

# Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 2

Level 3

Harvey De Groot

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# Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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



## Lesson 1

# God's Confidant

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 13

**Scripture:** Genesis 18

**Memory Verse:** "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels." (Heb. 13:2)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord confides in Abraham

### Lesson

Have you ever had a friend with whom you were able to share all your thoughts? Such a friend would be called your confidant. That is the kind of relationship Abraham shared with Almighty God. God told Abraham about things He was going to do, and He allowed Abraham to speak to the Angel of the Lord concerning these things.

The Lord appeared to Abraham at Mamre in the person of three men. Abraham knew the three men were angels and that one of them was the Angel of the Lord. He immediately extended his hospitality. He asked if he could wash their feet and if he could prepare something for them to eat. When Abraham had prepared their food he stood and waited for the angels to tell him why they had come. He soon learned that they wanted to encourage the faith of Sarah his wife. They told Abraham once again that he and Sarah would have a son. They did this where Sarah could hear them. When she heard this she laughed because she knew that she and Abraham were old. That is when the Angel of the Lord asked the question: "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Sarah did not want to admit that she laughed, but she did know that the Lord could do all things.

Next we see how the Lord spoke to Abraham as a confidant. When the angels looked toward Sodom, the Angel of the Lord said: "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am going to do?" The Angel knew that Abraham was to be the bearer of the promise. He knew that in Abraham and his children all the nations of the earth would be blessed. He knew that the Redeemer was to be born of his line. For this reason he also wanted Abraham to know what God would do to bring the Kingdom of the Redeemer to pass. God could not let the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah continue, lest this sin corrupt the line of Abraham. The Angel; therefore, told Abraham that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed.

The Angel of the Lord then did a remarkable thing. He allowed Abraham to intercede for the righteous people in those cities. Abraham asked: "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?" Abraham even went on to plead for the honor of the Lord by asking: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" When the Angel of the Lord assured him that the city would be spared if there were fifty righteous found in it, Abraham continued to intercede. He asked the Angel if the city would be spared if there were forty-five righteous. He then went on to ask what if there were forty, or thirty, or twenty, and finally if there were only ten righteous. When the Angel of the Lord assured him that the city would be spared even if only ten righteous were found in the city, Abraham did not intercede further. He knew the

destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah would happen. He also knew that the God he served was a righteous God. He knew that God would remember His promise, after the cities were destroyed, that in his children all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

### **Questions**

1. Where did the Lord appear to Abraham? (Gen. 18:1)
2. How did Abraham show hospitality to the angels? (Gen. 18:4-5)
3. What did Sarah do when Abraham was told Sarah would have a son? (Gen. 18:12)
4. What was the Lord's response to Sarah? (Gen. 18:14)
5. Why did the Lord share with Abraham what He was going to do? (Gen. 18:18)
6. How did Abraham appeal to the honor of the Lord? (Gen. 18:25b)
7. For how few righteous people would the Lord spare the city? (Gen. 18:32)
8. How did Abraham show he was humble when he talked with the Lord? (Gen. 18:27)

## Lesson 2

# The Judge of All the Earth

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 14

**Scripture:** Genesis 19

**Memory Verse:** “In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife.” (Luke 17:31-32)

**Lesson Truth:** Believers should know that the Lord is righteous, even when He rains judgment on wicked cities.

### Lesson

When God sends judgment on wicked people, we sometimes want to ask the question Abraham asked: “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” We may be sure that when God rained fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah and saved Lot, the Judge of all the earth did right. God is righteous and His righteousness was seen, both in destroying wicked cities and in saving believing Lot.

We are told that two of the three angels, who had visited with Abraham, now went to test Sodom. When the two angels came to Sodom, Lot was sitting at the city gate. Lot greeted the angels and invited them to spend the night with him. When the angels suggested they would stay in the open square, Lot urged them to stay at his house. Lot knew the wickedness of the men of Sodom.

It should break our heart to learn of the wickedness of the men of Sodom and Gomorrah. We are told that before the angels, who were at Lot’s house, went to bed the men of Sodom surrounded the house. They asked Lot to send his visitors out so they could do sexually wicked things with them. When Lot pleaded with them not to do such wicked things, they tried to force their way into Lot’s house. Then the angels pulled Lot into the house and brought blindness on the men of Sodom. The citizens of Sodom had been tested. The angels knew the men of Sodom would do the most horrible sins.

The angels then told Lot that the wickedness of the cities was so great that God would destroy them. They urged Lot to gather his family and flee from Sodom before it was destroyed. Lot’s sons-in-law thought he was joking when he told them Sodom would be destroyed because of its sins. When Lot hesitated as he tried to gather his family, the angels took him by the hand and led him out of the city. They also took his wife and his two daughters. They urged them to flee to the mountains. Once again Lot showed he was not ready to be submissive. He asked to stay in the town of Zoar. Lot was saved only because he was part of the covenant God made with Abraham.

The Lord then showed His righteousness. He sent fire and brimstone from heaven to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. A righteous God could not allow the terrible sins of Sodom and Gomorrah to go unpunished. He not only destroyed the wicked cities, but He also saved believing Lot.

How sad to know that Lot’s family did not share his covenant relationship to the Lord. Lot’s wife could not break her heart away from Sodom. She could not resist looking back. When she did look

back, God made her into a pillar of salt. Lot's two daughters also showed they were not part of the covenant. They had children with their father in a sinful way. The two sons they produced became the wicked nations of Moab and Ammon. These nations were the enemies of God's chosen people Israel.

### Questions

1. What did Lot ask the angels who came to Sodom to do? (Gen. 19:2)
2. Where did the angels suggest they would spend the night? (Gen. 19:2)
3. What did the men of Sodom do when Lot refused to send the angels out? (Gen. 19:9)
4. When the angels pulled Lot into the house what did they do to the men of Sodom? (Gen. 19:11)
5. How did Lot's sons-in-law respond to his urging them to leave Sodom? (Gen. 19:14)
6. What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah after Lot was taken from Sodom? (Gen. 19:24)

7. What became of Lot's wife because she remained attached to Sodom? (Gen. 19:26)

8. When will it again be like the days of Lot? (Luke 17:28-30)

### Lesson 3

## The Protection of the Promised Seed

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 15

**Scripture:** Genesis 20

**Memory Verse:** “He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, Saying, ‘Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm.’” (Psalm 105:14-15)

**Lesson Truth:** God protected Abraham’s seed, even when Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister.

### Lesson

How thankful we must be that we serve a covenant-keeping God. The story today tells how God protected Sarah from king Abimelech. He protected even when she and Abraham had decided not to tell the king that she was Abraham’s wife. How tragic it would have been if Sarah had actually become the wife of Abimelech. The promise God had made to Abraham and Sarah, that they would have a child in their old age, would not have come true. But, God protected the promised seed. He did not allow Sarah to become the wife of Abimelech. The way God did this is a remarkable story.

Abraham and Sarah traveled to the land of the Philistine king Abimelech. They stayed at the town of Gerar. While they were at Gerar they became afraid that the king might kill Abraham so he could have his beautiful wife, Sarah. In their fear, they decided to tell the king that Sarah was Abraham’s sister. How sad that Abraham, the man of faith, thought he had to lie to protect himself. Sarah was taken into the king’s harem, but she did not become his wife. God protected her.

God came to king Abimelech in a dream and told him that Sarah was another man’s wife. He told him he would die if he made Sarah his wife. God knew that Sarah had to bring forth the son of Abraham who would bring forth the Redeemer. When Abimelech realized he had taken another man’s wife into his harem, he asked God what he had to do. God told the king he had to restore Sarah to her husband, Abraham. He told the king that He had not let him touch Sarah, because she was the wife of a prophet. God told the king, not only is he a prophet, but he also will pray for you.

We are then told of a strange encounter. The heathen king, Abimelech, instructed the man of faith, Abraham. He told Abraham you have nearly caused me to commit a great sin. By not telling us that Sarah was your wife, you almost caused me to die. Then Abimelech gave an offering of sheep and oxen, along with servants and silver to Abraham. He also told Abraham that he might live anywhere he wished in the land.

Abraham then did what a prophet is called to do. He prayed to God Almighty. God then healed Abimelech and the women of his house, so they could again have children. What a Mighty God we serve. He controls all things. He controlled a heathen king and the women of his house, so they would not sin against the man with whom God had made a covenant.

## Questions

1. Where did Abraham stay after he journeyed to the south? (Gen. 20:1)
2. What did Abraham tell the people of the land about his wife Sarah that was not fully truthful? (Gen. 20:2)
3. How did God appear to king Abimelech? (Gen. 20:3)
4. Who withheld Sarah from king Abimelech? (Gen. 20:6)
5. Who controls even heathen kings so they can not harm God's prophets? (Psalm 105:14-15)
6. What did God instruct Abimelech to do so he would not die? (Gen. 20:7)



## Lesson 4

# Divine Good Pleasure

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 16

**Scripture:** Genesis 21

**Memory Verse:** “But he who was of the bond woman was born according to the flesh, and he of the free woman through promise.” (Galatians 4:23)

**Lesson Truth:** God, in His good pleasure, promised Abraham that his son, born from Sarah, would be the covenant heir.

### Lesson

Our lesson assures us that God’s promises are always certain. Abraham and Sarah had a son in their old age, just as God promised. Abraham’s son, born from Hagar, did not accept God’s appointed heir of the covenant and had to be sent away. Ishmael and Hagar were forced to live outside the covenant circle. While Ishmael scoffed at the covenant heir, Abimelech, king of the Philistines, recognized that God brought blessings on Abraham.

We are told that God visited Sarah, which made it possible for her to have a son in her old age. Abraham named his son, born from Sarah, Isaac, which means laughter. Sarah felt that the birth of a son in her old age was so unusual that everyone who heard about it would laugh with her. Abraham also administered the sacrament of circumcision for Isaac. He knew that Isaac was the promised child and the heir of the covenant.

When Isaac was old enough to be weaned, Abraham made a feast for the occasion. At this feast Sarah saw Ishmael scoff at Isaac, the son of promise. Sarah was not pleased to see Ishmael mock the son whom God had promised would be the heir of the covenant. She asked Abraham to send him away. The thought of sending his son, Ishmael, away displeased Abraham. But he also knew that Isaac was the son of promise and that salvation for him, for his house, and even for Ishmael would come from Isaac’s seed.

God did comfort Abraham by telling him that He would make a great nation of Ishmael. Abraham then sent Ishmael and Hagar into the wilderness with water and bread. Because Ishmael was a son of Abraham, God heard his cry in the wilderness when he was dying of thirst. God sent an angel out of heaven to minister to Ishmael and Hagar. Ishmael did become a great nation, just as God had promised. Much later, some children of Ishmael came to worship the Christ, and the curse of Ishmael was broken.

While Ishmael did not recognize that Abraham and his son Isaac were blessed by God, king Abimelech did. He said to Abraham, “God is with you in all that you do.” He wanted to make an agreement with Abraham that they would not deal falsely with each other. Abraham said he would make an agreement with Abimelech on one condition, that they clear up a question about the ownership of a well. This well had been dug by Abraham’s servants but was seized by Abimelech’s servants. Abimelech accepted the seven ewe lambs which Abraham offered him. In this way he acknowledged that the well belonged to Abraham. The place where they made this agreement was called Beersheba. In addition to giving the place a name, Abraham also planted a tamarisk tree,



7. Where did Abimelech think Abraham's blessings came from? (Gen. 21:22)

8. What did Abraham do that showed he was a servant of the Lord? (Gen. 21:33)

## Lesson 5

# On the Mount of the Lord

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 17

**Scripture:** Genesis 22

**Memory Verse:** “He remembers His covenant forever, the word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant He made with Abraham, and His oath to Isaac.” (Ps. 105:8-9)

**Lesson Truth:** When Abraham obeyed God and brought Isaac to the mountain as a sacrifice, the Lord appeared.

### Lesson

The Bible tells us (Rev. 2:10) that God’s people are sometimes tested to see if they truly trust God. The story of Abraham being asked to offer Isaac as a sacrifice, is a story of such a test. We should remember when we read this story that God called Abraham. This is a story, not only about Abraham’s faith, but also about God’s faithfulness.

You remember that God asked Abraham to leave his father’s house and be a separate people. God told Abraham that he and Sarah would have a son and that through this son all the nations of the earth would be blessed. After waiting for years until Abraham and Sarah were old people, God finally gave Abraham a son. This is the son to whom Abraham gave the sign of the covenant in the sacrament of circumcision. It is this son of promise that God asked Abraham to offer as a human sacrifice.

God told Abraham to take his son Isaac to the mountain of the Lord and there offer him as a burnt offering. It is amazing to see Abraham making preparations to obey God. He took the wood, the fire, and the knife in preparation to do as God commanded. On the third day of his journey Abraham instructed his servants to wait while he and Isaac went on to the mountain. While he and Isaac were walking together, Isaac asked a profound question. He said: “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham’s answer showed his deep faith in God. He told Isaac the Lord would provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering. Abraham was aware that God loved Isaac too. God was also ready to make a great sacrifice in asking that Isaac be offered as a burnt offering.

When Abraham bound Isaac and took the knife to slay him, he showed he was ready to trust God. The book of Hebrews tells us that Abraham concluded that God was able to raise him from the dead. He was ready to slay his son trusting that God would keep his promise to bless all the nations of the earth, even if Isaac was put to death. What a welcome voice we hear when Abraham raised the knife to slay Isaac. The Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said: “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” It was then that Abraham’s word of assurance to Isaac that the Lord would provide a lamb for the sacrifice was realized. He saw a ram caught in a thicket and this ram became the burnt offering.

In a response of gratitude for the Lord providing a lamb for the burnt offering other than Isaac, Abraham named the place “The Lord Will Provide.” The Angel of the Lord then spoke to Abraham a second time and repeated the blessing of the covenant to him. He told him that his descendants would be as the stars of the heaven and the sand of the seashore for multitude. Once

again Abraham was given the assurance that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. In this way Abraham looked forward to the coming Redeemer. Today we know that the Redeemer has come. If our faith is in the Redeemer promised to Abraham then we too are Abraham's children.

### Questions

1. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son? (Gen. 22:1)
2. What made it possible for Abraham to pass God's test? (Heb. 11:17)
3. Who did not spare his own son but delivered Him up for us all? (Rom. 8:31-32)
4. Who carried the wood for the burnt offering at the mountain of the Lord? (Gen. 22:6)
5. What question did Isaac ask Abraham about the lamb for the burnt offering? (Gen. 22:7)
6. Who called to Abraham to tell him not to slay Isaac? (Gen. 22:11)

7. What was offered as burnt offering in the place of Isaac? (Gen. 22:13)

8. What did Abraham name the place where he was asked to offer Isaac? (Gen. 22:14)

## Lesson 6

# The Guarantee of the Inheritance

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 18

**Scripture:** Genesis 23

**Memory Verse:** “So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.” (Genesis 23:2)

**Lesson Truth:** Abraham purchased a permanent place to bury Sarah, because he knew that God would keep His promise to give this land to his descendants.

### Lesson

Sarah, the mother of the promised seed, died. The Bible tells us she was 127 years old at the time of her death. Following Sarah’s death, Abraham once again showed his deep faith in God’s promises. You may wonder how Abraham showed his faith at the time of Sarah’s death? He showed his faith in God’s promises by purchasing a permanent place to bury Sarah. Abraham believed that his descendants would live in the land of Canaan, just as God promised they would.

Abraham loved Sarah. He knew she was the mother of the son whom God had promised would be a blessing to all the nations. The Bible tells us Abraham mourned for Sarah and wept for her. After his time of mourning Abraham made plans to bury Sarah. He did not want to take her body back to Ur of the Chaldeans where she was born. He believed that his children would live in the land of Canaan, because this is what God had promised. He wanted Sarah to be buried where his children would live someday.

When Abraham asked the sons of Heth about buying some land for a burying place, they were ready to give him any burial place he chose. They thought of Abraham as a mighty prince. Abraham knew he was to be a separate people. He knew that God promised the Redeemer would come from his descendants. Abraham and Sarah could have no part in the life or death of the Hittites. They were set apart by God as His chosen people. Because of this, Abraham wanted to buy a place to bury Sarah. He wanted a place that was his own, a place set apart from the Hittites.

Abraham asked the sons of Heth if they would ask Ephron, a prince of the Hittites, to sell him a field and a cave. Ephron once again offered to give a field to Abraham. When Abraham refused this offer, Ephron named the price. Abraham then gave him the full purchase price. The field and the cave were now Abraham’s property. He looked forward, in faith, to the time that his descendants would live in the land of Canaan. He paid for the field with wealth the Lord had given him. This was a gift from the Lord that served as a divine guarantee that his children would possess that land some day.

After Abraham purchased the field and cave of Machpelah, he buried Sarah there. When he put her body in the cave he knew this was not the end for Sarah. He was confident that she would rise from the dead when the Redeemer comes at the end of time. We too know that everyone who is a child of Abraham, by faith, will rise from the dead along with Abraham and Sarah. A life of faith in the God of Abraham will bring us this comfort when our loved ones die. It will comfort each one of us when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

## Questions

1. Where did Sarah, Abraham's wife, die? (Gen. 23:2)
2. How did Abraham feel about Sarah's death? (Gen. 23:2)
3. Where did the sons of Heth say Abraham could bury Sarah? (Gen. 23:6)
4. What was the price Abraham paid for the field and cave of Machpelah? (Gen. 23:16)
5. Who was later buried along with Sarah in the cave of Machpelah? (Gen. 49:29-33)
6. Who will swallow up death forever, and wipe away every tear? (Isaiah 25:8)

7. What place has God prepared for those who die in Christ? (Hebrews 11:16)

8. What valley do we not need to fear if we belong to the Lord? (Psalm 23:4)

## Lesson 7

# Loving God for His Own Sake

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 19

**Scripture:** Job 1

**Memory Verse:** “As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor – this is the gift of God.” (Ecclesiastes 5:19)

**Lesson Truth:** God wants mankind to love Him just because He is God, not because they may receive some benefit from Him.

### Lesson

The story of Job is a beautiful story of a man who loved God because He is God. Job most likely lived at the time of Abraham. Both Job and Abraham were men who loved God, but they were different in their relationship with God. God revealed to Abraham the promise of the covenant that would be fulfilled in his seed. Job did not receive such a promise, but God said he was a blameless man and one who shunned evil. God showed Satan that Job loved God because He is God, and not because of the wealth God had given him.

Job had a beautiful family of seven sons and three daughters. He loved his family and was a father who prayed for his children. The first day of each week he would rise early and offer burnt offerings for his children and pray for them. He also rededicated them to the Lord each week. He could not bear the thought that his children would sin against God and not serve Him.

God now reveals to us in His Word how He allowed Satan to test Job. Satan came to a meeting of God and the angels as the one who accused Job. God asked Satan if he had noticed that Job was an upright man, a man who feared God and hated evil. Satan responded by accusing Job of serving God only because God had made him the wealthiest man in the east. God then allowed Satan to test Job by giving him the power to take away all of Job’s wealth. God even allowed Satan to destroy the children that Job prayed for and rededicated each week.

What a sad story of one tragedy after another that came upon Job as God allowed him to be tested. One servant at a time, who escaped, came to tell Job of the destruction. The Sabians took all your oxen and donkeys. A fire destroyed all the sheep. The Chaldeans stole all the camels. Finally the greatest tragedy of all, a mighty wind struck the house where your children were feasting and destroyed them. All the wealth Job possessed, including the wealth of having children, God allowed Satan to destroy. Job’s grief must have been very great. We are told he tore his robe; he shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

Job said in his grief, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord.” It is hard for us to imagine how much Job suffered as he was tested. In all of his suffering he continued to love God. Job showed by his response to God in his suffering that he really did love God because He is God. He showed that his love for God was not because God made him wealthy, but because God was his God. The Spirit of Jesus Christ lived in Job. This made it possible for him to endure unbelievable suffering and yet be victorious. We are told, “In all this Job did not sin nor charge

God with wrong.” Because the same Spirit of Jesus Christ can live in us we too can win the victory in the trials and temptations we encounter.

### **Questions**

1. Where did Job live? (Job 1:1)
2. How many sons and daughters did Job have? (Job 1:2)
3. What did Job do for his sons and daughters when they were feasting? (Job 1:5)
4. What kind of man did God tell Satan that Job was? (Job 1:8)
5. According to Satan, why did Job serve God? (Job 1:10)
6. Who controls the actions of Satan? (Job 1:12)

7. How did Job respond to the loss of all his wealth? (Job 1:21)

8. What was outstanding about Job's reaction to his loss? (Job 1:22)

## Lesson 8

# The Lord's Involvement in Human Suffering

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 20

**Scripture:** Job 2– 39

**Memory Verse:** “But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.” (Job 2:10)

**Lesson Truth:** While the Lord allows suffering to occur in our lives, He remains our faithful God in Christ Jesus.

### Lesson

The book of Job, in the Bible, helps us understand why God's children sometime suffer. The pain and heartache we experience is not always the direct result of sin in our lives. The book of Job helps us to know that God sometimes allows His children to suffer so He can test them and perfect them. The Lord's involvement in human suffering is seen in His response to Job's struggle to find an answer to his suffering. This struggle became intense when he had to listen to the foolish words of his three friends. Job could have learned much from the fourth friend, Elihu, if he wouldn't have tried so hard to defend himself. It is when God speaks to Job out of the whirlwind that he understands that God is Almighty. He need not give an answer for what He allows to happen in the lives of His children.

Once again we see God asking Satan if he had noticed that Job was a righteous man who hated evil. Even after God allowed Satan to destroy all of Job's possessions, he did not sin against God. Satan insisted that Job would turn against God if his body had to suffer. God then allowed Satan to bring painful boils all over Job's body. This brought terrible suffering to Job. His suffering became even worse when his wife turned against him and his three friends gave him foolish counsel.

Imagine the terrible suffering Job experienced. He had lost all his possessions, his body was covered with painful boils, and then his wife told him to curse God and die. She urged him to forget God. Once again Job's response to his wife is remarkable when he said: “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity.”

God allowed Job's suffering to become even greater when his three friends came to console him. They were so astonished at his appearance that they sat in stunned silence for a week. When Job spoke to them he could only exclaim he wished he had never been born. Then his three friends each spoke and shared their thoughts. They were certain that anyone, who suffered so much, must have committed some great sin. Bildad told Job his children died because they must have been terrible sinners. This counsel was not from God. It was foolish. Following all his suffering and the torment of his friends, Job questioned the goodness of God. No one has been able to cling to God in the depth of suffering except the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus died the cruel death on the cross, He did not rebel against God. He won the victory!

A fourth friend came to console Job. Elihu spoke last because he was the youngest. He respected the older men and wanted to hear their opinion. When he spoke he was angry with Job because he tried to defend himself, and with Job's three friends because they insisted suffering is the result of sin. Elihu then told Job that trials and suffering are an encounter with God. God can send suffering into our lives to test us and to perfect us. Job could have learned from Elihu's words, but he needed the words of the Lord to really understand why he suffered.

God then spoke to Job out of the whirlwind. He helped Job understand that God is Almighty. The Almighty God can do whatever He wills. God asked Job many questions indicating that He is the Creator God. No mere man may call God to give an account. Job then began to listen. He realized that God loves us even in our suffering. God showed His love in the suffering of Jesus on the cross. He also loves us in the suffering He allows to come into our lives.

### **Questions**

1. How did God characterize Job? (Job 2:3)
2. What suffering did Satan bring on Job? (Job 2:7)
3. What was Job's response when his wife suggested he curse God and die? (Job 2:10b)
4. How long did Job's three friends sit with him before they spoke? (Job 2:13)
5. What was Job's confession to his three friends? (Job 19:25-26)

6. What according to Job is wisdom? (Job 28:28)

7. How did Elihu characterize the older men who had spoken to Job? (Job 32:9)

8. What was the Lord's response to Job's self defense? (Job 38:2)

## Lesson 9

# Sanctification unto Renewal

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 21

**Scripture:** Job 40–42

**Memory Verse:** “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:5-6)

**Lesson Truth:** The trials we experience in this life help to prepare us for complete renewal.

### Lesson

Job was certainly tested by God when he lost all his possessions and all his children. He showed that he was a righteous man because he did not accuse God of doing wrong. However, he did not humble himself completely before the majesty of God. He tried to defend himself as one who did not commit sins that would deserve the trials God sent. The first time God spoke to him, Job promised to be silent. God then spoke to Job a second time. He challenged Job to take over the governing of the world if he was so wise. The second time God spoke, Job repented and submitted to the Lord’s rule.

This is seen when he said to God, “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me which I did not know. Listen, please and let me speak: You said I will question you and you shall answer Me.” Job came to realize that God was well within His rights in dealing with Job according to His good pleasure. Job now understood that the Lord was his God even when he suffered.

Job’s repentance helped him see God as he had never seen him before. He exclaimed: “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.” By submitting himself to God Job found comfort to deal with his suffering.

God then rebuked Job’s three friends and asked Job to pray for them. He rebuked them because they had been wrong in their view of God’s relationship with man. They had put man in the center of this relationship by telling Job that it was because of his sins that God caused him to suffer. They too had to repent and learn that God is always at the center of a relationship with man. God then told them to go to Job and offer up seven bulls and seven rams as a sacrifice and have Job pray for them. This was necessary because God was willing to accept the offerings and prayers of Job. Job could never be the intercessor for the sins of mankind, only our Lord Jesus Christ could do that. But Job did have the Spirit of Christ within him, so God allowed him to pray for the restoration of his friends.

When Job prayed for his friends he showed his unselfish love for God. God then restored Job’s possessions and He gave him additional children. The Bible says Job became twice as wealthy as he was before his suffering. Job would always mourn the loss of his first children, but God did give him another seven sons and three daughters. In this way Job was shown God’s full favor in his restoration.

The story of Job is a reminder of God’s promise to all believers, that He will one day show them his full favor in the glory He will give them. This favor is not only in the future. God also gives

His favor to believers in this lifetime. Even while they experience sorrow in this life they also experience God's favor in many ways.

### **Questions**

1. What was God's question for Job following his self-justification? (Job 40:2)
2. What was Job's response to God's question? (Job 40:4-5)
3. What question helped Job see God's majesty? (Job 40:9)
4. After God had spoken to Job from the whirlwind, what was Job's response? (Job 42:2)
5. God had asked, "Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?" What was Job's response? (Job 42:3b)
6. What were Job's words of repentance? (Job 42:5-6)

7. How fully was Job restored after his suffering? (Job 42:10, 12)

8. Who was allowed to pray for Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar? (Job 42:8)

## Lesson 10

# The Preservation of the Covenant Seed

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 22

**Scripture:** Genesis 24:1–25:18

**Memory Verse:** “Then he said, ‘O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.’” (Genesis 24:12)

**Lesson Truth:** The Lord protected the promised seed by selecting a wife for Isaac from Abraham’s family.

### Lesson

Abraham had left the place of his birth and his father’s house, because the Lord wanted him to be separate. He was to be separate because God had chosen him to bring forth the promised seed. From his descendants would come the Redeemer. Now when his son Isaac was ready to find a wife, Abraham knew she should not come from the land of Canaan. Isaac had to remain separate just as Abraham had been separate.

Abraham instructed his faithful old servant, Eliezer to go back to Haran to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham assured him that God would send His angel to direct him in finding the woman of God’s choosing. He made Eliezer take an oath that he would not find a wife for Isaac in the land of Canaan and that he would not bring Isaac to Haran. Abraham believed the promise of God that in his seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. In faith Abraham wanted Isaac to remain separate.

Abraham’s servant did as he was instructed, he went back to Mesopotamia to find a wife for Isaac. Once he arrived, he prayed that God would give him a clear sign whom He had chosen as Isaac’s wife. He asked for sign that would indicate that the woman chosen was helpful and ready to serve. Eliezer asked that she agree to give him a drink and that she would offer to water his camels. God carefully directed Abraham’s servant to Rebekah the daughter of Bethuel. He knew she was the woman God had chosen because she responded in just the way Eliezer had requested.

Not only did God prepare the heart of Rebekah to respond, but He also prepared the hearts of Bethuel her father and Laban her brother. When Eliezer asked that Rebekah be allowed to go along to become the wife of Isaac, her father and brother answered: “The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you either bad or good. Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master’s son’s wife, as the Lord has spoken.” Rebekah also showed she was ready to submit to the Word of the Lord when she agreed to leave for Canaan immediately. She showed her faith in Abraham’s promise and calling.

As Abraham’s servant arrived home with Rebekah, we are told about the character of Isaac the promised child. We learn that it was evening and Isaac was out in the field meditating and praying. He may have prayed about a wife for himself. Isaac was willing to place such things in the Lord’s hands.

When Rebekah saw Isaac from a distance, she got off the camel she was riding and covered herself with a veil. This indicated she was ready to give herself to Isaac in marriage. Isaac and Rebekah knew they were given to each other from the Lord. Their marriage was rooted in faith. They were aware that God made a promise to Abraham that would be fulfilled through their children.

Later Abraham married Keturah and had children with her. These children of Abraham, as well as his son Ishmael, were sent away from Isaac. Isaac was the promised son and was not to mix with the sons of the concubines.

### **Questions**

1. What sign did Abraham's servant use to make an oath? (Gen. 24:9)
2. Whom did Abraham's servant ask to help him find a wife for Isaac? (Gen. 24:12)
3. After the servant was lead to Rebekah how did he respond? (Gen. 24:26)
4. Who was Rebekah's brother? (Gen. 24:29)
5. Who was Rebekah's father? (Gen. 24:24)

6. Whom did Abraham's servant say prospered him? (Gen. 24:56)

7. What was Isaac doing in the field in the evening? (Gen. 24:63)

8. Who are children of promise with Isaac? (Galatians 4:28)

## Lesson 11

# Flesh and Spirit

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 23

**Scripture:** Genesis 25:19-34

**Memory Verse:** “And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.” (Genesis 25:34)

**Lesson Truth:** When God calls His covenant people, they often experience the struggle between flesh and spirit.

### Lesson

Isaac and Rebekah waited many years for God to give them children. God worked a miracle in the life of Isaac and Rebekah. He made it possible for a barren woman to have children. When their sons were born we become aware of the struggle between human desires and spiritual desires. This struggle is seen in Isaac and Rebekah as well as in Jacob and Esau. The struggle between flesh and spirit occurs in God’s people when they are called by God to be instruments in His plan of salvation.

Isaac and Rebekah were called by God to be the parents of the promised seed. They knew that Isaac was the son whom God had promised to Abraham and Sarah. They also knew that if the promise to Abraham were to come true then they needed to have children. For this reason they longed for a baby. They wanted a son from whom the promised Redeemer would come. Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife Rebekah because she was not able to have children. God then worked a miracle in Rebekah and she became with child. God’s whole plan of redemption is His miracle.

When Rebekah found she was with child, God told her that she would give birth to twins. She knew she would have twins because of the struggle within her. The struggle within her was so great that she inquired of the Lord why this was happening. The Lord informed her that two nations would come from her. He also informed her that there would be a struggle between these two nations. God even told her how the struggle would end, that the older would serve the younger. Rebekah knew that the Redeemer would come from her younger son. She also knew there would be a struggle between her children. The struggle between flesh and spirit was seen in the twins born to Rebekah.

The twins born to Rebekah were very different. The first born, Esau, was a strong man who loved the field. The second born, Jacob, was a mild man who stayed at home. Isaac, their father, loved his older son and the tasteful game he brought home. Rebekah loved her younger son, not only because he stayed at home, but also because he was the son of promise. Even between Isaac and Rebekah we are aware of the struggle between flesh and spirit. Isaac followed his own preference and did not pay attention to the prophecy that the older would serve the younger.

The younger son, Jacob, believed the promise that the Redeemer would come from his children. It bothered him that he was not the first born. He knew the first born usually received the inheritance. Jacob did not know how he would receive the special blessing and promise. He should have trusted the Lord to work this out, but he didn’t. He tried to take matters into his own hands.



5. Which of the two sons did Rebekah love? (Gen. 25:28)

6. What did Jacob want from Esau in exchange for some stew? (Gen. 25:31)

7. What was the thing Esau despised? (Gen. 25:34)

8. Which of the two sons did God love? (Romans 9:13)

## Lesson 12

# Rehoboth

**Reference:** De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 24

**Scripture:** Genesis 26

**Memory Verse:** “And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, ‘For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.’” (Genesis 26:22)

**Lesson Truth:** Isaac had to realize that he was the heir to the promise of the covenant. God talked to him at Gerar to help him understand this.

### Lesson

Isaac was the heir of the promise that God made to Abraham. At Gerar God appeared to him and helped him understand that he was the heir to a rich promise. Isaac had lived in the shadow of his father Abraham. God made Isaac aware that he was the son of Abraham who carried the blessing. The promises of our covenant God are always certain. They are certain even when weaker men like Isaac carry them.

What a demonstration of the love of God, that He would repeat, to Isaac, the promise of the covenant He had given to Abraham. It happened much the same as when God gave the promise to Abraham. There was a famine in the land and Isaac considered going to Egypt. He stopped first at Gerar in the land of the Philistines. While at Gerar, God appeared to Isaac. He told Isaac to remain at Gerar because his children would one day own that land. God repeated to Isaac the blessing he had given to Abraham with an oath. He told Isaac that his children would be as numerous as the stars. He reminded Isaac that in his children all the nations of the earth would be blessed. God said this was going to happen because Abraham, his father, had been faithful. This was God’s way of telling Isaac that he would have to live out the covenant promise on his own. He would have to take the role of covenant leader from his father, Abraham.

Isaac had to grow and mature in the faith. He showed the same weakness as Abraham had shown years before. When the men of Gerar asked about Rebekah, his wife, he told them she was his sister. Isaac was not ready to rely completely on God’s promise. He was afraid he would be killed so the men of Gerar could take his wife. The heathen king Abimelech had to remind Isaac of his deceit. Once again, just as He did with Sarah, God protected Isaac and Rebekah. The promised Redeemer was to come from their children.

It was evident to the people of Gerar that God blessed Isaac. His crops produced a hundredfold. This made the men of the land envious of Isaac, so they tried to harm him. They stopped all the wells that Abraham had dug. King Abimelech even asked Isaac to leave the country. Isaac should have told Abimelech that God had given him that land in a covenant promise. But, he chose to move to a new location. At this new location the struggle between Isaac and Abimelech continued. Each time Isaac’s servants opened one of Abraham’s wells the herdsmen of Gerar would claim the well. Isaac showed his struggle by the names that he gave the wells. He named the one Esek, which means wrangling. Another he named Sitnah, which means quarreling. Finally, when his

servants dug a well that the herdsmen of Gerar did not quarrel about, Isaac did a beautiful thing. He named that well Rehoboth, which means the Lord has made room for us. Isaac was becoming mature in the faith.

When Isaac made one more move to Beersheba, the Lord appeared to him again. God assured Isaac that He was the God of Abraham and that he would be blessed for Abraham's sake. Isaac then responded as the covenant head of his family. He built an altar and called on the name of the Lord. King Abimelech and his friends understood that Isaac was now the covenant head. They said, "We have certainly seen that the Lord is with you."

### **Questions**

1. Who told Isaac not to go down to Egypt? (Gen. 26:2)
2. How many descendants did God promise Isaac? (Gen. 26:4)
3. Why would God bless Isaac? (Gen. 26:5)
4. Why did Isaac tell the men of Gerar that Rebekah was his sister? (Gen. 26:7)
5. What names did Isaac give to two wells because of quarreling? (Gen. 26:20-21)

6. What is the meaning of Rehoboth, the name given to third well? (Gen. 26:22)

7. Who appeared to Isaac at Beersheba? (Gen. 26:23-24)

8. What assurance did God give to Isaac at Beersheba? (Gen. 26:24)