-13 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11) not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12) rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13) contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.***

***Hebrews 6:10-12 For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. 11) And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12) that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.***

**We need a “Senior Coordinator”**

**LESSON 54 (2-18-18)**

Back to Major Bible Events: (rainbows)

***Lev. 19:23 – 20:5*  These deal with tattoos, skin cutting, Mohawk haircuts, mediums, just weights.**

**The ethnology of Shemis given in*verses 21-32*,. Shem is the father of the Jewish race and all of the Arabic peoples. He had five sons.**

**The NASV of verse 21 is difficult to read and is misleading:**

**NASV *Genesis 10:21 And also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, and the older brother of Japheth, children were born.***

**NKJV *Genesis 10:21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.***

**What we find in both versions is the importance of the Eber.**

***Eber is the name that gives rise to the term Hebrew, which is first used of Abraham in Gen. 14:13. Such a name is patronymic (a father name). Eber is mentioned at the head of the list because of his importance to the Hebrew people. He is directly the son of Salah (v. 24). His placement at the head of the list is from the vantage point of the Hebrew people. Abraham is* *the father of the Hebrew nation specifically (12:1–3); but Abraham descends from Eber, and Eber from Shem.* Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 10:21–24.**

***Genesis 10:25 And two sons* [of Shem] *were born to Eber; the name of the one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.***

**Peleg were significant. Peleg’s name in the Hebrew meant divided. The fact that his name is connected with the time that the earth was divided (by languages) indicates that it was during his lifetime the changing of the languages occurred at Babel. Now concerning Eber:**

***GENESIS 11***

**THE DISPERSION AT BABEL (11:1–9)**

***There is nothing inherently wrong with build- ing a tower. In fact, it must have seemed like a great idea. After all, Babel was surely a feat of architectural beauty. And it was bringing people together in a common cause. So what could have been so wrong? Kurt Strassner, Opening up Genesis, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 52–53.***

**So what was the problem? They did what man continues to do, they ignored God’s clear instructions in favor of their own “wisdom”.**

**In the first nine verses we have a very important section that gives the details of the first attempt at internationalism. Nationalism is God’s plan for people on earth, internationalism is Satan’s plan.**

**Internationalism and a one-world government goes hand in hand.**

**And whatever a one-world system teaches and propagates as its doctrines and as its objectives, these are the objectives of Satan and it is the attempt of Satan to rule the world.**

***This passage explains how the nations came to be scattered across the face of the ancient world. It is a message of judgment: what they prided themselves in became their downfall, and what they feared the most came on them (cf. Prov. 10:24a).*** Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 44.

*Proverbs 10:24 What the wicked fears will come upon him, and the desire of the righteous will be granted.*

*Everything that mankind proposed in the first half (Gen. 11:3–4) was disposed of in the second (vv. 5–9), almost an undoing or reversal of their activity, even to the extent of parallel expressions. The narrative hinges on the central fact, “the LORD came down” (v. 5). Ibid*

*God gave the command to scatter throughout the earth and form many nations. In Genesis 11:1 and following we have the disobedience to the divine command and Satan who is the ruler of the world attempting to destroy the divine order. R.B. Thieme Jr. Genesis Notes*

**Some believe that the tower of Babel wasn’t a ziggurat with stairs to the top which was used to worship false gods because they were not worshiping a god but themselves. However some scholars believe it was a ziggurat.**

**The tower of Babel would have actually been what is called a ziggurat—a stair-stepped, pyramid-shaped edifice. Literally, it was a stairway to heaven; an attempt to gain, by human effort, what only God can give. They thought that, if they could just provide themselves with enough fame and fortune, there would be heaven on earth.** Kurt Strassner, Opening up Genesis, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 54.

**Why is having one national language important?**

***Native language is the means of identification in this world. This is give your a medium to preserve your own rich cultural heritage, traditional values and all the valuable knowledge for generation yet to born.* Satish Chandra Verma, Universität des Saarlandes**

***National or official languages are mentioned in over 150 world constitutions. the need and importance of a national language cannot be denied. Every nation needs some marks of identity. Language is the prime mark of identification for any nation.***

***The national language creates a feeling of unity and national cohesion. People living in different provinces realize that in spite of speaking different languages, they are joined together by one national language, which is the heritage of all.***

***How many languages are spoken in the US? Almost four hundred—381 at the time of writing.***

* ***A spokeswoman for the U.S. English Foundation. "It is a diverse society from a language perspective and we have to make sure that everyone can speak English, rather than separate people along linguistic lines."***
* ***California, the most linguistically diverse state in the nation. At least 220 languages are spoken in California, and 44% of residents speak a language other than English at home. Seven million Californ- ians say they cannot speak English well.***
* ***On top of that, California's court system is considered the largest in the nation, surpassing in size the entire labyrinth of federal courts.***
* ***Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, on the state's effort to expand courtroom translation program, “Just finding enough trained interpreters has proved daunting. The state's courts handle as many as eight million cases a year.”***

**LESSON 55 (2-25-18)**

***Henry Morris writes, “This faculty of human speech and language is truly of the most amazing attributes of mankind. The evolutionist is utterly unable to explain the unbridgeable gulf between the chatterings of animals and human language. The unique and fundamental essence of speech in the very nature of man is underscored in the revelation of God to man through His Word. Christ Himself is the living Word! ‘God has spoken to us by His Son’ (Heb. 1:2). It is not too much to say that this was the very reason man was created able to speak and to hear; that that is, in order that there might first be communication between God and man and, secondarily, between man and man. But when men began to prostitute this divine gift in order to cooperate in rebellion against their Maker, in a most appropriate judgment God confused their tongues and thereby forced them to separate from each other” (The Genesis Record, page 267).***

***Genesis 11:1 – “the whole earth”* this is a figure of speech meaning, all the people on the earth. They all spoke the same language.**

***Ver. 2 - “Shinar” was in a plain or valley, located in ancient Babylonia (southern Mesopotamia).***

***Ver. 3 -* Bricks were used, as in Egypt and Assyria, they were only sun-dried. The Babylonian construc- tion was stronger and more enduring, so the writer called special attention to it. Furnace-treated bricks were used instead of stone, and bitumen instead of mortar.**

***Ver. 4 –* Man is still trying to reach heaven by his own works and is still intent on magnifying himself. These people were arrogant, haughty, and defiant. They were done with God, they did not want to have anything to do with Him. They certainly didn’t believe they needed him for anything. Nothing has changed, it’s still the same today.**

**This is a classic example of man trying to work his way to heaven by his own effort in contrast to simply accepting God’s work on the cross and thereby receiving the free gift of eternal life offered to all by the grace of God.**

**The problem connected with the gospel rejecters at Babel was arrogance and it is the same today with gospel rejecters.**

**The phrase, “*city that will reach to the heavens*” is also used of the Canaanite cites in (*Deut. 1:28, 9:1*)**

**This remark could also demonstrated that they did not trust God’s promise to never destroy the earth again by water so this tower would be high enough to survive the next worldwide flood whenever it came.**

***let us build for ourselves –* Everything was to be done by themselves, specifically apart from God’s help, and it was done for themselves, for their fame and their glory.**

***The tower was to be visible to the whole world, and make its builders famous for ever. The tower and the city would be a conspicuous place for purposes of concentration and defense. Herbert E. Ryle, The Book of Genesis in the Revised Version with Introduction and Notes, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), 147.***

***Ver. 5* – God did not have to literally come down out of heaven to see what was happening on the earth, as if He couldn’t see it from heaven. He is omnipresent, this expression is used to reveal that He was going to intervene in mankind’s affairs at this point.**

***Ver. 6* – This is a very sad verse, such a lost opportun ity. The people could have done great and wonderful things being united with one language, but they decided to be unite against God in rebellion.**

**The Lord was disgusted with the people for not using the grace gifts He gave them for good, so in exasperation and rebuke, He said …** ***And this is what they began to do…***

**It appears that they learned nothing from the flood and felt very comfortable disobeying God with in- your-face defiance.**

***Ver. 7* - You may notice the Qual. Imperfect, plural *“let Us go”* points to the validity of the Trinity. We have already seen the plural use for God in *Gen. 1:26***

***Let us make man In Our image according to Our likeness.* (Also see *Gen. 3:22)***

**There were many things God could have done to stop their rebellion but this was the perfect solution.**

***There are a great many who say that languages developed gradually. But God said He confounded their language so that right then, while they were building, they suddenly couldn’t understand each other. The building project came to a sudden halt, and folk moved away from Babel—they went in every direction.***

***This is a tremendous thing that took place, they simply could not understand each other any longer. It is a miracle, a miracle of speaking and a miracle of hearing. They spoke different languages, and those who heard could not understand them*. J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 (Thomas Nelson, 1997), 54.**

**God demonstrated on the day of Pentecost that He can reverse what He did at Babel whenever He wants to.**

**The “Let Us” of divine activity thwarts the “let us” of human rebellion (compare Gen. 11: 3 & 4 with 7).**

***Ver. 8* - This verse has a very profound but simple principle: Don’t fight with God, you will never win!**

***Ver. 9 – There is a pun in the name Babel that no Hebrew reader would miss. The verb for confuse (babal) sounds similar to the name of the city. The principal city of ancient paganism (Babylon) is merely a site of confusion because there the LORD confused the language. Babel (and Babylon) serves as a name and symbol in the Bible for activities directed against God by the nations of the earth (see Rev. 17). Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 11:9.***

***It is interesting to note that archaeology has unearthed literary documents from the Sumerian culture in Mesopotamia which assert that at this time all people spoke in one tongue (i.e. Samuel Noah Kramer in his article “The Babel of Tongues: A Sumerian Version” in Journal of the American Oriental Society, 88:108–111). The popular Hebrew etymology is “confusion” (i.e. balal, BDB 93), which seems to describe God’s confusing their one language. Babel literally means “the gate of God” (Akkadian bab-ilani), which is very similar to some of the names of Ziggurats, which were large structures with a temple on top to worship the astral deities. Babylon becomes a symbol of a fallen world power, exemplified in Nimrod, later in Nebuchadnezzar, and finally in the sea beast of the book of Revelation. Robert James Utley, How It All Began: Genesis 1–11, vol. Vol. 1A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 127.***

***Ver. 10 - 26 The genealogical record of Shem is presented a second time (10:21–31; 11:10–26; also 1 Chr 1:17–27), though in a different form, to show that the orderly creation of God, reaching back to Adam/Seth (chap. 5), continues despite the sin at Shinar (11:1–9). The scaffolding of human pride would be dismantled by the erection of the Shemite line that culminates in obedient Abraham, who likewise is found in the region of Shinar. Abraham would prove to be the nations’ deliverance. K. A. Mathews, Genesis 1-11:26, vol. 1A, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1996), 487.***

**LESSON 56 (3-4-18) – Communion, the Importance of Remembering Jesus:**

***Luke 22:19 & 1 Cor. 11:24*** “***Do this in remembrance of Me***.” We need to remember our Lord in this special way now more than ever. Partaking of these elements brings us back to what is really important in life. It calms our soul and gives us a sense of security. It gives us a chance to slow down and rather than being overwhelmed by the trials and tribulations of this fallen world, we are over- whelmed with love and gratitude for our magnificent Savior.

But we have never met or seen our Lord so how do we remember Him? Answer: Through studying His Word.

Remembering our Lord helps us to put things in the proper perspective.

***Romans 8:31-32 If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?***

***Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2) Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3) Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah***

***Psalm 56:11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?***

***Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD gives grace and glory; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.***

Everyone needs to know these things, so what happens to a person or a nation that has rejected the Lord or has ignored Him?

**Sons of Guns: Violence Grows in the Void of Faith and Family** (from Family Research Council) February 22, 2018 By Tony Perkins

*Torn apart by grief and rage, Americans are frantic to know why our nation is unraveling in one act of violence after another. "We're done with thoughts and prayers!" an angry man shouted at a Colorado townhall, when Rep. Mike Coffman (R) asked for a moment of silence for Parkland. But isn't that the problem? Too many schools and colleges are done with prayer. They've been so busy kicking God out (and his standards) that they haven't noticed what's coming in. Every moral vacuum is filled with something.*

*And maybe it's time we stepped back as a nation and take a long hard look at what those things are and how they're impacting our culture. Violence, relativism, promiscuity, and suicide didn't get their start when God was expelled from school. But they've certainly been given a culture in which to thrive now that we've removed the Judeo-Christian foundation that anchored the country.*

Without Christ, how do people handle drug addiction, loneliness, pornography, anger, the total lack of respect and cordiality of most people today, families and even our country spit apart, personal and national debt, the relativism of post-modernism, sickness, suffering, the fear of nuclear warfare?

So many people think that nobody loves them or cares about them. They feel like they have no reason to keep living. That is a lie! God loves them and sent His Son to die on a cross for them.

Some say that monsters like Nikolas Cruz will burn in hell for what they’ve done. That’s a lie! No one burns in hell for the sins they’ve committed because Christ paid for their sins. Everyone needs to know that, especially boys and veterans with PTSD.

The most important thing we can do for them is to pray for them and tell them how wonderful our Lord is and what they are missing by ignoring Him, or even worse, rejecting Him.

The Elements

The Bread and the Cup the Person and work of our Lord:

The Bread – The perfect humanity of Christ

***John 6:47-51 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48) "I am the bread of life. 49) "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50) "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51) "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread [believes the gospel], he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."***

The Cup – the atoning sacrifice of Christ on the cross

***1 Corinthians 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's [spiritual] death [which once and for all, paid for everyone’s sins Heb. 10:10 & 12] until He comes.***

It wasn’t our Lord’s physical suffering or death that paid for our sins.

(KJV) ***Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our trans- gressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes (stripe – sp. death) we are healed (saved).***

(NIV) ***Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.***

(NASV) ***Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgress- sions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.***

We are not saved by Christ’s physical sufferings or by His physical death. He was still physically alive when He said, “***It is finished***” in *John 19:30*.

The Heb. word for stripes/scourging is “*chabburah*”. It is normally translated as stripes and wounds. These words in the singular refer to our Lord’s spiritual death on the cross.

***Genesis 2:17 …but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."****(*the Heb. word “moot” is given twice – dying (sp.) you will die (phy.)

Adam died spiritually when he ate of the forbidden fruit; he died physically over 900 years later.

***Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death*** (deaths, He was buried in a rich man’s tomb) , ***though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.***

**LESSON 57 (3-11-18)**

*Abraham is tenth from Shem and twentieth from Adam. Abraham is also in the seventh position from “Eber,” the celebrated ancestor of the Hebrews. Eber himself is fourteenth (7 × 2), counting from Adam. Ibid 488*

*The history of Abraham starts with Gen. 11:27. Now that the nations were established and people were scattered throughout the known world, God decided to use one nation (Israel) that would begin with one man (Abram), to reach all the nations with the gospel and the knowledge of the one true God.*

*The story of the nation of Israel begins with one man, Abram (later called Abraham), who lived 2,000 years before Jesus Christ. Answering a call of God, he emerged from an obscure past in Mesopotamia and travelled to Canaan. But he brought more than just his suitcase. With him were flocks, herds, servants, animal-minders, his family, and the tents they all camped in. Simon Jenkins, Nelson’s 3-D Bible Mapbook (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995).*

***Ver. 27* -** Terah (tairʹuh), a descendant of Shem, the son of Nahor, the father of Abraham, Haran, and Nahor. The name has alternatively been associated with Akkadian turahu (‘ibex’) and Aramaic yerakh (‘moon’), but a final determination is not at hand. All three of Terah’s sons were born when he was seventy (Gen. 11:26). Paul J. Achtemeier, Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, Harper’s Bible Dictionary (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985),

Terah moved from the North (today’s Syria) to the pains of Ur-of-the-Chaldees. We know from *Joshua 24* that he was a pagan who was polytheistic.

*Joshua 24:2 And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.*

Abram – exalted father

Abraham – father of many people

*Ver. 30* Sarai – means contentious,

Sarai was the daughter of Terah by a different mother than Abraham’s (*Gen. 20:12*), therefore; she was the half-sister of Abraham.

Nahor married his niece, Milcah, daughter of Haran. Such incestuous relationships were later forbidden in the Mosaic Law.

Sarah – princess, contend, have power, to persevere

Her infertility also tests the faith of both Abraham and Sarah and her beauty also tested the faith of Abraham when they interacted with Pharaoh and Abimelech.

*Ver. 31* Several scholars believe that Terah originally lived in Haran, if so, then the family had migrated southeast approximately 600 miles to Ur, but this verse does not refer to that journey.

God’s original call to Abram (12:1) came while he was living in Ur, and the family then moved back to Haran and settled there (11:31). No doubt, Terah was a hindrance to Abram, he should have been left behind as God command- ed. He probably talked Abram into staying in Haran instead of pressing on to the Promised Land. God had to take Terah’s life (v. 32) before Abram moved on to Canaan.

We know that God called Abram, not Terah, to leave Ur but this verse says that it was Terah who left Ur and took his family to Haran.

It could be that Terah went along with Abram when he saw Abram’s intention to leave and then tried to take over. He refused to move on to Canaan when they reached Haran, which was the center of moon worship. By then it appears that he was running the show and Abram was submitting to his biological father rather than to his heavenly father.

It never works out well when family loyalty gets in the way of loyalty to God. Family connection can be hard to break, but there are times when one must separate.

It is important to note the contrast between what God is doing with Abram and what God was allowing to happen in the rest of the world. Through Abram, Gold called out a people for His name which brings into focus the biblical purpose of separation.

God required the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Jews, to be separate from all other people. That doesn’t mean that Jews were saved simply because they were Jews, but God was using them as a missionary organization to the world. This demonstrates God’s love and grace, not only towards the Jews, but also towards the Gentiles who were in rebellion against Him.

***2 Corinthians 6:17 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord.***

Whatever the case, Terah, for his own reasons, decided to move away from Ur to Haran. But we know that Abram left Ur because God, not Terah, brought him out.

Abram was a believer and He did not leave Ur because he was just blindly following his daddy, he left because he trusted and obeyed God.

***Genesis 15:7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."***

*Ur was one of the most significant and prosperous cities of its time located some two hundred miles southeast of Baghdad. It is significant in Scripture as the city from which Abraham departed on his pilgrimage to the Promised Land (v. 31). Archaeological excavations were begun there as early as 1854, but the most significant work was done by Sir Charles L. Woolley (1922–34). Discoveries included a golden helmet, golden daggers and drinking cups, a royal cemetery where kings were buried with an entire retinue of servants, numerous clay tablets, cylinder seals, statues, musical instruments, the elaborate headdress and jewelry of Queen Shubad, and a 70-foot–high ziggurat (a brick, pyramid tower rising in step-like stages). This Sumerian city had one of the most advanced cultures in all the ancient world. King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997).*

**Sunday March 18th -** Report on Chafer Conference focusing on Islam and Muslims

**Sunday March 25th** – Palm Sunday

**Sunday April 1st** – Resurrection (Easter) Sunday

**LESSON 58 (4-8-18)**

* A new plan. Just about everyone had rebelled against God and Satan was successful in establish- ing false gods and idolatry to counter God’s plan. So God starts with one man, Abram. He would build a nation from him to reach the rebellious multitudes.
* Here again, God intervenes in the affairs of men, as He did at the tower of Babel. A new order of events would take place as God called out a distinct people, a special people, to be His ambassadors to all nations. Who are these people? Jews.

The focus of the Bible had been, and continues to be, on God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. Now the focus also includes God’s plan for the Jews.

*There is a major shift taking place in Genesis 12:1 because of what had happened earlier in Genesis 11. We can’t separate Genesis 12:1-3 from the context of the deterioration and decline into cosmic thinking as exemplified in the tower of Babel incident.*

*Because the entire human race had degenerated in these ten generations since the flood, God is now going to intervene in history in a different way from the way He did at the flood. Dr. Robert Dean Jr. Notes*

Through Abram/Abraham, God started a new race, the Jews, who are known as His chosen people (*Isa. 43:20*). In order for Abram to answer the call of God, he was required to do the following things:

* Separate – He had to be removed from idolatry, the pagan culture, and his family because they were a bad influence on him. If we are to be faithful servants to God, we must separate from that which is ungodly.

God eventually had to separate Tera and Lot from

Abram because he was too weak to do it himself.

By leaving Ur, Abram left not only his extended family, but also their national deities. He left a comfort- able, settled life to follow a new God who told him to leave his country, his relatives and his house, every- one he loved and who loved him, to an undisclosed location.

**PP**

* Faith Rest - Walking by faith would increase in time. It isn’t easy to trust God completely for everything.

There were two elements of faith regarding Abraham. One is faith in relation to justification because he became the standard example in the New Testament for justification by faith alone in Christ alone.

Then there is faith in terms of the faith-rest drill as it applies to sanctification —experiential sanctification, in reference to spiritual growth and spiritual advance.

***Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.***

* Obey – Abraham’s obedience was partial at first but it would build as Abram found out that he could completely trust God in everything.

***Acts 7:2-4 And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3) and said to him, 'Depart from your country and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.' 4) "Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, God removed him into this country in which you are now living.***

***GENESIS 12***

So God called Abram out of a pagan world and made amazing promises to him, promises that later became part of the formal Abrahamic Covenant.

Abram’s response to this call was not salvific, not related to salvation. Abraham response is not the basis for being saved. He was already saved and justified. We have the same kind of construction in *Genesis 15:6 —“Abraham had believed* [perfect tense] *God and it was already accounted to him for righteousness*.” This refers back to his salvation at some unknown time prior to this call to get out of his country.

*Abram was middle-aged, prosperous, settled, and thoroughly pagan. The word of the Lord came to Him—though it is not known exactly how—and he responded by faith and obediently left everything to follow God’s plan.* Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 46.

God chose Abram to be the father of the Jewish race, which the Bible calls the Israelites and to initiate the Abrahamic Covenant by which all mankind is blessed. God chose Moses to be the father of the nation of Israel. So the Jews and the nation of Israel became the center- piece of God’s plan in history.

Starting in Genesis 12, a dispensational shift takes place. A dispensation is a distinct and identifiable period of time in the development of God’s plan and purposes for human history. **PP**

When one dispensation ends, another one begins and some things remain the same while some things change. Each dispensation has its own responsibilities and its own tests. **PP**

There is almost always a failure to pass the test because part of what God is demonstrating is that man is incapable of doing anything apart from His provision.

So He provides a gracious solution when man fails the test. Each dispensation is designed to demonstrate God’s wonderful attributes and His grace provision in all kinds of circumstances.

**LESSON 59 (4-15-18)**

**SEPARATION -**  It was imperative for Abram to be separated from the influence of paganism from his father and from his environment. He could never fulfill God’s plan for his life if he didn’t separate. The same is true for us as well.

* We must separate from **human viewpoint thinking**. All the human viewpoint garbage and kooky ideas you accumulated in your soul growing up needs to be excised by the scalpel of the Word of God.

***Romans 12:2 Stop being conformed to this world*** [human viewpoint]***, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*** [through taking in B.D.]…

* We must separate from **reversionistic believers** who behave like immoral unbelievers.

***1 Corinthians 5:9-11 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10) I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11) But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.***

***2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we com****ma****nd you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.***

* We should separate from **believers who are negative** [not to be confused with being apathetic}**, apostate** [renouncing one’s faith]**, or heretical** [departs from orthodox doctrine].

***2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame. 15) And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.***

This does not apply to married couples:

***1 Peter 3:1-2 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives 2) when they see your respectful and pure conduct.***

* We should separate ourselves from any **raunchy parties or compromising situations**.

***1 Peter 4:3-4 For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. 4) And in all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excess of dissipation, and they malign you;***

* We should separate from **certain unbelievers** where their influence can affect our own faith in doctrine.

***2 Corinthians 6:1 & 17 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness***? … ***17) "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.***

***2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame. 15) And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.***

Now a word or two about how Abram left Ur. He didn’t have enough faith to fully obey God. He brought along his family which God commanded him to leave behind.

What did God do about it? Did He smite Abram dead?

No. Did He scold him? No. Did He take back His promises? No. Did He punish him? No. Did He show Abram how disappointed he was? No. Why not?

**Because God deals with us where we are, not where we ought to be!**

God was gracious and patient with him because He knows how weak we are and that it takes time for us to learn to trust Him. Growth comes incrementally, we don’t just jump into full-fledged spiritual obedience. Over the years, Abraham would face various situations and tests; some he would pass, some he wouldn’t, but through them, his faith and obedience would grow stronger. This process took years and years.

We should be gracious and patient with fellow believers too, but sometimes we aren’t. Sometimes we might have unrealistic expectations about friends or family who aren’t as enthusiastic about doctrine as we are.

We may be tempted to deal with them where we think they ought to be rather than where they are. We can easily get impatient and try to put pressure on them or try to make them feel guilty for not going to church or not listening to doctrine at home.

This does much harm. It drives them away! It works about as good as trying to push something with a rope.

They don’t need pressure or a guilt trip. They need prayer, patience, love, understanding, and encourage- ment.

Yes, encouragement is good, nagging is not! Encourag- ing someone when they show interest in doctrine is a way of supporting them and inspiring them and giving them the motivation to continue.

Nagging them does as much harm as encouraging does good. It is a supper downer, a huge de-motivator. They hate your nagging them about doctrine, so they get to where they hate doctrine because they associate it with your nagging.

It’s fine to invite them to go to Bible class or to listen to doctrine with you, but if they decline, don’t try to make them feel guilty or show them that you are disappointed in them. Keep smiling and ask them again sometime.

God has a plan and a timetable to deal with them and we get in the way when we try to get them to respond to our plan and our timetable. We are not to scheme, connive, plot, conspire, or manipulate anyone to do anything. Our job is to love them, give them time and space, and trust the Lord to take care of it.

**LESSON 60 (4-22-18)**

*Genesis’ fifty chapters are concerned with the redemption of God’s covenant people, not creation. Calling one to call all is the focus of the book. Robert James Utley, How It All Began: Genesis 1–11, vol. Vol. 1A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, Texas: Bible Lessons International, 2001), 129.*

*The Age of Israel is divided into several parts. First of all is the* ***Period of the Patriarchs*** *--everything from Abraham to the Exodus* [including Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel]*. Then, the period of the Exodus which starts with the 400 years of captivity in Egypt and forty years of wilderness wandering. Then finally the* ***Period of the Law*** *and* ***The Prophets****, which starts from the time of the wilderness wanderings and goes down to the* ***death****,* ***burial*** *and* ***resurrection of Jesus Christ*** *and the* ***Day of Pentecost****. The third dispensation follows, which is* ***The Church****, and then we have the* ***completion of the Age of Israel****, which is the* ***Tribulation***[followed by the **Second Advent** and the **Millennium**]*. R.B. Theime Jr. notes on Gen. 12* **PP**

**LESSON 61 (4-29-18)** [*https://answersingenesis.org/evolution/*](https://answersingenesis.org/evolution/)

Go to *Genesis 12:1-3* **PP**

***Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;***

*The first four verses in Genesis 12 actually form a unit. In verse 1 Abram is commanded to go, and when we get to verse 4 we see “Abram* ***departed****.” It is the same [Heb.] word as in v. 1. There is the command to depart in verse 1 and then the response in verse 4, -*

*What we see in the first three verses is a summation of the Abrahamic covenant with its three provisions:* ***land****,* ***seed****, and* ***blessing****. Each of these are going to be expanded on over the course of Abraham’s life. This isn’t the covenant itself, it is the original mandate of God to Abram, the covenant itself is laid out in chapter 15, and established in chapter 17.*

Abraham will be given this same command again later in his life (Gen. 22:2) and he completely obeyed where here, he only partially obeyed. He did leave his country, but he took his relatives with him.

In ***Genesis 12:2-3*** God made **eight promises** to Abraham. **1**) Land of Canaan, **2**) I will make you a great nation; **3**) I will bless you; **4**) I will make your name great; **5**) As a result of this you will be a blessing—imperative of result; **6**) I will bless those who bless you; **7**) Him who curses you, I will curse; **8**) In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

What did Abram do in order for God to make all these promises to him? **NOTHING!** God blesses people because He wants to, not because we deserve blessings.

Abraham set the pattern for Israel moving out when God gives the command. Later God would use Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt on God’s command.

They were also commanded to move out again, this time, to cross the Jordan River to take the Promised Land. Also Jonah was commanded to move out and go to Nineveh.

***Genesis 12:2 And I will make you a great nation* [SEED]*, And I will bless you* [BLESSING]*, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;***

***great nation*** means a nation that has prominence in the world, not one that simply has size or magnitude but one that has a significant role in history.

Notice that God’s plan for Israel is centered on a people and a **NATION**. Can you see how internationalism is against God’s will and plan? Internationalism abrogates God’s master plan for the Nation of Israel.

Some believe that God replaced Israel with the Church when they rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Others believe that God permanently turned His back on Israel when He allowed the Nation of Israel to be destroyed in 70 AD. They had no nation for nearly 2,000 years and many, if not most people, thought they would never be a nation again. BUT, God promised that they would be a nation again and God cannot lie. So, on May 14,1948, the Nation of Israel was born. That same nation will still be around to make a treaty with the anti-Christ in the tribulation (Dan. 9:27).

***And I will bless you*** – Here was a childless man who was sexually dead and who had a barren wife, but God reinvigorated their physical bodies in order to bless the entire human race.

Some details of how God blessed Abraham are given in *Gen. 24:35:*

***Genesis 24:35 And the LORD has greatly blessed my master, so that he has become rich; and He has given him flocks and herds, and silver and gold, and servants and maids, and camels and donkeys.***

Abram was mightily blessed by God but that doesn’t mean that life was easy for him, it wasn’t a bed of roses, he faced difficult tests and crisis (battled kings, unhappy wives, sacrifice Isaac). God blessed him, and He blesses us, even during times of adversity.

***And so you shall be a blessing;*** - This is more of a command than a prophecy because ***shall be*** is an imperative mood. A clearer translation would be, “Be a blessing”. He did become a blessing to others because he learned to trust God in all things so his blessings overflowed to others.

He became a blessing by association for all those who had anything to do with him. *Genesis 18:18, 22:18, 26:24,* *28:14*, and *Gal. 3:14* records the impact of blessings by association Abraham had on others.

He eventually was called *a friend of God* *(James 2:23)* which is the only person recorded in the Bible who received such an honor.

**LESSON 62 (5-6-18)**

***Galatians 3:6-9 Even so Abraham believed*** (*pisteuo* v. aai) ***God, and it was reckoned*** (v. api) ***to him as righteousness. 7) Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith*** (*pistis* n. gsf) ***who are sons of Abraham. 8) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith*** (*pistis* n. gsf)***, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the nations shall be blessed in you." 9) So then those who are of faith*** (*pistis* n. gsf) ***are blessed with Abraham, the believer*** (*pistos* adj. dsm)***.***

*Galatians 3:18* teaches that Gentiles and Jews who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior become the “spiritual” posterity of Abraham and heirs accordingto the promise made to Abraham in relation to the nations.

After the Fall of Adam, God revealed His purpose to provide salvation for sinners (Gen. 3:15). Then He revealed this purpose through the promises He made to Abraham which were more specific. This is called progressive revelation.

***3) And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."***

This promise of blessing and cursing is repeated in *Genesis 27:29* (Jacob cons Isaac) and *Numbers 24:9* (Balaam blesses Israel).

Of course, to bless or curse Abraham is to bless or curse Abraham’s God.

The Hebrew verb BARAK (***bless***) is passive, meaning that we receive blessing from God for having a gracious accepting attitude toward the Jews. This, of course, is what is expected of us for all people, but God graciously blesses us for it.

However, anti-Semitism is a sin that God takes very seriously whether it is done nationally or individually.

Even so, anti-Semitism continues across the globe, even in the US.

Headline June 1, 2017 from Huffington Post - *BDS Is Continuing To Spread Hate And Anti-Semitism Across*

(BDS – Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions)

Apri. 24, 2018 from New York Post - *US college Campuses are ‘Hotbed’ of Anti-Semitism*

Quote from the ADL - *1.09 BILLION People in the World Today Harbor Anti-Semitic Attitudes* 26% of the world population.

Anti-Semitism has been around as long as the Jews have existed. That’s because Satan hates Jews because he hates God and God uses Jews, and His promises to them, to bring about His plan for human history.

Israel was continually threatened and attacked by Gentile nations, which by the way, continues today.

We live in the **Times of the Gentiles** which will continue until the 2nd Advent. During this time, there will be only Gentile client nations until the Son of David returns and then the Times of the Gentiles will come to an end.

***Acts 18:1-2 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. 2) And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome.***

**LESSON 63 (5-13-18)**

When the Jews rebelled and disobeyed God, He would

use a Gentile nation or a City State to discipline His beloved Israel, but that nation or empire is cursed in the sense that it never survives.

Think about Assyria (722 BC), Babylon (586 BC), Rome (70 AD), the Ottoman Empire (1299-1924), and Hitler’s Germany (1939-1945). Tomorrow, Israel will celebrate their 70th Anniversary as a nation, Where are all those countries who cursed Israel today? Israel’s national anniversary is a testament to God’s faithfulness and veracity.

It is important to remember that God loved all these people and Jesus Christ died for their sins. He took no joy in having to destroy them.

***Ezekiel 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?***

***Ezekiel 18:32 - For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord God. "Therefore, repent and live."***

**(time of the Gentiles PP)**

***And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."***

Jesus Christ came from the line of Abraham (*Matt. 1:1-17)*, so **all** people are blessed **through** Abraham and **by** Christ. God loves the Gentiles too. This is of course seen in the first mention of our Savior (the Seed of the woman) in *Gen. 3:15*. It is explained further in the following verses:

***1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

***2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***

All families of the earth are blessed through Jesus Christ’s death on the cross which provides salvation for all who believe that His sacrifice makes them right with God.

***Genesis 12:4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.***

What did Abraham do 24 years later when the Lord promised that Sarah would have a son? (*Gen. 17:15*)

What did Sarah do 24 years later when the Lord promised that she would have a son? (*Gen. 18:12*)

What is the point? 24 years passed and they still did not believe the Lord would fulfill His promise to Abraham. But a year later, they found that God is faithful to His word.

Aren’t we a bit like them, as time passes and we don’t see God answering our prayers, don’t we tend to think that He has forgotten about our prayer or that He is unable to fulfill it? This is written so that we will learn to trust Him, no matter how impossible the situation and no matter how long we have to wait, GOD IS FAITHFULL!!!!

Abraham was willing to trust God not knowing where He would live out the rest of his days. We don’t have to know all the details about the what, where, when, and how God is doing with us. All we need to do is Trust and Obey! And when we do, God takes care of all the details.

**LESSON 64 (5-20-18)**

Abram didn’t know where God was leading him when he left Haran. It wasn’t until he was in the land that the Lord identified to Abraham that the land He was giving to his descendants was the land of Canaan.

*The “Abrahamic” covenant that the Lord established with Abraham denoted the Lord’s gracious undertaking for the benefit of Abraham and his descendants.*

*There are two types of covenants: (1)* ***Conditional****: Dependent upon the faithfulness of the recipient for its fulfillment (2)* ***Unconditional****: Dependent upon the faithfulness of God for its fulfillment.*

*The “Abrahamic” covenant was “unconditional” meaning that its fulfillment was totally and completely dependent upon the Lord’s faithfulness.*

*Now we need to clarify an important aspect of an unconditional covenant. An unconditional covenant which binds the one making the covenant to a certain course of action, may have blessings attached to it that are conditioned on the* [initial] *response of the recipient and that response is simply faith or to trust that God will deliver on His promise, which expresses itself in obedience to the commands of God.*

*The blessings that Abraham would receive were conditioned on his obedience to the Lord’s command to leave his country and his father’s house and go to the land, which the Lord would show him, namely, the land of Canaan.*

*The fulfillment of unconditional covenants does not depend on the continued obedience of the recipient but rather the integrity and faithfulness of God who instituted the covenant.*

*The Lord was responsible to fulfill the agreement and Abraham’s part was to take Him at His Word and accept it by means of faith.*

*The Lord’s promise of land to Abraham in Genesis 12:1 is related to the “Palestinian Covenant,” which was “unconditional” meaning it depended upon the Lord’s faithfulness to Israel who promised land to them, which will be literally fulfilled during the millennial reign of Christ.*

This begs the question, how many times have we lost tremendous blessings because of our failure to step out and leave our comfort zone like Abram did? How many great things have we missed because we refused to trust and obey God?

Haran, like Ur, was a center of the moon god cult. So Abram finally left this heathen society.

***Genesis 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan.***

*Fittingly, since Sarai (“my princess”) would be the ancestress of the promised nations and kings, God changed her name to Sarah, taking away the limiting personal pronoun “my,” and calling her “princess” (v. 16).*John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 38.

We know for certain that Abraham departed from Ur first and then subsequently left Haran after his father died.

Stephen gave an account of this verse to the high priest and the counsel in response to what false accusers said about him.

**PP** *Acts 7:2-4 And he said, "Hear me, brethren and fathers! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, 3) and said to him, 'Depart from your country and your relatives, and come into the land that I will show you.' 4) "Then he departed from the land of the Chaldeans, and settled in Haran. And from there, after his father died, God removed him into this country in which you are now living.*

*removed* – METOIKIZO, **μετοικίζω** v. aai; remove to another place of habitation, resettle

God took the life of Terah,Abram’s unbelieving father who had a negative influence on Abram. So what is the point? God has many ways to motivate us to do what He says. It is much better for us if we obey Him to start with.

Stephen is a great example for us to follow: *Acts 6:7 – 7:1*

Stephen was taught this account about Abraham and remembered it because it was important and he was able to cite it to others under pressure to the glory of God.

God has revealed what we are studying this morning so that we can learn it, remember it, and maybe someday, cite it to others under pressure to the glory of God.

***Genesis 12:6-7 And Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.***

***Shechem*** *was a city in Samaria (Gen. 33:18), mentioned in (Acts 7:16). It stood in the narrow sheltered valley between Ebal on the north and Gerizim on the south, these mountains at their base being only some 500 yards apart. Here Abraham pitched his tent and built his first altar in the Promised Land, after God reiterated the land promise He made back in Ur (Gen. 12:1). Easton’s Bible Dictionary (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893).*

***Shechem*** *(Sychar) is mentioned in connection with our Lord’s conversation with* ***the woman at the well*** *in Samaria (John 4:5); and thus, remaining as it does to the present day, it is one of the oldest cities of the world. It is the* ***modern Nablus****, a contraction for Neapolis, the name given to it by Vespasian.Ibid* **PP**

*Joshua gathered all Israel “before God,” at* ***Shechem*** *and delivered to them his second parting address (Josh. 24:1–15). He “made a covenant with the people that day” at the very place where, on first entering the land, they had responded to the law from Ebal and Gerizim (Josh. 24:25), the terms of which were recorded “in the book of the law of God”. Ibid*

***Shechem*** *became one of the* ***cities of refuge****, the central city of refuge for Western Palestine (Josh. 20:7), and here the* ***bones of Joseph were buried*** *(24:32). ibid*

***the oak of Moreh*** – Moreh; Heb., ‘teacher, oracle-giver’; in positive sense, sometimes of God), a place name, suggesting a location for divine instruction—an activity often connected to prominent trees. The terebinth (a large tree resembling an oak) at the sacred site near Shechem where Abram built an altar commemorating God’s appearance to him (Gen. 12:6-7). The oak tree would serve as a lasting marker for future generations to observe. Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, Harper’s Bible Dictionary (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 654.

The mention of the great tree of Moreh (lit., “teacher”) is significant in connection with this. The Canaanites had shrines in groves of oak trees, and Moreh may have been one of their cult centers. Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed.47

***Now the Canaanite was then in the land*** - Moses was writing approximately 700 years after Abram entered the land (ca. 1405 b.c.). The Canaanites, of whom he wrote, were soon to be the opponents of Israel as they entered Canaan.

**LESSON 65 (5-27-18)**

***Hebrews 11:8-16 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised; 12 therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. 13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.***

***7) And the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.***

***To your descendants I will give this land.*** This promise was made several times: *Gen.13:15; 15:18; 17:7, 8; Gal. 3:16.* God gave it to Israel and no one else.

*Though generally erected for the offering of sacrifice, in some instances they appear to have been only* *memorials. Gen. 12:7; Ex. 17:15, 16. Altars were most probably originally made of earth. The law of Moses allowed them to be made of either earth or unhewn stones. Ex. 20:24, 25.* William Smith, Smith’s Bible Dictionary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1986).

The scriptures show that Abraham built an altar to God five times: *Gen. 12:7* - Shechem, *12:8* - Bethel, *13-18 –* Hebron, *22:9* – Mt. Moriah, *26:35* – Beersheba.

Did God command Abram to build an altar? No. Can you think of someone else who built an altar without being commanded to? Noah (Gen. 8:20)

***Verse 8*** – Bethel means House of God in Heb. **PP**

***Verse 10*** – Time of testing.

1. There are two kinds of pressures in life: **ADVERSITY** is

the inevitable. Outside daily pressure of life attacks us

and seeks to penetrate our soul.

2. **STRESS** is what happens inside the soul. God takes

us from the instant of salvation through a series of tests in order to reveal the flaws and failures of our own carnal, sinful nature.

3. So **adversity** is the outside pressure; **stress** is the

pressure inside of the soul caused by reaction to the external pressures of adversity.

4. We have to learn to be dependent upon God and His

provision. We cannot grow from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity without being tested.

5. Believers who have not consistently taken in the Word

of God automatically emote and think human viewpoint when tested. There soul is flooded with MAS.

6. The **adversity** or outside pressure has two categories:

1) Suffering from the law of volitional responsibility or

divine discipline.

a. There is a certain amount of suffering we go

through and we have to ask the question: Is this my own doing (divine discipline) or is this just the result of living in a fallen world?

***Galatians 6:7 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.”***

b. When we suffer for discipline, we can convert it

into suffering for blessing when we confess our sins and start applying the doctrinal solution to the situation.

2) Sometimes when we suffer we may ask the question: Is this my own doing or is this just the result of living in a fallen world?

The second type of suffering is not related to our volition. It’s suffering that is the result of living in a fallen world; suffering that God allows to come into our lives and is classified as S**uffering for Blessing**. Suffering for blessing is designed to accelerate spiritual growth.

a. God brings adversity into our life for us to learn

to trust Him. We must learn to recognize that He is in control and we are completely dependent upon Him.

b. We must recognize that He is more powerful

than our circumstances. He is omnipotent.

c. Our spiritual growth is directly linked to our

ability to trust the Lord.

**LESSON 66 (6-3-18)**

7. **Adversity** is what the outside circumstances of life

do to us; **Stress** is what we do to our-self. Stress is the result of our own decision to trust God for a solution or our-self.

a. **Stress** always occurs when we depend on our-

selves to solve problems rather than the Lord.

b. **Adversity is inevitable, stress is optional**.

We shouldn’t be surprised when adversity intrudes

into our life.

***Job 5:7 For man is born for trouble, as sparks***

***fly upward.***

8. The famine that Abram faced was for testing, not

for discipline.

a. Abram was accustomed to worshiping idols

that often failed so he had a human viewpoint

frame of reference about deities. So what was the solution?

b. Do we find anything in verse 10 about Abram

asking God what he should do?

c. He thought **he** had to come up with a solution.

He thought his problem was too big for God!

e. The test for him and for us is whether we will

seek the Lord and put our trust in Him, or will

we rely on ourselves to solve the problem.

f. Those who rely on the Lord have an RMA.

Those who rely on themselves have a

stressed out soul.

g. Believers who have a Doctrinal Shield in

place can use it to keep stress out of their

souls. **PP**

9. One reason it can be hard for us to rely on God to

deliver us when trouble comes is because it’s so

easy to rely on **self-protective strategies.**

These strategies or methods are used to try to find

peace, stability, harmony, success and happiness

on our own, apart from God. They are human

viewpoint schemes for problem solving.

What do the Scriptures say?

***Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden upon the LORD***

***and He will sustain you; He will never allow the***

***righteous to be shaken.***

***Psalm 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people;***

***pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge***

***for us.***

***Psalm 63:8 My soul clings to You; Your right***

***hand upholds me.***

***Matthew 11:28-29 Come to Me, all who are***

***weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.***

***29) "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,***

***for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU***

***WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.***

***Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in***

***everything by prayer and supplication with***

***thanksgiving let your requests be made known***

***to God. 7) And the peace of God, which surpass-***

***es all comprehension, will guard your hearts and***

***your minds in Christ Jesus.***

The problem is, using self-protective strategies

can easily become a habit. It can become our

go-to solution, our default methodology.

(Rhetorical question) How long has it been since

you turned a problem over to the Lord? Following

is a short list of **self-protective strategies** for

solving problems.

1) Blaming other people

2) Getting angry

3) Getting even

4) Complaining and grumbling about how

unfair and unjust it all is.

5) Seeking pity

6) Proving our innocence

7) Making sure everyone knows about our problem.

**LESSON 67 (6-10-18)**

10. All Abraham had to say was, “Well, there may be a

famine in the land but God promised He was going to make a great nation from me and it isn’t going to happen if I die because of this drought. Therefore I am going to stay here and WAIT on the Lord to find out how He will solve the problem.

***Genesis 12:11-12 It came about when he came near to Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "See now, I know that you are a beautiful woman; 12) and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 13) Please say that you are my sister so that it may go well with me because of you, and that I may live on account of you."***

As you can see, Abram is still plotting and conniving in these verses rather than trusting in the Lord.

He left the land where God told him to go without even consulting Him.

The fact that not only did Abram plan to lie and deceive, he was persuading his wife to lie and deceive as well. That in itself should have enough

for him to realize that his plan was going to be a disaster.

Did it even occur to him that the Lord was not pleas- ed with his cockamamie scheme?

What was he thinking? The problem was, he wasn’t. Panic had taken over the command post of his soul, so he was obsessed with doing whatever it took to save his life. That’s what fear does to a person.

The issue is always the same, “Will we trust God, or will we trust ourselves or someone else?”

Could God meet the needs of Abram in the place where He wants him to be, even though there is a famine? Who controls the weather?

What should Abram have done? Acknowledged his MAS to God and asked Him what to do.

He could have done that even after his goofy plan was activated. It is never to late to do what is right!

***Genesis 12:14-15 And it came about when Abram came into Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15) And Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.***

So the mother of a chosen race is found in the harem of a heathen king. Abram was putting the promised Seed in jeopardy with this nutty plan of his. If Pharaoh refused to allow Sarai to return to Abram, God’s plan for Abraham and Sarah to produce the line from which the Seed come, would be dead. Pharaoh would never give her back to Abram.

He sank to a pathetic low, putting his own wife in danger to save his sorry hide. Husbands are to protect their wives with their very lives but he is willing to put her life in jeopardy to save himself. Pathetic!

This is what happens when a person leaves God out, he starts making one bad decision after another. He panicked and acted like a craven cowardly lowlife. He had to cover one lie with anther, with another, with another.

His son Isaac did the same (Gen. 26:7). Do you think that is just a coincidence?

What happens when someone hits the panic button? Bible doctrine, promises, and trust in the Lord goes out the window. Carnality has a way of producing unintended consequences.

If Abram would have stayed put and trusted the Lord to provide a solution, he wouldn’t have gone down to Egypt and he wouldn’t have acquired a female servant named Hagar. Then Sarai wouldn’t have used her cockamamie strategy to use her to solve the problem of no heir, no seed. Sarai’s scheme and Abram’s acceptance of it, gave us a little thing called the Arab – Israeli conflict.

***Genesis 12:16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and gave him sheep and oxen and donkeys and male and female servants and female donkeys and camels.***

Abram was so out of touch with reality, he could have very easily thought that he was being blessed by God when Pharaoh gave him herds of various animals and male and female servants (*verse 16*).

God does not reward us for failing to trust Him.

In reality, Pharaoh paid off Abram for taking who he thought was his sister. He bought her.

Abram certainly did not deserve to be delivered from this sorry state of affairs that he brought on himself, but God stepped in to graciously save the day (*verse 17*).

***Genesis 12:17 But the LORD struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.***

Principle: It is impossible to mess things up so horribly that God can’t turn it out for good, **IF** we humble ourselves and start trusting Him.

Unfortunately, eight chapters later, Abraham did the same thing again and God graciously delivered him again (*Gen. 20:1-18*).

We tend to get focused on our own individual lives and our own problems and circumstances and forget the big picture. It helps to put things in the proper perspective when being tested. It’s really not about what’s happing at the moment, it’s about the future, eternity. God is preparing us for our eternal destiny.

Remember, *the issue is never the issue*. It’s about prepar- ing for what is coming next. Our decisions should not be made based on the easiest or fastest way to get out of a jam.

This is our natural defensive default position. Saying that it’s very hard to go a different way is an understatement. Very, very, very, few people will tell the truth and stand for righteousness when just telling a lie or using deception will get them out of trouble.

Decisions should be made based on what is best in light of eternity.

The decisions Christians make now, have an impact on what our eternity will be like (But not regarding eternal salvation). One of our goals as believers is to develop a **Personal Sense of Eternal Destiny** where we consider our eternal future in the decisions we make and the way we behave.

We may be appalled about Abram’s behavior. Both Pharaoh and King Abimelech were pagans, but they demonstrated more character and integrity than Abraham. But we must remember that growing up spiritually takes a long time and many mistakes are made on the way to spiritual maturity.

***Genesis 12:18-20 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19) "Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go."***

***20) And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.***

This heathen king, who Abram supposed would murder him to take his wife, was much more honorable than Abram. Pharaoh could have executed Abram and kept Sarai, or he could have executed both of them, but instead, he told Abram to take everything he had given him and get out. Unbelievers often behave better than carnal believers.

**LESSON 68 (6-17-18)**

Before we leave chapter 12, we need to look a little deeper to glean a few principles that are important.

1. Abraham was being tested as to whether or not he

was going to trust God’s promise no matter what was happening experientially. We face the same challenge because it is natural and routine for us to base our decision-making and conclusions solely on the circumstances and environment around us. This keeps God out of our lives.

2. Faith is a form of knowledge that is superior to that. It is a form of knowledge that goes beyond empirical data.

***Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

3. Human viewpoint believes that faith is blind, not based on evidence and is really no more than a wish. But we have to understand that faith is a truer form of know- ledge than empiricism or rationalism.

4. Empiricism is based on our five senses and rationalism is based on our understanding or reason. Both are limited because man is finite whereas faith is not limited because it is based on His Word and He is infinite.

5. Relying on God’s Word is surer, more certain, than anything we can come up with on our own because He is omniscient, omnipotent, immutable, and perfect in justice, righteousness, and veracity. Can you or any other person legitimately say that?

6. When we are ignorant of, or reject God’s revelation, we act as if we are autonomous, independent, and have no need of God. How arrogant and how stupid is anyone who tries to act independently from God? Satan was the first angel to try it and Eve was the first human to try it and it didn’t work out to well for either of them.

7. We all would like to have a safety net when things turn really bad and we start to feel desperate. That safety net (which is nothing more than a fantasy), is taking matters into our own hands. We must learn that God, and God alone, is our safety net.

8. We should notice that while Abraham was out of fellowship, creating all kinds of problems for everyone, he was still personally being blessed with sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, servants, silver, and gold.

9. You can be filled with the Holy Spirit, growing and advancing, and yet be unemployed, seriously ill, going through incredible adversity, and it doesn’t mean that God is not happy with you. On the other hand, you can be in carnality and prosper, which is what happed to Abram. God used Abram’s wealth to accomplish His plan for Abram in the next chapter.

**LESSON 69 (6-24-18)**

Read ***Gen. 20:1-18***.

In Chapter 12 Abram reached the depths of degradation.

He ignored God, acted independently from God, induced his wife to also act independently from God, persuaded her to lie and deceive, and put her life in danger to save his own life. Consider how egregious that was:

***Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,***

He was a liar, a coward, a rebel against God, and a deceiver. He was arrogant, thoughtless, self-centered, and conspiratorial.

Abram didn’t recognize how wretched he had become and we are like him. When we are in carnality we usually don’t recognize how sinful we have become.

If we do notice any sins, we quickly justify them as being necessary due to the circumstances.

Abram’s behavior was reprehensible, but God acted behind the scene to mold him into one of the great patriarchs of the Bible. It took time, but God never gave up on Abram, nor will He give up on us. Every day He gives us another opportunity to humble ourselves and depend upon His grace and forgiveness.

God brings people and things into our life to make us aware of how wretched we have become so that we will seek His forgiveness and rely on His gracious provisions.

**GENESIS CHAPTER 13**

***Genesis 13:1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, he and his wife and all that belonged to him; and Lot with him.***

Abram’s travel plans now were going in the right direction, back to the promise land, and his relationship with the Lord started to go in the right direction as he called upon the Lord.

**Verse 2** Abram would find out that great prosperity, as is often the case, causes more problems than it solves.

**Verse 3-4** Now he is back on track. Operation self-help has ended and operation grace orientation has started.

Calling on the Lord demonstrated his humility and trust. So what do you think happened next?

**Verse 5-7** The abundance of prosperity caused a problem, but the problem actually turned out to be the solution to the real problem that Abram didn’t know existed.

Principle: God can use a problem we know about, to solve a problem we don’t know about.

In this case, Abram knew about not having enough land for the numerous herds that he and Lot had accumulated.

Trouble arose between the herdsmen, but that wasn’t the real problem.

Abram didn’t recognize the real problem. It had to do with Lot remaining with Abram. As long as he was with Abram, Abram could be tempted to make Lot his heir instead of trusting in God’s promise to give in himself rather than God to produce an heir.

Remember, at this time, Abram still was waiting for God to give him a son. He could have easily become impatient and decided to make Lot his heir rather than his yet to be born son, Isaac.

How many times have we complained, groaned, and moaned about a problem that we were aware of, never considering it to be necessary in order to solve a real problem we’re not aware of?

Example: John is a believer who lives in Dallas. He goes to a Baptist Church most Sundays but never goes to the Wednesday Bible study.

He has run the Coke-a-Cola office in Dallas for eight years. He is a bachelor, makes good money, and is very contented.

The office is relocating to Duluth Minnesota. John definitely does not want to move to Minnesota but they offer him a modest pay raise. John is obviously very aware of the problem.

He doesn’t want to move but In order to keep his job, he will not only have to move, but he will have to move to a place he doesn’t like.

The problem he is not aware of is his future wife lives in Duluth Minnesota. John decides to make the move and meets Jane who is a very positive believer who never misses a Bible class or church service at her indepen- dent Bible Church. She makes a very positive spiritual impact on John.

They get married and as John continues to learn B.D. he comes to think he has the spiritual gift of pastor-teacher.

His pastor is willing to give him intensified biblical training including learning the original languages.

After a few years, John is ordained as a pastor-teacher and it just so happens that a Bible church just a half hour away from Duluth needs a pastor because there pastor retired. John was asked to preach there and over time, they decided that he was their right pastor and John was happy to take the position.

God knows what we don’t know. He knew that John had a wonderful life waiting for him in Duluth, including a wife and a church to pastor near-by. Remember, this all started with what appeared to be an aggravating problem.

The point: Sometimes God brings what appears to be a problem into our life, but it very well might be a solution to the real problem in our life that we are not aware of.

Yes, God can cause a problem we see, in order to solve a problem we don’t see, so that He can bring us greater blessings.

Knowing this can change the way we view problems. Instead of complaining and getting angry, we should thank God for moving us closer to greater blessings.

**LESSON 70 (7-1-18)**

**Verse 8-9** These verses are fantastic! Just think of the difference between the Abram here who is relaxed, trusting in the Lord, and the carnal Abram back in chapter 12 where he was lying and deceiving and putting his wife in danger to save his own sorry self.

Because Abram was trusting God, he was a completely different person than we saw in chapter 12. He was applying the Faith-Rest Drill and Impersonal/Unconditional Love to his circumstances.

He knew that God had promised the land to him and his descendants and he believed it, so he didn’t feel compelled to argue or fight with Lot over the land. Being magnanimous to Lot would not nullify God’s promise.

***Hebrews 6:18-19 … it is impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge in laying hold of the hope set before us. 19) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast …***

***Joshua 1:5-6 … I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. 6) "Be strong and courageous…***

Abram could have very easily clung to what was promised to him and tell Lot to go find his own place. But he was gracious to Lot, just as God had been gracious to him. He knew God would take care of him.

When we trust God to take care of our problem, the responsibility to solve it, shifts from us to Him. The burden is lifted off of us – that’s the power of faith! Our job then is to wait on the Lord and keep trusting.

Abram didn’t give in to the urge to protect himself by taking back the situation. That meant that he didn’t have any pressure on himself so he could be gracious. When we are trusting the Lord, we can be gracious, when we don’t, we can become selfish, demanding, and cantankerous.

Believers can be gracious to others because they depend on the Lord for the outcome, not themselves. He can do more than we can ever think or ask.

***Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21) to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.***

**Verse 10**

***Genesis 13:10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere…***

***Genesis 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable…***

Lot had his eyes on things rather than on God. The lust of the eyes always causes believers to stumble if they are not trusting God in their decision making.

Lot should have deferred to his uncle who was his elder. In their culture the eldest always had the right of choice. Abram had more experience, he was the head of the tribe, and had final authority. He was also the one to whom God had given the land. Abram had taken Lot to raise when his father died and he protected Lot and provided for his needs.

And the way Lot showed him gratitude was to take advantage of Abram’s generosity. He should have told Abram that he should be the one who had first pick of the land but he acted like most people when land or money are involved; he was selfish and didn’t care what would happen to Abram. Lot, in effect, by choosing the best partial of land, was trying to build his happiness on someone else’s misery. Abram would not suffer misery because of Lot’s decision, but he could have.

Lot who selfishly chose the prime land, was the one who would wind up miserable in a cave, and Abram would wind up the wealthiest man in the world. Why? Because Abram trusted God, leaving everything in God’s hands, whereas Lot trusted in himself, not giving his uncle Abram nor God even a thought.

The name of the little town Zoar, mentioned in this verse means “little town”. It is mentioned in *Gen. 19:22* as the town that Lot would use to take refuge when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

**LESSON 71 (7-8-18)**

***Genesis 13:11 So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward. Thus they separated from each other.***

It doesn’t say that Lot chose all the valley of the Jordan; it says that Lot chose for **himself** all the valley of the Jordan. Lot did not consider God or Abram in his decision, he had only himself in mind and no one else.

Lot got the land he wanted, a beautiful fertile valley. From a worldly perspective, he made an excellent choice. Many would say that he made a wise business decision. But we should always ask ourselves, “What would God think of my decision and the motivation behind it and how will my decision affect others?”

The beautiful well-watered valley that Lot chose was destroyed and became a desert, and God gave Abram everything. By leaving God out his decision, Lot deprived himself of tremendous blessing and an inheritance in the land. The children of Lot never inherited the land.

Observations:

1. Abram was walking by faith, Lot was walking by sight.

2. Another way of saying this is Abram’s attitude and actions were based on his faith in God’s promises whereas Lot’s attitude and actions were based on his circumstances and his unrestrained desire to get what he wanted.

3. ***2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.***

4. Abram depended on the Lord, Lot acted independently of the Lord. When believers ignore God and leave Him out of their lives, they never get what they really want.

5. Rather than obtaining the happiness, joy, contentment, confidence, courage, security, and peace they seek, they become very unhappy, miserable, discontented, doubtful, fearful, insecure, and restless.

6. Those who walk by faith, trusting in the Lord, avoid strife and contention by being gracious, whereas those who walk by sight, not trusting the Lord, cause strife by being selfish and argumentative.

7. Abram did not insist upon his own rights to the land in order to preserve unity between him and Lot. In doing so, he demonstrated himself to be spiritually superior to Lot and foreshadowed the humility and magnanimity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. Being gracious and magnanimous to others should be routine for members of the Royal Family of God.

9. We always come out much better when our decisions are based on God’s grace for our provision rather than being selfish or greedy in order to come out on top.

10. Abram knew it didn’t matter what Lot decided, God would bless Abram because of his trust in God. That’s why Abram felt comfortable being so gracious to Lot.

**Verse 12** ***and moved his tents as far as Sodom.***

Lot did not move into Sodom but lived outside in tents because the city was depraved but by chapter 19, he not only lived in a house inside the city, his extended family did as well, and he addressed the degenerates who wanted to sexually assault the two guests who were angels, as brothers.

The two angels had to drag Lot out of the city in order to save him from the obliteration of it that was coming (*Gen. 19:16)*.

God never promised to bless Lot but He did promise to bless Abram, so when Lot separated from Abram, he lost the blessings by association he had been enjoying.

***2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.***

The Lord exalted Abram because of his humility whereas He humbled Lot because of his arrogance and selfishness.

***Luke 14:11 everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.***

It seems very unlikely that Lot did not know how wicked the people of Sodom were and yet that didn’t stop him from moving there.

***1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."***

***Proverbs 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.***

***James 1:13-14 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be temp- ted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. 14) But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.***

***Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.***

Our skin will absorb just about anything that comes into contact with it and the same is true with our souls. No one is strong enough to withstand the power of a bad influence and our OSN over an extended period of time.

(NASV) ***Galatians 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole***

***lump of dough.***

(NET) ***Galatians 5:9 “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.”***

Younger people must be careful not to hang out with those who are indifferent or negative towards B.D. and those with loose morals because being accepted and being part of the gang is usually very important to them.

Some claim that they will be a good influence on those who have a bad attitude and who don’t respect authority.

But that is usually a wish rather than a fact. It only takes one bad apple to ruin the entire barrel.

**LESSON 72 (7-15-18)** (Entire Message on Power Point – ***Trusting Rather Than Ignoring God***)

**LESSON 73 (7-22-18)**

***Genesis 13:13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.***

***Genesis 19:4-5 Before they (the two angels) lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, surrounded the house, both young and old, all the people from every quarter; 5) and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them."***

***Leviticus 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.***

***Leviticus 20:13 If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.***

***Genesis 13:14-17*** the Lordpromised Abram and his descendants tremendous blessings, including the land of Canaan, which is commonly referred to as the Palestinian Covenant. It is a specific part of the “Abrahamic” covenant, recorded in *Genesis 12:1-3*.

***Genesis 13:14*** ***The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;***

Sometimes separation from those who have a negative influence on us is necessary. In this case, Abram did not realize how necessary it was to separate from Lot, so God did it through creating a situation where it was unavoidable.

After Lot departed, God told Abram to look out on the land and said that it would all be his, including the land that Lot chose.

Notice that Abram was told to lift up his eyes … and look which Lot did on his own (v. 10). Abram was focusing on God and Lot was focusing on the things of the world. Abram was walking by faith and Lot was walking by sight.

Abram left his future in the hands of the Lord when he gave Lot the right to choose the land that he wanted.

He surrendered his volition to God because he believed that God would fulfill His promises and take care of all his needs.

As is always the case, Lot’s expectation of how wonderful things would be was short lived. The things of this world will always let us down because they are unable to give us the desires of our heart. Only God can do that, which He does when we trust Him to do it.

***Psalm 37:4-5 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.***

1. Lot’s decision to take the fertile valley went against the Lord’s promise to Abram that gave him and his descend- ants the land of Canaan, not Lot. So we see the Lord’s sovereign will in favor of Abram overruling Lot’s choice.

2. God also showed the land to Moses, a descendant of Abraham (*Deut. 34:1-4*):

***Deuteronomy 34:4 Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants'; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not go over there."***

3. Neither Abram nor Moses received the promise but they will receive it in their resurrection bodies during the millennial reign of Christ.

4. *Gen. 12:6* says, “At that time Canaanites were living in the land. This draws attention to the fact that Abram trusted God to fulfill His promise of the land even though it was currently occupied by pagans.

Abram didn’t know when or how God would take care of this problem, but he didn’t have to know in order to trust God word. Of course that is true for us as well.

***Genesis 13:15*** - for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.

God does more for those who trust Him than for those who handle the situation themselves. He does not help those who help themselves, He helps those who know they’re helpless. Lot helped himself, but Abram trusted God. He always delivers and rewards those who trust Him and obeys Him. Remember:

**IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO TRUST THAN TO DO.**

“***Your descendants***” refers to regenerate Israel and does “not” refer to the Arabs nor the church since only regenerate Israel was promised the land of Canaan.

***Genesis 13:16*** References to the innumerable off-springs of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are also found in:

*Genesis 28:14 – Jacob’s ladder*

*Numbers 23:10 - Balaam & Balak*

*Genesis 16:10 –* Hagar & Ismael

In one sense this promise was fulfilled during Solomon’s reign:

***1 Kings 4:20 Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand that is on the seashore in abundance; they were eating and drinking and rejoicing***.

And then in a greater sense, it will be fulfilled during the Millennium:

***Hosea 1:10 Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered…***

**LESSON 74 (7-29-18)**

***Genesis 13:17*** Abram’s walking through the land symbolized his right to the legal acquisition of it. He did not yet possess it (it was already inhabited), but he had the promise of God that he would sometime in the future.

The priests within Joshua’s army carried the Arc of the Covenant around the walls of Jericho for seven days presumably to stake out their claim (*Josh. 6*).

***Genesis 13:18 - Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.”***

***Abram moved his tent*** – Abram was a very wealthy man, why did he live in a tent instead of a fine palace?

***Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he*** [Abraham] ***dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

Abraham had a personal sense of eternal destiny which affected the way he chose to live. He certainly was wealthy enough to build a city and live in a palace, but he chose to live in a tent because the promise of living in a future city made by God, motivated him to wait for it, rather than build a city for himself.

We too should make decisions and live our life, based not only on what seems best for the moment, but on how our behavior will affect our eternal destiny.

This chapter started with Abram making an altar to worship the Lord and it ends the same way.

***Psalm 106:1 Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting.***

Abram responded to the Lord’s love and grace in promising him and his descendants the land of Canaan by building an altar and worshipping Him. This is how Abram expressed his love and gratitude for the Lord.

We don’t show our love and gratitude to the Lord by building an altar. We demonstrate it in worship by singing hymns, giving, and by learning and applying Bible doctrine.

One of the meanings of Mamre is “prosperity,” and Hebron means “communion.” So Abram lived in a place where he was prosperous and had communion with others and God. It sounds like it was a very special place to him, an oasis.

**GENESIS CHAPTER 14**

Abram had three spiritual victories and one physical victory in this chapter. The first part deals with kings who plot and maneuver to gain power or to keep power.

Of course Abram was aware of this conflict since it took place in the area where he lived, he stayed out of it. But verse 12, reveals that King Chedorlaomer took Lot captive and then, Abram got very much involved in the

conflict between the kings.

***Gen. 14:12***

1. Lot’s plans to become very wealthy and live a life of ease didn’t work out so well. He found himself in chains, along with his entire family, headed for a life of slavery or something worse. All of his great wealth was completely lost and the situation appeared to be utterly hopeless.

2. The army of Chedorlaomer invaded the entire area and had gone through the land but had completely bypassed Abram. Why do you suppose Lot was taken but Abram was left alone? Could it be because Abram trusted God and therefore was protected?

3. Lot’s human viewpoint plans ended up the same way all human viewpoint plans end, with great disappointment or in disaster.

4. What are human viewpoint plans? They are plans that are made where God is ignored! His wisdom and guidance are not sought, in fact, He is not consulted or even considered in the plan making process.

***Gen. 14:13***

***Abram the Hebrew*** - This is the first time that the word “*Hebrew”* is used in the Bible. There was another group of people in the ancient world that were known as the *Apiru* who seem to have been some kind of marauding band of Bedouins, but the term “Hebrew” is probably derived from Abraham’s ancestor Eber.

The fugitive was a man who escaped from being killed or captured by an enemy king went straight to Abram to inform him that Lot was captured.

The fact that this particular individual who escaped knew both Lot and Abram was no coincidence. Mamre was a chief of the Amorites who sought security in an alliance with Abram and was blessed because of Abram (*Gen. 14:13, 24*).

***Gen. 14:14***

Abram was being tested when he heard that Lot was taken captive. When believers must make a decision that relates to application of doctrine, it is a test.

God commanded Abram to be a blessing to those around him (*Gen. 12:2*). So would he make excuses why he couldn’t get involved in saving Lot or would he obey the command to be a blessing to him by rescuing him?

We Church Age believers are commanded to be a blessing to those around us as well.

***Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; 4) do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.***

***Romans 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.***

***Romans 15:1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.***

We, like Abram, should provide blessings by association to those around us.

Definition: **Blessing by Association** (BBA) is the result of God’s blessing provision or protection for believers which overflows to those in his periphery. (BBA) is totally based on God’s grace. It is undeserved and unearned but there are those who receive the overflow blessings of a believer.

It would have been very easy for Abram to be judgmental towards Lot by saying, “He got what he deserved”, or “He had it coming to him”, or “I knew this was going to happen”.

Or he could have made excuses as to why in this case that it was too risky to deliver Lot from his captives. He could have been hesitant to get involved and say that there was nothing he could do about it.

But rather than gloat over Lot’s tribulation or make excuses why he couldn’t be a blessing to Lot this time, Abram set out to free him from an army that had just defeated five kings.

He gathered trained men from his household and set out to do combat with go after this experienced army that had just wreaked havoc all the way through the ancient world.

**LESSON 75 (8-5-18)**

*Gen. 14:14* Abram no doubt was counting on God to give him the victory, since he was obeying God’s command to be a blessing to Lot; God would provide the means to carry it out. He was also was depending on the promise God made concerning the land, seed, and blessing in *Gen. 12: 1-3*.

Be sure to notice what happened here, Abram’s actions were based on the promises of God and ours should be as well. Depending on God’s promises should be a daily routine for all believers.

This underscores the importance of knowing God’s promises. If you only know a couple of God’s promises, we have a booklet in our library entitled, “Promises” that can help you to increase your inventory.

*Abram was prepared for this battle since his men are “trained” for military combat, thus revealing an essential principle for victory in both the military and spiritual realm, which is* ***preparation****. In the same way, the soldier of Christ Jesus must be aware of the fact that he is in enemy territory, i.e., the devil’s world and must be prepared for spiritual combat at any time and any place.*

***Gen. 14:15***

Abram with 318 of his household, including help from his three allies and their forces, routed the armies of the Eastern Coalition of Mesopotamia, as indicated by the “defeated,” driving them completely out of the Dead Sea region and Canaan, as far as north of Damascus, Syria.

Abram was **walking by faith** in the Lord which produced courage and boldness in the face of great danger which are essential for both military and spiritual victory.

**Walking by faith** means that one is thinking about what God is going to do for him rather than what problem is going to do to him.

Abram’s military victory was preceded by the **spiritual victory in his soul** where he overcame his fear by trusting in the Lord despite his fears.

Spiritual victory is based on faith but faith doesn’t develop in a vacuum, it has to have an object. God was the object of Abram’s faith, but what did he know about God? No one would put their life on the line by trusting in someone they hardly know. He had to know quite a bit about God to take his servants and seek out the armies of 4 kings who had defeated the armies of 5 other kings.

Abram knew a great deal about God because he had seen His unceasing faithfulness from the time God called him in Ur of the Chaldees.

We can know a great deal about God from what He reveals about Himself in the Bible. The more Bible doctrine we consistently learn, the stronger our faith.

Abram had tremendous faith in God because of what he experience. We also can have tremendous fait by what we learn.

***Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.***

***Gen. 14:16***

1. God rewards those who get out of their comfort zone to do the right thing, regardless of the cost because their trust in Him is greater than their fear.

2. God not only enabled Abram to run the invading army completely out of the area, he also came back with tremendous spoils of war. All the people that were captured were released and all the great wealth that was plundered, fell into Abram’s hands because the promises of God were more real to him than the dangers involved in doing the right thing (attack a conquering army)..

3. But it is God who gets the glory in all this because He is ALWAYS FAITHFUL to deliver those who trust in Him.

Abram got the blessing and God gets the glory.

4. We have the power of God available to us when we trust Him. We must remember that the battle is the Lord’s, it’s not ours; He will fight for us **IF** we will just get out of the way.

***Proverbs 21:31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the LORD.***

***Exodus 14:13-14 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. 14) "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."***

5. What was Abram thinking when he moved out with his small band of courageous men against a superior over- whelming army?

***1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He (God) who is in you than he (Satan) who is in the world.***

***Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***

6. Some people think sure, God did tremendous things through people like Abraham, Moses, and David, because they were special, He would never do great things for me. They are right and the reason He won’t do great things through them is because of their defeatist attitude and lack of faith.

***Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

7. It is true that God chose Abraham, Moses and David to do great things, but He didn’t choose them because they were exceptional, they weren’t. Abram lived in a pagan land with a pagan family. Moses was groomed to be the next Pharaoh but he had a speech impediment and lacked confidence. David was the youngest of eight sons who was a sheep herder. They all became excep- tional, but it wasn’t because of who they were, it was because of who God is.

8. Then there are people who simply don’t believe that the things written in the Bible are not relevant to us in

the 21st century.

***Romans 15:4-5 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5) Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,***

It is true that we live in a time that is much different than the people mentioned in the Bible, but we still have the same needs, wants, and desires.

We have to struggle with our OSN and have a hard time controlling our tongue. We too, have to learn through suffering that God is always faithful.

People in ancient times had to learn that ***in troubled times, trusting God is more important than anything they could do.*** That is the only way anyone can conquer fear and have an RMA on this sin sick planet.

When we trust and obey God, He delivers us through the storms of life, therefore, He gets the glory and we get the blessings. That’s the greatest win – win deal of all time!

**LESSON 76 (8-12-18)**

***Gen. 14:17***

As soon as Abram had a chance to enjoy his victory, he immediately faced another test. That’s how it is in life. As soon as we pass one test we don’t have time to just sit back on our laurels because there is a danger that we may think that we are invincible and worthy of glory which belongs to God.

The test Abram faced was again the test of whether he would trust God and whether he would have the proper  **gratitude** when it came to possessing wealth. We will cover this in detail in verse 21.

***Gen. 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.***

Melchizedek is a type of Christ as he, like Jesus Christ, was both a King and a Priest. The King of Sodom is a type of Satan since he was completely opposite of Melchizedek.

Jesus Christ is called our High Priest (*Heb. 3:1, 4:14*) but He is from the tribe of Judah, not from the tribe of Levi, which was a necessary requirement to be a priest under the Mosaic Law. So how could Jesus be a priest?

The answer is found in the fact that Jesus is not a priest under the Levitical Priesthood, but under the Priesthood of Melchizedek, the Melchizedekian Priesthood. The Levitical Priesthood was temporary, whereas the Melchizedekian Priesthood is permanent:

***Psalm 110:4 The LORD*** [GTF] ***has sworn and will not change His mind, "You*** [J.C.] ***are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."***

***Hebrews 5:6 just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."***

***Hebrews 5:10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.***

***Hebrews 6:20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.***

***Hebrews 7:1-21*** gives detailed information about Melchizedek.

***Hebrews 7:1-3 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2) to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. 3) Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.***

The Levitical Priesthood was for Jews only, but the Melchizedekian Priesthood is for the entire human race.

Melchizedek is not a name, it is title. It is the Hebrew word melek, meaning king, plus the Hebrew noun tsedek, from tsadak the verb meaning righteous. So it literally means the king of righteousness, or you could translate it “the righteous king.”

Most scholars believe that Salem is known by its modern name of Jerusalem, the last two syllables, salem, being the same and from the Hebrew root shalom, meaning peace. So he is called the righteous king and he is the king of peace (king of Salem).

There is an example of someone in the Bible besides Melchizedek or Jesus Christ who once acted as both a priest and a king.

*1 Chron. 15:27 when David is bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem he dresses himself in an ephod, a priestly garment, and he has this enormous procession where they bring the ark into the city, and all along the route David dances before the ark, before the Lord. But there is no basis in the Mosaic Law for a priest from David’s tribe, the tribe of Judah. David is not a Levite and in Israel only Levites were priests. So on what basis can David function like a priest? It can only be if he is functioning according to the priestly order of Melchizedek rather than the priestly order of Levi.*

***Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine***

First of all note that Salem (Jerusalem) was not touched by the invading armies. God protected it.

Melchizedek provided exactly what Abram and his troops needed. He brought out sustenance, logistical grace provisions, food and drink. He was concerned about taking care of the troops whereas the evil king is not, he is just concerned about what he is going to get out of this.

*The solution to who Melchizedek is may be found in ancient Jewish tradition which has its roots back as far as before the exile. It is that Melchizedek is Shem, the son of Noah. This makes sense. Shem was born two years after God warned Noah that there would be a flood, so we can track Shem’s age. Shem died ten years before Abraham did. Even though Shem was born nine generations before Abraham, he is still alive. He is the father of the Semitic line that ultimately ends up in Abraham, and in the Jewish tradition he is passing the torch to Abraham. Dr. Robert Dean –OT – 01 –T Genesis*

***Genesis 14:19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20) and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He*** (Abram) ***gave him*** (Melchizedek) ***a tenth of all*** (the recovered wealth)***.***

Why is it important that Melchizedek blessed Abraham? What did God tell Abraham back in *Genesis 13:3*? *I will bless those who bless you!* Melchizedek would be blessed because he blessed Abram.

God not only created the entire universe, He owns it, He is the One who possesses everything. He not only gave Abram the victory over the pagan kings, He also gave him everything that Abram ever possessed.

So God blessed Melchizedek when Abram gave him a tenth of all the wealth recovered, which was God’s anyway. It was through Abram’s tithe that God blessed Melchizedek who had already blessed Abram.

The writer of Hebrews has something to say to anyone who may be bored or disinterested in our study of Mel- chizedek today:

***Hebrews 5:11-12 Concerning him*** (Melchizedek) ***we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.***

**LESSON 77 (8-19-18)**

***He*** (Abram) ***gave him*** (Melchizedek) ***a tenth of all***

There wasn’t one tithe under the Old Testament system, there were three.

1. In ***Numbers 18:21-24*** there is a tithe each year for all Jewish citizens, believer and unbeliever, totally unrelated to anything spiritual. It went to the support of the Levites.

2. ***Deuteronomy 14:22-24*** There was another ten per cent each year to support the work done in the Temple.

3. ***Deuteronomy 14:29*** Every third year another tithe designed to support the widows and the orphans.

Giving in the Church Age:

***2 Corinthians 9:6-7 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7) Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

***Genesis 14:21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give*** (Qal. Imperative) ***the people to me and take the goods for yourself."***

The five Dead Sea kings who were defeated by Chedor- laomer, came out to meet Abram in the sense of “confronting” him since they were ungrateful and demand- ing some of the spoils of Abram’s victory instead of thanking him for getting back their possessions and people who were taken as prisoners of war *(Gen. 14:21).*

The offer of material wealth from the King of Sodom was a test of Abram’s faith. If he would have had his mind on himself rather than on God, he might have thought that he deserved it but since he was grace oriented he depended on the grace of God to supply all that he needed, he certainly didn’t need an arrogant degenerate defeated king to supply him with anything.

*“Faith looks beyond the riches of this world to the grander prospects God has in store” (The Bible Knowledge Commentary-OT, page 54).*

*The fact that the King of Sodom came empty handed, demanding that Abram give the people to him rather than honoring and praising him as Melchizedek did reflects the King of Sodom’s wicked and ungrateful heart.*

*The King of Sodom’s proposal is wrong because of his audacity and ungrateful attitude. The victor, who was Abram, has the right to stipulate the disposition of the spoils of war and not a defeated king, which is what the King of Sodom was.*

*Unlike Melchizedek, the King of Sodom is deceitful and begrudging and does not greet Abram with joy and thanksgiving. Grace Notes*

If Abram took the offer of the King of Sodom, who represented the four other defeated kings, he would have taken credit for making Abram rich. He also would try to make Abram feel beholding to him, and try to manipulate Abram in the future by saying, “You owe me.”

Such a despicable person would allege that Abram took what was rightfully his even though he clearly offered what was taken from him to Abram in the “deal” that he tried to get Abram to accept.

Principal: Don’t make deals with unrighteous shady characters.

***Genesis 14:22-23 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23) that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.'***

By calling Yahweh, “the Lord” by the name employed by Melchizedek in *Genesis 14:19*, “the God Most High (Hebrew: El Elyon), possessor of heaven and earth,” Abram bears testimony to the fact that his God and Melchizedek’s are one and the same Person.

It was very important to Abram that God got all the credit and glory for his victory in defeating the four kings of the Eastern Mesopotamian coalition and rescuing Lot and the other captives. He didn’t want this unbeliever who was a degenerate king who had be defeated to steel or diminish the glory that rightfully belonged to God.

***Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD! That is my name! I will not share my glory with anyone else, or the praise due me with idols.***

David refused the offer of King Saul to use his royal armor to face Goliath because he, like the king of Sodom, had an ulterior motive in making the offer (*1 Sam. 17:38-40*).

***Genesis 14:24 "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."***

*Abram’s own servants had partaken of the food, which the concurring kings had carried away as it was unavoidable, and this is all that Abram makes claim to.*

*On the other hand, as he had no right to prescribe the same generous conduct to his allies, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre. He left them to claim the share that by right of conquest belonged to them of the recaptured booty. Grace Notes, Genesis*

*Abram’s only objective in pursing the armies of the four Eastern Mesopotamian Kings was to rescue Lot his nephew and bring glory to the Lord and not to achieve personal glory, fame or wealth*

*Now, in Genesis 15, we see that because of Abram operating in faith and being courageous and humble, giving glory to the Lord for his victory that the Lord will bless Abram again, giving him greater revelation and expanding and enlarging upon His covenant with him.*

**LESSON 78 (8-26-18)**

**GENESIS CHAPTER 15**

***Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great."***

The NASV uses the term “***Do not fear”,*** 58 times and it uses the phrase “***Do not be afraid***”, 48 times. When something is said 106 times in one book, the author is making a point.

Fear is our greatest enemy, it neutralizes more believers than anything else. The solution to fear is God’s character, His attributes. Everything depends on whether you can trust God, His word, and His promises.

We don’t know the reason the Lord told Abram, do not fear, it could be that he was concerned that the

Eastern Mesopotamian Kings he defeated might want to retaliate against him.

***I am a shield to you***

***Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.***

***2 Samuel 22:31 The word of the LORD is tested; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.***

***Psalm 3:3 You, O LORD, are a shield about me, My glory, and the One who lifts my head.***

***Psalm 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.***

***Psalm 33:20 Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.***

***Psalm 91:4 His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.***

***Genesis 15:2-3 Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3) And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."***

Since the Lord mentioned a reward, Abram suggested that Eliezer could be his heir. It is interesting that the Hebrew name Eliezer means “son of possession” or “heir possessor”.

Abram had waited a long time for the Lord to give him an heir, but there was no need for him to come up with a **back-up plan**; God had not forgotten His promise nor the faith that Abram placed in Him.

***Hebrews 6:10 God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name…***

***Genesis 15:4-5*** Of course the Lord rejected Abram’s plan and compared the stars of heaven to the number of descendants Abram would have. **PP** Stars

***Genesis 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.***

“***Then*** ***he*** (had) ***believed in the Lord***” – he didn’t believe at this point, he had believed in the Lord, past tense. This is the **perfect tense** of the Hebrew word “*AMAN*” which refers to an action that has already been completed. He believed many years before in Ur of the Chaldees, so this is an illustration of something he had done in the past, so he needs to believe God’s promise of an heir now. Since he had trusted the Lord for the most important thing, eternal life, then why not trust His promise of giving him an heir?

***“and he*** [God the Father] ***credited it to him for righteousness.”***

The point is, if the Lord Jesus Christ died for you while you were His enemy, what do you think He will do for you now that you are saved? In other words, why are you worrying?

***Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.***

It is also very important to recognize that Abram had obeyed God by being a blessing to Lot by rescuing him from the Eastern Mesopotamian armies. But God did not credit righteousness to him for that, but because he believed in the Lord back in Ur.

***Romans 4:1-6 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2) For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3) For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 4) Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5) But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6) just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:***

***Philippians 3:8b-9 … I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9) and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,***

***Genesis 15:7 And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."***

So now, the Lord reminds Abram of His faithfulness to His promise to bring him to Canaan, the promised land. He was also faithful in pulling Abram’s fat out of the fire in Egypt, and separated him from Terah, his unbelieving father, and from Lot who was a bad influence on him, and protected him from the four kings that invaded the land. There was no reason for Abram to be worried about God not fulfilling His promise concerning an heir.

The Lord was reminding Abram that He had a track record with him; I am the God you trusted when you

left Ur and you have witnessed my faithfulness over and over again, so why are you worried?

The only solution to our worries and doubts is to trust God to do what He says He will do. He has revealed that to us so many times in His Word. Abram had doubts because so much time had passed since God promised him an heir and it hadn’t happened yet.

We must remember that we have our time table and God has His; His is perfect and ours is not. Abram had not reached the point yet where he realized that God is immanently faithful and dependable. When we reach that point, trust replaces doubt.

***Genesis 15:8 He said, "O Lord GOD, how may I know that I will possess it?"***

So now, Abram had the nerve, the gal, the audacity, to ask the almighty God of the universe, how may I know that I will possess it? God’s word was not good enough for him! Abram insulted the integrity and veracity of God.

For many of us, that would be the last straw! Patience would turn into extreme retaliatory devastation. But instead of punishing Abram for expressing his doubt, God takes action to raise his comfort level by officially making an unconditional covenant with Abram.

How could God be so patient and understanding with Abram? **Because He dealt with him where he was spiritually.**

That is so hard for many of us to do. When people don’t behave as spiritually mature as we expect, we want to chew them out. We would rather humiliate them then encourage them in a loving and gentle way.

There are practical things we can do to help people who are struggling spiritually:

1. Pray for them
2. Invite them to church/Bible class
3. Tell them what you’ve been learning
4. Encourage them to use the CBC website
5. Buy them an elec. device for CDs, DVDs, MP3s
6. Be patient with them
7. Let them see your RMA and joy
8. Don’t show your disappointment in them
9. Don’t judge them
10. Don’t nag them

**LESSON 79 (9-2-18)**

***Genesis 15:9-16***  These verses give the details concerning the covenant.

***Verse 11*** This is symbolic of the anti-Semitism and attacks on the Abrahamic Covenant that Israel would experience throughout her history.

***Verse 12***  Can you think of another place we studied where God caused a deep sleep to come over a man?

Since Abram was asleep, he could not take part in any way in the covenantal ritual that took place. Everything depended on the Lord, nothing depended on Abram.

***Verse 13*** This verse says they would be in bondage for 400 years. *Exodus 12:40* says they would be in Egypt 430 years. So they were there for thirty years before the bondage began.

***Verse 14*** is the first part of the prophecy which has to do with the destiny of his people.

***Verse 15*** The second part has to do with Abraham’s own stability. How reassuring this statement from God must have been on Abram.

***Verse 16***  God’s timing is perfect and so is His justice.

He gave the Amorites enough time to turn to Him and away from paganism before Israel would take over the land.

***Verse 17*** Why didn’t Abram pass between the sacrificed animal parts with God? It was an unconditional covenant, it all depended on the faithfulness of God and nothing depended on Abram.

***Verse 18-21*** Details of the Covenant.

**LESSON 80 (9-9-18)**

**GENESIS CHAPTER 16**

In Chapters 14 and 15, we see Abram as a spiritual giant but in this chapter, both he and his wife Sarai revert back to human viewpoint. This is a classic example of what happens when a couple **stops trusting and starts doing**.

All three of the main characters in this chapter Abram, Sarai, and Hagar acted horribly and shamefully.

***Verse 1***  At this point, it had been 10 years since God made the promise of an heir back in Ur of the Chaldees.

Abram now was 85 and it would be another 15 years before Isaac would be born.

Sarai is the dominate figure in the first six verses and Abram merely responds passively to her initiatives.

***Genesis 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in*** (Qal. imp.) ***to my maid; perhaps I will obtain children through her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.***

Sarai’s decision to have a son by a surrogate mother was not considered wrong morally because at that time, it was a legitimate way to produce an heir.

The problem was her unbelief regarding God’s promise and her arrogant attitude. There was no immorality in Sarai’s command to Abram, but there was a lack of faith.

So the lesson from this incident for believers today is not a warning against immorality but against doing what seems perfectly proper but is acting independently from God due to a lack of trust in Him.

***the LORD has prevented me from bearing children***

Sarai took no responsibility for problems in her life; her problems were someone else’s fault. She blamed God for being barren, and then blamed Abram for her own bad decision.

*Rebekah and Rachel were also barren, and for them also God’s promise of a child was dependent on God’s intervention, which served as a test of faith.* George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 279.

We also are often called on to wait upon the Lord to see if we will act independently to bring about our hopes and dreams or just relax and wait for His perfect timing.

Sarai spoke about God but did not appeal to Him; instead she made demands on her husband.

(NASV) ***Please go in*** (Qal. imp.)

All the verbs below are Qal. imp. 2p. mas. sing.

(ESV) ***Go into my servant***

(NIV) ***Go sleep with my handmaiden***

(NET) ***have sexual relations with my servant***

The Greek word in the Septuagint is ******v. aam.

This was a perfect time for Abram to step up and be the leader of his house that God called him to be. He could have set a good example for Sarai if he had ignored her command and continued to wait on the Lord. He could have encouraged her to be patient because God always keeps His promise.

Had he done that, there would be no Ismael and there would be no ongoing Mid-East conflict where the line of Ismael continues to try to wipe out the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What should a husband do when his wife commands him to do something? Nothing. Wives need to remem- ber that adding the word “***please***” changes a command into a request.

**PP** There is always unintended consequences when a husband obeys his wife. Both the wife and the husband are out of line whenever that happens. **The wife is out of line for disrespecting her husband’s authority and the husband is out of line for allowing his wife to usurp the authority that God gave to him.**

Think about how much misery and suffering could have been avoided if Abram would have obeyed God, rather than his wife.

Sarai may have had good intentions but it was her lack of faith and her impatience that caused her to take matters into her own hands. She thought the end result, obtaining a son, would justify the means she employed.

But the means never justify the end. Going against the words of the Lord guarantees an unintended and very unpleasant end.

***And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.***

Does that sound familiar to you? Where have you heard that phrase used before only said by different people?

***Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.***

The Hebrew word for *listened,* comes from root word SHAMA, which usually means to listen but it is also translated “***obey”*** 81 times in the O.T. according to the *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon.*

The first six verses in Genesis 16 are bound together as a unit by a repeated structure: George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 277.

Verses *16:1–4a*

A. Tension: Sarai was barren (v. 1)

B. Sarai’s speech: blaming the Lord (v. 2a)

C. Abram acquiesced to Sarai regarding Hagar (v. 2b)

D. Sarai gave Hagar to Abram (vv. 3–4)

Verses *6:4b–6*

A.′ Tension: Sarai was despised by Hagar (v. 4b)

B.′ Sarai’s speech: blaming Abram (v. 5)

C.′ Abram acquiesced to Sarai regarding Hagar (v. 6a)

D.′ Sarai treated Hagar harshly and Hagar fled (v. 6b) *ibid*

Most wives wish that their husbands would be better listeners, but listening here doesn’t mean to pay attention, it refers to a husband obeying his wife.

***Gen. 30:1-6*** we see the same thing that happened to Abram and Sarai, happen to Isaac and Rachel as well.

***Genesis 16:3 After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram's wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.***

Notice that Sari took the initiative to execute her scheme because she was running the show, not Abram.

***Genesis 16:4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.***

Did Abram allow himself to be manipulated by his wife in order to keep the peace in the family? It would be possible, if not probable, that Sarai would try to make life miserable for him until he submitted to her will.

Did Abram forget the promise God made to him in ***Gen. 15:4*** that he would have a son from his union with his wife Sarai? Did he forget the myriad of stars that God showed him that represented those who would come from him? Or did he remember the promise but was no longer willing to wait for its fulfillment?

*Years later Abraham was more mature in his dealings with Sarah and Hagar (21:8–13). Sarah again told Abraham to “cast out” Hagar and her son (v. 10), but Abraham was “distressed” (v. 11) and then God spoke to him and gave him instructions (v. 12). Abraham hesitated; he did not simply “listen to the voice of his wife.” Because of the patriarch’s response God spoke to him and provided a solution to his dilemma. This suggests that if Abram had not listened to the voice of his wife in chapter 16, God would have revealed a solution. Instead, in this first instance Abram left no opportunity for God to provide for him.* George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 282.

**LESSON 81 (9-16-18)**

There are several parallels between Adam and Abram, and Eve and Sarai:

**Adam and Eve Abram and Sarai**

“The woman said to” (3:2) “Sarai said to” (16:2)

“You listened to your “Abram listened to the

wife” (3:17); voice of Sarai” (16:2).

“She took fruit” (3:6); “Sarai took Hagar” (16:3)

“She also gave some (3:6); “she gave to her (Hagar)

(fruit) to her husband” to her husband (16:3).

George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 282.

***her mistress was despised in her sight.***

One reason people get into trouble when they scheme and connive, rather than wait on the Lord, is because they can’t control what other people will do. Sarai had to find this out the hard way. Sarai didn’t foresee Hagar turning against her.

Hagar saw herself as superior to Sarai, even though she was her servant, because she did something that Sarai couldn’t do – bear a son.

This goes to show that not only the rich and powerful are arrogant; people of humble means can be just as arrogant, especially when they think they have the upper hand.

And as we see in the next verse, Sarai turned against Hagar. She was probably basking in the affection of Abram when she gave birth to Ishmael and this drove Sarai to jealousy.

***Genesis 16:5 And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."***

This is nearly unbelievable, Sarai concocted a plan that would disrespect her husband’s authority, that defied God, then carried out that plan and when it blew up in her face, she blamed her husband.

**Principle 1** A husband is not responsible for the sins that his wife commits, and vice versa.

**Principle 2** Blaming your spouse will never solve the problem. Don’t play the blame game, focus on solving the problem, not who’s to blame. We can choose to embrace a grudge or embrace our spouse.

Your marriage will die if you don’t stop blaming your spouse while making excuses for yourself. Has blaming someone else for your misery ever make you happy?

Has it ever made them love you more or make them want to change? You can only change yourself. They have to want to change and seeing you making changes in your life will make them more willing to make changes

in their life.

*Sarai’s passionate and unjust complaint is the utterance of jealousy. Abram is not to blame for the step which she herself had recommended in accordance with the custom of the age. The possibility, that in these cases the position of the mistress might be compromised by the insolence of the handmaid, formed the subject of special provision in the Code of Hammurabi. “Branding was the punishment inflicted upon the owner’s handmaid who arrogantly set herself on an equality with her mistress” (§ 146: see S. A. Cook, p. 160).* Herbert E. Ryle, The Book of Genesis in the Revised Version with Introduction and Notes, The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1921), 193.

It could be that Sarai was offended because she thought that the intimacy Abram and Hagar shared was done at her expense. The situation that caused Sarai to become jealous of Hagar was brought about by Sarai herself.

It is clear that the first thing we do when things go wrong is to blame someone else. It’s as normal as breathing. Operation pass the buck started in the Garden of Eden and is still going strong.

***May the LORD judge between you and me."***

*Sarai again spoke about God and again her tone was accusatory, though this time she spoke to Abram. “Like Eve, Sarah now shifts the blame, and like Adam, Abram shrugs off a responsibility.”* George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 284.

Sarai saw herself as the injured party and was so certain that she was without blame that she was willing to have the Lord decide who was at fault.

***Genesis 16:6 But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight." So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.***

Abram acted like a craven coward who behaved as if he was afraid of his wife and would do anything to keep the peace.

Again he refused to take charge and shifted his respon- sibility of handling the situation, over to his wife. What a sniveling weakling.

There is always calamity when a husband fails to assert his authority and accept the responsibility of being in charge. There was a civil war in Israel because David would not assert his authority as king, to bring his son Amnon to justice after he had raped his half-sister Tamar.

One of David’s other sons, Absalom, executed Amnon which eventually ended in a civil war.

**LESSON 82 (9-23-18)**

God never gave any husband the right to turn over his authority to his wife, except maybe for health reasons.

Everyone suffered because of Abram’s inaction.

He certainly wasn’t being fair to Hagar. He called Hagar Sarah’s “servant” as she was first referred to in verse 1, rather than his “wife,” as she had become (v. 3).

He knew that Sarai was angry with Hagar and was mistreating her, making her life miserable, yet he gave her total power over her to do anything she pleased.

***Proverbs 30:21-23 Under three things the earth quakes, And under four, it cannot bear up: 22) Under a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is satisfied with food, 23) under an unloved woman when she gets a husband, and a maidservant when she supplants her mistress.***

Sarai hated Hagar because of the arrogant way she treated Sarai. Her hate and jealousy of Hagar caused her to seek revenge. Instead of trusting her husband Abram and God to deal with Hagar’s arrogance, Sarai took matters into her own hands again.

*Genesis 16:1–6 shows that Sarai and Abram sought to accomplish what they wanted without trust in God, using methods of their own devising. Because they did not wait on the Lord, the result, as seen so often in Genesis, was suffering, as well as failure to achieve the desired goal. Wenham calls this the “wreck of human relationships.” Sarai was angry with God,* *angry with Abram, and angry with Hagar, and most of the discord was a result of her own doing! This well illustrates the idea later stated succinctly in* ***Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”***  George Van Pelt Campbell, *Bibliotheca Sacra* 163 (2006): 285–286.

***Genesis 16:7-9 Now the angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur. 8) He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?" And she said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." 9) Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority."***

***Verse 7***

***angel of the LORD*** – This is the first time that this phrase is found in the Bible.

*“The special form in which God manifested himself to man, and hence Christ’s visible form before the incarnation.”* William Smith, Smith’s Bible Dictionary (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1986).

**Exodus 3:2-4 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. 3) Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." 4) So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."**

In ***Genesis 16:13,*** Hagar said this about the angel of the Lord: ***You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees;***

The Lord Seeks Unbelievers and Carnal Believers

1. Hagar did not seek the Lord, He sought her.

2. What did God do when Adam and Eve hid themselves after they sinned? He sought them.

3. When Elijah fled because of Jezebel’s threat on his life, the Lord sought after him.

4. The Lord helped Hagar even though she was not an heir to the promise that He made to Abram.

5. If the Lord helped her even though He had not made any promises to her, how much more will He help those to whom He has made promises?

6. The fact that she was near the spring on the way to Shur indicates that she was on her way back to Egypt.

7. What comes to mind when you consider the facts that came into play here: Egypt, slaves, oppression, fleeing to the wilderness, the angel of the Lord, and water? The Exodus.

7. In *Gen.12:10–20*, Abram went to Egypt because of a famine (no water) without even consulting the Lord.

8. Believers are tempted to be impatient, turning to other sources that appear to supply a solution to their problem immediately rather than waiting on the Lord to provide for them.

a. marriage b. job/career c. family issues

***Psalm 27:13-14 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14) Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.***

***Isaiah 40:29-31 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, 31) But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.***

***8) He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from and where are you going?"***

This is a similar question that the Lord asked Adam when he was hiding.

***Genesis 3:9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"***

Note what the Lord said to Elijah when he fled from Jezebel:

***1 Kings 19:8-9 So he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God. 9) Then he came there to a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"***

Notice that the Lord did not fuss at them, nor did He preach to them; He simply asked them questions that helped them see how foolish they were behaving.

**LESSON 83 (9-30-18)**

***Genesis 16:9 Then the angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself to her authority."***

1. The Lord commanded Hagar to return to her mistress and to submit to her authority.

*“As a consequence of her despising Sarah, Hagar is forced into the ‘wilderness’ where she must stay until she submitted herself to Sarah*. *It is only in association with her return to Sarah and her submission to her that the Lord offered her a blessing: ‘I will greatly increase your seed so that they cannot be counted’* *Gen.16:10. Ibid 287*

2. Hagar was forced into the wilderness for having “**despised**” Sarai. This is in keeping with God’s words in *Gen*.*12:3*, where God said (literally), “*I will bless those who bless you and those who* ***despise*** *you I will curse.”* The Hebrew word translated “*despise*,” is used to describe Hagar’s attitude toward Sarai in *Gen.16:4–5. Ibid 288*

*Genesis 16:4-5 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight. 5) And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done me be upon you. I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight. May the LORD judge between you and me."*

The Lord promised to bless Hagar only if she obeyed His command to return and submit to Sarai. She had to decide whether to disobey the Lord’s command and try to survive the trip through the wilderness back to Egypt, or to humble herself to obey the Lord’s command and return to Sara and be under her authority.

By doing so, she would no longer be at odds with Abram and his family and would be in a position to be blessed by the Lord.

***Genesis 16:10 Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."***

The Lord was gracious to Hagar even though she brought much of her misery upon herself by being haughty to Sari.

*While many men in the Scriptures were promised descendants, “Hagar is the only woman in Genesis who was honored with such a revelation.”*

*It is striking that, while none of the 10 nations listed in Gen. 15:19–21 has survived to the present day, the Arab peoples are now among the largest ethnic groups in the world.* Ted Cabal, Chad Owen Brand, et al., The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 28.

***Genesis 16:11 The angel of the LORD said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, and you will bear a son; and you shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has given heed to your affliction.***

*The angel of the Lord told Hagar to name her son Ishmael, because God had heard her affliction. The name Ishmael means “God hears”.* Ibid

Ismael’s name is a reminder to all Gentiles that God not only cares about His chosen people, the Jews, He cares about and listens to the cries of Gentiles as well.

***Genesis 16:12 He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers."***

The wild donkeys were fierce, aggressive and untame- able. Ishmael’s descendants are Arabs who still fit this description. They are warlike and volatile.

God’s promise to Abram in *Gen. 12:3* that through him, all families would be blessed is the opposite of what would be true of Ishmael and his descendants.

It was the Ishmaelites who bought Joseph from Midianite traders and took him to Egypt (*Gen. 37:28*). They meant it for ill but God used it for good.

The description here in verse twelve, fits what group of people today? They are against everyone and everyone is against them. Muslims! When Muslims are not waring against Israel or Gentile countries, they go to war against each other.

***he will live to the east of all his brothers.***

*This has indeed been the case, for Ishmael’s descen- dants are the Arab peoples who populate most of the Middle East today. Very few of the peoples of the Old Testament world have survived to our own day. But two peoples survive: Israel, the Jewish people, descended from Isaac; and the Arabs, descended from Ishmael. Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), Ge 16:12.*

**LESSON 84 (10-7-18)**

(NKJV) ***Genesis 16:13 Then 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 Lord rescued Hagar when she desperately needed help and it opened her eyes to what the true and only God is like.

*Recognizing the Angel as God and ascribing this new name to Him arose from Hagar’s astonishment at having been the object of God’s gracious attention.*

*The theophany (Christophany) and revelation led her to call Him also “The One Who Lives and Sees Me” (Gen. 16:14).* John MacArthur Jr., The MacArthur Study Bible, (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 37.

***You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees*** – This name means much more than God has the ability to see. It includes our Lord’s omniscience. He knows perfectly, eternally and simultaneously all that is knowable.

Hagar was so impressed with the depth of God’s love and knowledge, are we? It’s not very wise for anyone to be hesitant to trust the One who knows every single detail about the future. Unlimited infinite knowledge.

*Proverbs 5:21 - For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He watches all his paths.*

*Proverbs 15:3 - The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.*

*Psalm 139:1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. O LORD, You have searched me and known me. 2) You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. 3) You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. 4) Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. 5) You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. 6) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it.*

**LESSON 85 (10-14-18)** Analysis of Abram’s family as it relates to their relationship with the Lord and with each other. It was typical for all humanity and it was certainly not what it should have been. Notes are not available but the lesson can be found on the CBC Website – Youtube –MBE - *Lesson 85, We All Struggle to Have Victory over Old Sin Nature*.

**LESSON 86 (10-21-18)**

(NKJV) ***Genesis 16:13 Then 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?"***

***"Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"*** – RAAH,

qal. participle; It is usually translated see, understand,

reveal, examine

Hagar could hardly imagine that the true God, the One who sees and hears was mindful of her. She was a Gentile, she was arrogant, she was a runaway slave, and of course, she was a woman. But the Lord cared so much for her that He blessed her with a phenomenal promise.

Did Hagar become a believer? Facts:

1. The name she gave the Lord meant “***You-Are-the-***

***God-Who-Sees***.

2. Hagar lived in a pagan culture where idols were

prevalent. She was very aware that idols do not

see, nor do they hear (Ismael’s name means *God*

*hears*), nor do they speak. Imagine how awe-

struck she was when the Lord talked to her.

3. She obeyed the command the Lord gave her in vs.

nine to return to Sarai and submit to her because

she believed the Lord. Her faith in Him gave her

the courage to go back and face the unknown.

Would she do that if she did not believe in Him?

4. She named the well “***well of the living One who***

***sees me***” to memorialize what happened there.

***Genesis 16:14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.***

Beer-lahai-roi, which means “***well of the living One who sees me.***” Hagar was so taken with the Lord, she gave a name to the well commemorating the fact that the Lord knows and cares about people and comes to their aid even when they don’t deserve it.

***Genesis 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.***

The Lord told Hagar in verse eleven to call her son Ismael but this verse says that Abram called the name of his son Ishmael. Is this significant? Yes.

1. Abram obeyed the command of the Lord to name his son Ismael. How did he know to do that? He had to find out through Hagar so she must have returned to Sari as the Lord commanded.

2. The fact that he obeyed the Lord regarding this, suggests that he quit obeying his wife and started obeying the Lord again.

3. Abram learned that he should *listen* to the voice of the Lord and wait on Him rather than *listen* to the voice of others who weren’t trusting the Lord.

4. Ismael’s name, “God hears”, was a rebuke to Abram because his actions demonstrated that he no longer believed that. Every time Abram said Ismael’s name, it would remind him that God hears His people; and he would be encouraged to trust God when he was afraid or discouraged.

5. Abram’s son Isaac, when confronted with the same situation of a barren wife, prayed to the Lord for help (*Gen. 25:21*) and God provided a solution. Apparently Isaac learned this lesson from his father.

6. Hagar’s return to Abram and Sarai had an ironic result. Sarai had complained that she was humil- iated by Hagar yet it was through Hagar’s humility that Sarai and Abram were taught that God hears His people when they feel abandoned.

7. Hagar’s son Ishmael was a constant reminder of this truth, he was an instrument in the hand of God to remind Sarai of where she had failed.

“How Sarai must have been humbled every time she heard that boy’s name - Ishmael, *God hears*.” God sometimes gives His people reminders to encourage them to wait humbly on Him. George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 290–291.

*So she went back. Sarai came to her sense and realized that you don’t solve a problem by adding sin to sin, so she received her back, apparently graciously. She did not persecute her any more. In other words, Hagar went back to what she thought would be a mess.” But she went back saved and believing that God would take care of the problem.*

It is amazing what God can accomplish through one believer who steps out in faith, trusting the Lord to do that which seems to be impossible.

Wonderful things happen when people trust in the Lord instead of themselves. Torn relationships can be mended when a person is willing to humble himself or herself and wait on the Lord.

However, when believers stop waiting on the Lord, they start relying on asinine cockamamie “solutions” which always lead to more misery and more frustration.

They solicit help and sympathy from family and friends before they ever go to the Lord. They listen to these people who usually have no doctrinal solutions so they recommend doing something that is emotionally appealing but only makes matters worse.

Below are a few examples of people doing the right thing under pressure:

***Numbers 16:4 When Moses heard this*** (the Korah rebellion)***, he fell on his face;***

***Joshua 5:14 I indeed come now as captain of the host of the LORD." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, "What has my lord to say to his servant?"***

***Matthew 26:38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." 39) And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."***

***Luke 5:12 While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."***

**LESSON 87 (10-28-18)**

***Falling on one’s face*** was the ultimate expression of humility. Falling on one’s face was the ultimate expression of humility. It is found 45 times in the Bible.

*In the presence of God’s ark, Dagon, even on his own premises, fell on his face. When set up again, once more he fell, this time so mutilated that only a stump was left (1 Sam. 5:1-5).* Jacob Bos, “Heavenly Laughter,” Bibliotheca Sacra 95 (1938): 208.

*The psalmist voiced the same conviction Abram learned here when he wrote, “Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD.… I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope” (Psa. 130:1-6). David similarly exhorted God’s people this way. “Wait for the LORD and keep His way, and He will exalt you to inherit the land” (Ps. 37:34)* George Van Pelt Campbell, “Rushing Ahead of God: An Exposition of Genesis 16:1–16,” Bibliotheca Sacra 163 (2006): 291.

***Genesis 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.***

This is a time marker. Abram had waited eleven years from the time God called him out of Ur of the Chaldeans to the time Ishmael was born. It would be another fourteen years before God would fulfill His promise of a son being born to Abraham and Sarah.

The lesson of Genesis 16 is that God is always faithful and His way is always the best way.

We simply need to relax and wait on our omnipotent God to do what to us, is impossible!

Now we fast-forward to Genesis 21:

**Genesis 21:1 Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had promised.**

**2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him.**

**3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore to him, Isaac.**

**4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.**

**5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.**

**6 Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."**

**7 And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."**

**8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.**

**9 Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking.**

**10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Drive out this maid and her son, for the son of this maid shall not be an heir with my son Isaac."**

**11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son.**

**12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.**

**13 "And of the son of the maid I will make a nation also, because he is your descendant."**

**14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar, putting them on her shoulder, and gave her the boy, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beersheba.**

**15 When the water in the skin was used up, she left the boy under one of the bushes.**

**16 Then she went and sat down opposite him, about a bowshot away, for she said, "Do not let me see the boy die." And she sat opposite him, and lifted up her voice and wept.**

**17 God heard the lad crying; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter with you, Hagar? Do not fear, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.**

**18 "Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him by the hand, for I will make a great nation of him."**

**19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water; and she went and filled the skin with water and gave the lad a drink.**

**20 God was with the lad, and he grew; and he lived in the wilderness and became an archer.**

**21 He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.**

**LESSON 88 (11-11-18)**

We find Sarah and Hagar in *Galatians 4:24* in one of the rare instances in the Bible where a scripture is allegorized.

*Allegorizing is searching for a hidden or secret meaning underlying but remote from and unrelated in reality to the more obvious meaning of a text.*

*In other words the literal reading is a sort of code which needs to be deciphered to determine the more significant and hidden meaning. In this approach the literal is superficial; the allegorical is the true meaning.* Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation,* 1991, p. 29

We believe in a **Literal, Grammatical, Historical Interpretation** of the Bible.

By **Literal** we mean that we attach to every word the same meaning that it would have in its normal grammatical and literal sense unless the context shows it to obviously be symbolic.

*When the plain sense makes good sense seek no other sense lest you end up with nonsense.*

**Grammatical** means that the original languages of the scriptures are used, paying attention to the rules of grammar to determine the meaning of the words.

**Historical or Isagogic** approach of studying the Bible which considers the historic context of the scriptures.

A literal translation does not mean that figures of speech are not allowed. Below is a definition for a figure of speech:

*“A word or phrase that is used to communicate some- thing other than its literal natural meaning.”* Roy B. Zuck, *Basic Bible Interpretation, p. 144*

Figures of speech are not antithetical to literal interpre- tation; they are part of it. They are colorful vehicles for presenting literal truth.

Examples:

***Metaphor:*** a comparison in which one thing is, acts like, or represents another (in which the two are basically different).

*John: 6:48* - *(Jesus said) I am the bread of life…*

*John 6:49-50 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50) "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.*

*Isaiah 40:6 - All flesh is grass,*

*Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.*

***Metonymy:*** substituting one word for another.

*We are waiting for a decision to be made by the White House.* The residence of the president is substituted for the President himself.

***Personification***: ascribing human characteristics or actions to inanimate objects, ideas, or animals.

*Isaiah 55:12 "For you will go out with joy And be led forth with peace; The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,*

***Euphemism****:* substituting an inoffensive or mild expres- sion for an offensive or personal one.

*Acts 7:60 Then falling on his knees, he (Stephen) cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep (died).*

***Hyperbole:*** deliberate exaggeration in which more is said than is literally meant, in order to add emphasis.

*John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.*

***Idiom:*** a string of words whose meaning is different than the meaning conveyed by the individual words.

*Exodus 8:32 But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.* Other examples:

*Hit the road, Take a hike, Later alligator, Make tracks*

***Galatians 4:22 For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman*** *(Hagar)* ***and one by the free woman*** *(Sarai)****. 23) But the son by the bondwoman was born according to the flesh*** *(normal birth but carnally)****, and the son by the free woman through the promise.*** *(supernatural birth)* ***24) This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai bearing children who are to be slaves; she is Hagar.***

*Now, when we are reading in the book of Genesis, we take the characters Sarah and Hagar literally. But here in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul uses them to develop a spiritual idea.*

*Notice, I am not free, of my own accord to go through the Bible and assign allegorical interpretation to historical events just as I desire. I may not do this unless the text tells me to do so. Paul has done this at the beginning of this verse through his employ- ment of the term “allegorically”. He wants the words to be used in a figurative sense, and thus gives us permission to take them that way. When the Bible gives us such permission, it will also give us the very interpretation of the allegory. I am not free to interpret the allegory in any way I want, based on my own sanctified imagination. I must follow the interpretation that the text gives. When we practice literal interpretation from Genesis to Revelation, we are allowing the authority to remain in the text. When we deviate form that and spiritualize things that are not meant to be interpreted spiritually, then the authority over the interpretive process is transferred form the text to the mind of the interpreter. The issue is really, “Who is in control?” I want to enthrone the Word of God as the authority. After all, God gave us His Word – who am I to ewrite God? Dr. Andy Woods, Dispensational Theology and the Protestant Reformation,* p. 152-153

***Galatians 4:22-31*** juxtaposes the **Mosaic Law** and **Grace**:

*Paul uses the two mothers, their two sons, and two locations as an illustration of two covenants. Hagar, Ishmael, and Mt. Sinai (earthly Jerusalem) represent the covenant of law; Sarah, Isaac and the heavenly Jerusalem the covenant of promise… The purpose of the Mosaic Covenant was to show all who were under its demands and condemnation their desperate need for salvation by grace alone (Gal. 3:24)—it was never intended to portray the way of salvation.* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 1796.

***Galatians 4:21 Tell me, you who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?***

***22* *For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondwoman*** (Hagar Gen.16:15)***and one by the free woman*** (Sarai Gen.21:2)**.**

***23 But the son by the bondwoman*** (Ishmael)***was born according to the flesh*** (normal birth)***, and the son by the free woman*** (Isaac)***through the promise.***

***24 This is allegorically speaking, for these women are two covenants: one proceeding from Mount Sinai*** (Mosaic Law)***bearing children who are to be slaves*** (to the Law, legalism)***; she is Hagar*** (a slave)***.***

**25 Now this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia** (where the Mosaic Law was given) **and corresponds to the present Jerusalem** (Jews were enslaved to Rome and legalistically enslaved to the Law)**, for she is in slavery with her children.**

**26 But the** (New) **Jerusalem above** (Heb. 12:22) **is free** (from the M.L., works, & bondage) **she is our mother** (Believers are children of the heavenly Jerusalem, the “mother-city” of heaven.)

**27 For it is written** (*Isa. 54:1*)**, "*Rejoice, barren woman who does not bear*** (Sarai / Israel in exile)***; break forth and shout, you who are not in labor*** (Believers who recognize they are helpless and depend on the grace of God)**; *for more numerous are the children of the desolate*** (Christians have more followers) ***than of the one who has a husband*** (Jews/Judaism)***."***

**28 And you brethren** (C.A. bels.)**, like Isaac** (a believer)**, are children of promise** (Isaac was physically born from a promise, we are born again from a promise of eternal Life)**.**

**29 But as at that time he** (Ishmael) **who was born according to the flesh**(a natural birth) **persecuted him** (Isaac) **who was born according to the Spirit** (a super-natural birth) **, so it is now also** (unbelievers persecute believers just as Gentiles persecute Jews)**.**

**30 But what does the Scripture say** (Gen. 21:10 & 12)**? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman** (Ishmael an unbeliever, in bondage to the Law and condemned - justification by works), **shall not be an heir with the son of the free woman."** (Isaac, a believer who is free - saved through justification by faith)

*Justification by works and justification by faith cannot coexist!*

**31 So then, brethren, we are not children of a bondwoman** (under the law)**, but of the free woman** (under grace)**.**

Another example of an allegory is found in **(*Rev. 17:18*)**

**LESSON 89 (11-18-18)**

CHAPTER 17

Abram failed miserably to trust the Lord in chapter 16, so the Lord would make him wait 13 years before He would reaffirm His covenant to Abram.

God wanted Abraham to learn that He is the God of hopeless situations, that no matter how difficult the problem may be, no matter how hopeless the circum- stances may seem, He is the one who is able to do the impossible.

No matter how desperate the situation may be, God has a solution and the solution is always in the Word of God. Isaac could have been born at least a decade earlier if Abram and Sari would have simply trusted the Lord.

Principle: If you don’t like to wait, trust the lord!

The solution starts with understanding the truth of God’s Word and applying it to our circumstances.

Abram was 75 years old when he left Ur of the Chaldees; he was 86 years old when Ismael was born, 11 years later, he was 99 years old when God reaffirmed His covenant to Abram. He would be 100 years old when Isaac was born. Abraham lived to be 175 years old, so he has 76 more years to go. He had plenty of time to apply the things he learned from the times he failed being tested and the times he passed testing.

***Genesis 17:1-4 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. 2) "I will establish My covenant*** [it was unilateral] ***between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly." 3) Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, 4) "As for Me, behold, My covenant*** [it was unilateral]***, is with you*** [not Ismael]***, and you will be the father of a multitude of nations.***

*The promises to Abram grew more and more magnificent each time God spoke…* *In this passage the word from God declared that Abram would be the father of many nations (17:4). Earlier it had been promised that he would be the father of a great nation (cf. 12:2). But here not only would there be many nations but kings as well (17:6, 16). Then God added that the covenant would be an everlasting covenant (17:7) and the land of Canaan would be an everlasting possession for the descendants of Abram.* Allen Ross and John N. Oswalt, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: Genesis, Exodus, vol. 1 (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2008), 120.

We saw in Gen. 15 that God cut the Abrahamic Covenant when He moved between the animals in the ceremony alone, indicating that God was binding Himself alone to this covenant. The activation of this covenant is totally dependent upon God and not in any way dependent upon Abraham.

But here, in verses 1 and 2 of Chapter 17, it appears that there is a there is a condition for Abram to walk before God and be blameless. Is there a contradiction here?

No, what happened in chapter 15 depended completely on the Lord just as everything depended on the Lord in providing for our eternal salvation. Both of these actions can be classified as positional truth because man had nothing to do with it.

The activation of this covenant is totally dependent upon God and not in any way dependent upon Abraham.

However, just like everything else in the spiritual life from Genesis all the way to Revelation, experiencing the blessings of our position is dependent upon application of doctrine, learning the Word and applying it—other- wise known as obedience to the Word.

That is what happens in Genesis chapter seventeen. Here we are talking about the experiential aspect of the covenant for Abraham. He has already been given the covenant, now God says that if He is going to bless Abraham in terms of the covenant then this is what has to happen in terms of experiential obedience.

The same thing is true of our Christian life. We have all these things that God gave us at the moment of salvation. We are in the royal family of God, adopted as sons, and have all of the magnificent blessings we could imagine that are ours in Christ; but they aren’t ours actively until we are in fellowship, learning the Word, and applying it under the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Only then will we experience the blessings that God has for us in terms of spiritual growth and our spiritual life. So we have to maintain that distinction in our thinking between the positional reality and the experiential reality.

***2) "I will establish My covenant*** [it was unilateral] ***between Me and you,***

***“I will establish”*** That sounds in English as though it was future tense, *i.e*. if you do this I will make my covenant with you. What He is talking about is the **application of the covenant** now, **not its inaugura- tion**. It was inaugurated in chapter fifteen, now it is going to be applied in one sense visibly and overtly through the overt sign of circumcision.

***Genesis 17:5-8 "No longer shall your name be called Abram*** [exalted father]***, But your name shall be Abraham*** [father of many nations]***; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. 6) "I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. 7) "I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. 8) "I will give to you and to your descen- dants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."***

*His new name was a perpetual reminder of God’s sure word. Every time someone addressed him he would be reminded of the promise, until one day his son would call him “father.”*

*Another confirming sign was circumcision. This one was not a personal promise to Abraham but a sign for all households in the covenant… It would remind Abraham and his descendants of the promises of the everlasting covenant, that God would make them into a great nation (17:13; cf. 17:7, 19).*

*Anyone who refused to be circumcised (cut physically in this symbolic way) would be cut off (at the least separated) from the covenant people because of his disobedience to God’s command. Ibid p. 121*

***Genesis 17:9-12 God said further to Abraham, "Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10) "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descen- dants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. 11) "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. 12) "And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants.***

*Abraham immediately set about complying with God’s instructions (17:23–26). He began to implement the rite of circumcision as an act of faith in the promises. He was circumcised at the age of 99, and his son Ishmael was circumcised at the age of 13. Then, every male in the household was circumcised, whether born there or brought there as a servant. Everyone would come to know that the promises of God were to be taken seriously, and that the ritual was the sign of their participation in the covenant. Ibid p. 121-122*

***Genesis 17:13 - "A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant." 15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 "I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." 17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" 18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!" 19 But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. 20 "As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him, and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. 21 "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year." 22 When He finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. 23 Then Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all the servants who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's household, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the very same day, as God had said to him. 24 Now Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin. 26 In the very same day Abraham was circumcised, and Ishmael his son. 27 All the men of his household, who were born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.***

**LESSON 90 (11-25-18)**

Circumcision: (with its cognates used 133 times in the NASV)

1. Circumcision was to serve as an outward sign of inward dedication to God. It was to be an expression of faith that God’s promises would be realized. In itself, it was neither efficacious, nor unique to Israel.

2. *Circumcision was to be performed on the eighth day after birth (Gen 17:12; Lv 12:1–3; see Gen 21:4; Luke 1:59; 2:21; Acts 7:8; Phil 3:5), customarily by the boy’s father (Gen 17:23; 21:4; Acts 7:8), at which time a name would be given (Luke 1:59; 2:21)… Medical research has determined that prothrombin, a substance in the blood that aids in clotting, is present in greater quantity on the eighth day than at any other time in life. Ibid*

*3. Circumcision had to do with the fulfillment of God’s promise concerning Abraham’s descendants (Gen.* *17:9–12). Because it was applied to the reproductive organ, the sign involved the propagation of the race.*

*4.**The rite is not mentioned in the Koran, but because Mohammed was circumcised tradition dictates that male Muslims follow the ancient custom. Arab ancestry is traced to Abraham through Ishmael (Gn 17:20), so a common age for Muslim circumcisions is 13, because Ishmael was circumcised at that age (Gn 17:25).*Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Circumcision,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 462.

5. ***Spiritual Significance****. The hygienic act of circum- cision symbolized the need for cleansing if the holy God was to enter into relationship with an unholy people. Ibid p. 463*

*6. By the time of the exodus it became evident that circumcision had to do with ethical as well as physical considerations. In Deuteronomy 10:12-16 Moses exhorted the people to circumcise the foreskins of their hearts, and in Deuteronomy 30:6 and the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

*7. Sin in the lives of the chosen people made their circumcision meaningless before God. Thus Moses told the Israelites to humble their uncircumcised hearts (Leviticus 26:41).*

*8. Just before he was stoned, Stephen referred to the covenant of circumcision, charging that his Jewish accusers, like their ancestors, were stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, always resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:8, 51).*

9. *As Gentiles came to Christ, controversy arose between those who said that participation in the covenant community required circumcision and those who believed the rite was unnecessary. It was argued that since the covenant promise of the Messiah was given to the Jews, Gentiles must first be circumcised and become Jews before they could receive salvation in Christ.*

*10. In the time of Christ many Jews misunderstood the significance of circumcision, believing that the physical act was necessary for and a guarantee of salvation. Thus for Jews the observance became not only a symbol of religious privilege, but a source of racial pride (Phil 3:4–6). These Jews associated the ceremony with the Mosaic Law rather than the promise to Abraham (Jn 7:22; Acts 15:1). Because Greeks and Romans did not practice circumcision, Jews had come to be called “the circumcision” (Acts 10:45; 11:2; Rom 15:8; Gal 2:7, 9; Eph 2:11; Ti 1:10), and following OT practice (Ez 28:10; 31:18; 19; 32:19–32) Gentiles were termed “the uncircum- cision” (Gal 2:7; Eph 2:11. Ibid p. 463*

*11. It was decided that Peter, James, and John would be entrusted with the gospel to “the circumcised,” while Paul and Barnabas would preach to “the uncircumcised” (Gal 2:7–9). Ibid p. 464*

*12. Paul and the other apostles followed Moses and the OT prophets in teaching that true circumcision was a matter of the heart. The teaching of the NT goes further to affirm that a faithful believer, though physically uncircumcised, is regarded by God as circumcised, “for he is not a real Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical” (Rom 2:26–29). Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace (Acts 15:11) and circumcised and uncircumcised alike are justified on the ground of their faith, apart from works of the law (Rom 3:28–30).*

***Romans 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; 29) but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.***

13. *Abraham served as an example of a person whose faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness” (Rom 4:3; see Gen 15:6). Paul argued that both Gentiles and Jews are justified by faith, because Abraham was accounted righteous before he was circumcised. Abraham did not receive circumcision to obtain righteousness, but as a “sign or seal of the righteous- ness which he had by faith while he was still uncircum- cised.” Thus, Abraham is the father of all who believe without being circumcised, as well as those who are circumcised but also follow the example of Abraham’s faith (Rom 4:9–12; see Gal 3:6–9). Ibid p. 464*

14. *No Christian need either be circumcised or seek to remove the marks of his circumcision for spiritual reasons:*

***1 Corinthians 7:18*** *“****neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision”; what matters is “keeping the commandments of God” in the heart***

***Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.***

***Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circum- cision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation*** (*2 Cor. 5:17 If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature*)***.***

***Colossians 3:10-11 Put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him*** (God) ***who created him*** (the new man)***, 11) where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*** *Ibid p.*

CHAPTER 18

This chapter pictures Abraham in fellowship. This was generally true for him from this point on as God called him, “*a friend of God*” *(2 Chron. 20:7, Isa. 61:8, James 2:23).*

In chapter 19 we have a picture of Lot, a believer out of fellowship.

**LESSON 91 (12-2-18)**

*Chapter eighteen is another test of the doctrine in Abraham’s soul. James chapter two says that it is on the basis of these* ***tests of faith*** *that we apply the Word of God to the circumstances surrounding these tests and that produces endurance. Endurance in turn produces maturity. So this is the basic mechanism that God uses to move us along the path of our spiritual life. The same was true for Abraham.* Dr. Robby Dean, *G*enesis 098b-Hospitality; Fellowship Meals; Omniscience and Omnipotence. Genesis 18:1-15

Chapter 18:1-15 focuses on this initial phase of the visit where there was a fellowship meal between Abraham and the Lord, the reiteration of the promise of the birth of Isaac, and then Abraham intercedes to the Lord for his nephew Lot.

All that Abraham did here comported with his responsi- bility found in ***Gen. 12:2*** *- And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And* ***so you shall be*** (a command) ***a blessing****;*

**Verse 1 & 2** – Abraham was oriented to God’s grace so he was waiting and resting. He had peace in his soul so he was relaxed in soul and body. He was probably contemplating God’s promise to give him a son which was just confirmed in chapter seven- teen and wondering how God was going to bring it all about.

Since Abraham was in fellowship, he was friendly and hospitable to others as all believers should be.

***1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.***

Exhibiting hospitality is a manifestation of grace orienta- tion and impersonal love for others. It is a sign of personal generosity to others, not just to those we know but to those we don’t know, to strangers.

Notice that Abraham was functioning as a servant which was part of being grace oriented. This kind of person gives without 'strings' or desire for gain. They give of themselves and their substance graciously because this is what they receive from God.

***Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.***

Some believe that this verse refers to our passage here in *Gen. 18:1-6*.

The text does not tell us if Abraham knew who the three strangers were but it appears that he at least had a strong suspicion that they were not just three normal guys who happened to stop by. Abraham’s behavior demonstrated that he was very excited about their visit.

*He hurried to them (18:2), hurried back to the tent (v. 6), ran to the herd (v. 7), and his servant hurried (v. 7); Abraham bowed low before them (v. 2); he had water brought to wash their feet (v. 4); he served them freshly baked bread (v. 6), a choice … calf (v. 7), curds and milk (v. 8), and he stood while they were eating (v. 8; cf. vv. 1–2). All this suggests that he perceived who his visitors were.* Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 59.

So what we have learned in this chapter so far is the importance of **Grace Orientation**, that when we are oriented to God’s grace, it exhibits itself in *kindness to others*, *in good manners, generosity* and *hospitality*. Abraham’s grace orientation is revealed in his hospitality toward strangers. The meal itself signifies that there was harmony between them. It was culturally proper, and it highlighted the relationship between Abraham and the Lord. He was at peace with what God was doing in his life, so he was in harmony with his Maker.

When the Lord was ready to specify the fulfillment of the covenantal promise, He came in person and ate with Abraham. He could have revealed this in a dream or sent an angel but He came Himself because our God is not cold or impersonal. He had a relationship with Abraham so naturally He wanted to interact with His friend in a personal way. And you know what, He desires to do the same with us.

This divine encounter must have taken place within three months after the events of the previous chapter (Gen. 17:21 within a year Isaac would be born).

*This is the fifth time the LORD appeared to Abraham since he had come into the land of Canaan. (****1****) The first was the appearance at the altar Abram built in Shechem (oaks of Mamre) when he first entered the land (12:7). (****2****) The second was after Lot had separated from Abram when they came back to Canaan from Egypt (13:14–17). (****3****) The third followed Abram’s heroic rescue of Lot from the league of invading kings and the subsequent encounter with Melchizedek (15:1–21). (****4****) The fourth came 13 years after the birth of Ishmael, when the Lord renewed His covenant with Abraham and instituted the rite of circumcision (17:1–22).* Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, **The Nelson Study Bible**: New King James Version (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997),

*“The LORD* ***appeared*** *to him” (v 1). The verb is the niphal [passive] of ra’a, the standard verb to see or to look, but in the passive it means to be seen or to be revealed, or to appear. It indicates a sudden appearance here because Abraham had not seen the three men (v. 2) coming. He just suddenly looks up and there they were.* Dr. Robby Dean, *G*enesis 098b-Hospitality; Fellowship Meals; Omniscience and Omnipotence. Genesis 18:1-15

One of the three men was the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ and the other two were angels. This would be a good time to take a look at a few facts about angels.

1) We have to recognize that angels were created as non-material beings (Psa. 148:5). They were not created as physical material beings as we are.

They don’t follow the same laws of biology or the same laws of physics as humans.

2) From several passages it appears that angels have bodies that are composed of light or some- thing like light.

3) Angels had the ability to transform themselves into material creatures that possess all of the characteristics of material bodies. As far as Abraham could tell, they were material creatures. They ate they drank, they rested, they slept, and he washed their feet.

4) Their ability to take on all biological functions of the material human body gives us an indication of what went on in Genesis chapter six when the sons of God (always a reference to angels) procreated with the daughters of men.

5) Angels are superior to humans now but we will be superior to them in our resurrection bodies.

**LESSON 92 (12-9-18)**

1. What is the basic mechanism God uses to move us along the path of our spiritual life?***Tests of Faith***

2. How does a believer pass these tests? ***By applying the Word of God to the circumstances surround- ing the tests.***

3. Passing the test produces what? ***Endurance***

4. What does Endurance produce? ***Spiritual Maturity***

***Genesis 18:1-4 Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day. 2) When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth, 3) and said, "My lord, if now I have found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by. 4) "Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree;***

What is significant about Abraham sitting at the tent door? He was super wealthy, he could have been dwelling in a palace. So why didn’t he? His mind was on something much greater than a palace on earth.

***Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he*** [Abraham] ***lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking*** [v. imp. mid. ind. - wait for an event] ***for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.***

***Hebrews 13:14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking*** [v. pai,- have a strong desire for] ***the city which is to come.***

How does ***looking for the city*** or ***seeking the city*** manifest itself in a person’s life?

***2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

Abraham had what we call a *Personal Sense of Eternal Destiny* (PSED). He made decisions not based just on what was best for him at the time, but on what was best for him for all eternity. God’s promises were real to him so he acted accordingly.

***Hebrews 11:13-16 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14) For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own. 15) And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.***

*None of the patriarchs saw the complete fulfillment of God’s promises, but they saw from “afar off” what God was doing. Dr. George Morrison, a great Scottish preacher, once said, “The important thing is not what we live in, but what we look for.” These men and women of faith lived in tents, but they knew a heavenly city awaited them. Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 319.*

***Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

***Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

***2 Corinthians 5:7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—***

It must be clear that Abraham was not giving up some- thing or making a sacrifice in hopes that he might gain something he desired; nor was he living in tents as a form of penance in order to cover up his sins in order to gain what he wanted. He voluntarily gave up luxury, which had no bearing on whether he would live in the future city from heaven that God had promised him.

Why would he do that? Maybe he didn’t want to get so comfortable in this world that the promises of God concerning future things would lose their allure. Or, maybe he chose to live in tents in order to demonstrate his faith that God always delivers on His promises.

**LESSON 93 (12-16-18)**

***2) When he lifted up his eyes and looked*** - The storyline now switches to describing events through Abraham’s eyes. “He lifted up his eyes,” indicates that he was either taking a nap or was in prayer.

He appeared to be surprised at first but soon he started to recognize that this was not a normal encounter. The fact that he addressed only one of the three men suggests that he either knew, or suspicioned that he was addressing the Lord.

***to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,*** *(****PP****)*

*In biblical times* ***bowing*** *was a method of showing respect, the lesser bowing to the greater, or a method of demonstrating humility or showing acquiescence. In certain Asiatic countries it is a way of salutation, just as shaking hands is in Western countries. Bowing is also used to express an attitude of deference or homage*. James M. Freeman and Harold J. Chadwick, **Manners & Customs of the Bible** (North Brunswick, NJ: Bridge-Logos Publishers, 1998), 24.

However, it says that he bowed himself to the earth, that means that he prostrated himself which was not a normal greeting for people.

**Verse 3** ***and said, "My Lord …*** *“Lord” (Heb. Adon, Adonai).*

*(1) The primary meaning of Adon, Adonai, is Master, and it is applied in the Old Testament Scriptures both to Deity and to man. The latter (man) instances are distinguished in the English version by the omission of the capital. As applied to man, the word is used of two relationships:* ***master*** *and* ***husband*** *(Gen. 24:9, 10, 12, may illustrate the former “master”; (Gen. 18:12, the latter, “lord”). Both these relationships exist between Christ and the believer (John 13:13, “You call Me Teacher and Lord/master; and you are right, for so I am.; 2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.”).* C. I. Scofield, ed., *The Scofield Reference Bible: The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments* (New York; London; Toronto; Melbourne; Bombay: Oxford University Press, 1917), 24.

It should be noted that “*my Lord*” is singular so he was addressing one of the men, not all three.

**Verses 4–8** *Why did the Lord approach Abram in this manner? Could not the word have been given from heaven or in a dream? Yes it could, but the manner of this communication was probably meant to underscore that Abraham had a personal, intimate relationship with the Lord through the covenant. In the ancient world, and especially in Israel, to eat together was important for the making of treaties or confirming covenants.* Allen Ross and John N. Oswalt, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: Genesis, Exodus, vol. 1 (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2008), 123.

As always, it was God who initiated the visit, just as He did when He visited Abraham in Ur, Canaan, and here. God initiates, we respond.

So here we have an example of God becoming the guest of one of His saints. It won’t happen in the post canon period of the Church Age, but what would you do if the Lord came to visit you at your house?

Vs. 4 – washed their feet

Vs. 5 – offered a piece of bread

Vs. 6 – makes fresh bread (just under 4 gals of fine

flower – vs 5, he offered a piece of bread)

Vs. 7 - a tender and choice calf

Vs. 8 – provide milk and yogurt

We should copy Abraham’s show of hospitality, especially to each other:

***1 Peter 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.***

Since every Church Age believer are part of Christ’s body, when we show hospitality to each other, we are showing it to Christ.

***Matthew 25:35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink… 37) 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?... 40) "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'***

**Verses 9** The Lord asked where Sarah was because He wanted to make sure that she heard what He was going to tell Abraham.

**Verses 10** This was the first time that the Lord set a definite time that their promised son would be born.

*In keeping with western Asian customs still practiced in traditional Muslim culture today, the host’s wife was not permitted to be in the presence of male visitors. But since her tent walls were thin and the conversa- tion was interesting, Sarah was listening to every word.* *(****PP****)* Robert D. Bergen, “Genesis,” in CSB Study Bible: Notes, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 36–37.

**Verses 12**  So Sarah again, doubted the Lord’s promise and laughed inwardly when she heard it repeated. **PP** But, she did call Abraham “*lord*” (adhon).

This is recorded in he following verse:

***1 Peter 3:5-6 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands; 6) just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord…***

**Verses 13**  The Lord asked Abraham why Sarah laughed when she again heard the promise of having a son. Of course, Abraham didn’t know what He was talking about since she didn’t say it out loud.

***Psalm 94:11 The LORD knows the thoughts of man,***

**Verse 14** God says, “**Is anything too hard** (Heb. *pala*, *to be wonderful*, for the LORD?” The word translated “too hard” is the Hebrew word which means to be marvelous surpassingly extraordinary or wonderful. It is a word that is only applied to the Lord in the Old Testament, and it is applied in *Isaiah 9:6, 28:29, “He will be called Wonderful Counselor.*” It indicates that God is able to do the impossible, no matter how difficult things may be in our life.

We would save ourselves a lot of wear and tear if we would remember this when we are stressed out.

***Matthew 19:26 “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”***

This is a declaration of the omnipotence of God. *omni =* unlimited and *potence* = power (unlimited power)

***Luke 1:37 “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”***

***Jeremiah 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,***

***Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"***

Omnipotence means that God can do anything that He wills to do.

*Notice that the Lord adds the expression “at this time next year”, thereby reaffirming the promise to Abraham that appears in Genesis 18:10 with the one made here in Genesis 18:14 to Sarah. Grace Notes*

**Verse 15** Then Sarah denied that she laughed, contradicting what the Lord had said in verse ten.

Sarah did the same thing that we tend to do when we are caught in a lie which is to deny that we lied. She denied it for the same reason that we do which is because of fear.

But the Lord did not allow her to cover her first lie with another lie by denying it. So He said, *“No, but you did lie.”* It is important to hold people accountable when they lie if for no other reason than to make sure the record is kept correct.

We shouldn’t be too hard on Sarah because unlike Abraham, Sarah did “not” know who these visitors were and it seemed ridiculous for a strange man to come into their home and make such a promise to her husband.

But we know that her unbelief wasn’t permanent because there was a point in time that she believed God’s promise

***Hebrews 11:11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.***

What made this change of mind come about?

*The Lord caused her to change her mind by revealing His omniscience to Sarah by telling her that she laughed, which she did, but to herself, inaudibly. Only she and the Lord would know that she laughed to herself, thus, by revealing to Sarah that it was indeed the Lord Himself making this promise to Abraham that she would have a child the following year, the Lord caused her to exercise faith in His promise to give her a child in her old age.Grace Notes:*

**LESSON 94 (1-6-19)**

**Verse 16** “***looked down***” Their location near Hebron was 3,040 feet above sea level; the Lord, the angels and Abraham looked down in a southeasterly direction toward Sodom.

Sodom was located in a tropical area between Jericho and Zoar, 800 to 1200 feet below sea level, where crops could grow all year-round.

**Verse 17-18** ***The LORD said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do.’***”

Why do you suppose the Lord asked Abraham such a question? He wanted to reveal Himself to Abraham so that he would know about the justice and righteousness of God so that he could pass it along to others.

God wants to have a personal relationship with His children and that takes knowledge of Who He is and what He is like.

These couple of verses demonstrate that the Lord considered Abraham as an intimate friend to converse with him in this way

***2 Chronicles 20:7 Did You not, O our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel and*** ***give it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?***

***Isaiah 41:8 But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham My friend…***

***Genesis 18:18 and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed?***  This is the second time that this promise was given; the first time was in ***Gen. 12:3****.* It is also stated in Galatians

***Galatians 3:8 The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED IN YOU."***

This is a reference to the fact that Abraham’s descendent, Jesus Christ, would also bring salvation to the Gentile nations through faith in Him.

**LESSON 95 (1-13-19)**

**Verse 19 -** God’s ultimate purpose with Abraham was to reveal Himself. If Abraham was to bring up his children to know God (v. 19), he himself must know Him.

***Deuteronomy 6:6-9 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. 7) You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8) "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9) "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.***

He would learn about ***the way of the Lord*** which is based on God’s character of justice and righteousness. He learned this from his negotiations with the Lord concerning the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

***Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness*** (*chesed,* used 248 times) ***and truth go before You.***

*Although the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant was unconditional, the “blessings” attached to the covenant would be conditioned upon Abraham doing righteousness and justice. Grace Notes*

**Verse 20-21** - God is righteous and what the righteous- ness of God demands, the justice of God carries out.

*Grace* always is extended before *Judgment.* God gives people enough time to respond to His grace, but if they continue their rebellion against Him, they are destroyed.

No one can con God or put anything over on Him. Those who think they are getting away with sin are in for a rude awakening.

***Numbers 32:23 But if you will not do so*** (go to war with their brothers)***, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.***

Parents should be gracious to their children but if they arrogantly take advantage of their kindness, then the parent’s justice must correct their behavior through discipline. This is how children learn respect for authority.

Sodom wasn’t the first city whose stench rose all the way to heaven:

***Jonah 1:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."***

It is possible to misunderstand these verses by thinking that God is not all-knowing. God already knew the wretched spiritual state of Sodom (***Psa. 139:1–6***), which has “come up” to Him in His transcendence (i.e., existence over and beyond the created universe).

However, because God is also fully immanent (i.e., personally involved with His creation), this passage speaks of His “coming down” to “see” the sinfulness of Sodom for Himself. This same term was used in *Gen. 11:5 -* *The LORD came down to see the city and the tower…* Our God is personal and hands on.

Genesis 18:21 is for the sake of Abraham so that Abraham might intercede on behalf of Lot. The Lord was withholding judgment for the benefit of Abraham so that he could exercise himself spiritually on behalf of Lot and the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Verse 22-23**

There are two things we learn about Abraham here: 1. He cared about other people, 2. He knew that God was passionate and merciful.

***Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live."***

***Psalm 103:6-12 The LORD executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. 7) He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. 8) The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9) He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10) He has not dealt with us accord- ing to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11) For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.***

***2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***

***Genesis 18:23 Abraham came near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?***

This verse demonstrates that Abraham knew that God was compassionate and did not take delight in destroy- ing cities.

***Jeremiah 9:24, but let him who boasts, boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises loving-kindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things, declares the LORD*.**

He also knew that God was just and that His grace has a time limit for those who arrogantly defy Him.

***2 Peter 2:4-8 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6) and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter; 7) and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men 8) (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds),***

**LESSON 96 (1-20-19)**

Lot is referred to as “*righteous*” three times in verses 7 and 8 above. It appears that these are referring to the imputed righteousness of God which he received the same way Abraham did, or any other believer, by believing in the gospel.

His behavior certainly was not righteous:

a. He appeared to be a prominent citizen among the Sodomites (Gen. 19:1 & 9)

b. He was immoral (Gen. 19:8 – offered his virgin daughters to the Sodomites)

c. He wanted to remain in Sodom (Gen. 19:16 – The angels had to forcefully remove him from Sodom)

d. He fell into drunkenness (Gen. 19:33)

However, he was tormented by the lawless deeds of the Sodomites which is more than can be said about most Americans today.

***Genesis 13:13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.***

***Leviticus 18:22 'You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.***

***Leviticus 20:13 'If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.***

***Jude 1:6-7 and angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, 7) just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.***

***Deuteronomy 23:17 "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute.***

Sodomites set the standard for wickedness, sinfulness, and iniquity: *Jeremiah 23:14, Isaiah 3:8-9, Jude 6-7*

Pew Research Center

**Most U.S. Christian groups grow more accepting of homosexuality** *DECEMBER 18, 2015, BY CARYLE MURPHY*

Almost all Christian groups now are more accepting of homosexuality. Acceptance of homosexuality is rising across the broad spectrum of American Christianity, including among members of churches that strongly oppose homosexual relationships as sinful, according to an extensive Pew Research Center survey of U.S. religious beliefs and practices.

Amid a changing religious landscape that has seen a declining percentage of Americans who identify as Christian, a majority of U.S. Christians (54%) now say that homosexuality should be accepted, rather than discouraged, by society. While this is still considerably lower than the shares of religiously unaffiliated people (83%) and members of non-Christian faiths (76%) who say the same, the Christian figure has increased by 10 percentage points since we conducted a similar study in 2007. It reflects a growing acceptance of homosexuality among all Americans – from 50% to 62% – during the same period.

Among Christians, this trend is driven partly by younger church members, who are generally more accepting of homosexuality than their elder counterparts. For example, roughly half (51%) of evangelical Protestants in the Millennial generation (born between 1981 and 1996) say homosexuality should be accepted by society, compared with a third of evangelical Baby Boomers and a fifth of evangelicals in the Silent generation. Generational differences with similar patterns also are evident among Catholics, mainline Protes- tants and members of the historically black Protestant tradition.

At the same time, however, a larger segment of older adults in some Christian traditions have become accepting of homosexuality in recent years, helping to drive the broader trend. For instance, 32% of evangelical Protestant Baby Boomers now say homosexuality should be accepted, up from 25% in 2007.

Regardless of age, seven-in-ten Catholics – whose church teaches that homosexual behavior is “intrinsically disordered” – say that homosexuality should be accepted by society, a 12-percentage-point increase since 2007. Similar jumps have occurred among mainline Protestants (from 56% to 66%), Orthodox Christians (from 48% to 62%) and members of the historically black Protestant tradition (from 39% to 51%).

These numbers are disheartening. Just fourteen years ago, homosexuality was a crime, but now it is not only accepted, it is celebrated. Even the majority of profess- ing Christians have accepted it, even to the point of accepting homosexual and lesbian “pastors”.

Can any nation where sexual degeneracy has taken root ever be free of it?

**CNS NEWS**

**Brazil's New President Eliminates LGBT Office on First Day in Office**

On Jan. 1, the day he was sworn in as Brazil's new president, conservative Jair Bolsonaro signed an executive order removing LGBT concerns from the government's human rights ministry, apparently affirming his traditional Christian, pro-family views and his rejection of "gender-based ideology."

In his inauguration speech, Bolsonaro, who is strongly anti-socialist, said, “We are going to unite the people, rescue the family, respect religions and our Judeo-Christian tradition, combat gender ideology, conserving our values.”

The executive order that removes LGBT concerns from the ministry did not designate any other government office to address those issues.

Brazil's new Minister of Human Rights, Family and Women is Damares Alves, age 54. She is an evangelical minister who has worked as a legal adviser to the National Congress of Brazil for 20 years. Alves is pro-life.

During her Jan. 2 swearing-in, Alves said, "The State is secular, but this minister is extremely Christian, and because of that, she believes in God's design," as reported in Folha de S. Paulo. She also said, "One of the challenges will be to end the abuse of ideological indoctrination. The ideological indoctrination of children and teenagers in Brazil is over.

In Brazil, she added, "girls will be princesses and boys will be princes."

LGBT activist Symmy Larrat, as reported by AP, is not optimistic about the new government. “The human rights ministry discussed our concerns at a body called Secretariat of Promotion and Defense of Human Rights," she said. "That body just disappeared, just like that. We don’t see any signs there will be any other government infrastructure to handle LGBT issues.”

During the presidential campaign, Bolsonaro said, "God above everything. There is no such thing as a secular state. The state is Christian and the minority will have to change, if they can. The minorities will have to adapt to the position of the majority."

After Bolsonaro's inauguration, President Donald Trump tweeted his congratulations and added, "the U.S.A. is with you!"

Bolsonaro, 63, replied by Twitter, "Dear Mr. President @realDonaldTrump, I truly appreciate your words of encouragement. Together, under God's protection, we shall bring posterity and progress to our people!"

**Verses 24-32** **The Negotiation Begins**

Abraham was a very good negotiator. He wasn’t rude or arrogant; he was very humble but he also was persistent.

**LESSON 97 (1-27-19)**

**CHAPTER 19**

As we look at this chapter we are going to pick up a lot of principles of application related to understanding culture and civilization, how God governs the affairs of men, and how establishment laws operate.

Chapter 12 to the end of chapter 18 of Genesis focuses on Abraham, but now in chapter 19, there is a shift that focuses on God’s justice and Lot.

Chapter 19 serves as a warning not only to the nation of Israel, but to all nations. This warning was about Israel assimilating the pagan culture of the Canaanites which inevitably lead to their deterioration and downfall.

God is immutable so He never shows partiality or bias (*Rom. 2:11*). So, just as He judged the Sodomites, He would also have to judge Israel. And just as He judged Israel, He will judge us.

**PP** God’s wrath falls on any society and any culture down through human history that degenerates and perverts the **Divine Institutions** that God established from the creation for the order, peace, and stability of the human race.

**DIVINE INSTITUTIONS**

**Freedom** (responsibility)

Freedom doesn’t mean we can do anything we want to do. Freedom and authority go together:

Freedom without authority is anarchy.

Authority without freedom is tyranny.

Freedom allows us to choose to submit to legitimate authority or to reject it.

God blesses the former and punishes the latter.

**DIVINE INSTITUTIONS**

**Freedom** (responsibility)

**– Marriage** (structure & stability)

**– Family** (authority & accountability)

**- Nationalism** (thwarts Satanic control)

There is a biblical viewpoint that shows there is a correlation between rejection of God, social ruin, the loss of freedom, and sexual decadence. These go together, they have always gone hand in hand down throughout history. If no one takes a stand against this ruinous pattern, people will continue to go down the same path as those who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah.

We see a pattern develop, that appears again and again in Scripture. Man fails to meet God’s standard of right- eousness, so God is impelled by His own character, His own integrity, to judge mankind. But throughout all of the judgments we see elements of God’s love and His offer of deliverance in grace.

**Examples**:

**Adam and Eve** sinned – ***Justice*** - they died spiritually and were forced out of Eden – Operation Fig Leaves -***Grace*** - God sacrificed animals to provide them with the skins. (Illustrates Christ’s sacrifice on the cross)

**Age of Noah** ***Grace*** – Noah preached 120 years -Mankind was continually evil – ***Justice*** - God sent the universal flood – ***Grace*** – Ark provided

**Sodom & Gomorrah** ***Grace***– years given to repent -were continually evil – ***Justice*** - fire and brimstone rained on them – ***Grace*** - Lot and his family was spared

Government follows the culture of a country. The culture degenerates first and then the government follow suit. A government cannot degenerate if the culture hasn’t. The people simply would not allow it.

So if a government has become tyrannical, ignoring the rights of the people, taken away their money, privacy, and property, who is to blame?

As biblical truth impacts a culture it transforms that society with biblical norms and standards, establishment truth, and the result is stability, order, peace, prosperity, and cultural advance.

Sodom is a direct refutation of the myth that sexual orientation and what goes on in the privacy of the bedroom is a neutral issue as far as society is concerned. That is the lie. For example, why do we have laws that make adultery illegal? Why did we have laws that make homosexuality illegal? It is because permissiveness towards these acts is self-destructive for the culture,

**LESSON 98 (2-3-19)**

***Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.***

1. *Abraham was a pilgrim and stranger, only passing through this world; but Lot had gradually abandoned his tent and settled down in Sodom, instead of keeping his eyes on the heavenly city (Heb. 11:10, 14–16.* Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Obedient, “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 80.

2. Only the two angels visited Lot, because the Lord could not fellowship with Lot and his family as He did with Abraham and Sarah. Even though Lot was a believer, his life was such that the Lord did not feel “at home” with him. *Ibid*

3. Abraham was a friend of God but Lot had become a friend of the world. What does the Scriptures say about that?

***1* *John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16) For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. 17) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.***

3. First Lot moved his tent near Sodom (Gen. 13:12). Then and he moved into Sodom (Gen. 14:12). It’s a lot like living near a hog parlor, after a while, you get use to the smell.

Worldliness is not a matter of geography but of heart. However, when Lot came to love the world, it affected his geography.

4. Lot’s location at the gate indicates that he was a man of some authority, for that was where official business was conducted. That means he was accepted by the Sodomites.

5. 2 Peter 2:4-8 says that Lot was *oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men* and *his soul was tormented by their shameful behavior* day after day, but it did not say that he ever objected verbally to their degenerate actions or warned them of the wrath of God.

6. Probably because of fear. Fear that he would lose friends. Fear that he would lose his status and position. Fear that he would be ostracized. And maybe he was afraid that his life would be in danger.

7. It’s sad that those things were more important to him than the eternal destiny of people living there. If he really loved those people he would have told them their behavior was repugnant to God and if they refused to believe that, he should have separated himself from them.

***2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. 18) "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.***

8. Why didn’t he separate from them? Because the things, and the people of the world, had become more important to him than God. He wasn’t willing to sacrifice or suffer for Jesus Christ. He wasn’t willing to stand up for truth, justice, or righteousness.

9. If he had, there may have been more people escaping the wrath of God other than only Lot and his family.

10. Lot’s values and morals became so distorted that he was going to sacrifice his two virgin daughters to an insanely degenerate mob in order to save the two visiting angels. (As if they couldn’t take care of themselves)

11. The fact that there was a gate to enter Sodom means that there was a wall around it. I guess they didn’t know that walls are immoral and ineffective.

**LESSON 99 (2-10-19)**

***Genesis 19:2-3 And he said, "Now behold, my lords, please turn aside into your servant's house, and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." They said however, "No, but we shall spend the night in the square." 3) But he insisted so strongly that they did go with him and entered his house. He prepared a meal for them, baking bread without yeast, and they ate.***

Lot knew what would happen if they spent the night in the town square. Lot prepared a meal for them but it was nothing like the feast that Abraham prepared for them.

***Genesis 19:4 Before they had gone to bed, all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-- both young and old—surrounded the house; 5) and they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may have relations with them*** (NKJV – *that we may know them.* See *Gen. 4:1*).

It’s safe to say from this description, all of Sodom had become degenerate.

The term “sodomy” is derived from verse 5 and the prevalence of homosexuality there. The men of Sodom had been wicked since before Lot moved his tents outside the city.

***Genesis 13:13 Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the LORD.***

***Genesis 18:20 And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.***

*Homosexuality is pictured by Paul not as the ultimate sin but as the ultimate distortion of God’s creative genius. When the human family indulges in sexual behavior antithetical to that for which they were biologically, psychologically, and emotionally designed, the “futile” imagination has so “darkened” the foolish heart (Rom.1: 21) that it is virtually impossible to view anything as God intended.* W. A. Criswell et al., eds., **Believer’s Study Bible**, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), **Rom 1:24.**

***Romans 1:21 Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***

*Paul also makes clear that a tragic part of the downward spiral of mankind’s sinful rebellion against God, which incurs His wrath, is homosexual behavior (Rom. 1:26–28).* Ted Cabal et al., **The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith** (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 33.

***Romans 1:26-28 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women*** (females) ***exchanged the natural use*** (sex with their husbands) ***for what is against nature*** (sex with other women)***. 27) Likewise also the men*** (males)***, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful*** (homosexual acts)***, and receiving in themselves the Penalty of their error which was due. 28) And even as they did not like*** (see fit) ***to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;***

There are many things that God can do to those who indulge in homosexual acts, but giving them up to their vile passions was just, and it was what they wanted. When God “gives them up to their vile passions”, He removes the restraint off of their sin nature so they try to satisfy their sexual lust by aberrant acts that He has condemned. But their lust can never be satiated no matter how many partners they have or how perverse they become.

[This] *is not just a passive idea that God is just letting people reap the consequences of their decisions, but He is going to orchestrate how those negative consequences develop. He is going to give them over to lust patterns so that their lusts become more and more uncontrollable.* Dr. Robert Dean, ***Romans 020b-Consequences on Gender Relations****. Romans 1:26-27*

But there is more than just psychological pain, there is also physical pain that can be experienced.

*Such lustful and indecent acts have within them the seeds of punishment (due penalty).* John A. Witmer, “Romans,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, 444.

The horrible diseases such as aids would no doubt be included in what is meant in “seeds of punishment”.

It is a myth that homosexuals are born that way and it is a myth that they do not choose to live an unnatural sexual lifestyle.

Notice that verse 26 says, “*God gave them up to their vile passions”,* and they*exchanged* that which is natural, for that which is unnatural. It does not say their actions were simply a manifestation of how they were born, no, it says the females replaced what is natural for that which is unnatural. No one forced them to do it, they chose to do it. They chose to give in to deviant sexual lusts.

If those who live the LGBT lifestyle were born that way or did not make choices to live that way, or if their acts are not unnatural, shameful, or an abomination, then God would be wrong and unjust to say they are and to hold them account- able, even to require the death penalty for it under the Mosaic Law.

*In the early years of the Soviet Union they tried to experiment with role reversals among men and women having the idea that men and women are just interchang- able parts. They did completely away with traditional male and female roles within Russian society. It led to a collapse in the family and in the work place because men need to be men and women need to be women. They had to go back to the more traditional roles. When women reached certain levels of responsibility and authority within the Russian culture the men just quit.* Dr. Robert Dean, ***Romans 020b-Consequences on Gender Relations****. Romans 1:26-27*

Same-sex couples who adopt children, or already have children, deprive them of having either a biological father or mother. Children of same-sex parents are more likely to adopt a LGBT lifestyle.

*Trayce L. Hansen, PhD, psychologist and cultural commentator, wrote the following information in her article "Pro-Homosexual Researchers Conceal Findings: Children Raised by Openly Homosexual Parents More Likely to Engage in Homosexuality," https://borngay.procon.org/view.answers.php?questionID=000028*

It is so sad that our culture has accepted LGBT behavior and many Christians are afraid to condemn it for fear of being fined or even imprisoned. Even worse, most Christians have come to accept it or even celebrate it.

None of what has been stated above is to be construed to mean that we hate those who associate themselves with the LGBT community or that they are going to hell or that we think we are better than they are. We are all sinners.

We are commanded to have unconditional love for everyone, including homosexuals and lesbians. Most of them have believed the satanic lie that homosexuality and lesbianism are simply legitimate alternative lifestyles that are normal and certainly not sinful.

One way we can show our love for them is to try to persuade them that people who embrace what God has condemned, will receive cursing rather than blessing from Him. He wants to bless them but cannot as long as they live in a way that is openly defying Him.

**LESSON 100 (2-17-19)**

***Genesis 19:6-8 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, 7) and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! 8) "See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."***

1. What Lot suggested was morally reprehensible.

2. His two daughters were engaged (vs. 14). Under the Mosaic Law, Lot would be the violator of an engagement contract by allowing them to be gang raped and would ruin his reputation and result in possible physical punishment or even death (Deut. 22:23-27).

3. If he handed over the two visiting angels which he thought were men, he would also be guilty of serious breach of a traditional custom, which would ruin his reputation and destroy him socially and financially. They would take everything he had and thrown him out.

4. If Lot handed himself over to the mob, he wouldn’t be able to protect his guests or his family.

5. Lot was between a rock and a hard place. This is where everyone winds up who forsake the Lord for the world. So what could he do?

6. Call upon the Lord! Why didn’t Lot think of that? The Lord was no longer real to him because he had thrown in with degenerates who openly rejected God and influenced Lot to do the same.

7. What would have happen if he had called out to God? Remember, God had already sent the angels to save Lot.

***Romans 10:13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."***

***Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.***

***Psalm 9:9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.***

***Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, And underneath are the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you…***

***Nahum 1:6-7 Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him. 7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.***

***Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?***

There is another very similar incident that the Bible records in *Judges 19:20-30*.

***Genesis 19:9-11 And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. 10) But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. 11) And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.***

1. Verse 9 indicates that Lot had not confronted the Sodomites before and that is why they were so incensed when he asked them to not act wickedly.

2. Even after this despicable degenerate mob was struck with blindness, they still were looking for the door so that they could participate in a gang rape.

3. This supernatural act of striking the mob blind was to save Lot and his family but also to exact some sort of repentance in the mob so that the Lord wouldn’t have to judge them.

4. God’s grace was still available right up to just hours before destruction would come down on the cities.

5. There is another account of the enemy of God’s people were blinded (*2 Kings 6:8-23*).

***Genesis 19:12-14 Then the men said to Lot, "Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city -- take them out of this place! 13) "For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." 14) So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, "Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!" But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.***

1. The fact that anyone who would believe what the angels said and were willing to leave the city could be saved from the coming judgment. That is typical of how the grace of God works.

***the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.***

2. The Sodomites were guilty of the worst sexual offense, namely, attempted homosexual gang rape (cf. Judges 19; Jude 7). Their unrepentant attitude even after being super- naturally struck blind, confirmed that the Lord was justified in destroying them.

3. The two angels were eyewitnesses of the crimes committed in Sodom which satisfied the Mosaic Law requiring two eye- witnesses for capital punishment to be carried out (*Deut. 17:6*).

4. God used the same two angels He sent to save Lot to also destroy the city.

***Genesis 19:15-16 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city." 16) And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.***

1. It appears that Lot’s two son-in-laws were unbelievers which means he allowed his two daughters to marry unbelievers.

2. We can infer that Lot had arranged a marriage for his daughters with unbelievers in order to further his business ventures in Sodom and to advance himself socially there.

3. ***But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking*** - “Joking” is the verb *tsachaq* (tsaw-khak), which in the piel stem means, “to mock,” thus indicating that Lot’s future sons-in-law mocked and did not take his warning seriously. They did not respect Lot or his relationship with the Lord because he had never mentioned it before. Grace Notes

4. His top priority in life was never his relationship with the Lord, nor witnessing to anyone, but rather his business ventures and politic ambitions in Sodom. *ibid*

***2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.***

5. Being an ambassador for Christ is only for N.T. believers but O.T. believers were also responsible for spreading the gospel.

6. Did you notice that Lot did not warn his own sons from the coming destruction? *Gen.19:12 the angels told Lot to warn his son-in-law, his sons…*

7. He probably thought his sons were so deeply involved in the Sodomite wickedness by this time that it would be useless to even bother warning them.

8. The two angels made sure that there were less than 10 believers in Sodom before they would carry out its destruction.

9. It is nearly unbelievable that the angels had to grab Lot, his daughters, and his wife by the hand and forcibly remove them from the city.

**LESSON 102 (3-10-19)**

***Genesis 19:17-22 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed." 18) Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords! 19) "Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.***

1. This is so typical of loser believers who have been so influenced by the world that they have no inventory of doctrinal solutions to call upon in times of need. So he imposes on others because he didn’t obey or trust in the Lord to save him.

2. Lot wasn’t even rational. He already was saved from an out of control pervert mob by a supernatural act but now he couldn’t trust God enough to obey the angel’s directions?

***20) "See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live." 21) And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. 22) "Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.***

1. Lot didn’t care about the people of the city of Zoar, he was just concerned about himself. Zoar was one of the cities to be destroyed.

2. In his arrogantly distorted sense of justice, he thought that since Zoar was a small town, there wasn’t as much decadence going on there so that would make it more likely for God to save it from destruction.

Did he really believe that God would go easy on the sins of the people of Zoar, even though they were committing the same sins of the people of Sodom, but they would receive a pass because the city was smaller, therefore, the total number of their sins were fewer?

3. He was illegitimately taking advantage of the grace that was extended to him. He wanted to broker a better deal that would place him in a more comfortable position.

4. He was a self-centered, self-serving, self-promoting, self-absorbed jerk who thought only about himself. Lot will not be at the Judgment Seat of Christ where loser believers will “be saved; yet so as by fire”, but he certainly was saved; yet so as by fire (1 Cor. 3:15).

5. After all this, Lot and his daughters didn’t even stay in Zoar because he was afraid to stay there. People like Lot are very unstable and unpredictable. They live by their emotions.

6. Do you notice something missing in the discourse between Lot and the two angels? He never said “Thank you” to them or to God.

***Genesis 19:23-25 The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar. 24) Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven, 25) and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.***

The cities Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar according to *Genesis 14:2 & 8,* are called by theologians “the cities of the plain. The first two were no doubt destroyed as well.

***Genesis 13:10 Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere-- this was before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah-- like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go to Zoar.***

Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain had very fertile land which could produce year round. The people should have been thanking God and recognizing His glory but instead, they defied Him and engaged in inordinate sexual perversity. So this beautiful fertile valley was turned to ashes.

***Peter 2:4-6 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6) and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter;***

***Jude 1:7 Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example, in undergoing the punish- ment of eternal fire.***

It is sad to see that our country has ignored or forgotten this warning because we certainly are heading down the same road as Sodom.

The LGBT “community” has very powerful political clout these days and homosexuality and other sexual perversions are openly accepted and celebrated in our society.

Is anyone so naïve to think that homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, and trans genders will no longer try to gain more power or that they will be satisfied with their success so far? They will not stop until they have driven our beloved America down to the level of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Do people think that God will show partiality to us and not destroy us as He did the cities of the plain?

***Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.***

***Acts 10:34 Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,***

***Colossians 3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.***

The following scriptures refer to the Israelites but it also pertains to any country, including ours, who thinks it can ignore the almighty God and get by with it.

***Ezekiel 24:13-14 "In your filthiness is lewdness. Because I would have cleansed you, yet you are not clean, You will not be cleansed from your filthiness again, Until I have spent My wrath on you. 14) "I, the LORD, have spoken; it is coming and I shall act. I shall not relent, and I shall not pity, and I shall not be sorry; according to your ways and according to your deeds I shall judge you," declares the Lord God.'"***

***Deuteronomy 29:23 All its land is brimstone and salt, a burning waste, unsown and unproductive, and no grass grows in it, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and in His wrath.'***

**WND EXCLUSIVE**

SCIENTISTS: SODOM DESTROYED BY 'SUPERHEATED BLAST FROM SKIES'

*Life in fertile area saw 'sudden, collective collapse'* 11-28-18

A scientific study aligns with the biblical account of the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah being destroyed by fire and brimstone from the heaves.

The book of Genesis tells the story of God sending two angels to save Lot and his family from a city where men demanded to “be intimate” with visiting men, one of the clearest biblical condemnations of homosexuality. In response, God “rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah sulfurous fire … out of heaven.” It would be hundreds of years before life returned to the region.

And now scientists have found evidence of a cataclysmic event in that area, even if they do not attribute it to God.

Science News reported archaeologist Phillip Silvia of Trinity Southwest University in Albuquerque has concluded a “superheated blast from the skies … obliterated cities and farming settlements of the Dead Sea.”

Siliva found “radiocarbon dating and unearthed minerals that instantly crystallized at high temperatures indicate a massive airburst caused by a meteor that exploded in the atmosphere instantaneously destroyed civilization in a 25-kilometer-wide circular plain called Middle Ghor.”

Science News said the event “also pushed a bubbling brine of Dead Sea salts over once-fertile farm land, Silvia and his colleagues suspect.”

“Excavations at five large Middle Ghor sites, in what’s now Jordan, indicate that all were continuously occupied for at least 2,500 years until a sudden, collective collapse toward the end of the Bronze Age. Ground surveys have located 120 additional, smaller settlements in the region that the researchers suspect were also exposed to extreme, collapse-inducing heat and wind. An estimated 40,000 to 65,000 people inhabited Middle Ghor when the cosmic calamity hit, Silvia said,” Science News said.

Silvia has been excavating in the area for more than a decade, and radiocarbon dating suggests the mud-brick walls suddenly disappeared at once, “leaving only stone foundations.”

“What’s more, the outer layers of many pieces of pottery from same time period show signs of having melted into glass. Zircon crystals in those glassy coats formed within one second at extremely high temperatures, perhaps as hot as the surface of the sun, Silvia said,” according to the report.

And tiny bits of rock were found on pottery fragments, suggesting it “rained down.”

Researchers likened it to an event in Siberia in 1908 in which an apparent meteor exploded in the air, flattening 2,000 square kilometers of forest.

Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz reported at Breaking Israel News that scientists long had thought the evidence suggested a meteor struck Sodom and Gomorrah, but there was no evidence of a crater.

Then they turned “their eyes heavenward.”

Silvia and his team concluded the “destruction not only of Tall el-Hammam (Sodom), but also its neighbors (Gomorrah and the other cities of the plain) was most likely caused by a meteoritic airburst event.”

“The scientific explanation clearly reflects the biblical description of the destruction of the twin cities of evil located in the same area,” he wrote.

SputnikNews noted the Bible says the ancient cities were “wiped away by God for the sinful behavior of their people.”

The report says modern scientists call the events a “major calamity.”

It said the impact also pushed salty water from the Dead Sea onto land, devastating the soil and the once-fertile region’s ability to produce crops. ***(and what grew on the ground.)***

The account of Sodom and Gomorrah’s destruction is so important that it is mentioned in several other places both in the O.T and N.T.

***Isaiah 1:9-10 Unless the LORD of hosts Had left us a few survivors, We would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah. 10) Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah.*** This verse is quoted in *Rom. 9:29.*

*It is important to remember that God’s grace always comes before judgment. He gets no pleasure in pouring out His* wrath on those who defy Him and His righteous standards.

***Ezekiel 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord God, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?***

***Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'***

***2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.***

***1 Timothy 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

***Isaiah 45:22 "Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.***

**LESSON 103 (3-17-19)**

***Genesis 19:26 But his wife, from behind him, looked back; and she became a pillar of salt.***

Lot’s wife paid the price for disregarding the angelic warning to flee without a backward glance (v. 17). In so doing, she became not only encased in salt, but a poignant example of disobedience producing unwanted reaction and used in ***Luke 17:26–32*** to demonstrate the danger of being preoccupied with the things of this life.

*Jesus used this incident of Lot’s wife looking back as a warning to others not to look back (Luke 17:21–33). She apparently lingered behind, continually and longingly looking back on her beloved possessions, and was buried by the explosion that resulted from the destruction of the city*. King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 19:16.

**LESSON 104 (3-31-19)**

The things of this life were more important to Lot’s wife than the things of God.

She, like most of the people on this earth, including many believers, allowed herself to be conformed to the things of this world and she paid the price for it as do all who seek happiness and fulfilment apart from God.

***Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.***

***1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17) The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.***

***Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. 7) Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.***

***Luke 9:61-62 And another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62) But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."***

The decisions we make in setting the priorities for this life have eternal ramifications. Few make God and His Word priority number one and it certainly shows.

Vs. 27-29 God demonstrated His faithfulness and veracity. Also we learn that the intercessory prayer of a faithful and obedient believer can deliver a disobedient and unfaithful cosmic believer from death.

Vs 30-38 *Two sons were born as a result of the incestuous union between Lot and his daughters, namely, Moab and Ammon, whose descendants later on became the enemies of Israel (1 Sam. 14:47; 2 Kings 3:5; 2 Chron. 20:1, 22) and yet from this lineage came Ruth, and so Jesus Christ (see Ruth 4:18-22; Matt. 1:5). Grace Notes*

Vs. 30 - Lot went from living in a penthouse in Sodom to being a caveman. He still doubted God because he was afraid that God might change His mind and destroy Zoar.

***James 1:6-8 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7) For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8) being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.***

***Philippians 4:12-13 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13) I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***

Vs. 31 The statement by the oldest daughter of Lot, “***there is not a man on earth***” indicates that there was a complete and total destruction of the cities of the plain so that there was no male in the area for her and her sister to procreate with.

**LESSON 105 (4-7-19)**

The lack of character in Lot’s daughters and the way they tried to solve their problem simply reflected the decadent heathen lifestyle in which they were constantly exposed and the fact that their father tolerated it.

The incestuous plot of Lot’s daughters was hatched because they had **no faith in the Lord.** They probably never saw their father use “faith-rest” so it was predictable that they would act independently from God.

Lot had showed them that setting aside morals was OK when he offered them up to the pagan mob to be gang raped in order to protect the visiting angels.

*“Many Christian fathers are greatly concerned about the world in which their children live. The temptations are infinitely greater today for children than let’s say twenty years ago.” Grace Notes*

Of course parents should protect their children from our ever degenerating decadent culture which has become a cesspool. Parents should not only be very concerned about the negative influence outside the family, but also from themselves. What kind of example are we setting as parents and grandparents?

From a very early age, children watch their parent’s habits and behavior and knowingly or unknowingly, adopt them. Of course parents aren’t perfect so when they fall short of the mark, they should acknowledge it to their children so they will be able to distinguish between right and wrong.

Parents who think they always have to be right, never apologize for wrong doing because they think it is a sign of weakness that undermines their authority. Actually, just the opposite is true.

Vs. 32 The daughters were not willing to **trust the Lord** to provide husbands so they decided to take care of the problem themselves.

1) Everything depends on trusting the Lord. Faith/Rest.

2) They didn’t even have enough faith to ask the Lord for

husbands.

3) Trusting in the Lord produces a willingness to wait,

**UNBELIEF PRODUCES IMPATIENCE!**

When we stop trusting, we stop waiting.

4) Acting independently of God always ends in disaster.

It didn’t work for Adam, Eve, Cain, Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, or Lot.

It is faith in the Lord and the filling of the Holy Spirit that gives us the motivation and power to patiently wait. We have a choice, patiently wait on the Lord or take the situation into our own hands. Which one do you think works best?

***Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.***

***Psalm 130:5-6 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning;***

***Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.***

No doubt it wasn’t hard for Lot’s daughters to get him drunk because he was feeling sorry for himself and willing to drown away his troubles with alcohol.

Was it too late for Lot to start trusting in the Lord to provide him and his two daughters everything they needed? It appears that he didn’t have the one thing that was absolutely necessary for that to happen – HUMILITY!!!

Vs 33-35 Some wonder if Lot was truly fooled again the second night by his younger daughter to do the same thing again. They say that you can take Lot out of Sodom but you can’t take the Sodom out of Lot.

Vs 36-38 “Moab“ in Heb. means “from the father”. “Ben-ammi” in Heb. means “son of my people”. The father and the mother were of the same family.

The Moabites and Ammonites were rejected by God, however, not because of their questionable lineage but because of their mistreatment of Israel.

***Deuteronomy 23:3-4 No Ammonite or Moabite shall enter the assembly of the LORD; none of their descendants, even to the tenth generation, shall ever enter the assembly of the LORD, 4) because they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.***

Chapter 19 demonstrates how far a believer like Lot can fall when he chooses to act independently from God and the things of the world become more important than the things of God.

**GENESIS CHAPTER 20**

What is this chapter about?

1. We may desert God and we may disobey Him, but He never deserts or forgets us, He still keeps things moving along in His plan. Our failures never jeopardize God’s plan.

2. When we are disobedient, we miss out on the blessing and the spiritual growth we would have if we would have trusted and obeyed Him.

3. When mental attitude sins such as worry and fear are not dealt with (through Rebound), we develop strategies to provide a measure of comfort in our soul apart from God.

4. Abraham came up with the bright idea, again, to tell a half-lie about his wife Sarah. She was his half-sister.

1) What is a half-lie or a half-truth?

2) What happens here in Chapter 20 is a repeat of

what happened in Chapter 12:10-20 in Egypt.

Abraham left there in disgrace, it appears that he

Learned nothing there.

3) Why is the last thing he should be concerned

about is death? If he dies, Isaac will not be born

and then God would be a liar which is impossible.

4) How could he forget that? How could he doubt

God after He showed Abraham over and over

again that He could be trusted?

5) How can we doubt God?

**LESSON 106 (4-14-19)**

5. Read: ***Genesis 20:1-2***

Abraham knew that he was disobeying God when he lied about his wife Sarah. So why did he do it?

1) He allowed his OSN to get the best of him so his

fear of death became greater than his faith in God

or his fear of God.

2) Satan was working in the background to influence

Abraham to doubt God’s promise so that Sarah

would become pregnant from Abimelech rather than

her husband Abraham.

3) The fact that Abraham feared that Abimelech

would kill him and take Sarah into his harem

indicates that Sarah was still very beautiful even

though she was approximately ninety years old at

the time.

6. We all have failed in the same way that Abraham did and then we rationalize our lack of faith in the Lord by claiming that sometimes acting independently from God is necessary. **Leaving God out is never a good idea!**

7. We must remember that trusting God, especially in times of adversity, is more important than anything that happens to us.

8. Notice that Sarah did not expose her husband as a liar; she went along with the sham, being submissive to her husband, trusting the Lord to protect them both.

***1 Peter 3:1-2 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2) as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.***

***1 Peter 3:5-6 For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands. 6) just as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.***

So Abraham was afraid but Sarah wasn’t. She knew

that her safety and wellbeing did not rest solely in her

husband, but more importantly, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Her husband failed her, but the Lord never ever would.

9. Many lives were put in jeopardy because Abraham failed to trust God. There are always unintended consequences when we decide to trust ourselves for a solution rather than God.

10. We will notice that God was in control of all the things that were happening, turning it all out for good even though Abraham had made a mess of things. God’s grace is greater than our stupidity!

We are not sure why Abraham left Hebron, however some think it was because the view from Hebron, over- looking the destruction of the Dead Sea region was too much for Abraham to take. Scripture does not record whether Abraham knew if Lot survived the destruction of Sodom or not.

What did Abraham forget to do before he left Hebron? It was the same thing he forgot to do when he left for Egypt. Talk to the Lord!

***Psalm 55:22 Cast your burden upon the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.***

***Psalm 37:4-5 Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart. 5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.***

***Psalm 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.***

***(NLT) Psalm 63:4-8 I lie awake thinking of you,***

***meditating on you through the night. 7) Because you are my helper, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. 8) I cling to you; your strong right hand holds me securely.***

***Psalm 56:11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?***

*Gen. 20:3-5* God gets Abimelech’s attention in a big way. He probably put two and two together and found out that Abraham’s God was the God that had obliterated Sodom and Gomorra.

*Gen. 20:6-7* The Lord wouldn’t listen to the prayer of Abimelech since he was an unbeliever but He would listen to the prayer of Abraham because he was a believer possessing divine righteousness*.*

If Abimelech was so stupid as to have sex with Sarah or to try to kill Abraham, he would be a dead man because Abimelech’s life depended on Abraham’s intercessory prayer to God.

*Gen. 20:8-10*  Abimelech was not happy so he confronts Abraham about his lies. God warned Abimelech but He didn’t rebuke him. Yet, Abimelech rebuked Abraham for his lie which put Abimelech and his entire household in great danger.

Gen. 20:11-13 In three verses, Abraham gives three excuses. He still doesn’t get it, he’s still not humble.

Vs. 11 was an excuse and an insult.

Vs. 12 made it worse by telling a half-truth, still a lie.

Vs. 13 didn’t make his case any stronger, it weakened it.

So Abraham considered Abimelech and his people to be immoral godless heathens who approved of murder and adultery when he was the one willing to sacrifice his wife to protect himself from harm.

Abraham did not take responsibility for his sin since he never confessed his guilt to Abimelech. However we assume that he did acknowledge his sin to God because God answered his prayer. David wrote the following:

***Psalm 66:18 - If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear.***

Genesis 20:14-16 The record of Abimelech obeying God and restoring Sarah to Abraham motivated out of fear of being killed by God if he didn’t do so.

So what we have here is an unbeliever who hadn’t sinned, yet feared God, and a believer who had sinned, yet didn’t fear God.

Genesis 20:17-18 Abraham prayed for Abimelech and God answered his prayer.

*It appears that after this episode in Gerar, Abraham and Sarah learned the lesson of faith and trusting in the Lord and not going to the world or relying upon their own devices to solve their problems since we never again read from this point forward in Genesis that Abraham failed in this area again. Grace Notes*

**LESSON 107 (4-28-19)**

**Genesis Chapter 21**

God was working out a plan to bless Abraham and Sarah with a son that went back 25 years when they were living in Ur of the Chaldees. That seems like a long time to fulfil a promise and during that time they both lost faith that He would bring about what He promised, especially since she was ninety years old barren and Abraham was 100. They waited 24 years before God informed them when Sarah would bear a son which would be within a year. Here are a few points we must remember:

God always fulfils His promises even when we are

impatient, doubtful, and unfaithful.

***2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.***

God fulfills His promises literally. Did somebody else have a child? Was the child named something else? Was it a girl and not a boy? Was it spiritual-

ized? Was it a group? No, it happened literally

and precisely as God promised.

God has put His promises and prophesies in

writing so that we can hold Him accountable.

***Hebrews 6:18 …it is impossible for God to lie,***

***Titus 1:2 …God, who cannot lie***

***Hebrews 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised;***

***Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;***

Application: Sometimes life can become so difficult that we may question God’s promise in *1 Cor. 10:13:*

***1 Corinthians 10:13 No testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.***

**LESSON 108 (5-5-19)**

**GENESIS CHAPTER 22**

Abraham and Sarah finally witnessed the faithfulness of God when Isaac was miraculously born. Hagar and Ismael were out of the picture so there would be no competition as to who would be the heir of the promise of God through Abraham. So it would be easy to conclude that from then on, they had smooth sailing and they lived happily ever after.

A few important principles need to be pointed out here:

1. No one has continuous smooth sailing in this world.

Remember, we live in the devil’s world:

***Job 14:1 Man, who is born of woman, Is short-***

***lived and full of turmoil.***

***Job 5:7 For man is born for trouble, As sparks***

***fly upward.***

2. Even though life is full of trouble and turmoil, positive

believers can live happily ever after. However, they

must know and apply the wonderful spiritual assets

that God has made available to every believer.

(Rebound, Faith-Rest, Unconditional Love…)

3. God uses spiritually mature believers to demonstrate

that His power and His plan are greater than Satan’s, so believers do not have to rely on pleasant circumstances to be content or live the abundant life.

4. Abraham and Sarah both repeatedly failed to

TRUST and OBEY God, but He never gave up on

them. God’s blessings are based on His faithfulness,

not ours.

*“Trust and obey for there’s no other way, to be happy*

*in Jesus, but to trust and obey.” Trust and Obey*

No believer wants trouble or adversity to come into his life, but it is not something to be dreaded because our happiness and contentment does not depend on evading hard times. Those depend on our relationship with the Lord and how much we use divine viewpoint. And what does that depend on? Our intake of Bible doctrine!

The ultimate purpose is for the believer to demonstrate love for God through obedience and application of doctrine. That is what God is after; that is why the test.

***Genesis 22:1-2 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."***

**LESSON 109 (5-12-19)**

***2) And He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."***

**Testing is the key** mechanism for advancing in the spiritual life. Tests are specifically designed by God for each individual believer to produce the momentum we need to press on to spiritual maturity.

Testing allows the believer to convert his potential, which is the doctrine in the soul, into reality. It allows God to demonstrate His sufficiency to us, not only through His Word, but also experientially, even in the devil’s world.

**Obedience is the key** to passing tests.

**Faith is the key** to obedience.

Obedience is related to our love for the Lord:

***John 14:15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.***

Yes, loving God is demonstrated by applying the Word to our situations. And of course it goes without saying that we can’t apply what we don’t know.

*“If we don’t take the time to read the Word, study the Word, learn the Word under a pastor-teacher that is qualified and trained and is teaching the Word in detail, you can’t grow. It is the study and application of the Word that is the focal point throughout the Scriptures. We grow through the study of the Word.” Dr. Robert Dean, OT-01- T Genesis*

Abraham demonstrates how a believer can faith-rest and be obedient under the most extreme testing. If he could do it with God’s help, so can we!

The first thing to notice is that God’s testing always corresponds to our level of spiritual growth.

There was no way Abraham would ever pass a test like this before he passed hundreds of smaller tests.

***2) And He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."***

God made sure that Abraham knew for sure that it was his son Isaac that was to be sacrificed. He gave four indicators: 1) ***your son -*** The one Abraham had waited 25 years to be born2) ***your only son*** -Abraham had other sons, but only one was the son of promise3) ***whom you love –*** He had other sons that he loved but not like Isaac4) ***Isaac*** – He was called by name. Isaac, meaning “laughter”. *Laughter* was to be sacrificed on an altar.

*“In the Greek translation the phrase “only son” is translated with the Greek word μονογενής monogenḗs. The word can be broken down to MONO, meanings one, GENES is related to GENAO, which means generation, or uniquely generated one, or it can refer to one of a kind, and that is the main idea. It is one of a kind. It is applied here to Isaac, he was one of a kind. He was not the only son, but he is a uniquely provided son.” Ibid*

This same word, *monogenes* is also used in *John 3:16* and is translated “*only begotten* *Son*”, “*one and only Son*”, or “uniquely born Son”.

In this narrative, Isaac represents the Lord Jesus Christ. The phrase, ***your only son,*** is used in two other verses in this chapter: verses 12 and 16.

Abraham was familiar with losing things that were dear to him: 1) He lost his country, much of his family and friends when he left Ur. 2) He lost his beloved nephew Lot twice. 3) He lost his son Ismael who he loved. 4) But most of all, he thought he was going to loose Isaac.

There are three commands in this verse:

1) ***Take now*** ***your son*** – Of course this command reflected the fact that Jesus Christ is God the Father’s Son who was sacrificed for the sins of the world.

2) ***and go*** – The Hebrew word is “*halak”.* It is the same Hebrew word used in *Gen. 12:1* when the Lord commanded Abraham, “*go forth from your country*…”

In both cases, the Lord commanded Abraham to go to a place that He would reveal to him after he was on his way.

3) ***offer him*** ***there as a burnt offering –*** This sacrifice was to be symbolic of the real sacrifice that would be made by the *Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (****John 1:29****).*

***the land of Moriah on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."*** - Moriah = chosen of Jehovah. There was a land of Moriah and a mountain range also called Moriah. Traditionally associated with Jerusalem, and the site on which Solomon’s temple would be built later (cf. 2 Chr. 3:1).

*The Jewish historian Josephus (Antiq. 1.13.2, 7.13.4) clearly connects the place of the temple with the place where Isaac was offered up, as does the 2nd-century BC. Book of Jubilees (18:13). Samaritan tradition linked Moriah with Mt Gerizim. Muslim tradition connects the Dome of the Rock which stands today on the site of the Jerusalem temple with Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac on the great rock under the dome of the mosque.* Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Moriah,” **Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible** (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1488–1489.

***Genesis 22:3 So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.***

1. It is possible that God spoke to Abraham in a dream

since he rose early in the morning to obey God’s

command.

2. Abraham did not question God, he didn’t seek advice

from family or friends, he didn’t hesitate, he got

everything ready and moved out.

3. There were so many questions he could have asked God. The most obvious one would be “Why?” Another would be, “How could God command Isaac to be sacrificed when He condemned heathen nations for doing the very same thing?”

4. No doubt, this would be the last thing he thought of doing and his emotions were probably raging. He might have had a lump in his throat and a tear in his eye but he didn’t equivocate, he obeyed.

5. How could he do it? How could anyone do it? God demonstrated over and over again that He loved Abraham and was unconditionally faithful to him.

6. God promised Abraham that, there would come a great nation from him (*Gen. 12:2*). He also said that same promise would be fulfilled through Isaac.

***Genesis 17:19 But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descend- ants after him.***

How could Isaac have descendants if he died before having children?

7. The answer to the question “How did Abraham obey without complaining or asking any questions?” He simply believed God’s promise.

8. Abraham was utilizing maximum Faith/Rest. The hardest thing to do when one is under maximum pressure and stress, is to keep Mental Attitude Sins (MAS) out of the soul by thinking divine viewpoint.

9. The trick is to focus on God, His attributes and promises, rather than the problem. That keeps stress out of our soul so we can relax as we trust Him to act on our behalf and give us what we need to calmly endure any suffering.

10. When the Word of God, a promise of God, a principle

of doctrine, becomes more real to us than our emotions, our fears, our worries, our anxieties, or the negative circumstances that we face, then we are walking by means of faith and our soul is at rest.

**LESSON 110 (5-19-19)**

***Genesis 22:4 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance.***

The journey took three days so it was about a 30 – 40

mile trip.

***Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship and return to you."***

Abraham’s instructions to his companions demonstrated three things:

1. He told them only what they needed to know.

2. He concealed what he planned to do from Isaac until the time was right.

3. He was totally convinced that what he told the young

men was true. He believed that even if he did sacrifice Isaac on an altar, God would bring him back to life. If that would have happened, God would not have broken His promise that the line of Abraham would be through Isaac.

He may have remembered what the Lord said to him in Gen. 18:14 when Sarah laughed. “*Is there anything*

*too difficult for the Lord?”*

***Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18) it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called." 19) He considered that God is able to raise men even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type.***

*The figure to be the representation which the whole scene gave to Abraham of Christ in His death (typified by Isaac’s offering in intention, and the ram’s actual substitution answering to Christ’s vicarious death), and in His resurrection (typified by Abraham’s receiving him back alive from the jaws of death; just as on the day of atonement the slain goat and the scapegoat together formed one joint rite representing Christ’s death and resurrection. It was then that Abraham saw Christ’s day (John 8:56): accounting God was able to raise even from the dead: from which state of the dead he [Abraham] received him [Isaac] back as a type of the resurrection in Christ.*

*Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole*

*Bible, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 473.*

***John 8:56-59 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." 57) The Jews therefore said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" 58) Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." 59) Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the temple.***

**LESSON 111 (5-26-19)**

***Genesis 22:6-7 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7) And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"***

Isaac carried the wood for his sacrifice prefigures

Jesus who also carried the wooden cross for His sacrifice to the place where He would make atonement for the world (*John 19:17*).

Isaac was not just a boy by this time; it is estimated that he was 20 to 30 years old. He was asking the kind of questions anyone would ask. Abraham obviously had not revealed what God had commanded him to do.

***Genesis 22:8-9 And Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.***

***9) Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.***

***God will provide*** – Abraham was able to obey God without wavering even during the hardest time because of his unshakable faith that God always provides.

The most difficult thing is trusting God to provide when we don’t know what He is going to do or when. This is a saying that is old but very true.

**PP “We don’t have to know the why or the**

**when or the how because we know the Who.”**

Notice that Isaac did not press his father for details or ask him any more questions. Why, because he trusted his father just as his father trusted the Lord.

Jesus, in his humanity, trusted His father implicitly, and we are to trust Jesus implicitly.

***So the two of them walked on together.*** This was a prefigure of God the Father who was with His Son when He carried the cross to Golgotha.

When they got to the right location, Abraham did every- the proper way. He wasn’t freaking out because He trusted the Lord to take of everything.

Our job is to trust and obey. Without trust, there is no obedience.

***Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.***

***Isaiah 26:4 "Trust in the LORD forever, For in God the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.***

***Psalm 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.***

***Psalm 25:2 O my God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me.***

***Psalm 37:3-5 Trust in the LORD, and do good… Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.***

***Psalm 56:11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?***

***Psalm 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.***

***Psalm 91:2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"***

***Isaiah 12:2 "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation."***

***and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.***

The fact that Isaac voluntarily submitted to being sacrificed should not be minimized. Abraham was about a 125 years old and Isaac was about 25 years old when this occurred. He could have very easily overpowered his father and refused to be sacrificed.

Isaac was bound because that followed the procedure of sacrificing animals. The animal would be bound so they would be held fast during the course of the sacrifice.

***Genesis 22:10-12 And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12) And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."***

**LESSON 112 (6-2-19)**

1. Expect tests from God (Gen. 22:1–2)

  It is a compliment when God sends us a test; it shows God

wants to “promote us” in the “School of Faith.” God never

sends a test until He knows you are ready for it.

“Once we truly know that life is difficult—once we truly

understand and accept it—then life becomes much less

difficult” (The Road Less Traveled, p. 15).

2. Focus on promises, not explanations (Gen. 22:3–5)

Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what

seems unbearable, to do what seems unreasonable, and

expect what seems impossible.

**WE LIVE BY PROMISES, NOT BY EXPLANATIONS.**

Why did Abraham believe God and obey Him when he did

not know where (Heb. 11:8), when he did not know when

(11:9–10, 13–16), when he did not know how (11:11–12),

and when he did not know why (11:17–19)?

3. Depend on God’s provision (Gen. 22:6–14)

Abraham could depend on the promise and provision of the

Lord because He had already experienced the resurrection

power of God in his own body (Rom. 4:19–21), so he knew

that God could raise Isaac from the dead if that was His

plan.

4. Seek to glorify Christ.

We find ourselves asking “How can I get out of this?”

Instead of “What can I get out of this that will honor the

Lord?” We sometimes waste our sufferings by neglecting

or ignoring opportune- ities to praise Jesus Christ to others

who are watching us go through the furnace.

In Isaac’s case, a substitute died for him; but nobody could

take the place of Jesus on the cross. He was the only

sacrifice that could finally and completely take away the sins of the world. God provided a ram, but Isaac had asked about a lamb. The answer to the question, “Where is the lamb?” was given by John the Baptist: “Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world” (*John 1:29*).

The cross was the physical instrument of death; but at Calvary, Jesus experienced much more than death. He experienced the judgment of God for the sins of the world. Isaac felt neither the knife nor the fire, but Jesus felt both. Isaac’s loving father was right there, but Jesus was forsaken by His Father when He became sin for us (*Matt. 27:45–46; 2 Cor. 5:21*). What marvelous love!

Isaac did not start carrying the wood until he arrived at Mount Moriah. The wood is not a picture of the cross, for Jesus did not carry His cross all the way to Calvary. The wood seems to picture the burden of sin that Jesus bore for us \*(1 Peter 2:24). Abraham took the wood and “laid it upon Isaac his son” (Gen. 22:6), and “the Lord hath laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6). The fire consumed the wood as a picture of the judgment of God against sin.

It is interesting that Abraham returned to the two servants (Gen. 22:19), but nothing is said about Isaac. In fact, Isaac is not mentioned again until he is seen meeting his bride (24:62). While it is obvious that Isaac did return home with his father, the Bible type reminds us that the next event on God’s calendar is the return of Jesus Christ to claim His bride, the church.

5. Look forward to what God has for you (Gen. 22:15–24).

There is always an “afterward” to the tests of life (Heb.

12:11; 1 Peter 5:10), because God never wastes

suffering.

**1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a**

**little while, the God of all grace, who called**

**you to His eternal glory in Christ, will**

**Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and**

**establish you.**

Abraham obeyed God’s will and sought to please

Him, and God commended him. It is worth it to go

through trials if, at the end, the Father can say to us, “

Well done thou good and faithful servant!”

5. Look forward to what God has for you (Gen. 22:15–24).

There is always an “afterward” to the tests of life (Heb.

12:11; 1 Peter 5:10), because God never wastes

suffering.

***1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.***

Abraham obeyed God’s will and sought to please Him, and God commended him. It is worth it to go through trials if, at the end, the Father can say to us, “Well done thou good and faithful servant!”

***2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf [as a substitute for us], so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

***Ephesians 5:2 walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.***

***James 2:20-24 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? [In being justified before man or receiving rewards]***

***21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son [as a sacrifice] on the altar?***

***22 You see that faith was working (v. iai) with (producing) his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected (completed);***

***23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,“ (Gen. 15:6) and he was called the friend of God.***

***24 You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone justified only by faith.”***

This indicates that there are two justifications in the Scripture. One by faith and one by works.

***Genesis 22:1 NASV “Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’”***

The key word there is “tested.” This is going to be a test for Abraham, and we have already seen in the context of James that the theme of James is testing in the believer’s life and that the purpose for testing is to give the opportunity to take the doctrine that we have learned and apply it to our circumstances.

Verse 23 is a quote from Genesis 15:6, Abraham had believed God and it was, at the time of his original faith alone in the gospel, imputed to him as righteousness. So even Paul recognizes the possibility of two justifications, one which is by faith alone in Christ alone and which is toward God and enters us into the Christian life and saves us from eternity in the lake of fire. But there is a second category of justification before man when we produce good works by the application of doctrine. It is part of the spiritual life and part of the spiritual growth. That is the thrust of James 2:21.

God gave Abraham new assurances (*Gen. 22:16–18)*. He had heard these promises before, but now they took on fresh new meaning. Charles Spurgeon used to say that the promises of God never shine brighter than in the furnace of affliction.

When he arrived back home, Abraham heard another new name—Rebekah (*Gen. 22:23*)—the girl God was saving for Isaac.

Finally, Abraham came away from this trial with a deeper love for the Lord. Jesus tells us about this deeper love in *John 14:21*,

***John 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."***

**LESSON 113 (6-9-19)**

***James 2:20-24 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*** [In being justified before man or receiving rewards]

***21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son*** [**as a sacrifice**]***on the altar?***

***22) You see that faith was working*** (v. iai)***with*** (producing) ***his works,******and as a result of the works, faith was perfected*** (completed)**;**

***23) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness,“*** *(Gen. 15:6)* ***and he was called the friend of God.***

***24) You see that a man is justified by works, and not ~~by faith alone~~ justified only by faith.”***

**This indicates that there are two justifications in the Scripture. One by faith and one by works.**

***JAMES***

***James 2:14 What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?***

***James 2:17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.***

***James 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone.***

***James 2:20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?***

***PAUL***

***Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of your-selves, it is the gift of God; 9) not of works, that no one should boast.***

***Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

***Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,***

**JAMES**

**There are two types of Justification:**

**We all are JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD BY FAITH**

**Some are JUSTIFIED BEFORE MAN BY WORKS**

James was addressing believers who had already

been justified before God by FAITH but were not being justified before Man by WORKS.

Paul was instructing believers as to how to reach unbelievers who had not been justified before God by FAITH ALONE. WORKS cannot justify us before God, so they are useless *before* salvation but are commanded *after* salvation.

**There are also two types of Salvation:**

**We are Eternally Saved from the Lake of Fire when we Believe the Gospel.**

**We are Saved/Delivered from punishment or death when we Obey God which includes doing good works.**

Believers who grow in grace and knowledge mature spiritually and are experientially sanctified (set apart to God) to receive special blessings and opportunities in time and in eternity.

The fact that believers were being addressed is very important. It means that James and Paul were not writing to unbelievers for the purpose of saving them from hell. (James 2:1, 4:5)

James was writing to believers, giving them instructions and exhorting them to grow up and stop acting like spiritual babies. If they ignored the warning, they could be in for divine discipline, even a premature death.

**Since Eternal Salvation is given only as a Gift from God and is received only by Faith Alone, anyone who tries to add Works to it, do not receive it (Eternal Salvation).**

This is why it is so important to be able to explain the Epistle of James correctly to those who believe that works must be added to faith.

**LESSON 114 (6-23-19)**

***Genesis 22:10-12 And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11) But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12) And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."***

Abraham proved himself faithful in trusting in the Lord

no matter what, he endured till the end. Of course the Lord is God, He is omniscient and knew what Abraham would do but this had to be played out in real time.

***The angel of the LORD*** – This refers to the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ (*Gen.16:13, 22:11–12; 31:11, 13; 48:16; Judges 6:11, 16, 22; 13:22–23).* It is never used again after the incarnation.

*“If there could be any doubt as to the character and rank of this “angel of the Lord,” it must be removed by the solemn asseveration* [a solemn or earnest declaration] *here used—swearing by Himself, there being none greater—and as the executor of the Covenant with the patriarch and his seed, giving full assurances of its accomplishment in the most magnificent results.”* David Brown, A. R. Fausset, and Robert Jamieson, **A Commentary, Critical, Experimental, and Practical, on the Old and New Testaments**: Genesis–Deuteronomy, vol. I (London; Glasgow: William Collins, Sons, & Company, Limited, n.d.), 177.

“**I am here**”, I am ready to do whatever you call upon me to do.

When the Lord called out to Abraham, he said the same thing that he did when the Lord commanded him to sacrifice his beloved son back in verse one. He said “**I am here**”,

***Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him***

The Lord God spared Abraham’s son but He did not spare His own Son.

***Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?***

***now I know*** - Abraham passed the test in that he did not spare his son, he was in the act of sacrificing him when he was stopped. Actual experience in real time justified Divine foreknowledge.

***Genesis 22:13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.***

Here in this verse, the doctrine of substitution, is clearly presented.

***2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf* [a substitute for us]*, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***

***Ephesians 5:2 walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.***

***James 2:21-23 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23) and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.***

The Israelites offered thousands and thousands of animals throughout the years as a substitute until, *the sacrifice*, the Lamb of God (J.C.) would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

***1 Kings 8:63 Solomon offered for the sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered to the LORD, 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the sons of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.***

***Genesis 22:14 Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."***

***The LORD Will Provide*** - *Jâhovah Jireh* The Lord Provides or the Lord the Great Provider.

***"In the mount of the LORD it will be provided."***

*“The Lord was to be worshiped in His holy mountain by the nation. “Three times a year all the men [of Israel] are to appear [yērā’eh, ‘be seen’] before the Sovereign LORD” to worship Him, bringing their offerings and sacrifices (Ex. 23:17; cf. Deut. 16:16). The Lord would see (rā’âh) the needs of those who came before Him, and would meet their needs. Thus in providing for them He would be “seen.” In naming the place Abraham of course was commemorating his own experience of sacrifice to the Lord. But an animal (a ram—not a lamb).* Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 65.

*“Having passed his final exam in chapter 22 the writer of Genesis doesn’t spend any more time dealing with Abraham and his spiritual life. He has reached that point of maturity and given that evidence in his spiritual life and so the writer is now shifting from Abraham and Abraham’s maturity to preparation for the future. That is indicated by the next five verses given at the end of the chapter. We need to think in terms of why God has put these verses here. What is He trying to commun- icate to us other than just this grocery list of names that are foreign to us and we are not very sure how it all fits together.*

*There is this complete shift away from Abraham and his family, and anything related to the promise of the seed, to the descendants of Nahor, Abraham’s brother.*

*The emphasis here is on the future, that the promise of God will be fulfilled even after Abraham and Sarah have gone. Dr. Robert Dean OT-01-T Genesis*

**GENESIS CHAPTER 23**

Sarah died at the age of one hundred and twenty-seven.

Sarah is the only woman in the Bible whose age at death is recorded signifying her importance to the plan of God

She is also presented in ***1 Peter 3:1-7*** as an example for Christian woman to be obedient to their husbands.

***1 Peter 3:6 Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, and you have become her children if you do what is right without being frightened by any fear.***

**LESSON 115 (6-30-19)**

Abraham understood that death is a temporary separation but he still mourned and wept for Sarah when she died.

The Lord promises to wipe away every tear from our eyes, especially those caused by the death of loved ones. ***Isaiah 25:8 “He will swallow up death for all  time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away  from all faces, and He will remove the  reproach of His people from all the earth; For  the LORD has spoken.”***

***Revelation 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.***

***Ecclesiastes 7:1b “The day of one’s death is better than the day of one’s birth.”***

It is better to come to the end of life with a good reputation than to have a joyful and auspicious beginning but because of arrogance, have it end in shame.

**Verse 19** - Abraham bought a burial place in Canaan to bury Sarah. It was a cave in Machpelah which was close to Mamre.

(Hebron)

*The cave of Machpelah is the world's most ancient Jewish site and the second holiest place for the Jewish people, after Temple Mount in Jerusalem.* Grace Notes

The name of the cave, Machpelah means split or divided. Here were laid the bodies of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Leah (*Gen. 23:19; 25:9; 49:31; 50:13*).

*This double cave, a mystery of thousands of years, was uncovered several years ago beneath the massive building, revealing artifacts from the Early Israelite Period (some 30 centuries ago). The structure was built during the Second Temple Period (about two thousand years ago) by Herod, King of Judea, providing a place for gatherings and Jewish prayers at the graves of the Patriarchs. This uniquely impressive building is the only one that stands intact and still fulfills its original function after thousands of years. Foreign conquerors and invaders used the site for their own purposes, depending on their religious orientation: the Byzantines and Crusaders transformed it into a church and the Muslims rendered it a mosque. About 700 years ago, the Muslim Mamelukes conquered Hebron, declared the structure a mosque and forbade entry to Jews, who were not allowed past the seventh step on a staircase outside the building. Upon the liberation of Hebron in 1967, the Chief Rabbi of the Israel Defense Forces, the late Major General Rabbi Shlomo Goren, was the first Jew to enter the cave of Machpelah. Since then, Jews have been struggling to regain their prayer rights at the site, still run by the Muslim Waqf (Religious Trust) that took control during the Arab conquest. Many restrictions are imposed on Jewish prayers and customs at the Tomb of the Patriarchs despite the site's significance, primacy and sanctity in Jewish heritage and history. Over 300,000 people visit the cave annually and is divided into three rooms and presently Jews have no access to the largest room, with the exception of ten days a year. ibid*

*The fact that Abraham was attempting for the first time to purchase land in Canaan demonstrates his faith in the Lord’s promise to him to give him and his descendants the land of Canaan for a permanent possession.* Grace Notes

***Genesis 12:7 “The LORD appeared to Abram and  said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’***

***Genesis 15:7 and He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess it."***

***Genesis 15:18 "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:***

We see Abraham acting on the promises of God. He did what he could in a practical way to prepare for his descendants to carry on the plan of God.

By the time Abraham died, the only land he possessed was the burial plot for Sarah and himself. But what about the land God promised Abraham and his descendants in *Genesis 15:18* ? Abraham didn’t worry.

With this purchase of a plot of land in Hebron facing Mamre, Abraham wanted his descendants to know that he had believed in the Lord’s promises.

Read: **PP *Hebrews 11:8-16***

**LESSON 116 (7-14-19)**

**REVIEW OF BEST POWER POINTS 2019**

1.

Isn’t it wonderful that we don’t have the burden of coming up with solutions to the problems we face in this life?

**GOD IS IN THE SOLUTIONS BUSINESS**

**WE ARE IN THE TRUSTING BUSINESS**

2.

There is no neutral in our spiritual transmission; we are either going forward, growing as we daily take in the Word, or we are going backwards, retrogressing back into old comfortable wheel ruts of human viewpoint and daily being defeated by mental attitude sins, lusts, and the details of life.

3.

When confidence in God goes, faith and hope go, and then morale goes, and what is left is a miserable, defeated believer.

**CONFIDENCE:** full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness, or reliability of a person or thing: certitude, assurance, that in which faith is put.

4.

***Hebrews 10:35-36*** ***Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.***

5.

**Confidence and ignorance are mutually exclusive!**

***Proverbs 8:33-35*** ***"Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it*** [Bible Doctrine]**. 34) *"Blessed is the man who listens to me****,*[B.D.] ***Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts. 35) "For he who finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD.***

6. **Confidence in doctrine produces**

**Courage, Poise, and Certitude.**

There is a difference between having confidence that you know doctrine and having confidence in the doctrine you know.

7. **GOD WILL PROVIDE**

“We don’t have to know the **why** or the **when** or the **how** because we know the **WHO**.”

8.

*God doesn’t always solve our problems*

*by changing our circumstances.*

*Sometimes he resolves the problem by changing us.*

9.

Most believers who experience hard times and difficult circumstances focus on the problem and what must be done to eliminate it or to mitigate it so that it is manageable.

What believers need to learn is, **the problem is not the adversity we are facing, but US! We are the problem**! We are not making our requests known to God, so we are not trusting Him to deal with the unpleasant issue because we are dealing with it on our own.

10.

If we will concentrate on obeying God’s command to “be anxious about nothing”, but through prayer commit our problems to Him and believe His promise that He will provide a way of escape, then we will experience the peace of God that passes all understanding.

**LESSON 117 (7-21-19)**

**GOD WILL PROVIDE**

“We don’t have to know the **why** or the **when** or the **how** because we know the **WHO**.”

Like Abraham, we should look forward to “the world to come” and treat our present experience as a pilgrimage which is the lesson demonstrated by the life of Abraham. This great patriarch lived like a stranger in a land he would someday receive as his inheritance. So we also will have an inheritance if we, like Abraham, keep looking forward through the eyes of faith to the city whose builder is God, which is reference to the eternal New Jerusalem. Abraham had a personal sense of an eternal destiny and so should we.

Read: **PP *Hebrews 11:8-16***

**GENESIS CHAPTER 24**

This chapter makes the transition from focusing on the life of Abraham to concentrating on the life of Isaac.

This is the longest episode recorded in the book of Genesis and contains the record of Abraham securing a bride for his son Isaac. Only thirty-one verses are devoted to the Creation account in Genesis 1; sixty-seven verses are allowed as to how Rebekah became Isaac’s wife.

Having fulfilled his duty to the dead in making funeral arrangements in Genesis 23, Abraham now turns his attention to the needs of the living.

Abraham was concerned about a wife for his son Isaac since without an offspring, none of the divine promises would be fulfilled. He sent his trusted servant to go back to his original home to find a wife for Isaac.

Abraham prefigures (to picture beforehand) God the Father who would secure a bride for His Son Jesus Christ (*Matt. 22:2, 2 Cor.11:2, Rev. 19:7*).

***Genesis 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.***

We know Abraham was 140 years old because Isaac got married when he was 40 years old (Gen. 25:20) and Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Gen. 21:5)

***Blessed*** – BRARAK, *Pi el* ***imperfect***, to bless or to give blessings

***in all things.*** – The Lord blessed Abraham:

1) with an intimate relationship with Himself. He is called

the friend of God (James 2:23)

2) He gave Abraham Sarah, a beautiful and faithful wife.

They were married over 60 years,

3) He gave Abraham the ability to father a child when he

was 100 years old.

4) The Lord made Abraham’s reputation great (Gen.

12:2).

5) He was given many possessions and great wealth.

***Genesis 24:2 And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, "Please place your hand under my thigh,***

It is thought that Eliezer was the servant that Abraham chose. In *Genesis 14:2-3*, Abraham wanted to make Eliezer his heir since Abraham still had not had a son of his own.

Putting the hand under the thigh is a euphemism; the one who would take the oath would put his hand under the genitals of the one who would receive the oath.

This was a solemn sign that if the oath was not carried out, the children who would be born to Abraham would avenge the servant’s unfaithfulness.

It also may have been related to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant which included innumerable descendants in which circumcision was the sign of the covenant.

This same oath is mentioned in *Gen. 47:29* when Jacob was close to death, he made his son Joseph to promise that he would not bury his bones in Egypt.

***Genesis 24:3 …you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,***

*Nor are believers today to marry unbelievers (\*****2 Cor. 6:14–18****;* ***1 Cor. 7:39–40****). Genesis 24 is a great encouragement for those who want God’s will in the selection of a mate. Today, while we do not use the same manner as Abraham’s servant, the principles still apply: We must want God’s will, we must pray and seek His guidance, we must be willing to obey, and we must be alert to what God is doing.* Warren W. Wiersbe, Be Obedient, “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 116.

It was customary for matrimonial arrangements to be made by parents, and chosen wife was to come from one’s own tribe. But Abraham’s main concern was to

to prevent Isaac from marrying a Canaanite pagan after he died.

Unlike his nephew Lot, Abraham desired to be separate from the pagans surrounding him and so should we.

Believers who are smart, choose a mate not only because they are a believer, but also because they are hungry for God’s Word.

A spouse that has a cavalier, take it or leave it attitude towards God’s Word, can destroy a marriage as quickly as an unbelieving one.

**LESSON 118 (7-28-19)**

***Genesis 24:4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."***

***my country -*** This does “not” refer to Ur of the Chaldees, which was located on the Euphrates River in southern Iraq but to the city of Nahor, which was near Haran in northern Mesopotamia. **PP** (500 miles one way)

It was important that the purity of the Hebrew race be maintained, plus intermarriage would involve participation in religious rites.

***Genesis 24:5-6 And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?" 6) But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there.***

The servant brought up a very real possibility. Not every woman would be willing to leave her family and country to travel five hundred miles to marry a man they had never met. The servant’s faith wasn’t as strong as Abraham’s so he reassures him in verse seven.

Abraham was adamant in insisting that Isaac not go to Mesopotamia because the heir of God’s promises must stay in the Promised Land, which is Canaan. In fact, Isaac never left the land of Canaan (*Gen. 26:2-3*).

Abraham was not taking a chance that if Isaac went to Haran, he might decide to stay there which would have broken God’s covenant of the promises being passed down to Abraham’s sons.

***Genesis 24:7 The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me, and who swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you will take a wife for my son from there.***

Abraham had complete faith that God would protect the caravan and that this mission would be successful. We call this **Faith-Rest**.

*“Abraham had received no revelation respecting this mission; but he justly concluded, from his past experience, that the covenant God whom he had faithfully served, and who had given him so many tokens of His approval and blessing, would pave the way for the successful accomplishment of this mission.* David Brown, A. R. Fausset, and Robert Jamieson, **A Commentary, Critical, Experimental, and Practical, on the Old and New Testaments**: Genesis–Deuteronomy, vol. I (London; Glasgow: William Collins, Sons, & Company, Limited, n.d.), 181.

God not only allows us to use our own initiative to serve Him, He expects it. Bible doctrine gives us confidence that we are on the right track on a matter, but we make decisions on the myriad of details associated with it. We have the added bonus of the guiding ministry of the Holy Spirit.

***John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth…***

***John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***

Abraham’s servant had to make a multitude of decisions to put together this caravan that would travel about a thousand miles where just about anything could happen.

What if he made a miscalculation? What if he didn’t carry enough food or water? What then? What if he didn’t have enough men with him to protect the caravan?

Don’t play the “What if” game. Do the best you can and if every decision you make is not perfect, IT DOESN’T MATTER! Why? Because God Will Provide! He is in control. His power is greater than our failures.

Abraham knew this and that is why he was so confident that God would do whatever was necessary to bless Abraham’s effort to supply an acceptable wife for Isaac.

What if you still start to worry about something? What can you do? Go to ***Philippians 4:6-8***

Abraham reassured his servant that he would have divine and angelic aid in accomplishing the task of finding a wife for Isaac. His servant needed to know that the pressure was not on him to provide Isaac a wife but rather the responsibility was with the Lord alone!

***Genesis 24:8 "But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this my oath; only do not take my son back there."***

Even after Abraham reassured his servant, he still had a concern, so he reassured his servant that he would not be held responsible if the potential bride would not go to Canaan. But under no circumstances was he to take Isaac to Haran. Abraham knew that if Isaac went to Mesopotamia to find a bride, Satan would tempt him to stay among his relatives rather than return to Canaan.

The fact that Abraham stipulated to his servant to bring the bride to Isaac rather than Isaac to the bride reminds us of another marriage where the woman was brought to the man and not vice versa. Do you know which marriage? God brought Eve to Adam (Gen. 2:22)

The fact that Abraham stipulated to his servant to bring the bride to Isaac rather than Isaac to the bride typified or prefigures the bride of Christ being brought to Him at the rapture or resurrection of the church (1 Thes. 4:13-18)

***Genesis 24:9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.***

There was no pressure involved in this agreement. Everyone was honest and forthright, questions were answered, and the oath was made.

***Genesis 24:10 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master's in his hand; and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.***

Ten camels is a lot but they were necessary because they were carrying all the things needed to make the trip, plus the marriage presents which would be worthy of the rank and wealth of Abraham, that would be distributed to the bride and her family.

**LESSON 119 (8-4-19)**

***Genesis 24:11-12 And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.***

***12) And he said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.***

This is the first recorded instance of prayer for specific guidance in Scripture. So the first thing the servant did was to talk to God and made his requests known to Him. He asks for success in fulfilling his mission and for kindness shown to his master.

***please grant me success today,*** He recognized that it was not within his ability or power to fulfill this mission, so he depended on God which always includes prayer.

***Psalm 62:7-8 In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. 8) Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah***

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.***

***Genesis 24:13-14*** - Notice that the servant did not go around asking about virgins who were available nor put up any advertisements. He didn’t do this because it would put him in a position where he would be making the decision, rather than God.

Some may say that the proposal the servant made to God would appear on the surface to be “*putting out the fleece*” and testing God as Gideon did in *Judges 6:36-40* but the servant’s proposal to God would test the woman, not God. She would be tested to as to her character because the servant loved Abraham and Isaac wanted a woman who possessed unquestionable character.

***Proverbs 12:4 “A wife of noble character is her***

***husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is  like***

***decay in his bones.”***

***Proverbs 31:10* *Who can find a wife of noble character? For her value is far more than rubies.***

***Genesis 24:15*** The answer to the servant’s prayer was ON TIME & ON TARGET. Most prayers are not answered so quickly but they are always answered On Time and On Target. Remember the great fish that swallowed Jonah? He was OT-OT.

This encounter between Rebekah and Abraham’s servant did not happened because they were lucky nor was it a coincident; God knew this would happen in eternity past so it was part of His divine decree.

***Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10) Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure';***

**PP** The “**Decree of God**” is His eternal, holy, wise and sovereign purpose, comprehending at once all things that ever were or will be in their causes, courses, conditions, successions, and relations and determining their certain futurition (i.e., that they will certainly take place).

Shorter Version

The foreknowledge of God knew before anything existed, which things would actually happen (become historical events) and He decreed that they would surely come to pass.

***Genesis 24:16*** Rebeca was a virgin and she was beautiful. Her name meant “soft, supple”. She had to be a virgin and she had to have character but she didn’t have to be beautiful, that was a bonus.

Many, if not most of the people who get married put “looks”, being attractive at the top of their list but it should be at the bottom. For one thing, it doesn’t last.

Guys, listen to this:

***Proverbs 6:23-25 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life, 24) To keep you from the evil woman, From the smooth tongue of the adulteress. 25) Do not desire her beauty in your heart, Nor let her catch you with her eyelids.***

***Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.***

***Genesis 24:17-20*** Why all the rush?

Vs. 17 – The servant “ran” to meet her

Vs. 18 – Rebeca “quickly lowered” her jar

Vs. 20 – She “quickly lowered” her jar again and “ran”

back to the well.

The servant was eagerly anticipating to see his prayer answered. Rebeca was demonstrating her enthusiasm to show hospitality to the stranger.

She watered all his camels until they all finished drinking. Notice that she is hospitable to strangers, kind to animals, generous with her time, considerate of others and willing to give of herself to others.

**LESSON 120 (8-11-19)**

***Genesis 24:21-22*** When Rebeca finished watering the camels, she had exceeded the scenario the servant had proposed to God so he was pretty sure that she was the one.

The ring and bracelets were gifts designed to show his gratitude, to win her over, impress her family, and confirm that he was the servant of a wealthy and generous master.

***Genesis 24:23*** His question “*whose daughter are you*?” was absolutely essential since the answer would determine if she was indeed the bride for Isaac. Abraham stipulated to the servant that the woman that Isaac was to marry must be a relative of his, as recorded in *Genesis 24:4, “go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”*

Even though Rebeca did more than what the servant required her to do in his prayer to God, and even though she proved she had character, and even though she was from Abraham’s country, if she had not been a relative of Abraham, she was not the one.

***Genesis 24:24 -25*** The servant did not ask for her name but rather her father’s name because it was his name that would determine if she was a relative of Abraham.

Rebekah’s father Bethuel, was Isaac’s cousin and his name meant “*man of God*”. Milcah was Lot’s sister and her name meant “queen”. Nahor was Abraham’s brother.

So Rebekah mentioned her father (Bethuel), her father’s mother (Milcah) and her grandfather (Nahor). The identification of these individuals was exactly the information that the servant wanted to hear.

Vs. 25, again Rebeca demonstrates her hospitality and thoughtfulness.

***Genesis 24:26*** At this point, the servant knew for certain that Rebeca was indeed the woman that God chose to be Isaac’s wife.

He was so overwhelmed by the love, grace, and faithfulness of God that he bowed to the ground and worshipped the Lord with thanksgiving, praise, and adoration. Let’s think back for a moment.

When he received the mission to find a wife for Isaac, he had no idea how things would unfold, but he was instructed that there were certain things he had to do and certain things he was absolutely not to do.

We can identify with that, we are on a mission to fulfill God’s plan for our life. We have no idea how it will all unfold, but we also have received instructions to do certain things, and forbidden to certain things.

Where do we find these instructions? The Word of God.

The first thing he did was to pray. He asked God to grant him success before he left on his mission and he relied completely on God to make it successful.

There are many things that are unknown to us as we wait for God’s plan to unfold and that’s the way He wants it. Why? Because He wants us to learn to trust Him. Remember, we don’t need to know the Why, When, or How; we only need to know the WHO.

We need to learn that God is always working in the background for us. Most of the time we have no indication that anything is happening. We don’t see any miracles happening, there is no prophetic word given to us, and we are forbidden to go to fortune tellers or palm readers, or to gaze into a crystal ball.

Furthermore, our OSN and demonic forces try to place doubts into our mind and sometimes people give us horrible advice and tell us, “*You have to do something!”*

That is a plea for us to stop trusting and waiting on the Lord and to take charge of the situation our self.

That’s when we must stand strong, knowing that God is working through our circumstances to bring about His plan in our life.

If we’re not persistent in taking in the His Word, we will probably crack. We will stop trusting and start trying to handle our problems and troubles our self. Big mistake!

They will crush us.

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; 6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.***

**ACKNOWLEDGE** transitive verb

1 : to recognize the rights, authority, or status of

2 : to disclose knowledge of or agreement with

3 a : to express gratitude or obligation for

b : to take notice of

Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster,

1996).

Acknowledging Him means to put the Word first, think things out in terms of a divine viewpoint, then God directs our paths.

***paths*** - The Hebrew word here for “paths” is the Hebrew word “*derek”*. Think of all of the many paths and courses your life takes and how they go off into many different directions. Only a fool would try to navigate them without the guidance and direction of God. However, most people try it.

We trust God’s promises, principles, and procedures, through our thoughts. The act of faith itself, is not an emotion, it is an intellectual process of the mind. It is recalling the doctrine we have learned, applying it to our circumstances and believing God will work all things out for our good.

We only have limited knowledge so we don’t understand everything that is going on around us. We don’t have to understand all that God is doing in our life, we just see a very small part of it; so what we have to do is maintain our confidence that God is dealing with the things that we can’t see and that He **is** working out His plan and purpose in our life. That takes Knowledge of B.D., Faith-Rest, and Grace Orientation.

**PP** Knowledge of B.D. – Most believers are defeated because they have little or no knowledge of B.D.

Faith-Rest – The servant was trusting God to provide everything along the way. This is exhibited by his prayers in the passage. Prayer is one way we express our trust in God

Grace Orientation – He knew the grace of God was sufficient to fulfill His plan and purpose. God in His grace always provides everything we need to fulfill His purpose.

When the servant saw God pull everything together through His sovereignty, omnipotence, love, and grace,

he bowed down and worshiped Him.

What is worship?

**PP *Warren Wiersbe defines worship, “Worship is the believer’s response of all that they are –mind, emotions, will and body-to what God is and says and does. This response has its mystical side in subjective experience and its practical side in objective obedience to God’s revealed will. Worship is a loving response that’s balanced by the fear of the Lord, and it is a deepening response as the believer comes to know God better” (Real Worship, 26).***

**We worship the Lord by responding in our mind** (our thoughts)**, emotions** (joy)**, and body** (bowing our head or kneeling) **to what God is** (omnipotent and sovereign and faithful) **and in what He does** (answers our prayers) **which results in our blessing and His glory.**

When we take time out of our busy schedule to submit to God by learning His Word, we are learning how to think biblically that is worship. When we apply doctrine we have learned, that is worship. Whenever we are involved in Christian service, that is worship. Whenever we bow our heads and thank God for whatever the circumstances are, that is worship. Whenever we sing praises to God in church or elsewhere, that is worship. So, whenever we bow our heads as the servant did and give thanks to God for how He has answered our prayer, and that is worship.

**LESSON 121 (8-18-19)**

Many believe that the servant that went to get a wife for Isaac was Eliezer.

**ELIEZER** – EL = God, EZER = HELPER, God is my Helper.

***Genesis 2:18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."***

***helper*** – Hebrew word – “***EZER***” meaning helper. Feminists take umbrage at this because they think that it belittles them. This word is used 16 times in the NASV. It is used two times in Genesis referring to the mate for Adam and eleven times it refers to God as a Helper. So it is not such a belittling word after all, is it?

Go to Power Points

The Apostle Paul expressed similar gratitude and praise:

**PP *Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21) to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.***

***Genesis 24:27*** This faithful servant could not contain his joy and gratitude towards God.

“**Blessed**” is the passive voice of the verb barakh (bah-rach), which means, “to bless” in the sense of “praising” the Lord. We praise the Lord and He blesses us.

***Psalm 72:18 Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous  deeds.***

**PPGenesis 24:27 and he said, "Blessed/praised be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness** (Grace) **and His truth** (B.D.) **toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way** (Divine Guidance) **to the house of my master's brothers."**

**PP** The servant learned Bible Doctrine from Abraham (example: the Abrahamic Covenant); he left on his journey walking by faith (Faith Rest); and depended on God’s gracious provision every step of the way (Grace Orientation).

Based on God’s omniscience, He decided in eternity past that this encounter with Rebekah and Abraham’s servant would take place in the exact time, place, and way that it did.

***Genesis 24:28, “Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things.”***

Abraham was a legend in the Middle East and Rebekah would have heard about him and she heard the servant mention him in his prayer. Therefore, the fact that she runs indicates that she sensed the importance of this visit from Abraham’s servant and was eagerly anticipating what the servant would say to her father and brother.

***Genesis 24:29 -30 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring. 30) And it came about that when he saw the ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.***

Genesis 24:29-30 gives us insight into Laban’s character in that he did “not” run to see Abraham’s servant to show hospitality to him as Rebekah did but rather out of greed “when he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s wrists.”

This anticipates the character of Laban that later in his dealings with Jacob who was the son of Rebekah and Isaac. He was a money grubbing jerk.

Verse 31 - 32 – Laban was not sincere to the servant of Abraham; he was cozy up to him in order to take advantage of him.

Verse 33 – 1. Eliezer forgoes the food in order to first explain the purpose of his trip because the urgency of his business. So we see that Eliezer put his mission before his need and comfort or anything else.

2. Explaining his business first allowed him to control the situation and conversation and avoid any sense of obligation to Laban.

(Verses 34-48) Eliezer gave a long and detailed report to Laban and Bethuel where he recounts his entire experience that is recorded in *Genesis 24:1-27.*

Verses 34 - He did not give his own name indicating that the gifts he gave to Rebekah and the wealth he is carrying with him on this trip are not his own but Abraham’s.

Verses 35 – 1. The success of Abraham was reported to reveal that he had not been foolish to leave Haran after all since God had prospered him greatly.

2. Furthermore, he testified to Isaac’s ability to provide abundantly for the needs of Rebekah, who was certainly not living in poverty herself.

**LESSON 122 (8-25-19)**

Verses 36 – 1. This verse demonstrates that God had supernaturally blessed Abraham and his family and if Rebekah married Isaac, she will inherit Abraham’s fortune, which would certainly get Laban’s attention.

2. The mention of Sarah bearing a child in her old age assures Rebekah’s family that Isaac is not too old.

Verses 37-38 This recounts Abraham’s instructions to his servant Eliezer regarding securing a bride for is son Isaac.

Verse 38 – This assures Rebekah’s family that her children will be the sole heirs of Isaac’s wealth.

Verse 39 – 1. Eliezer tactfully omits Abraham’s insistence that Isaac must not be allowed to return to Haran, which is recorded in *Genesis 24:6*. [Withholding this information was not deception, it simply wasn’t necessary.]

2. In the next verse (40), he emphasized that God would see to it that He would providentially direct him in finding and securing a bride for Isaac which is what is described in *Genesis 24:7*.

Verse 40 – 41 – This information would show that the servant didn’t have an ax to grind in this issue and he would not apply pressure of any kind to coerce Rebekah to become Isaac’s wife. [Don’t pressure people!]

Verse 42 – 44 – This demonstrates Rebekah’s remarkable character and that she is the one that the Lord has chosen to marry Isaac.

Verse 45 – 1. How did Eliezer learn Rebekah’s name since it is never recorded that he was informed by Rebekah? The mention of her name here by Eliezer implies that she either must have told him or he overheard it spoken by her family.

2. Verse 46 – 48 - *Bruce K. Waltke, “The repetition of the story is necessary to persuade the family to acknowledge the hand of the Lord. His detailed recounting of Abraham’s faith, of his own prayers, and of his providential meeting with Rebekah challenges the listeners to recognize God’s approval of this marriage”* (Genesis, A Commentary, page 331, Zondervan).

3. Eliezer puts Bethuel and Laban in a position where they can hardly refuse now and so if they would say “no” it would be contrary to the will of God.

Verse 49 – 1. Abraham’s servant’s recounting of his mission recorded in *Genesis 24:37-49* is much more important to his purposes than *Genesis 24:34-36* which had to do with Abraham and Isaac’s wealth.

2. The most compelling argument Eliezer could possibly provide was evidence that it was the will of God for Rebekah to become the wife of Isaac.

3. This reveals an important point, the spiritual is always more important than the material. The invisible is more important than the visible.

4. We all need to think more about spiritual matters so when we talk to people we will be able to transi- tion from mundane subjects to spiritual matters..

5. In *Genesis 24:50-61* we have the record of Rebekah and her family’s response to the marriage proposal that was presented to them.

**LESSON 123 (9-8-19)**

Verse 50-51 – *Eliezer did such a good job of presenting the marriage proposal, they could hardly say no.*

So how could Rebekah’s family reject the marriage proposal since Eliezer made it clear to them that it was the Lord’s will for Rebekah to marry Isaac?

Verse 52 – *When they said “yes”, Eliezer immediately bowed down and thanked the Lord.*

He responded to their acceptance of the marriage in the same way he did in verse 26 after he learned that Rebekah was part of Abraham’s extended family. He prostrating himself on the ground in a wordless prayer, which expressed his thanksgiving and appreciation to the Lord for making his trip successful.

Verse 53 – *The giving of gifts would get everything started on the right note.*

This would demonstrate proof to Rebekah’s family that she would be well cared for by Isaac and it would be compensation for the loss of a hard working family member.

Verse 54 – *Eliezer’s business was completed, so it was time to return home.*

Finally, Eliezer and the family got to eat and drink and enjoy themselves. Notice the next morning he does not even say *“Please, send me away* [imperative] *to my master."* which from the perspective of Rebekah’s family, is insensitive and impolite.

Verse 55 – ***"But her brother and her mother said*** [imperfect]***, Let the girl stay with us for a few days…”***

Verse 56 - ***He said to them, “Do not delay me,*** [imperfect]  ***since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away*** [imperative]***that I may go to my master.”***

He told them repeatedly “*Do not delay me*” and he

told them for the second time to “*Send me away*”.

1. The fact that Eliezer wanted to leave immediately with Rebekah and take her back to Isaac teaches us that we are not to delay or procrastinate in fulfilling our mission. His mission was not yet ended, he still was commissioned to take Rebekah back to Isaac.

2. Eliezer was giving an implicit warning to Rebekah’s family that if they detain him they would be acting against the will of the Lord. He said, ***“since the LORD has prospered my way*** (the Lord made my mission a success by leading me to Rebekah).

3. God’s interests come before family interests and this is what Eliezer is teaching Rebekah’s family!

4. *Once business is completed, nothing good is going to happen by sticking around.*

He didn’t want to give Laban time to find a reason to rethink his decision and possibly change his mind.

5. Good salesmen know that once you have closed the deal, bid them a good day and move on. They cannot make changes to the agreement if you are not there.

6. Also, he knew that Abraham and Isaac would be anxiously awaiting to hear what happened, so he desired to get back home as soon as possible.

Verse 57-58 Though it was not essential, the bride’s consent was sometimes requested.

1. Rebekah was asked if she was willing to leave her home with a stranger to go marry a stranger!

Can you think of a reason why she would do that?

2. Rebekah’s quick response demonstrated that Eliezer had convinced her that God had chosen her to be Isaac’s wife.

3. She agreed, based on her desire to please God and because of her trust in Him to protect and provide for her.

4. Her faith in God was being tested - Would she play it safe and stay home, or would she leave her comfort zone by leaving home to be the wife of someone she never met who lived faraway.

6. The Lord challenges our faith in Him in order to build our relationship and intimacy with Him.

7. All of us must make the decision to trust God or not. Trust is built on knowledge; the more we know about God, the more we trust Him.

8. She had never seen her future husband Isaac, but she heard enough about him that she was willing to spend the rest of her life with him.

***1 Peter 1:8 and though you have not seen Him*** [JC]***, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,***

**LESSON 124 (9-15-19)**

Verse 59 - The Hebrew term translated “nurse” refers to a “wet nurse,” who was an esteemed member of the family who had the responsibility to rear the child and serve as her guardian. Grace Notes

Verse 60 The family’s blessing upon Rebekah echoes the Lord’s promises to Abraham:

***Genesis 22:17 indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.***

In the ancient world, to “possess the gate” of one’s enemies was to have access to a walled city and have control of it.

Verse 61 1. The fact that Rebekah had maids who attended to her needs says something of her social status.

2. She took a group of women with her who were intimate friends that would help ease any home- sickness that she might encounter.

Verse 62 1. The trip back is not mentioned but we can be sure that Rebekah had many questions about Isaac since she was already married to him.

2. “Beer-lahai-roi” was the fountain by which the Lord rescued Hagar as recorded in *Genesis 16:7, 14*

The name means “*the well of him that liveth and seeth me*,” God is omniscient and gracious.

Verse 63 1. “meditate” in the Heb. is “*suach*”, it is a hapax legomenon. The meaning is to muse, meditate, or commune and is often associate with prayer.

2. The fact that Isaac had to “lift his eyes” could mean that his head was bowed in prayer. It would make sense that he was in meditative prayer about his new wife and upcoming marriage.

3. He wanted to be alone with God and reflect upon how his life was about to drastically change as he was about to marry a woman he had never met!

4. J.I. Packer gives the following definition of meditation in his book entitled “Knowing God”,

*“Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways, and purposes and promises of God… Its purpose is to clear one’s mental and spiritual vision of God, and to let His truth make its full and proper impact on one’s mind and heart.”*

***Psalm 119:15, “I will meditate on Your precepts*** (instructions or procedures) ***and regard Your ways.”***

***Psalm 119:27, “Make me understand the way of Your precepts, so I will meditate on Your***

***wonders.”***

***Psalm 119:47-48, “I shall delight in Your com-mandments, which I love. And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, which I love; and I will meditate on Your statutes*** (rules)***.”***

6. Biblical Meditation gets our eyes off of self and our problems and on God’s provisions and protection, thus putting our problems in proper perspective.

7. When we meditate upon the Lord, we see things from a different perspective. Our troubles, problems, and tribulations don’t seem to matter so much anymore.

Verse 64-67 1. Rebekah dismounts to show respect just in case the man was her husband.

2. When she found out that the man was her husband, she put a veil over her face, which was

custom.

3. Eliezer would have told Isaac of Rebekah’s great attitude and character and how God identified her as the one that He had designed just for him. We don’t know if he told him of Rebekah’s great physical beauty.

***Proverbs 12:4a “A wife of noble character is her husband's crown.”***

***Proverbs 18:22 “He who finds a wife finds a  good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”***

***Proverbs 31:10 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.***

4. The fact that Eliezer gave the report to Isaac could indicate that Abraham was dead.

5. The fact that Isaac was said to be “comforted after his mother’s death” indicates that he was very close to his mother Sarah.

6. The fact that Rebekah was brought to Sarah’s tent, a place of honor, identifies her as the successor to Sarah.

**Genesis 24 TYPOLOGY**

Typology of Genesis 24 shows how the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah typifies or foreshadows the marriage of Christ and the Church. A type is a specific parallel between two historical entities.

Therefore, we see that the historical events of securing of a bride for Isaac and his marriage to Rebekah, “parallels” the historical events of the Holy Spirit securing a bride for Jesus Christ, which is the Church, and His marriage to the Church.

**ABRAHAM GOD THE FATHER (GF)**

**ISAAC GOD THE SON, JESUS CHRIST (JC)**

**THE SERVANT (Eliezer) THE HOLY SPIRIT (HS)**

**REBEKAH THE CHURCH (Church Age Believers)**

**ABRAHAM** **a Typology for GOD THE FATHER (GF)**

Abraham was the head of his family, looked after their welfare, and took care of their needs similar to God the Father is sovereign over the entire universe and provides for all the needs of His children.

Abraham went to Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son Isaac which typified or portrayed God the Father, who “spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all” (Rom/ 8:32).

Abraham’s great love for his son, Isaac, which portrays the great love that God the Father has for His Son Jesus Christ.

**ISAAC a Typology for GOD THE SON, JESUS CHRIST**

In Genesis 21, the miraculous birth of Isaac parallels and foreshadows the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. Isaac’s birth was unique because he parents were beyond the age of child bearing when he was born, which typifies the fact that Jesus Christ’s birth was unique since He was born of a virgin.

Isaac willingly laid himself upon the altar in obedience to his father Abraham, typifying or portraying the Lord Jesus Christ who was “obedient unto death” when He willingly died on the cross for us.

***Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

When Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac, THE ALTAR portrayed or foreshadowed the Cross and THE BURNT OFFERING (a ram) portrayed Jesus Christ’s death on the Cross as propitiating/satisfying the Father (1 John 2:2).

***1 John 2:2 …and He Himself (JC) is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.***

Isaac carried the wood to the place he was to be sacrificed which was similar to Jesus carrying the wooden cross to the place He was to be executed.

GOD’S INTERVENTION in preventing Abraham from sacrificing Isaac and thus sparing the life of Isaac was a type of the RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ.

**THE SERVANT (ELIEZER), a Typology for THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The fact that Abraham sent his servant Eliezer to secure a bride for his son Isaac in faraway northern Mesopotamia, portrays God the Father sending the Holy Spirit from heaven to planet earth to secure a bride for His Son Jesus Christ, the bride being the born again believers in the church age.

This ministry of the Holy Spirit calling out a bride for Jesus Christ is called “the Baptism of the Spirit.” At the moment of salvation. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit takes the believer and permanently identifies him or her with Jesus Christ. They are placed into union with Christ and are “in Christ” for evermore.

The servant’s “testimony” to Rebekah concerning Abraham and his son Isaac, portrays the Holy Spirit’s ministry in describing Jesus Christ to us (*John 16:13-14*).

***John 16:13-14 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 ) "He shall glorify Me (JC); for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you*.**

When the servant, Eliezer (HS), gave gifts to Rebekah (the Church), it portrayed the Holy Spirit giving spiritual gifts to Church Age believers when they become part of the Royal Family of God at the moment of salvation.

**REBEKAH, a Typology for the Church,**

**(Church Age Believers)**

Just as REBEKAH SAID YES to become the wife of Isaac, Church Age BELIEVERS MUST SAY YES to the gospel to become the body of Christ and eventually, to become the bride of Christ.

The Greek term translated “church” in your English Bibles is the noun ekklesia ἐκκλησία, which literally means, “called out ones” since it is composed of the preposition ek, “out from” and the verb kaleo, καλέω “to call”. The people who gather together who share a common interest are called the Church.

Our union with Christ makes the believer a member of the body of Christ and future bride of Christ since this union permanently identifies us with Christ in His crucifixion (*Rom. 6:6*; *Gal. 6:14*), death (*Rom. 6:8*), burial (*Rom. 6:4*; *Col. 2:12*), resurrection (*Eph. 2:6*; *Col. 3:1*) and session (*Eph. 2:6*).

***1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we  were all  baptized into one body, whether Jews  or Greeks,  whether slaves or free, and we  were all made to  drink of  one Spirit.”***

The apostle Paul teaches that the church is engaged to Jesus Christ.

***2 Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin.***

The meeting of Rebekah and Isaac is somewhat like the rapture of the Church. She had never seen her husband until they met and she was brought to him just as we will be taken to Jesus Christ at the rapture when we receive our resurrection body and meet Him in the air.

The fact that Rebekah was a virgin portrays the purity of the church when she is presented to Christ (Eph. 5:25-27).

**LESSON 125 (9-22-19)**

**EXHORTATION**

We are a new creation in Christ, we are the Royal Family of God and we are in the midst of the Angelic Conflict. Even though it started before Adam and Eve were created, it still rages and it is very real. We will either be defeated casualties in this war, or victorious overcomers. Each believer chooses which one he will be by the decisions he makes. **Perseverance** in learning and applying Bible doctrine is the only path to victory.

(NIV) ***James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4) Persever- ance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.***

**Perseverance**, endurance, steadfastness, and faithfulness are the qualities that develop Christian character and transforms doctrine on the written pages of Scripture, into a way of life.

***Hebrews 10:35-36 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36) For you have need of endurance/perseverance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*** 32-36

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6) in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.***

***Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.***

The book of Revelations mentions the word *perseverance* seven times relating it to overcomers.

“*Consider this word perseverance. Its meaning is rooted in the word severe. It implies that there are times when we will not reach our spiritual goals unless we are stretched in ways others call severe or extreme. We don’t go one mile; we go two. We contend for the faith; we wrestle against principal- ities and powers. We are not wimps; we don’t give up. We are soldiers who endure hardship. Even if we are knocked down, defeat is not final; We rise to fight another day. Surrender is not an option.*

*Our success comes from our faith in God; we must pray and apply ourselves in a great many ways, spiritually speaking* [apply doctrine to our circum- stances]*. But underlying all our other virtues, there needs to exist in us an inherent perseverance of spirit.*

*Multitudes will read comfortably about God’s promises, but you and I are called on to possess the promises and walk in them. You see, the real issue is not “Are you saved?’ but “Are you over- coming?”* Francis Frangipane, *This is the Day We Fight! Breaking the Bondage of a Passive Spirit,* p. 9

The following is taken from the Philippians Notes: **Lesson 167** (9-18-19)

God can do wonderfully marvelous things through us, but He has to prepare us first.

This is the way that C.I. Scolfield describes that preparation:

*“The one broad distinction between Christian and Christian is that some are seeking by self-effort to attain to the standard of right Christian living, while others, in utter self-distrust, are yielding themselves to the great supernatural enablements, which are the birthright of every believer.* C. I. Scofield, No Room in the Inn and Other Interpretations, ed. Mary Emily Reily (New York; London; Toronto; Melbourne; Bombay: Oxford University Press; Humphrey Milford, 1913), 117.

Christians who yield themselves to the great super- natural enablements of God do suffer, but not because God is angry with them. They suffer through the preparation process that God uses to do great things through them.

Doubtless there are chastisements for the willfully disobedient child, but the cause in such cases are usually evident.

“*Take an illustration: A ton of pig iron is worth about*

*$4.00, a ton of watch springs about $30,000, and a*

*ton of Damascus blades about $100,000. And the springs and the blades were all pig iron once. But there is no rose-strewn pathway over which pig iron may saunter into springship and bladehood, nor may pig iron be smitten into perfection of edge and temper by one fierce touch of the furnace. Again and again it must be bathed in flame, and* *again and again beaten upon the anvil.*

*But the smith is not angry with the pig iron. His*

*blows are not the blows of wrath, nor his thrusting’s into the furnace the tokens of judgment. A sinner* *becomes a saint by faith, but he does not become saintly in one day, nor by one testing.*

*Twenty years before, these men* [Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego] *had stood with Daniel under test, to determine whether they would be loyal to God and conscience in small things. Now* [as they defy Nebuchadnezzar and are about to be thrown into the fiery furnace] *they are ready for a more fundamental and profound testing.* C. I. Scofield, No Room in the Inn and Other Interpretations, ed. Mary Emily Reily (New York; London; Toronto; Melbourne; Bombay: Oxford University Press; Humphrey Milford, 1913), 120.

So, are you satisfied with being a $4.00 a ton believer, a $30,000 a ton believer, or do you aspire to becoming a $100,000 a ton believer? Your answer to this question will determine the way you will spend eternity.

God has given believers a heavenly standard for earthly living. There is no way we are able to meet that standard apart from God enabling us. The good news is, God gives superhuman enablement to believers who yield to Him, in order to meet His superhuman heavenly standard.

This is certain, if you want to become a $100,000 a ton believer, God will provide absolutely everything you will ever need to reach your goal.

One place where the Bible gives instructions on becoming a $100,000 a ton believer / victorious overcomer / Super Grace believer is found in Philippians, starting with chapter 4 and verse 6:

***Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.***

1. Stop worrying and start praying. Tell God all about your problems and trust Him to deal with them.

***Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

2. You will experience the wonderful peace of God as your stress and anxiety is replaced with content- ment and serenity.

***Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell (meditate) on these things.***

3. What should we think? Meditating on the things in this list will help us to maintain the peace of God. When we are worried or afraid, we think about our problems, but when we think about God and the uplifting things in this list, we are confident and content.

***Philippians 4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.***

4. What should we do? Keep on applying the doctrine we have learned and emulate others who are adult believers and who are growing in grace and knowledge.

**LESSON 126 (9-29-19)**

**EXORTATION PART 2**

*A universal tragedy had occurred. The Morning Star, known as Lucifer, God’s perfect one, full of wisdom and beauty, the angelic being whom God had appointed as ruler over the ancient cosmos…*

*had fallen. He concluded that God’s gifts were more important than the giver, that dependence on God and obedience to His revealed will were not necessary. He became the Satan, God’s adversary. He was cast to earth, and the earth was judged. At that time the earth, from which he ruled and on which he lived, became without form and void (Genesis 1:2)*

*We shall give this rebellion a through trial. We shall permit it to run full course. The universe shall see what a creature, even the greatest can do apart from God. We shall set up an experiment, and permit the universe of creatures to watch it, during this brief interlude between eternity past and eternity future called “time.” The spirit of independence shall be allowed to expand to the utmost. And wreck and ruin which shall result will demonstrate to the universe, and forever, that* ***there is no life, no joy, no peace, apart from a complete dependence upon the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth****.*

[Most believers have not learned this.]

*The Lord Himself could have destroyed this rebel immediately. He could have answered this challenge with raw power. But He had a better plan that would forever answer this satanic alternative, a plan that would involve Himself personally in a moral demonstration of His love and grace. He would one day demonstrate the superiority of ways – dependence and servant- hood. Joseph Dillow, Final Destiny, Prologue, page 5*

Another way of saying “dependence and servant- hood” is “trust and obey”. The song we sang earlier, Trust and Obey has a line in it, *Trust and obey for there’s no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.* No truer words have ever been said.

God gave Lucifer/Satan, as well as all angels, free will which is the freedom to choose. He gave it to us as well. But Satan mistakenly decided that freedom meant that he could do anything he wanted to do without experiencing consequences. In other words, he thought that freedom and authority are mutually exclusive, but that is most certainly not true.

Authority without freedom is tyranny.

Freedom without authority is anarchy.

We have the freedom to trust and obey God or to act independently from Him and disobey Him, but He holds us accountable for our decisions.

There are two absolute spheres of power that operate in the universe. One is God’s sphere of power which can be called the Divine Sphere of Power or the Divine Dynusphere. The other is Satan’s sphere of power which can be called the Cosmic Sphere of Power or the Cosmic Dynusphere.

We can choose to operate under the Divine Domain by submitting to God, or we can choose to operate under the Cosmic Domain by submitting to Satan. What we cannot do is be independent. We either operate under God’s sphere of power or Satan’s sphere of power. When we act independently from God, we submit to Satan. When we act independently from Satan, we submit to God.

The Bible describes two classifications of believers. Hebrews chapter five classifies one as being *dull of hearing*. The writer in verse 10 referred to the Melchizedekian Priesthood when he realized that those who he was teaching were dull of hearing.

***Hebrews 5:11 Concerning him*** [Melchizedek] ***we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.***

The phrase “*become* (v. rai) *dull of hearing*” means that they weren’t always dull of hearing. The Greek word for “dull” is “*nothrus*” which means slowness of perception due to moral laxness or irresponsibility.

In classical Greek it was used as an epithet for the mule who stubbornly refuses to obey.

***Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13) For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14) But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.***

The other classification refers to *mature believers* which includes those who are accustomed to the word of righteousness [BD] and because of practice have been trained to discern good and evil.

The difference between the two types of believers has to do with perseverance and persistence.

Mediocre believers become dull of hearing because they lack persistence in learning the Word, whereas mature believers keep growing spiritually by their commitment to be biblically trained and then practice what they learn.

Other terms the Bible uses to distinguish between the two types of believers is those who learn and serve with a **whole heart** and those who do so, but **not whole heartedly** or **half-heartedly**.

King Hezekiah walked before the Lord with a “*whole heart” (2 Kings 20:3)* but Amaziah“did what was right in the sight of the Lord yet *not with a whole heart’ (2 Chronicles 25:2).*

It was said of Solomon, when he was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been” (1 Kings11:4)

Like the believers in Hebrews 5, mediocre believers don’t start out with a half-hearted effort to learn and grow. God gives them time to mature and grow but they choose not to. They develop a willful refusal to grow. They all have the following traits in common:

1. Refusal to consistently study God’s Word.

2. A lack of skill in rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

3. Ability to absorb only milk and not solid food.

4. Spiritual dullness because of lack of meet.

The book of James describe these believers as having a dead faith (*James 2:17*).

A few points on what the mediocre believer misses out on, due to his lack of interest and ignorance of God’s Word:

a. Operating under the Divine Domain and reach-

ing spiritual maturity requires knowledge of BD.

b. Through Bible study, we learn about the

tremendous spiritual assets and escrow

blessings that are available to every believer.

c. Through Bible study we learn the mechanics

and techniques needed to execute the

Christian way of life in the Church Age.

d. Rebound, Faith-Rest, the Grace Pipeline,

Operation Z, the A+B+C formula, 3 Stages,

the Divine Domain and the Cosmic Compound

e. It is impossible to have confidence, courage,

contentment, security, the peace of God and

hope apart from diligently digesting doctrine.

The Apostle Paul refers to the two categories as **vessels of honor** and **vessels of dishonor**;

***2 Timothy 2:20-21 Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels*** [worthy commendable believers]***, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware*** [unworthy believers]***, and some to honor and some to dishonor. 21) Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things*** [mentioned in verses 16-19]***, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.***

Paul started out five verses earlier with a command which puts things in a better perspective.

***2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

*Can a Christian lose his joy? (Gal. 4:15)? Yes! Can a Christian count an apostle as his enemy (Gal. 4:19)? Yes! Can Christians put themselves under the Law (Gal 4:21), fall from the grace-way-of-life, and become alienated from Christ (Gal. 5:4)? Yes! Is it possible for a Christian to use his freedom in Christ to “indulge the sinful nature” (Gal. 5:13)? Yes! If it were not possible, there would be no point in warning them not to do something they could never do.*

*Christians can “destroy” each other by their biting and devouring of each other (Gal. 5:15). Christians are capable of expressing the fruits of either the flesh or the spirit. The works of the flesh are warned against (Gal. 5:21). If they persist in them, they will not inherit the Kingdom.*

*If a Christian sows to please his flesh, he will reap destruction: divine discipline,\* possibly physical death, and certain loss of reward (Gal. 6:8).*

*If he sows to the Spirit, he will reap eternal life. When eternal life is put in the future, as it is here, it is often viewed as something earned, that is, a reward.*

***\* Hebrews 10:28-31 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29) How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under- foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30) For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." 31) It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

Remember, this was given to believers!

So what does the Lord think about mediocre believers?

***Revelation 3:16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.***

**LESSON 127 (10-6-19)**

**EXHORTATION PART 3**

What I have been trying to emphasize in this short “Exhortation” series is the sobering fact is that our decisions have eternal consequences that cannot be reversed. Of course we can acknowledge our sins to God and be restored to fellowship but God Himself can’t turn back the clock and unmake the choices and decisions we have made over a lifetime, nor can He undo the consequences.

As always, ignorance and apathy are the greatest hindrances that are always found in mediocre believers.

For instance, most believers are ignorant, or have little understanding about the inheritance from God that is available to them. That is unfortunate because the phenomenal inheritance God has for us can be a wonderful motivation for us to persevere all the way to spiritual maturity.

There is an inheritance that is for all believers which is based on faith apart from merit. It is promised to all believers:

***Galatians 3:29 And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.***

***Galatians 4:7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.***

***Romans 4:13-14 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14) For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified;***

***Titus 3:7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

There is another kind of inheritance that is only for believers who walk by the Spirit and manifest a Christ-like lifestyle

***Romans 8:16-17 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.***

***James 2:5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?***

***Revelation 21:7 He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.***

***Matthew 25:34-35 Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.***

***35) 'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;***

*The heirs of the kingdom of God, in either the millennial or eternal phase, are its owners and rulers and not just its residents. Joseph Dillow, Final Destiny, p.89*

***Romans 8:17***uses the phrase of being “fellow heirs with Christ” or “co-heirs with Christ”. That is what Paul elsewhere calls “inheriting the kingdom”.

So in *1 Corinthians 6:10* and *Galatians 5:21*, Paul brings up the issue of “DISINHERITANCE”.

***1 Corinthians 6:9a Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?***

This is definitely **not** addressed to unbelievers but to believers who may be tempted to be mediocre believers. Then a list of things are given that would disqualify them from inheriting the kingdom of God:

***1 Corinthians 6:9b-10 Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10) nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.***

Notice carefully that verse 10 does NOT say that those who are guilty of the sins mentioned will not **inhabit** the kingdom of God, but it says they won’t **inherit** the kingdom of God.

***1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.***

A similar list can be found in ***Galatians 5:19-21***

***Galatians 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20) idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21) envying, drunken- ness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.***

We are familiar with the normal practice of parents leaving an inheritance for their children. But some- times parents leave no inheritance for children who are disrespectful and disobedient. They are disinherited.

God does the same thing with His children. Children who are consistently walk by the Spirit will have inheriting rights in heaven; those who are rebellious and defiant will not.

Can you imagine how embarrassing it would be to be disinherited by God? Of course this does not in any way mean that your eternal security is in jeopardy or that you would no longer be His child.

The attraction of the things of this world, the enticement of our old sin nature, and the lies and deception of Satan and his minions to draw us away from being faithful to God, are powerful forces that are very effective in negatively influencing mediocre believers. Consequently, they can become a negative influence on other believers.

God will not allow that to happen to believers who are obedient and faithful, so He protects them from this negative influence by requiring them to separate from mediocre believers under certain conditions.

This is an illustration of how important it is to God that we persevere in trusting Him and obeying Him.

***2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks*** (pt. pa) ***disorderly*** (adv.) ***and not according to the tradition which he received from us.***

***disorderly*** (adverb)

1: engaged in conduct offensive to public order -

charged with being drunk and disorderly. Merriam-Webster’s

Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

ATAKTOS, **ἀτάκτως,** adverb; in defiance of good order, disorderly

***2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note*** (v. pmm) ***that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed*** (v. aps)***. 15) Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.***

***admonish,* νουθετέω,** v. pam; to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct, admonish, warn, instruct

This certainly does not mean that we are to judge others, for that is forbidden (Matt. 7:1). However, we must recognize that there are situations where we are commanded to separate from believers who are sinning and will not stop.

***1 Corinthians 5:11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler - not even to eat with such a one.***

***Matthew 10:34-39, Romans 16:17-18***

The Lord wants to bless us in time and in eternity and He enables us to obey His commands and to faithfully fulfill His plan for our life. We all must give an account at the **Judgment Seat of Christ** as to whether we grew to become a faithful mature believer or whether we squandered that opportunity and remained a mediocre believer.

***Romans 14:10 &12 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ… 12) So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.***

***2 Corinthians 5:9-10 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good*** (divine good) ***or ~~bad~~*** *(phaulos -* inferior, worthless**,**referring to human good).

***1 John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.*** (1 John 3:2)

I can’t imagine that mediocre believers who did not abide in Christ will be ashamed before Him at His coming and not be ashamed before Him at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**LESSON 128 (10-13-19)**

**EXHORTATION REVIEW PART 1**

**PERSEVERANCE**

*(NIV)* ***James 1:2-4 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3) because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4) Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.***

Multitudes will read comfortably about God’s promises, but you and I are called on to possess the promises and walk in them. You see, the real issue is not “Are you saved?’ but “Are you over- coming?” Francis Frangipane, This is the Day We Fight! Breaking the Bondage of a Passive Spirit, p. 9

Pig iron illustration

***Philippians 4:6-9***

**EXHORTATION REVIEW PART 2**

The Angelic Conflict – the Fall of Lucifer/Satan

And wreck and ruin which shall result will demonstrate to the universe, and forever, that there is no life, no joy, no peace, apart from a complete dependence upon the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth.

Freedom doesn’t mean one can do anything he wants without any consequences.

**Authority without freedom is tyranny.**

**Freedom without authority is anarchy.**

There are two absolute spheres of power that operate in the universe. One is God’s sphere of power which can be called the Divine Sphere of Power or the Divine Dynasphere. The other is Satan’s sphere of power which can be called the Cosmic Sphere of Power or the Cosmic Dynasphere.

We can choose to operate under the Divine Domain by submitting to God, or we can choose to operate under the Cosmic Domain by submitting to Satan. What we cannot do is be independent. We either operate under God’s sphere of power or Satan’s sphere of power. When we act independently from God, we submit to Satan. When we act independently from Satan, we submit to God.

**dull of hearing vs hungry for the Word of God**

**half-heartedly vs whole heartedly**

**spiritual baby vs spiritual maturity**

**vessels of dishonor vs vessels of honor**

**mediocre believer vs mature believer**

**EXHORTATION REVIEW PART 3**

There are two kinds of inheritance for believers.

1. There is an inheritance that is for all believers which is based on faith apart from good works. It is promised to all believers.

2. There is another kind of inheritance that is only for believers who walk by the Spirit and manifest a Christ-like lifestyle.

Notice carefully that *I Cor. 6:10* does NOT say that those who are guilty of the sins mentioned will **not *inhabit*** the kingdom of God, but it says they **will not *inherit*** the kingdom of God.

God protects mature believers from the negative influence of mediocre believers by requiring them to separate from mediocre believers under certain conditions. This is an illustration of how important it is to God that we persevere in trusting Him and obeying Him.

All Church Age believers will stand before J.C. at the Judgment Seat of Christ where we will be evaluated as to whether we will receive rewards for being good and faithful servants or be disinherited.

**LESSON 129 (10-20-19)**

**GENESIS CHAPTER 25**

We spent seven hours studying Genesis Chapter 24. There was a lot to learn in that chapter and if we want to retain what we learned, it would be a good idea to review it.

Over and over again God proves Himself **faithful** to His promise. No matter how much Abraham disobeyed, no matter what he did, no matter how he screwed up trying to solve problems himself, God remained faithful. And that correlates to an attribute of God that stands out, and that is His attribute of His loyal love—*chesed.* Both of these stand out for us in Genesis. So whatever we go through, we can rely upon God who is always faithful and loving and who will never desert us.

**Vs. 1-2** Abraham married again when he was around 130 years old to Keturah and had children with her. So the rejuvenation of his sexual abilities didn’t go away after Isaac was born. He still has the physical abilities to produce children.

He had six sons with Keturah but the only one that is noted in the Scriptures is Midian, from which the Midianites came.

Several generations later Moses married a Midianite woman named Zipporah. The Midianites were the first cousins of the Israelites.

**Vs. 4-6** Abraham gave everything to Isaac because he was the promised seed. He graciously took care of his other sons, giving them gifts (probably starter herds) but then sent them on their way in order to protect Isaac from the troubles of jealousy and rivalry which no doubt would occur. The other sons simply melt into the Arab mix, but the line of Christ was protected.

**Vs. 7** Abraham lived to be 175. He lived 75 years after Isaac was born.

**Vs. 8-11** It would appear that since Ishmael and Isaac buried Abraham together, that they had put aside any hostilities they may have had toward each other.

**Vs. 12-18** Starting in verse 12 we have the brief genealogy of Ishmael which goes down through verse 18, and then we start a record of Isaac in verse 19.

**Vs. 19-23** Esau and Jacob were born to Isaac when he was 60 years old. That was 20 years after he was married which was an unusually long time. The reason was, Rebekah**,** like Sarah, was barren.

One would think that since these women were in the line of Christ that they would be very fertile. But they were barren for two reasons:

1. Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel – the wives of

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, had miraculous births because they were all barren and God produced a miracle in their body to be able to have a child.

He did this in order to demonstrate that He was active in bringing into being those who would be the founding fathers of His chosen people.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob didn’t just happen

to be the ones born who God would use, God

chose them.

2. They were barren because that they needed

to learn that God is always faithful to His word. They knew that God had promised their husbands that innumerable off-springs would come from them.

***Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb;***

***\*Genesis 17:5b-6 …for I will make you*** [Abraham] ***the father of a multitude of nations. 6) "And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.***

***And two peoples shall be separated from your body;***

***\*Genesis 27:29a May peoples serve you*** (Jacob)***,***

***and nations bow down to you…***

Also: ***Numbers 20:14, Deut. 2:4 & 8***

***And one people*** [Israelites] ***shall be stronger than the other*** [Edomites]***;***

***\*Genesis 27:29b Be master of your brothers,***

***And the older*** [Esau] ***shall serve the younger*** (Jacob)***."***

***\*Genesis 27:29c And may your mother's sons bow down to you*** (Jacob)***. Cursed be those who curse you, and blessed be those who bless you.***

***\*Genesis 27:40 And by your sword you*** [Esau] ***shall live, And your brother*** (Jacob) ***you shall serve;***

***\**** Part of Isaac’s blessing given to Jacob.

**LESSON 130 (10-27-19)**

***Genesis 25:25 Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau.***

*When Esau was born he was “red, all over like a hairy garment.” There is a play on words here, this is a pun. The word “red” or “ruddy” is the Hebrew word adom or adam. The word for Edom which describes the descendants of Esau is a slightly different word. The consonants are the same and there is a play on words here that Esau is red or ruddy, and this begins to give the explanation of the origin of the term for Edomites. He is also said to be hairy. The word for hairy is sair, and the consonants in that word are the same consonants that are found in the name of Mount Seir, and seir becomes a synonym for the Edomites. Mount Seir is located in the territory of the Edmomites. Dr. Robert Dean, Genesis 119b- Birthright, Inheritance; Genesis 25:27-32,*

***Genesis 25:26 And afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.***

The Hebrew word “Jacob” means His name also meant “one who grabs the heel” or “one who trips up.” It would appear that even at birth, Jacob wasn’t willing for his brother to get ahead of him. He wanted to be first.

He was manipulative, a conniver, and we see this element of his character all the way through the next few chapters. It is not until he is older and he wrestles with God at Penuel that his character is transformed and you don’t see this element any more.

So the twins’ births had great significance for later events in their lives.

***Genesis 25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents.***

The two sons could hardly be more different. Esau was a man’s man, an outdoors man, burley, hairy, physically strong, and probably loud. Jacob had a more mild nature, somewhat of an introvert, a thinker, a schemer who liked being indoors more than being outside.

***Genesis 25:28 Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.***

We learn from this verse that there was parental favoritism. When it says that Rebekah loved Jacob, it doesn’t mean she hated Esau, or that because Isaac loved Esau he therefore hated Jacob. It is just pointing out that there each parent had their favorites.

No doubt, Rebekah remembered the prophecy that God made, that Jacob is the one that would receive the inheritance and the blessing, and that the older would serve the younger.

***Genesis 25:29-30 And when Jacob had cooked stew, Esau came in from the field and he was famished; 30) and Esau said to Jacob, "Please let me have a swallow of that red stuff there, for I am famished." Therefore his name was called Edom.***

It is very unlikely that Jacob was at the right place at the right time to catch Esau in a vulnerable state.

It is much more likely that it wasn’t a coincident but something that Jacob had thought out in order to trick Esau into giving him his inheritance.

It wasn’t all that hard for Jacob to carry out his scheme because Esau just didn’t care about spiritual things, or his birthright. That is the overriding point in this episode, which we will come to in the last verse of the chapter.

***Therefore his name was called Edom.*** Esau asked for some of the red stuff so imploringly that he got the nickname “Red” (Edom), and it stuck to him and to his posterity, the Edomites.

***Genesis 25:31-33 But Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." 32) And Esau said, "Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?" 33) And Jacob said, "First swear to me"; so he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.***

Now Esau the skillful hunter became more like an animal he had trapped with bait. To live on this base level, to satisfy one’s appetites, inevitably leads to a despising of spiritual things.

No one was righteous here. Esau cared little about spiritual things and Jacob connived in order to get the birthright and later the blessing/inheritance which God had already said would be his. All he had to do was to trust in God and all of this would have fallen into his lap.

***Genesis 25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.***

Just what had Esau given away?

*Let’s stop and look for a minute at the value of the birthright and what it means. It means that the one who had it was the head of the house. The firstborn had a special place of privilege and respect over all the other offspring.*

*It also means that the one who had it was the priest of the family. In this particular family, it means that the one who had it would be the one who would be in the line that would lead to Christ. Do you think that Esau had valued it at all? Jacob knew that he didn’t. He attached no importance to it, and he didn’t want to be the priest of the family. In fact, that’s the last thing that he wanted to be.*

J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Law (Genesis 16-33), electronic ed., vol. 2

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 109.

* The firstborn had a double portion in the paternal inheritance.
* The firstborn succeeded in the government of the family or the kingdom. They follow the father’s footsteps. *2 Chronicles 21:3*, “And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn.”

How many Christians have the same attitude that Esau had toward the spiritual assets that God has graciously bequeathed to them? They couldn’t care less about God or His Word. Most believers have a casual nonchalant attitude toward the things of God.

*As God had prophesied back in verse 23, these two represented two nations, and we see the outworking of this conflict between Jacob and Esau as we go down through history. Edom’s traditional home is south-east of the Dead Sea. When Israel was returning from Egypt as they went through the wilderness for forty years, and then God began to lead the conquest generation to Canaan, they had to go around the land of Edom because the Edomites refused to let Israel pass through their territory, even though God told them that they were not to take any of that territory because He had given that to Edom. Numbers 20:14-21. Later on in the period of the monarchy, the period of Saul and David and subsequent rulers, there is periodic conflict and war between Edom and Israel. It was later predicted that Edom would be destroyed once and for all and incorporated into the kingdom of Israel, and that is found in Obadiah and Malachi 1:4. But the lesson that we get from Esau is found in Hebrews chapter twelve. Dr. Robert Dean, Genesis 119b- Birthright, Inheritance; Genesis 25:27-32,*

**LESSON 131 (11-10-19)**

***Hebrews 12:14 Pursue*** (v. pam) ***peace with all men, and the sanctification/holiness without which no one will see the Lord.***

1. The word hagiasmos for sanctification relates to holiness, consecration or sanctification. Here it's not talking about phase 1 sanctification or becoming a believer which occurs to everybody. The instant you trust Christ as Savior, you are identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. That’s referred to as the Baptism by the Holy Spirit. At that instant you become positionally set apart to God which can be referred to positionally sanctification. **PP**

***15) See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;***

2. Some people have taken “*come short of grace*” to mean losing salvation; but what it means is that we are to pursue peace with everyone - but we must be careful that we don't forget that we are supposed to deal with others in grace. We are not to come short of the grace principle in dealing with others in trying to come to a conflict resolution. Grace should be the dominant principle.

3. “*Root of bitterness*” *accurately portrays the nature of bitterness. First it is hidden, but when it is discovered its noxious roots have spread and it springs up as something much bigger and more destructive.* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Heb 12:15.

***16) that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.***

*1. The illustration of the person who responds in bitterness is Esau. Hebrews 12:16, “Lest there be any fornicator, or godless person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.” There is nothing in the Scripture that indicates Esau’s justification status. It is just not there.*

*2. So the word “fornicator” is the Greek word πόρνος pórnos, generally translated “immoral” but it is a word that relates to a male or female that has prostituted themselves for personal gain, and this is exactly what Esau did by selling his birthright. He was more concerned about his own immediate pleasure and selling his birthright for personal gain than he was for the long-range value of his birthright.*

*3. The second word “godless” is the Greek word βέβηλος bébēlos, a word that is used in contrast to ἅγιος hágios or holy, which means to be set apart for the service of God and thus is holy. Something that is not set apart for the purpose of God but was for everyday use, that people used in any situation, is something that would be called profane of common. Thus the word βέβηλος bébēlos means something that is used in a common or profane manner. That is, either pointless or worthless, in other case that which is worldly, that lacks eternal values or lacks God’s values.*

**LESSON 132 (11-17-19)**

4. A godless person is one who is worldly as opposed to having an interest in spiritual or transcendent matters, he is totally worldly.

*5. So what Hebrews 12:16 is saying is, Lest there be anyone among you who is prostituting or selling their birthright for personal gain and the immediate present, or a person who has values inconsistent with their position in God’s royal family, like Esau who for a morsel of food sold his birthright.*

*6. As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ we are members of the royal family of God and we have a royal identity, and God has given us a destiny to rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ. When we get involved in mental attitude sins and sins of the tongue, in any kind of carnality, what we are doing is prostituting our future position with Christ for satisfying present worldly satisfaction. That is the picture of Esau.*

***Hebrews 12:17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.***

*1. Esau entered into a contract by swearing to Jacob that he would give him the birthright, and that is what it means that he found no place for repentance [change]. There could not be a reversal of the deal. Afterward he understood what he had done, what he had lost, but he couldn’t reverse it.*

*And this is a picture of what is going to happen with a vast number of believers who, according to 1 John 2:28, are going to have shame and embarrassment at the judgment seat of Chris. They are going to have all of their works burned up, and they are going to enter heaven “yet as through fire,” and it is because they were more concerned with satisfying the immediate demands of their sin nature, the lust patterns of their sin nature, rather than focusing on eternal priorities and postponing gratification for the Millennial kingdom.*

***1 John 2:28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.***

Most Christians fall under the category of “mediocre believers” who try to do the least they can and still be considered a believer, and some don’t even do that.

They, like Esau, have squandered their future priceless inheritance from God in order to do whatever they want on earth.

There is also a huge number of professing Christians who have sold their birthright (their eternal inheritance from God) by choosing emotionally stimulating false teaching from attendance priority “Disney Land” churches which entertain and make one feel good about one’s self, but do not teach the Word of God through accurate expository teaching which trains and equips believers to become spiritually mature over-comers who are good and faithful servants to the Lord.

The following quotes come from Gary E. Grilly’s book,

**THIS LITTLE CHURCH WENT TO MARKET**,

***The Church in the Age of Entertainment***

It describes the churches that were formed or reformed to become emerging churches that follow marketing techniques of business rather than the Bible and God.

“Baby boomers [the inevitable target of new paradigm churches] think of churches like they think of super-markets, they want options, choices, and convenience. Americans desire a religion of the heart, not the head. It’s a religious expression that downplays doctrine and dogma…Growing churches are creating an atmos- phere, an environment of fun. So fun has replaced holiness as the church’s goal because fun and entertainment is what consumers want.” Gary E. Grilly, *This Little Church Went to Market, (*Xulon Press, Fairfax Va. 1977) p. 21

*“Sermons of substance are replaced with emotional appeals. Doctrine is replaced by stories, and preacher’s performance became more important than what is taught.” Ibid p. 32*

*“If entertainment has become the primary value of the*

*American way of life, then how can the churches vie*

*[compete] unless they become a bastion of entertain-*

*ment?... The problem is that the main business of entertainment is to please the crowd, but the main purpose of authentic Christianity is to please the Lord… We are a generation that has “dumbed down” everything that is important to the level of bumper stickers and Hallmark cards, and we are suffering the consequences. One revealing bumper sticker reads, “There is no right or wrong – only fun or boring.” Ibid p.40*

*“The expressed design of the user-friendly philosophy is to make unconverted sinners feel comfortable with the Christian message. Ibid p.86*

*“Protestant megachurches have become the evangelical answer to Home Depot, marketing such services as worship, child care, a sports club, 12-steps groups, and a guaranteed parking place.” Ibid p.22*

The following quotes come from Gary E. Grilly’s book,

**THIS LITTLE CHURCH STAYED HOME**

***A Faithful Church in Deceptive Times***

It informs churches of the dangers of “market driven” model and that it is best to stay at home with the only model that works which is of course, the Word of God.

*“If much of the modern church has* ***sold itbirthright*** *and ‘****gone to market****’, what would a church look like that resisted these trends and ‘****stayed home****?”* Gary E*.* Grilly, *This Little Church Stayed Home,* (Evangelical Press, Wester, NY. 2006) p. 13

*“Instead of preaching that leads to the conviction of sin and salvation through the cross of Jesus Christ, the churches preach ‘feel good’ messages designed to cheer people up. The contemporary church likewise faces the temptation to replace theology with therapy*.” *Ibid p. 41*

*“The problem is not only do we live in a post-modern era, but we also live in a post-Christian era that is accompanied by an abysmal lack of scriptural knowledge. Many university students don’t know that the Bible has two testaments. They have no knowledge of even the main characters in the Scriptures, and certainly no understanding of the biblical message or worldview.*

*The evangelical church must shoulder much of the blame for the drainage of knowledge from our society and a knowledge that was commonplace only a few decades ago. Far too concerned with excellence in our musical productions, entertainment of our young people, and creation of worshipful experiences, we have all but neglected the systematic teaching of the Word. Bible studies are often a mere sharing of ignorance, sermons are seldom expository and pastors and conference speakers work hard at keeping their audience happy and meeting their felt needs. So Christians live foolish lives as they bounce from mystical experience to entertaining programming in hopes of finding an anchor.” Ibid p. 48*

*“One megachurch pastor in Cincinnati describes his church growth philosophy with the ‘almost’ biblical quote: ‘Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is fun!’ (See 2 Cor. 3:17)*

*And another pastor in Houston frankly admits, ‘I take what is worldly and baptize it.” Ibid p. 56*

These churches try to compete with the world in order to fill their churches but they cannot because they don’t have the money, the people, or the expertise. The question is why would any church try to be worldlier than the world system?

Christians have something infinitely more valuable than the world has to offer, for example, truth, grace, mercy, forgiveness, security, joy, peace, love, and eternal life.

Now we will go to Malachi that picks up the narrative, giving us more information about God’s relationship with Esau and Jacob.

***Malachi 1:1-4 The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.***

***2) "I have loved you," says the LORD. But you say, "How have You loved us?" "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" declares the LORD. "Yet I have loved Jacob;***

*"****I have loved you****,"*

1.Every person on this planet should be amazed that the almighty sovereign God of the universe loves us, for we all are weak, ignorant, sinful, selfish, and hopelessly arrogant.

***Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?***

***John 3:19 This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.***

**Romans 3:10-12 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; 11) there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for god; 12) all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one."**

2 There is nothing in us or about us that would cause God to be attracted to us.

3. This means that God loves us unconditionally. He loves us based on His unlimited capacity to love.

4. He often reaffirmed His unconditional love for the nation of Israel, as exemplified by the promises of the Abrahamic covenant.

*Malachi is all about a nation that is under divine discipline for its carnality and disobedience. They have intermarried with the Gentiles, they have absorbed and assimilated with paganism, they have failed to support the Levites, the Levites themselves have become corrupted, they have oppressed the poor, the people didn’t trust God; but Malachi comes along at the very beginning and says, “God loves you.” So that no matter how unfaithful they are as a nation God is going to be faithful to His covenants, and ultimately He is going to fulfill that promise.* Dr. Robert Dean OT-01-T Genesis

**LESSON 133 (11-24-19)**

*"****How have You loved us?"***

1. *In painful contrast to the tenderness of God’s love stands their insolent challenge. The root of their sin was insensibility to God’s love, and to their own wickedness. Having had their full prosperity taken from them ever since their nation was taken away to Babylon, they imply they have no tokens of God’s love; they look at what God had taken, not at what God had left. We must not infer God does not love us because He afflicts us. Men, instead of relating their sufferings to their proper cause, their own sin, impiously accuse God of indifference to their welfare.*

***A. R. Fausset, A Commentary, Critical, Experimental, and Practical, on the Old and New Testaments: Jeremiah–Malachi, vol. IV ), p. 712.***

2. “*At the root of this spiritual decay was a defective view of God. In particular, they accused him of a lack of love (1:2), justice (2:17), and faithfulness to his promise (3:13–15). In reality, God did love them (1:2b–5). And though God sometimes delayed full justice and the fulfillment of his promise, the fact that Israel still existed and had not been annihilated demonstrated the unchanging nature of God’s just and faithful character (3:6). Unfortunately, faulty theology prevented them from properly assessing the real state of affairs.”* Robert Gonzales Jr., “Judgment Begins At The House Of God: A Theology Of Malachi,” Reformed Baptist Theological Review 6, no. 2 (2009): 8.

“*By questioning God’s claim (I have loved you), Israel was revealing a distrust of God, a lack of faith in His Word—not only a lack of trust in Malachi’s statement (1:2a) but also a distrust of God’s faithfulness to His covenant.”* Craig A. Blaising, “Malachi,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1575–1576.

Israel’s failure to believe [or obey] God’s Word caused her to disrespect Him and defy Him.

3. *Perhaps Israel thought her complaint was legitimate. After all, about 100 years had passed since the people had returned from the Exile; yet the kingdom predicted by God’s prophets had still not come. Instead the people continued to be dominated by foreign governors (v. 8) and experienced hard times economically (2:2; 3:9, 11). If they had carefully read the covenant in Deuteronomy they would have known that such misfortunes were the result—not the cause—of their disobedience.*

Craig A. Blaising, “Malachi,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 1576.

4. Many believers today make the same mistake the people of Judah made by questioning God’s love when things aren’t going well. Of course, adversity can be part of testing, but often it is part of divine discipline which can be mistaken for God not loving or caring about us.

PRINCIPLE: Whenever anyone doubts God’s love, they are way off track and incredibly wrong.

5. Consider the other questions in Malachi where people questioned God’s integrity.

Malachi 1:6 - ‘*How have we despised Your name?'*

Malachi 1:7 *- 'How have we defiled You?'*

Malachi 2:17- *"How have we wearied Him?"*

Malachi 3:7 – “How shall we return?”

Malachi 3:8 - *'How have we robbed You?'*

Malachi 3:13 – *“What have we spoken against Thee?”*

*“****Was not Esau Jacob’s brother****?”*-The people thought, as far as dignity and rights are concerned, Esau was entitled to God’s favor as much as Jacob.

**"*Yet I have loved Jacob***”

1. The Hebrew words for *loved* and *hated* refer not to God’s emotions but to His choice of one over the other for a covenant relationship (Gen. 29:31–35; Deut. 21:15, 17; Luke 14:26).

2. The verbs refer to God’s acts in history toward both of the two nations which descended from the two brothers.

*3. Israel needed to consider what her lot would have been if she, like Edom, had not been elected to a covenant relationship with Yahweh. Both Israel and Edom received judgment from God at the hands of the Babylonians in the sixth century (Jer. 27:2–8). Yet God repeatedly promised to restore Israel (because of His covenant promises, Deut. 4:27–31; 30:1–10), but He condemned Edom to complete destruction, never to be restored (Jer. 49:7–22; Ezek. 35). Ibid*

4. Even though the Judeans were God’s chosen people and were also His covenant people, they were punished when they turned away from Him and went into idolatry and paganism.

***Deuteronomy 4:27-31 And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you shall be left few in number among the nations, where the LORD shall drive you. 28) "And there you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. 29) "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. 30) "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days, you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. 31) "For the LORD your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them.***

***3) but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and appointed his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness."***

*1. If God loves the good, He has to hate the evil—it couldn’t be otherwise—and that is exactly what we find here. The histories of the nation of Israel and the nation of Edom are altogether different. God says that because of Esau’s life, because of the evil which was inherent in this man and which worked itself out into the nation of Edom… J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 3 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 993.*

*2. While Genesis mentions no divine hatred toward Esau, Obadiah’s prophecy over a 1,000 years later (see Obad. 1–21) indicated that the Lord’s hatred was against Esau’s idolatrous descendants. In the same way, the Lord’s love for Jacob refers to his descendants who were His sovereignly elected people through whom the world’s Redeemer would come. Nor does the love/hate language signify a comparative love in which He loved Jacob more and Esau less. Rather, the context here speaks of love as “choosing for intimate fellowship” and hate as “not choosing for intimate fellowship”*

***4) Though Edom says, "We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins"; thus says the LORD of hosts, "They may build, but I will tear down; and men will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever."***

1. We should learn as a nation as well as individually that it is never a good idea to ignore or defy God.

***Ezekiel 35:9 I*** (the Lord) ***will make you*** (Edom) ***an everlasting desolation, and your cities will not be inhabited. Then you will know that I am the LORD.***

***Jeremiah 49:17-18 And Edom will become an object of horror; everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss at all its wounds. 18) "Like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah with its neighbors," says the LORD, "no one will live there, nor will a son of man reside in it.***

*2.* Edom would be destroyed by God in His wrath because of Edom’s wickedness. (see Obad. 8–14.)

***Obadiah 1:10 "Because of violence to your brother Jacob, You*** (Edom) ***will be covered with shame, and you will be cut off forever. 11) On the day that you stood aloof, on the day that strangers carried off his wealth, and foreigners entered his gate and cast lots for Jerusalem-- you too were as one of them.***

3. *Malachi begins with a reference to the long-standing tension between Israel and Edom, the descendants of Jacob’s brother Esau who despised his birthright and held the promises of God in contempt (Gen 25:29–34). Moses admonished the Israelites, “Do not despise an Edomite” (Deut 23:7) because Esau was the brother of Jacob. But the Edomites continued to believe the Israelites had taken the land of Canaan by deception. They cooperated with the Assyrian invasion of Judah, and when the Judeans were taken into exile they claimed the land for themselves. For these reasons they came under the Lord’s judgment (see Ezek 35:5–15; 36:1–15). When the Judean exiles returned to the region of Jerusalem the Edomites further opposed them. In this situation Malachi heard the Lord saying, “I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau” (vv. 2–3).*

*The word “hate” in the Bible does not always carry the same sense of antipathy and disgust associated with the English expression; it can mean simply to favor someone else with special privilege or devotion. In that sense, the Lord’s “hatred” of Esau was only the other side of His loyalty to His covenant with Israel. Paul quoted verses 2–3 with that meaning in Rom 9:13 as an illustration of the Lord’s mercy and compassion on whomever He chooses to bestow them (Rom 9:15).*

**LESSON 134 (12-1-19)**

*Nevertheless, in the circumstances of the Jews’ return from exile, the hostility of the Edomites seems to have reached another level, provoking Malachi to call them “the people the Lord has cursed forever” (v. 4)*. Ted Cabal, Chad Owen Brand, et al., The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007), 1394.

4. So we find God has the sovereign right to raise up certain nations and to tear down certain nations to correspond with His historical plan. But God is always going to be faithful to His covenant promises to Israel, and in the same way He is always going to be faithful to His promises to us, so that no matter how disobedient we are and no matter how we fail, God is never going to leave us, forsake us, or desert us.

5. So the conclusion is that if we are still alive, God still has a plan for our life. There is always a basis for recovery, and when we humble ourselves and obey, there will be blessing.

***Malachi 1:2-3*** is quoted in ***Romans 9:12-13.* Nothing in these references have anything to do with individual eternal salvation**. God has the right to choose what nations He will bless and those He will curse, based on His perfect attributes and what He knows about them from His foreknowledge.

***Romans 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;***

***7) neither are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants will be named."***

***8) That is, it is not the children of the flesh*** (sons of Ishmael, grandsons from Esau, and sons from Keturah) ***who are children of God, but the children of the promise*** (Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob) ***are regarded as descendants.***

***9) For this is a word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son*** (Gen. 18:10 & 14)***."***

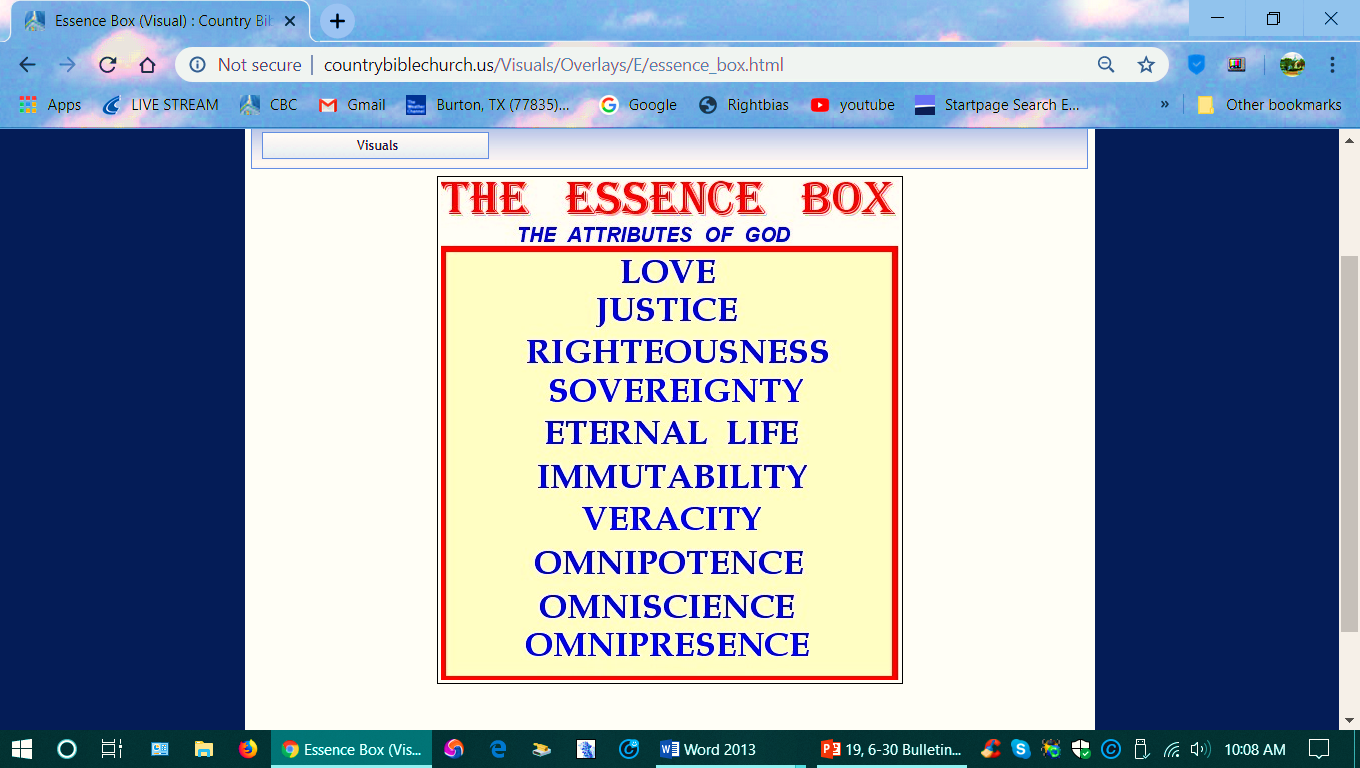
***10) And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac;***

**LESSON 135 (12-8-19)**

*God’s sovereign plan for the covenant of Abraham is determined by God who knows best. This* [Romans 9:11-21] *is not personal regeneration but that sovereign God has the right to direct history and bestow blessings on whom He will bestow blessings. He’s not picking who’s going to be saved, who’s not going to be saved. That’s often what people read into this. The selection of the line of Jacob over Esau* [Genesis 25:23] *is not based on their works, or regeneration, but divine planning.*

*So often when you read the Calvinists line, the Reform line, this is all about God’s sovereign choice. They ignore other aspects of God’s character. But what we see in the Scripture, all of God’s essence is involved in His planning. He elects* ***according to foreknowledge****. His knowledge of things ahead of time according to 1 Peter 1:2 and so His omniscience comes into play.* (1 Peter 1:1-2 and Romans 8:29-30)

***1 Peter 1:1-2 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen 2) according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.***



**The Divine Decrees**

**The decrees of God are His eternal purpose according to the counsels of His own will whereby for His own glory He has foreordained whatever comes to pass.”**

**God knew from His omniscience in eternity past all that could happen and all that would happen.**

**He decreed through His foreknowledge all that would happen to demonstrate His unlimited knowledge but nothing in the divine decrees annuls the free will of angels and man.**

**Foreknowledge, is knowledge of what is in the divine decrees. The foreknowledge of God makes nothing certain, but merely acknowledges what is certain in the decrees.**

***11) for though the twins were not yet born, and had not done anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose according to His choice*** [of nations] ***might stand, not because of works, but because of Him who calls,***

***because of Him who calls***

God’s choice was indicated before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad. This demonstrated that God’s sovereign choice was not by works, even foreseen works, but by Him who calls (cf. “called” in Rom.1:6; 8:28, 30). God’s plan (Rom. 8:28; 9:11), and not man’s works (Rom. 4:2–6), is the basis of His election. John A. Witmer, “Romans,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 477.

***Romans 1:5-7 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, 6) among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; 7) To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

***Romans 8:28-31 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30) Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. 31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?***

*The issue in salvation isn’t whether or not you’re elect, or whether or not you’re drawn but the issue is whether or not you believe. It’s never expressed in the Scripture in any way other than someone who believes in Jesus. Even if you hard press a Calvinist they have to admit that the only way you know if you’re elect is if you believe in Jesus. That’s the only issue. Dr. Robert Dean – NT 06 Romans*

Some allege that verses like John 6:44 demonstrates that God chooses some to be saved and others not to be. They say that He calls only the ones He chooses and also draws only those who He chooses to saved and those who are not called and drawn, are not saved.

***John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.*** It takes common grace (the HS drawing and convicting and making the gospel clear) for someone to believe the gospel.

***John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth*** (on the cross)***, will draw all men to Myself."***

Jesus Christ draws all men to Himself through the gospel.

***12) it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger."*** (Gen. 25:23)

***13) Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."*** (Malachi 1:2-3)

Actual emotional hatred for Esau and his offspring is not the point here. We know from John 3:16 that God does not hate sinners.

*Hatred in this sense is not absolute but relative to a higher choice (Luke 14:26; John 12:25).*

***Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.***

Of course Jesus was not saying that one must hate his family and himself in order to become a disciple; the idea is tht one must love himself and his family less than he loves the Lord to become a disciple.

***John 12:25 He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.***

Those who “loves his life” refers to one who is not willing to make the sacrifices needed to diligently serve the Lord.

Those who “hates his life” doesn’t mean they hate living, it means that they are willing to suffer and sacrifice in orer to serve the Lord and live the abundant life (*eternal life*).

*“I loved (wa’ohabd) Jacob; but Esau I hated (sane’thi). It is not that God detested Esau and felt extreme enmity towards him. Rather, because Esau “despised, (felt contempt, or disregarded) (bazah) for his birthright” (Gen. 25:34), God turned to Jacob, who responded to the call of God to be a channel through whom God’s holy purpose for his people could be realized. The definitions for misein: “to hate, (sometimes with modified sense of indifference or relative disregard for one thing in comparison to another—cf. Matt. 6:24; Luke 14:26; 16:13; John 12:25; Romans 9:13 (LXX).” “The word hate in this passage (Luke 14:26) is often interpreted in the sense of loving less.” Louis F. Gough, “A Study of Luke 14:26: Jesus Calls His Disciples to A Life of Supreme Commitment,” Ashland Theological Journal Volume 3 3 (1970): 26.Louis F. Gough, “A Study of Luke 14:26: Jesus Calls His Disciples to A Life of Supreme Commitment,” Ashland Theological Journal Volume 3 3 (1970): 26.*

*So often when you read the Calvinists line, the Reform line, this is all about God’s sovereign choice. They ignore other aspects of God’s character. But what we see in the Scripture, all of God’s essence is involved in His planning. He elects* ***according to foreknowledge****. His knowledge of things ahead of time according to 1 Peter 1:2 and so His omniscience comes into play.* (Read 1 Peter 1:2 and Romans 8:29-30)

***14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!***

Esau could have humbled himself, changed his mind and attitude about God and His plan, but he didn’t

***Heb 12:17,"For you know that even afterwards, when he*** [Esau] ***desired to inherit the blessings, he was rejected, for he found no place for a change of mind, though he sought for it with tears.”***

Check out these verses:

***Deuteronomy 32:4 The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.***

***Psalm 92:15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.***

***Psalm 145:17 The LORD is righteous in all His ways, And kind in all His deeds.***

***Proverbs 19:3 The foolishness of man subverts his way, And his heart rages against the LORD.***

***Ezek. 18:24-30***

**LESSON 136 (12-15-19)**

***Ronans 9:13 Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."***

1. Jacob was not loved because he was good and Esau was

not hated because he was bad. Good and bad was not the

issue. The issue was, which one could God use to fulfill His plan? One cared nothing about God’s plan, his inheritance, or spiritual matters, and the other one was willing to be deceptive and lie to play a part in God’s plan.

2. But it really wasn’t about these two individual men but about

the nations that would come from them. The foreknowledge

of God knew in eternity past which nation would utterly

reject Him and which one He could use to fulfill His plan.

***Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!***

1. Paul asked the question that many of them no doubt were wondering about. They were questioning the justice and righteouseness of God.

2. They were not considering the fact that God has a right to *bless on the principle of grace* and *judge on the principle of righteousness.*

3. Those who respond to God’s grace receive God’s love.

4. Those who reject God’s grace receive God’s wrath.

5. There are three explanations to the question concerning God’s justice in verse 14:

*Verses 10-13* Explanation 1 uses Jacob and Esau

*Verses 15-18* Explanation 2 uses Moses and Pharaoh

*Verses 19-24* Explanation 3 uses the potter and the clay

***Rom. 9:15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*** Quote from *Exodus 33:19*

1. Moses is an illustration of God’s blessing those who respond to His grace.

2. Pharaoh is an illustration of God’s wrath on those who reject His grace.

Verse 15 is a quote from ***Exodus 33:18***

***Exodus 33:18-19 Then Moses said, "I pray Thee, show me Thy glory!" 19) And He said, "I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the LORD before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."***

3. Moses responded to God’s grace to become a believer and many times thereafter. Therefore, God blessed Moses by granting his request.

4. If he had demanded to see God’s glory on the basis of his works, God certainly would not have shown him His glory.

***Rom. 9:16*** ***then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.***

1. Divine blessing is not based on human merit nor on human will or desire.

2. Moses saw the glory of God because of the grace of God, not because of the will of Moses or because he desired to see the glory of God.

3. All divine blessing is based on who and what God is, not on who and what we are.

4. God deals with the believer in grace (mercy) and deals with

the unbeliever through His righteousness and justice. This is why Esau and Pharaoh received God’s wrath.

5. God chooses the outworking of blessing in history and He

reserves the right to be able to choose how and when and

under what circumstances He’s going to work out His plan.

***Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."***

1. Pharaoh had just as much opportunity to be saved as did

Moses.

2. The difference between Moses and Pharaoh is Moses

responded to God’s grace and Pharaoh rejected it.

3. Had Pharaoh humbled himself and responded to God, he

could have received grace instead of wrath.

4. Pharaoh’s negative volition led to his own personal

judgment.

5. God used Pharaoh’s negative volition to display His own

power to reveal Himself to the world.

6. God’s sovereignty is never unjust because it is always

compatible with His Divine attributes.

7. God makes the wrath of man to praise Him. (*Psalm 76:10*)

8. Rahab was saved because of the negative volition of

Pharaoh. (*Joshua 2:9-11*)

***Romans 9:18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.***

1. God hardened Pharaoh’s already locked-in negative heart by giving him many more opportunities than what was normal to humble himself. He used every opportunity to become more and more negative.

2. Does it sound reasonable that God would purposely keep Pharaoh from responding to His grace when He sent His only Son to die on the cross in order to offer him that grace?

Explanation #3 –the Potter and the Clay

***Romans 9:19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"***

1. Again Paul anticipates the questions that would come from

heretics and baby believers. The two questions carry the

blasphemous implication that God is unjust.

2. Behind the implication is the question, If Pharaoh doesn’t

have free will, how can God blame him for resisting God’s

will?

3. If God did not give free will to all angels and all mankind, then there would be no purpose for the angelic conflict and no reason to create them because there would be no way that they could love Him or glorify Him.

4. The truth is, God gave the freedom to choose to angels and

man and He holds them responsible for how they use it.

5. Another implication: Pharaoh was a victim of God loving

Moses and showing partiality to him, but hardening him.

***Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.***

***Ephesians 6:9 their Master and yours is in heaven, and***

***there is no partiality with Him.***

***Psalm 86:15 But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and***

***gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in loving-***

***kindness and truth.***

***2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as***

***some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not***

***wishing for any to perish but for all to come to***

***repentance.***

***Isaiah 45:22 Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of***

***the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.***

***Romans 9:20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?***

1. Of course, the clay cannot challenge the potter. *Isa. 45:7-12*

Read: *Jeremiah 18:1-10*

2. No creature can challenge the decisions of their Creator.

3. The issue is, Will the free will of man act in conjunction with

Divine Sovereignty and submit to it, or act independently of

God?

***Romans 9:21 For does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?***

1. ***same lump*** – represents free-will

2. Decisions are made by an individual, and then, God goes to

work making him either a vessel of honor or dishonor,

depending on the decisions one makes.

3. There is no such thing as a vessel of honor until a person

believes the gospel, then God is free to mold him into a

vessel of honor through His grace. *Rom. 3:22-25*

4. When a person in the church age believes the gospel, God

makes him a new creature. (*2 Cor. 5:17*) He then has

everything he needs for God to mold him into a vessel of

honor.

5. A vessel of dishonor is a vessel of dishonor because he

superimposes his volition over God’s volition.

6. God cannot mold someone with negative volition into a

vessel of honor.

Those who would reject the explanations of the verses given above have no alternatie but to give the following gospel:

*“God loves you (if you are one of the elect) and wants you to be saved (if your are one of the elect), so He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, for you (if you are one of the elect) so that you (if you believe (if God truly regenerates you so that you can believe) you will have eternal life (only if you perseverein faith and faithfulness to the end of your life).” Dr. Charles C. Bing, Are You a Calvinist?, Grace Life Ministries, p. 26*

**SPECIAL - Stages of Spiritual Growth Greg Kreutzer 12-29-19**

**GREEK WORD STUDY OF**

**THE STAGES OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH** by Greg Kreutzer

Introduction: Inspiration for this study

1) 1 John 2:13 – “I am writing to you, **fathers**, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, **children**, because you know the Father.” (Children, Young Men, Fathers)

2) 2 Peter 2:5-7 – “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply

**moral excellence**, and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**,

and in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**, and in *your* godliness,

**brotherly kindness**, and in *your* brotherly kindness, **love**.”

(**7 Virtues** – describing the stages of spiritual growth)

3) 6 Greek words (**Brephos**, **Nepios**, **Paidion**, **Teknon**, **Huios**, **Teleios**) – describes the stages of spiritual growth

I. **Little Children** (1 John 2:1-2,12-13) (**Brephos** and **Nepios**)

A. **Brephos** (New born babies or infants) (Strong’s – 738 Artigennotos + 1025 Brephos) (**8X**)

1 Peter 2:2 – “like **newborn babies** (Artigennotos + Brephos), long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,”

1. **Characteristics** of new born babes

a. **Know very little** – need someone to teach elementary principles

Hebrews 5:12 – “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need

again for someone to teach you the **elementary principles** of the oracles of God, and you

have come to need **milk** and not solid food.”

b. **Very vulnerable** – easily led astray (Hebrews 2:1- “For this reason we must pay much

closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not **drift away** *from it”*

1) Should understand the **content of the gospel**

1 Cor. 15:1-4 – “Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel** which I preached

to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if

you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I

delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins**

according to the Scriptures, and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised** on the third

day according to the Scriptures,”

2) Should understand the **truth of the gospel**

Galatians 2:14-16 –“ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the

**truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like

the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?

“We *are* Jews by nature and not sinners from among the Gentiles; nevertheless knowing

that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus,

even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ

and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified.”

3) Should understand the **grace of the gospel**

Ephesians 2:8-9 –“ For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the **gift of God**; **not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.”

2. **Brephos need:** constant attention – need daily nurture and encouragement

a) **Nurture** – milk is source of elementary principles & only way to grow spiritually

Hebrews 5:12 – “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need

again for someone to teach you the **elementary principles** of the oracles of God, and you

have come to need **milk** and not solid food.”

1 Peter 2:2 - “like newborn **babies** (Brephos), long for the pure milk of the word, so

that by it you may **grow** in respect to salvation,”

c) **Encouragement** - Hebrews 3:13 – “But **encourage** one another day after day, as long

as it is *still* called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

d) **Most important need** is to **stay in fellowship with God** (1 John 1:9)

1) To be **forgiven** of daily sins and cleansed of all unrighteousness

2) To **perceive** the milk they are drinking to encourage and benefit them

3) To **protect** them from the deceitfulness of sin and from going astray

3. **Summary of Brephos**

a. Know very little, Should know the content, truth and grace of the gospel

b. Need nurture and encouragement of the word and most important need is to stay in

fellowship

B. **Nepios** (Infant, babe, little child without power of speech) (Strong’s – 3516) (**14X**)

1. **Characteristics** of immature stage of spiritual infancy

a. **Childish**

1 Corinthians 13:11 –“When I was a **child** (Nepios), I used to speak like a **child** (Nepios), think like a **child** (Nepios), reason like a **child** (Nepios); when I became a man, I did away with **childish things** (Nepios).” (5 times in one verse he uses the word Nepios)

b. **Still led by the flesh** (not all the time but much of the time)

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 – “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to **spiritual** (pneumatikos)*men*, but as to men of **flesh** (sarkinos), as to **infants** (Nepios) in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it.* Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still **fleshly** (sarkinos). For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **fleshly** (sarkinos), and are you not walking like mere men?”

c. **Unstable and easily led astray and deceived** into false doctrine

Ephesians 4:14-15 –“As a result, we are no longer to be **children** (Nepios), **tossed** **here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine**, by the **trickery** of men, by craftiness in **deceitful scheming**; but speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,”

d. **Unskilled & unwise in the Word of God**

Hebrews 5:13-14 – “For everyone who partakes *only* of **milk** is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an **infant** (Nepios). But solid food is for the **mature** (Teleios), who because of practice have their senses **trained** to discern good and evil.”

2. **Nepios need:** Teaching, Reproof (Conviction), Correction, Training

a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 –“All **Scripture** is inspired by God and **profitable** for **teaching**, for **reproof**, for **correction**, for **training in righteousness**; so that the man of God may be adequate (or complete), equipped for every good work.” (**Enforced Humility**)

b. Learn the difference between **carnality** and **spirituality**

1. Learn the habit of confessing sins to stay in fellowship (1 John 1:9)

2. Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18) – control of HS and not the flesh (OS Nature)

3. Learn to walk by the Spirit (spirituality) not the flesh (carnality) (Gal. 5:16-17)

c. Learn the difference between the fruit of carnality, **dead works** (Heb 6:1) and the

fruit of spirituality, **divine good** (Eph 2:10)

3. **Summary of Nepios**

a. Are childish, led by the flesh much of the time, unstable, easily led astray and

deceived, and unskilled and unwise in the word of God

b. Need enforced humility, teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness from scripture, learn the habit of staying in fellowship, learn the difference between carnality with its fruit of dead works and spirituality with its fruit of divine good and learn to walk by the Spirit

II. **Young Men** (1 John 2:13-14) (**Paidion** and **Teknon**)

A. **Paidion** (Young child before stage of academic training) (Strong’s – 3813) (**51X**)

1. **Characteristics** of immature stage of young spiritual child

Mark 10:13-15 –“And they were bringing **children** (Paidion) to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, ‘Permit the **children** (Paidion) to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the **kingdom of God belongs to such as these**. Truly I say to you, whoever does not **receive the kingdom of God like a child** (Paidion) **will not enter it** *at all.”*

a. **Trusting –** how to enter the kingdom

b. Can still be **rebellious** against principles of the word

Prov. 22:15 – “**Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child**; The rod of **discipline** will remove it far from him.”

c. Can still be **easily lead astray** by deception, sensuality and greed of false teachers

2 Peter 2:1-3 –“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also

be **false teachers among you**, who will secretly introduce **destructive heresies**, even

denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

**Many will follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of the **truth will be**

**maligned**; and in *their* **greed** they will **exploit you with false words**;their judgment

from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

d. 1 Cor. 14:20 –“Brethren, do not be **children** (Paidion) in your thinking; yet in evil be

**infants** (Nepios), but in your thinking be **mature** (Teleios).”

(Nepios- #2, Paidion- #3, Teleios- #6)

2**. Paidion need:**

a. **Discipline** – Hebrews 12:5-6 – “My son, do not regard lightly the **discipline**

**of the Lord**, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him; For those **whom the Lord**

**loves He disciplines**, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

1 Corinthians 11:3-32 –“ For this reason many among you are **weak** (warning discipline) and **sick** (intensive discipline), and a number **sleep** (dying discipline). But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.”

b. **Genuine Humility** grows out of **Enforced Humility** of **Nepios**

which is necessary to receive the word implanted in our cardia

James 1:21 – “Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of

wickedness, in **humility** receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

James 4:6 –“ But He gives a greater grace. Therefore *it* says, “God is opposed to

the proud, but gives grace to the **humble**.”

**#1 Foundational Virtue: Humility (Submit to Authority)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

c. **Objectivity** and **teach-ability** come from Genuine Humility

1) **Grow in grace and grace orientation** – 2 Peter 3:17-18 –“You therefore,

beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard **so that** **you are not carried away**

**by the error of unprincipled men** and fall from your own steadfastness, but **grow in**

**the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him *be* the glory,

both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”

2) **Grace orientation** keeps one free from extremes of **legalism** and **antinomianism**

**Positive volition** - able to grow in grace and knowledge

**Negative volition** causes **matiotes** (vacuum in soul sucks evil of world into it)

**#2 Positive Volition Virtue: Knowledge (Objective & Teachable)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

3. **Summary of Paidion**

a. Trusting, but can still be rebellious against principles of the word and easily led astray

by deception, sensuality and greed of false teachers

b. Need discipline, genuine humility, submit to authority, objectivity and teach-ability,

and continue to grow in grace and knowledge and grace orientation

c. Develop first two Virtues (#1 Genuine Humility and #2 Positive Volition)

B. **Teknon** (Older child at teenager stage; a student or disciple) (Strong’s – 5043) (**99X**)

1. **Characteristics** of teenager student training stage – **potential for tremendous growth**

a. **Strong**, **knowledge of the word of God abides in them** and **have overcome the evil**

**one** - 1 John 2:14b –“ I have written to you, **young men**, because you are **strong**, and the **word of God abides in you**, and you have **overcome the evil one**.”

(Strong’s 3495 – Neaniskos – young men)

b. **Can become “puffed up**” with much knowledge

1 Corinthians 8:1b –“we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes

**arrogant**, but love edifies.”

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 – “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for

this reason, to **keep me from exalting myself**, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a

messenger of Satan to torment me—to **keep me from exalting myself**!”

c. **Can still** **yield to temptation**, be **led astray** or **deceived** by false doctrine

Galatians 2:11-12 –“But when **Cephas** came to Antioch, I **opposed** him to his face, because **he** **stood condemned**. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, **fearing the party of the circumcision**.”

(hypocrisy of legalism and fear of legalists)

2. **Teknon need:**

a. **To be strong in grace and in the Lord not in themselves**

2 Timothy 2:1 – “You therefore, my son, be **strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus.”

2 Corinthians 12:10 – “Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults,

with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for **when I am**

**weak, then I am strong**.”

b. **Continue to be diligent in studying the** **Word of God**

2 Timothy 2:15 – “Be **diligent** (spoudazo) to present yourself approved to God as a

workman who does not need to be ashamed, **accurately handling the word of truth**.”

**#3 Discipline Virtue: Self-Control (Diligence)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

c. **Continue to be transformed by the renewing of the mind**

Romans 12:1-2 –“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present

your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual

service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the**

**renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is

good and acceptable and perfect.”

1 Peter 1:14-15 –“As obedient **children** (Teknon), **do not be conformed to the**

**former lusts** *which were yours* in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called

you, **be holy** yourselves also in all *your* **behavior;**”

d. **Replace Human Viewpoint with Divine Viewpoint**

1 Corinthians 2:14 –“But a **natural man** does not accept the **things of the Spirit of**

**God** for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are

spiritually appraised.”

Col. 3:2 – “Set your mind on the **things above**, not on the things that are on earth.”

e. **Learn to apply divine viewpoint by practicing Faith Rest**

Hebrews 4:1-11 – “Therefore, let us fear (**APSubj**) if, while a **promise remains (Now) of entering**

**His rest**, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news

preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not **united by faith** in

those who heard. For **we who have believed (AAPart) enter (PMInd) that rest**, just as He has said, “As I

swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest,” although His works were finished from the

foundation of the world. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh *day:* “And God rested on

the seventh day from all His works”; and again in this *passage*, “They shall not enter My rest.”

Therefore, since **it remains for some to enter it**, and those who formerly had good news preached to them

failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after

so long a time just as has been said before, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your

hearts.” For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. **So there**

**remains (PPInd) (Now) a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered (AAPart)**

**His rest has himself also rested (AAInd) from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be**

**diligent (AASubj) (Now) to enter (AAInf) (Now) that rest, so that no one will (might) fall (AASubj)**

**(Now), through *following* the same example of disobedience**.”

How to Practice Faith Rest

1) Claim a promise to be stabilized in the midst of difficult circumstances

2) Trust in the promise over the circumstance by adding related principles

3) Make doctrinal conclusions which bring rest in the midst of the trial

**#4 Stabilizing Virtue: Perseverance (Faith-Rest Application)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

f. **Continue to** **overcome the evil one** – 1 John 2:14b

1) Resist the devil – James 4:7 –“Submit therefore to God. **Resist** the devil and he

will flee from you.”

2) By putting on the full armor of God may stand firm against the devil

Ephesians 6:11-17 –“**Put on the** **full armor of God**, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places.* Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having **girded** your loins **with** **truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one.* And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.”

g. **Prove to be** **blameless**, **innocent, above reproach** without complaining and disputing

Philippians 2:14-16 –“Do all things **without grumbling or disputing**; so that you

will prove yourselves to be **blameless** and **innocent**, **children** (Teknon) of God **above**

**reproach** in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear

as **lights** in the world, **holding fast the word of life**, so that in the day of Christ I will

have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”

h. **Walk in love, purity, goodness, righteousness and truth pleasing the Lord**

Ephesians 5:1-11 –“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved **children** (Teknon);

and **walk in love**, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering

and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But **immorality** or any **impurity** or **greed**

must **not** even **be named** among you, as is proper among saints; and *there must be* ***no***

**filthiness** and **silly talk**, or **coarse jesting**, which are not fitting, but rather **giving of**

**thanks**. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous

man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no**

**one deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes

upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore **do not be partakers with them**; for you were

formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; **walk** as **children** (Teknon) of

Light (for the fruit of the Light *consists* in all **goodness** and **righteousness** and **truth**),

trying to **learn what is pleasing to the Lord**. **Do not participate in the unfruitful**

**deeds of darkness**, but instead even expose them;”

3. **Summary of Teknon**

a. Strong, knowledge of the word of God abides in them and have overcome the evil one

but can be arrogant “puffed up” with knowledge, still vulnerable to temptation and being led

astray or deceived by false doctrine

b. Need to be strong in grace and the Lord and not themselves, continue to be diligent in

studying the word, be transformed by the renewing of the mind, learn to apply divine

viewpoint, practice faith-rest, continue to overcome the evil one, prove to be blameless

above reproach and walk in love, purity, goodness, righteousness and truth pleasing the Lord

c. Develop 3rd and 4th virtues (#3 Diligence to study and #4 Perseverance – to apply Faith Rest)

III. **Fathers** (1 John 2:13-14)

A. **Huios** (Adult sons of God) (Strong’s – 5207) (**382X**)

1. **Characteristics** of adult sons – Greater and greater percentage of time

a. **Continually putting to death the deeds of the flesh**

Romans 8:12-13 –“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to

live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die;

(referring to your functional Christian life and walk) but if **by the Spirit you are**

**putting to death** (Present Active Indicative) **the deeds of the body**, you will live.”

b. **Continually** **being led by the Spirit of God**

Romans 8:14 – “For all who are **being led** (Present Passive Indicative) by the Spirit

of God, these are (Present Active Indicatiave) **sons** (Huios) of God.”

c. **Continually** **living and walking by the Spirit**

Galatians 5:24-25 –“Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh

with its passions and desires. If we **live** (Present Active Indicative) **by the Spirit**, let us

also **walk** (Present Active Subjunctive) **by the Spirit**.”

d. **Continually bearing much fruit of the Spirit**

John 15:2 – “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every

*branch* that **bears** (Present Active Participle) fruit, He prunes it so that it may **bear**

**more fruit**.”

Galatians 5:22-23 –“But the **fruit of the Spirit** is **love, joy, peace, patience,**

**kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control**; against such things there isno law.”

2. **Huios need:**

a. **True love “for” God** in serving God

Matthew 22:37-38 –“And He said to him, “ ‘You shall **love the Lord your**

**God** with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

“This is the great and foremost commandment.”

John 14:15 – “If you **love Me**, you will keep My commandments.”

2 Timothy 3:2-5 –“For men will be **lovers of self**, lovers of money, boastful,

arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable,

malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless,

conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God**, holding to a form of

godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”

**#5 Motivational Virtue: Godliness (Love for God)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

1) Love for God is motivation behind service and good works (**divine good**)

2) Free of **false motivations** of praise of men (**human good, dead works**)

Romans 2:29 –“ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that

which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his **praise is not from men,**

**but from God**.”

b. **Personal Phileo love of the brethren**

Romans 12:10 –“ *Be* devoted to one another in **brotherly love** (philadelphia); give

preference to one another in honor;”

1 Peter 1:22a –“ Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a

sincere **love** (philadelphia) of the brethren,”

*#***6 Personal Love Virtue: Brotherly Kindness (Phileo Love)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

c. **Personal sense of destiny** – true spiritual esteem

Know who you are in Christ (Son, Priest, Ambassador)

d. **Clearly understand the purpose for life**

1) **To become like Christ**

Romans 8:29 – “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become*

**conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many

brethren;”

2) **To produce divine good works**

Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for**

**good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

3) **To serve others** – through function of spiritual gift

Ephesians 4:11-12 – “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

**for the equipping of the saints for the work of service**, to the building up of the

body of Christ;”

4) **To glorify God**

Ephesians 1:12 – “to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would

be **to the praise of His glory**.”

3. **Summary of Huios**

a. Continually putting to death the deeds of the flesh, being led by the Spirit, living and

walking by the Spirit, and bearing much fruit a greater and greater percentage of the time

b. Need true love “for” God, personal love of the brethren, understand their personal

sense of destiny and purpose for life to become like Christ, produce divine good works,

serve others and glorify God

c. Develop 5th and 6th virtues (#5 Love for God and #6 Brotherly Kindness)

B. **Teleios** (Mature spiritual adults) (Strong’s – 5046) (**19X**)

1 Corinthians 14:20 –“Brethren, do not be **children** (#3 Paidion) in your thinking; yet in

evil be **infants** (#2 Nepios), but in your thinking be **mature** (#6 Teleios).”

Colossians 1:28 –“We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with

all wisdom, so that we may present every man **complete** (Teleios) in Christ.”

Ephesians 4:13 –“until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the

Son of God, to a **mature** (Teleios) man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the

fullness (Pleroma) of Christ.”

1. **Characteristics** of mature spiritual adults

a. **Senses trained to discern good and evil**

Hebrews 5:14 –“But solid food is for the **mature** (Teleios), who because of practice

have their **senses trained to discern good and evil**.”

b. **Self-controlled** – able to bridle tongue and whole body

James 3:2 – “For we all stumble in many *ways.* If anyone **does not stumble** in what

he says, he is a **perfect** (Teleios) man, able to bridle the whole body as well.”

c. **Relaxed mental attitude** and **unconditional love for the brethren** in spite of how

treated – **true agape love** (from mentality and volition not emotions)

1 John 3:16-17 –“We know **love** (agape) by this, that He laid down His life for us;

and we ought to **lay down our lives for the brethren**. But whoever **has the world’s**

**goods**, and **sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him**, how does the **love** (agape) of God abide in him?”

**#7 Unconditional Love Virtue: Love (Agape Love)** (2 Peter 1:5-7)

2. **Teleios Need:**

a. **To learn to stay** **occupied with Christ**

1) **Not distracted** by preoccupation with self, things, circumstances, other people

2) **Free from the slavery to the details of life** (family, work, money, family,

recreation, everyday activities, etc)

Matthew 6:32-34 –“For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your

heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ‘But **seek first His kingdom**

**and His righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you. **So do not worry**

**about tomorrow**; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of

its own.’”

3) **Know and live by God’s priorities** – Colossians 3:1-2 –“ Therefore if you have

been raised up with Christ, **keep seeking the things above, where Christ is**, seated at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on the things above**, not on the things that are on earth.”

4) **Live by** **divine viewpoint**

1 Corinthians 2:14 –“But a **natural man** does not accept the **things of the Spirit**

**of God** for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they

are spiritually appraised.”

Colossians 3:2 – “Set your mind on the **things above**, not on the things that are

on earth.”

5) **Apply faith rest in all circumstances of life**

Hebrews 4:11 – “Therefore let us be **diligent to enter that rest**, so that no one

will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.”

b. **Be united in Spirit in the body of Christ**

Ephesians 4:3 – “being diligent to preserve the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of

peace.”

Philippians 2:2 –“make my joy complete by being of the **same mind**, maintaining the

**same love**, **united in spirit**, intent on **one purpose**.”

c. **Practice unselfish love toward others**

Phillipians 2:3-4 –“**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit**, but **with**

**humility** of mind **regard one another** as more important than yourselves; do not *merely*

look out for your own personal interests, but also for the **interests of others**.”

d. **Have the attitude of Christ in all circumstances of life**

Philippians 2:5,8 – “**Have this attitude** in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

…….He **humbled Himself by becoming obedient**….”

e. **Maintain a godly positive attitude**

1) **Rejoice in the Lord always**

Philippians 4:4 - “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!”

1 Peter 1:6-9 –“ In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if

necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith,

*being* more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be

found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”

2) **Be gracious and kind to all**

Philippians 4:5 – “Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.”

3) **Be not anxious but pray with thanksgiving**

Philippians 4:6-7 –“ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and

supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the

peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your

minds in Christ Jesus.”

4) **Think on excellent things worthy of praise**

Philippians 4:8 –“Finally, brethren, whatever is **true**, whatever is **honorable**,

whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is of **good repute**, if there is **any excellence** and if **anything worthy of praise**, **dwell on these things**.”

f. **Learn contentment in spite of circumstances**

Philippians 4:11-2 – “Not that I speak from want, for I have **learned to be content in**

**whatever circumstances I am**. I know how to get along with **humble means**, and I also

know how to **live in prosperity**; in **any and every circumstance** I have **learned the**

**secret of being filled and going hungry**, both of **having abundance** and **suffering**

**need**.”

**g. Be strong in the Lord and have power by the Holy Spirit to endure, overcome**

**and have victory in all things**

Philippians 4:13 – “I **can do** (ischuo – to be strong and have power) all things through

Him who strengthens me.”

1) **Endure and persevere**

2 Timothy 2:12 –“ If we **endure**, we will also **reign** **with Him**;”

James 1:12 – “Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been

approved, he will **receive the crown of life** which *the Lord* has promised to those who

love Him.”

2) **Become Overcomers and receive special rewards**

Rev. 2:7 – Will be granted to eat of the tree of life

2:11 – Will not be hurt or harmed by the second death

2:17 – Will be given hidden manna, a white stone with a new name on it

2:26-28 – Will be given authority over nations, rod of iron, morning star

3:5 – Will be clothed with white garments and name remains in book of life

3:12 – Will be made a pillar in the temple and given His new name

3:21 – Will be granted to sit down with Jesus on His throne

h. **Pass thought, people, system, prosperity and disaster testing**

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 – “And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,

for **power is perfected in weakness**.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about

my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am **well**

**content** with **weaknesses**, with **insults**, with **distresses**, with **persecutions**, with

**difficulties**, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

i. **Learn to glorify God in all situations**

John 15:8 – “**My Father is glorified** by this, that you bear much fruit, and *so* prove to

be My disciples.”

j. **Become partakers** (metachoi)

Hebrews 3:1 – “Therefore, holy brethren, **partakers** of a heavenly calling, consider

Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;”

Hebrews 3:14 – “For we have become **partakers** of Christ, if we hold fast the

beginning of our assurance firm until the end,”

Hebrews 6:4 – “For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have

tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made **partakers of the Holy Spirit**,”

Hebrews 12:8 –“But if you are without **discipline**, of which all have become

**partakers**, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”

3. **Summary of Telios**

a. Senses trained to discern good and evil, self-controlled, relaxed mental attitude and

unconditional (agape) love for the brethren

b. Need to learn and stay occupied with Christ, be free from slavery to details of life,

know and live by God’s priorities, live by divine viewpoint, apply faith rest in all

circumstances, united in spirit, practice unselfish love toward others, maintain a godly

positive attitude of rejoicing, not being anxious for anything, think on excellent things

worthy of praise, learn contentment in all circumstances, strength and power to endure and

overcome all things, pass thought, people, system, prosperity and disaster testing, glorify

God in all situations, become partakers of divine nature with rewards in time and in eternity

c. Developed 7th virtue (Unconditional agape love)

2 Peter :1:3-11 –“ Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and

of Jesus our Lord; seeing that **His divine power has granted to us** **everything**

**pertaining to life and godliness**, through the true knowledge of Him who called us

by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us **His precious**

**and magnificent promises**, so that **by them you may become** **partakers** of *the*

**divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. Now for

this very reason also, applying all **diligence**, in your faith supply **moral excellence**,

and in *your* moral excellence, **knowledge**, and in *your* knowledge, **self-control**, and

in *your* self-control, **perseverance**, and in *your* perseverance, **godliness**, and in

*your* godliness, **brotherly kindness**, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**. For if

**these *qualities*** are **yours** and are i**ncreasing**, they **render you neither useless**

**nor unfruitful** in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks

these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his

former sins. Therefore, brethren, be all the **more diligent** to make certain about His

calling and choosing you; for **as long as you practice these things**, you **will never**

**stumble**; for in this way **the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and**

**Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.”**

**LESSON 137 (1-5-20)**

**Genesis Chapter 26**

**Verse 1**

1. Everyone goes through hard times.

2. Those who depend on good times to be happy

are perpetually unhappy.

3. Being able to have joy even in the bad times

requires knowledge and application of B.D.

4. What two things stand out in this verse?

a. Isaac didn’t consult with God before he

decided to go to Gerar (about 10 miles South

of Gaza).

b. His father Abraham didn’t consult God either.

**Verse 2**

1. Isaac was on his way to Egypt just as his father

had gone.

2. God told Isaac to stay put and He would bless

him greatly.

**Verse 3 – 4** God confirmed the Abrahamic Covenant to Isaac.

**Verse 5** The Abrahamic Covenant was uncondi- tional but God was highlighting the times that Abraham obeyed God even when it was difficult.

(Gen. 22:16 He was willing to sacrifice Isaac.)

**Verse 6 – 8**

1. Isaac obeyed God and dwelt in Gerar.

2. But he pulled the same stunt his father did.

a. Isaac lied about his wife by saying she was his

sister which was the same thing his father did.

b. Abraham lied about his wife to Pharaoh in

Egypt (Gen. 12:10) and he also told the same

lie to Abimelech in Gerar which was the same

place Isaac was doing the same thing (Gen.

20:2).

c. Abimelech is a title rather than a name and it

was probably a different king than the one

Abraham lied to.

3. Both Abraham and Isaac were out of fellowship

with God before they lied to someone.

a. The MAS that motivated them to lie was fear.

b. None of us are able to have victory over fear

unless we have the power of the H.S.

working in us, we Faith Rest, and apply B.D.

to the problem.

4. Fathers and mothers can’t allow themselves to

let their guard down and become spiritually

sloppy because children are watching.

a. Have you ever found yourself acting the

same way your father or mother acted in

which you had to tolerate?

b. Another way of saying this is, have you

adopted any of your parent's bad habits?

c. It is difficult to calculate just how much of an

impact parents have on their children.

**Verse 9 – 11**

1. Here you have an example of a heathen king

who demonstrated more honor and integrity than

one of the patriarchs of the Bible.

2. This happens probably more often than what we

would like to admit.

3. In all three incidents where Abraham and Isaac

put their wives in danger and the line of Christ

(Ex. 2:24) in danger, God stepped in to ensure

that no harm was done to either.

**LESSON 138 (1-12-20)**

**Verse 12 – 14**

1. It may seem curious that rather than punish

Isaac for his sinful behavior, God blessed him

and prospered him in a phenomenal way. Why?

2. Abraham was prospered in spite of his behavior

because God was keeping the promise He made

to Abraham to bless him and his descendants.

3. It depended on God’s faithfulness, not theirs.

4. It is important to remember that God blesses us

on the basis of who and what He is, not who and

what we are.

5. Believer’s point of contact with God is His grace

and that includes His blessings.

6. We cannot demand blessings from God when

we are obedient because we are only doing what

we are supposed to do, what is expected of us.

7. Brief escapades into carnality does not disqualify

us from God’s blessings. He loves to bless us.

**Verse 15 – 17**

1. The Philistines filled in the water wells that

Abraham dug in order to drive Isaac away

because they were afraid of him because he

became very wealthy and powerful.

2. Isaac did not argue with them, he departed from

them.

a. Why do you think that he was willing to move

even though the Philistines had no legitimate

reason to force him to leave.

b. Surely one reason would be because Isaac

was dwelling where God commanded him to

dwell, so of course, God was going to provide

for him.

c. Furthermore, he knew that God was going to

protect him and bless him no matter where he

dwelt. Do you know why? (Abrahamic Covenant)

**Verse 18 – 22**

1. Everywhere Isaac went he dug a well and the

Philistines continued to quarrel with him so he

moved on. Finally he moved to a place and dug

a well and there was no quarreling.

2. Why didn’t Isaac get perturbed for having to keep

moving from one place to another? The answer

is found in vs. 22 - *“At last the Lord has made*

*room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."*

**Verse 23 – 25**

1. God repeated the promise He made to Abraham

to his son Isaac.

2. Isaac built an altar, worshiped the Lord, and his

servant dug a well.

**Verse 26 – 31**

1. Abimelech wanted to make a peace treaty with

Isaac because he saw clearly that the Lord was

with Isaac.

2. The same thing happened to Abraham (*Gen.*

*21:22-24*).

3. This demonstrates the power of God in making

even our enemies to be at peace with us.

***Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.***

**Verse 32– 33**

Isaac’s servants dug a well there and they found water.

**Verse 34 – 35**

1. Esau married two heathen woman which demon-

strated that he cared nothing about pleasing his

father Isaac or the Lord.

2. Isaac commanded Jacob not to marry any of the

Canaanite women (Gen. 28:1), Esau knew that

but deliberately married at least four Canaanite

women.

3. These women will be mentioned again eleven

verses later in *Gen. 27:46*.

**Genesis Chapter 27**

**Verses 1-7** Isaac planed to bless Esau

**Verses 8-10**

1. Rebekah did not consult the Lord as to what she

should do. She took matters into her own hands.

2. She meant well but used deceit and trickery to

have things to turn out the way she wanted.

3. She either forgot or didn’t know a very important

fact: *God doesn’t need or want our help!*

4. What He wants is for us to trust Him.

5. If God wanted the blessing to go to Jacob, and

He did, isn’t He capable to bring that about?

6. Rebekah didn’t interfere with her husband’s plan

because she was working on God’s behalf, she

was working on her own behalf to have the

blessing go to her favorite son Jacob.

***Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.***

7. He has a specific plan for each one of us and we

can’t fulfil that plan when we take matters into

our own hands.

***Proverbs 16:25 There is a way that seems***

***right to a man, But its end is the way of***

***death.***

8. There is always unintended consequences

when we ignore God and try to handle our own

problems.

9. God has given us promises to encourage us to

trust Him rather than trust in ourselves or some-

one else.

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all***

***your heart, And lean not on your own under-***

***standing; 6) In all your ways acknowledge***

***Him, And He shall direct your paths*.**

***Psalm 37:4-7 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass... 7) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;***

***Psalm 62:5-8 My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. 7) In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. 8) Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah***

***Jeremiah 17:7-8 Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. 8) For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.***

***Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2) Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3) Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah …10) Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!***

10. Many times believers fail to trust the Lord with

because they are afraid that He can’t or won’t

help them.

Moses made this promise to Joshua but it applys

to us as well:

**Deut. 31:8 The Lord is the one who goes**

**ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not**

**fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be**

**dismayed.**

11. Rebekah was a very poor example to her sons

when she decided to scheme, connive, and

deceive her husband to get her way.

12. She commanded Jacob to help her deceive

her husband (vs 8). No doubt Jacob learned

how to be a canniver from his mother.

**LESSON 139 (1-19-20)**

**Verse 11-14**

1. Jacob wasn’t concerned about doing something

that was deceitful, he was only concerned about

getting caught.

2. He went along with his mother because he

wanted her approval but the cost was too high.

3. He should have wanted the Lord’s approval

more, but that comes with a cost as well.

4. Many people have ruined their lives because

they sought to please someone in their family

more than than pleasing the Lord by doing the

right thing.

5. Many seek the approval of someone instead of

the Lord because the benefit is often realized

right away while it may take time before one

recognizes blessings from the Lord.

6. However, there is an immiediate sense of

honor and self-respect for doing the right thing.

7. He was a grown man and could have, and

should have refused his mother’s command. He

should have told her that he was going to trust

(or wait) on the Lord to handle this issue.

8. The scheme would mean that Jacob would have

to lie to his father (ver-24) and betray his brother.

9. More often than not, when we go along with something questionable, we wind up doing something shameful that we didn’t anticipate doing, but it dishonors us anyway.

**Verse 15-17** Details of the plot.

**Verse 18-25** The plot carried out.

**Verse 26-29** The blessing

**Verse 30-45** Esau’s troubles

**Verse 46** More deception from Rebekah:

1. Issac had to give his permission for Jacob to

travel to Paddan-aram to dwell, so Rebekah

manipulated him again to get Jacob to safety.

2. She brough up the pagan wives of Esau and

how unsavory and unbearable they were and

how horrible it would be if Jacob married pagan

wives.

3. What she said was true, but she brought this

up to maneuver her husband into sending Jacob away to protect him from Esau. She couldn’t hardly tell him the truth about her conniving scheme.

4. Women who manipulate their husbands disobey

the Lord and bring havoc to their family.

5. Usualy, they refuse to submit to their husband

because they don’t trust God to take care of

them if their husband makes a mess of things.

6. So he sent Jacob to Rebekah’s family in

Paddan-aram (*Gen. 28:1-2*).

7. There are times when wives must take charge

when their husbands are physically or mentally

unable to function in their leadership role.

**LESSON 140 (1-26-20)**

**Genesis Chapter 28**

**Verse 1-2** Isaac sent Jacob away with his blessing and directed him to Rebekah’s family with a warning not to marry any woman from the Canaanites.

**Verse 3-4** Isaac repeats the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant to Isaac.

**Verse 5-9**

*Marrying back into the line of Abraham through the family of Ishmael seemed to have been a ploy to gain favor with his father (vv. 6, 8), and show an obedience similar to his brother’s (v. 7). He hoped by such gratifying of his parents to atone for past delinquencies, and maybe have his father change the will. He actually increased iniquity by adding to his pagan wives (Gen. 26:34-35) a wife from a family God had rejected.* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 55.

***Genesis 26:34-35 And when Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; 35) and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.*** [Both were Canaanite women.]

**Verse 10-12** Jacobs Ladder (stairway)

1. The Abrahamic covenant is the foundation of God’s relationship with Israel as a unique people. In the second half of Genesis 28 we see this covenant reconfirmed to Jacob at a crucial time in Jacob’s life.

2. God communicated to Jacob by a dream: The Hebrew word that is translated “ladder,” *sullam*, is more accurately translated and understood to be a stairway.

3. The ladder sets up on the earth and goes to heaven, it doesn’t descend from heaven. The text says the angels were ascending and descending. The ladder goes from the bottom up, and the angels are going up and down the stairway in that order.

4. The angels ascending and descending have to do with their carrying out of the plan of God on the earth.

5. So what is this all about? What is going on here?

God was demonstrating to Jacob certain things about the outworking of His plan.

6. To find out what this is all about we need to turn to the New Testament. There is a direct allusion to this episode, Jacob’s ladder, given in John chapter one.

7. ***John 1:43-51 The next day He purposed to go forth into Galilee, and He found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." 44) Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. 45) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46) And Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." 47) Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" 48) Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." 49) Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." 50) Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." 51) And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you shall see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."***

a. Verse 45 – One reason that Philip and Nathaniel were able to recognize Jesus as being the the Son of God is because they knew wha the O.T. prophesied about Him.

b. Verse 46 - Nathaniel knew the Messiah must come from Bethlehem - from the line of David - so he questions Jesus being the Messiah because he came from 'Nazareth'.

**Principal** - How do you treat negative volition? Take the person to the Truth - here to the Living Word – for us today, to the Written Word.

c. Philip’s experience was like that of the Samaritan woman at the well. “When He [Messiah] is come, He will tell us all things … ***John 4:29*** ***Come and see*** ***a man who told me all things that ever I did”.***

d. Verse 47 – When Jesus called him “an Israelite in whom is **no guile**,” Jesus was comparing him to Jacob, the ancestor of the Jews, a man who used guile to trick his brother, his father, and his father-in-law. Jacob’s name was changed to “Israel, a prince with God (*Gen. 32:28*).”

e. Verse 48 – Nathaniel was amazed that Jesus

knew where he was when Philip told him about

seeing the Messiah.

f. Jesus was revealing His omniscience to Nathaniel. This is the Lord Jesus Christ in His humanity, utilizing His divine attributes—not for the purpose of solving His own human problems but in order to demonstrate that He is who He claimed to be, the eternal second person of the Trinity.

g. Verse 49 - Because Nathaniel knew something about God’s Word, he quickly recognized Jesus as being the long awaited Messiah.

h. Verse 50-51

*“Son of man” was one of our Lord’s favorite titles for Himself; it is used eighty-three times in the Gospels and at least thirteen times in John. The title speaks of both the deity and humanity of Jesus. The vision in Daniel 7:13 presents the “Son of man” in a definite messianic setting; and Jesus used the title in the same way (Matt. 26:64).* Warren W. Wiersbe, [*The Bible Exposition Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ntbec?ref=Bible.Jn1.50-51&off=375&ctx=+way+(Matt.+26%3A64).%0A~As+Son+of+man%2C+Jesus), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 289.

**LESSON 141 (2-2-20)**

i. Verse 51 - ***and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.***

1) This is obviously referring to *Gen. 28:12 with*

one significant difference. The angels are

ascending and descending on Jesus Christ,

the Son of Man instead of a staircase.

2) Now, the Son of Man is the mediator, the go-between, between earth and heaven that replaces Jacob’s Ladder (staircase).

3) *Ascending and descending on the ladder are the angels and we have to fit that within the structure of what angels do. Angels are involved in the administration of God’s plan for history. The administration of God’s plan for history is a ladder that comes to Bethel on the earth, to the land that God has promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This ladder is coming right to Jacob. He is the individual that is the focal point of the plan of God for human history and the plan of God’s blessing for human history at that point in time.*

*But Jacob as the seed is only a foreshadow- ing of the ultimate Seed who is the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Seed through whom all nations will be blessed. So the fulfillment of the type that is seen there in Jacob’s ladder is that this stairway is replaced by the true mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ. Dr. Robert Dean, OT-01-0T Genesis*

***1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.***

j. As Son of man, Jesus is the “living link”

between heaven and earth. it is the Son of

Man now who is the mediator, the go-

between, between earth and heaven that

replaces the ladder of Jacob.

k. It is Jesus Christ who is true humanity and

undiminished diety that takes the place of a

“go between”, a mediator who stands

between man and God.

8. Verse 12-15 Part of the Jacob’s dream was a reiteration of the Abrahamic Covenant now made made to Jacob. Jacob was taking a long journey, going to a place he had never been so God was encouraging him telling him, ***“I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."***

God had to send Jacob away because he had a lot of things he needed to learn but the Lord promised that He would bring him back to his beloved land.

9. Verse 16 - It took this very significant event for Jacob to wake up. Believers can get into a rut spiritually and think the same thing that Jacob thought: “*Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it”.*

10. Verse 17 - Now that Jacob was spiritually awake, he recognized the awesome presence of God and was afraid (in awe of) God.

***Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;***

***Psalm 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will*** ***teach you the fear of the LORD.***

We have to have respect for God and His authority which is established in His Word before we are ever going to be able to grow and advance spiritually.

We orient to the authority of God by learning and obeying His Word.

***Proverbs 15:16 Better is a little with the fear (respect) of the LORD, than great treasure and turmoil with it.***

What Jacob was expressing was that he was humbled by this experience. The key to blessings and life is humility.

***1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7) casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.***

11. Verse 18-19 Jacob was motivated to make the place where God made contact with him a place of worship.

12. Verse 20-22 This is a free will offering, there is no mandate anywhere in the Old Testament up to this point on giving. He simply wanted to use a tenth of what God provided for him to maintain this sight as a place of worship. He did this to express His gratitude to God for making him the beneficiary of this blessing. This is not a mandate for tithing.

**LESSON 142 (2-9-20)**

**Genesis Chapter 29**

**Observations:**

1. We saw the Lord overtly active in the lives of people in chpt. 28 but He works behind the scenes in chapter 29.

2. We live in a time of history when God is not working directly or overtly in our lives in the way He did in the Old Testament. He does not speak to us directly and we are not guided through dreams and visions, nor does he speak through prophets or give special revelation.

3. Jacob no longer received visitations from God and no more direct revelation. In that sense, his life was very similar to the church age believer, trusting in the promises of God, waiting for Him to bring about that which He has promised.

4. There are a lot of similarities between chapter 29 and chapter 24 of Genesis where Abraham sent his faithful servant to go back to the Haran to find a bride for Isaac. But there is a contrast between these two events; when the faithful servant went back to Haran, he often prayed for God to guide and direct him, (Gen. 24:12-14, 26, 52) but you don’t see that with Jacob.

5. We see God blessing Jacob, not because of who Jacob is or what he has done, but because of the Abrahamic covenant. He was demonstrating His character of unconditional grace through Jacob and to those around him (blessings by association).

6. God was working in Jacob’s life in the same way He works in our life, behind the scene, teaching us spiritual truths, driving home principles related to our spiritual life, and preparing us for what will happen in the future.

a. This life is peperation for the next life.

b. We should be making daily decisions not just

based on what is currently happening, but on

how our decisions will effect us in eternity.

c. We call this an eternal sense of destiny.

d. The decisions we make in this life will determine

what our lives will be like in the next.

e. What good are the rewards, crowns, special

opportunities, and decorations God has made

available to believers if they don’t have an

eternal sense of destiny but think only about

what’s going on today?

7. God used Laben to give Jacob a taste of his own medicine regarding manipulation and conniving. He will reap what he sowed towards Esau and his father Isaac (Gal. 6:7).

8. Chapters 29 – 31 deals with the life of Jacob while he was staying with his relatives in Haran. It would be 20 years before he would go back to his home in the promised land.

**LESSON 143 (2-23-20)**

Before we get into the verses in Chapter 29, we need to go over new information found concerning a few details in **Genesis 28**.

**Verses 3-4** is a special blessing that was specifically for Jacob which promised land and descendants. The blessing that his father Isaac gave him in Gen. 27:28-29 actually applied more to Jacob’s heirs than to him. It was more in tune to the covenantal promises of power and wealth.

**Verses 12-15** covers Jacob’s Ladder/stairway.

*The angels of God meet him when leaving the land (Gen. 28:12) and when he returns (Gen. 32:2), forming a literary inclusio (everything that happens with him in exile happens between these two angel-related visions/dreams). While Jacob was not expecting a spiritual encounter at this point, but concerned only for his own survival, the God of Abraham and Isaac appeared to this deceitful fugitive. In His grace and covenant mercy God made Himself known to Jacob. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, Ph.D., Becoming Israel, p. 80*

*“The element in the narrative that surprises Jacob and seems incredible to us is not the religious phenomenon of appearance. It is the wonder, mystery, and shock that this God should be present in such a decisive way to this exiled one. The miracle is the way this sovereign God binds himself to this treacherous fugitive. The event is told as an inexplicable experience. It cannot be assessed by any comparisons or norms outside itself.”*

*Jacob and his descendants would be given the*

*very land upon which he was now sleeping. The time will come when Jacob and his descendants will possess this land. The fact that this happened in a dream when Jacob was, by definition, fully passive is very significant. What God said and did had absolutely nothing to do with any manipulation on the part of Jacob. This encounter was instigated by God alone and it was He who was fully in charge of all the events that took place.*

*As the story of Israel builds, the parallels between Jacob and Joseph (although chronologically still in the future) should not be overlooked. 1.Both Jacob and Joseph are younger brothers whose future is predicted by dreams. 2.Both are exiled because of conflicts with their brothers. 3.These conflicts are such that there was a clear intent to kill both in Jacob’s and in Joseph’s stories. 4.In the end both reconcile with their brothers. 5.They both die in Egypt and are buried in the Promised Land.*

*We see three distinct promises: 1) God’s own continual presence, 2) God’s own protection everywhere, and 3) Jacob’s eventual return to the Promised Land.*

*Decades later, peace, forgiveness and brotherly love will prevail, and Jacob and Esau will bury their father Isaac together in the Land of Promise (Gen. 35:29). Jacob’s exile may be compared to the time the Israelites will wander in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. They were waiting for the Lord to come through on His words of promise as well. The message of God’s story is clear. Just as God can be trusted to do what He promised to Jacob, He can also be trusted to fulfill what He promised regarding Jacob’s descendants – deliverance of the children of Israel from Egypt.*

***Jonn 1:51*** is an allusion to ***Gen. 28:12*** -  ***and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.***

1) This is obviously referring to Gen. 28:12 with

one significant difference. The angels are

ascending and descending on Jesus Christ,

the Son of Man instead of a staircase.

2) Now, the Son of Man is the mediator, the go-

between, between earth and heaven that

replaces Jacob’s Ladder (staircase).

**LESSON 144 (3-8-20)**

***Genesis 29:16-18 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17)And Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was beautiful of form and face. 18) Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will* *serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."***

1. It is no surprise that Jacob fell for Rachel and not for Leah. It seems that some things never change.

2. Most men act like they have no brain when they fall for a beautiful face and a great figure.

3. Men would be wise to choose a Proverbs 31 woman whether she is beautiful or not.

*The Proverbs 31 woman does not follow the world’s standards of feminine achievement focused on physical beauty and womanly charm. Instead she has chosen to anchor her life on the “fear of Yahweh” (v. 30), the true basis of all wisdom.* Tom R. Hawkins, “The Wife of Noble Character in Proverbs 31:10–31,” Bibliotheca Sacra 153 (1996): 22.

***Proverbs 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.***

***Proverbs 6:23-25 For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life, 24) To keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. 25) Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her catch you with her eyelids.***

***Proverbs 11:22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.***

*Ezekiel 16:1-14* is a parable about how Israel was metaphorically abandoned after birth and thrown out naked into a field. But God came along and clothed her, adorned her with Jewelry. She became exceedingly beautiful and famous.

***Ezekiel 16:15 But you trusted in your beauty and played the harlot because of your fame, and you poured out your harlotries on every passer-by who might be willing.***

Don’t be captivated by beauty. Why?

BECAUSE BEAUTY DOESN’T LAST! IT FADES!

***1 Peter 1:24-25 "All flesh is like grass, And all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, And the flower falls off, 25 But the word of the Lord abides forever."***

Read: ***Isaiah 3:8 - 26***

Read: ***1 Peter 3:1-6***

**LESSON 145 (3-15-20)**

*Leo Tolstoy: "It is amazing how complete is the delusion that beauty is goodness."*

*Kahlil Gibran: "Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart."*

*Hellen Keller: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart."*

*Louisa May Alcott: "Love is a great beautifier."*

*Calvin Kline: “The best thing is to look natural, but it takes make up to look natural.*

*Author Unknown: “A smile is the best makeup any girl can wear.”*

*Lauren Conrad: “…while bangs don’t look good on everyone, confidence does.*

*Audrey Hepburn: “The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mode but the true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul. It is the caring that she lovingly gives the passion that she shows. The beauty of a woman grows with the passing years.”*

**LESSON 146 (4-19-20)**

**Genesis 29:31**

Leah and Rachel were the daughters of Laban. Both of them married Jacob. They and their handmaids—Bilhah and Zilpah—were the mothers of the 12 tribes of Israel.

*Leah was the mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, and Dinah. Rachel was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, who were Jacob’s favorite sons. She was also the ancestral mother of Ephraim and Manasseh. Rachel was Jacob’s favorite wife. She died while delivering Benjamin at Ramah, near Bethlehem. Jacob lived most of his life with Leah, who was eventually buried with him at Machpelah in Hebron (49:31).*

*She was the mother of Judah, the fourth son of Jacob, the ancestral mother of the Davidic line, and ultimately the ancestress of Christ Himself. (Primary References, Gen. 29:31–35; 30:22–24; Ruth 4:11.)* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997).

PP ***Jacob’s Family***

*The sons of Jacob from both Leah and Rachel (whether born by them or in their name) are:*

***Leah*** ***Rachel*** *1. Rueben 1. Dan 2. Simeon 2. Naphtali 3. Levy 3. \*Joseph 4. Judah 4. Benjamin 5. Gad 6. Asher 7. Issachar 8. Zebulun*

Gen. 29:31 Love and Insensitivity

*Nowhere in Genesis do we read that Abraham loved Sarah. Once we hear that Isaac loved Rebekah. Three times we read that Jacob loved Rachel, and three times that he loved Joseph. The Hebrew Bible is a book of love: love God with all your heart, soul and might (Deut. 6:5); love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18); love the stranger (Lev. 19:34). But love is not unproblematic. Given to one but not another, to one more than another, it creates tensions that can turn to violence. More than any other character in Genesis, Jacob loves, but the result is conflict between Leah and Rachel and between Joseph and his brothers. The message of Genesis is that love is necessary but you also need sensitivity to those who feel unloved.*

**CHAPTER 30**

Competition between wives in having babies.

Laban delays Jacob from going back home to Canaan and continues to do his best to cheat Jacob but it doesn’t work.

Vs. 1 – Rachel became exasperated and blamed her husband Jacob for being barren. Of course she wasn’t barren because of Jacob; her sister Leah had bore him four sons.

All of us at one time or another get exasperated and blame someone for our problem who is innocent.

**ex•as•per•ate,** transitive verb, **ex•as•per•at•ed; ex•as•per•at•ing**

[Latin exasperatus, past participle of exasperare, from ex- + asper rough —(1534)

1 a : to excite the anger of : ENRAGE

b : to cause irritation or annoyance to

2 obsolete : to make more grievous : AGGRAVATE

Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, 1996).

**Exasperation**, e**xacerbates** the problem.

**ex•ac•er•bate** transitive verb **ex•ac•er•bat•ed; ex•ac•er•bat•ing**

[Latin exacerbatus, past participle of exacerbare, from ex- + acerbus harsh, bitter, from acer sharp — (1660) : to make more violent, bitter, or severe.

to make matters worse. ibid

So why do we exacerbate our problems by becoming exasperated?

1. Because divine viewpoint has ceased and human

viewpoint takes over.

2. Because we are in carnality and are being

controlled by our OSN.

3. Because arrogance, fear, impatience, anger,

jealousy, self-pity, inordinate competition,

revenge, implacability, and selfishness are a few

of the MAS that charaqcterize our behavior..

4. Because suffering becomes unbearable until we

humbly ask the Lord for help, trust Him to take

care of us, and continue to rely on Him and His

word.

It appears that Rachel had not prayed to the Lord to help her bear children.

THE BLAME GAME from *Your’re Married, Now What?*

Do you accuse your spouse of being more to blame than you? Who cares who’s more to blame? It’s not about blame! There is not one verse in the Bible that tells us to blame or accuse anyone. In fact, it tells us not to judge others. Placing blame on the other person will not solve your problems. You must face this fact. Your marriage will die if you don’t stop blaming your spouse while making excuses for yourself.

Quit blaming others for your unhappiness. You are responsible for your own happiness. No one can make you happy but You!

Excusing yourself and blaming others for your own ugly, bitter, sarcastic, unthoughtful, hateful, and revengeful behavior MUST END! Do you honestly think that wining, complaining, judging, accusing, badgering, blaming, or yelling at your spouse is going to make them a better person? Will it cause them to love you more? When has that ever worked? You can’t force someone to change. They’ve got to want to change, and seeing you making changes in your life will make them more willing to make changes in their life.

None of us are perfect. Therefore, tolerance and forgiveness are essential. We all need to be tolerated and forgiven from time to time, and when we blame rather than forgive, our marriages suffer. Divorce lawyers love it when husbands and wives point their fingers at one another. You have to make a decision, would you rather hold a grudge or hold your mate?

Vs. 2 - Jacob’s reaction was predictable – he got very angery! No one likes to be accused of something that they are not guilty of. But where was his compassion? He knew how she suffered because of being barren, that was a good time to console her and put the issue in the Lord’s hands as his father Isaac did in *Genesis 35:21.* He prayed to the Lord on behalf of his wife’s barreness, and the Lord answered his prayer.

Vs. 3-5 Now things go from bad to worse. Since neither one of them were trusting the Lord, Rachel pulls the same stunt Rebeckah did and Jacob acted the same way that his Grandfather Abraham did.

Vs. 6-8 Deceived and Inordinate Competition

We are not to compete with family or friends, we are to be glad for them when they are blessed by God.

Rachel was not vindicated by God for going around Him to have a child.

Furthermore, she did not prevail over her sister, she only demonstrated her own self-centered selfishness and lack of sympathy and compassion for others.

Vs. 9-13 Leah followed Rachel’s solution for not berring children by having her husband have a child from another woman which she would call her own.

vs. 11 – Leah said that she was “lucky” when her maid Zilpah had her husband’s son.

vs. 13 – She said she was “happy” when her maid had a second son by her husband.

Vs. 14 –24 Mandrakes and more inordinate compete- tion. Both of these sisters thought that getting the better of the other one would bring happiness and victory but thay was impossible because they left God out of their lives to accomplish what they wanted.

***Reuben*** *“Because the LORD saw my poverty” (Gen. 29:32)*

***Simeon*** *“Because the LORD heard that I was unloved/hated” (Gen. 29:33)*

***Levy***  *“This time my man will accompany me” (Gen. 29:34)*

***Judah*** *“This time I will praise the LORD.” (Gen. 29:35)*

***Dan*** *“God vindicated me.” (Gen. 30:6)*

***Naphtali ִ*** *“I wrestled with my sister.” (Gen. 30:8)*

***Gad*** *“In the luck/fortune.” (Gen. 30:11)*

***Asher*** *“In happiness, because the girls (will deem me?) happy/blessed.” (Gen. 30:13)*

***Issachar*** *“God gave me my reward because I gave my maidservant to my man.” (Gen. 30:18)*

***Zebulun*** *“God bestowed upon me a good gift; this time my man will honor me (make me his legitimate wife).” (Gen. 30:20)*

***Joseph*** *“God will/ may add me another son.” (Gen. 30:24)*

***Benjamin*** *“Son of my strength/ right hand” – changed from Rachel’s original name ֶּבן־ אוִֹני “Son of my sorrow” (Gen. 35:18)*

**LESSON 147 (6-21-20)**

**CHAPTER 31**

Jacob gets ready to return to Canaan but there is trouble brewing because of Laban.

*Jacob’s exodus from the land of servitude, which had once been a land of salvation, resonates with the story of Israel’s exodus from Egypt and*

*other historical returns.*

*1. The children of Israel went to Egypt (in the time of Joseph) to escape a severe famine that was in the land, but in time became slaves of a new Pharaoh who was unwilling to let them go.*

*2. Just as Jacob experienced God’s intervention through dreams, so too did Joseph.*

*3. Just as Jacob “breaks away” from a land of bondage with great wealth, Israel too, will leave Egypt with great wealth as a reparation* *payment for their forced slave labor.*

*4. Another strong connection with the Exodus story is found in Genesis 46:3-4 where God says to Israel (Jacob):*

*“****Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you and I will surely bring you back again.****” This is similar to the words God spoke to Jacob at Bethel (Gen. 28:15):*

***Genesis 28:15 And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."***

*4.* Israelis (Jews) returned from all parts of the world back to Palestine which became the nation of Israel, May 14, 1948.

***Ezek. 36:24 For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land.***

5. These are all a foreshadowing of the final return of the people back into the land that occurs at the end of the Tribulation period when the final restoration of the Jews to the land of Israel will take place.

***Isaiah 11:11-12 Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea. 12) And He will lift up a standard for the nations And assemble the banished ones of Israel, And will gather the dispersed of Judah From the four corners of the earth.***

**LESSON 148 (7-5-20)**

**God’s Faithfulness in Bringing His People Back to the Promised Land**

**1. Jacob > dream > visits Laban > mistreated > dream > returned to Canaan**

**2. Joseph > taken to Egypt < family > mistreated > Exodus - returned to Canaan**

**3. Iaraelites > taken to Babylon > mistreated > Gabriel’s visit > returned to Judah**

**4. Jews > dispersed 70 AD > mistreated > partial return to Palestine (Nation 1947)**

**5. Jews > among the nations > mistreated > 2nd Advent** all Jews return **to Israel**

**Gen. 28:15, 46:3-4, Ezek. 36:24, Isiaha 11:11**

*Gen. 31:3-4*

*6. While there are differences between these stories, the similarities are stunning and clearly show authorial intent to draw such connections and parallels.*

*7. This is the point. The people in these stories are imperfect, but God who chose to do His will through them, is perfect! They do not “deserve” the benefits of His commitment and covenantal love, but the LORD God enters into covenant relations with these imperfect sons and daughters of Adam.*

*There is hope. All these stories are really not about these characters, but about the character of God.*

We are going through a tough time; it is more about God’s abilities and faithfulness than about us. He demonstrates His perfect attributes in times like these through His faithfulness to those who trust in Him and His Word.

There really is no security in this life, other than our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**LESSON 149 (7-12-20)**

Read: ***Psalm 34:16-22***

Why is life so hard? Why do things fall apart at the very worst time? Why does it seem like one bad thing after another continues to happen?

Why is 90% of news bad news? When we drop a piece of toast, why does it seem to always land on jelly side?

Why does it seem like we are constantly being tested? Why do we have to be tested anyway?

One way we can find the answer is by focusing on Jaacob. He faced one test after another, after another in order to mature spiritually so that God could use him in a greater way and bless him even more.

1. God is constantly working to bring about spiritual maturity in the life of believers through various tests. God tests the doctrine in our soul through all kinds of tests which occur both in adversity and in prosperity.

2. These tests are designed to teach us that God is faithful and to train us to use the spiritual skills found in His word such as: **Grace Orientation**, **Rebound**, the **Faith-Rest Drill**, **Unconditional/Impersonal Love**, and a **Personal Sense of Destiny**.

When we use these spiritual skills, we find that they work and that God is faithful. These skills

insolate us from Satan’s lie which has always been the same, “God is not faithful and He is not fair.”

***James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren,***

***when you encounter various trials, 3) knowing***

***that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4) And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.***

3. Testing humbles us and teaches us that God’s grace is always sufficient. No matter how big the crisis, no matter how much goes wrong, no matter how difficult the ordeal, no matter the level of pain and suffering, we can rejoice because God’s grace is always greater than our problems.

**LESSON 150 (7-19-20)**

4. People use everything imaginable to handle adversity which might get them through life, but it does nothing to advance them spiritually. The goal for believers shouldn’t be just to get through life the best we can; the goal is to glorify God by utilizing the spiritual assets He has given us.

***2 Peter 1:1-4 Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have ~~received~~ obtained*** (part. aa) ***a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: 2) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge*** (Gr: *epignosis*) ***of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3) seeing that His divine power has granted*** (bestowed or endowed, *part. rp*) ***to us everything pertaining to life*** (in general) ***and godliness*** (spiritual life)***, through the true knowledge* of *Him who called us by His own glory and excellence*** (***ἀρετή****, arete –* outstanding character & virtue)***. 4) For by these He has granted*** (*part. rp*) ***to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become*** (v. ams) ***partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.***

5. It should be obvious that unbelievers and dead beat negative ignorant believers deal with the exigencies of life apart from:

a. multiplied grace and peace

b. divine power in life in general and in one’s

spiritual life

e. God’s precious and magnificent promises

f. partaking of the divine nature

Who in their right mind would choose to face a future that could include, pandemonium, poverty, deprivation, hunger, murder, rape, and virulent plagues without these wonderful things, all because they refused to humble themselves in order to acquire the grace and knowledge to have them?

6. A test may not be a difficult situation, it may be just an opportunity to minister, to witness, to serve the Lord in some way, and the test is how we respond to that opportunity.

If we aren’t thinking divine viewpoint, if we don’t have a full inventory of doctrine to handle the situation, we will let a golden opportunity to advance spiritually slip right through our fingers.

7. There are PEOPLE tests, disaster tests, authority tests, money tests, marriage tests, friends tests, tests with co-workers, and tests with strangers.

8. There are system tests. These often involve the place we work or the school we go to that have policies and procedures in place that we don’t agree with.

There are health tests, weather tests, financial tests, politician tests, computer tests, undeserved suffering tests…

9. No matter what kind of test we face, we will either fail the test by allowing mentle attitude sins (fear, anger, self-pity, etc.) to take over our thinking, or we will recognize that the test is for our good, it benefits us if we turn the problem over to the Lord, claim promises, apply doctrine to the situation, and then patiently wait. But keep praying, learning doctrine, and Rebounding if necessary.

10. We also have the following guarantee:

***1 Corinthians 10:13 No testing has over- taken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.***

It is important to note that this verse applies only to believers who are growing spiritually by faithfully studying God’s Word; it does not apply to believers who ignore God and who are content in remaining biblically ignorant.

Those believers cannot bear up under testing, or any adversity, because they don’t have the spiritual skills to handle such things, so they become emotionally unstable, succumb to mental attitude sins, and receive divine discipline.

**LESSON 151 (7-26-20)**

Now we start with verse 1 of **Chapter 31**:

**Vs. 1** – This was a lie. It was God who made Jacob wealthy. Laban’s nefarious efforts to cheat Jacob in no way could neturalize God’s grace provision to prosper him.

Laben did everything possible to cheat Jacob and to enrich himself at Jacob’s expense but nothing worked because Jacob’s well being didn’t depend on Laban, it depended on God.

It is very important for us to learn this principle and to rely on it now, and on into the future!

**Vs. 2-3** Laban allowed money to change his relationship with Jacob which shows how superficial his love for Jacob really was. Money was more important to Laban than anything.

*“It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor.”*

*Seneca*

*“Money does not buy friends, it rents them. When you are out of money,Your lease is up.”*

*Unknown*

*With money you can buy all the friends you want, but they are never worth the price.*

*“I don't pay good wages because I have a lot of money; I have a lot of money because I pay good wages.”*

*Robert Bosch*

It’s too bad that Laban never recognized the truth in the quote above.

God is always in the background protecting His children. Laben was getting to the point to where he might become violent towards Jacob.

The Lord repeated His promise that He made to Jacob when he left home (Gen. 28:15):

**Genesis 28:15 Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you."**

**Vs. 4-5** Jacob rightly informed his wives of what he planned to do and why.

1. It is important for husbands to keep their

wives abrest of what is happening.

a. It is wrong to keep them in the dark

about things that will affect their lives.

b. They often have valuable input that the

husband needs to hear.

2. Notice:

***Gen. 31:3 and I*** (God) ***will be with you***

(Jacob)***.***

**Gen. 31:5 …your father's attitude toward**

**me is not as it was in the past; but the**

**God of my father has been with me.**

What a comfort to know that God is with us

and that He will never leave us or forsake us

(*Joshua 1:5*).

***Joshua 1:9 I*** (the Lord) ***command you***

(Joshua)***: be firm and steadfast! Do not***

***fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD, your***

***God, is with you wherever you go.***

3. Knowing that God is always with us comforts

us and emboldens us but it does not mean

that we will not experience suffering, we

will. But it does mean that He will enable us

to get through it.

**Vs. 6-7** Laban was a dispickable person who thought only of himself and took advantage of everyone around him, but Jacob was no longer a swindler, he was now humble and honorable with his dealings with Laban.

He didn’t take advantage of laban even though he had opportunities to do so.

Laban was a cheater and con man extrodinair but God saw to it that Jacob was not hurt by Laban’s dishonesty and treachery.

**Vs. 8-9** Laban and Jacob made an agreement that all the speckled and striped livestock that woud be born would be Jacob’s and that would be considered his wages. Jacob knew that the blessings that came his way wasn’t luck, but was all God’s doing.

**Vs. 10-13** God commanded Jacob in a dream to leave and return to the land of his birth (Canaan).

Verses 11-13 reveals that our security and pros- perity are in the Lord’s hands.

Jacob had special revelation from God through theophanies, dreams, and visions. Those types of communication ceased around 96 A.D. when the canon of scripture was completed. We now have special communication from God in the form of His completed written Word in which the H.S. helps us to understand.

Jacob’s security and livelihood were threatened and God took care of the situation.

There are millions of our countrymen who are now in that situation. What can they learn from this scripture?

1. God knew about Jacob’s situation (omniscience).

2. He cared about Jacob (love).

3. He had the power to help him (omnipotence).

4. He promised him that He would sustain him

(veracity).

5. He could never be unfair (perfect justice & +R).

6. He would never change His mind (immutability).

We, like the people in ancient times, are flawed, but God still demonstrates His unrelenting grace by loving us anyway and faithfully providing for all our needs by fulfilling His promises to us.

By now, we should be able to answer the question, “What should we do when we must deal with cantankerous, self-centered, selfish, loathsome people?”

1. Recognize we are facing People Testing

2. Treat them with Unconditional/Impersonal

Love and put them in the Lord’s hands.

3. Refuse to worry about it, lose our temper,

retaliate, gossip, argue, or hold a grudge,

but also refuse to be treated like a doormat.

4. Pray for them, stay objective, be kind to

them, and be quick to forgive.

**LESSON 152 (8-2-20)**

**Vs. 14-16** Rachel and Leah recalled how their father Laban demonstrated that he loved money more than he loved his own daughters.

Verses 14-15 gives a description of what a wretched father Laban was to his daughters but they recognized in verse 16 that God’s grace was greater than Laban’s treachery.

It doesn’t matter how big the problem may be, God’s grace is bigger. Most believers don’t believe that because they don’t know enough doctrine to support it. What a shame.

Laban’s daughters came to the conclusion that God had protected and provided for them just as He had their husband Jacob. They were very wealthy despite Laban’s efforts to impoverish them to enrich himself.

**Vs. 17-18** Jacob obeyed God and left Paddam-aram. But this is a good example of doing the right thing in the wrong way. Doing the right thing in a wrong way is wrong.

He should have told his Uncle Laban that he was leaving so that he could say good-by to his daughters and grand children.

It was thoughtless on Jacob’s part to deprive Laban of seeing them for the last time without saying good-by, even though he was a selfish self-centered double-crossing lying swindler.

Excusing your bad behavior on someone else’s bad behavior is dishonorable and makes you just like them.

Jacob was a con-man when he arrived at Haran but it looked like he had learned his lesson and was being honest with people but he fell back into his old wheel rut of deceiving people again.

**Vs. 19** This verse seems to be parenthetical to set up what happens later in the narrative. Why did she steal the idols?

Maybe she was influenced by pagans who believed that idols could guarantee fertility or maybe she had some lingering doubts about God’s ability and took the idols to act as an insurance policy to protect her or give her what she wanted.

**Vs. 20-21** It wasn’t right for Jacob to leave without saying a word to a Laban who was a member of his family, especially after living with for 20 years.

Why did he leave the way he did? FEAR! He was afraid to face Laban and tell him that they were leaving. And why was he afraid? Because he didn’t trust God. That’s always the cause of fear.

Remember, fear is a choice for believers. We can choose to trust God and have courage, or we can choose to ignore or doubt God and be afraid.

**Vs. 22-23** Of course Laban reacted to this news by losing his temper and went after Jacob. Jacob insulted him leaving the way he did and Laban thought that Jacob stole his idols and he wanted them back.

**Vs. 24** Again we see the faithfulness of God in protecting Jacob from Laban. He let Laman know that if he wanted to continue to live, he better be very careful what he would say or do to Jacob.

God always knows exactly what is going on in our lives and has a limitless number of ways to protect us from harm. He does this without us knowing anything about it. This should give us a great sense of comfort and security.

**Vs. 25-28** When Laban and his kinsmen caught up with Jacob, he wasn’t bashful about chewing him out for pulling such a stunt. This was of course hypocritical coming from the master of deception himself.

**Vs. 29** Laban issued a veiled threat to Jacob that he had the power to harm him but God intervened which constrained him from acting on his threat.

**Vs. 30-31** Then Laban confronted Jacob about his idols that had been stolen.

**Vs. 31** Jacob acknowledged that his thoughtless action was motivated by fear. But notice that Jacob did not acknowledge that what he did was wrong, nor did he apologize for it. If he would have, it may have provided the humility that was needed to calm down the situation and make it possible to have a rational conversation.

**Vs. 32**-35 Jacob vehemently denied stealing any idols and Laban came up empty-handed when he searched for them.

**LESSON 153 (8-9-20)**

**Vs. 36-42**

***Genesis 31:36 Then Jacob became angry and contended with Laban;***

***became angry*** **חרה** *karah**.*Heb to become hot, wrath kindled, to be angry

Of course, what followed was contention and strife.

***contended with Laban;*** Heb. *reeb*, ריב, to strive with or to quarrel.

So then, Jacob got angry and went on a seven verse rant. He lashes out at Laban for the way he had treated him for twenty years. In the rant, we discover that Jacob had dealt with Laban fairly and honorably.

Jacob wasn’t wrong in what he said, but he was wrong because of the way he said it.

Remember he was angry. Another case of doing the right thing in the wrong way.

Laban needed to hear what Jacob said and may have responded positively but because Jacob essentially attacked him verbally, Laban became defensive. That always happens when we allow ourselves to lose control.

It may feel good to tell somebody off but it puts them off. They automatically switch to their defensive mode. Why not stay in control of your emotions which allows them to consider what you are saying?

Jacob did the right thing by asking Laban questions but he didn’t wait to hear his answers.

He wasn’t interested in hearing the answers because he didn’t want to discuss anything, he just wanted to vent his rage.

**Vs. 43** Instead of taking responsibility for all the abuse and deceit he caused, Laban made this lame statement that he would never harm that which was his. Still not even a hint of humility to be found in Laban. There could be no reconcilia- tion between them because he didn’t answer any of Jacob’s questions nor respond to any of his accusations, he just said that everything was his.

**Vs. 44-55** What we have here is two angry men who do not trust each other, making a non-aggression pact. It was good that they were able to bring things to a conclusion and that both were committed to the boundaries that were set.

It is sad, but this kind of agreement is about the most one can expect when a family member is as arrogant, selfish, deceitful, hateful, and wretched as Laban.

Finally, in verse 55, Laban leaves and there is no recorded contact between Jacob and Laban again.

**Genesis Chapter 32**

Jacob leaves one crisis just to face another one. He was returning to face his brother Esau who had vowed to kill him.

God’s timing is perfect; He sent His angels and encouraged Jacob when he left Canaan (Gen. 28:11-15) and now again when he is returning and facing danger, God dispatched angels to encourage him when he needed it the most. Certainly, it must be encouraging when you see angels camping around your camp.

**Vs. 1-2** The word “Mahanaim” means “two camps”. *God’s camp comprised of* angels and Jacob’s camp.

The term ”***angels of God***” is used only two times in the O.T. – *Gen. 18:12* and *Gen. 32:1*.

***Genesis 28:12 And he*** (Jacob) ***had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.***

***Genesis 32:1 Now as Jacob went on his way, the angels of God met him.***

So “***the angels of God”*** were present when Jacob left Canaan and when he returned. The writer drew a parallel between the two places.

Furthermore, the Hebrew word that is translated “*arriving*” or “*came*” in *28:11* and “*met him*” in *32:1* is the same word. The use of identical vocabulary is designed to draw a connection between the two events.

Remember, shortly before this God had protect- ed Jacob by warning Laban not to do anything harmful to his nephew. At this point, God’s invisible world openly touched Jacob’s visible world to show him that the source of protection and the means of victory always comes from God.

God opened his eyes to reveal angels to show him that He was protecting him. He was surrounded by an angelic military encampment. This is what the word *mahanaim* sometimes refers to, an encampment of an army. He was surrounded by an army of angels that were there to protect him.

2nd Kings 6:13-17

Did Jacob finally get the point that he was safe and secure under God’s protection and there was no reason to be afraid?

**Vs. 3-5** Did Jacob relax as he entered Canaan knowing that God would provide and protect him?

It is hard to say at this point. Jacob was a control freak and a master manipulator and was always trying to work to make sure he came out on top. Was the offer he made to his brother made in good faith to make up for stealing his birthright blessings or was it a bribe to entice Esau to spare his life.

**Vs. 6** When the messengers returned and said that Esau was on his way with 400 men with him, Jacob hit the panic button!

**LESSON 154 (8-16-20)**

**Vs. 7** **Then Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed;**

**THE DOCTRINE OF FEAR**

1. Fear is used in two ways in the Bible.

A. Fear as a Sin

1. Fear is used for a mental attitude sin which is

characterized by anxiety when in a dangerous situation. It is a distressful or painful emotion aroused by impending pain, danger, disaster, or evil which may be real or illusionary.

2. It is worry, apprehension, foreboding, or

anxiety. Fear can be more intensified by an

active feeling of dread, panic, and terror.

B. Fear as a Virtue

1. Fear is used for reverence, respect, or awe. It is a reverence manifesting itself in obedience. In this respect, fear is a Christian virtue.

**1 Peter 2:17 Honor all men; love the brother- hood, fear God, honor the king.**

2. The meaning of the word “fear” in the Bible is

determined by the context in which it is used.

2. Details on the Sin of Fear

A. Fear can be classified as the most formidable

Mental Attitude Sin that plagues all believers.

1. Fear causes us to emote rather than think or

apply doctrine under pressure.

2. Fear is a part of the emotional complex of

sins which include worry, anxiety, insecurity, and dread which short circuits the application of Bible doctrine (B.D.).

B. The Progressive Nature of Fear

1. The more things we surrender to fear, the

more fear takes control of our life.

2. *An Indian fable says that a mouse was in constant distress because of its fear of the cat. A magician took pity on it and turned it into a cat. Immediately it became afraid of the dog. So the magician turned it into a dog.*

*Immediately it began to fear the tiger. So the magician turned it into a tiger. Immed- iately it began to fear the hunter. Then the magician said, “Be a mouse again, you have only the heart of a mouse and I cannot help you.”* —*Maxwell Droke Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 439.*

This fable describes the progressive nature of fear and how it will ruin your life if you don’t trade in your heart of a mouse for the heart of the Lion of Judah.

You might ask how that is done? That can be

answered in four words – By learning Bible

Doctrine.

2. Fear causes us to become totally preoccupied

with ourselves.

3. The more we allow fear to take control of our

lives, the more punitive suffering and self-

induced misery we bring on ourselves.

4. Fear removes B.D. from being the number one priority in life which in effect, destroys the function of our spiritual life.

5. When our spiritual life is no longer function- ing, we move into the dreaded eight stages of reversionism.

C. The Emotional Element of Fear

1. Emotion can be normal or evil, good or bad.

Regardless of what form it takes, emotion is

a responder to thought, not thought itself.

2. Emotion is a physiological response to what is

taking place in our minds.

3. The believer must distinguish between normal

emotional response (like watching a good

movie) and abnormal emotional reaction to life.

4. When one makes decisions or acts on what he

feels rather than what he thinks, his emotions

dominate his soul.

5. God did not design our emotions to take

control of the command post of our soul,

which is our *kardia*, our heart. It is a disaster

when that happens because emotions do not

have the ability to think.

D. Fear and Arrogance

1. You cannot be afraid without putting an

abnormal emphasis on yourself. To the extent that we become frightened by anything, to that extent we allow a new mental attitude sin to emerge in our life which is arrogance.

2. Arrogance and rank emotionalism replaces our capacity for life, love, and happiness when we allow fear to take over our lives.

3. Fear leads to arrogance because fear always thinks about self. And arrogance is always preoccupied with self which leads to fear.

4. If we want to be a good and faithful servant to God and live the abundant life He wants us to live, we will have to battle with fear and arrogance for the rest of our lives.

E. Fear Principles

1. Fear and the function of your spiritual life are

mutually exclusive which means we can’t apply

doctrine when we are afraid.

2. Fear not dealt with is progressive and like an

aggressive disease, it will destroy our lives.

3. Focusing on the problem always leads to fear;

focusing on the Lord always leads to courage.

4. We can choose which one of these options to

focus on. So, no one can legitimately claim that

he or she cannot help being scared.

5. It is possible to have a large inventory of

doctrine and still fall apart in historical or

personal disaster.

6. The difference between fear and courage is the

ability to concentrate on doctrine under

pressure. Fear destroys concentration.

7. Concentration is required in learning and

metabolizing doctrine, but it is also required to

a greater degree when we’re under a pressure.

8. Faithfulness in taking in doctrine helps believers

to reverse their concentration so they can

remember it and apply it under adverse

situations.

9. Adversity is inevitable but stress is optional.

Fear is the number one cause of stress in the

soul. When we learn how to deal with fear,

stress becomes a thing of the past.

F. Fear of Death

1. Fear of death will never prevent you from dying,

but it will prevent your living.

2. A most ignoble death:

*“Fear and fear alone” is an injury sufficient to cause death, according to a federal court jury in Seattle. Ralph Thompson, a third mate on the steamship Chena, died of shock the day after his vessel was driven into the center of Valdez, Alaska, by a tidal wave. An insurance company refused to pay accidental death benefits because Thompson had suffered no apparent injuries. However, the court concluded that Thompson had died of fright and it held the company liable.* Paul Lee Tan, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 1595.

3. Death is the last thing that should concern

us because we have no control over the

manner of our death nor the time of our

death.

4. Once we understand there is nothing to

fear in death, then we begin to realize

there is nothing to fear in life.

5. Fear of death is a sign that we are still in

spiritual childhood.

6. *Psalm 55:1-6 & 16-18 & 22*

7. *Hebrews 2:14-15*

8. One day Saint Francis was hoeing in his

garden when a friend said, “What would you

do if you knew you would die at sunset?” He

replied, “I would finish hoeing my garden.”

G. We are commanded not to be afraid.

***Isaiah 41:10-14****,* ***43:1***& ***5****,* ***44:1-2****,* ***54:4****,*

***Jeremiah 30:10****,* ***Joel 2:21****,* ***Matt. 10:31****,* ***John 12:15, Zeph 3:16, Judges 6:23,***

***Lamentations 3:27, 2 Kings 6:16,***

**“Do not fear”** is found 51 times in the NKJB.

**“Do not be afraid”** is found 50 times.

“fear” is found 470 times

“frightened” is found 14 times.

“afraid” is found 216 times

“terror” is found 54 times

“terrified” is found 20 times

“horror” is found 6 times

“anxious” is found 8 times

That’s a total of 788 words associated with

fear are found in the NKJ Bible

**LESSON 155 (8-23-20)**

H. Fear is probably the number one adversary of believers. Fear goes back all the way to the Garden of Eden:

***Genesis 3:9-10 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10) And he said, "I heard the sound of Thee in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."***

It is natural for us to be frightened when facing danger. When a vicious dog jumps out of nowhere and lunges at you with his eyes bulging and his mouth wide open barking and showing his teeth, you have a “knee jerk” reaction where you don’t think, you react.

Instantly, adrenalin surges through your body. Your heart rate spikes, all of your senses are intensified. You are on a red alert ready to fight or take flight.

But it is not natural to go through life worrying, dreading, and fearing what might or might not happen in the future.

3. **Fear as a Virtue**

A. Fear is used for reverence, respect, or awe. It is a reverence manifesting itself in obedience. In this respect, fear is a Christian virtue.

1. ***Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the***

***beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it*** (apply doctrine) ***have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!***

***Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the***

***beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the***

***Holy One is understanding.***

a. The overwhelming number of people on the

earth do not fear God because they are

arrogant and biblically ignorant.

***James 4:6* *…God is opposed to*** *(makes war*

*against)* ***the proud, but gives grace to the***

***humble.***

***James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the***

***presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.***

1. Humility always precedes fear (respect)

and wisdom.

***Proverbs 22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.***

2. Wisdom and intelligence are not the same. Intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills whereas wisdom is having or showing experience, knowledge, and good judgement.

3. Intelligence can be acquired from various places and specific subjects but wisdom concerning life is found in the Word of God.

b. The fear of God is a strong motivation to refrain from sinning.

***Proverbs 16:6 In mercy and truth atone-***

***ment is provided for iniquity; And by the***

***fear of the LORD one departs from evil.***

***Proverbs 8:12-13 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion. 13) The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.***

***Nehemiah 5:9 So I said, "The thing that you are doing is not good. Ought you not to walk in the fear of our God…***

***2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

c. Fear of God prevents wrongdoing toward other people.

***Leviticus 25:17 “So you shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God.”***

Instead of reacting to the wrongdoing of

others, you shall put the entire matter in

the hands of God.

***Ephesians 5:21 …and be subject to one***

***another in the fear of Christ.***

d. It is particularly important for those in government to fear the Lord and be just remembering that the Lord rules in justice.

***2 Samuel 23:2-3 The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue. 3) The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.***

***Nehemiah 5:15 But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people and took from them bread and wine besides forty shekels of silver; even their servants domineered the people. But I did not do so because of the fear of God.***

***Deuteronomy 17:19-20 "And it*** (a copy of the

Mosaic Law) ***shall be with him, and he shall***

***read it all the days of his life, that he*** (the

king) ***may learn to fear*** (respect) ***the LORD his***

***God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, 20) that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left; in order that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.***

e. We all have a tendency to become lazy or sloppy in maintaining our spiritual edge and when that happens, our fear of God starts to wane and we start depending on ourselves instead of the Lord.

So, from time to time God tests us to remind us to respect Him and obey Him.

For example, He may bring someone into our life who does us wrong to see if we react to the wrongdoing or put the entire matter in His hands.

***Exodus 20:19-20 Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, lest we die." 20) And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."***

***Psalm 147:11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.***

***Ecclesiastes 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.***

***Psalm 3:1-8 and Luke 18:1-8***

***Psalm 111:5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.***

**LESSON 156 (8-30-20)**

2. So what can one do to rid himself of fear?

A. The way to have victory over fear in your soul

is to replace it with confidence in doctrine,

which leads to confidence in the Lord which

produces courage in life.

a. Developing confidence in doctrine takes time but even new believers can have confidence in the Lord by trusting in His promises.

***2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a***

***spirit of fear, but of power and of love and***

***of a sound mind.***

1. Relying on God’s power gives us courage

and this occurs only when we trust Him.

Faith in Him is the key to defeating fear.

***1 Sam 28:20 “The fear of man provides a***

***snare, but he who trusts in the Lord shall***

***be promoted.***

***Psalm 56:3-4 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. 4) In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?***

***Hebrews 11:27 By faith he*** (Moses) ***left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.***

2. Courage and a sound organized mind

comes from Bible doctrine, certainly

not from emotion. At any given time, we

will make decisions based on one or the

other.

3. The larger the inventory of doctrine in our soul, the more likely we are to focus on it instead of the problem and that eliminates fear.

4. Actually, that is what we do when we “faith-rest”. We focus on God’s word, God’s essence, and God’s plan which gives us the courage we need to defeat fear.

5. Mature love casts out fear.

***1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect*** (mature) ***love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected*** (mature) ***in love.***

6. We don’t have to fear the Judgment Seat of Christ. If we love God and one another, then that will give us courage, and we will not have fear of the judgment seat of Christ.

7. There is no “fear” in Christ, but fear is a lie of Satan, devised to make us doubt the sufficiency of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

8. When we have personal love for God, we understand His nature; we don’t need to claim specific promises for every situation. We can rely on His entire essence, His integrity, and His nature. No one can have personal love for God until they know Him and to know Him is to love Him.

Perspectives on fear

A sign on the door of an English pub during the battle of Britain during World War II said, “*Fear knocked at the door.* ***Faith*** *answered. No one was there.*”

Courage is fear that has said its prayers and decided to go forward anyway. *Joyce Meyer*

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less. *Marie Curie*

FEAR is an acronym in the English language for **'False Evidence Appearing Real'***.*

*Neale Donald Walsch*

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength. *Corrie Ten Boom*

We fear things in proportion to our ignorance of them. *Christian Nestell Bovee*

**End of the Doctrine of Fear**

Now, back to ***Genesis 32:7-8***

When Jacob heard the news that Esau was on his way with four hundred men, he panicked so he stopped thinking. His emotions took over and he forgot all about how God fulfilled His promises to provide and protect him for the last 20 years.

Jacob’s response and actions are typical but God was not pleased. Since he was not relying on God, he frantically started making plans to handle the situation himself.

Vs. **8** He made preparations to split up his group so that if Esau attacked one of the companies might survive.

What should have Jacob done? PRAY! He reminds me of Jonah who nearly waited too long to pray.

**Vs. 9-12** FINALLY, Jacob humbled himself and put his trust in the Lord! These verses are beautiful.

**Vs. 9** First he addressed his prayer to God, and specifically to God as the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac. The reason he does this is that he is recalling to mind the Abrahamic covenant.

Then he said, “*the LORD who said to me*.” He was reminding God of His promise. He was using the **faith-rest drill**, where we go to Scripture and claim the promises God. It goes something like this, “*God, you said this in Your Word and now I am trusting you to fulfill that promise; I am calling upon you to act on my behalf in light of what you have said.”*

**Vs. 10** This is the first time we see Jacob humble himself under the mighty hand of God and he admits his sin and his weakness.

He finally recognizes that he was not worthy of anything. He had failed to trust God in spite of all that God had done for him.

He focused on the character of God, and when- ever we face a problem in life the place to start is with the character of God. The more we expand and enlarge our knowledge of who God is and then compare that to the problem we are facing, then the problem doesn’t seem to be so huge anymore.

**LESSON 157 (9-6-20)**

**Read Vs. 13-23**

*Jacob combined active exertions with earnest prayer; and this teaches us that we must not depend upon the aid and interposition of God in such a way as to supersede the exercise of prudence and foresight.* Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible, vol. 1 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 35.

*But did he believe God? No. He goes right ahead and makes these arrangements, which reveals that he isn’t trusting God at all. I am afraid that we are often in the same position. Many of us take our burdens to the Lord in prayer. We just spread them out before Him—I do that. Then when we get through praying, we get right up and put each little burden right back on our back and start out again with them. We don’t really believe Him, do we? We don’t really trust Him as we should.* J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary, electronic ed., vol. 1 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 132.

It could be that Jacob was trusting God to protect him and the gifts to Esau was an effort to make up for the wrong he did to his brother.

*The best prayer comes from a strong inward necessity. By human security systems* [trying to handle problems apart from God]*, we often distance ourselves from a dynamic prayer life. Why do we do ourselves this wrong?* William MacDonald, Believer’s Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments, ed. Arthur Farstad (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), 68.

This special wrestling match is highly instructive

by encouraging us to valiantly meet the trials we face as God teaches us to rely on our faith and prayers to produce the victories which His grace alone can produce.

**Vs. 24** The wrestling match with the one who revealed Himself as God (v. 28) sums up Jacob’s lifelong attitude toward God. He had wrestled with God his entire life. He finally learned that ultimate power is in God’s hands, not in his strength or cunning (v. 25).

**LESSON 158 (9-13-20)**

We must recognize the following facts to under- stand what is going on in these passages:

1. Jacob was convicted of his sins (32:10). But conviction alone could not solve his problems. He still needed God to intervene

2. A strange wrestling match takes place in (32:24). Who wrestled with Jacob and why?

3. The One who wrestled with Jacob was God the Son, the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ (Gen. 32:28, Hosea 12:4).

4. Jacob was not wrestling the Lord to defeat Him, but to receive a blessing. He desperately tried to get Jesus Christ to bless him (receive forgiveness and help) and that’s why he didn’t give up, they wrestled till daybreak. He was trying to wrestle blessing out of Him: “*I will not let you go unless you bless me*” (32:26).

5. The length of the match wasn’t because it was an even match. Why, then, did the Lord allow Jacob to grapple with Him so long?

a. To see how genuine Jacob’s trust in Him really was.

b. Also, how badly Jacob really wanted help and blessing from the Lord.

c. And, in that sense, Jacob prevailed in securing what he sought (32:28). He received a definite peace and assurance in Christ that he didn’t have before.

6. **Gen. 32:25** **When he** (J.C.) **saw that he had not prevailed against him** (in causing Jacob to give up)**, he touched the socket of his thigh; so the socket of Jacob’s thigh was dislocated while he wrestled with him.**

a. Jesus could have done this at any time but

He waited until He was convinced that Jacob was sincerely trusting in Him.

b. When He dislocated Jacob’s hip socket, the wrestling match was over but Jacob didn’t give up, he clung to the Lord still waiting to be blessed.

c. After encountering the living Christ, Jacob was forever crippled—both physically and in regard to his ego. He could no longer strut around arrogantly as he had done before. His pride turned to lowliness (33:3). His greed turned to generosity (33:10–11). And his self-reliance had turned into worship (33:20). So we who are professing believers must ask ourselves: Have these things happened to me? Have my habits changed? Have I met the Lord?

Kurt Strassner, Opening up Genesis, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 132–133.

7. ***Genesis 32:26 Then he*** (the Lord) ***said, "Let me go, for the dawn is breaking." But he said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."***

a. At this point, Jacob was just holding on; he’s not wrestling. He is just holding on to the Lord. He learned that no one gets anywhere with God by struggling and resisting. The only way that one gets anywhere with Him is by yielding to Him and holding on to Him.

1) Do we ever struggle with God? Of

course we do.

2) Like Jacob, we want to have our way so we take control of our life and when everything falls apart and we get all stressed out, then we turn to the Lord for help.

3) Jacob clung to the Lord and would

not let go. We can’t physically cling to the Lord but we can cling to His promises and not let go.

b. It took Jacob a long time but he finally learned that trusting in self is for fools and losers. Trusting in the Lord is the only way to go.

c. “*Jacob’s reply indicated that he had learned that the cause of his well-being would be God’s blessing rather than his own deceptive resourcefulness. His change of name (vv. 27, 28) reflects this change of character (cf. 25:26; 27:36).”* Criswell, Paige Patterson, et al., eds., *Believer’s Study Bible*, Ge 32:26.

8. ***Genesis 32:27 So he said to him, "What***

***is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."***

a. Why did the Lord ask Jacob what his name was? Jacob’s name (heel grabber, deceiver, and chiseler) was a name that was associated with a not so laudable past. Jacob had been too self-willed and too proud to depend on the blessings of God. In saying his name, Jacob was acknowledging his true nature which he had to do before he could be blessed.

1) We will never be blessed by the Lord

as long as we are trusting in ourselves.

2) Trusting partly in the Lord and partly

in ourselves just won’t cut it.

3) The humble trust in the Lord and are blessed. The arrogant ignore the Lord and can never have a (RMA) Relaxed Mental Attitude, have peace of mind, or any sense of security.

b. Changing Jacob’s name was proof that He was forgiven and had received the Lord’s blessing and help.

9. ***Genesis 32:28 And he said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God*** (for blessing) ***and with men and have prevailed."***

The Lord changed his name to “Israel” which is variously translated as “God fights”, “God rules,” “one who strives with God,” or “a prince of God”.

*Israel, meaning “May God Prevail [for Him].” Thus, he was now recognized as “Prince with God.”* King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 32:24.

a. God chose to fight Jacob because He loved him and he needed to be humbled since he was stubborn and arrogant.

b. It also means “God fights” for Israel. That referred to Israel the person (formerly Jacob) and also the forth coming nation of Israel.

c. Jacob struggled his entire life:

1) with his brother Esau (Gen. 25–27);

2) with his father (chap. 27);

3) with his father-in-law (chap. 29–31);

4) with his wives (chap. 30);

5) with God at Peniel (Gen. 32:28).

10. ***Genesis 32:29 Then Jacob asked him and said, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And he blessed him there.***

a. The Lord’s response means, “You know

who I am.” In verse 28, it was revealed that Jacob was wrestling with none other than God.

b. God would one day reveal His name more fully to Moses:

***Exodus 3:13-14 Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I shall say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" 14) And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"***

11. **Genesis 32:30 So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved."**

a. Peniel means “the face of God”.

b. Jacob’s vision of the Lord was incomplete even though he said that he had seen God but he saw the pre-incarnate Jesus Christ at night in the form of the Angel of the Lord.

c. In his distress, Jacob had learned to trust the Lord. The experience at Peniel prepared Jacob to go confidently into the presence of his brother Esau. Jacob the schemer and deceiver was transformed into Israel who now was trusting in the Lord and had assurance, courage, security, and peace. He had “prevailed” (v. 28) in that he had finally acquired that humble submission that God required and he had come to realize that the things he wanted most in life come only from God.

12. ***Genesis 32:31 Now the sun rose upon him just as he crossed over Penuel, and he was limping on his thigh.***

a. Jacob’s experience with God physically changed him—he limped. The experience also had a significant spiritual impact on his life.

b. The Lord also gave the Apostle Paul a wound, “a thorn in the flesh” which was a reminder that God is in charge and will fight for him.

c. Penuel was east of the Jordan and north of the river Jabbok. It is also called “Peniel.”

13. ***Genesis 32:32 Therefore, to this day the sons of Israel do not eat the sinew of the hip which is on the socket of the thigh, because he touched the socket of Jacob's thigh in the sinew of the hip.***

a. The observation that up to Moses’ time (“to this day”) the nation of Israel did not eat this part of a hindquarter how- ever it is not mentioned elsewhere in the OT, nor was it enshrined in the Mosaic law or in the Jewish Talmud as a sacred law.

**LESSON 159 (9-20-20)**

Salient points from **Lesson 158**:

1. After encountering the living Christ, Jacob was forever crippled—both physically and in regard to his ego. He could no longer strut around arrogantly as he had done before. His pride turned to lowliness (33:3). His greed turned to generosity (33:10–11). And his self-reliance had turned into worship (33:20). So we who are professing believers must ask ourselves: Have these things happened to me? Have my habits changed? Have I met the Lord? Kurt Strassner, Opening up Genesis, Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 132–133.

2. Do we ever struggle with God? Of course we do. Like Jacob, we want to have our way so we take control of our life and then everything falls apart and then we fall apart, and then finally we turn to the Lord for help.

3. Jacob clung to the Lord and would not let go. We can’t physically cling to the Lord but we can cling to His promises and not let go.

4. It took Jacob a long time but he finally learned that trusting in self is for fools and losers. Trusting in the Lord is the only way to go. Have we learned this? If not, how long will it be before we learn to stop trusting in ourselves?

5. We will never be blessed by the Lord as long as we are trusting in ourselves.

6. Trusting partly in the Lord and partly in ourselves just won’t cut it.

7. The humble trust in the Lord and are blessed. The arrogant ignore the Lord and can never have a (RMA) Relaxed Mental Attitude, have peace of mind, or any sense of security.

**Genesis Chapter 33**

**Verses 1-2** So the wrestling match ended, the Lord blessed Jacob, the sun had risen and immediately, Jacob saw his Brother Esau coming with four hundred men.

1. Jacob had gone through a great deal to prepare him for what was ahead and before he knew it, the peril he dreaded was upon him.

2. Isn’t that just how life is? It seems that calamity comes suddenly and without warning.

He prepared for the worst by arranging his family according to their status and their importance from his perspective.

1. Rachel and Joseph were most important to him so he placed them in the back where they would be the farther from any danger.

2. He didn’t panic and turn around and try to

flee from what could be a disaster.

3. He was not hysterical, he was thinking under pressure, not emoting. He did all he could in the very short time he had.

4. In chapter 32 Jacob sent gifts ahead but

he stayed behind, but this time he himself

went ahead in front of everyone.

5. This demonstrated his courage by placing

himself between what appeared to be

imminent danger and his wives and children.

**Vs. 3** -What’s with all the bowing? This bowing down episode is typical of how a servant would approach royalty in a court.

He put himself in a position of humility and subservience to Esau to demonstrate that there had been a genuine change in him.He was no longer the arrogant liar and deceiver that he was.

Jacob had the right to assert his position

of authority over Esau since he was the heir, but he totally humbled himself before him. The old Jacob would have taken advantage of his position.

He was not bowing and scraping because he was afraid of Esau, there was a real and genuine trans- formation in his character.

**Vs. 4** – This verse is beautiful, absolutely

wonderful. What a touching moment.

All of the worrying, fear, and dread was for

nothing! How many times have we been miserable because we were dreading something that never came to pass?

***Esau ran to meet him and embraced him***, Esau was excited to see his brother and there is no indication at all that he was harboring any level of resentment toward his brother whatsoever. No doubt Jacob was relieved at their reunion.

After 20 years of troubling separation, old memories were wiped away and murderous threats belonged to the distant past and hearts had been changed. Family is so important and life is much too short to hold grudges.

**LESSON 160 (9-27-20)**

**Vs. 5** – Jacob’s answer to Esau’s question displayed how much he (Jacob) had changed.

***“The children whom God has graciously given your servant.”*** He recognized that everything he has, has come from God. He didn’t do anything to earn or deserve anything that he had. This showed he now had a genuine sense of humility.

Notice that even though Jacob had a higher position than Esau by having the inheritance, he called Esau “my Lord” (v. 5, 47) and called himself “your servant” (v. 8, 13-15).

Humility is absolutely essential to our spiritual life and life in general. True humility is not some sort of self-deprecation, low self-esteem, or somebody who is walked all over by somebody else, and never asserts themselves in any situation.

That is certainly not Biblical humility which is first of all orientation to divine authority. Our Lord demonstrated the greatest humility of all time: ***Phil. 2:5-8***

We have to be willing to be taught, willing to admit we are wrong, willing to admit that the ideas that we have might not be correct. Humility is foundational for learning, for growing spiritually, and to loving others. When we are self-absorbed we can’t love anybody because we are too busy focusing on ourselves.

**Vs. 6-7** Jacob’s family is introduced.

**Vs. 8 – 9** “all this company” refers to the 550

animals that Jacob had already sent to Esau. Jacob sent this very generous gift to him so that he would be accepted by his brother.

**Vs. 10** *“Take “my present”) (birḵāṯî). The word*

*“present” comes from bārak, “to bless.”*

*By using birḵāṯî, Jacob showed that he was*

*deliberately wanting to share his blessing with*

*Esau, trying to soften his earlier actions.* Allen P.

Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F.

Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 82.

***“for I see your face as one sees the face of God,” “****Jacob acknowledged how God had so obviously changed Esau, as indicated by his facial expression which was not one of sullen hate but of brotherly love divinely wrought and restored.” John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 64.*

**Vs. 11**

“*It seems Jacob has a guilt complex working in the background, that he knows that he may have achieved God’s will but he didn’t do it God’s way. A right thing done in a wrong way is wrong. So even though he gets the blessing he is never going to be able to fully enjoy and appreciate it like he would have if he had not manipulated it himself. The lesson we have to learn is that we have to trust God and His timing to give us that blessing, whatever it is, in His time and His way and not try to force it. Then we can relax and enjoy it and there are no second thoughts.”* Dr. Robert Dean, OT-01-T Genesis

**Vs. 12-16** Jacob had a problem. God told him to return to Canaan but Esau wanted him to live in Seir or Succoth which is on the East side of the Jordan which is not in Canaan.

Jacob couldn’t go home with Esau because it would be disobeying God and he didn’t want to tell Esau that he needed to live in the land Canaan which God gave him (and not Esau) which would not go over well with Esau, so he used the animal issue for why he couldn’t go back with him.

**Vs. 17** – Succoth wasn’t far from where Jacob and Esau reunited. We don’t know how long he stayed there but it might not have been long. He had to figure out what to do and where to go.

We don’t know if he asked the Lord for guidance, if he did, it’s not recorded.

**Vs. 18 –** Israel left Sucooth, crossed the Jordan River into Canaan and **camped** across

from Shechem.

**Vs. 19 –** He bought a piece of land from the father of Shechem, the man in which the town was named after.

Remember Jacob’s grandfather was Abraham who was very wealthy. He could have built a grand palace but he always lived in a tent. Why didn’t he at least build a house?

***Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.***

Another reason he didn’t build a house could have been because he didn’t want to integrate with the people in the pagan cities. He didn’t want to take a chance to be corrupted by them. He could always pick up his tent and move on.

Remember how Lot moved outside of Sodom and then eventually moved inside the city and became corrupted.

The message for us is to be very careful in deciding who the people are we choose to associate with. Unbelievers, negative believers, immoral people, liars, moochers, bullies, people with anger problems, drinking problems, drug problems, and attitude problems, should be avoided.

**Vs. 20 – “***El-Elohe-Israel*” means “El is the God of Israel”.

**LESSON 161 (10-4-20)**

**Genesis Chapter 34**

So Israel is back in the promised land of Canaan so he lived happily ever after, right? Not hardly.

This is a horrible chapter where awful things happen and it seems no one has integrity or does the right thing. So why is this chapter here? It is a graphic portrayal of the unbridled sexual lust of some men, of ruthless vengeance, approbation lust, deadly deception, cruelty, and greed.

It is a warning to the people of that time and to us today to stay separate from immoral people (socially) and especially the immorality and abominations of a heathen culture.

This chapter is a warning of what happens when believers in any age, any era, assimilate into a godless culture.

***Psalm 1:1-2 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.***

***James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.***

***1 John 2:15-16 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.***

***1 Corinthians 5:9-13***

***Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.***

We live in the 21st Century with a culture which is modern, sophisticated, advanced in technology, science, medicine, transportation, electronics, communication, and even space travel, yet it is thoroughly pagan.

When you live and operate in a pagan culture without the protection of Bible doctrine functioning as a filter to keep the pagan viewpoints, ideas, and values out, then what will inevitably happen is that you will begin to live and think like the people in the culture around you.

God blessed the Israelites when they were humble and obedient but when they associated with pagans, they adopted their values, traditions, and idolatrous religions. God instituted a permanent “social distancing” rule between His people and heathen societies.

***Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD****.*

***Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.***

**Vs. 1** – The name “Dinah” (dee-naw) means, “judgment”. She was Jacob’s only daughter and her mother was Leah.

The text indicates that Dina went to the pagan city of Shechem by herself unchaperoned which she must have known was not allowed and she must of known that the city was off-limits, especially since she was only 14-15 years old.

She was probably bored with her life and was curious about the women who lived in Shechem.

Certainly that was understandable since she was the only daughter but had twelve brothers. However, her action was like a loosened stone that caused a landslide.

**Vs. 2 –** The details are sketchy but there is no doubt that Shechem sexually violated her. It could have been similar to what we call “date rape”.

**Vs. 3 –** The Heb. word for “loved” here is the verb ‘***ahev’*** (aw-haiv), which denotes Shechem’s sexual attraction for Dinah, which the Greeks called *eros*. He had lust for her, not love.

“Lay” is the verb *shakhav -* (shaw-kahv), is used as a euphemism for sex and is never used for loving marital intercourse in Genesis but only for illicit or forced sex

In paganism, sex is reduced to simple physical gratification, a physical need and nothing more

**Vs. 5** Jacob is completely silent and in the background, abdicating his responsibility, and then when the sons do what they do, he is angry with them because now he is not going to be able to associate with the men of Shechem anymore and conduct business with them. He is taking the passive appeasement role to handling evil.

He completely advocated his position of authority. As head of the family, he should have told his sons what was to be done and that there would be no integrating with the pagans.

Jacob had forgotten all about his vow to God at Bethel (Gen. 28:20-22).

Jacob had a passive attitude toward evil: if we somehow appease evil and compromise with evil, everything will be okay, just don’t rock the boat.

He wasn’t even angry or outraged about his daughter being raped. He didn’t even send for his sons to come in from the field, he waited for them to come in.

He, like the despicable Governors and Mayors, who do nothing to stop the rioting, looting, arson, and murder because they personally benefit from it. They have a seared conscience and care only about themselves and their agenda.

**LESSON 162 (10-11-20)**

Jacob wasn’t paying attention to what he was doing when he bought a piece of land from the Canaanites (Gen. 33:19). He didn’t even ask the Lord about it. One bad decision can cause an avalanche of troubles.

Jacob’s decision was also lacking in good judgment since it was God’s will for Jacob to return to Bethel (in the promised-land), not to the heathen city of Shechem. He even made an oath to God that he would return to Behtel (Gen. *28:20-21*).

He had just experienced a great spiritual victory with Esau but then it appears he got complacent, lazy, and careless.

***1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on the alert pam, stand pam firm in the faith, act like men, be strong pam.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:6 so then let us not sleep pas as others do, but let us be alert pas and sober.***

Jacob’s spiritual carelessness resulted in his failure to return to Bethel and fulfill his vow to the Lord which led to the rape of Dinah since if he went to Bethel as he should have, the rape of Dinah and the horrible chain of events that followed would never have taken place.

**Vs. 7 –** The son’s reaction of anger was correct, but the way they retaliated was wrong. Notice, Jacob said nothing, where was his outrage?

Was he so influenced by the heathens that he said nothing and did nothing?

Was it that Dinah was the daughter of Leah so he didn’t really care about her?

Was he so invested in the financial and cultural relationship with these pagans that even the rape of his daughter didn’t matter?

Did act as if his daughter’s rape didn’t matter because he was afraid that the Canaanites would retaliate against him if he demanded justice?

The fact that he didn’t even ask the Lord for guidance says a lot about his spiritual condition.

It was similar to King David’s reaction when his daughter Tamar was raped by her half-brother Abnon (*2 Samuel 13:21*). He was angry but did nothing about it, so his son Absalom took matters into his own hands and executed Abnon and then took over his father’s thrown.

*“There should have been “righteous indignation” i.e. justified anger on the part of Jacob not only because of what Shechem did to his daughter but also because it was an attack on God’s covenant people, Israel and thus an attack upon the Person of God, and thus His holiness, which Israel represented before the world.” Grace Notes Genesis*

The question is, “What kind of punishment should be administered to Shechem? Under the Mosaic Law in Israel, the rape of an “unengaged” woman like Dinah did “not” demand the death penalty but required restitution in the form of fifty shekels be paid by the offender to the family of the victim, which constitutes the “bride-price” and the offender was required to marry the victim if the father agreed to it and the offender could never divorce her.

***Exodus 22:16‐17, Deuteronomy 22:25‐29,***

They should have immediately demanded that Dinah be returned to them and refused to negotiate her marriage to Shechem since he was a Canaanite and Jacob’s family was prohibited from intermarrying with Canaanites according to Noah’s prophecy recorded in *Genesis 9:24-27*.

The only possible way that they could have entered into negotiations with Shechem was if he accepted the Lord as His Savior and then submitted to the sign of the Abrahamic covenant, which was circumcision.

If Shechem did return Dinah, then Simeon and Levi should have done nothing to him and his father and the inhabitants of their city but rather should have waited for the Lord to deal with Shechem and Hamor in His perfect timing.

If they refused to return Dinah, then that would have been considered an act of war, which would have called for military action in order to rescue Dinah.

**Vs. 8** Hamor, the father of Sechem, was ready to speak to Jacob, the father of Dinah (Gen. 34:6), but since he waited for his sons to arrive, Hamor spoke to them (Gen. 34:8),

Neither Shechem, nor his father Hamor, offer an apology for the crime or express any remorse whatsoever. Hamor speaks as if the rape of Dinah had never occurred, which further infuriated her brothers.

Furthermore, Dinah is held captive in Shechem’s home and is not brought back home, which again further enrages Jacob’s sons and well it should have.

**Vs. 9** – Intermarriage was out of the question for the family of Jacob since the Canaanites were under a curse according to the prophecy of Noah recorded in *Genesis 9:24-27*.

Later on the Mosaic Law prohibited the Israel- ites from intermarrying with the Canaanites. See *Deut. 7:3-4*.

Intermarriage would mean that the Canaanites would absorb Jacob’s clan, making them a part of their culture and people, both of which were decadent.

Israelites could marry Canaanite women if they accepted Christ as their Savior and adhered to having their children circumcised, which was required by God of His covenant people.

Rahab the harlot who was a Canaanite and placed her faith in the God of Israel, Jesus Christ and after a period of purification, was brought into Israel’s society

Of course there was an economic motive on the part of Hamor. He looks at Jacob and his wealth and thinks that if he can get Jacob’s daughter as a daughter-in-law and intermarriage begins between the people, the people of Shechem and of Israel would get richer (vs. 23). That is going to be one of the major reasons Shechem uses to convince all the men in the village that they need to go out and get circumcised.

**Vs. 10-12** Shechem starts to speak trying to get them to go along with his proposal. Vs. 10 – Hamor would give Jacob the land, not God.

This economic proposal would be very tempting to the family of Jacob who were nomadic herdsman and therefore, had neither land nor clan ties and would be without traditional tribal legal support and protection and would be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Shechem’s offer of a bridal payment and gift expresses the fact that he recognizes that he needs to make restitution for the rape of Dinah.

The “bride-price” must not be confused with a “dowry,” since the dowry was provided by the bride’s family whereas the bride-price was provided by the groom.

**LESSON 163 (10-18-20)**

**Vs. 13-17** Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi concocted the plan that sounded reasonable but it was all deception. The fact that they would even act as if they would accept a plan to intermarry with these Canaanites was disgraceful.

***Genesis 17:9-14*** records that the Lord gave Abraham and his descendants the ritual of circumcision to observe as a sign to ratify the covenant that He established with Abraham when he left Haran.

Circumcision was given as a sign to Abraham and his biological descendants that they were set apart by God to be His special people.

The Canaanites were idolatrous (Deut. 29:17), involved in the occult (Deut. 18:9-10) and gross immorality (Lev. 18), which archaeology confirms.

This incident helps us to understand why God’s policy towards the Canaanites was to destroy them completely so they wouldn’t defile the Israelites (*Deut. 20:16–18*).

The Lord used the nation of Israel under Joshua to pour out His judgment upon the Canaanites for their immoral degeneracy.

The Canaanites were defeated on the battlefield, destroyed, or integrated with other nations or enslaved to Israel.

**Vs. 18-24** Hamor and Shechem were successful in getting the men of the city to go along with being circumcised.

**Vs. 25-29** – Dinah was a full sister to Simeon and Levi and they were the ones who led this charge of vindictiveness. The despicable actions of Simeon and Levi’s massacre of innocents was sickening.

The point of all these episodes is to demonstrate that when people reject truth, they begin to act just like the heathens around them.

The sons were not only influenced by a pagan society, most of their life they were influenced by their father who was a con man who had no virtue or character.

Simeon and Levi were out of the will of God since they took the women of the men they slaughtered as hostages even though God prohibited marriage to Canaanite women!

Even though the sons of Jacob were morally and spiritually bankrupt, God was still true to His promise that He was going to bless all the world through these individuals.

**Vs. 30** – Jacob finally spoke up and said nothing about his daughter who had been raped and abducted. His only thought was about himself. He was worried that his son’s heinous action would cause the Canaanites to think ill of him or maybe even attack him.

Jacob had no moral outrage or righteous indignation towards the atrocious actions of his sons nor for the one who raped and abducted his only daughter.

Jacob was so self-centered that he had no capacity for love or compassion for anyone, including those in his own family.

That’s what happens every time our number one priority is no longer God and pleasing Him. Pleasing Him is replaced with pleasing our-selves and we become the number one priority in our lives.

That’s when we become self-centered instead of God-centered. That’s when our life takes a nose dive into arrogance, selfishness, self-pity, ingratitude, thoughtlessness, self-righteousness, hypocrisy, and fear. And that guarantees a miserable, wretched, lonely, unhappy, pitiful life.

It’s important to note that no one makes a con- scious decision to become self-centered. It comes about unwittingly and incrementally as God and His Word becomes less and less important to us.

That’s why we must be ever vigilant in monitoring what is going on in our own soul, not once or twice a day, but all day long! We can become so distracted by the details of life that we can spend our entire day without ever thinking about God or Bible doctrine. By the way, a day dominated by human view-point is a wasted day.

We can drift into carnality and not even know it. If we are not riding herd on ourselves, we may not recognize that we have become a thoughtless, arrogant, pompous ass until someone calls us a jerk.

Of course we can always, at any time, acknow- ledge our sins to God and be forgiven (*1 John 1:9*). However, if we allow sins to accumulate without recognizing it, they can wreak havoc in our lives.

So we must diligently examine ourselves.

***1 Corinthians 11:28 & 31 But a man must examine*** (v. pam) ***himself… 31) But if we judged*** (v. imp. act. ind.) ***ourselves rightly, we should not be judged.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:6 …let us not sleep*** (be caught off-guard) ***as others do, but let us be alert and sober*** (mental awareness)***.*** All verbs are pres. act. sub.

Jacob was ultimately responsible for the entire disgusting chain of events which displayed the raw ugliness of the depravity of man. People always suffer when leaders don’t do their duty.

He could have, and should have, taken control of the situation by first going to the Lord for guidance and then use his authority to make sure the Lords instructions were carried out.

***Genesis 34:31- But they said, "Should he treat our sister as a harlot?"***

Of course the question requires “No” for the answer, but in no way does it excuse the wanton killing of innocent men or the looting of the city or the abduction of women and children.

In ***Genesis 49:5-7***, Jacob under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit rebuked Simeon and Levi for their deceitful and barbarous conduct in dealing with the rape of Dinah. Wonder where they learned to be deceitful?

**LESSON 164 (10-25-20)**

**Genesis 35**

God waited for just the right moment to speak to Jacob again. “***Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother.”***

God’s command involved four elements. First of all, “**Arise.**” That is, get up and quit whining and focusing on your own problems and failures.

Second, “**Go up to Bethel**.” You have to finish what you started. You have been dragging your feet on your way back to Bethel. So even though Jacob had become complaisant about God and not completed his mission, God continued to exercise the initiative towards Jacob.

That is an important principle. No matter how we fail God, God is never going to fail us. *He is continually going to exercise the initiative of divine grace on our behalf.* Jacob realized his failure and the need to get right with God.

Third, he was to ***dwell there*** in Bethel. He was to stay put until God told him to go somewhere else.

Fourth, he was to ***make there an altar unto God.***

Before he could advance he had to cleanse himself. He had to deal with the sin in his life and he had to prepare to worship God. So this is just another one of those critical passages in Scripture to emphasize the fact that before we can worship God in any way there has to be spiritual cleansing of sin. This is just another example of *1 John 1:9*.

We cannot help but notice the tremendous grace of God that was extended to Jacob and his family. God faithfully provided logical grace to Jacob the twenty years his uncle Laban tried to enrich himself by abusing and cheating his nephew. Then after the horrendous depravity and sinning that took place in chapter 34, which was committed by Jacob and his family, God continued to treat them in grace.

**6 TYPES OF GRACE**

**COMMON GRACE EFFICATIOUS GRACE LOGISTICAL GRACE**

**SUPER GRACE DYING GRACE SURPASSING GRACE**

**COMMON GRACE**

**Unbelievers are spiritually dead and cannot understand spiritual things such as the gospel (1 Corinthians 2:14).**

**Common grace occurs when God the Holy Spirit acts as a human spirit in the spiritually dead unbeliever to enable him to comprehend the Gospel.**

**The Bible uses words like “striving”, “convicting”, and “convincing” to describe common grace. *Gen. 6:3, Matt. 16:17, John 16:8, 1 Thess. 1:5***

**EFFICATIOUS GRACE**

**Efficacious grace is tantamount to effective faith. Grace came to us when we were spiritually dead, and grace made our faith effectual for salvation.**

**Personal faith in Christ is linked with the ministry of the Holy Spirit in efficacious grace which results in eternal salvation.**

**This is why salvation is so simple on our part, because the work of salvation is all God’s and none of it is ours (*Ephesians 1:13*).**

**LOGISTICAL GRACE**

**Every believer receives Logistical grace based on who God is, not on who we are. God gives every believer everything that is needed in order to fulfill His plan for our lives.**

**The level of logistical grace is not the same for every person but every believer’s needs are met regardless whether he or she is growing spiritually or not.**

***Psalm 23:1 – The Lord is my Shephard, I shall not want…***

***2 Cor. 6:1 …we also urge you not to receive the (logistical) grace of God in vain…***

**SUPER GRACE**

**Super grace is greater grace than logistical grace. It is available only to believers who grow spiritually by the consistent intake of Bible Doctrine.**

***James 4:6 But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."***

**Those who receive Super Grace in time will also receive eternal rewards and decorations in heaven if they endure till the end.**

***2 Peter 3:17-18 …be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, 18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.***

**Notice that grace can grow in our lives. It grows when our knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ grows. This happens only when we are on our guard and refuse to fall from our steadfastness in taking in B.D.**

**DYING GRACE**

**Dying grace refers to the extra measure of grace that a mature believer receives when he or she experiences physical death.**

**Dying grace is the experience of physical death under special grace provisions whereby no matter what the type of death may be, it is nothing but blessing all the way because there is no fear involved at all.**

***Psalm 33:18-19; 116:15; Philippians 1:20-21***

**SURPASSING GRACE**

**The super grace blessing in time are truly wonderful but they can hardly be compared to the surpassing grace blessing received in eternity.**

**Surpassing grace blessings last for all eternity. There will be places to go, things to do, food to eat, things to see, and special privileges and opportunities that will be available only to those who grow to spiritual maturity on earth.**

***Ephesians 2:7***

**LESSON 165 (11-1-20)**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

11-1-20

1. “Do this in remembrance of Me” ***Luke 22:19*** & ***1 Cor. 11:24***

***Psalm 63:6-7 When I remember Thee on my bed, I meditate on Thee in the night watches, 7) For Thou hast been my help, And in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy.***

***Psalm 77:11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. 12) I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.***

***Lamentations 3:21-25 This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. 22) The LORD's loving-kindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. 23) They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. 24) "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." 25) The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him.***

2. This is the time that we need to remember our Lord Jesus Christ more than ever but most people are so preoccupied with the election in two days that they can’t think of anything else.

3. I say again, the future of our country will not be determined by the outcome of this election but by Jesus Christ. This is not to say that this election isn’t important. There is no doubt that it is the most important election of our life time.

4. But it is Jesus Christ who will decide what will happen to our country, not politicians and not the people, and we should be thankful for that.

5. He is sovereign over the universe and is omnipotent and omniscient. He alone knows the future and He is perfectly just and righteous. It is impossible for Him to be unfair.

6. His decision will be based on the attitude of believer’s attitude toward Him and His word. How many believers in our country have reached spiritual adulthood or spiritual maturity? On one knows.

7. Some call this group of believers the “pivot”. It appears that God will save a country based on the size of the pivot.

8. It takes prepared pastor-teachers who exegete the Word of God using a literal, historical, and grammatical interpretation (hermeneutic) and a congregation that is hungry for Bible doctrine and is consistent in taking it in, in order to have a large pivot. This might be 20% of believers.

9. This means that the best way a person can bless or even save their country is to consistently learn Bible doctrine from a prepared pastor who teaches from the original languages of the Bible.

10. When divine judgment falls on a nation, the pivot is secure. The pivot is always preserved, even though it also shares in the difficulties of the disaster. Hosea 4:1-6 describes the destruction of a nation because the pivot wasn’t large enough to save it.

***Psalm 7:10 My shield is with God, Who saves the upright in heart.***

***Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My***

***God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my***

***salvation, my stronghold.***

***Psalm 62:1-2 My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my deliverance. 2 He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.***

***Psalm 62:7-8 On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. 8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.***

***2 Samuel 22:2-4 "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, Thou dost save me from violence. 4 "I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; And I am saved from my enemies.***

***Read: \*Psalm 91***

11. We saw this principle working in Genesis 18:16-33

12. It is estimated that the population of Sodom before it was destroyed was 600 – 1,200 people. If we take the number 900 people then God would not destroy it if 10 people were righteous, which would be .01% of the people.

If that same percentage of the population would apply to the United States having 325 million people, then it would take 3,250,000 righteous people to save our country.

We don’t know how many spiritually mature believers are in our country. However, we know for sure is that God knows everything, He is in control of everything, and His decision about the future of our country will be final and it will be just and it will be right.

13. Even if President Trump wins this election, it is no guarantee that our nation will be saved. About half of the people in our country act as if they are insane and they have demonstrated that there isn’t anything that they won’t do to regain power and then use that power to quickly turn the U.S. a third world country.

14. We are certainly not to worry about any of this or about anything else:

***Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

Read: ***Hebrews 10:35-39***

**SPECIAL ELECTION MESSAGE 2020 (11-8-20)**

**ELECTION MESSAGE 2020**

November 8, 2020

Most of us have grown up and lived in a time of unprecedented material prosperity, and pretty good establishment prosperity, the blessings of the rule of law and social-order though that has slowly been slipping away all of my lifetime. It’s painful to see, and hard to comprehend our country throwing away our blessings. A big problem is that we are going where we’ve never been, and it’s hard to picture how to prepare for what we’ve never seen. That said, the answer is the same as it’s always been: **trust and obey the Lord**! Pastors, keep teaching the word! Keep building up your flocks in knowing, trusting, and walking with the Lord! As has been said here, the church in America may undergo persecution, and some believers will “crash and burn”. I don’t know what pastors or other believers can do except be there for them if they turn back to the Lord. But we can encourage and build up faithful brothers and sisters now, and in persecution.

There are millions of conservatives, including Christians, who are in a state of disbelief. They are angry, sad, discouraged, despondent, desperate, depressed, dejected, and discombobulated.

People are crying, cursing, shouting, and throwing fits. But believers should know that hysteria and frenzy are not fruits of the Spirit but self-control and peace are. We may feel like we’ve been punched in the stomach but we must not allow ourselves to let our OSN to control us.

So what are we to do in times like these? Who are we to turn to? You know who. We must focus on God and His Word and NOT on the horrible things that are taking place.

That may not be easy but it is the only thing that will stabilize us. It is the only thing that will give us the peace, confidence, and courage that our hearts are desperately seeking. It might help to stop watching the news for a while if it makes you go into a rage.

We need to get our mind off of the insanity that is unfolding right before our eyes and consider the big picture. That is God’s big picture.

Evil has existed long before God made Adam and Eve and put them in the Garden of Eden. Satan started the angelic conflict by turning against God and fomenting an angelic coup to remove God and take His place. There was a trial and Satan and his co-hearts were found guilty and sentenced to the Lake of Fire, but the sentence was not carried out.

Man was created in order to resolve the angelic conflict and to vindicate God’s perfect integrity. He gave Adam dominion over the earth.

***Genesis 1:26*** *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

***Psalm 8:6*** *Thou dost make him (Adam) to rule over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet,*

But when Adam fell, Satan usurped the ruler ship of the world away from him. He will retain that ruler ship until Jesus Christ returns and takes it away from him. Satan is still the ruler of this world now.

***2 Corinthians 4:3-4*** *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case* ***the god of this world*** *has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

***John 12:31*** *Now is the judgment of this world; now will* ***the ruler of this world*** *be cast out.*

This means that even though Satan is the temporary ruler of the world, God controls of the entire universe. The devil cannot do anything unless God allows it.

***Genesis 3:15*** *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

Most of us know that Satan is the ruler of this world and that evil is the norm on planet earth. So why are we shocked and angry when we see evil occurring? God’s Word tells us what to expect.

Read: ***2 Timothy 3:1-5***

Maybe the reason believers are shocked and angered about evil in the world is because Bible doctrine has given them the capacity to love and a sense of justice.

God is Omnipotent and Omniscient and is In Control

***Isaiah 46:9-10*** *Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';*

God is compassionate, gracious, and merciful

***Isaiah 57:15*** *For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.*

(NLT) ***Psalms 33:13-22*** *The LORD looks down from heaven and sees the whole human race. From his throne he observes all who live on the earth. He made their hearts, so he understands everything they do. The best-equipped army cannot save a king, nor is great strength enough to save a warrior. Don’t count on your warhorse to give you victory— for all its strength, it cannot save you. But the LORD watches over those who fear him, those who rely on his unfailing love. He rescues them from death and keeps them alive in times of famine. We put our hope in the LORD. He is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone.*

We should never doubt that Jesus Christ controls history!

***Psalm 2:1-5*** *Why are the nations in an uproar, And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand, And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed: 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart, And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury:*

***Genesis 18:14*** *"Is anything too difficult for the LORD?*

***Numbers 11:23*** *And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's power limited?*

***Deuteronomy 7:21*** *…the LORD your God is in your midst, a great and awesome God.*

***Job 42:2*** *"I know that Thou canst do all things, And that no purpose of Thine can be thwarted.*

***Jeremiah 32:17*** *'Ah Lord God! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee,*

***Matthew 19:26*** *And looking upon them Jesus said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."*

***Ephesians 3:20*** *Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,*

It could be that God’s grace for America has run out and now we will experience His wrath. It is very sad and painful to see our once great nation be on the receiving side of God’s wrath. But who can rightly claim that our nation does not deserve it? We have turned against God. All types of immorality are openly accepted, families have become dysfunctional, marriage is becoming passe’, government is utterly corrupted, and most churches are glorified country clubs that have pastors who don’t teach the Word.

Or maybe God is subjecting us to the evil to see what we will do. Will we finally start to trust and obey Him?

*Family Research Center, Mark Perkins*

*Think about the miraculous stories about how God saved Daniel in the lions' den and parted the Red Sea and delivered enemies into David's hands. "This is our time. And I want to encourage everyone: do not let your Christianity or your faith be theoretical. It's not going to do you any good if it's theoretical* [in theory only, speculation]. *Our faith is active. It is real. The same God that brought Israel through the water and Daniel through the den is the same God today that's going to bring us through this election." What if, Pastor Jack asked, "God is using this to bring about righteousness in our land? You know, you got to expose evil before you can deal with it. What if God is bringing Donald Trump to a place where it's not just victory? What if Donald Trump's greatest victory is falling on his knees before Jesus, [maybe] God doesn't give the victory until that happens?"*

God brings good out of evil and light out of darkness.

**Joseph’s brothers betrayed him**

***Genesis 50:20*** *And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.*

**Lazarus’s Death**

Jesus was informed that His good friend Lazarus was sick, He waited a few days before going to see him. Why? The Lord allowed him to die so He could bring Him back from the dead. This would bring greater glory to God.

***John 11:23-26*** *Jesus said to her*, *"Your brother shall rise again." 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

God can take the worst-case scenario and turn it into something wonderful. That's just who He is and what He does.

We don’t know what the future holds, we don’t even know yet who legitimately won the election - but God does. We must be patient and retain peace in our soul while all of this plays out, and we can, if we faith-rest. Faith-rest produces hope which is confident anticipation.

***Hebrews 4:1-3*** *Therefore, let us fear lest, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you should seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest,*

If the Biden-Harris presidency becomes a reality, the rapid decline of our country could lead to a tremendous spiritual awakening in our country. This election has produced a worst-case scenario in the minds of tens of millions of conservative voters, but it could drive millions of souls toward the Lord Jesus Christ.

If it turns out that Joe Biden lawfully won the election, then Jesus Christ allowed it and He is just, righteous, and perfect in doing so.

We know that the U.S.A. is not found anywhere in prophecy in the Bible. That means that it must fall from its greatest nation status and will probably be a mediocre country by the time of the Tribulation. It will be one of the nations that will go against Jesus Christ at the battle of Armageddon. If that is what is happening, then that must occur prior to the rapture which is getting very close.

We should always **rejoice** in what our Savior does and what He allows.

Gr. definition of **rejoice**: to be in a state of happiness and well-being

***Philippians 4:4******Rejoice*** *in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!*

***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18******Rejoice*** *always; 17* ***pray*** *without ceasing; 18 in everything* ***give thanks****; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*God makes war against the arrogant but gives grace to the humble.*

***Psalm 63:7-9*** *For Thou hast been my help, And in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy. 8 My soul clings to Thee; Thy right hand upholds me. 9 But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Will go into the depths of the earth.*

***Psalm 31:23-24*** *Love the LORD, all you faithful ones! For the LORD protects those who are loyal to him, but he harshly punishes all who are arrogant. 24 So be strong and take courage, all you who put your hope in the LORD!*

***Psalm 97:10*** *Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.*

***Psalm 37:28*** *For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever; But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.*

***Psalm 37:37-40*** *Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright; For the man of peace will have a posterity. 38 But transgressors will be altogether destroyed; The posterity of the wicked will be cut off. 39 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble. 40 And the LORD helps them, and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked, and saves them, Because they take refuge in Him.*

***Proverbs 2:21-22*** *For the upright will live in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; 22 But the wicked will be cut off from the land, And the treacherous will be uprooted from it.*

***Psalm 37:7-11*** *Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret, it leads only to evildoing. 9 For evildoers will be cut off, But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land. 10 Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more; And you will look carefully for his place, and he will not be there. 11 But the humble will inherit the land, And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.*

***Psalm 37:28*** *For the LORD loves justice, And does not forsake His godly ones; They are preserved forever; But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.*

Read: \****Psalm 91***

***2 Chronicles 7:13-14*** *- "If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, 14) and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

**LESSON 165 (11-15-20)**

Review **Lesson 164**, **6 Types of Grace**, **and Escrow Blessings**

***Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,***

In eternity past, God placed an abundance of super grace blessings in heavenly places for every church age believer. He placed them in “escrow” so that when a believer meets the condition of the escrow, which is reaching spiritual maturity, those escrow blessings are released to the mature believer.

***Hebrews 10:35-36 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36) For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God*** (reach spiritual maturity)***, you may receive what was promised*** (escrow blessings)***.***

Super grace blessings are released to mature believers in time and surpassing grace blessings will be released to believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Does the Bible tell us what happens to the escrow blessings of believers who put the things of this world before the things of God and never reach spiritual maturity?

***Revelation 21:7-8 "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. 8) "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."***

1. Most people think that those who are described in ***Revelation 21:8*** are unbelievers who are in the Lake of Fire. But consider the following:

2. What is stated here takes place after all unbelievers are judged at the Great White Throne and then tossed into the Lake of fire (***Revelation 20:11-15***).

3. The new heaven and new earth already exist in Chapter 21. It describes the splendor and beauty of the New Jerusalem. Why would unbelievers in the Lake of Fire be brought up here?

4.The answer is, they’re not! The people described in verse 8 are not referring to unbelievers but to believers who were disobedient spiritual babies on earth who ignored God and His word.

1. Of course no believer will ever go to the Lake of Fire, but the verse doesn’t say they do, it says “their part” [their inheritance / escrow blessings] will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

***Revelation 21:8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part*** [their inheritance/escrow blessings] ***will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."***

6. Believers who ignore God and His word on earth will be in heaven, but they will forfeit their rewards, inheritance rights, and special opportunities they could have had there.

7. Just think, they will never experience the stupendous surpassing grace blessings they could have enjoyed for all eternity. Instead, the amazing rewards decorations, privileges, and opportunities will be lost forever as they are tossed into the Lake of Fire

**LESSON 166 (11-22-20) The Second Death**

***Revelation 21:8 …their part*** [their inheritance/ escrow blessings] ***will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.“***

What does the phrase “which is **the second death**” mean at the end of ***Revelation 21:8***?

***Revelation 20:14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.***

The second death means to be thrown into the lake of fire.

Who and what will be thrown into the Lake of Fire?

1. The anti-Christ and the false prophet *Rev. 19:20*

2. Hades and death *Rev. 20:14*

3. The devil *Rev. 20:10*

4. Fallen angels *Matt. 25:41* and *Jude 1:6*

5. All unbelievers *Rev. 20:15*

6. Escrow blessings of immature Church Age

believers *Rev. 21:8*

***Revelation 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

This means that every unbeliever will be thrown into the lake of fire at the Great White Throne which is **the second death**.

***Revelation 20:4 …And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God* (Tribulation martyrs),.. *and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.***

***Revelation 20:5 (The rest of the dead* (unbelievers) *did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.) This is the first resurrection.***

Unbelievers will not come to life until the end of the millennium at the Great White Throne Judgment where they will experience the Second Death by being thrown into the Lake of Fire.

“***This is the first resurrection”*** refers to the phrase, “***they came to life****”*in verse 4. It refers to the resurrection of all Church Age believers and Tribulation martyrs.

***John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all*** (believers and unbelievers) ***who are in the tombs shall hear His*** (Christ’s) ***voice*, *29) and shall come forth; those who did* (part. ra) *the good ~~deeds~~*** (believed the gospel) ***to a resurrection of life*** (the **first resurrection**)***, those*** (unbelievers) ***who committed* (part. aa) *the evil ~~deeds~~*** (rejected God’s revelation of Himself through creation or rejected the gospel) ***to a resurrection of judgment*** (at the GWT where they will be tossed into the Lake of Fire which is **the Second Death**).

***Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part*** [receive rewards] ***in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.***

Church Age believers and martyrs of the Tribulation will not be affected by the second death in two ways:

1. They will not be thrown into the Lake of

Fire.

2. Their “part”- rewards and/or escrow

blessings will not be thrown into the

Lake of Fire.

***Revelation 2:10-11 …Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11) 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.'***

Believers who are faithful to the end will be rewarded and those who overcome will not have their inheritance/ escrow blessings thrown into the Lake of Fire. They will enjoy Surpassing Grace Blessings for all eternity.

Three verses from the end of the Bible we find a stern warning:

***Revelation 22:19 …and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city*** (the New Jerusalem)***, which are written in this book.***

Believers who ignore this warning will be in heaven, but the privilege of partaking of the tree of life and having access to the New Jerusalem will be taken away. They might wind up in the Lake of Fire which is the second death.

**LESSON 167 (11-29-20)**

(PP Video Factbook/Bethel/Media) ***Genesis 35:1***

What can we learn from verse one? First of all notice that God took the initiative to contact Jacob, Jacob didn’t try to contact God.

This pattern started with Adam and continues with us. Blessing was not based on what Jacob did nor who he was, it was based on who God is and what He decided to do in history. Our point of contact with God is His grace from which His blessing flow.

***2 Timothy 2:13 “If we are faithless, He***

***remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”***

***2 Thess. 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from evil.***

***Gen. 35:2*** – It’s hard to believe that Jacob had to command those with him to put away their false gods in the form of teraphim.

Teraphim were “household idols,” which were small idols like figurines and were considered the family gods, which gave the family protection and were kept on a god-shelf and were outlawed in Israel (*1 Samuel 15:23; 19:13; 2 Kings 23:24; Zechariah 10:2*).

They were usually small figurines (two to three inches long), sometimes carried on the body as charms, many of which archaeologists have discovered. These “foreign gods” were acquired as part of the spoils of Shechem.

Remember the “dashboard Jesus” that people use to stick on their cars? We might not have “pocket idols” today but being superstitious about things like four leaf clovers and not walking under ladders is nearly just as bad.

*Deuteronomy 32:17* and *1 Corinthians 10:20* teach that the worship of idols is connected to the worship of demons since the sacrificing to idols is in reality sacrificing to demons who promote the worship of idols.

*Idols brought along from their old life in Paddan Aram were buried. A new life was to begin. Let’s be sure that we too bury the baggage of the old life we lived before we knew Christ*. Lawrence O. Richards, The Bible Reader’s Companion, electronic ed. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991), 44.

In Old Testament Israel there were purification rituals, which symbolized the confession of sin and obedience to God and included the bathing of the body, and washing clothes (*Leviticus 14:8-9; 22:6-7; Numbers 8:7*).

The way that Church Age believers purify them- selves is to acknowledge their sins to God (*1 John 1:9*). Here at CBC, we purify ourselves this way every time before we worship God by learning His word.

No sins are ever forgiven by doing penance nor can doing penance ever purify anyone before God. Penance is an insult to God as if something we do can add to what Christ did for us on the cross.

**LESSON 168 (12-6-20)**

***Gen. 35:3 –*** Notice that Jacob acknowledged God’s faithfulness by being with him wherever he went. God made this promise to Jacob earlier:

***Gen. 28:15 And behold, I am with you, and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.***

God was faithful to Jacob, was He faithful to the Israelites as well?

God’s Pattern of **Four Ps** in ***Psalm 107*** **PP**

God delivered the Israelites when they cried out to Him; will He do the same for us?

Do we have **Problems**?

Do we **Pray** for deliverance?

Does God **Provide solutions** for us?

Do we **Praise** Him for answered prayer?

***Gen. 35:5*** – Going to Bethel was dangerous for Jacob and his family because they had to go by Canaanite cities which could have attacked them in retaliation for the sickening massacre which occurred in Shechem.

But they didn’t retaliate, in fact, there was great terror in the cities, why? Was it because they were afraid of Jacob and his family? That is doubtful because the Canaanites tremendously outnumbered Jacob’s family and they knew the layout of the land which Jacob didn’t.

So why were they so terrified? It was probably because God put the terror in them.

***Exodus 23:27 I will send My terror ahead of you, and throw into confusion all the people among whom you come, and I will make all your enemies turn their backs to you.***

***Deuteronomy 2:25 This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you upon the peoples everywhere under the heavens, who, when they hear the report of you, shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.'***

If God could strike terror in the hearts of His people’s enemies, he can do the same for us.

It makes sense that God did this because Satan was always seeking to destroy those in the line of Christ, like Jacob. There is no way that God would ever allow that to happen because of the promises He made to Jacob.

***Gen. 35:6*** “El Bethel” means “house of God”.

***Gen. 35:8*** The fact that Deborah’s name (honey bee) is mentioned indicates how highly regarded she was, not only by the family of Jacob, but also by God the Holy Spirit who inspired Moses to memorialize her death. That she was highly esteemed and revered by Jacob’s family is indicated by naming the oak tree, which they buried her under as “Allon-bacuth,” which means, “the oak of weeping.”

Jacob had known Deborah his entire life. She had come with Rebekah, Jacob’s mother, from Paddan Aram when Rebekah left to marry Isaac (*Genesis 24:59*) and she took care of Jacob like a nanny.

The fact that Deborah’s death is recorded and not Rebekah’s is a rebuke of Rebekah indicating God’s displeasure with her.

**SPECIAL** (12-13-20

**Remembering Garth Griffith**

State of affairs now. December 13, 2020

1. All three branches of our government are infected with massive corruption. Washington D.C. has become Babylon.

2. Our mainstream media is utterly corrupt. They constantly and knowingly lie to the people and hide the truth from them.

3. Most of the entertainment industry is corrupt.

4. The Democratic Party is so corrupted it is against our Constitution, against God, against freedom, against anything that is righteousness. They are destroying our country and will enslave us it we don’t stop them.

5. Big Tech is openly and successfully shutting down the freedom of speech in America.

6. Our education system, especially our universities have become hot beds of anti-America propaganda, political correctness, and purveyors of socialism.

7. Many Democratic governors, mayors, city counselors, school boards have become dictatorial tyrants.

8. Hundreds of thousands have lost their business, their freedoms, and their hope.

9. The SCOTUS has put the last nail in the coffin with regards to being able to have a peaceful resolution to the Democrats stealing the election.

10. The question now is, will our president abide by his oath of office to defend the Constitution and our country against all enemies foreign and domestic and utilize the few options he has left? 11. Will he use the military to stop the tyranny that is trying to take over our country?

12. Will the 74 million people (actually many million more than that) who voted for President Trump and freedom support him?

13. If our president concedes, are their enough freedom loving patriots who have the courage and will to resist the dastardly and illegitimate government that will assume power or will they do nothing and become enslaved?

14. Doing nothing = mandatory vaccine injections, confiscation of guns, reparations to blacks, open boarders, retaliation against President Trump and his supporters, Christian persecution, churches shut down, breadlines, death of our oil industry, global warming, globalism, single payer health- care, constant surveillance, freedoms destroyed

15. Quote from the Declaration of Independence:

*“Whenever any form of government becomes destructive…it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it.” It also says, “...it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such a government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”*

What can we do?

1. Pray!

2. Stay informed

3. Be prepared: food, water, meds. weapons

4. Keep taking in Bible doctrine.

5. Help one another.

6. Read Tolerating Tyranny

7. Don’t let your decisions be based on fear.

**LESSON 170 (1-24-21)**  (7 weeks since we’ve been in Genesis)

**Gen. 35:9-13** We see the pre-incarnate Christ appearing to Jacob and reconfirming the change of his name to “Israel” and reconfirming the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Vs. 10 – God asked Jacob what his name was (Gen 32:27), but not here in vs. 10.

Vs. 14 – “*he poured oil on it*” A common way to make a covenant at that time.

Vs. 18 – ***Genesis 35:18 And it came about as her soul was departing (for she died)…***

This is a description of what happens when a person dies physically.

Some people believe that when a person dies he ceases to exist, while others believe there is no consciousness until he is resurrected. This is called “**soul sleep**”. The following list of verses shows that belief is not correct.

**The Soul Does Not Sleep, nor Does it Die**

**Genesis 35:18** (Rachel’s soul leaves her body)

**1 Samuel 28:6-19** (Samuel returns after death)

***1 Kings 17:21-22 And he*** [Elijah] ***stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, “O LORD my God, I pray, let this child’s soul come back to him.” 22) Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.***

***Matthew 17:2-3* *And He*** (Jesus) ***was transfigured before them*** (Peter, James, & John)***; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. 3) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*** (If they were disembodied spirit beings, they would not have been visible.)

***Luke 16:19-31*** (Lazarus & the rich man)

***John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father,***

***2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.***

***Acts 7:59 And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"***

***2 Corinthians 5:7-9 for we walk by faith, not by sight-- 8) we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 9) Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.***

***Philippians 1:21-24 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22) But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23) But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24) yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.***

***1 Thess. 4:13-14*** ***But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. 14) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.***

The body dies, but the soul lives! How do the dead come back with Jesus from heaven if they didn’t already go there when they died?

**Revelations 6:9-11** ***And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; 10) and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11) And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.***

**LESSON 71 (1-31-21)**

Jehovah Witnesses as well as others use ***Ezekiel 18:4*** to claim that the soul dies when the body dies. Some believe the soul comes back to life at the resurrection.

***Ezekiel 18:1-4 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, 2) "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'? 3) "As I live," declares the Lord God, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. 4) "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die.***

***soul –*** Heb. ***“****nephesh”* can be translated *soul*, *life*, *person*, or *creature*,

(LEB) ***4)*** ***Look! All lives are mine. The lives of father and son alike are mine. The person sinning will die.***

(NET) ***4) Indeed! All lives are mine—the life of the father as well as the life of the son is mine. The one who sins will die.***

*“The point of it (*the proverb*) was that children suffer for their parents’ sins. However, this proverb was not true in the case of Israel, and the Lord tells them that they may not use the proverb anymore. Evidently the people thought they were suffering unjustly for their ancestors’ sins. Though there is an element of truth in the statement that the children suffer as a consequence of the parents’ sins (Ex. 20:5; 34:6, 7; Deut. 5:9), it could not be applied here. The proverb was being used as a lame excuse for their own sinful condition. Rather, the Lord says, “The soul* [person, one] *that sins, shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father” (Ezek. 18:20). Ezekiel thus preserves in proper balance the tragic consequences of sin and the principle of individual accountability.*” King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997),

***Ezekiel 18:20 "The person*** [same Heb. word translated “soul” in verse 4] ***who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself.***

Now back to *Genesis 35:18:*

…***she*** (Rachel) ***named him Ben-oni*** (son of my sorrow); ***but his father called him Benjamin*** (son of my right hand – favorite).

Rachel’s prayer to the Lord that *she would have another son* at the birth of her firstborn (Gen. 30:24) was answered here in (Gen. 35:18).

It is interesting that Benjamin was the only son of the 12 sons of Israel, who later became the 12 tribes of Israel, that was born in the land of Canaan; the other 11 were born out of the land in Paddan Aram, (Gen. 29:31–30:24.)

***Genesis 35:19 So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).***

Many years later, Bethlehem Ephrath would be the location of the birth place of our Lord Jesus Christ (Micah 5:2).

**Vs. 20** - The memorial to Rachel could still be seen in Moses’ day, about 350 years later. It has also been recorded that it is still there until this day as also is Rachel’s grave.

**Vs. 22** – Rubin was guilty of incest and lost his birthright.

*It is possible that Reuben, Jacob’s eldest, was trying to replace his father as patriarch prematurely by this pagan procedure. But in so doing, he lost his inheritance (his birthright; cf. Gen. 49:3–4; 1 Chron. 5:1–2).* Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” in The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 85.

***1 Chronicles 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel for he was the first-born, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright.***

Joseph’s sons were Ephraim and Manasseh.

**Vs. 23-26** – List of the sons of Jacob.

“*Actually, Joseph and Benjamin were the two sons that were outstanding. The others just didn’t turn out well. Again, this proves the fact that God does not bless a plurality of wives*.”

J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Law (Genesis 34-50), electronic ed., vol. 3

(Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 35.

**Vs. 27-29** – The death of Isaac.

This chapter records the death of several people? First there is the death of Deborah, the maid of Rebekah. In this there is the suggestion of the death of Rebekah herself. Then there is the death of Rachel. Finally, the chapter closes with the death of Isaac.

Verse 29 is noteworthy in that in the death of their father Isaac was the only occasion which brought Esau and Jacob together in the years following Jacob’s return to the land.

***Hebrews 11:20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.***

This was a gracious action from God using Isaac to pass along blessings which neither one of them deserved.

**Genesis Chapter 36**

The following is an outline of the ninth major section in the book of Genesis, which appears in Genesis 36:1-37:1:

(1) Title (36:1)

(2) Esau’s marriages (36:2-5)

(3) Esau’s move to Seir (36:68)

(4) Esau’s sons and grandsons (36:9-14)

(5) Chiefs (political or military leaders) descend-

ed from Esau (36:15-19)

(6) Descendants of Seir the Horite (36:20-28) (7) Chiefs descended from Seir (36:29-30)

(8) **List of Edomite kings (36:31-39)**

(9) List of Chiefs (36:40-43)

(10) Note about Jacob (37:1).

**LESSON 172 (2-7-21)**

God’s promise that kings would be born of Abraham and Sarah extended even to Ishmael and Esau, who were not of the covenant lineage of the Promise made to Abraham (*Gen. 17:6*).

***Genesis 36:31 Now these are the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the sons of Israel.***

**Genesis Chapter 37** *Genesis 37:1* is called a “*Janus*” section book, which is a term named after the Roman god of doorways with one head and two faces looking in opposite directions and is a term applied to a literary unit that looks back and forth to unite the units before and after.

Therefore, Genesis 37:1 looks back at Genesis 36 and the account of Esau’s descendants settling in Seir and looks forward to Jacob and his sons in the land of Canaan, thus this passage serves to contrast Jacob’s commitment to the land of Canaan with Esau’s migration to Mount Seir. Grace Notes, Genesis 37 **PP**

***Genesis 37:1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan.***

God’s promised Abraham that nations and kings would come from Him but that would not happen until after he died.

***Genesis 17:6 And I*** [God] ***will make you*** [Abraham] ***exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.***

Abraham found himself \***sojourning** in Canaan and never realized the promise of God fulfilled about nations and kings coming from him.

**\*sojourning -** (Heb. *magowr* - living as an alien, stay as an immigrant, i.e., live in another foreign land and culture with only minimal status or rights, temporary dweller, wonderer. James Swanson, Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew (Old Testament) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

Abraham, as well as his sons Isaac and Jacob, wondered in the Promise Land as aliens and never took possession of the land as their promised inheritance.

They do possess part of the land God promised them now but will not inherit all that was promised until Jesus Christ returns at the 2nd Advent.

Esau had established himself in Edom and had kings and Chiefs already in his line. The state- ment “Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned”, in the land of Canaan” is given to demonstrate the geographical division and the spiritual division between Jacob and Esau and their descendants.

It would have been very easy for Jacob to think that God had forsaken him and the promises specified in the Abrahamic Covenant were not going to happen. All he had to do was to compare Esau’s progress to his own which could lead to doubting God.

Jacob, like us, had to keep his focus on the prosperity that God promised him instead of on the prosperity that his brother already had.

He was where God told him to be so all he needed to do was to wait for the Lord to bless and prosper him. That can be easier said than done.

Those who don’t trust the Lord are those who don’t wait on the Lord. And those who don’t wait on the Lord are those who are not growing in the Lord and in His word.

Did he lose hope that God would fulfill His promises?

***Hebrews 11:9-10 By faith he*** (Abraham) ***lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*** (the New Jerusalem)

What about us, do we have a city to look forward to whose architect and builder is God?

***Hebrews 13:14-15 For here*** (on earth) ***we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come. 15) Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.***

Red Praise Floppy Book – *We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise (*Page 35)

***Hebrews 11:16 But as it is, they*** (strong believers) ***desire a better country, that is a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.***

***Hebrews 10:34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners, and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and an abiding one.***

Read: ***John 14:1-6,***

**LESSON 173 (2-21-21)**

These verses refer to believers who had a

Personal Sense of Eternal Destiny.

***Colossians 3:2 Set your mind*** (v. pam) ***on the things above*** (**Personal Sense of Eternal Destiny - PSED**)***, not on the things that are on earth.***

Paul lived his life with a personal sense of destiny. He wasn’t anxious or preoccupied with temporary transient matters; his mind was on bigger things, things that are eternal.

***2 Corinthians 4:18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

He did not allow his circumstances to divert his attention away from his service to Jesus Christ. He was more afraid of displeasing the Lord through disobedience and mental attitude sins than he was of being executed.

It is important for us to remember to make decisions that please the Lord, rather than ourselves, because those decisions have an impact on our eternal destiny.

Most of us have heard the couplet:

"*Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what is done for Christ will last."*

We like the saints of old are able to handle suffering and pain by recognizing how temporary it is and by focusing on how tremendously wonderful our eternal future will be.

Their sorrow, grief, pain, loneliness, and travail of those believers was very real, but so was their anxious anticipation of their fantastic future with the Lord.

***2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17) For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18) while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

**1 Corinthians 2:9-10 …but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And which have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." 10) For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.**

***1 Corinthians 2:9*** is a quote from ***Isaiah 64:4*** –

***For from of old they have not heard nor per- ceived by ear, Neither has the eye seen a God besides Thee, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.***

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did not receive what God promised them during their lifetime but they had a Personal Sense of Eternal Destiny that motivated and encouraged them to persevere.

Spiritual blessings that have not yet come to pass demand **patience** and **faith**. Waiting while others prosper is a test of one’s **perseverance** and **faithfulness**. Thinking about God’s promises to us in the future help us to be strong under testing now.

***Psalm 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His loving- kindness.***

***Hebrews 10:35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.***

(Faith and confidence go together, you can’t have one without the other)

**LESSON 174 (2-28-21)**

**Verse 2** – begins the tenth and final section of the book of Genesis, which ends with *Genesis 50:26,* the last verse, which records Joseph’s death at 110 yrs. old. He was born in *Genesis 25:26*.

The events of this chapter (37) took place some years prior to Isaac’s death while Jacob and his family were living near Hebron (*Gen. 35:29-37:14*).

This verse gives the title of this last part of Genesis by describing it as, “***the records of the generations of Jacob***.” It has much to say about his son Joseph, but Jacob doesn’t die until the very end of Chapter 49.

God’s working in the life of **Jacob** and of his sons is revealed through the life of his son **Joseph**. He is the main figure but not the only figure since God was forming a nation out of all the sons of Jacob and not just Joseph.

“Joseph” was the eleventh son of Jacob that was born in Paddan Aram and he was the first child that Rachel bore to Jacob according to *Genesis 30:22-24*.

There are parallels in the historical accounts between Jacob and Joseph.

1) Both begin with the father being deceived and the brothers who were treacherous (Jacob – chapter 27; Joseph’s brothers – Chapter 37).

2) Both include a 20-year period of separa- tion, with the younger brother in a foreign land (Jacob in Padan-aram & Joseph in Egypt -

he was 13 years in Potiphar’s house and in prison and after 7 years of abundance his brothers came to Egypt, *41:53–54; 42:1–2*.)

3) Both historical accounts conclude with a reunion and reconciliation of the brothers (Jacob & Esau *33:1–15); Joseph & his brothers 45:1–15*).

4) Even though there was chaos and madness in the families of Jacob and Joseph, God brought everything to a great resolution in the end.

If He can do that for those dis-functional families, He can certainly do it for our families.

Sometimes, we may not be able to make any sense out of what goes on within our families. But we should just keep on praying and relying on God to work all things out for good as He did with Jacob and his son Joseph.

Don’t give up on those in your family who seem to be impossible and/or intractable; just keep pray- ing for them and don’t forget that God is working behind the scene to bring all things together for good.

Principle: Our lives are not ruled by chance or by fate but by God.

“*It is interesting that Joseph lived the first seventeen years of his life with his father Jacob and Jacob lived with Joseph for the last seventeen years of his life (Genesis 47:28), which reveals the providence of God in the lives of these two men.” Grace Notes Genesis*

**LESSON 175 (3-7-21)**

Continuing with verse 2

***a bad report***. Whether Joseph did this on his own initiative or reported back by obeying his father’s demand, is not known but since Jacob commanded him to give a report on his brothers in vs. 14, it is more likely that he was not a tattle tale but was obeying his father.

Why are there two categories of siblings in verse two? One is “brothers” and the other is “sons of Bilhah and Zilpah”. Weren’t they all Joseph’s brothers? Actually they were all his half-brothers but we will stick with brothers.

The “brothers” [refers to Leah’s children: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (Genesis 29:31-35), Issachar, and Zebulun (Genesis 30:14-21)] and two sons of Bilhah, Dan and Naphtali; along with two sons of Zilpah, Gad and Asher.] Benjamin, Jacob’s full brother, was evidently not there.

**LESSON 176 (3-14-21)**

CONCUBINES

In the days of the patriarchs a concubine was considered a second-class wife, acquired without payment of bride-money and possessing fewer legal rights (Genesis 30:4; Judges 19:1-4). The culture of people living then regarded a concubine as a secondary wife with some, but not all, of the rights and privileges of the primary wife so in effect Bilhah and Zilpah became Jacob’s concubines.

In the O.T. period, a concubine was a legal wife but one of secondary rank and she could be divorced with a small gift. Therefore, the children of a concubine did not have the same legal rights as the wife and so the inheritance would go to the child of the wife rather than the concubine. Men and their wives sought concubines when the wife could not bear children. Genesis 22:24 records, children of a concubine were not viewed as illegitimate and were considered part of the family. *ibid*

Information as to what the report was about is not given and we won’t speculate because but the Bible mentions “a bad report” three other times.

***Numbers 13:32, 14:36 & 37*** covers the bad cowardly report that ten of the Israelites who spied out the land of Canaan gave to the people.

Go to ***Num. 13:25*** – ***14:45*** get the full picture.

**Verse 3** - The fact that Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other children indicates he had learned nothing from his previous experiences with favoritism: ***Genesis 25:28 - Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.*** King James Version Study Bible ., electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Ge 37:1.

**PP**

1. Parents, do not play favorites with your

children!

2. God does not show partiality, nor should we.

3. You can’t be fair and show partiality, if you

do, it will tear your family apart.

4. How many millions of children are psychologically or emotionally scarred for life because they never received the love, attention, or encouragement that their more intelligent, more attractive, more athletic, or more favored siblings received?

5. This is even more important if you have step

children or adopted children.

6. Apparently, Jacob learned nothing from his

father loving his brother Esau more than he

loved him.

Of course the brothers would be jealous but the brothers who were born to Leah (including Simian and Levi) hated Joseph. You see, Jacob favored Rachel over Leah and this favoritism produced resentment among the sons of Leah to the sons of Rachel.

**“***The love of Jacob for his son Joseph caused his other sons to despise Joseph. Such partiality, jealousy, and injustice are seedbeds for strife among the children and are the likely result of polygamy, as they are also of today’s “blended” families resulting from divorce and remarriage*.” W. A. Criswell et al., eds., Believer’s Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), Ge 37:2.

**Verse 4**

Joseph’s brothers hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. They couldn’t even be civil to Joseph which would sow discard among the entire family.

It was Jacob’s responsibility to stop the hostility in his family but he was the one that made it worse.

Parents must “nip this in the bud” by putting into place stringent penalties for anyone who is uncivil to anyone in the family.

Rude behavior and hostility between children must not be tolerated. It can destroy a family by the continuous enmity and argumentativeness which is very unpleasant to the rest of the family.

***Proverbs 15:18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but the slow to anger pacifies contention.***

***Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is fierce and anger is a flood, But who can stand before jealousy?***

**LESSON 177 (3-21-21)**  **PP**

1. God knew that Joseph would be sold into slavery by his brothers due to their resentment of him over their father’s favoritism and that would result in his trip to Egypt which would end in saving the family of the covenant from a deadly draught.

2. God works behind the scenes to bring about

His desired result. He reveals this future

to Joseph through two dreams.

3. \*Principle: God can use the sinfulness of man

to accomplish His own plans.

4. We need to remember this when something horrible happens in our life. God can make it turn out for good.

5. God knew all this in eternity past as being part of His plan to fulfill His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph which brings glory to Himself.

6. All this has been given to demonstrate the fact that the world and our lives are not ruled by chance or fate, but by God.

The fact that Jacob gave his son Joseph a multicolored tunic made the situation much worse. Such a robe was a mark of distinction indicating exemption from labor which was the peculiar privilege of a king or a prince.

It marked him out to be the future possessor of the birthright and ruler of the family.

Joseph ultimately suffered more from his father’s love than the benefits from it. Jacob was an intelligent fellow so it is difficult to know what possessed him to make such an unwise decision when there was already tension in his family.

**Verse 5-7**

So Joseph had a dream and the timing of it couldn’t have been worse because his brothers already hated him. But the timing wasn’t accidental because it was God’s timing. He knew that it would add fuel to the fire.

Jacob was evidently unknowingly exacerbating the situation between Joseph and his brothers with the coat of many colors.

God was also exacerbating the situation with the timing of the dream but He knew what He was doing. He would use the timing of the dream and the brothers hate to save the family in the future.

The dream had sheaves of wheat which was a commodity God would use to save the family from starving to death from the future draught.

Joseph told his brothers the dream, and of course they understood what it meant so they hated him even more.

Points on Josheph’s dreams happening at the worst possible time:

1. What do you do when something bad

happens at the very worst possible time?

  2. Most people get angry and allow MAS to

take over their soul.

3. The last thing most people do is to count

it all joy.

***James 1:2-3 Consider it all joy, my***

***brethren, when you encounter various trials,***

***3) knowing that the testing of your faith***

***produces endurance.***

*4.* Consider it all joy doesn’t mean to “be happy”; it is not referring to an emotion or thrill, it is referring to a mental attitude.

5. We can have joy when experiencing various trials because we know that God is testing our faith, not of our ability to believe, but the doctrine we have learned.

6. And why should that give us joy? Because we recognize this as an opportunity to pass the test which will mature us spiritually which pleases God and puts us on track to receive super-grace blessings now and surpassing grace blessing in eternity.

**LESSON 178 (3-28-21)**

7. Once we recognize the purpose God has behind the testing we face, we no longer see it negatively because it benefits us and it produces endurance.

8. And what is so great about endurance? Well, no one can reach spiritual maturity without it. And without spiritual maturity, there is regret, shame, divine discipline, possible disinheritance, and loss of rewards.

9. We don’t know where God will take us as He prepares us for His kingdom, we just need to trust Him and stop complaining about the hard times as He grooms us for higher honor and special opportunities in eternity.

10. This perspective removes the dread and

disdain for testing and replaces it with joy

and gratitude.

**Verse 8**

God’s plan was working, the brothers were outraged.

**Verse 9-11**

With this next dream, he had the entire family angry at him. But his father Jacob was probably wondering if this was God revealing something important or just Joseph having a few unusual dreams. The text does not say it was from God.

**Verse 12-17**

Jacob sent Joseph to check up on his brothers. I find it interesting that Joseph was not out there with his brothers taking care of the sheep.

Shechem was located 50 mi. N of Hebron and

Dothan. Almost 15 mi. N of Shechem.

Dothan was a site more convenient for contact with merchants using the main trade route on their way to Egypt. SHOW MAP

Verse 15 – Notice that Joseph did not give up and go home when he couldn’t find his brothers.

He was determined to complete his mission. He depended on God for help and of course He provided a man who knew where they were.

**Verse 18-20** How did Joseph’s brothers recog- nize him so far away? He was wearing his multi- colored coat.

It doesn’t seem that he wore it lord it over his brothers; he had to know that would be foolish and dangerous. The coat represents his authority and standing in the family and he is carrying out his father’s business so it is proper for him to wear it.

**LESSON 179 (4-11-21)**

**Verse 20** His brothers were full of hate and bitterness because as they plotted to kill Joseph and throw him into a pit, they sarcastically said, “Now t*hen what will become of his dreams?”*

**Verse 21-22** Reuben saved Joseph’s life.

a. He was the oldest brother and he should be

commended for stopping the murder that was

planned.

b. The alternative of throwing Joseph into a bit

was to buy time until he could rescue him

and take him home.

c. He should have been for forthright and

emphatic because his scheme didn’t work

because his brothers sold him to a caravan.

d. Those who are honorable, noble, or virtuous,

never compromise their integrity or doctrine.

e. Ruben’s effort to save Joseph should be

applauded because if he was Joseph was

murdered, Reuben’s birthright would be safe.

Joseph.

**Verse 23** – Joseph had no idea what his brothers had in store for him. He was shocked that they planned to murder him.

***Genesis 42:21*** records that Joseph was greatly afraid and pleaded for mercy with his brothers to not throw him into the pit or sell him into slavery.

**Verse 24** – the pit was empty – he would not drown.

This seventeen year old boy found himself in a pit and had not yet learned that: **PP**

**No matter how out of control things look in our life they are never out of God’s control.**

**God’s grace is always greater than our weakness, mistakes and our stupidity.**

***Psalm 9:19 “The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.”***

**Verse 25 –** Joseph’s brothers were so full of hate that they had no pity, guilt, or remorse about what they did to their younger brother; it sure didn’t affect their appetite.

This is what happens when arrogance mixes with anger over a period of time and a grudge develops.

If you have a grudge against someone acknowledge it to God right away. A grudge doesn’t hurt the one you hate, but it can destroy you!

***Leviticus 19:18 - You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.***

When Jacob died, Joseph’s brothers were afraid that he would hold a grudge against them for what they did to him but, of course, he didn’t (*Genesis 50:15-21*).

By the way, the next meal these brothers would have in Joseph’s presence, would be with Joseph at the head of the table as prime minister of Egypt and the brothers were shaking in their sandals (Genesis 43:32-34).

Do you think that it was just a coincident that the caravan going to Egypt passed by at that particular moment? Was it a coincident when Joseph ran into a man who knew where his brothers when he was lost?

This reminds me of a promise that God has given to us: **PP**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 No testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.**

**Verse 26-27** Judah’s proposal seems cruel on the surface but it appears that he recognized during the meal that Simeon and Levi were determined to kill Joseph so in a desperate attempt to save Joseph’s life he presented this proposal.

Judah’s rationale was that Joseph was better off

alive than dead, even if it meant he would spend the rest of his life a slave.

God used him to get Joseph to Egypt which was of great significance in the history of the nation of Israel and the salvation of the world.

It was also necessary to fulfil a prophecy the Lord gave to Abraham in Genesis 15:13-14 that his descendants, the Israelites would be enslaved for four hundred years in Egypt but would be delivered by God.

Joseph’s life was never in danger. Why? Because God is always in control of all things to bring about His will, which included Joseph.

**Verse 28** – the term “Ishmaelite” was a general designation for “nomadic traders” or “desert tribes” whereas “Midianite” indicates a specific ethnic affiliation nomadic traders.

**Verse 29-30** Reuben was not there when they sold Joseph into slavery so when he went to the pit and found it empty, he thought that his brothers had murdered him and hid his body.

He was freaking out because he was the oldest, he would be the one to tell Jacob, his father, that Joseph was dead and Jacob would hold him responsible for his death.

Notice that his brothers did not answer his question about Joseph. They believed that if they told Reuben that Joseph was sold into slavery that he would pursue the caravan and buy him back and take him home.

Joseph’s brothers thought that they had finally rid themselves of Joseph but actually, they had contributed to fulfilling Joseph’s dreams which was to rule over them as prime minister of Egypt.

After they planned to kill Joseph, they arrogantly said, “Then let us see what will become of his dreams!" (Gen.37:20)

So God used them to fulfil those very dreams they were mocking.

**Verse 31-35** They made Joseph’s coat to look like a wild animal had killed him. They did not take it to Joseph but sent a messenger because they wanted to make it look like they had nothing to do with his death and because they were cowards.

Jacob believed their lies and bitterly mourned for his beloved son.

**Verse 36** The caravan took Joseph to Egypt where God would use him to work all things out for good.

**LESSON 180 (4-18-21)**

From Genesis 37-50 every single chapter focuses on Joseph, except for chapter 38. In chapter 38, Joseph’s life in Egypt is put on hold while informa- tion about his family is provided.

Chapter 37 ends with Joseph beginning his time in Egypt as the slave of Potiphar who was captain of Pharaoh’s bodyguards. Chapter 39 starts by essentially repeating the same information.

**PP** So chapter 38 acts as a parenthesis between chapters 37 and 39. Chapter 38 is an example of God working out His plan and purpose in history, making “adjustments” related to sinful decisions that man makes. Of course, He is not caught off-guard because He is omniscient. He maneuvers history and brings about that which He desires, while at the same time not interfering with man’s free will.

Judah is the first son to openly to assimilate completely with Canaanite culture by leaving the family and going to a Canaanite city and taking a Canaanite wife. This marriage almost ruined Judah’s family. Both Abraham and Isaac made sure that their son married within the family of the covenant (*Gen. 24:3, 28:1*). Later, the Mosaic Law would forbid Israelites from marrying foreigners:

***Deuteronomy 7:3-4 "Furthermore, you shall not intermarry with them; you shall not give your daughters to their sons, nor shall you take their daughters for your sons. 4) "For they will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods;***

Judah’s marriage to a Canaanite woman also disregarded the divine curse upon the Canaanites that is recorded in the prophecy of Noah that appears in *Genesis 9:24-27*.

***Genesis 9:25 “So he said, ‘Cursed be Canaan;***

***A servant of servants He shall be to his***

***brothers.’***

God settled the Israelites in the safety of Egypt in order to keep them from assimilating with the manners and culture of the idolatrous Canaanites.

We as church age believers are forbidden from marrying unbelievers:

***2 Corinthians 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?***

We are also commanded to be separate from Godless worldly people:

***Acts 2:40 …he*** (Peter) ***solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!"***

***2 Cor. 6:17 "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord.***

***Psalm 1:1-3***

God was forming a nation out of the sons of

Jacob, so there had to be a character transfor- mation of them under the providential care and protection of God.

Judah was chosen to carry on the line of Christ while Joseph inherited the birthright in the family.

*“The relationship of this episode to the theme of*

*Genesis must be explored. Again on first sight,*

*this chapter apparently has nothing to do with the promises to Abraham of land, nationhood and*

*blessing to the nations. But the central problem of chapter 38 is childlessness. Onan died because he refused to procreate. He did not want to produce children for his brother, and by implication for his father and grandfather. In other words, by his action Onan demonstrates his disregard for the patriarchal promises. On the other hand, Tamar, a Canaanite girl, is most anxious to have children. Despite the deaths of her first two husbands, she is anxious to marry Shelah. And when she is thwarted by her father-in-law, she manages to find a way of having children through him. Such determination to propagate descendants of Abraham, especially by a Canaanite woman, is remarkable, and so despite her foreign background and irregular behavior, Tamar emerges as the heroine of this story. She is like Melchizedek (chapter 14) and Abimelech (chapter 26), one of those foreigners who see God’s hand at work in Abraham and his descendants and therefore, align themselves with Israel. In the likes of Tamar the promise that ‘all the families of the earth will find blessing in you’ starts to be fulfilled. She is the forerunner of Ruth who said, ‘Your people shall be my people and your God my God’ (Ruth 1:16), as well as being ancestor of Ruth’s husband Boaz. (Word Biblical Commentary, volume 2, 16-50, Nelson Reference and Electronic, page 365).*

**LESSON 181 (4-25-21)**

**CHAPTER 38**

Judah was the first son to openly to assimilate completely with Canaanite culture. The Israelites were supposed to live separately from the Canaanites. So Judah puts his family and the line of Messiah in jeopardy.

With Joseph gone (seemingly for good), with Reuben, Simeon, and Levi out of favor (for incest and for treachery), Judah would most likely to take the leadership position over his brothers and that the line of Christ would go through him. It also demonstrates the immoral character of Judah, as compared with the virtue of Joseph and how Judah’s sins did not hinder God in bringing about His will.

**Vs. 1-2** Hirah was probably a friend of Judah and Hirah’s name meant “nobility”. Shua’s name meant wealth.

Like his father Jacob who married Rachel for her beauty, Judah also married for beauty.

***Proverbs 12:4 “A wife of noble character is***

***her husband's crown, but a disgraceful wife is***

***like decay in his bones.”***

Judah’s wife’s name is omitted here to indicate God’s disapproval of Judah’s marriage to this Canaanite woman. Her name “Bath-Shua” is mentioned in *1 Chronicles 2:3* for historical purposes. It was alright to marry a Canaanite woman who became a believer.

**Vs. 3-5** 1st son – Er = watches, 2nd son – Onan = vigorous, 3rd son – Shelah = drawn out of the womb

the birthplace of his third son

Shelah “is mentioned for the definite information of the descendants of Shelah of the tribe of Judah (*Numbers 26:20*), that they might know their birthplace or ancestral city”

**Vs. 6-7** Tamar was chosen by Judah to be Er’s wife. She will become a believer and a heroine in this chapter like Rahab and Ruth who were also Canaanite women who became believers and heroines.

Tamar was to be the mother of the Messianic line from Judah and so therefore, she is found in the genealogy of Jesus Christ (*Matthew 1:3*).

***Vs. 7*** God killed Er because he was evil. This is the first time we see explicitly stated in Scripture that God put someone to death.

It appears that his sin could have been that he refused to consummate his marriage because Er, however, he rebelled against having a wife and son who would follow Jehovah. This went against God’s command to be fruitful and multiply and would *hin*der the line of Christ going forward.

It appears Tamar agreed to fulfill the Respon- sibilities of being a member of God’s covenant people and yet Judah’s son Er was not willing, which resulted in his death.

Every time when someone, like Er, ignores God and purposely goes against Him, it doesn’t turn out well for them. Example ignoring God’s Command:

Flee fornication STDs, pregnancy, shame

*1 Corinthians 6:18*

Don’t marry an unbeliever no sp. fellowship

*2 Corinthians 6:14*

**6-8** It was the duty of Onan, the brother-in-law, to marry Tamar and raise a child who would be the heir of Er and carry on his line.

It is called Levirate marriage and was later incorporated into the Mosaic Law (*Deuteronomy 25:5-10*) and was practiced into the time of the Lord Jesus.

Leveret marriage is the marriage of a widow to her husband’s brother. This seems very odd to us. If a woman is married and her husband dies then his brother has the right to come in and to marry her for the purpose of raising up children to the dead man’s name. They are considered his, not the brother’s. The term leveret derives from the Latin word for brother-in-law.

The principle provided for the widow who was left without a husband, without protection, and without a source of income. It was designed to take care of her.

The law was also designed to protect the family inheritance. There is a significant emphasis in Scripture on protecting inheritance and providing inheritance for the next generation.

**Vs. 9-10** Onan's refusal to give Tamar a child not only demonstrated a lack of love for his deceased brother and for Tamar, but it also revealed Onan's selfish heart that wanted for himself what would have gone to his elder brother's heir.

Onan deliberately frustrated the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give them numerous posterity and to have the nation of Israel and Jesus Christ descend from them.

(The following refers to the end of the chapter)

The biographical sketches that appear in Genesis

reveal that character transformation is the essence of the book. For example, Abram becomes Abraham; Jacob becomes Israel, Reuben, violator of his father's concubine, later prevents the murder of Joseph and shows great concern for both Joseph and his father. Then, there is Joseph, the tattle tale and arrogant boaster who becomes the wise statesman who forgives his brothers. Therefore, Genesis 38 plays an important role in clarifying the course of the account of Jacob’s sons that is recorded in Genesis 37:2-50:26.

**Vs 11** Judah didn’t want to lose his third son to her; he didn’t recognize that God had taken them out under the sin unto death because of their evil deeds. So he was going to avoid giving Tamar to his third son. He never intended to let her marry Shelah. Judah is operating in a completely irresponsible, self-centered manner here, and is treating her in an extremely unjustified manner.

The reason we are told that the daughter of Shuah’s wife died is because there is no longer a chance for Judah to have a fourth son. He had these three sons, two are dead and one is left, and God still had got a plan to go through the tribe of Judah in developing the nation, and the promise to Abraham.

**Vs. 13**  Judah put Tamar between a rock and a hard place in terms of her life because he put her into a position where she couldn’t remarry again because she is supposed to go to Shelah and he is not going to give Shelah to marry her, so she decided to force the circumstances.

That doesn’t necessarily mean that she is justified in what she does.

**Vs. 14-19** It turns out that Tamar is determined and smart. She comes up with a bold plan that she carries out and gets what she wants.

She is at the right place at the right time and he was attracted to her. The fact that he didn’t have something to pay her shows that he didn’t plan on having sex with a prostitute.

17 -They come to an agreement on the price and she requires a pledge or a deposit to make sure he would return with the payment, but she would use this against him later.

18 – All three items of the pledge were items that would identify him.

**Vs. 20-23** - Judah did fulfill the pledge, which shows a measure of integrity there, he just didn’t forget about her.

Judah considered himself the victim because he considered his seal, chord, and staff to be more valuable than a young goat.

If he made a big deal of it, he would look like he had been taken by a prostitute which would be embarrassing.

**Vs. 24** - Look at his self-righteous hypocrite. This was a pagan punishment, not anything that was ever authorized through Scripture. He is the one whose bad decisions put her in this position to begin with.

**Vs. 25** – Now she closes the trap on Judah. He is caught and there is no way out.

***Numbers 32:23 But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out.***

**Vs. 26** – Neither one of them were righteous but he had forced her hand and he was guilty of lying about giving her his son to produce an heir and for committing adultery with her.

At least he humble and acknowledged how wretched he was. And he showed some character in that he never had relations with her again.

**Vs. 27-30** Sound familiar? Remember what happened with Jacob and Esau? There was that struggle going on, and we see the same thing here.

Application

1) God is always working in the background to bring about His will and to bring us blessings in spite of our weaknesses.

2) God brings about justice. He brings about the principle that you will reap what you sow. The lesson here is that those who pursue their life for their own gratification will ultimately deal with the justice of God.

3) God’s plans are never thwarted by man’s sins. God is going to bring about what He desires and human sinfulness will never hinder or destroy the plan of God.

4)  God turns human failures into triumphs of His grace. This story ends with the birth of Perez who was from the tribe of Judah and who also was included in the line of Jesus Christ. God’s promise to Abraham was kept so His grace was proven to be greater than Judah’s sins.

**LESSON 182 (5-2-21)**

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!**

**Four women** were Gentiles or “non-Jews” who had accepted the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as their Savior and were made a tribute to the grace of God by being included in the line of Christ. Therefore, God rewarded the faith of these women by giving them the great honor of being in the genealogical line of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Tamar, Rahab, Ruth,** and **Bathsheba** were Gentiles who came into the family of Judah by immoral means or were involved in some sort of immorality before becoming a believer or after becoming a believer. **Tamar** and Rahab were Canaanites, **Ruth** was a Moabite. **Rahab** was involved in prostitution when she became a believer in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and hid the spies of Israel.

Also, **Rahab** who was the most immoral of them all because her profession was prostitution was actually included in God’s Hall of Fame of Faith in Hebrews 11 (See Hebrews 11:31).

**Ruth** was a descendant of Moab who was the son of the incestuous relationship between Lot and his oldest daughter. She persuaded Boaz to marry her by spending the night with him as he slept drunk on the threshing floor.

**Bathsheba** was a Hittite (either by marriage with Uriah or by birth) and became David’s wife through adultery and after David had Uriah killed on the battlefield. As we saw, **Tamar** posed as a prostitute in order to become pregnant by Judah.

Despite the immorality, they still became a part of God’s covenant people. So not only was Judah the recipient of the grace of God and a trophy of the grace of God but also these four women are trophies of the grace of God and is a testimony to the truth that God rewards faith in Christ by forgiving past sins and giving eternal life!

***Matthew 1:1‐3*** “***The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.” “Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar.”***

So we see that Tamar had the great distinction of being one of the few women whose names are listed in the official genealogy of Jesus Christ. We also find her in the line of Christ in Luke 3:33.

The ancestral lines of both King David as well as the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ are traced back through Perez according to Ruth 4:18-22:

**Ruth 4:18‐22 - “Now these are the genera- tions of Perez: to Perez was born Hezron, and to Hezron was born Ram, and to Ram, Amminadab, and to Amminadab was born Nahshon, and to Nahshon, Salmon, and to Salmon was born Boaz, and to Boaz, Obed, and to Obed was born Jesse, and to Jesse, David.”**

The racial bigotry of the Egyptians towards the Hebrews who were shepherds served to maintain the Israelites as a separate people. Even though the Israelites were exiled in Egypt and it was in many respects a bitter experience for them, it was a gracious act on the part of God.

When the Israelites read the account of Judah in Genesis 38 it would humble them since their roots were far from admirable but in fact were disgraceful.

They could never look back at their Genesis ancestry with any feelings of superiority and racial pride since they had too many skeletons in their closet but rather would have to acknowledge that the existence of their nation was the direct result of the grace of God.

**CHAPTER 39**

One of the first things we notice is the contrast between the immorality of Judah and the other ten brothers who were influenced by paganism (excluding Benjamin) and Joseph whose focus was on the Lord. Rather than being sexually immoral as Judah was. Joseph demonstrated integrity, morality, and faithfulness.

God’s plan was for Joseph to become the number two leader in the Egyptian empire under the Pharaoh was incredibly powerful and viewed as the incarnation of God Himself.

In order to prepare Joseph for the tremendous responsibility of taking on that kind of leader- ship, God had to take him through a number of grueling training sessions. God took everything away from him, his friends, his family, his home, his culture, and his language. Everything that gave him security, comfort, and stability was ripped away from him.

He had to learn to become completely dependent on the grace of God to provide everything. God uses grace oriented believers who rely on Him for everything rather than the things they have, the people in their life, and the details of life.

Spiritual growth occurs only when a believer is grace oriented!

Joseph could have become angry, resentful, bitter, revengeful, and full of self-pity, but he didn’t. He was beginning to understand; those who did dastardly deeds to him meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.

When we understand this, then we can under- stand what Job meant in Job 1:21 when he said:

The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord. You see, the reason why God is to be blessed when He takes things from us is because it always turns out for our good.

We can become lazy, lethargic, or stale spiritually because we have become too comfortable and complacent with all the blessings we have been given. The things we have become too important to us and we start depending on them in order to be content rather than on the Lord.

Joseph had to learn that a good leader is not about winning a popularity contest, it’s about doing the right thing in a right way. It’s about building character, being willing to stop bad habits and changing a lifestyle focused on self to focusing on others.

Like Joseph, all of us must go through training in order to be useful to the Lord. The first thing we all must learn is the lesson of humility. Humility is the key to being a good leader.

**LESSON 183 (5-9-21)**  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czCXozTIONo

Joseph was unjustly thrown into a pit, unjustly sold into slavery and forcibly taken away from his home, his family, and his possessions. He was unjustly accused of sexual harassment and unjustly imprisoned. It certainly would seem that God was not with Joseph. But what does the Scriptures say?

**Vs. 2** – “***And the LORD was with Joseph***”,

**Vs. 21** – “**the Lord was with Joseph**”

**Vs. 3** – Even a pagan unbeliever recognized that “***the Lord was with him*** (Joseph)”. **Vs. 21** – “***the Lord was with Joseph***”; **Vs. 23 - “*the LORD was with him*”;**

**Vs. 3 – “*the LORD caused all that he did to prosper*”; Vs. 23 – “*the LORD made him to prosper*.**

**Vs. 4 *– “Joseph found favor in his sight”,***

**Vs. 5 – “*the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph”;*** What do we call this? Answer: Blessing by association.

What can we learn from this? Our circumstances do not indicate whether God is with us or not. The fact is, God is always with us, especially with those who trust and obey Him.

***Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."***

***Joshua 1:5 - I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.***

***Hebrews 13:5 - Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."***

Joseph had to learn what the Apostle Paul was talking about in *Philippians 4:11-13*.

***Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in what- ever circumstances I am. 12) I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13) I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***

How could Paul boldly say such a thing? Because he knew that he had an all sufficient Savior who could get him through anything, and as long as he was focused on Him, he was going to have stability in an a very unstable world.

**GOD’S GRACE IS ALWAYS**

**GREATER THAN OUR NEED!**

***Philippians 4:19-20 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. 20) Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

Joseph needed to learn this but who else needs to learn this? You and me.

What kind of riches does God have in glory? They are infinite, unending, endless, vast, immeasur- able, unlimited, never ending, immense, boundless, stupendous, awesome, fantastic, stunning, and breathtaking.

We may never know why God allows certain things to happen to us, why we go through hardship, pain, and suffering. Job never knew why his life fell apart in such a drastic way because God never answered his question as to why it happened.

Our job is to stay calm, trust the Lord, keep mental attitude sins out of our soul. God allows disasters into our life and we must realize that we have to experience adversity to develop maturity and learn to trust Him for everything.

***Gen. 39:1*** It was no accident that Joseph was sold to a man who had power and was connected.

The person who bought Joseph had to be an important person who had access to Pharaoh in order to move God’s plan forward. Being the captain of the bodyguards for Pharaoh would certainly do.

**Vs. 5** Joseph was experiencing fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant, even at that time before Israel was in the Land (*Gen. 12:1-3*).

***Vs. 7*** Everything was going fine and then a major problem developed. Joseph was head of all of Potiphar’s affairs and it was smooth sailing with him in charge. It is easy to get a bit complacent spiritually when everything is going well. Prayers may diminish, there is a danger of relying on self rather than on the Lord, and giving in to tempta- tions and lust can be a big problem.

But this did not happen to Joseph. He kept his spiritual edge and was prepared for hell that was about to break loose. One thing that Joseph did not do tells a lot about his spiritual condition – he never complained.

**Vs. 8-9** He was very wise to counter what she said by bringing up her husband and how much he trusted Joseph. Potiphar trusted Joseph so much that he never even demanded an accounting—he didn’t have to hire a C.P.A. to go over the books. He would not betray him.

Then in verse 9, he let her know that it was even more important not to sin against God.

**Vs. 10-14** She proved to be persistent; she devised a plan and carried it out.She was no doubt madder than a hatter at Joseph because he rejected her advances. “Hell has no fury like a woman scorned.”

**LESSON 184 (5-16-21)**

**Vs. 12** Joseph did exactly what the Lord would have him do, he fled.

***1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.***

***2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.***

**Vs. 17** Potiphar’s wife tried to shift the blame onto him. She was a real piece of work she was.

Potiphar’s wife explained the incident that occurred with Joseph in verses 14-19. According to my count, she lied 9 times in those verses.

***Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: 17) Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, 18) A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, 19) A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.***

**Vs. 18-19** Potiphar’s wife did not allege that Joseph tried to rape her but that he disrobed before her.

“*The death penalty for adultery may not have applied to a charge of attempted adultery, attempted seduction or rape (v. 14, 18), so Potiphar consigned Joseph to the prison reserved for royal servants, from where, in the providence of God, he would be summoned into Pharaoh’s presence and begin the next stage of his life.*” John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 73.

Since Potiphar could not disprove his wife’s

accusations, he had no other recourse but to

imprison Joseph. He could not have taken his

Hebrew’s slave word over his Egyptian wife’s

since she would have been outraged if he did and

spread it all over town thus ruining his reputation

and career.

**Vs. 20** Potiphar didn’t even give Joseph a chance to give his side of the story. ***Psalm 105:16-24*** gives more details on Joseph’s imprisonment.

There are times in our lives when we do every- thing we can to avoid the injustice and dastardly deeds of evil people but to no avail.

**LESSON 185 (5-23-21)**

We must remember that God has not forsaken us when we are overwhelmed by wicked people. He is either testing us or taking us to the next phase of His plan.

The first thing we should do is to make sure we are not operating in the energy of the flesh, our own puny power, so we immediately acknowledge any sins to God so that we will be using divine viewpoint as we address the issues before us.

Rather than getting angry or feeling sorry for ourselves since our life has been disrupted, we need to adjust and adapt to our new lifestyle by applying the doctrines we have learned to our new circumstances.

***1 Timothy 6:6-8 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8) And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.***

***Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6) So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"***

The confidence we have in the doctrine we know, enables us to be content with what we have. The more we trust in God, the less we are prone to fall apart when adversity rudely intrudes into our lives.

***Hebrews 13:5-6 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6) So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"***

**LESSON 186 (6-13-21)**

**PP *Gen. 39:21*** starts with a phrase that shows the Lord is still with Joseph and still in control of the details of Joseph’s life.

**“*But the Lord was with Joseph*…”** Joseph’s suffering was not punitive; it would turn out for his good and for God’s glory.

It wasn’t long before the chief jailer put Joseph over all the prisoners and trusted him with the administration of the entire jail.

You will note that God never communicated with Joseph through dreams, visions, or directly spoke to him throughout this entire chapter but even Potiphar, an unbeliever, recognized that the Lord was with him. And if he knew it, Joseph had to know it as well.

**CHAPTER 40**

Joseph was demoted from the highest position in Potiphar’s house, to a prisoner through no fault of his own.

However, when he left, he took his integrity, his knowledge, and his trust in the Lord with him.

***Integrity*** noun

* 1. the quality of having strong moral principles

INCORRUPTIBILITY

* 1. an unimpaired condition: SOUNDNESS
  2. the quality or state of being complete or undivided: COMPLETENESS

Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-

Webster, 1996).

***Psalm 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for Thee.***

***Psalm 7:8 The LORD judges the peoples; Vindicate me, O LORD, according to my righteousness and my integrity that is in me.***

***Proverbs 11:9 With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.***

***Proverbs 24:5 A wise man is strong, and a man of knowledge increases power.***

***Psalm 115:11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.***

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.***

The two dreams Jacob had back in chapter 37 indicated that he would have a position of prominence over his brothers and that they would bow down to him in obeisance. He grabbed hold of that prophesy because he knew that God had a plan and a purpose for him even though he was thrown into prison.

He focused on the Lord and didn’t allow the MAS of fear, anger, or doubt, to take over his thinking.

When our lives are disrupted by undesirable change, we have two options: 1) the Mental Attitude Sins way or 2) the Faith Rest way.

We really don’t choose the first option (MAS), it just seems to take over but we do choose the second option, (Faith Rest).

# FAITH REST

1. Happiness does not depend on circumstances; +H

depends on what you think.

1. You make decisions as to whether you will have stress or tranquility in your soul.
2. Stress in the soul knocks out the filling of the Spirit and doctrinal orientation.
3. Adversity is an outside pressure; stress is an inside pressure of life.
4. Adversity is what circumstances do to you. Stress is what you do to yourself.
5. Adversity is inevitable; stress is optional.
6. God did not design us to be the slaves of our circumstances.
7. A believer who consistently uses the Faith Rest drill fulfills ***2 Cor 5:7 … We walk by faith and not by sight*** (human viewpoint)***.***
8. God offers His Rest to us. It is a place where there is contentment, security, stability and peace of mind, even in the midst of adversity.
9. The way to get there is by faith, trusting in Him

and His Word.

1. When we enter this Rest, we stop working and start waiting on the Lord. Our job is complete when we trust the Lord.
2. ***Hebrews 4:11*** - commands us to “**be diligent**” to enter this Rest.
3. Being diligent means to consistently study the Word daily. That is the only way the Lord will become more real to you than your problems.
4. ***Hebrews 4:12*** that “**the Word of God is alive and powerful**.”
5. Prayer is linked with Faith Rest:

***Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.***

***Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

1. ***Philippians 4:11-12*** tells us that we, like Paul, need to learn how to be content in every circumstance…
2. ***Philippians 4:13*** Paul said that he could “***do all things through Christ who strengthens us.***” That applied Paul and it applies to us too!
3. ***Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

MECHANICS OF FAITH REST

1. Claim a promise of God to gain stability.
2. Focus on a doctrinal rationale.
3. Essence of God rational (Essence Box)
4. Logistical Grace rational
5. Plan of God rational
6. Apply a rational to the situation.
7. P
8. Enjoy your Relaxed Mental Attitude while wait on the Lord.

**LESSON 187 (7-11-21)**

Joseph continued to be faithful to the Lord even though he went from a place of prominence to the awful life of prison.

**Vs. 1-4**“The **Cupbearer**” was an important official who held a position of trust in the Egyptian court since he was responsible for protecting the king from being poisoned by the beverages he was served. Therefore, his loyalty to the king had to be beyond reproach.

The **cupbearer** was also the king’s “**butler**”, who gave him his drinks.

“The **baker**” was also an important official who

held a position of trust in the Egyptian court since he was responsible for preparing the food that the king would eat.

**DO YOUR WORK AS UNTO THE LORD**!

**Ephesians 6:5-8** **Slaves, be obedient** (v. pam) **to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ;**

**6) not by way of eyeservice** (working when someone is watching), **as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.**

**7) With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,**

**8) knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.**

**9) And, masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.**

**10) Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might.**

Don’t try to accomplish these things by your own power, ask God for help and trust Him to answer your request.

A similar verse:

**Colossians 3:20-25 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.**

**21. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.**

**22. Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.**

**23. Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;**

**24. knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.**

**25. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.**

**Principles on Doing Your Job as Unto the Lord**

**1. Your job is your full-time Christian service.**

**2. Therefore, do your job as unto the Lord.**

**3. An overbearing boss is no excuse for**

**becoming a loafer on the job.**

**4. Those who learn and apply doctrine have**

**integrity in their soul. Application of doctrine in one field overflows into other areas.**

**5. A person who does his job as unto the Lord will also be a wonderful friend, a wonderful lover, a wonderful person in time of disaster, and will have no problem in making friends**

**6. The command to obey the one in charge does not include catering to him or her off the job.**

**7. Nor does this verse imply that you must become involved with anyone in extra- curricular activities to hold your job. All you have to do is respect the authority of those over you and do your job as unto the Lord.**

**8. Those who go beyond their authority by requiring you to do something immoral or unlawful or try to abuse you in some way, forfeit their authority so obedience is no longer necessary.**

A little more information concerning slavery:

**1 Corinthians 7:20 Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called.**

**21) Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.**

**22) For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.**

**23) You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.**

**24) Brethren, let each man remain with God in that condition in which he was called.**

**Titus 2:9 Urgebondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,**

**10. not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.**

**11. For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.**

**12. And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,**

**LESSON 188 (7-18-21)**

We find in verse 5 that both the cupbearer and the baker both had a disturbing dream at the same night. That’s unusual, more than a coin- cidence, because God was certainly orchestrating this.

Verse 6 shows that Jacob really was concerned about those in which he responsible.

His capacity to stay objective and compassionate to these two men who were guilty and in whom he was commanded to serve is incredible.

It is easier to treat people with compassion when they are deserving but difficult when people are undeserving. Joseph’s actions typified our God’s treatment of us while we were His enemies:

(ESV) ***Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7) For one will scarcely die for a righteous person-though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die- 8) but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

***Colossians 3:12-13 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.***

***Genesis 40:23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.***

We are not told what Joseph’s mental attitude was but we do know that it was two years later before Pharaoh heard about him.

All of us at one time or another have passionately hoped for something that did not come to pass. We felt devastated, shattered, distraught and didn’t know how we could carry on with our lives.

This is time when it is very easy to lose hope and to succumb to self-pity, anger, fear, resentment, bitterness, whining and complaining. Some people become introverts and never get over their disappointment. They live in continuous misery because of what could have been but never will be. They think in terms of “poor pitiful me”.

These people need to recognize the following:

1. They themselves are their own worst enemy.

2. They only think about themselves.

3. They act like children who pout when they

don’t get their way.

4. They are swallowed up with self-pity and often

seek pity from others.

5. They do not trust God and may resent Him

because they blame Him for ruining their life.

6. They are not happy and are not content until

they have made others unhappy because if

they aren’t happy, no one can be happy.

***Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;***

***Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice*** (desire to cause pain or distress to another). ***Inc Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster,***

***Job 10:1 "I loathe my own life; I will give***

***full vent to my complaint; I will speak in the***

***bitterness of my soul.***

7. Husbands are specifically commanded not to be

embittered against their wives:

***Colossians 3:19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.***

8. They act as if they know what the future holds

in store for them but only God knows that.

What should believers do when they are heart broken when their hopes and dreams don’t come to pass?

1. Remember that God loves you and that He

knows what the future will be, we don’t.

2. Acknowledge your sins to God (1 John 1:9).

3. Pour out your soul to the Lord when you are

disappointed, distressed or discouraged.

Read: ***Psalm 42 and 43***

4. Thank the Lord for His grace, His love, His

help, for His promises, for the power to

endure, and for His faithfulness.

***Phil. 4:6-7, 13; 1 Cor. 10:13***

5. Keep taking in Bible doctrine which will

strengthen you so you can apply it to your

circumstances.

***Romans 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.***

6. Focus on helping others and their needs which will get your mind off of yourself.

Read: ***Psalm 27***

**LESSON 188 (7-25-21)**

***CONFIDENCE IN GOD DEFEATS FEAR***

***Psalm 37:39-40 But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; He is their strength in time of trouble. 40) And the LORD helps them, and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in Him.***

***Psalm 91:14-16 Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name. 15) "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him, and honor him. 16) "With a long life I will satisfy him, and let him behold My salvation."***

***Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD God is my strength and strong, and He has become my salvation."***

***Psalm 46:1- …God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2) Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;***

***Psalm 112:6-7 he will never be shaken; The righteous will be remembered forever. 7) He will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.***

**Psalm 42-43 & 27 Notes**:

1, Psalms 42 and 43 belong together, many Hebrew manuscripts have them as one psalm. Ps. 43 has no title while the rest around it do.

2, Title: A Maskil (to contemplate or teach) “of the sons of Korah” These people are probably better regarded as the Levitical performers, rather than the authors of these psalms.

Vs. 1 - ***John 7:37 Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.***

Vs. 2 - ***Psalm 143:6 My soul longs for Thee, as a parched land.***

Vs. 3 – David’s enemies mocked him for trusting in God could not help him. Obama – cling to their guns & Bibles

Vs. 4 – David reflects back on the good days it leads him to Pour out his soul to the Lord to unburden himself from pain, grief, and dread.

***Psalm 26:8 O LORD, I love the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thy glory dwells.***

***Lamentations 2:19 "Arise, cry aloud in the night At the beginning of the night watches; Pour out your heart like water Before the presence of the Lord…***

Vs. 5 – David rebukes himself for his despondency. Then he applies the remedy by hoping in God.

***Lamentations 3:24-25 The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." 25) The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.***

Vs. 6 – He seems to go back into depression when he thinks about where he is, he misses Jerusalem.

Vs. 7 - Trouble came over him like one wave after another.

Vs. 8 - He mustered confidence in the Lord—confidence that God’s love and His song would be with him continually (by day and by night).

Contrast this with what happened day and night in verse 3 when he was crying day and night.

Vs. 9 – Once again discouragement eturns, this time because of the relentless oppression of the enemy. From outward appearances it would seem that God has forsaken His child.

***Psalm 38:6 I am bent over and greatly bowed down; I go mourning all day long.***

Vs. 10 – This is a description of how the oppression of others affected him.

Micah had the right idea.

***Micah 7:7-8 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. 8) Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy. Though I fall I will rise; Though I dwell in darkness, the LORD is a light for me… 10) Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, "Where is the LORD your God?" My eyes will look on her; at that time she will be trampled down, Like mire of the streets.***

Vs. 11 – Faith always has the last word. Don’t be discouraged. Don’t be unsettled. **Hope in God**; (same word used in vs. 5, you will be delivered from your enemies and from your depression as well. And you’ll praise Him once again as your Savior

**PSALM 43**

Vs. 1 – This verse is as urgent today as it was when it was written.

Vs. 2 – This verse is very similar to vs. 9 of Psalm 42

Vs. 3 – He recognized he needed God’s light/discernment and truth in order to make it back to Jerusalem to worship God which he fervently wanted.

***Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.***

Vs. 4 – Notice that he knew that his desire could only come to pass through God bring it about. His future was in God’s hands and so is ours.

Vs. 5 – The refrain from Psalm 42:5, is repeated here.

Have faith in God, he urges, and He will surly bing you to your

desired end.

**PSALM 27**

Vs. 1 – ***Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee.***

***Psalm 62:5-8 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. 6) He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. 7) On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. 8) Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.***

Vs. 2–3 Notice the reason David had no fear – Vs.3 “In spite of this I shall be confident.”

Vs. 4 – We should have the same attitude about coming to church and Bible class.

Vs. 6 – “sacrifices with shouts of joy” ***Hebrews 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.***

Vs. 10 - ***Deuteronomy 31:8 the LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear, or be dismayed."***

Vs. 13 – ***“the goodness of the LORD”Psalm 31:19 How great is Thy goodness, Which Thou hast stored up for those who fear Thee, Which Thou hast wrought for those who take refuge in Thee, Before the sons of men!***

***“in the land of the living”***

David was confident that he would surive and remain alive (in the land of the living) to see God’s blessing. Therfore, he strengthened himself to wait for the Lord’s deliverance.

Vs. 14 – ***Wait “***qavah” imperative ***for the Lord.*** Used twice in this verse.

***Psalm 62:5-6 My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. 6) He only is my rock nd my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.***

***Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.***

**LESSON 189 (8-1-21)**

The episodes in Genesis we have been studying have been recorded and revealed to us in the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit because they teach us key principles about God, about man, and about how God is working in human history.

God was developing Joseph spiritually to prepare him for the unique role of taking the second highest position of leadership in Egypt, even thouh he asn’t an Egyptian.

This would enable God to deliver his father Jacob and all his descendants from the coming drought. It would also deliver them from the pagan environment in Canaan which was eroding their spiritual vigor by marrying pagan women.

Joseph had to learn to trust God implicitly even though he faced undeserved suffering every day. He learned the principle of **Suffering for Blessing**. Undeserved Suffering has a purpose!

Millions of lives are ruined because people suffer and they don’t know why. It seems to have no purpose so they become angry, afraid, and bitter.

No one suffers for nothing. There is always a purpose. It may be for punishment, or to get someone’s attention, or it is prepearing us

for what is coming next in God’s plan.

God allows us to experience undeserved sufferng so that we will learn 1. to depend on Him, 2. that He is faithful, and 3. that He is developing us spiritually so we can handle what is coming next.

Suffering never leaves u the same; we are either better or the worse because of it. We will either respond with doctrine or we will react with mental attitude sins.

Suffering never leaves us the same; we are either better or the worse because of it. We will either respond with doctrine or we will react with Mental Attitude Sins (MAS).

Suffering teaches us how much we need Jesus Christ and how weak we really are. It keeps us humble and demonstrates how devastating an arrogant mental attitude can be. It is a magnet for (MAS).

God uses suffering to develop spiritual skills in us such as Rebound, Impersonal/Unconditional Love, Logistical Grace, Faith-Rest, Personal Sense of Eternal Destiny,

Joseph had received training in the Schol f Potiphar’s Prison for about 3 years and his raduation was at hand.

Genesis 41 is divided into four sections: (1)

Genesis 41:1-8: Pharaoh’s dreams and his dilemma (2) Genesis 41:9-24: Joseph’s deliverance and Pharaoh sharing his dream with Joseph (3) Genesis 41:25-40: Joseph’s interpretation, plan and promotion (4) Genesis 41:41-57: Joseph’s rule according to the plan.

**Genesis 41:1** – You may notice that dreams have an important role in the life of Joseph and they happen exactly at the right time and to exactly the right people. Some would call this a coincidence, but not us!

In Joseph’s own dreams God revealed to him (Gen. 37) the plan for his life whereas the second set of dreams of the cupbearer and baker established Joseph’s reputation and the third set of dreams brought the fulfillment of God’s plan for Joseph.

*The* ***Nile River*** *- The “Nile” is the longest river in the world and the father of African rivers, flowing more than 4,160 miles from central Africa north through the desert to a rich delta area on theMediterranean Sea.*

*The* ***cows in his dream*** *would have impressed him since in ancient Egypt, the cow was the symbol of Isis, the goddess of the allsustaining earth. In Egyptian hieroglyphics, the cow represented the earth, agriculture, and food and the Nile.*

*In the Egyptian “Book of the Dead,” the chief religious writing in Egypt, the god of vegetation and the nether world, Osiris, is represented as a great bull accompanied by seven cows. Therefore, the seven cows were a part of his religious frame of reference and would get Pharaoh’s attention.*

*What was spoken of in the dream clearly demonstrated that prosperity and famine, is firmly decided by God and no one else.*

**LESSON 190 (8-8-21)**

**Vs. 9-13** The cupbearer finally spills the beans!

Vs. 9 The cupbearer speaks of his own offense**s**.

They included 1. His offense to Pharaoh that landed him in prison 2. Also his offense to Joseph by not mentioning his request to Pharaoh until two years later.

**Genesis 40:23, “Yet the chief cupbearer did**

**not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”**

The Heb. Word for “remember” is “zadhar” which does not refer to the act of remembering or reflecting but rather it refers to an act of recognition, the formal acknowledgement of someone entitled to consideration and the right to be heard or given attention.

**but forgot him** – This Heb. Word for “forgot” is “shakhach” which means “a willful choice to ignore something a person knows that he needs to do.

The cupbearer deliberately chose to ignore Joseph’s request to mention that he had interpreted his dream to Pharaoh, probably because Joseph was just a slave and not worth mentioning. Or he could have been xenophobic.

The cupbearer’s deliberate refusal to present

Joseph’s case to Pharaoh resulted in Joseph

remaining in prison for another two years and now he probably wanted to get it off his chest.

The timing of Pharaoh’s dream and the cupbearer finally mentioning Joseph’s abilities to Pharoah was perfect because God was controlling all these details to fulfill His plan to preserve His people from being wiped out by a coming draught.

This is recorded for us to be an example as to what our mental attitude should be when we’ve been horribly treated and we don’t want to faith rest or have unconditional love, we want revenge. We feel like shouting from the roof tops, “IT’S NOT FAIR!!!!

This teaches us that when some evil person does something to harm us, God might be using it for good in order to fulfill His plan in our life.

This is what Joseph said to his brothers when they wanted forgiveness for the evil they had done to him.

***Genesis 50:20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.***

**VS. 16 –** Joseph was very careful to give God the credit for interpreting dreams. He did the same thing when he interpreted the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker.

***Genesis 40:8 And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."***

Years of suffering, and being in a pagan environment, and separation from his own family had not diminished his faith in God.

I think it’s great when athletes are interviewed and they give credit to God and thank Him on camera for their athletic abilities and opportunities.

**Vs. 33-36** Here was Joseph, a foreigner, a slave, and a prisoner, telling Pharaoh what he needs to do to survive for the next 14 years, and to Pharaoh’s credit, he listened because he knew that Joseph was telling him the truth.

We can learn something from this; we shouldn’t be hesitant to tell others the truth about God no matter who they are. We must remember that God’s word is truth and the truth is very powerful.

Joseph had divine viewpoint and he didn’t hesitate to tell Pharoah how to respond to God’s words. We should be eager to do the same for those who want to know about God’s word.

**Vs. 37-38** Pharoah recognized immediately that Joseph was the right man for the job. He recog-

nized that Joseph had a divine spirit (vs. 38). H.S.

The same thing was said about Daniel in ***Daniel 5:11-12.***

**Vs. 37-44** Joseph did not ask Pharaoh for anything because he knew that God provided for his needs and that blessings come from God.

Joseph had been faithful over all the little things God sent him; now he would become ruler over all the land of Egypt under Pharaoh.

It is important to be faithful in the little things because if we are not, we won’t be faithful when much is at stake.

God took Joseph from the prison to the palace.

***Psalm 113:5‐8 “Who is like the LORD our God,***

***who is enthroned on high, 6) who humbles***

***Himself to behold the things that are in heaven***

***and in the earth? 7) He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap,***

***8) To make them sit with princes, with the princes of His people.”***

***Psalm 75:6-7 For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. 7) But God is the Judge: He puts down one, and*** *exalts* ***another.***

***Psalm 107:40-41 He pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way; 41) Yet He sets the poor on high, far from affliction, And makes their families like a flock.***

***Job 5:11 He sets on high those who are lowly, and those who mourn are lifted to safety.***

**LESSON 191 (8-15-21)**

**Vs. 45** Pharoah took steps to Egyptionize Joseph by giving him an Egyptian name and an Egyptian wife.

A similar thing happened to Daniel and his friends in Babylon by getting a name change:

**Daniel** – (God is my judge) changed to **Belteshazzar** meaning (“*to save the king’s life”*)

**Hananiah** – (Yahweh is gracious) changed to **Shadrach** (*“Command of Aku”- the Sumerian moon god).*

**Mishael** (who is what God is?) changed to **Meshach**

*(“Who is what Aku is”*)**Azariah –** (Yahweh has helped] changed to **Abed-nego** (“*servant of Nego” - a Babylonian deity*)

We use words to think so the meaning of words or names are very important. When words or names are changed then the way one thinks is changed. That’s the reason so many words and terms are being changed these days because those who are changing words want to change the way we think.

“Global Warming” --- “Climate Change”

“Semi-Automatic Rifles” --- “Assault Weapons”.

“Husband or Wife” --- “Partner”

“Chairman” --- “Chair-person” or “Chair”

“Homosexual” --- “Gay”

“Prostitute” --- “Sex worker” or “Sex care provider”

“Dishonest” --- “Ethically Disoriented”

“Illegal Alien” --- “Undocumented Worker”

“Fat” --- “Mtabolic Overachiever”

“Right Wing Protest” --- “Riot”

“Left Wing Riot” --- “Protest”

“Housewife” --- “Domestic Engineer”

“Crime Rate” -- “Street Activity Index”

“Wanted Criminal” --- “Person of Interest”

“Christmas” --- “Winter Festival” “Printing Money” --- “Quantifying Easing”

“Shoplifting” --- “Irregular Shopping”

“Failure” --- “Non-Traditional Success”

“Lies” --- “Alternative Facts”

Many sport teams, schools, military bases, businesses, TV commercials, libraries, and parks have caved into the PC mob.

These are just a few examples of “political correctness” but they are enough to show the length some will go to try to change our thinking, even though any sane person sees that it is absurdly ridiculous.

The English language is great because it allows us to communicate in a vivid and clear way whatever we want to express. So far, there has been no legitimate laws passed that require us to adopt political correctness which would neuter our language and stymie our freedom of speech.

PC is being used as a weapon against us to force us to conform to the insanity of despicable leaders who are trying to abolish our freedom and destroy our country.

Shame on those who have banned books such as “Tom Sawyer”, “Gone with the Wind”, Dr. Suse Books, “Song of the South”, “To Kill a Malkin-Bird” and many other classics with their poisonous political correctness.

Joseph’s wife’s name literally means, “*the servant of the goddess Neith*” and whose father’s name was “Potiphera,” which is the proper noun meaning “*he whom Ra (the sun-god) has given*.”

“Potiphera” was a priest of the sun god Ra at

“On,” which was situated seven miles northwest of

modern Cairo and was famous for the worship of the sun-god Ra.

Was Joseph wrong in marrying a pagan woman?

* + 1. He could not go back to his people to marry a woman who was an Israelite.
    2. Marrying someone who was a Canaanite was prohibited but Egyptians were not descendants from Ham’s son Canaan.
    3. In Joseph’s day, God had not yet given any

commandments regarding marriage, but later in the Mosaic Law, God did forbid marriage to the Canaanites.

* 1. The fact that the Holy Spirit saw fit to have Moses’ record the name of Joseph’s Egyptian wife also implies that she accepted by faith the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.
  2. Judah’s first wife was not recorded except in a genealogical list because she was an unbeliever.

We must check out all the facts pertaining to a verse before we can answer questions about it with any degree of confidence.

**Vs. 46** Joseph was 17 when he was sold as a slave to Potiphar and when he stood before Pharoah, he was 30 so he was a slave for 13 years.

Over the years he must have had numerous oppor- tuneities to doubt God’s faithfulness and devise a plan of his own for his future but nothing like that is recorded.

30 years is a long time to wait on the Lord but it is always worth it. Anyway, the alternative is to take matters into our own hands and you know how that turns out. Turning your back on God and trusting in yourself, never turns out well.

**Vs. 47-49** *Henry M. Morris has an excellent comment, he writes, “It would be necessary to levy a ‘double tithe’ on the produce of Egypt during the years of plenty. It has been shown by historians that tithing was practiced in ancient Egypt and other nations, as a form of taxes or tribute to the king; but a 20 percent levy would be very unusual and might well be resisted, especially if enacted by an unpopular sovereign.”* (The Genesis Record, Baker Book House, page 584).

**Genesis 47:24 And at the harvest you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four-fifths shall be your own for seed of the field and for your food and for those of your households and as food for your little ones."**

**Vs. 47-49**  The “sovereignty” of God was manifested in Joseph’s interpretation of Pharaoh’s dream and the plan that followed. They revealed the complete power and control of God over all creation. Pharaoh was just a bystander that got to see the power an omniscience of God in action.

**Vs. 50** – 52 God blessed Joseph even more by giving him the gift of two sons.

***Psalm 127:3 “Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward.”***

The birth of children and good crops were marks

of divine blessing in the Old Testament.

**Lamentations 3:22‐23**, “The Lord’s Loving kind- nesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.”

**Vs. 51** The names of both of Joseph’s sons praise and thank God, first for His preservation and for His blessing.

The names of his children are not Egyptian

but rather Hebrew in origin indicating he has not

forgotten his family in Canaan and that he was

maintaining his relationship with God.

Joseph’s firstborn was “Manasseh” whose name means, “*He who causes to forget*”.

Joseph’s statement **“*For God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household*.”**

“forget” does “not” mean the loss of memory of his adversities related to his brothers selling him into slavery but rather it means the hurt or the sting had gone out of his memory since God has blessed him greatly in Egypt. In fact, the mere mention of his father’s household reveals that Joseph has not forgotten his father or brothers.

**Vs. 52** The next son was Ephraim which means “fruitful”. Joseph recognized that God never abandoned him and turned his undeserved suffering into abundant blessings.

***Psalm 147:3 He heals the brokenhearted, And binds up their wounds.***

**SPECIAL – AMERICA IN CRISIS** (8-22-21)

The American dream has turned into the American nightmare.

We’ve gone from Law and Order to Mandates and Mayhem.

Our Constitution does not allow any office holder (Presidents, Governor, Mayors, etc.) to impose any orders or mandates directly on the people. They must go through the Congress to create a Bill and then the president must sign it before it becomes a law. But even then, if it is unconstitutional the people can, and should, ignore it.

But since most of those in government are utterly corrupt, they ignore the Constitution and do whatever they want because they have become tyrants.

The Democrat Party and the Republican Party are both corrupt. However, there are still some people who actually believe that politicians will save our country and that we can get out of this mess if we vote on them in the nest election.

ONLY HOPE IS IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

***Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD.***

Evil and Corruption are everywhere – schools, universities, corporations, High Ranking Officers in the Military (not the soldiers), Courts, Sports, Big Tech, Mainstream Media, WHO, CDC, Churches, Hollywood, Banks, Entertainment, Big Pharma

***Proverbs 24:19-20 Do not fret because of evildoers, Or be envious of the wicked; 20) For there will be no future for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.***

No one is held accountable for their crimes and atrocities because there is no longer any Justice in our nation. Why?

People are more afraid of disobeying government than they are of disobeying God.

We are called by God to stand for righteousness which will certainly include suffering. But I would rather suffer for righteousness than to submit to evil dictators, which always ends up suffering in a prison or a concentration camp anyway.

Things for us to remember:

1. J.C. controls history

2. This world is not our home; our citizenship is in heaven.

***Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;***

3. We have an eternal home in heaven ready for us!

***John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2) "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3) "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.***

4. Satan is currently the ruler of this world.

***John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.***

*1* ***John 4:4 …greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.***

5. The battle is the Lord’s:

***1 Samuel 17:47 all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD's and He will give you into our hands."***

***Joshua 1:5 I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you.***

***Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.***

6. We are Christian Soldiers so we are to:

***1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.***

***Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."***

***1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.***

***Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.***

***Philippians 4:1 so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.***

***Philippians 1:27 conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ;***

***Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.***

***Isaiah 35:4 Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you."***

***5. JESUS IS COMING!***

***Hebrews 10:24 Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds… 25) and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.***

***Mark 13:29 when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door.***

***Philippians 4:5 Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.***

***James 5:8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

**LESSON 192 (8-29-21)**

Since Joseph remained faithful and persevered through fourteen years of undeserved suffering, the Lord rewarded him by promoting him to prime minister, giving him a wife and two sons, fame, wealth, and great power.

This reminds us that overcomers of the church age will be rewarded by the Lord at the Bema Seat (Judgment Seat of Christ).

***James 1:12 “Blessed is a man who perseveres***

***under trial; for once he has been approved, he***

***will receive the crown of life which the Lord***

***has promised to those who love Him.”***

***Galatians 6:9 “Let us not lose heart in doing***

***good, for in due time we will reap if we do not***

***grow weary.”***

When Joseph was promoted, the king gave him a new name ([Genesis 41:45](https://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/bible.show/sVerseID/1241/eVerseID/1241" \o "verse)). Biblically, a new name usually indicates a significant change in relation- ship with God. One clear example is Jacob ("supplanter"), whose name God changed to Israel ("God prevails").

Joseph's new name is so difficult to translate that scholars have suggested a number of variations. However, pagan Egyptians admitted before all mankind that a miracle had occurred in their presence—from a God they did not even know—through a humble but very capable Hebrew prisoner.

Believers who persevere through undeserved suffering will also be given new names when God releases us from our earthly prison.

***Revelation 3:11-12 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. 12) "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar*** [historical record] ***in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more*** [that record is permanent]***. And I will write*** [emblazon] ***on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.***

No matter what a person's name will be, it will identify him. Our new names will identify us with a person ("God"), a place ("New Jerusalem"), and

(“My new name”) probably will be a Title of heraldry such as Duke, Duchess, Earl, with J.C. name on it as well.

*“In the time the bible was written, the historical testimonies of the kings and other great men were carved into the temples of the heathen false gods. For example, in Corinth there were hundreds of pillars, one for each king who contributed to the building of the temple. On the pillar was written the deeds of this king and the pillar was adorned with priceless artifacts. In heaven there will be a permanent historical record room. On each pillar will be inscribed the activities of the invisible heroes of today and then their known accomplish- ments as they rule with Christ for 1000 years in the Millennium.*

***Revelation 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.***

Whenever we feel defeated, tired, depressed, angry, or afraid, we need to be strong, hold the line, endure, persevere, we must not give in to our OSN.

Why? Because the stupendous eternal rewards, decorations, crowns, opportunities, and privileges that await overcomers are worth the suffering we experience on earth.

***Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

***Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What do you want in life and what do you want

after you die?

2. Do you want to be a common mediocre

believer? Confused, afraid, ignorant, living by

your emotions and desperately hoping you

make it to heaven?

3. If that’s what you want, just keep on being

obsessed with the details of life and keep on

ignoring God and His Word.

4. Or, would you rather live the abundant life and

be free of worry, fear, and doubt? Do you

want to have inner peace, joy, and contentment

regardless of your circumstances? Do you

want to be a winner on earth and even a

bigger winner in heaven?

5. The choices you make now will determine whether you will be an arrogant, biblically ignorant, apathetic believer with wrong priorities or a secure, confident, faithful super grace believer with an eternal sense of destiny.

6. The decisions you make now concerning God and His Word will determine the quality of your life now as well as in eternity.

7. The great rewards, decorations, privileges, and opportunities that God has made available to every believer will only be realized by those who overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil by consistently learning and applying the principles and doctrines in God’s word.

***Hebrews 10:35-37*** ***Therefore, do not throw away your confidence*** [in God’s Word] ***which has a great reward. 36) For you have need of endurance*** [learning and applying Bible doctrine], ***so that when you have done the will of God*** [reaching spiritual maturity], ***you may receive what was promised*** [great rewards in time and eternity]. 37) ***For yet in a very little while, He who is coming*** [Jesus Christ] ***will come, and will not delay.***

**Surpassing Blessings for All Eternity**

Crown of Life James 1:12, Rev. 2:12

Crown of Rejoicing 1 Thess. 2:19

Crown of Righteousness 2 Timothy 4:8 Order of the Morning Star Rev. 2:28

Uniform of Glory Rev. 3:4-5

History recorded in the Archives of Heaven Rev. 3:12 Authority to rule with Christ in the Millennium Rev. 2:26

Being presented to God the Father by Jesus Christ Rev. 3:5

A new name, a Title of Heraldry, a Coat of Arms Rev. 3:12

Eating from the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God Rev. 2:7

Equity (equality of outcome) will not exist in heaven. Spiritually mature believers will be able to go places and do things that biblically ignorant believers will miss out on. All believers will stand before Jesus Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ to be evaluated. Some will receive rewards but most will not.

All believers will inhabit heaven but only some will inherit the special blessings that last for all eternity. Which one will you be?

**LESSON 193 (9-12-21)**

Continuing now with ***Genesis 41:52-53***

*“In Genesis chapter 48, Jacob/Israel, in gratitude for Joseph’s great generosity and preservation of God’s people, formally proclaimed adoption of Joseph’s sons on a par with Joseph’s brothers in their inheritance*.” John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 85.

***Genesis 48:5-6 And now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. 6) "But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance.***

This act elevated these two sons of Joseph to the status of their uncles and father. These two grandsons would each become a tribe.

The elevation of grandchildren to the status of children is an ancient Near Eastern practice, which is primarily used in the context of inheritance. Thus, the descendants of Manasseh and Ephraim regarded them as their patriarchs.

**PP** – 12 Tribes

**LESSON 194 (9-19-21)**

**Vs. 53-57 -** Twenty percent of the produce during the seven years of bumper crops was sufficient to meet all the needs of not only the Egyptians but also for all the nations of the earth during the seven years of famine.

God used a drought to bring the reconciliation and the relocation of Jacob’s family to Egypt where they would be safe from adopting pagan worship and have food to eat in order to survive.

This is just another example how God can use something that is dreaded like a drought to bring about His perfect plan which is punishment for some and **undeserved suffering** for others.

What do you remember about *undeserved suffering*?

1. Undeserved suffering always has a purpose.

What is the purpose for suffering for blessing?

a. It can get the attention of a distracted

believer or prepare him for the next phase of

God’s plan for his life.

b. It teaches us to depend on the Lord.

c. It teaches us to wait on the Lord for He is

always faithful.

***Psalm 37:7 “Rest in the LORD and wait***

***patiently for Him.”***

d. It develops us spiritually so we can handle

whatever is coming next.

Notice that it was no problem for God to do everything necessary to provide for His people during a world-wide catastrophe.

***Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***

Here’s a question for you - Was God faithful in providing for everything the Israelites needed as they wondered in the wilderness for 40 years? He provided water from a rock and fabulous food from heaven called “mana”. Aslo, their clothes nor their sandals wore out *(Deut. 8:3-4).*

***CHAPTER 42*** Now back at the ranch:

**Vs. 6** God’s faithfulness and veracity finally and clearly is revealed to Joseph.

The fulfillment of the first stage of Joseph’s two prophetic dreams demonstrated that God was faithful in fulfilling His promises and Joseph’s perseverance in waiting on the Lord paid off.

Perseverance is the capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances.

***Romans 5:3 And not only this, but we also***

***exult in our tribulations, knowing that***

***tribulation brings about perseverance.***

***Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.***

***Psalm 37:34 Wait for the LORD, and keep His way, And He will exalt you…***

God’s promise in the dreams in Gen. 37:5-11 of Joseph’s family bowing down to him was fulfilled in three stages:

Stage 1 – Initial trip of 10 brothers w/o Benjamin

Stage 2 – Second trip including Beng. minus Jacob.

The brothers bowed down twice, *(Gen. 43:26, 28)*

Stage 3 – Third trip included all the brothers plus Jacob (*Genesis 46:1-27*).

**LESSON 195 (9-26-21)**

**Vs. 7** Joseph did not seek revenge upon his brothers and he had no anger or resentment towards them. He wanted to reconcile with them but he had to test them to see if he could trust them as to whether there was still jealousy and hatred among them.

He knew if they were still jealous, he could

not have fellowship with them and they might not

accept his help and so he kept these things in mind

when he addressed his brothers.

The brother’s problem was jealousy and Joseph’s potential problem was holding a grudge which he avoided.

1. **JEALOUSY** is defined as unpleasant fear, suspicion, resentment from mistrust of another.

2. The MAS of jealousy include bitterness, vindictiveness, implacability, inordinate ambition and competition, revenge, arrogance, anger, and fear.

3. Jealousy is irrational in its resentment and hatred of others which includes uncontrollable anger, implacable hatred, bitter resentment, toxic vindictiveness, loathing, animosity, tantrums, violence, murder.

(NLT***) Proverbs 14:30 - A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; but jealousy is like cancer in the bones.***

***Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy?***

***James 3:14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth.***

***James 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.***

***Job 5:2 For anger slays the foolish man, and jealousy kills the simple.***

The word “jealousy” is used 38 times in the NASV.

*Jealousy can ruin reputations, split churches, and cause murders. Envy can shrink our circle of friends, ruin our business, and dwarf our souls.… I have seen hundreds cursed by it.—Billy Graham*

*Jealousy shoots at others and wounds herself.*

*—Henrietta C. Mears*

Joseph’s brothers had to learn these things the hard way.

**Vs. 8** Joseph spoke Egyptian and had an Egyptian name, was dressed as an Egyptian, he was clean shaven, and the last time his brothers saw him, he was 17 but now he was about 37.

**Vs. 9** – **Joseph’s brothers were a bunch of criminals since they were guilty of murder, fornication, incest and had lied to their father and hated Joseph and had even been cruel to animals at Shechem** (Genesis 34).

So, when Joseph spoke harshly to his brothers, it’s wasn’t because he was bitter towards them nor was he seeking revenge or was paying them back for what they did to him. Rather it was **his attempt to determine if his brothers had changed over the years** so that a reunion with them could be possible.

**GRUDGE** - a feeling of anger that harbors resent- ment and will not forgive a real or supposed wrong doing. It was prohibited by ***Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.***

***Genesis 27:41 So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob…***

Joseph’s brothers speculated about whether he would hold a grudge against them:

***Genesis 50:15 Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"***

***Psalm 55:3 For they bring down trouble upon me and in anger they bear a grudge against me.***

***Mark 6:19 Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death***

*Clara Barton never harbored resentments. One time a friend recalled to her a cruel thing that had happened to her some years previously, but Clara seemed not to remember it. “Don’t you remember the wrong that was done to you?” asked the friend. “No,” answered Clara. “I distinctly remember forgetting that.”* Robert J. Morgan, Nelson’s Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes, electronic ed. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2000), 314.

All those who hold a grudge are implacable:

Implacability – not capable of being appeased, unwilling to forgive.

Does God harbor resentment against us for the sins we commit?

***Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.***

***Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15) "But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.***

*The sin of unforgiveness is a cancer that destroys relationships, eats away at one’s own psyche, and—worst of all—shuts us off from God’s grace.—Robertson McQuilkin*

*The only way to have a friend is to be one.—Ralph Waldo Emerson* Being one and keeping one always includes forgiveness.

*The man who has learned how to keep his friend- ships in perfect repair is a very wise workman indeed.—F. W. Boreham*

**Vs. 12** - Joseph hammers the accusation of being spies in order to get information out of them regarding their father and Benjamin. He repeats the accusation four times in order to break down their resistance (See Genesis 42:12, 14, 15, 20).

**Vs. 13** – His strategy worked and he got the information he wanted.

**Vs. 17** - The three-day imprisonment provided Joseph with time to plan his strategy and it would also impress the brothers with the importance of cooperating with Joseph. Joseph had endured for three years in prison and fourteen years of slavery, whereas his brothers were imprisonmed for only three days.

**Vs. 18** ‘***Do this and live, for I fear God***: The brothers would have taken this as a sign that they were in serious trouble if they had lied to Joseph.

But it also showed that Joseph was being fair and that he feared God. They should have been embarrassed that a pagan ruler feared God enough to do the right thing and they did not.

This statement reveals that Joseph’s intention was not revenge when he spoke harshly to his brothers and imprisoned them for three days but rather his desire was for a reconciliation with them.

**SPECIAL ON NULLIFICATION (10-3-21)**

**Sunday – Nullification Message**

**October 3, 2021**

Before we continue on with our study of Genesis 42-43 and the life of Joseph, I would like to address some of the unbelievable things that are going on in our country.

Satan must be very busy because the ancient battle of old, known as the angelic conflict, is intensifying worldwide as we see our beloved country slipping away a little more every day.

We wish it was just a bad dream that we would just wakeup from, but it is all very real.

Our government is totally out of control and utterly corrupt because so many of our government leaders are acting as if they are insane. There are still a few in government who keep their oath and try to serve the people but they are either ignored or bullied by our reigning tyrants.

Consider the following:

1. We are constantly lied to by our “leaders”.
2. U.S. citizens in Afghanistan were promised that they would not be left behind.
3. No one making less than $400,000 a year will not pay higher taxes.
4. We were told there would never be vaccine mandates.

1. Hundreds of nurses are forced to quit because they refuse to take an

experiential drug that has not been approved.

1. This has created a hospital crisis.

3. Small businesses are fined $70,000 a day for not firing un-vaccinated

employees.

4. Hundreds of un-vaccinated Navy Seals are now undeployable and

may have to leave the service.

5. In some states, un-vaccinated people are not allowed to go to work,

grocery stores, schools, movies, bars, gyms, or churches.

6. The engineered medicine shortages announced by Biden recently,

restricts shipping monoclonal antibodies to red states in order to maximize

covid fatalities in those states.

1. The Justice Department refused to allow chartered flights from Afghanistan carrying U.S. citizens who were left behind to land in the USA.

*"They escaped the regime they were running from only to have the government they were running HOME TO, turn them away. This cannot be what America does to Americans.”* The Hill, DHS not allowing charter flight carrying evacuees from Afghanistan to land in US, organizers say, https://thehill.com/policy/national-security/department-of-homeland-security/574417-dhs-not-allowing-charter-flight

1. Congress passed a bill that will require teenage girls to register for the draft.
2. The border is an unmitigated disaster. Actually, we have no border. Hundreds of thousands of poor, mostly illiterate, unskilled, possibly diseased, including gang members or criminals who break our law by illegally crossing our border, and are immediately rewarded with free transportation to the state or city of their choice along with a promise of free education, free healthcare, food-stamps. Plus, because of our “Chain Migration Policy” they can invite their relatives here to also live off the government’s forced largess from taxpayers.
3. The head of HLS ordered border guards that they are not allowed to deport illegal aliens even when they break our laws.
4. Hard working border guards were fired by the occupant-in-chief of the Whitehouse for doing their job.
5. U.S. citizens must have Covid Passports to go where they wish, but illegal aliens and Afghans can go where they wish without any passports.
6. The Congress and Biden are doing their best to destroy our country economically through passing bills that have up to 2,700 pages long which no one knows exactly what’s in it.

One is $3.5 Trillion which they say is actually over 5 trillion and others that will cost in the Trillions as well. We will not survive if they are successful in passing this economic madness.

Our national debt is 28.5 trillion dollars. Each tax payers share is $951,000 and that is not counting unfunded Social Security and Medicare debt.

How much does a trillion dollars weigh? **1,102,311 tons It would take 44,080 eighteen-wheel trucks carrying a load of 25 tons each to transport a trillion dollars (in single bills).**

Our leaders in government ignore our Constitution and the rule of Law. I know that all this is disgusting, depressing, and sad but we must face the facts!

*“A long train of abuses: These are all acts of war against red states in particular, and against the American people in general. Any state that follows this “death recipe” will go down with the collapse of America.”* Mike Adams, “*To survive, red states must now NULLIFY the federal government and declare themselves “health freedom zones* that *DENOUNCE the FDA, CDC and OSHA.* Natural News

So, what are we to do?

1, First and foremost, we are to **Trust**, **Obey**, and **Serve** our phenomenal God!

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6) In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.***

***Romans 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?***

***Psalm 100:2 Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.***

2. We are commanded by God to be righteous, to do the right thing.

***Luke 1:74-75 …serve Him without fear, 75) In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.***

***Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.***

***Romans 6:13 …present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.***

***Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.***

3, Being righteous and complying with evil are mutually exclusive, you are either one or the other. God encourages righteousness but He condemns evil.

4, This is very important to know because there is more and more pressure on believers these days to comply with evil. What is the number one reason that people submit to tyrants? Fear.

**Psalm 56:11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?**

**Psalm 118:6 The LORD is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?**

5, Most people are not familiar with the term “the Law of the Lesser Magistrate” which is sometimes referred to “interposition”. Example: When a lesser magistrate (a Governor) protects the people in his State by refusing to obey an unconstitutional or immoral mandate from a higher authority (a president).

6. A Governor has the lawful right, a moral right, and a duty to interpose himself between a dictator and the people. The federal government is limited by the U.S. Constitution to only 18 specific enumerated powers, Article 1 Section 8.

7. The 10th Article of the Bill of Rights clearly reserves everything outside of those enumerated powers to the States and to the People.

Article 10

*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*

“*In a free society people do not require constitutional authority to act. Government does.” -- Senator Warner*

8, This brings us to a something that is not heard very often today but is an option for us to consider in dealing with an evil tyrannical government. It is called Nullification.

9, *It was Thomas Jefferson, in his draft of the Kentucky Resolution of 1798, who introduced the term “nullification” into American political discourse.*

*Nullification begins with the axiomatic point that a federal law that violates the Constitution is no law at all. It is void and of no effect. Nullification simply pushes this uncontroversial point a step further: if a law is unconstitutional and of no effect, it is up to the states, the parties to the federal compact, to declare it so and thus refuse to enforce it.*

*It would be foolish and vain to wait for the federal government or a branch thereof to condemn its own law. Nullification provides a shield between the people of a state and an unconstitutional law from the federal government.*

*If the federal government has exclusive right to judge the extent of its own powers, warned James Madison and Thomas Jefferson in 1798, it will continue to grow – regardless of elections, the separation of powers, and other much-touted limits on government power. Much more important than the feeble restraint of “checks” and “balances” is the ability of states to interpose to prevent the enforcement of unconstitutional laws. That is a real check on federal power.*

*Alexander Hamilton in Federalist #78 - No legislative act, therefore, contrary to the constitution, can be valid. To deny this, would be to affirm that the deputy is greater than his principal; that the servant is above his master; that the representatives of the people are superior to the people themselves; that men, acting by virtue of powers, may do not only what their powers do not authorize, but what they forbid.*

*Joseph Desha, governor of Kentucky – 1825 said, “It is believed to be right, as it may hereafter become the duty of the State governments, to protect themselves from encroachments, and their citizens from oppression, by refusing obedience to unconstitutional mandates.*

*Another example of a state challenge to federal power is Sheriffs First Initiative, whereby , with few exceptions, it would be a state crime for a federal law enforcement official to make an arrest or engage in a search or seizure without first receiving permission from the local sheriff. All text in point 9 were quotes from Thomas E. Woods, Jr. Nullification, How to Resist Federal Tyranny in the 21st Century, Regenery Publishing Inc.*

*10,* There are very few in government who uphold their oath to the constitution and their moral obligation to protect the people by nullifying federal oppression. So, what are we to do?

a. If we are going to be obedient to our Lord, we must be righteous servants which means we will nullify mandates that would require us to comply with evil.

b. We must just say “no”. That is easy to say but it takes courage and devotion to our Lord. There is usually suffering when one refuses to comply with evil so it will reveal whether we fear man more than God.

***1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled,***

***Matthew 5:10 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

***2 Corinthians 12:9-10 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.***

c. Nullification should never be done in an arrogant or disrespectful manner.

***James 4:17 …to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.***

***Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men.***

***1 Samuel 15:24 Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.***

***Ecclesiastes 9:17 The words of the wise heard in quietness are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.***

*There is a point where forbearance and toleration are no longer a virtue, when authority is no longer legitimate, and when submission is no longer required. Government can become so corrupted by evil that continued allegiance and submission to it becomes evil as well." Quote from Tollerating Tyranny*

“A Rasmussen poll released Monday indicates that nullification is growing more and more popular in mainstream America. Pollsters found 38 percent support states taking actions to 'block‘ federal acts that restrict the right to keep and bear arms... 52 percent of mainstream voters think states should have the right to block any federal laws they disagree with on legal grounds.” Mike Maharrey, *“Rasmussen Poll: Nullification Goes Main-stream*”, Tenth Amendment Center, May-6-2013.

**LESSON 196 (10-10-21)**

**Vs. 21** His brother’s admission of guilt demon- strated that except for Reuben, they did “not” blame each other but rather each one took responsibility for their own personal guilt regard- ing Joseph. The prison experience and their guilt brought about the first indication of conviction of sin in their lives.

This brings to mind:

***Numbers 32:23 …you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.***

They were finally beginning to recognize that they were under God’s authority and they were reaping what they had sowed.

***Galatians 6:7 “Do not be deceived, God is not***

***mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will***

***also reap.”***

**Vs. 22** – Ruben’s statement reveals that he believed that Joseph was murdered by his brothers indicating that his brothers did “not” tell him that they sold him into slavery.

In Genesis 37:29-30, Reuben’s brothers did “not” respond to his questions as to what happened to Joseph and their lack of surprise that Joseph was not in the pit, and their agreement to murder Joseph, would lead Reuben to believe that his brothers had killed Joseph and disposed of the body.

**Vs. 23-24** Joseph’s weeping was not only an expression of his love and affection for his brothers but also an expression of gratitude towards the Lord for bringing his brothers to a confession of their guilt which meant reconcilia- tion with them would be possible.

Simeon was the mastermind behind the plot to murder Joseph so he chose to keep him imprisoned while the others went back home.

\***PP** Joseph’s brothers had already revealed that they had remorse (verses 21, 22 & 28) for the sins they committed against their brother Joseph, but that didn’t keep them from continuing to lie and deceive their father when they returned home.

They could have taken the opportunity when they returned home to get what they had done off their chest by telling their father the truth. That would have been the right and honorable thing to do.

1. The remorse the brothers had did not free them from guilt nor motivate them to stop sinning.

2. Remorse is a gnawing distress arising from a sense of guilt for past wrongs.

3. Having remorse or being convicted of sin does not make one right with God nor to whoever has been sinned against.

4. When we sin, we usually have a sense of remorse, regret, or guilt about it. But we are not to hold on to those emotions.

5. Many people think that remorse, regret, guilt, contrition, or self-induced misery are necessary to be forgiven. This can become a form of penance, which is suffering for forgiveness.

6.Those emotions have nothing to do with God’s forgiveness. Acknowledging our sins takes humility and that’s what brings about forgiveness from God.

***James 4:6 "God is opposed to*** [makes war against] ***the proud, but gives grace to the humble."***

7. We should immediately acknowledge our sins to God so that they will be forgiven.

8. Then we would be right with God and the crushing burden of guilt would be gone. To hold on to guilt after God has forgiven our sins is a sin in itself.

***Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

***Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.***

9. The following verses have to do with guilt:

***Psalm 51:2-3 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.*** [by acknowledging my sin] ***3) For I know my trans- gresssions, and my*** [guilt for] ***sin is ever before me.***

***Psalm 38:18 For I confess my iniquity; I am full of anxiety because of my sin.***

***Psalm 66:18 If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;***

**Psalm 32:3-5 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. 4) For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah. 5) I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah.**

10. No one can have peace with God or others as long as guilt exists in one’s life.

11. Guilt is a bit like blackmail because both causes one to live their life by always being afraid that something in their past will be revealed that will ruin them.

12. By telling their father Jacob the truth, they would have a chance to have a genuine relationship based on truth rather than lies.

13. No doubt Jacob would be extremely angry with his sons but the Lord would expect him to forgive them just as Joseph forgave them.

**LESSON 197 (10-17-21)**

Last Sunday we focused on acknowledging sins to God so they can be forgiven which irradicates the guilt that is associated with sin.

Genesis 42:21-22, & 28 show that Joseph’s brothers recognized they had grievously sinned against their brother Joseph and the dangerous situation they found themselves in was brought about by God.

You would expect that at least a few of them would humble themselves and acknowledge their sins to God, but there is no biblical record that any of them doing that.

A few points from last Sunday’s message:

1. The remorse the brothers had did not free them from guilt nor motivate them to stop sinning.

2. Remorse is a gnawing distress arising from a sense of guilt for past wrongs.

3. Having remorse or being convicted of sin does not make us right with God or to whoever we have sinned against.

4. No one can have peace when guilt exists in their life.

How can one get rid of guilt?

a. By taking accountability for our sins by

acknowledging them to God.

b. We must get right with God before we can get

right with others.

c. Why? Because when we are right with God, we

are able to obey His commands through the

power of the H.S. so that we can apply the

doctrines we know to our situation.

d. Then we will stop lying and/or deceiving others

and start being truthful with them.

e. Acknowledging sins to God always restores

our relationship with Him. (*1 John 1:9*)

f. Coming clean with others may or may not restore our relationship because they may not forgive you. But it is better to have no relation- ship than having a fake one.

g. It is great to not have anything to hide and

be free of guilt and feel good about yourself.

**Vs. 25** - Each of the brothers had brought his own silver to buy grain for his own family as indicated by the statement “Then Joseph gave orders…to restore every man's money in his sack.”

Why did he do that?

1. He wanted to be generous to his brothers but without giving them an explanation, which could reveal his true identity.

2. Returning the silver to each of them would find out if they would keep it which would indicate they hadn’t changed from when they were motivated to sell Joseph into slavery for money.

3. To test the brothers as to whether they would value money more than the life of their brother Simeon.

4. To give the brothers an opportunity to demon- strate that they were indeed what they claimed to be, honest men.

**Vs. 28** - The reason for this reaction on the part of the brothers was that they looked like thieves.

They were imagining what would happen if they went back to Egypt and Joseph found out that they were thieves.

They recognized that God was behind the things they were experiencing and they felt guilty about what they did to Joseph but they continued their lying and deception.

**Vs. 29-34** – The nine brothers told their father what all happened on their trip. They reported to their father only what was necessary and to emphasize the importance of sending Benjamin with them on their next trip.

They did not tell their father of their remorse while sitting in prison for three days over their cruel treatment of Joseph. Neither, did they tell

their father about Reuben’s opposition to the

attempted assassination of Joseph.

**Vs. 35** – They had the same anxiety they had when their brother found his money in his sack on their trip home.

Also, Jacob may have thought that they had stolen the money somehow and that Simeon would be killed if the Egyptians found out about it.

**Vs. 36-38** Jacob started to implode with no divine viewpoint at all. He was totally miserable because the Lord was completely left out of his thinking. It was 100% stinking thinking. It was all negative, based on fear, anger, and resentment.

Vs. 37 Reuben’s pitiful pledge did nothing to instill confidence in his father.

**Vs. 38** - Notice also that while affliction drew Joseph ever closer to God, Jacob withdrew from God and did not live by faith but by sight.

Joseph remembered the promises of God that were in the dreams God gave him and they enabled him to persevere under undeserved suffering.

However, Jacob all but forgot about the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, and himself. His self-pity, self-centeredness, and fear produced in him an inability to see the hand of God in all of what was going on in his life.

**LESSON 198 (10-24-21)**

**CHAPTER 43**

**Vs. 1-10** Israel still didn’t want to let Benjamin go on the trip to Egypt but he had little choice and Judah pledged to be responsible for him.

Vs. 11-14 He started to act like the head of the house again and gave his sons instructions for the trip back to Egypt.

Vs. 16-25 They see Joseph again, plans a meal,

\*they meet Joseph’s house steward.

Vs. 26-30 Joseph talks w/ his brothers and meets his brother Benjamin & cries.

Vs. 31-34 They eat, sitting arrangements, Benjamin

Gets 5 times more food than the others.

**CHAPTER 44**

**Vs. 1-15** The silver cup incident.

Verse 5 – Divination - the practice of divining or seeking knowledge by supernatural means. Concise Oxford English Dictionary

(nāḥaš). vb. to divine, give omens, foretell. This is the act by which a person comes upon secret information that cannot be discovered by common means of observation. Lexham Theological Wordbook, Lexham Bible Reference Series

**Genesis 44:16** – This is a turning point. These beautiful words from Judah demonstrated that he and his brothers had finally been humbled.

1. They didn’t know that this silver cup incident was contrived by Joseph to test them; they believed it was God disciplining them for what they did to Joseph.

2. Note what Judah said:

1st question - *What can I say to my lord?* – They

didn’t try to give an excuse!

*2nd question – What can we speak? – They didn’t lie*

*or try to deceive.*

*3rd question - And how can we justify ourselves?* –

They couldn’t so they didn’t even try.

3. *God has found out the iniquity* (gross injustice, sin,

wickedness) *of your servants* (Joseph’s ten brothers)

1) God, of course, knew about their iniquity

so this suggests that the brothers acknow-

ledged their sins to Him.

2) They could now be relieved from their heavy

load of guilt that they had carried for 20 yrs.

3) They would no longer have to lie or keep

secrets from their family and friends anymore.

4) They were willing to receive whatever conse-

quences there would be for what they had

done to their brother Joseph.

5) They wanted to do what was right and

honorable: become slaves even though the

silver cup wasn’t found in any of their sacks.

6) What could have been the motivation for

doing such an admirable and noble thing?

7) They understood the importance of family and

how important it is to love one another and to

stick together.

8) In ***Gen. 42:11 & 34*** they lied, saying that

they were “honest men”. Now in ***Gen. 44:16***,

they were honest men.

**LESSON 201 (10-31-21)**

**Vs. 17-34** – Judah explains the situation to Joseph. He even offers to take his brother Benjamin’s punishment on himself.

It was an illustration of what our L.J.C. offered to us and then carried it out on the cross.

This was the same Judah who mistreated Tamar, his daughter-in-law Genesis chapter 38. He wound up having a child with her and tried to hide it.

This shows what can happen when one humbles himself before God and responds to His love. Judah should be remembered for what he said and did here in Gen. 44. He was a completely different man in chapter 44 then He was in chapter 38; he had moved on left the past behind which is what we should do as well.

**Chapter 45**

Joseph was convinced that his brothers were no longer the scoundrels they once were and that they truly loved Benjamin and their father Jacob so he knew that he could have a relationship with them now. He couldn’t hold back his love and emotions from them any longer.

**Vs. 3-4** They couldn’t answer Joseph’s question because they were **dumbfounded**. They couldn’t believe what they were hearing and they trembled because they thought that Joseph planned to kill them.

“dismayed” Heb. “*Bahal*” – to be terrified, alarmed, be afraid.

**Vs. 5** This is one of the most forgiving and poignant verses in the Bible. What love he had! What a gorgeous soul! What forgiveness! What a magnificent application of B.D.!

**Vs. 7** – ***And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.***

**LESSON 202 (11-14-21)**

**Vs. 8** ***Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God;***

We marvel at the capacity for love that Joseph had for his father and brothers, but in these verses, it is greatly overshadowed by the awesome love God had for them and the love He has for us.

*“Henry M. Morris gives this excellent comment, he writes, “No longer could there be the least doubt in Joseph’s mind that his brothers were completely changed men. He had subjected them to the most severe tests, and they had passed with flying colors. The testing itself had been a means of spiritual growth for them; they were more conscious than ever of the leading of God and their responsibility to Him. They were more aware than they had ever been of their own unworthiness and of God’s mercy. Finally, their troubles had brought them all closer together, and now they were of one mind, loving one another and their father as they had never done before. And then, with Judah making such a strong plea that Joseph allow him to take Benjamin’s punishment, so that Benjamin could go home free, Joseph could no*

*longer control his emotions. Not only did the brothers not resent Benjamin, they were even willing to share his sufferings, and, in Judah’s case*

*at least, to die for him” (The Genes is Record, page 619, Baker Book House).*

Joseph humbled himself before his brothers with great grace and character in verses 5, 7, & 8 which foreshadows the humility and grace of our L.J.C.

***2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of***

***our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich,***

***yet for your sake He became poor, so that you***

***through His poverty might become rich.”***

The Lord promoted Joseph because of his humility whereas the Lord humbled Joseph’s brothers because of their arrogance and selfishness.

***Luke 14:11 “For everyone who exalts himself***

***will be humbled, an*** ***d he who humbles himself***

***will be exalted.”***

***Vs. 9 –*** Joseph summarized in one sentence what he wanted his brothers to do.

He said, hurry and do not delay! He gave God the credit and glory for making him the lord of all Egypt.

***Psalm 113:5-8 Who is like the LORD our God, Who is enthroned on high, 6) Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in heaven and in the earth? 7) He raises the poor from the dust, And lifts the needy from the ash heap, 8) To make them sit with princes, With the princes of His people.***

***1 Samuel 2:7-8 The LORD makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. 8 "He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap To make them sit with nobles, And inherit a seat of honor;***

***Vs. 10*** *-* Goshen was the best land in Egypt (Psa. 47:6 & 11). It was terrific for raising livestock.

400 years later, Joseph’s family were still living in Goshen. See **PP**

***Vs. 11*** – If Jacob and his family did not leave Canaan and go to Egypt, they would not survive.

***Vs. 12*** *–* The brothers were dumbfounded, flabber- gasted, and discombobulate. They could not believe what Joseph was saying or what was happening even though he was speaking in Hebrew*.*

***Vs. 13*** – 14 Again, Joseph tells them not to forget to tell their father of his splendor in Egypt.

He and Benjamin bond together and show their affection to each other.

Think what it will be at the Rapture when we see J.C. and those who we love that have passed away.

***Vs. 15 –*** Joseph showed his affection for his other brothers but it appears that they didn’t reciprocate. But they were calm enough to talk with him.

They were not the same brothers who had said:

***Gen. 37:4 …they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.***

Joseph conveyed the instructions of Pharaoh to the brothers (vv. 17–24), and the brothers carried the message of Joseph to their father (vv. 25–28).

***Vs. 16* –** It is great to see Pharaoh was pleased that Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt and that he was very gracious to them.

It wasn’t that long ago when Egypt’s attitude toward the Hebrews, was quite different when Abraham was expelled from Egypt because he lied to Pharaoh (Gen. 12:10–20).

It was Pharaoh’s incredible respect, trust, and love of Joseph that shaped his attitude toward his family. Our trust in God and our behavior before others shapes their attitude not only toward us, but also to our family. This is an example of blessings by association but sometimes the opposite exists which is cursing by association.

**Vs. *17 – 20*** Pharaoh gave instructions to Joseph to pass along to his brothers.

**Vs. 21-23** Pharaoh’s orders were carried out.

Joseph added other things such as clothing and silver for Benjamin.

“*He is not inhibited by threat of jealousy, since he liberally presents to Benjamin added wealth (Gen. 23:15–16). The “five sets” of garments correspond to the five servings of food for Benjamin (43:34) and the five remaining years of famine* (*45:6)”*

K. A. Mathews, Genesis 11:27–50:26, vol. 1B, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman &

Holman Publishers, 2005), 818.

The number 5 represents “grace” in the Bible.

**Vs. 24** – “*Do not quarrel on the journey*.”

Joseph’s desire was that the brothers make haste to retrieve his father not impeded by any distrac- tion. He realized that his brothers might start blaming each other for what had happened in the past which could shipwreck their mission. This was not a time for accusations and recriminations. It was a time for joyful reunion.

The reason that the family had come to this marvelous reconciliation was because Joseph had forgiven his brothers from their heinous acts.

***Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.***

***Colossians 3:12-13 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on*** (v. amm) ***a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.***

***Ephesians 4:1b-2 …walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,***

1 How did the Lord forgive us?

a. Did He keep His distance from us until we

apologized to Him?

b. Did He withhold His love from when we were

unbelievers?

c. Did He have no desire to have a relationship

with us until we desired to have one with Him?

d. Did He ever hold a grudge against us or was He

ever imbittered against us?

e. Could we ever have a relationship with Him as

long as we rejected Him?

f. When we accepted Him, was there any

implacability on His part?

It appears that we are to forgive those who sin against us in the sense that we are to hold no MAS against them and have a desire reconcile with them.

Whether that reconciliation occurs or not is dependent on them, but there can be no relation- ship with them if it does not.

Some people will never be humble enough to take responsibility for the wrong they have done so reconciliation never occurs and the relationship is never renewed.

However, sometimes people change over time and develop a desire to reconcile. They take responsibility for what they have done which opens the door to renew their relationship.

**LESSON 203 (11-21-21)**

**Vs. 25-28** The brothers relayed all the news to Jacob their father that they were instructed to give him.

The Scriptures does not reveal to us whether they told him about their ruthless criminal actions against their brother Joseph or how they lied and deceived him for 22 years.

All we can do is speculate as to how they handled this issue. It could be that they kept it from him, not because they decided to continue to lie and deceive him, but because they wanted to spare him the emotional strife of trying to deal with such awful news.

The reason that Joseph’s family came to this marvelous reconciliation was because Joseph had forgiven his brothers from their heinous acts.

***Ephesians 4:1b-2 …walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2) with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,***

***Colossians 3:12-13 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on*** (v. amm) ***a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.***

1. How did the Lord forgive us?

a. Did He keep His distance from us until we

apologized to Him?

b. Did He withhold His love from us when we

were unbelievers?

c. Did He have no desire to have a relationship

with us until we desired to have one with Him?

d. Did He ever hold a grudge against us or was He

ever imbittered against us?

e. Can we have a relationship with Him if we reject Him?

  f. When we accepted Him, was there any

implacability on His part?

 2. Most people say, “*If the one who sinned against me asks for forgiveness, then I will forgive them*.” But what if they don’t? Will you hold a grudge against them until they apologize?

***Mark 11:25 …if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.***

Forgiveness is letting something go; don’t think about it. Trust God to deal with it and pray for the person who wronged you.

3. We are to forgive those who sin against us which means we should not hold any Mental Attitude Sins against them, hold any ill will against them, and be ready to reconcile with them if possible.

**Matthew 6:14-15 For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15) "But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.**

**Luke 6:37 And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned.**

***Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.***

4. Reconciliation will not happen if the other party doesn’t want it. There can be no relationship with them if they are unwilling to try to save the relationship.

5. Some people will never be humble enough to take responsibility for the wrong they have done so reconciliation never occurs and the relationship dies.

6. Usually, they believe they had a right to do or to say what they did and are unwilling to reconcile. It is more important for them to prove they are right then to try to save the relationship.

7. They are unwilling to be humble enough to say something like, “*I don’t see how I did anything wrong but I am sorry if I did something that offended you or hurt your feelings*.”

8. If the injured party will not accept such an effort to save a relationship, then he or she is the one who is unwilling to reconcile or to forgive.

In a recent chapel service bulletin from Chaplain Wendell C. Hawley, comes a classic illustration of forgiveness. When the Moravian missionaries first went to the Eskimos, they could not find a word in their language for forgiveness, so they had to compound one. This turned out to be: Issumagijoujungnainermik. It is a formidable-looking assembly of letters, but an expression that has a beautiful connotation for those who understand it. It means: “Not-being-able-to-think-about-it-anymore.”

*—Minister’s Research Service*

Paul Lee Tan, (Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc., 1996), 456.

**Vs. 25-28** The brothers relayed all the news to Jacob their father that they were instructed to give him.

The Scriptures does not reveal to us whether they told him about their ruthless criminal actions against their brother Joseph or how they lied and deceived him for 22 years.

All we can do is speculate as to how they handled this issue. It could be that they kept it from him, not because they decided to continue to lie and deceive him, but because they wanted to spare him the emotional strife of trying to deal with such awful news since he was weak and very old.

**LESSON 204 (11-28-21)**

**Chapter 46** - is divided into five sections: 1)

Israel worships God at Beersheba and seeks

His guidance (*46:1*). 2) He receives a vision, divine reassurance and promises (*46:2-4*). 3) Israel’s family migrates to Egypt (46:5-7).

4) Genealogy of the Israelites who migrated to

Egypt (*46:8-27*). 5) Joseph reunites with his

father and prepares his family to meet Pharaoh

(*46:28-34*).

***Vs. 1*** - ***all he had*** – Pharoah told him he didn’t need to bring anything when he moved to Egypt but Israel wasn’t trusting someone he had never met, plus he didn’t want to presume upon Pharaoh’s hospitality.

“Beersheba” was at the Southern end of the Promised Land and was the place that Jacob departed when fleeing from Esau (*Gen. 28:10*).

His grandfather Abraham (*Gen. 21:33*) and his father Isaac (*Gen. 26:25*) both called on the Lord there in Beersheba.

Did God command Israel to make an altar and sacrifice animals to worship Him? Why did he do it?

a. He was making a huge decision so he was seeking

the help and guidance from the Lord. Israel was

seeking guidance as to whether or not it was

according to the will of God to leave the

Promised Land, the land of Canaan and migrate

to Egypt.

b. It was a demonstration of his humility and utter

dependance on the Lord as well as his love,

respect, and adoration.

c. It was also a way of showing his trust and

gratitude to the Lord, especially since his

beloved son Joseph was alive and doing well.

d. We should do the same thing he did only

without the sacrificing the animals part.

***Hebrews 13:15, “Through Him*** (J.C.) ***then,***

***let us continually offer up a sacrifice of***

***praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that***

***give thanks to His name.”***

e. Jacob knew that it was none other but God who

was working behind the scene to bring about all

of the wonderful things that were taking place.

***Vs. 2-4 4) "I will go down with you*** *to Egypt****,***

*This promise is a guarantee to Jacob of the*

*Lord’s presence in his life and that he will be*

*protected on the journey to Egypt and while*

*residing there and would calm his fears about migrating to Egypt.*

*This brings to mind a similar promise which was made earlier to him, “****I am with you*** and will keep you wherever you go*” in Gen. 28:15 and to his father Isaac “****I will be with you****” in Gen. 26:3.*

*Moses said this to the Israelites in Deut. 31:6* –*Your God is the one* ***who goes with you****. He will not fail you or forsake you*.

The Lord said to Joshua in *Joshua 1:5 –* ***I will be with you****; I will not fail you or forsake you.*

***Hebrews 13:5-6 …being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," 6) so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"***

This promise was made to Church Age believers!

***Vs. 4*** *-* ***and I will also surely bring you up again;***

This promise was a “national” promise which was a guarantee that the Israelites would return to the land of Canaan. It was also a “personal” promise to Israel/Jacob which guaranteed that he himself would return to the promised land of Canaan to be buried *(Gen. 49:29-32).*

*But even more importantly, the promise pertained to Jacob and all of born again Israel will live in the Promised Land in resurrection bodies during the millennial reign of Christ.*

***“and Joseph will close your eyes."*** - ” Literally, the Hebrew says, “Joseph, he will place his hand upon your eyes.”

*Nahum Sarna commenting on this expression,*

*writes that it is “a reference to the custom that the eldest son or nearest relative would gently close the eyes of the deceased. Such has remained time honored Jewish practice to the present day. The promise, then, is that Joseph will outlive Jacob and will be present at the moment of his death. The promise was indeed fulfilled, as told in (Gen. 49:33 & 50:1)”. The JPS Torah Commentary, page 313, The Jewish Publication Society.*

**LESSON 205 (12-5-21)**

***Vs. 5-7*** Jacob migrates to Egypt taking every- thing, lock, stock, and barrel. **Vs. 6** *And they took their livestock and their* ***property*** – (Heb. *rakuwsh,* furniture, equipment, utensils, clothes, tools)

**Vs. 8-27** Genealogy of Jacob’s sons. *Women are not included in the genealogy of Genesis 46:8-27, not because they are unimportant, but because it does not fit the purpose of the listing.*

*The female children of a family were often not*

*recorded since Jewish genealogies followed the*

*male line of descent. There are exceptions to this rule as we noted earlier in that a woman would be mentioned in the genealogy if she played a significant part in the plan of God or Israel’s*

*history such as with Dinah (See Genesis 34). The*

*mention of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob and Leah, is an exception to this rule and does not imply that Jacob did not have other daughters by either of his wives or their handmaids. Grace Notes, Genesis, Dr. Dan Hill*

**Vs. 27** – God to ***Acts 6:8 – 7:20***

Steven was making a huge impact for the Lord so the Elders and Scribes used false accusers to claim that Steven was guilty of blaspheming so they drug him before the high-priest to be judged. He he gave an excellent summary of the highlights of the lives of Abraham, Moses, and David.

Verses 51 - 60 records Steven telling them that they were stiff-necked, betrayers, and murderers like their fathers. He was filled with the Holy Spirit so he had no fear and he spoke the truth dogmatically. His courage and words were so powerful they inspire us to be fearless and forthright when we are giving truth to those who don't appreciate it.

They gnashed their teeth at him and put their hands over their ears because they were so evil the truth seemed to make them go mad. They drove him out of the city and stoned him to death.

Before he died he said, Acts 7:60 "He cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep (he died).

It is very important that we, like Steven, harbor no hate in our soul for others.

There are many people today who are leaders in our government who are very easy to hate but all that does is hurt us. God commands us to love all people with unconditional love. Our relationship with the Lord is affected when we have hate in our soul. We can hate what one does, but not the one who did it. When Jesus was on the cross He said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

Steven's address demonstrates how to give a summary of a subject. It is easy to be too long-winded by giving more details than we should. That often causes people to lose interest. Steven gave just the right amount of information so he certainly kept their attention. It is surely worth your time to read ***Acts 6:8 - 7:60***.

**LESSON 206 (12-12-21)**

**Vs. 28** – Jacob sent Judah because he trusted him, he kept his promise bringing Benjamin back.

The fact that Judah was chosen to inform

Joseph that his father was arriving in Egypt indicates that Jacob considered Judah to be his heir apparent to lead the family whenever he has died.

The sending of Judah to Joseph reminds us of Jacob's former meeting with Esau (*Gen. 32:3*) and in both situations after a long period of separation Jacob sent a party ahead to meet the relative.

**Vs. 29** Joseph was so excited to see his father Jacob that he didn’t wait for him to come so he went to him. Also notice that Joseph prepared his own chariot. Of course, he had servants for the menial task to prepare his chariot but he did it himself in order to get there as soon as he could.

Again, Joseph’s emotions overflowed when saw his father because he had tremendous love for Jacob and had hoped for this reunion for years.

**VS. 30** Jacob was ready to die because he knew nothing in whatever years he had left could never come close to seeing his beloved son again.

**LESSON 206 (12-12-21)**

**Vs. 31-32** Joseph told his brothers that they would live in Goshen (*Gen. 45:10*) but Pharoah had not yet approved that decision (*Gen. 45:17-18*).

***Vs. 33-34*** Joseph coached his brothers with what to say to Pharoah. The fact that the Egyptians loathed sheep herders was a blessing to the Israelites because 1) they would be located in somewhat of an isolated area which would segregate them from most Egyptians, 2) the Egyptians detested shepherds so intermarriage between the two groups would not be a problem.

**CHAPTER 47**

Genesis 47 is divided into five sections: (1)

Joseph’s brothers meet Pharaoh (47:1-6). (2) Jacob

meets Pharaoh (47:7-10). (3) Joseph settles family

in Goshen (47:11-12). (4) Joseph enslaves the

Egyptians to Pharaoh (47:13-26). (5) Joseph

swears to bury Jacob in Canaan (47:27-31).

**Vs. 1** Joseph met with Pharoah to introduce his brothers and father to him. He emphasizes that his brothers were herdsmen and let Pharoah know that he located them in Goshen which was perfect for raising livestock. He hoped that this would keep Pharoah from making them courtiers or enlist them as soldiers.

This demonstrates that when foreigners migrate to a country, it is important to find out if they have skills, talents, or abilities to contribute to the wellbeing of the country they are entering. If not, they would be put to work.

**Vs. 2** Joseph wisely didn’t bring all his brothers to Pharoah, no doubt he took those who would make the best impression. Rubin and Judah were probably two of the five.

**Vs. 3** The brothers did their part to call attention to their long heritage of being herders of animals.

**Vs. 4** The subject continues to be the raising of flocks and pastures. They pointed out that they were **sojourning** in the land. They did not intend to assimilate into the Egyptian culture or religion but intended to return to Canaan to live when it was possible. Their sojourning fulfilled a prophecy:

***Genesis 15:13, “God said to Abram, ‘Know for***

***certain that your descendants will be strangers***

***in a land that is not theirs…***

Joseph’s brothers made it clear that they did not intend to make Egypt their home. They entered the country the right way by getting permission to enter after being vetted by Pharoah.

Normally, when people migrate to a country, they seek to assimilate into the culture, traditions, and language of their new country. (Statue of Liberty)

Millions of people have migrated to our country for that reason. They were vetted at Ellis Island and most of them were allowed into our country. They entered legally and yearned to learn our language and our ways. But that is certainly not what is happening today. What is happening at our Southern border is exceedingly aggreges!

When the Israelites returned to Canaan, God commanded them to treat foreigners justly:

***Exodus 22:21 “You shall not wrong a stranger***

***or oppress him, for you were strangers in the***

***land of Egypt.”***

Can you think of another group of people who are sojourning temporarily in a land and waiting to go

Home?

***1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,***

***Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,***

“This World is Not My Home” (page 33 or 79)

Jacob’s life was an example of the spiritual truth that the believer’s life on planet earth is a temporary stopping place before we go to our eternal home in heaven.

Read: ***Hebrews 11:13-16***

His brothers weren’t out of line by asking Pharoah if they could live in Goshen. Joseph had already told him that his father and his family were in the land of Goshen. Goshen wad great grazing land for animals so it made sense for them to live there.

**Vs. 5-6** Pharoah addressed his answer to Joseph which made it public and official. It also demon- strated that he approved of the request for Joseph’s sake.

By addressing, Joseph, he implicitly authorized him to be responsible for implementing his royal decree, which he did according to *Genesis 47:11*.

Vs-6 Pharoah said, “*settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land*” which he had already promised in (*Gen. 45:18*).

Pharoah showed his good will to Joseph’s brothers by offering them a job tending his livestock.

**\***Even though Joseph prepared his brothers and worked out his plan to convince Pharoah to agree to allow his family to dwell in Goshen, it was God who made it happen.

***Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.***

We need to be fair and honest when dealing with people and avoid pressuring them, conniving or scheming, or lying to them in order to get what we want. If God wants us to have something, He will give it to us, if He doesn’t, we should be ok with that because He intends to give us something better.

***Psalm 37:4-5 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.***

**Psalm 145:19 He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.**

***John 15:7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.***

**LESSON 207 (12-26-21)**

**Review:**

**“Forgiveness”**

***Colossians 3:12-13 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on (v. amm) a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13) bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.***

**“I am with you**”

***Hebrews 13:5-6 …being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," 6) so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"***

Two Sundays ago – “**sojourning”**

**1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,**

**Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

**Vs. 7** - 1. An interesting meeting. The aged with (probable) youth, of poverty with wealth, of lowly birth (at least, comparatively) with regal dignity, of piety (reverence to God) with superstition.

2. An instructive meeting. No doubt the monarch would learn something of Jacob’s past history, and let us hope too of Jacob’s God; and perhaps Jacob would discover something in what he heard from Pharaoh concerning Joseph that would lead him to recognize the Divine hand of God even more clearly than he did.

3. A profitable meeting. Pharaoh got a good man’s blessing, and Jacob won a good man’s approval.— W. H. D. M. Spence-Jones, ed., Genesis, The Pulpit Commentary ( Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1909), 506.

One would think that Pharoah (the rich and power- ful) would be the one blessing Jacob (the old, weak, and needy) but it was the other way around.

***Hebrews 7:7 Now beyond all dispute the lesser*** (Pharoah – physical blessings) ***is blessed by the better*** (Jacob – spiritual blessings).

Jacob was superior to Pharaoh in that he was the recipient of the promises, privileges, and blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant.

Pharoah was superior to Jacob only in the physical or temporal realm in that he was the king which, of course, cannot be compared to God’s promises and spiritual blessings given through Jacob.

It is foolish for believers to feel inferior to those who are wealthy, who are well known, or have exceptional talents which all are temporary.

We are children of God, part of His Royal Family. He gives us phenomenal temporal blessings and immeasurable eternal blessings. We are “in Christ” and there is nothing in this universe can even come close to the value and worth of that.

Pharoah gave Jacob and his family a great deal of blessings in the physical realm but Jacob asked God’s blessings upon Pharoah, which cannot be measured, because they so exceed any temporal or physical blessings.

Example: Through His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God blessed Pharaoh in a larger sense in that God’s Covenant to Abraham promised that all the nations of the world would be blessed through Abraham and that promise was passed on to Isaac and Jacob as well.

***Genesis 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you*** (Abraham) ***all the families of the earth shall be blessed*** (through Abraham’s Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ)

**Vs. 8-10** “*Egyptians were preoccupied with death, and the Pharaohs, who professed to be eternal, sought to immortalize their bodies through the construction of the pyramids and embalming their bodies. Jacob was 130 when he spoke to Pharaoh and would live another seventeen years (47:28).*

**Vs.-9** Jacob didn’t see the hand of God in his adversity as his son Joseph did. The more Jacob experienced adversity, mainly through his own bad decisions, the more fearful and determined he was to fix his problems his own way. While on the other hand, the more undeserved suffering that Joseph experienced the more he trusted God to take care of his problems as God worked out His plan in his life.

Much of Jacob’s life was hard because he left God out of his life; he made his own way through life by scheming and conniving rather than relying on the Lord.

Abraham lived 175 years and Isaac lived 180 years

**Vs.-10** Jacob blessed Pharoah when he first came in and when he left.

**LESSON 208 (1-9-22)**

A few Sundays ago, we ended with Jacob blessing Pharaoh (Gen. 47:8-10) and I emphasized the fact that spiritual blessings are superior to physical blessings.

***Proverbs 3:13‐15 “How blessed is the man***

***who finds wisdom and the man who gains***

***understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; And nothing you desire compares with her.”***

God is most concerned with our “spiritual”

prosperity rather than our “temporal” prosperity

since our spiritual growth is His objective for our lives from eternity past.

This “spiritual” prosperity is experienced through fellowship with God and involves a more intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Vs.11-12**  God also blessed Jacob’s family because of the Covenant God made with Abraham which was manifested through Joseph by delivering them from the dreaded drought and giving his family the best land in Egypt and providing them with food, even in the midst of a drought (see verse 13).

This abundant food provisions for the Israelites can be contrasted with the with the hunger of the Egyptians in verse 13, which highlights the miraculous provisions and protections that God

bestowed on Joseph’s family.

We should take note that God protected His people and provided for them even when no nation round about was spared by the deadly drought. Will He not do the same for Christians who put their trust in Him during a world-wide pandemic?

***Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread.***

Read: ***Psalm 34:1-10***

***Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***

The phrase “*according to their little ones*” in Gen. 47:12 means that each family’s allocation of food was in direct proportion to the number of children in the family.

Vs. 13-26 demonstrates the severity of the famine and the desperate situation that the Egyptians found themselves dealing with and how Joseph delivered them.

By the end of the famine, all the Egyptians except for the priests, became slaves (share croppers) of Pharaoh in the sense that they became tenants of royal lands paying one-fifth of their produce to Pharaoh (Genesis 47:24-25), and this policy was still being practiced up to the day when Moses penned the Pentateuch.

**Vs. 14** - Genesis 41:56 records that Joseph sold grain to people rather than giving it away since this would enable him to maintain strict control over the

supplies in order to prevent looting, waste and

corruption.

***Genesis 47:14 …Joseph bro0ught the money into Pharaoh's house.*** The grain had been acquired by lawful and fair means by devoting most of the government’s taxing and buying power to it for seven years. To give the grain away would have meant bankrupting the government which would have destroyed it.

**Vs. 17** - Joseph did the Egyptians a favor by taking the cattle off their hands and exchanging them for grain which they needed to survive. They had nothing to feed them anyway.

**Vs. 18** At their own suggestion, the Egyptians exchanged their land and their labor for grain. Their land would belong to Pharaoh, they said, and they would be his slaves. Joseph also agreed to provide them with grain for seed when the famine ended and planting time came (47:18-19).

**Vs. 21**  The Egyptians were moved to the cities because the grain was stored in the cities according to Genesis 41:35, it could be more efficiently distributed with the people residing in the cities.

Also, there would not be as much emotional Attach- ment to the land.

**Vs. 23-24**  The Egyptians presented the terms of their servitude and not Joseph.

**Vs. 25** – Were the Egyptians angry with Joseph for the way he administered things during the drought?

Not at all.

Some say that Joseph was responsible for enslaving the Egyptians to Pharoah:

1. Pharaoh and not Joseph owned the grain, thus

Joseph is not guilty of any injustice for selling the

grain rather than giving it away because it was not

his to give.

2. Also, Joseph did not profit but rather Pharaoh did and it was his duty to further Pharaoh’s interests, and this he did very well and thus he was being a good and faithful employee and servant of

Pharaoh.

3. Another thing we must consider is that the

“slavery” which the Egyptians submitted to was

not harsh and unfair but rather was more of an

arrangement that a “sharecropper” would make

with a land owner and could still do in our nation

today.

4. The Egyptians knew that there would be 7 years of plenty and 7 years of drought so they had time to build up their savings during the years of prosperity to make it through the famine but many of them did not.

**Vs. 27** – The Israelites acquired land at a cheap price from Egyptian farmers who knew they would lose their land anyway due to the famine. They also purchased cattle from Egyptian farmers, which would have died from starvation.

So, the Egyptians were blessed by their association with Joseph and his family.

**LESSON 209 (1-16-22)**

**Vs. 28** It is interesting that Jacob spent the last seventeen years of his life under the care of his son Joseph whereas Joseph spent the first seventeen years of his life under the care of his father Jacob. This reflects the providence of God in the lives of both men in the sense that their lives were not ruled by chance or fate, but by God.

This is the way that it should be that children take care of their parents when they are too old to take care of themselves.

***1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.***

***Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2) Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3) that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.***

**Vs. 29-31** It is interesting that only four verses were devoted to the death of Abraham and two were devoted to the death of Isaac, but the death of Jacob is recorded in great detail in Genesis 47:29-50:14 (72 verses). This could be because he was the only one who did “not” die in the Promised Land.

**Vs. 29 *“place your hand under my thigh”*** is a euphemism for touching genitalia.

It was a symbolic gesture for securing one’s last will by an oath focusing attention on the male’s reproductive organs which were considered to be the physical source of life. Therefore, by putting his hand on the genitals of his father Jacob, Joseph was showing that he was accepting a solemn oath that he was committed to keep.

This ritual was also used when Abraham’s servant swore that he would not choose a wife for Isaac from among the Canaanites (Gen. *24:2-3).*

**Vs. 30** - By requesting that his son Joseph bury him in the land that the Lord promised him, Israel was demonstrating his faith in the Lord’s promise to give him and his descendants the land of Canaan.

***Genesis 35:12 “The land which I gave to***

***Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you*** (Jacob)***, and I will give the land to your descendants after you.”***

This had to do with the land portion of the Abrahamic Covenant which is referred to as the “Palestinian Covenant.

***“but when I lie down with my fathers***,” Jacob was referring to his grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac who had already died and were buried in the cave of Machpelah which Abraham purchased to bury his wife Sarah. It is located on the outskirts of modern-day Hebron.

Not only was Sarah buried at this site but also Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Leah were buried there as well (Gen. 25:9; 35:27, 29, 49:31; 50:13).

**VS. 31 - *Then Israel bowed in worship at the head of the bed leaning on his staff.***

When Joseph agreed to his father’s request, Israel

leaned on top of his staff to give an inaudible prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord that his final request will be fulfilled.

The leaning on the top of his staff by Israel was a

symbolic gesture of prostrating himself since he was too old and feeble to bow to the ground.

***Hebrews 11:21-22 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. 22) By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones*** *(Gen. 50:24-25).*

He required his sons to promise under oath that they would take his bones back to Canaan, the land that God promised to Abraham and his descendants.

These men not only believed the promises of God concerning their future, they made decisions that were carried out on the basis of those promises.

We should be doing this as well. We call it “a Present Sense of Eternal Destiny”. An example of this is believers who practice **D-4** which refers to the ***Daily Diligent Digestion of Doctrine***. We do this not only because we are commanded to do it and because it certainly benefits us in time, but also because it will pay off in huge blessings in eternity.

This life is about preparing for the next life! Believers who know this, make decisions not based on their affect today, tomorrow, next week, next month or next year, but on how their decisions will affect their eternal destiny.

This has nothing to do with going to heaven, which is assured for anyone who places their faith alone in Christ alone, but it’s about how much better heaven will be for those who make decisions to store up heavenly treasures now.

**GENESIS 48**

Chapters 48 and 49 form a unit dealing with the passing on blessings from Jacob to his sons. The focus of these two chapters is on blessings.

**Vs. 1–2** “Joseph was told” indicates that

Joseph did not live with his father in Goshen but

in Memphis due to his responsibilities as prime minister of Egypt. Jacob wasn’t just sick, he was dying.

Manasseh was mentioned first since he was the first born (Gen. 41:51) and his name meant “to forget”. The birth of Manasseh made Joseph forget about the treachery of his brothers.

Joseph’s second son was Ephraim which meant “God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction”.

It was natural for Joseph to take his two sons to see their grandfather before he died. They were 20 years old.

**Vs. 2** - Notice the name change to “Israel” when he summoned the strength he needed to sit up in the bed when Joseph and his sons arrived.

The name “Israel” reflects strength and character

produced by appropriating the power of God by

claiming the promises of God. God’s promises revived him and gave him the strength to sit up.

He had something important to say about God’s plan for him to adopt Ephraim and Manasseh and pronounce God’s blessings on them and remembering God’s promises enabled him to do it.

Remembering God’s promises strengthened Israel and it will strengthen us and drive away our fear as well if we will go to Him when we need help.

**LESSON 210 (1-23-22)**

Read: ***Romans 4:16-25***

**Vs. 3** God appeared to Jacob to bless him at Luz when he was returning to Canaan from Paddan Aram, which is recorded in *Genesis 35:10-12*.

Jacob changed the name of Luz to Bethel meaning “house of God”.

**Vs.4** – Note that the blessings given here include the descendants of Jacob given the land for an everlasting possession!

Verses 1-12 deals with Jacob’s adoption of his two grandsons as full heirs, and then in vv. 13-20 the patriarch will then bless his grandsons following the principle of the elder serving the younger.

Ishmael and Isaac

Esau and Jacob

Reuben and Joseph

Manasseh and Ephraim

Aaron and Moses

**Vs.5** – When Jacob adopted Ephraim and Manasseh,

He gave them equal standing with Joseph and his brothers as indicated by the statement “Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon

are.

Each of the sons would receive one portion of the land, and by doing so, Joseph would receive a double portion.

So, Joseph received the rights of the firstborn as well as a double portion of his father’s inheritance, not Reuben who was Jacob’s firstborn. Reuben was stripped of his birthright as the firstborn because he copulated with his father’s concubine Bilhah. (Gen. 35:22; 49:3-4; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2).

***1 Chronicles 5:1-2 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright. 2) Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came the leader, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),***

Both Ephraim and Manasseh would be counted as

Israel’s two sons, which was important, especially when it came time to dividing the land of Canaan since they would each receive a portion of

land. Therefore, Joseph did not become a tribe in

Israel but his two sons did.

In verse 1 the two sons of Joseph were called Manasseh and Ephraim but here in verse 5 they are called Ephraim and Manasseh. Why? Verse 1 presents the sons with the firstborn having the primogeniture rights as the older will be greater than the younger. However, in verse 5 the order of the names are reversed which expressed God’s intention to put Ephraim first in the blessing anticipating the leadership role he would have. (Gen. 48:13-19)

Ephraim and Manasseh became the two most powerful and most populated tribes in the northern kingdom.

Ephraim is mentioned in other places in the Bible such as (***1 Kings 12:1-16***) where his name is found when the nation of Israel was divided and then again when Israel will be united (***Ezekiel 37:15-28***).

**LESSON 211 (1-30-22)**

***Genesis 41:50-52 Now before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph, whom Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore to him. 51) Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." 52) He named the second Ephraim, "For," he said, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."***

Joseph took his two sons, ***Manasseh*** and ***Ephraim*** to see his father Jacob when he was on his deathbed so he could give his grandsons his blessing.

***Genesis 48:5-6 "Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, as Reuben and Simeon are. 6) "But your offspring that have been born after them shall be yours; they shall be called by the names of their brothers in their inheritance.***

Why did their grandfather Jacob/Israel adopt Joseph’s two sons? Did he just wake up one morning and say, “I think I will adopt Joseph’s two boys?” No, no doubt God led him to do it in order to fulfill His plan.

Joseph did not become a tribe of Israel but his two sons did; each son received one portion of the promised land. So, Joseph received a double portion of land through his sons.

Some might say that that would make 13 tribes instead of 12. The number of tribes remained at twelve and this is why. The tribe of Levi was the priestly tribe so they did not receive a portion of land because unlike the other tribes, they were compensated by fulfilling their priestly duty to all the other tribes rather than by growing crops or raising herds.

What Jacob did in adopting Joseph’s sons had long range results. Ephraim and Manasseh became the two most powerful and most populated tribes in the northern kingdom.

The descendants of Ephraim played an important role in (***1 Kings 12:1-16***) when the nation of Israel was divided and then again when the nation of Israel will be united (***Ezekiel 37:15-28***).

When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became the king and he listened to all the young foolish advisors who advised him to oppress the people. He took their advice which caused the Nation of Israel to split apart (***1 Kings 12:1-16***).

Ten of the tribes separated from the other two tribes, which could be called the first tax revolt in history, when the ten Northern Tribes of Israel separated themselves from the two Southern Tribes of Judah and Benjamin.

The ten tribes that departed or seceded are known historically as the Northern kingdom – **Israel.**  The two tribes which remained (Judah and Benjamin) are known as the Southern Kingdom - **Judah**.

Even though the ten tribes in the Northern Kingdom are usually referred to as Israel, there are passages where the Northern Kingdom is referred to as Ephraim and as Joseph because the two prominent tribes in the Northern Kingdom were Ephraim and Manasseh, the two sons of Joseph.

Read: ***1 Kings 12:1-16***

Things to notice:

1. The people let the king know what they would

consent to. Right to petition the government.

2. The elders gave good advice and were advocates

for the people, but they were ignored.

3. The people did not tolerate tyranny but they

they did not start a revolution to try to over-

throw the government.

4. They seceded from the nation of Israel and

created their own kingdom.

5. They received God’s blessing rather than His

wrath when they separated from Judah.

The Northern Kingdom was taken into captivity by Assyria in 722 B.C. They did not return from their captivity.

The Southern Kingdom was taken into captivity by Babylon in 586 B.C. and returned back to Jerusalem seventy years later.

Now we go to ***Ezekiel 37:15-28*** to see Ephraim mentioned again when God will unite all the tribes together again.

**LESSON 212 (2-6-22)**

**Vs. 6 -** The statement “***they shall be called by the names of their brothers***” means that although any children born to Joseph in the future would be considered his, they would perpetuate the names of Ephraim and Manasseh and be incorporated into the tribes that bear their names (See Genesis 38:6;

Deuteronomy 25:5-6).

The prepositional phrase “***in their inheritance***”

means that Joseph’s territory in the land of Canaan

would be divided into two tribes because Levi did

not receive land (*Joshua 14:4*), thus there was

still a total of twelve tribes in Israel and not

thirteen.

The children born to Joseph would not constitute separate tribal entities but rather would become part of the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh and would partake of the inheritance of these two.

**Vs. 7** – Jacob chose Rachel, not Leah so the first born of Rachel should have the birth right and the double portion of inheritance which was Joseph.

**Vs. 8** – Israel’s sight was poor but he knew who Jacob’s sons were. He asked Joseph who they were as part of the formal adoption ceremony.

**Vs. 9 –** Joseph did not give the names of his sons because Israel already knew them. The word “bless” used here in Heb. is “*barakh*” which means to endue with power for success and prosperity.

**Vs. 10** - “Were so dim” is the verb kavedh (kawvad), which is used in a figurative sense for the

eyesight of Israel being poor, implying that he

could see but not well. This is indicated by Israel’s

statement in *Genesis 48:11* that God had let him

see Joseph’s two sons, thus indicating he could

see. “***could not see***” meant he could not see well.

**Vs. 11** - Israel’s statement “***I have never expected to see your*** (Joseph’s) ***face***” expressed his belief for many years that Joseph was dead, killed by wild

animals. God did more than Israel had hoped for by seeing his grandsons as well. Doing more than what is hoped for is not unusual for God.

***Ephesians 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,***

Examples: ***1 Kings 3:5-14,*** King David intended to build the Lord a house (a Temple) but instead the Lord built David a house (a dynasty). 2 Samuel chpt. 7, *1 Kings 8:17-18*

**LESSON 213 (2-13-22)**

**Vs. 12** - The statement “Joseph took them from his knees” indicates that the adoption ceremony had ended.

The expression “from his knees” does not imply

that Joseph’s post teenage sons were sitting on

the knees of Israel who was an elderly bed ridden

man, but rather it means that the boys had stood by

their grandfather’s knees.

Even though Joseph was equal to Pharaoh, he was still humble and showed respect and honor to his father by bowing down on his face to his father.

This demonstrated the great humility of Joseph.

By the way, humility and respect always go hand in hand. Where there is respect, there is always humility, and vise versa.

Unfortunately, today humility and respect are rarely practiced or appreciated. Some see these as a sign of weakness or something that is humiliating. The opposite is true; humility it is a sign of great character and strength.

***Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, and before honor comes humility.***

***Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.***

***Proverbs 22:4 The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.***

***James 4:6 "God is opposed to*** (makes war against) ***the proud, but gives grace to the humble."***

**Vs. 13**  In *Genesis 48:5-12* we have the account of the **adoption ritual** whereas in *Genesis 48:13-20*, we have the record of the **blessing ritual**.

Throughout the Scriptures, the righthand side is

regarded as the place of honor, strength, power,

glory and blessing. It is not unusual for us to hear someone say, “*This is my righthand man.”*

***Exodus 15:6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Thy right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.***

***Psalm 89:13 Thou hast a strong arm; Thy hand is mighty, Thy right hand is exalted.***

***Proverbs 3:16 Long life is in her right hand; In her left hand are riches and honor.***

**Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, Until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet."**

**Vs. 14** - God must have revealed to Israel how to administer his blessings for his two grandsons as there is no other reason for swapping the correct position of his hands on them.

*“Dr. Thomas L. Constable commenting on Israel*

*laying his hands on Joseph’s boys, writes, “This is*

*the first of many scriptural instances of the laying on of hands (v. 14). By this symbolic act, a person transferred a spiritual power or gift to another. This rite was part of the ceremony of dedicating a person or group to an office (Num. 27:18, 23; Deut. 34:9; Matt. 19:13; Acts 6:6; 8:17; etc.), offering sacrifices, and the healings Jesus Christ and the apostles performed. In this case Jacob symbolically transferred a blessing from himself to Joseph's sons. Once uttered, blessings were irreversible (Num. 23:20; Rom. 11:29).”* (Notes on Genesis, 2005 Edition, page 266)

**Vs. 15 -** “***He*** (Israel) ***blessed Joseph***” means that Israel was blessing Joseph through his two sons and this is indicated in that Joseph received the double portion of the family inheritance.

***1 Chronicles 5:1-2 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel; so that he is not enrolled in the genealogy according to the birthright. 2) Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came the leader, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph),***

"*The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked”,* implied that Ephraim and Manasseh were expected to be obedient and walk by faith in the promises of the Lord.

This is the first time in the Bible where God is referred to as “Shephard”. Israel was acknowledging that throughout his life, God shepherded him by providing, protecting, and guiding him.

***Psalm 23:1-3 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3) He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.***

Israel refers to the source of the blessing which is identified as, 1) The God of my fathers; 2) the God my Shepherd 3) the angel who redeemed me, vs 16.

**Vs. 16 –** The “***angel”*** refers to the *Angel of the Lord* who was a theophany (a visible manifestation of deity), a manifestation of the preincarnate Lord.

The preincarnate Christ manifested Himself to

Israel both visibly and audibly seven times.

This is the first mention of God as *redeemer, deliverer, or Savior.*

“*Redeem*” is the verb ga’al (gaw-al), which also means, “to deliver.”

*The Lord had delivered Israel from physical harm many times in his life, from Esau when fleeing Canaan (Genesis 28:10-19), when he arrived back in Canaan (Genesis 32), from Laban (Genesis 32-33) and from the Canaanites and Perizzites (Genesis 34).*

***Psalm 34:7 “The angel of the LORD encamps***

***around those who fear Him, and rescues***

***them.”***

1st request: ***bless the lads*** *- endue the sons with power for success, prosperity,*

2nd request: ***may my name live on in them*** – that the sons would perpetuate the family line.

3rd request: ***And the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac –*** they would become full heirs of the Abrahamic Covenant.

4th request: ***And may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth –*** That their tribes would become a multitude. This was fulfilled

according to two censuses taken during the course of Israel’s wandering in the desert under Moses prior to entering Canaan under Joshua.

**LESSON 214 (2-20-22)**

**Vs. 17-18** Joseph undoubtedly thought that

his father made an error due to his poor eyesight.

He tried to correct his father because once the blessing has been given it is irrevocable.

(Numbers 23:20; Romans 11:29).

***Romans 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.***

**Vs. 19** – Jacob explained that it wasn’t a mistake, it was intentional that he gave the blessing of the

firstborn to Ephraim rather than Manasseh.

The tribe of Ephraim took the lead among the ten northern tribes and flourished to the extent that the Jews used the name Ephraim equally with the name Israel (*Ezekiel 37:16*).

Ephraim’s descendants would have numerical superiority over his brother’s descendants and would have a greater impact upon the nation of Israel.

**Vs. 20 “***The statement “****May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh****” was a prophecy that the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh will be so blessed that future generations in Israel would invoke their names as a pattern for divine blessing and that they shall in the course of time become proverbial for*

*blessing in Israel.” Grace Notes: Genesis, page 856*

**Vs. 21-22** Verses 21 and 22 reveals Israel reassuring Joseph of God’s presence and promise of the land of Canaan to the Israelites as well as giving Joseph’s descendants the tract of land he purchased outside of the city of Shechem. *ibid*

**LESSON 215 (2-27-22)**[(5) Watch | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=516846743114703)

https://www.facebook.com/113447025354673/posts/5275207732511884/

**Vs. 21** Death is the sovereign decision of God based upon His integrity and His omniscient knowledge of all the facts.

***Ecclesiastes 3:1‐2 To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: 2) A time to be born, and a time to die;***

***Job 14:5 – Our days are determined, the***

***number of our months is with Thee, and our limits Thou has set so that we cannot pass.***

Physical death for believers is the separation of the human soul and spirit from the body (2 Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:20-24).

Israel demonstrated no fear of death even though he knew that his death was imminent.

Old Testament saints ascended with Jesus Christ into heaven as part of our Lord’s triumphal procession as victor in the angelic conflict

(Ephesians 4:8-10).

***“but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.***

Both times “you” is used, it is plural which refers not only to Joseph, but also to his family.

Genesis 50:24-25 assures Joseph’s family that they will return to the land of Canaan and that secured a promise from them to carry his bones back with them. But even more important than this promise is the promise that all saved Israelites will live in the

Promised Land in resurrection bodies during the

millennial reign of Christ.

Israel was expressing his faith in the Lord’s promises to him before he died.

**COMMUNION (3-6-22)**

When Christ was in the upper room the night before He was to be crucified, He said, “do this in remembrance of Me.” Regarding the bread and the cup.

The ritual of the Lord’s Supper is all about remembering the Lord Jesus Christ.

We can get caught up in the details of life to a degree that we start to forget about the things that really matter in our lives. Especially our relationship with Jesus Christ.

We can remember Him through the things we’ve learned about Him through the Scriptures or maybe by recalling the times that we experienced His love and faithfulness in their lives.

It seems these days the command to remember Him has taken on a new dimension.

We are living in a time when so many things are happening that are unprecedented. If we only remember Him after disaster hits, it will be very difficult for us to be stable enough to start applying doctrine to our circumstances.

What promises and verses are in your soul that will enable you to be spiritually strong and fearless when the bottom fall out?

Think about how many people who without warning, have lost their business, their jobs, their money, their house, their car, their health, their loved ones.

People’s bank accounts frozen in Canada, huge demonstrations in Canada now

Think about the people in Ukraine and the people left behind in Afghanistan.

Most of them are paralyzed with fear but many are not. What do people who have no relationship with God and no doctrine do when it seems all is lost?

None of us are exempt from having our life turned upside down at any given time. Are you afraid of what might happen to you, if you are, note the following verses:

***Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***

***Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'***

***Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the LORD GOD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation/deliverer."***

***Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."***

***Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."***

***Exodus 14:13 And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the deliverance of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today.***

***Psalm 62:7-8 In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. 8) Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah***

***Psalm 145:18-20 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. 19) He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. 20) The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy.***

***Psalm 27:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?***

***Psalm 46:1-3 …God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2) Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;***

We can’t control of our circumstances, but we can control what we think and what is going on in our *kardia*, while we are being tested. PP

Something to remember: As the world gets crazier, the voices of reason become more powerful. PP

The more promises and verses we know and the more we pray, the stronger our relationship with the Lord will be, which lessens the chance that we will be afraid, no matter what is going on in our life.

Think about Dr. Robby Dean, Jim Myers, and Phyllis, Jim’s wife, who were able to escape from the Ukraine. What a parlous and harrowing experience it was, but they were not plagued with fear. If you read the emails about their exit that were sent out by CBC, you could see how every little detail was taken care of by our wonderful merciful God, who answered a multitude of prayers that were going up for them.

Let us pray: Thank you Father for answering our prayers concerning Robby, Jim, and Phyllis and we ask that you will strengthen our relationship with you through our study of your Word and that you will help us to trust you in all things so that every vestige of fear will be removed far from our soul so that Your love and faithfulness to us will be evident to all along with Your omnipotence glory when we are in difficult times.

**LESSON 216 (3-20-22)**[(5) Watch | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=516846743114703)

***Genesis 48:22 "And I give you one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."***

This apparently was a personal gift of a parcel of land from Jacob to his beloved son Joseph:

***John 4:5 So He*** [Jesus] ***came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar*** (formerly named Shechem)***, near the portion of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.***

The Hebrew word for “***portion***” is “Shekem” which is a wordplay on the town of Shechem. Jacob bought a tract of land just outside the city of Shechem where he and many of his family members were buried.

Shechem remains today, it is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is the modern city of Nablus,

***Genesis 33:18-19 Now Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Paddan-aram*** (Laban’s home)***, and camped before the city. 19) And he bought the piece of land where he had pitched his tent from the hand of the sons of Hamor Shechem's father*** (who was King of Shechem)***, for one hundred pieces of money.***

***Genesis 48:22 "And I*** (Israel) ***give you*** (Joseph) ***one portion more than your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."***

Notice that the land was bought in ***Gen. 33:19*** and was used as a burial plot for Jacob’s family, whereas the land in ***Gen. 48:22*** was taken, so it wasn’t a different piece of land which turned out to be the city of Shechem.

The term “***hand of the Amorite***” in vs. 22, is a figure of speech called a “synecdoche” where a part of something is made to represent the whole.

Example: England lost by six wickets (meaning ‘the English cricket team’) lost by six wickets.

In this case, the term “***the hand of the Amorite***” is used for the all the inhabitants of the land of Canaan, of which “*the Amorite*” (and the Hivite) were a part of (*Gen. 48:22*; *Num. 13:29*).

**Genesis 34** (all the people in Shechem were Hivites)

Jacob pitched his tent

Shechem attracted to Dinah and she was raped

Shechem tells her brothers he wants to marry her

Brothers, only if all males in Shechem are circumcised

All the males agree

While they are weak, Simeon & Levi murder them

They plunder the city & take all women & children

The statement “***I took from the hand of the***

***Amorite with my sword and my bow”*** is a

reference to Simeon and Levi’s massacre and plunder of the city of Shechem in retaliation for the rape of their sister Dinah (Genesis 34).

Israel’s use of the personal pronoun “I” indicates

that he is not placing responsibility for the

massacre of Shechem on Simeon and Levi but

rather was taking responsibility for it himself as the patriarch of the family.

The reason why he took responsibility for their actions was because the massacre could have been avoided if he had functioned in his role as the patriarch of the family and had taken control of the situation from the beginning.

It all started when Jacob pitched his tent just outside the pagan city of Shechem (*Gen. 33:18*).

The last two verses of Chapter 34:

***Genesis 34:30-31 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I." 31) But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"***

Jacob’s gift of a portion of land to his son Joseph was motivated by love, but he was still regretting that he failed to take charge of addressing the issue with his daughter Dinah and Shechem. If he would have stepped up and dealt with the issue properly, none of this would have happened.

Shechem was located within the future territory of Ephraim and Manasseh near the border between

the two tribes according to *Joshua 17:7* and

became the most important city in the Northern Kingdom of Israel according to *1 Kings 12:1, 25*.

The Importance of Being Responsible

God holds everyone, whether male or female, to be responsible for the things He has required of them.

He gives husbands authority over their wives and children, to love them, protect them and provide for them.

He gives wives authority over their children and the responsibility to submit to their husbands.

He gives those in government authority to be His ministers for good to the people. They are responsible to punish criminals and protect the rights of the people.

He gives pastor-teachers authority over their flocks and they are responsible to teach them Bible doctrine so they can grow in grace and knowledge and become good and faithful servants.

He gives bosses authority over their employees so the business will run smoothly and make a profit.

He punishes those who go beyond the authority He has delegated to them and also to those who neglect the responsibilities He has given them.

**LESSON 217 (3-27-22)**

Address the need young people at CBC.

Address the need for us to read our Bibles!

**Joseph was a Type of Christ**

1)  Joseph was the delight of his father in the same way that Jesus was the beloved Son of His Father (*Matthew 3:17*).

2)  He was rejected by his brothers (Genesis 37:4). Jesus in the same way is rejected by His brothers (*John 1:11*)

3)  Joseph went down into Egypt (Genesis 37:28); Jesus went down to Egypt (Matthew 2:14, 15)

4)  Joseph withstood temptation to sin (*Gen. 39:7-12*). Jesus also resisted Satan’s temptation (*Matt.* *4:1-11*). We are not really told of any sin in Joseph’s *life.*

5)  Joseph was raised from the – death of prison and exalted to the side of Pharaoh (*Genesis 41:14-43*). Jesus was also raised from the actual dead and exalted to His Father’s right hand where He is currently seated awaiting the giving of the kingdom (*Acts 2:32-33*).

6)  Joseph mercifully forgave his brothers for causing him to suffer (*Genesis 50:15-21).* Jesus prayed that the Father would forgive those responsible for His suffering (*Luke 23:34*).

**LESSON 218 (4-3-22)**

7)  Joseph took a Gentile bride (*Genesis 41:45*). There will be a wedding super for Jesus and His Church Age Bride of Jews & Gentiles (*Rev. 19:7-9*).

8) Joseph was a shepherd (*Gen. 37:2*); Jesus is the Good Shepherd (*John 10:11*), Great Shepherd (*Heb. 13:20*).

9) Joseph was loved by his father (*Gen. 37:3-4*); Jesus was beloved by the Father (*Mat. 3:17; 17:5*; *John 10:17*; *Philippians 2:9*).

10) Joseph was hated for his words (*Gen. 37:8*); Jesus was hated for His words (*John 7:7; 3:32*).

11) Joseph was promised a remarkable future (*Gen.* *37:7-12*); Jesus looked past the cross to the joy set before Him (*Isaiah 9:6, 7; Luke 1:31-33; Hebrews 12:2*).

12) Joseph foretold of his future sovereignty (*Gen*. *37:7-12*); Jesus did the same (*Mat. 26:64*).

13) Joseph sought his brothers (*Gen. 37:14-17*); Jesus sought His brethren (*Luke 19:10*).

14) Joseph was conspired against (*Gen. 37:18*); Jesus was also conspired against (*Mat. 12:14*).

15) Joseph was stripped of his coat (*Gen. 37:23*); Jesus was stripped of His coat (*Mat. 27:27-28*; *John 19:23*).

16) Joseph was sold for the price of a slave (*Gen. 37:38*); Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave (*Mat 26:15*).

17) Joseph became a servant (*Gen. 39:4*); Jesus became a servant (*Philippians 2:6-7*).

18) Joseph’s master was well pleased with him (*Gen. 39:4*); the Father was always pleased with Jesus (*Mat. 3:17, John 8:29*).

19) Joseph was falsely accused (*Gen. 39:16-18*); Jesus was falsely accused (*Mat. 26:59-60*).

20) Joseph was a goodly person (*Gen. 39:6*); Jesus lived a goodly (perfect, sinless) life (*Heb 4:15*).

21) Joseph was unjustly cast into prison, though he was innocent (*Gen. 39:19-20*); Jesus was unjustly sentenced to *death though Pilate found no fault in Him (John 19:4 & 6*).

22) Joseph, the innocent one, suffered severely (*Psalm 105:17-18*); Jesus, the innocent one, suffered by crucifixion and the ultimate suffering by spiritual death (*Matt. 27:46*).

23) Joseph won the respect of his jailor (*Gen. 39:21*); Jesus won the respect of a Roman centurion standing at the cross (*Luke 23:47*).

24) Joseph was numbered with transgressors (*Gen. 40:1-3*); as it was prophesied about Jesus (*Isaiah 53:12*), and as it was (*Mark 15:28*).

25) Joseph was the means of blessing to one, the cup bearer (*Gen. 40:13*), but the pronouncer of judgment on the other, the baker (*Gen. 40:19*); Jesus was a blessing to one of the thieves crucified with Him (*Luke 23:41-43*) and a judgment on the other (*Luke 23:39*).

26) Joseph demonstrated his knowledge of the future and gave credit to God alone (*Gen. 40:8*); Jesus did the same on earth (*John 12:49*).

27) Joseph desired to be remembered by the butler (*Gen. 40:14*); Jesus said to His disciples, “This do in remembrance of Me.” (*Luke 22:19*).

28) Joseph was put in prison but God did not allow him to remain there because God’s purpose for Joseph had not been fulfilled; Jesus was put in a tomb, but God did not allow Him to remain there (*Acts 2:24*).

29) Joseph warned of a coming danger, and urged his hearers to make suitable provisions to meet it (*Gen. 41:33-36*); Christ warned His hearers that death did not end all but there was a life beyond the grave that one should prepare and be ready for now (*2 Timothy 3:16*).

30) Joseph was portrayed as a wonderful counselor, giving wisdom to Pharaoh (*Gen. 41:33-36*); Christ is known as the One “*in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*” (*Col. 2:3*). Jesus was called “*wonderful counselor*” (Isa. 9:6)

31) Joseph’s counsel commended itself to Pharaoh and his officers (*Gen. 41:37-39*); as did Jesus’ teaching while He walked on earth (*Mat. 7:28-29*; *13:54*; compare *John 7:46* with *Gen 41:38*-39).

32) Joseph was invested with such insignia as became his new position (*Gen. 41:42*); as was our Lord Jesus Christ (*Acts 5:31; Rev. 1:13*).

33) Joseph’s authority and glory were publicly owned (*Gen. 41:43*); Peter publicly declared the Lordship of Jesus Christ on Pentecost (*Acts 2:36; Phil. 2:10*).

34) Joseph received from Pharaoh a new name (*Gen. 41:45*); God gave Jesus Christ a new name (*Phil 2:9, 10; Mat. 1:21; Acts 5:31*).

35) Joseph was thirty years old when he began his ministry (*Gen. 41:46*); Jesus was thirty when He began His public ministry (*Luke 3:23*).

36) Joseph, alone, was responsible for dispersing bread to a perishing world (*Gen. 41:55*); Jesus is the One who alone disperses the Bread of Life to a perishing world (*Acts 4:12; Mat. 17:5* “. . . hear Him”).

37) Joseph’s family was driven out of their own land (*Gen. 42:1-3, 5*), in fulfillment of God’s prophecy in *Genesis 15:13*. A few years after Joseph’s brothers rejected Him, they were forced out of their country. The Jews, a few years after rejecting Christ, were scattered into the world by the Romans.

38) Joseph was unknown and unrecognized by his brethren (*Gen. 42:6 & 8*); Jesus today is not recognized by the majority of Jews today.

39) Joseph sought the welfare of his brothers (Gen. 37:14); Jesus came not to condemn but that the world might be saved through Him (John 3:17).

40) Joseph was sorely tempted and did not sin (Gen. 39:7-12); Jesus was tempted by Satan and did not sin (Mat. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18; 4:15).

141) Joseph became a Savior to all people (*Gen. 41:57*); Jesus is the Savior to all people (*John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:2*).

**CHAPTER 49**

*The last scene had now come, and Jacob gathered around his dying couch his twelve sons. The words which he spoke to them were of mingled blessing and prediction. Before him, in prophetic vision, unrolled, as it were, pictures of the tribes of which his sons were to be the ancestors;* Alfred Edersheim, D. D., Ph. D.Search the Scriptures, The Bible History of the Old Testament

We found in the last verse of the previous chapter Israel regretting the lack of asserting his authority and leadership as head of his family; but he was certainly stepping up to the plate here by carrying out his last duty in a wonderful way.

He was expressing his patriarchal authority as a father, a prophet of God and wise teacher who was inspired by the Holy Spirit. There were blessings, cursing, judgments, and promises for the heirs of the sons of Israel.

Imagine, Jacob on his deathbed evaluating his sons one by one in a poem, and carrying out his evaluation of them forward to the future tribes and beyond.

It is interesting that Jacob’s life was prophesied before it began (Genesis 25:22-23, Rom. 9:7-8) and in this chapter we see that it will end in prophecy as well.

The lives and natures of the patriarchs affected their descendants just as the parenting skills of parents affect their children’s future.

Jacob/Israel gives us a record of bestowing prophetic blessings on most of his sons and prophesying something other than blessings on others. Verse 2 to verse 27 gives the details of what his sons would receive in the form of a poem. This was no doubt inspired by God. This was the first long poem in the Bible.

These prophesies are important because they contain the entire history of the nation of Israel from the conquest of Canaan to the millennial reign of Christ.

He also gave instructions for his burial and this chapter records his death.

**LESSON 219 (4-10-22)**

**Vs. 1-2** Jacob/Israel decided to give the prophetic future for his twelve sons openly rather than privately. Each son would hear the prophecy of each of his other eleven brothers which made it very personal and potentially embarrassing.

Israel was speaking to the individual tribes that were personified as his sons, so each expression of prophecy referred to both the near and distant future.

**Vs. 3** This verse describes the wonderful potential that was Reuben’s if he didn’t squander it. He was the first born and his Heb. name means**, “*the Lord has seen my affliction*.**”

Being the firstborn, he had 1) a privileged status (Genesis 43:33; 49:3) 2) the right of succession (2 Chron. 21:3) and 3) he received a double portion of his father’s inheritance (Deut. 21:17).

*2 Chronicles 21:3 And their father gave them many gifts of silver, gold and precious things, with fortified cities in Judah, but he gave the kingdom to Jehoram because he was the first-born.*

*“****My might and the beginning of my strength****” meant that Ruben’s birth demonstrated Israel’s ability to produce children. (Gen. 1:28 be fruitful)*

*“****Preeminent in dignity and preeminent in power****” meant that he could have possessed power and authority associated with being the firstborn and would eventually to become the patriarch of the family.*

**Vs. 4** This verse describes how he threw it all away. Rueben was like uncontrolled water because he was reckless, undisciplined, arrogant, willful, unstable, unreliable, and untrustworthy.

He committed adultery and incest with his father’s concubine which was a despicable offense. As a result of it, he lost the extra blessing and prestige of being the firstborn and the honor of being the patriarch of the family someday with authority, dignity, and respect that goes with it.

***Deuteronomy 27:20 “Cursed is the man who***

***sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonors***

***his father's bed.”***

***Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be unde- filed; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.***

***Exodus 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.”***

***Proverbs 6:32 The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it.***

Israel transferred the birthright from Reuben to Joseph (through his sons, Ephriam and Mannasseh) since he demonstrated that he was far better suited for the responsibility and authority of the firstborn.

We will see shortly why Israel adopted Joseph’s two sons and gave the birthright.

Israel had every right to do that as there was already a precedent for giving the second born the birthright rather than the firstborn:

Ishmael was Abraham’s first-born; however, he did not receive the birthright, Isaac did as God had directed.

Esau gave up his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of lintel soup. God told Rebecca while she was pregnant with twins that the older Esau, would serve the younger Jacob (*Gen. 25:23*).

It is likely that Reuben thought that he got by with his immoral act because Israel didn’t confront him when he found out about it. But Israel nor God had forgot about what he did.

***Numbers 32:23 …you have sinned against the Lord; and be sure your sin will find you out.***

*Israel looked right at Reuben and said, “****Rueben,******you******are my firstborn****” which indicated that he was looking right at Rueben.*

*“Israel was revealing to him for the first time that although he did not say anything to him at the time about his crime, he was not ignorant of it.” Grace Notes, p. 861*

***Genesis 35:22 And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it.***

***CONCUBINES***

*In the Bible, a concubine was a woman acquired by a man as a secondary wife. Her purpose was to provide a male heir in the case of a barren wife, to provide more children in general to enhance the family’s workforce and wealth, and to satisfy the man’s sexual desires. She was a wife of secondary rank but was endowed with rights and protections*

*(Ex. 21:7; Deut. 21:10–14), and limits were set to their relationship to the household to which they belonged (Gen. 21:14; 25:6). They had no authority in the family, nor could they share in the household government.*

*Although God provided rights and protections for concubines in the Law of Moses, God did not introduce or approve of this marital model. The Hebrew word for concubine, Piylegesh, isn’t even of Hebrew origin. It’s “a non-Semitic loanword borrowed to refer to a phenomenon not indigenous to Israel,” according to Baker’s Dictionary of Biblical Theology.*

Multiple wives and concubines competed so there was always resentment and hostility between them. Of course, this always created hostility between their children. The similar thing occurs to one degree or another today in families who have step children from a spouse of a previous marriage.

***1 Chronicles 5:1 Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel -- he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright;***

When Israel said, ***“He went up to my couch”***, he

turned from addressing Reuben to his other sons. Israel was telling the unvarnished truth, with no consideration about what anyone thought or felt about what he was saying. You would think that Reuben was very embarrassed and ashamed for what his father said about him while his brothers were listening.

\*Israel did the right thing. When it is imperative for the truth to be told, you don’t hold back no matter what others think or feel about it!

The question is, “Did Reuben commit incest and adultery with Bilhah, his father’s concubine because of sexual lust, or was it something else?”

It really doesn’t matter why he did it because there is no excuse for doing such a heinous act. But it is interesting to know why he did it and it wasn’t because of sexual lust.

Reuben saw his father Jacob show nothing but love and devotion to Rachel, his second wife, but not to his first wife Leah, which was Reuben’s mother and he deeply resented his father for that.

Bilhah was Rachel’s maid and Jacob’s concubine. Reuben was afraid that after Rachel died, Bilhah her maid, would try to take over Leah’s position of being the chief wife. Reuben made certain that would not happen when he copulated with her.

Something similar happened later with David and his concubines that illustrates why Reuben committed adultery and incest.

***2 Samuel 15:16 So the king went out and all his household with him. But the king left ten concubines to keep the house.***

***2 Samuel 16:21-22 And Ahithophel said to Absalom, "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house; then all Israel will hear that you have made yourself odious to your father. The hands of all who are with you will also be strengthened." 22) So they pitched a tent for Absalom on the roof, and Absalom went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.***

***2 Samuel 20:3 Then David came to his house at Jerusalem, and the king took the ten women, the concubines whom he had left to keep the house, and placed them under guard and provided them with sustenance, but did not go in to them. So, they were shut up until the day of their death, living as widows.***

This illustrates why after being defiled by Reuben, Bilhah could not challenge Leah to be the chief wife.

Henry M. Morris writes, “In the history of Israel,

the tribe of Reuben never furnished a leader of any kind for the nation as a whole. In the later journeys to the promised land, the Reubenites were the first tribe to ask for a place to settle, not waiting to cross the Jordan with the others (Numbers 32). They participated in the erection of an unauthorized place of worship (Joshua 22:10-34). During the later wars with the Canaanites, in the days of Deborah and Barak, the tribe of Reuben failed to answer the call to arms (Judges 5:15-16). Jacob’s prophecy concerning Reuben has

continued to be fulfilled ever since. Never has

Reuben excelled in anything. (The Genesis Record, page 652, Baker Book

House)

**LESSON 220 (4-24-22)**

**Gen. 49:5 "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Their swords are implements of violence.**

“Simeon” was the second child that Leah bore to Jacob and his name means, “the Lord has heard”.

“Levi” was the third child that Leah bore to Jacob and his name means, “My husband will be attached to me” and their births are recorded in Genesis 29:33-34.

***Simeon and Levi are brothers*** does not reference their biological relationship but rather emphasizes that they were partners in crime” in the massacre of the Shechemites.

***“Their swords are implements of violence”*** is a reference to the challis murder of many innocent men in Shechem because of the rape of Dinah, their sister.

**49:6** - “***Let my soul not enter into their council***” means that Israel denies conspiring with Simeon and Levi in their conspiracy to massacre people.

***“Let not my glory be united with their assembly”***

Israel was making it clear that he had nothing to do with their despicable plans.

***Psalm 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!***

***“Because in their anger they slew men,”*** In an emotional rage, Simeon and Levi murdered every man in the city of Shechem. They took revenge rather than putting Shechem in the Lord’s hands for what he had done. God distinguishes holy war from vengeance.

***Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.***

***Hebrews 10:30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."***

**“in their self-will they lamed oxen”** There are different opinions in interpretations as to whether they lamed oxen or whether they pulled down the city’s wall.

**Genesis 49:7 "Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel. I will disperse them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.**

*“The content of the curse is expressed in the*

*prophecy “I will disperse them in Jacob and scatter them,” which signifies that the tribes of Simeon and Levi would lose power because they would be divided up and absorbed into the other ten tribes of Israel. This prophecy was fulfilled when Simeon’s descendants were absorbed into the territory of Judah according to Joshua 19:1, 9.” Grace Notes, Genesis*

**LESSON 221 (5-1-22)**

***Genesis 49:8-12******Judah*, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies (conqueror); Your father's sons shall bow down to you (leader of the 12). 9) "Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? 10) "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh (J.C.) comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. 11) "He ties his foal to the vine, and his donkey's colt to the choice vine; He washes his garments in wine, and his robes in the blood of grapes. 12) "His eyes are dull from wine, And his teeth white from milk.**

This is a long prophecy with four distinct prophecies embedded in it. 1) Juda would be the leader of the twelve. 2) he would be a conqueror. 3) an eternal ruler will come from him—Shiloh. 4) there will be a judgment coming that is associated with the coming of Shiloh.

*“To Judah’s line belonged national prominence and kingship, including David, Solomon, and their dynasty (640 years after this), as well as “the one to whom the scepter belongs,” i.e., Shiloh, the cryptogram for the Messiah, the one also called the “Lion of the Tribe of Judah” (Rev. 5:5).”* John MacArthur Jr., ed., The MacArthur Study Bible, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997), 86.

Read: *Numbers 24:5-9*

*Judah had the largest population in Moses’ census (Num. 1:27; 26:22).*

*Verses 11 & 12 describes the great prosperity the tribe of Judah would have.*

All of this points to the grace of God in Judah’s life. In Chapter 38, Judah unwittingly had sex with his daughter-in-law who had become a widow, which he thought was a prostitute. He treated her unfairly but he did have the character to admit it.

***Genesis 38:25-26 It was while she was being brought out that she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "I am with child by the man to whom these things belong." And she said, "Please examine and see, whose signet ring and cords and staff are these?" 26 And Judah recognized them, and said, "She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not have relations with her again.***

All of us have skeletons in our closet that we wish were not there, but here is the point, our God is gracious and we don’t have to be perfect for Him to bless us. Don’t let your failures drag you down or cause you to give up.

***Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet*** (spiritual maturity)***; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.***

**LESSON 222 (5-8-22) Mother’s Day**

If evolution is real, then why do Mother’s just have two hands?” *Milton Berle*

The word “Mom” transformed backward is the word “mom”. “Mom” can be turned upside down and it becomes a word descriptove of moms - “Wow”.

Kids don't understand that their nap is not for them but for us? *~ Alyson Hannigan*

Nothing is really lost until your mom can't find it. *~ Unknown*

My mother told me a million times not to exaggerate.  *~ Unknown*

If your kids are giving you a headache, follow the directions on the aspirin bottle, especially the part that says 'keep away from children'.

*Susan Savannah*

My mother's menu consisted of two choices: Take it or leave it. *~ Buddy Hackett*

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, I am my mother after all!

*~ Unknown*

*Sweater, n.: garment worn by child when its mother is feeling chilly. ~ Ambrose Bierce*

A suburban mother's role is to deliver children obstetrically once, and by car forever after.  
 *~ Peter De Vries*

***Genesis 49:13 Zebulun shall dwell at the seashore; and he shall be a haven for ships, and his flank shall be toward Sidon.***

Zebulun was Leah’s sixth son. His allotment was between the Mediterranean and the Sea of Galilee, the area later known as Galilee. Nazareth is in the tribal allotment of Zebulun.

Even though his tribe’s territory did not border the Sea of Galilee, the tribe was situated to benefit from the important trade route, the Via Maris, traversed by sea traders moving through their territory.

During the time of the Judges, after the conquest, the most famous man from the tribe of Zebulun was Elon who judged Israel for ten years—*Judges 12:11-12*. There was a huge battle described in Judges chapter five and the tribe of Zebulun was specifically singled out for praise because of their response to the call to battle and because of the way they conducted themselves in the battle.

**Genesis 49:14-15 "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between the sheepfolds. 15) "When he saw that a resting place was good And that the land was pleasant, He bowed his shoulder to bear burdens, And became a slave at forced labor.**

The point of this is that Issachar became a worker, but eventually would end up becoming enslaved. This is a reference to what took place during the Assyrian invasion in 722 BC.

***Genesis 49:16-18 Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel. 17) "Dan shall be a serpent in the way, A horned snake in the path, that bites the horse's heels, so that his rider falls backward. 18) "For Thy salvation I wait, O LORD.***

Can you think of another verse that has “serpent” and “heel” in the same sentence? *Genesis 3:15*

The first six sons Jacob addresses were sons born to Leah. The next four sons he addressed were born to Jacob’s concubines. He began with Dan and then goes to Gad, Asher and Naphtali.

Dan was to provide justice (“Dan” means “judge”), but the tribe chose treachery, like a snake by the roadside. In the time of the Judges the first major practice of idolatry appeared in the tribe of Dan (*Judges 18:30*).

The Danites were the second most numerous tribe in the wilderness period, second only to the tribe of Judah. If we look at the tribe allotment, the inheritance set apart for Dan was not nearly the size of the allotment for Judah. They failed to take their land and this was due to their spiritual failure.

Dan is omitted from the twelve tribes that are mentioned in Revelation chapter seven.

Verses 16-17, Jacob was focusing on Dan and his tribe’s future, then in verse 18 he utters a quick prayer of deliverance from God.

This is the first time in the Old Testament where the Hebrew word **yeshua** is used. It is the word for salvation or deliverance and it is also the Hebrew name for Jesus. It was used primarily in the Old Testament for physical deliverance or rescue, or deliverance of the nation in times of trouble.

***Genesis 49:19 As for Gad, raiders shall raid him, but he shall raid at their heels.***

His name means, “What good fortune”. The language refers to attacks of nomadic tribes which would harass and annoy the Gadites. But they would successfully repel the attacks by attacking the attackers. The marauders were the warlike peoples to the East of the Jordan, specially, the Ammonites.

As a consequence of their wars for survival, the Gadites became renowned warriors.

***1 Chronicles 12:8 And from the Gadites there came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear, and whose faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as the gazelles on the mountains.***

***Genesis 49:20 "As for Asher, his food shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.***

Asher’s name means “happy”. The tribe of Asher settled along the rich northern coast of Canaan. The land was fertile and productive, providing an abundance of food.

***Genesis 49:21 "Naphtali is a doe let loose, He gives beautiful words.***

Naphtali, like a doe, would be a free mountain people. Deborah sang of the people of Naphtali risking their lives “on the heights of the field” (Jud. 5:18).

***Deuteronomy 33:23 And of Naphtali he said, "O Naphtali, satisfied with favor, and full of the blessing of the LORD, Take possession of the sea*** (Sea of Galilee) ***and the south."***

The allotment of Naphtali lay in the upper Galilee, west of the lake of Galilee, extending northward along the Jordan River. His tribal inheritance had no northern border specifically delineated.

This unrestricted northern frontier may be reflected in Jacob’s picture of the hind/doe unfettered to roam where it pleased. Naphtali possessed remarkable natural resources that made for a beautiful and bountiful land, truly one “full with the blessing of the LORD”

***Genesis 49:22-26*** covers the prophecy from Jacob to the tribe of Joseph. Remember that Joseph is actually given a double portion blessing, so there is no tribe of Joseph. That blessing went to his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh.

Joseph is the firstborn son to Jacob and Rachel. She was the third of the three wives of the patriarchs who was barren, but it wasn’t for discipline, their barrenness was to demonstrate that God had a specific plan for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that He had the power to overcome anything that stood in the way of the future destiny for them.

Their barrenness also was a test of their absolute trust in the Lord and His faithfulness and mercy. It’s not easy to wait on the Lord. As time passes and we get tired of waiting on the Lord so we try to solve our problems ourselves.

God eventually opened Rachel’s womb, but it was on His time schedule, not hers.

“**WAIT ON THE LORD**”

***Gen. 49:18 For Thy salvation I wait, O LORD.***

***Psalm 25:5 Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, For Thou art the God of my salvation; For Thee I wait all the day.***

***Psalm 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for Thee.***

***Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.***

***Psalm 37:7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,***

***Psalm 37:9 For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.***

***Psalm 37:9 For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.***

***Psalm 62:5-6 My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. 6) He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken.***

***-Psalm 119:114 Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Thy word.***

***Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.***

***Psalm 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, those who wait for His lovingkindness.***

***Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with***

***wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.***

Beleaguered

**LESSON 223 (5-15-22)**

***Psalm 115:11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; He is their help and their shield.***

***Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.***

***Isaiah 26:4 Trust in the LORD forever, For in God the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.***

When we trust in the Lord, we wait for the Lord so if we are doing one, we are automatically doing the other.

***Genesis 49:18 For Thy deliverance, I wait, O LORD.***

***Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; Be strong, and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the LORD.***

***Psalm 62:5-6 My soul, wait in silence for God only, for my hope is from Him. 6) He only is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold; I shall not be shaken.***

***Isaiah 40:31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.***

When we try to depend on our own devices to solve our problems, they usually fail and often get worse and which takes a toll on our already Beleaguered soul.

Believers who have stopped trusting or waiting for God's help are like a train wreck waiting to happen. God wants us to cast our cares on Him.

***1 Peter 5:6-7 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7) casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.***

Read the following to see what happened to David when he stopped trusting or waiting on the Lord and took matters into his own hands. The consequences of doing that were horrible.

***1 Samuel 21:1-15***, ***22:8-23***, ***Psalms 52***, and ***Psalms 34*** (This Psalm describes what happened after David humbled himself and started trusting the Lord again.)

**LESSON 224 (5-22-22)**

Jacob was remembering the wonderful life of Joseph and how he remained faithful to the Lord and was blessed greatly for it. History is important because history is the outworking of God’s plan and is a record of His faithfulness.

Why did God command the Israelites to take 12 stones from the Jordon River when they crossed it to be placed on the other side? They acted as a memorial for what happened there.

Read: ***Joshua 4:19-24***

History and the markers like statues that remind us of what has happened are important and we have witnessed despicable vermin tear many of our great statues down and no one stopped them or even held them accountable.

However, there was a report where the people who were armed and surrounded a beloved statue to protect it and no one even tried to tear it down.

Verse 22 is about Joseph’s prosperity, verse 23-24 is about his protection, and verse 25-26 is about  his blessings.

*“What is said of Joseph applies to his sons Ephraim and Manasseh in light of their adoption by Jacob (Gen. 48:20), especially Ephraim, who was the chief of the northern tribes (Isa 7:17; Hos 5:5).*K. A. Mathews, Genesis 11:27–50:26, vol. 1B, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2005), 903.

***Genesis 49:22  Joseph is a fruitful bough*** (*ben -*son), ***a fruitful bough*** (vine) ***by a spring; its branches run over a wall.***

A fruitful bough is a fruitful vine and a spring is a  vibrant stream that nourishes its branches that extends over an enclosure.

Joseph was fruitful because he was faithful. This should inspire us to be faithful and God will make us fruitful.

***Genesis 49:23-24 "The archers bitterly attacked him, and shot at him and harassed him;***

It’s not clear who the archers were who harassed him as there were several: his brothers, Potiphar’s wife, prison guards…

***Gen. 49:24 But his bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob*** ***(From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),***

This verse is about the protection that God provided for Joseph and for all who trust Him.

***“his bow remained firm and his arms were agile”*** is a metaphor for the strength and stamina of Joseph during all the ordeals of his life.

During the years of adversity that Joseph endured, he maintained a **Relaxed** M**ental Attitude** with love, joy, peace and no bitterness and resentment because he was empowered by the Word of God.

Keeping an RMA – Relaxed Mental Attitude is very important and the way to keep an RMA is by being faithful in learning and applying the Word of God.

***Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***

***“From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob”***

Of course, the strength and endurance that Joseph displayed came from God.

***Isaiah 49:24-26 "Can the prey be taken from the mighty man, Or the captives of a tyrant be rescued?" 25) Surely, thus says the LORD, "Even the captives of the mighty man will be taken away, and the prey of the tyrant will be rescued; For I will contend with the one who contends with you, and I will save your sons. 26) "And I will feed your oppressors with their own flesh, and they will become drunk with their own blood as with sweet wine; And all flesh will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior, And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob."***

***(From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),***

***“Stone of Israel” –*** this emphasizes the constancy, strength and power of divine support which comes from the immutability of God.

(NKJ) ***Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily. (NAS) “will not be disturbed”.***

The Lord protects those who trust Him and are faithful to Him. When we are protected by the Lord, we are protected!

***“the Shepherd”*** – Jacob said, in ***Genesis 48:15 The God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,***

***Psalm 23:1 – The Lord is my Shephard, I shall not want.***

Read: ***Psalm 80*** verse 1 -***Oh, give ear, Shepherd of Israel, Thou, who dost lead Joseph like a flock; Thou who art enthroned above the cherubim*** (the Ark of the Covenant)***, shine forth!***

Read: ***Jer. 2:21, Psalm 85:4-8, Lam. 5:20-21***

**LESSON 225 (5-29-22)**

***Genesis 49:25 By the God of your father who will help you, and by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven*** (rain for crops) ***above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath*** (streams & wells)***, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb*** (children)***.***

The word “blessings” is used three times in this verse and “bless” once. So, it’s easy to see that this verse (and the next verse that uses “blessings” twice) is all about blessings.

The repeated “blessings” in these two verses distinguish Joseph’s household from his siblings.

The word “***help***” (ʿāzar) occurs here for the first time in the Old Testament. In Hebrew, Ebenezer means “stone of **help**” (eben = stone; ezer = help). “Ebenezer” is a name referring to a memorial stone commemorating God who gave His help to the Israelites to win a battle in (*1 Sam 4:1, 5:1*, & *7:12*).

***1 Samuel 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."***

The Hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” has part of its lyric that says, “*here I raise my Ebenezer*” which refers to the verse above.

***“by the Almighty” –*** El Shaddai like a great mountain, Firs used in ***Gen. 17:1***.

Notice the several marvelous titles for God—the Mighty One of Jacob … the Shepherd (cf. 48:15), the Rock of Israel … your father’s God … the Almighty.

***Genesis 49:26 "The blessings of your father have surpassed the blessings of my ancestors up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills; may they be*** [they (blessings) ***will be*** – prophetically] ***on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of the one distinguished among his brothers.***

Jacob was acknowledging to Joseph that God has blessed him more than his (Jacob’s) grandfather Abraham and his father Isaac in terms of

posterity. Jacob’s descendants numbered seventy when he came to Egypt from Canaan.

The last phrase refers to the preeminence of Joseph as being superior to his brothers in both

character and spirituality as well as his position as

the prime minister of Egypt. Joseph was extolling the great blessings that God showered down on Joseph because he continued to be faithful to the Lord and trusted in Him.

***Genesis 49:27 "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he devours the prey, and in the evening, he divides the spoil."***

The brutal picture of Benjamin’s future is surprising since he, though important to the story, is a completely passive character in the Joseph narrative.

The warriors of Benjamin were known for their skill as left-handed marksmen. Both King Saul and the Apostle Paul came from the tribe of Benjamin.

The statement “he divides the spoil” predicts that

the tribe of Benjamin will share its military

victories with the other tribes of Israel.

**LESSON 225 (6-26-22)** Last taught was 4 weeks ago.

***Genesis 49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel,***

**PP** - **Levi** and **Joseph** did not receive an inheritance of the land which left two parcels that needed to be assigned.

The **Tribe of Levi** was excluded from receiving land because the tribe of Levi was the priestly tribe. It would be responsible for overseeing and managing the Temple including administering all the many sacrifices God required of them. Therefore, the tribe of Levi lived off the animal sacrifices and food offerings made by the tribes so they didn’t need an inheritance of land.

**Jacob** adopted **Joseph’s** two sons, **Ephraim** and **Manasseh**. Joseph received the double portion of land that would normally go to the first born, but in this case, each of his sons would be elevated to be the head of a tribe and would inherit a parcel of the land.

***…and this is what their father said to them when he blessed them. He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him. “He blessed them, every one with the blessing appropriate to him.”***

We know that each brother received exactly what he deserved; it was fair and just. The Judgment Seat of Christ, is where we will receive our evaluation and it also will be fair and just. Some of us will be receive rewards, decorations, and privileges, but most of us will not.

Judgement Seat of Christ verses: *Rom. 14:10, 1 Cor. 3:13-15, 2 Cor. 5:10, Heb. 6:7-12, 1 John 4:17*

***Gen. 49:29*** Israel knew that he was about to die.

This verse deals with the burial place that Abraham bought for the whole family in Canaan.

In *Genesis 47:27-31*, we saw Israel requesting that Joseph bury him in Canaan and now here in *Genesis 49:29-30* he makes this request of all his sons.

Israel’s request to be buried in the land of Canaan

is repeated here for the third time (1st time: *Genesis 47:27-31*; 2nd time: Genesis *48:21-22*; 3rd time: *Genesis 49:29-30*).

Making this same request three times demonstrates Israel’s undaunting faith in God’s promise that Canaan would eventually be the home of the Israelites.

Notice verse 31:

***Genesis 49:31 There they buried Abraham and his wife Sarah, there they buried Isaac and his wife Rebekah, and there I buried Leah--***

Honor was finally accorded to Leah in death and in Jacob’s request to be buried alongside his wife, as were his grandfather and his father. Being buried alongside Rachel, the beloved wife who died in Bethlehem, was not requested.

***Genesis 49:33 When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and breath- ed his last, and was \*“gathered to his people.”***

(This was mentioned in *Gen. 49:29* to refer to join those in his family who had already died.)

Israel was 147 years of age when he died according to *Genesis 47:28*.

This is a verse that is a great example that we are on this earth until our mission here is over. The time of our death is not by fate or by chance We don’t know exactly when that time comes, but

God certainly knows.

***Job 14:5 – Our days are determined, the number of our months is with Thee, and our limits Thou has set so that we cannot pass.***

**Ecclesiastes 3:1‐2** ***There is an appointed time for everything, a time for everything under heaven. There is a time to be born and there is a time to die.***

Physical death is the separation of the human soul from the body (and in a believer, the human spirit also) (*Gen. 35:18; Rom. 8:38-39; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:20-21*) and goes to be face to face with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

***Genesis 35:18 It came about as her soul*** (Rachel) ***was departing (for she died)…***

***2 Corinthians 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.***

This verse is a good example that we are here on earth until we have completed our mission. It was evident to Israel that he was about to die, but most of us don’t know when our work is done and our mission is over. Furthermore, we don’t need to know because God decides when we are born and when we die.

His decision concerning our death is perfect because He is omniscient so making a mistake is impossible for Him.

**Genesis Chapter 50** (the last Chapter)

This chapter is divided into three sections: (1) Joseph buries Jacob in the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 50:1-14). (2) Joseph assures his brothers that he won’t seek revenge upon them (Genesis 50:15-21). (3) Conclusion of Joseph’s life, his last words and death (Genesis 50:22-26).

**Vs. 1** – We don’t know what the other sons did, but Joseph no doubt loved his father more than any of the other sons. He was separated from his father for many years.

God was faithful in keeping His promises to Jacob since in *Genesis 46:4*, God promised Jacob that Joseph would close his eyes.

**Vs. 2 -** Joseph summoned his servants who were physicians, who were fully capable of embalming his father, rather than the religious embalmers in order to avoid the magic and mysticism associated with their practices. Usually in Egypt, mummifying was a 40 day process, which included disemboweling the body, drying it, and wrapping it.

Joseph had to use this process in order to preserve his father’s body to make the long trip back to Canaan.

**LESSON 226 (7-3-22)**

**Vs. 3 –** Joseph was honoring his father by embalming him which would foster respect for him from the Egyptians since they embalmed only their honored dead.

**…And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days.**

70 days was two and one-half months, just two days short of the normal time of mourning for a Pharaoh.This would demonstrate how much Pharaoh respected and loved Joseph to set the mourning period for his father just two days shorter than the mourning that he himself would receive.

The nation of Egypt honored Joseph for his service to their nation by delivering it from famine by honoring his father and mourning for him nearly as long as they would mourn for an Egyptian king.

**Vs. 4–5** Joseph asked Pharoah’s household to ask him about leaving Egypt because he was ceremonially unclean in the Hebrew tradition as well as the Egyptian because he had touched a dead body. He also wanted Pharoah to know that he was still his servant and respected his authority.

Joseph did not tell Pharoah that his father prohibited him from burying him in Egypt since he might have taken it the wrong way; he could think that Jacob didn’t think that Egypt wasn’t good enough for him to be buried there. So he emphasizes to Pharaoh that his father had a tomb already prepared for himself.

**Vs. 6** Pharaoh didn’t hesitate to give Joseph permission because he trusted him since he has demonstrated great concern for the Egyptian people and he had great respect and gratitude for Joseph.

**Vs. 7-8 “*all the servants of Pharaoh” –*** this refers to Pharaoh’s advisers and officials who helped him in deciding state affairs. **“Elders of his household”** refers to the senior dignitaries from Pharaoh’s court. **“Elders of the land of Egypt”** refers to notable people throughout the Egyptian empire.

***All the household of Joseph and his*** (11) ***brothers***

“***His father’s household***” would include the wives and children and grandchildren of Jacob’s sons as well servants, not to mention the women and children of Shechem who were absorbed into Jacob’s family according to *Genesis 34:29*.

***“they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds”*** – They had to make arrangements for their small children and their animals to be taken care of while they were gone.

All this was done in order to show respect and to honor one man. These people knew the importance of respect and honor, something that is sorely missing in our society. I can remember a time in our country when people had respect and honor for each other.

“yes sir” “yes mam” Doors were opened for females. A nod or a tip of a hat were ways to show respect.

Men would stand up when a lady entered the room.

These may seem like small things but they were reminders of how important respect and honor are.

Neal down when our National Anthem is played.

Turning away from our flag to show contempt.

Burning the flag.

Talking, texting, being a distraction when someone is teaching or giving a speech.

**LESSON 227 (7-10-22)**

A nod or a tip of a hat were ways to show respect to others. These may seem like small things but they were reminders of how important respect and honor are.

***Leviticus 19:32 'You shall rise up before the gray-headed and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.***

***Proverbs 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the honor of old men is their gray hair.***

***1 Timothy 5:1 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father…***

***1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.***

Honor and respect have all but vanished these days.

Unfortunately, few young people have been taught how to express respect and honor to others. Many of them are vulgar, rude, crude, uncouth, boorish, foulmouthed, bad-mannered, and odious. They know nothing about thoughtfulness, good manners, and being respectful. This does not hold true for the majority of home-schooled young people.

In most cases, it’s not the young people’s fault. Their parents, grand-parents, teachers, and coaches didn’t take the time or the effort train them properly. This is no small thing; it usually results in the decline of a nation.

**Genesis 50:10 When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father.**

Atad was between Jericho and the Dead Sea.

Seven days was the usual period of time to mourn

for the dead in Israel and in the ancient Middle

Jacob’s funeral takes place in two stages according

to Genesis 50:10-13: (1) The entire procession

proceeds to a place at which a great public

mourning ceremony is held at Atad. (2) After a week, then the immediate family continues the journey to the cave of Machpelah where a private ceremony for Jacob is held.

The public display of sorrow indicated the communal and not just individual mourning. It would normally include the tearing of clothes, the wearing of sackcloth, crying and expressions of agony.

**11) Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.**

The Canaanites were so impressed with the

massive state funeral that the Egyptians were

holding for Israel that the Canaanites named the

place “Abel-mizraim”. Abel Mizraim, meaning “meadow (’āḇēl) of Egyptians,” but by a wordplay it suggests “mourning (’ēḇel) of Egyptians.”

**Genesis 50:12-13 And thus his sons did for him as he had charged them; 13) for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite.**

These verses substantiate the fact that Israel’s sons obeyed his command to bury him in the cave of Machpelah in the land of Canaan,

“Machpelah” is located west of modern Hebron on

the outskirts of the city. Mamre” was located in “Hebron” and received its name from its owner, “Mamre”.

**Genesis 50:14 And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.**

After he had buried his father, Joseph and his brothers returned to Egypt, along with all

who had gone up with him to bury his father.

Joseph’s return to Egypt fulfills his promise to

Pharaoh, which is recorded in Genesis 50:5. It was

the will of God that Joseph and his family return to Egypt and not the land of Canaan since the

iniquity of the Amorite was not yet complete

according to the prophecy given to Abraham

recorded in Genesis 15:12-16.

**Genesis 15:12-16 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. 13) And God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years. 14) "But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve; and afterward they will come out with many possessions. 15) "And as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16) "Then in the \*fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."** \*Abraham had his first child at 100 so each generation was 100 years.

The Lord does not dispossess and judge a nation immediately until He has given it grace in the

sense of giving it a sufficient amount of time to repent.

***2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow about His***

***promise, as some count slowness, but is***

***patient toward you, not wishing for any to***

***perish but for all to come to repentance.”***

When a nation has completely rejected the Grace of God, and refuse to be humbled or seek forgiveness as they reject the L.J.C. it will become totally and completely saturated with evil (see ***Lev. 18:24-28; 20:23***) and then the Lord sends judgment.

The judgment and dispossessing of these ten nations called the “Amorite” who are also called the “Canaanite” would be a fulfillment of Noah’s prophecy in ***Genesis 9:24-27***.

**Genesis 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph should bear a grudge against us and pay us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!"**

They suspected that Joseph held a grudge against them because if they were in his place, they would have held a grudge against him.

A grudge is a feeling of deep-seated resentment or ill will that can make a person implacable, *i.e.* - not willing to forgive one who seeks forgiveness.

Holding a grudge is the last thing a believer should do. He is constantly in carnality as his soul rots away. He is full of bitterness, resentment, and hate.

***Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.***

***Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.***

***Matthew 5:43-44 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor, and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.***

***Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32) And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.***

***Romans 12:17-21, James 5:9***

Joseph had demonstrated through his words and

actions in Genesis 45 that he had forgiven his brothers for selling him into slavery in Egypt.

***Genesis 45:5*** ***And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.***

It should be noted that none of Jacob’s brothers had apologized by acknowledged their sin to him when he uttered the verse above. We can forgive people who have sinned against us without an apology by not being preoccupied with their sin, but things will not be right between us and them until they take responsibility for their sin by acknowledging it to us.

However, it appears that they had in a way admitted their guilt to God according to Genesis 44:14-17. They had never asked for forgiveness from Joseph himself nor offered an apology to him. Therefore, we see that when their father is dead, their guilty feelings caused them to live in fear of Joseph who had the power to harm them or even kill them.

Joseph’s brothers had plenty of opportunities to acknowledge their sins to him and seek forgiveness, but they didn’t do it. If they had, Joseph would forgive them and it would make things right between them and their guilt and fear would disappear.

If they acknowledged their sin to Joseph and he did not forgive them, then they would be right with God but Joseph wouldn’t be, and God would deal with him. But there would be no guilt or fear on their part because they took responsibility for their sin by telling the truth and God would honor that.

His brothers, minus Benjamin, were still feeling guilty for what they had done to their brother Joseph.

***Genesis 42:21 Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore, this distress has come upon us."***

But this would not have been the case if they had acknowledged their sin to God and to Joseph, because they would have received forgiveness.

But if they had acknowledged their sin to Joseph and he refused to forgive them, there would be no reason to feel guilty because they would have done the right thing by humbling themselves and telling the truth. They would have been relieved from the heavy burden of gilt they were carrying.

**LESSON 228 (7-17-22)**

The first-time guilt is demonstrated in the Bible:

**Genesis 3:7-8**  ***Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. 8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.***

***Genesis 4:8-9 And Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9) Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" And he said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?"***

***Psalm 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.***

The small plot of land that Abraham purchased to be a burial place for his family was the only piece of real estate in the promised land that the Jewish patriarchs ever owned, even though God had promised that they would own all of the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River. But that did not happen in their lifetime. Did they question the veracity of God? Absolutely not! Their lives proved that they trusted God.

Why didn’t they doubt God? Why weren’t they angry with Him for not telling them the truth? Were they naive’ or stupid? Not hardly, the truth is, they knew about resurrection and had ***faith*** that they would be resurrected someday and see God’s promises fulfilled.

***Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.***

***Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.***

***Hebrews 11:8-10 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.***

***Hebrews 11:13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them***

***and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers***

***and exiles on the earth. 14) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a***

***home- land. 15) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come***

***out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16) But now they desire a better, that is,***

***a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared***

***a city for them.***

God’s promise was more real to them than what they experienced, even though they never saw His promise come to pass in their lifetime.

This is what we call “**Faith Rest**”. We have peace, stability, comfort, and Rest in our soul because we

have faith in our Lord and trust Him to see us through the tribulation and testing we experience.

Verse 15 revealed what Joseph’s brothers thought about him and how dysfunctional they were in what they thought and what they did. After all that Joseph did for them, they still didn’t trust him but more importantly, they didn’t trust God. If they had, they wouldn’t have been unstable, fearful, untrusting, and insecure.

*“Despite having lived under Joseph’s provision and protection for many years, and despite knowing that Joseph had named one son Manasseh (“God has made me forget all my hardship in my father’s house”), the brothers still doubted that Joseph had forgiven them.”* Robert D. Bergen, “Genesis,” in CSB Study Bible: Notes, ed. Edwin A. Blum and Trevin Wax (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2017), 85–86.

**Verse 16-18**, Like most people who don’t trust God or His Word, Joseph’s brothers took action based on their insecurity and lack of trust.

**Genesis 50:16-18 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 17) 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18) Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."**

**VS. 16 –** They sent a message to Joseph instead of going to him in person because they were cowards. That is what people do who don’t trust in God.

It is not certain that they ever spoke to their father about this issue; it could have been something that the brothers made up because of their lingering fear of Jacob.

**VS. 17 –** The message was crafted in a way so that Joseph would forgive his brothers for his father’s sake. Joseph’s indication of forgiveness was his offer: *I will provide for you* (v. 21).

**VS. 18** – This is yet again a fulfilment of the dreams Joseph had in ***Gen. 37:7 & 9*** where his brothers would bow down to him.

Joseph refused their offer to make his brothers his slaves; they were slaves of God, not of him, and he would not put himself in the place of God to make them his slaves

**Genesis 50:19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?**

Joseph had already told his brothers not to be afraid of him (Gen. 43:23 & 50:21) and gave them no reason to be afraid of him.

**for am I in God's place?** – Joseph always gave God the credit and the glory for everything. He knew that vengeance is God’s domain, not his.

**LESSON 229 (7-24-22)**

**Genesis 50:20 And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.**

This is astounding! God can take evil and turn it into good! Only God can do this.

Do we think about this when evil people try to do harm to us? When evil leaders force unconstitutional, ungodly, and immoral policies on us, do we remember that God can turn it into good or do we get angry and complain about it?

“We need to remember that God always has a good purpose in view. He is not going to let anything happen to you unless it will accomplish a good purpose in your life.” J. Vernon McGee, Thru the Bible Commentary: The Law (Genesis 34-50), electronic ed., vol. 3 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 177.

God has a specific plan for each of us and He is omniscient and can turn evil into good in our lives in order to accomplish His will through us.

*“Limited human experience and understanding make it difficult to see good in the sorrows and setbacks of life. These often come about, however, as God’s means of achieving a higher good, for our blessing and not our hurt.”* Charles Dyer, Eugene Merrill, Charles R. Swindoll, et al., Nelson’s Old Testament Survey: Discover the Background, Theology and Meaning of Every Book in the Old Testament (Nashville, TN: Word, 2001), 36.

**“For man is born for trouble, as sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7).**

The painful side of human existence is probably best encompassed in the term “adversity” which means “turned against.” It does seem that some circumstances are “turned against” us, but we know that God is in a pro or “for” relationship to us. The Psalmist says, “This I know, that God is for me” (Ps. 56:9 cf. Rom. 8:28). Therefore, Christians who trust God’s providence and respond biblically to adversity find that God transforms their adversity into their advantage primarily through increased Christlike maturity. Many biblical passages indicate how God desires that we respond [not react] to adversity: Henry W. Holloman, “The Relation of Christlikeness to Spiritual Growth,” Michigan Theological Journal 5, no. 1 (1994): 57–85.

***Psalm 56:9 Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me.***

***Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.***

***John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have*** (v. pas) ***peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.***