

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 1

Level 2

Harvey De Groot

Copyright © 2019 Harvey De Groot

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

In plain English, it means that you are free share (copy, distribute and transmit) this work under the following conditions:

- You must attribute the work to Harvey De Groot.
- You may not use this work for commercial purposes.
- You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work. Among other things, that means you must include all pages, including this one, in any copies you share.

If someone has shared a copy of this book with you and you would like to support this work, please consider purchasing your own copy at:

www.norlandegroot.com

While at the website you can purchase bound copies or download free PDFs of this and other volumes.

Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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

Lesson 1

The Kingdom of God

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

Scripture: Genesis 1:1–2:3

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

Lesson Truth: God made His Covenant Kingdom in the world.

Lesson

Where did everything we can see come from? God made it all. God made everything so people in His world could enjoy what He made. God made man to take care of everything He made. Man was asked to take care of God’s Covenant Kingdom in the world.

God made all things in a very special way. He only had to speak, and things were there. He made it from nothing. The Bible tells us that everything was dark and mixed up. Then God spoke and made all the trees and flowers. After that He made all the animals and birds and fish. Then God made a man and a woman. God did all this in six normal days.

The first day God made light and He made darkness. The light He called day and the darkness He called night.

The second day God made the sky above. He also made the air we breathe.

The third day God made the lakes, streams, and oceans for water. He then made the land and large mountains.

The fourth day God made the sun to shine each day. He made the moon and stars to shine each night. Even today, God gives us each day and each night.

The fifth day God made the fish for the lakes and oceans. He made the birds for the trees and forests.

On the sixth day God made all the animals. He made both the very big animals and the very small ones. Last of all God made the first man and the first woman. He told them to take care of everything He had made.

After God made everything, He rested on the seventh day. He wants us to rest and worship each Sunday, to remember that He rested after He made all things.

Questions

1. Who made everything in the world? (Gen. 1:1)
2. How many days did it take for God to make all things? (Gen. 1:31)
3. What was the earth like before God made everything? (Gen. 1:2)
4. What did God make on each day of Creation?

The Covenant of God's Favor

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

Scripture: Genesis 2:4-25

Memory Verse: “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.” (Psalm 25:14)

Lesson Truth: God wanted to live in a special friendship with the man and woman He had made.

Lesson

God made a beautiful garden for the man and woman He made. He told them they could live in this garden forever, as His special friends, if they would obey His command. God's command was about a tree.

Right in the middle of the beautiful garden God had made for the man and the woman, He put a beautiful tree. He told the man and woman they could eat the fruit from any tree in the garden except the one right in the middle. It is so sad that the man and the woman didn't obey God. They ate the fruit from the tree God had told them not to eat from. This broke the special friendship God wanted with man.

Maybe you are wondering, because the man and the woman didn't obey God, won't they ever be able to be special friends of God again? You and I should be so happy, that even though the man and the woman broke this special friendship with God, our Lord Jesus Christ made this special friendship with God possible again. Because He obeyed God, we can live in a new special friendship with God. (This new special friendship with God is going to be our lesson for next time.)

Questions

1. What is the Bible's name for the special friendship we have with God? (Psalm 25:14)

2. What did God tell the man and woman about the tree in the middle of the garden? (Gen. 2:17)

3. Where did the man and the woman live after God made them? (Gen. 2:8)

4. Who breathed the breath of life into the man? (Gen. 2:7)

5. Who was the first man, Adam's, helper and companion? (Gen. 2:18)

6. Who obeyed God so we can live in a new special friendship with God? (Heb. 12:24)

The Covenant of God's Grace

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

Scripture: Genesis 3

Memory Verse: “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.” (Jeremiah 31:31)

Lesson Truth: After Adam and Eve disobeyed God. God told them about a new promise.

Lesson

The Bible story today is about two big decisions that were made in the garden of Eden. Both of these decisions still make a difference in our lives today. The first decision was made by Adam and Eve when they decided not to obey God. The second decision was made by God when He decided to give Adam and Eve a new promise.

Do you remember that God made all things? He made everything beautiful and perfect. He also made a special agreement with Adam and Eve that they could live in His beautiful garden as His special friends. The sad part of our story today is that God had an enemy. God's enemy was a devil who was given the name, Satan. Satan hated God and wanted to ruin all the beautiful things God had made. He especially wanted to ruin the special friendship between God and Adam and Eve.

The story in Genesis three tells how Satan ruined everything God had made. He knew about the commandment God had given to Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree in the middle of God's garden. He decided to see if Adam's helper, Eve, could be made to think it was unfair that she couldn't eat from the tree in the middle of the garden. So, he asked Eve, “Has God indeed said, You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” Satan wasn't satisfied just to make it seem unfair that Eve couldn't eat of every tree. He also lied about God's Word. He told Eve,

“You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” This was a terrible lie because God said they would surely die if they ate from the tree.

Adam and Eve liked the idea that they could be like God and know good and evil. So they listened to Satan and ate the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God they felt terrible. They were ashamed that they

didn't have any clothes on, and they were afraid of God. Just think, they were afraid of God who had been their special friend. Now all the beautiful things God had made were no longer perfect. Do you think everything God had made will never again be beautiful and perfect, because Adam and Eve disobeyed? The answer is that God made a new promise to Adam and Eve that Satan will be defeated and everything God made will again be beautiful. God told Adam and Eve and Satan that a child, who would come from Eve, would one day crush Satan.

Adam and Eve could no longer live in God's beautiful garden because they disobeyed God. Now they had to live outside the garden. They had to believe God's promise that Satan would be defeated and they would again be able to live as God's special friends.

Questions

1. Whom did Satan first tempt to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden?
2. What lie did Satan tell Eve about God's word? (Genesis 3:4)
3. Whom did Adam say made him eat from the tree?
4. Whom did Eve say made her eat from the tree?
5. What did God tell Adam and Eve that a child of Eve would do to Satan?

Lesson 4
Living Seed

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

Scripture: Genesis 4

Memory Verse: “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” (Genesis 4:25b)

Lesson Truth: God promised Adam and Eve that their seed would crush the head of Satan. We see the beginning of this promise being fulfilled when God gave children to Adam and Eve.

Lesson

Isn't it wonderful to know we serve a God who keeps His promises? God had promised Adam and Eve that their seed would one day crush the head of Satan. How could this happen unless they had children?

The Bible story in Genesis four tells us that God did give children to Adam and Eve, just as He had promised. This story also tells us about hate and even murder. The part of the story we need to remember though, is the part about a faithful God who remembers His promises.

How sad it must have been when Adam and Eve were sent out of the garden of Eden. But think of the joy when God gave them their first son. Eve said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord.” I think she was happy because she knew that this son was part of God's promise. They must have been happy again when God gave them a second son. Once again they knew God was keeping His promises.

Adam and Eve named their two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain tilled the ground, and Abel raised sheep. Adam and Eve taught their sons to worship God and to bring sacrifices from their produce. Then we read a very sad story about a time when Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God. And God had respect for Abel's offering but not for Cain's. Cain's heart was not a heart that really loved God. When Cain saw that God did not respect his offering, he became very angry. He became angry at Abel, his brother. He also became angry at God. How sad that Cain did not believe the promises that Adam and Eve had told him about. So, Cain did a terrible thing. He killed his brother Abel.

Adam and Eve must have been filled with sorrow. Sorrow, because one son was very wicked and the other son was dead. How would God be able to keep His

promise if they had no children who were faithful to God? But then our hearts leap for joy when we learn that God gave Adam and Eve another son. A son who loved the Lord and was faithful. Eve gave him the name Seth, because she said, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” So we see that God does keep His promises. Adam and Eve did have children from whom one would come who would crush the head of Satan.

Questions

1. Who was the son of Adam and Eve who did not believe God’s promises?
2. Who were the sons of Adam and Eve who were faithful to God?
3. What is the story in Genesis 4 really about? Cain’s murder? Abel’s sacrifice? God’s faithfulness?
4. Which son replaced Abel after he was killed? Cain? Seth?
5. True or False: Adam and Eve showed they were people of faith by teaching their sons to sacrifice.

Saved by Water

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

Scripture: Genesis 6–9

Memory Verse: “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.” (Matt. 24:38)

Lesson Truth: The world is saved by water, when God saved Noah’s family.

Lesson

Today’s lesson is about the family God saved when a flood of water covered the whole earth. For a time, it looked like the sons and daughters of Seth would remain faithful to God. One of Seth’s faithful sons was Enoch, who the Bible says walked with God. But even this faithful family became unfaithful when their sons and daughters began to marry sinful people. They became so sinful that the Bible tells us, God was sorry He made them. God then decided to save just one man and his family, and destroy all the rest of the world with a great flood.

God would keep the promise He made to Adam and Eve—that one of their sons would crush Satan’s head—by saving one faithful family from the flood. This one faithful man was Noah. God told Noah to build a huge ark in which he and his family, seven of every clean kind of animal and two of every unclean kind of animal would be saved when the flood waters covered the whole earth. Noah believed God and began to build the ark even though his neighbors made fun of him. They didn’t think there could ever be a flood that would cover the whole earth.

Then the day came that God told Noah and his family to go into the ark. The skies poured down water and the oceans overflowed. The whole earth was covered with water, even the highest mountains. The only people that were saved were the ones in the ark. Everyone else was destroyed. God tells us that when Jesus comes again the people that are saved will be separated from the people that are lost, just like at the time of the flood.

After the flood was over and water had dried up on the land, Noah and his family left the ark. Then Noah built an altar and offered a sacrifice to God. God liked Noah’s sacrifice and He then told Noah that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. He also told Noah, that the rainbow would be sign to help him remember that there would never be another flood to destroy the whole earth.

Even though Noah had been faithful, and was saved from the flood, he was also a sinner who needed a Savior. One day he became drunk from drinking the grape wine from his vineyard. When he was drunk and naked his youngest son, Ham, saw him, but did not honor him. Ham's two brothers Shem and Japheth honored their father and covered him. When Noah awoke from his drunkenness, he prophesied. He said Ham's son Canaan would be slave to his brothers, but Shem and his family would be blessed. Christ Jesus, our Savior, would come from Shem's family.

Questions

1. What was the name of Adam and Eve's third son? (Gen. 4:25)
2. Who was the man that did not die? (Gen. 5:24)
3. Who went into the ark with Noah? (Gen. 7:7)
4. What sign did God give as a reminder that there would never be another flood to destroy the whole earth? (Gen. 9:16)

The Emergence of Distinct Peoples

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

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Memory Verse: “Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be likeminded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus.” (Rom. 15:5)

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

Lesson

Noah and his sons came off the ark in the mountains of Ararat. They grew into a race of people. These people moved from the region of Ararat to the plain of Shinar. Here at Shinar, they became afraid. They were afraid they might become separated from one another and die. They forgot the promises God made to Noah. Now, they became disobedient as well as being afraid. Do you know what they decided to do? They said, “We will build a city and a tower.” This city and tower will protect us. They forgot that only God protects. Only God could take care of them.

What did God do when He saw the tower they were building? The Bible says, “He came down.” God knew He could not allow the people to trust in a city and a tower. He knew they must trust God. To make them stop building, He gave each of these people a different language to speak. The builders could not understand each other so they could not continue to build. This confusion was called Babel. When God “came down,” He showed how much He loves His people. He would not let them think they could be safe because of a city and a tower. He wanted them to trust in the promised Redeemer.

The people could no longer speak to each other. They began to think differently. They became strangers to each other. Now people who spoke differently moved to other parts of the world. People of different languages appeared. All these different people were made in God’s image. They filled the whole earth. In one way they were the same. They all needed love and fellowship. Did God want people to be strangers to each other forever? The answer is no. God broke down the outward unity of unbelief. He showed them the true unity that comes from faith in the Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Before Jesus comes again, You and I will also be tempted. We will be asked to trust in ourselves, just like the people at Babel. We must remember to trust only in Jesus. If we trust Jesus we will be one unity with people of all nations.

Questions

1. Following the flood, the people of the earth settled on a plain at _____. (Gen. 11:2)
2. The people disobeyed God by building a _____ and a _____. (Gen. 11:4)
3. _____ came down to see what the sons of men had built. (Gen. 11:5)
4. God caused the people to stop building by _____. (Gen. 11:7)
5. Because God confused the language the place was called _____. (Gen. 11:9)

Blessed in The One

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

Scripture: Genesis 12

Memory Verse: “That the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:14)

Lesson Truth: The blessings for all is given in the One. . .

Lesson

Do you remember the story of God scattering the people at Babel? You know that God made the people speak different languages so they would live in many places on the earth. God made them speak different languages because He loved them. He wanted the people to trust in God and not in a tower or a city. How we wish that the people would have trusted God instead of themselves, but they didn't. They began to worship idols. They put their trust in their own ideas. Do you think God forgot them when they did this? No, He did not forget His people.

God made a plan to bring a Redeemer to the world. He decided to pick one man on the earth with whom He would make a covenant. A covenant is a special agreement. This special agreement God made between Himself and the man, Abram. We do not know why God picked Abram, because Abram was a sinner just like everyone. We can only say God picked Abram because Abram was a descendent of Seth and Noah and He wanted to show how much He loved the people He put on the earth. God promised Abram that he and Sarai would have a son. He told Abram that his children would become a great nation. God also told Abram He would send a Redeemer into the world, who would come from that great nation.

Because God picked Abram to become the father of a great nation, and the father of the Redeemer, He wanted Abram to be separate. He came to Abram and said, “Get out of your country, from your family, and from your fathers house.” How grateful we are that Abram listened to God. He left his country and his family and moved to a strange country. We know that the Spirit of God was working in Abram's heart, because he obeyed God. Just think, God was to be a friend of Abram. God wants to be a friend of everyone who believes His promises. God knows that the people who believe His promises are still sinners. But God told Abram He would send a Redeemer to overcome sin. What rich promises God gave to Abram!

Lesson 8
Christ Alone

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

Scripture: Genesis 13

Memory Verse: “And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29)

Lesson Truth: The blessing for all is given in the one.

Lesson

It was a wonderful story to learn that God chose Abram to be the father of a great nation. From that great nation, the Redeemer would come. Abram had to leave everything, so he could become that great nation. How happy we should be that he obeyed God and left his family and his country. You remember he took Sarai, his wife, and his nephew, Lot, and went to Canaan. But God needed Abram to be even more separate. God promised Abram that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed. The promise was not to Abram and Lot. So Abram and Lot needed to separate. How was this going to happen?

Abram and Lot together had so many flocks and herds that the land could not take care of them. There was not enough grass for all those flocks and herds to eat. Because there wasn’t enough grass the herdsmen of Abram and the herdsmen of Lot quarreled. Abram did not like the quarreling. He said to Lot, it is better for us to separate. This was the way God helped Abram become separate all the way.

Abram was a very generous man. He told Lot to choose where he wanted to go. He said, if you go to the right then I will go to the left. Lot was more selfish than Abram, and chose the best-watered pastures for his flocks. This was a sad mistake. For in that beautiful country were two very wicked cities. And Lot set up his tent near the wicked city of Sodom.

After Abram and Lot separated, God again did a wonderful thing. He once more appeared to Abram. When he appeared this time, He again gave His rich promises to Abram. God said Abram’s descendants would have land they could call their own. God said they would become as many as the dust of the ground. In this way, God strengthened Abram’s faith. God’s promises were richer than we can imagine, because our Lord Jesus Christ was to come from Abram’s children.

Just think, all the promises God gave to Abram, came true. He became a great

people, more than we can number. Because all who believe in Jesus are part of that people. He received not only Canaan but the whole earth. The earth belongs to our Lord Jesus and to everyone who believes in Him.

Questions

1. Who went with Abram to Canaan? (Gen. 13:5)
2. Why did Abram separate from Lot? (Gen. 13:7-8)
3. What land did Lot choose for himself? (Gen. 13:11)
4. Was this a good choice for Lot? (Gen. 13:12-13)
5. What did God promise Abram after Abram and Lot separated? (Gen. 13:14-15)

Blessed by the Greater

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

Scripture: Genesis 14

Memory Verse: "...the Forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 6:20)

Lesson Truth: Abram is blessed by Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High.

Lesson

Genesis fourteen tells us two stories about how God continued to guide Abram. The first story is a story about the powerful king of Elam and three other kings attacking five kings in the valley of Siddim. The second story is about Abram returning from battle and being blessed by the priest of God Most High, called Melchizedek.

When the three kings along with the king of Elam attacked the five kings, the five kings fled. One of those five kings was the king of Sodom, the city where Lot lived. Some of the people were killed and the rest fled to the mountains. Lot, Abram's nephew, was captured. When Abram learned that Lot was captured, God led him to rescue his nephew. Just think, Abram was able to defeat the powerful king of Elam and three other kings with a small band of three hundred eighteen of his servants, because God was with him. The Bible says he brought back all the goods the kings had captured. He also brought back his nephew Lot and his family.

When he came back from the battle, the king of Sodom went out to meet him. He wanted to honor Abram and give him all the goods he brought back from the battle. Abram may have been tempted to think he was such a good soldier he could win battles. But, he knew it was God who won the battle for him. So he refused to take any of the goods. He did not want the king of Sodom to say that he made Abram rich.

The second story was about the king of Salem who came out to meet Abram. The Bible says he was the priest of God Most High. This priest, who was greater than Abram, blessed him and said it was God Most High who delivered Abram's enemies into his hand. In response to this blessing Abram gave a tenth of everything he had to Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High. Abram was reminded that he had to be blessed by someone greater than himself. That someone is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Questions

1. In what valley did the four kings fight the five kings? (Gen. 14:3)
2. Who was captured in this battle that was important to Abram? (Gen. 14:12)
3. What did the king of Sodom want to give Abram when he returned from battle? (Gen. 14:21)
4. Why didn't Abram take these gifts? (Gen. 14:23b)
5. Who was Melchizedek? (Gen. 14:18)
6. What special thing did he do for Abram? (Gen. 14:19)

The Lord in the Covenant

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

Scripture: Genesis 15

Memory Verse: “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’” (Romans 4:3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord tells us He is the one who will fulfill all the promises that were made in the covenant.

Lesson

Today we are going to learn how God came to Abram in some very special ways. First, God talked to Abram in a vision. A vision is like a dream. Later God showed Himself to Abram in a ceremony. This ceremony was used to make sure that what was promised was really true.

God told Abram before that in his children all the nations would be blessed. Now He came to Abram again in a vision. He said, “Abram do not be afraid. Everything I promised to you will really happen.” Abram could not understand how all the nations could be blessed by his children. He reminded God that he didn’t have any children. He asked God, “Must the blessings You promised come from Eliezer, my servant?” God told Abram again that he would surely have a son of his very own.

God then took Abram outdoors and told him to look at the stars. He said to Abram that his children would be as many as the stars. Do you know what is really wonderful? The Bible says that Abram believed God. He believed God even when he did not have a son.

God also promised Abram He would give him the land of Canaan. Abram then asked God, “How shall I know that you will give me the land of Canaan?” In answer to Abram’s question God showed Abram the ceremony of a sure promise.

God told Abram to get a heifer, a goat, and a ram that were three years old. He then told Abram to cut these animals in half. The ceremony, or oath, that everything was the truth was to have the two parties pass between the two halves of the animals. This meant it was surely true.

In Abram’s vision only God went between the two halves of the animals. Then Abram knew it was only God who could keep a promise forever. Only God will never break a promise. When God passed between the halves of the animals it

looked like a smoking oven or a burning torch. Today we do not have signs like a smoking oven. Today the signs we see are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

God then told Abram what would happen to his children before the Messiah would come. He told Abram his children would be slaves in a strange land for 400 years. He also said that strange land would be punished. Do you know, that everything God told Abram later really happened?

Questions

1. Why was Abram not supposed to be afraid? (Gen. 15:1b)
2. How many children did God promise Abram? (Gen. 15:5)
3. What does the Bible tell us Abram did when God gave him this promise? (Gen. 15:6)
4. How long would Abram's children be afflicted? (Gen. 15:13b)
5. What would happen to the nation that afflicted Abram's children? (Gen. 15:14)
6. What did the presence of God look like when it passed between the animal halves? (Gen. 15:17b)

God Hears

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

Scripture: Genesis 16

Memory Verse: “For the Lord hears the poor, and does not despise His prisoners.”
(Psalm 69:33)

Lesson Truth: God hears the cries of pain from all who are connected to the covenant.

Lesson

You remember, God told Abram he would have many children. Today we learn how Sarai and Abram made their own plans for these children. This was sad because they made their plans without God. They thought they could have the children God promised from, Hagar, Sarai’s maid. This was not God’s way.

Abram and Sarai were married for many years. Sarai did not have any children. Sarai had an idea. She said to Abram, “Why don’t we have children that are born to Hagar, my maid?” Abram agreed with Sarai. He became the father of Hagar’s child. This did not work well. Hagar did not want to give the child she would have to Sarai. Hagar began to hate Sarai. Sarai told Abram how Hagar hated her. Abram told Sarai, she might do as she wanted with Hagar. Sarai was very mean to Hagar. Hagar then ran away. She ran into the wilderness.

When Hagar was very tired, she found a spring of water. While she was resting an Angel of the Lord talked to her. The Angel told her she must go back to her mistress, Sarai. The Angel also told her she would have a son. He said her son would become a great nation. His children would be wild wanderers. The Angel told Hagar she should name her son, Ishmael. Ishmael means God hears.

Think about how wonderful our God is to His people. He sent His Angel to an Egyptian maid, because she was from Abram’s house. Hagar, Sarai’s maid, realized that the Lord heard her cry of pain. She called the Lord who spoke to her, “You-Are-The-God-Who-Sees.”

Hagar did what the Angel told her to do. She went back to Abram and to her mistress, Sarai. When her son was born, Abram gave him the name, Ishmael. He knew that Ishmael was the right name, because God heard Hagar’s cry.

Questions

1. Who was Sarai's maidservant? (Gen. 16:1)
2. How did Sarai treat Hagar? (Gen. 16:6)
3. Who found Hagar by a spring? (Gen. 16:7)
4. What did the Angel tell Hagar to do? (Gen. 16:9)
5. What did the Angel tell Hagar to name her son? (Gen. 16:11)
6. What does the name, Ishmael, mean? (Gen. 16:11)

God the Almighty

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

Scripture: Genesis 17

Memory Verse: “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” (Psalm 91:1)

Lesson Truth: God tells Abraham He is Almighty. He can make the promises of the covenant come true.

Lesson

It was a number of years since Ishmael was born. You remember Abram’s son Ishmael was the son of Hagar. Hagar was Sarai’s maid. Abram and Sarai must have wondered: “How will God make the promises of the covenant come true? Ishmael does not live before the Lord. The covenant promise will not come through him. We are old people of ninety years. We do not have a son. How can God keep His promise? He promised that all the nations would be blessed from our children. How can this be?”

When Abram and Sarai were wondering, “How can this be?” God did a wonderful thing. He appeared to Abram when he was ninety-nine years old. He said to Abram, “I am Almighty God, walk before Me and be blameless. Trust Me, Abram. You and Sarai will have children. I will help you understand this in a special way. I will give you and Sarai new names.”

God told Abram, “Your name will no longer be Abram. Your name will be, Abraham. It will be Abraham, because Abraham means the father of many nations. Your wife will no longer be called Sarai. You must call her Sarah. Sarah means, she shall be the mother of nations. You and Sarah will have a son in your old age. Remember, Abraham, ‘I am Almighty God.’ I can do all things.”

God also told Abraham to remember God’s covenant with a sign. This sign was the sign of circumcision. Every boy in Abraham’s household had to have this sign. The sign was given to each boy when he was eight days old. This sign was very important. If a boy did not have this sign, he was to be sent away. Today we remember God’s covenant with a different sign. The sign we use today, is the sign of baptism.

Genesis seventeen tells us we serve, “Almighty God.” He can do things that are impossible for men. He can have old people give birth to children. He fulfills every promise He makes. The promise of the covenant, to Abraham did come true. All nations are blessed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus is the Son of God and also the son of Abraham.

Questions

1. How old was Abram when God appeared to him and changed his name?

(Gen. 17:1)

2. What was the name of the Lord? (Gen. 17:1)

3. What name did God give to Abram? (Gen. 17:5)

4. What does the name Abraham mean? (Gen. 17:5)

5. What name did God give to Sarai? (Gen. 17:15)

6. What does the name Sarah mean? (Gen. 17:15-16)