

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 3

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 Prerogative in Election

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 25

Scripture: Genesis 27:1–28:9

Memory Verse: “May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples; and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, which God gave to Abraham.” (Genesis 28:3-4)

Lesson Truth: God has the right to elect whom He wants to be the carrier of the covenant.

Lesson

Today we will learn how God elected a specific person to receive the covenant blessing of Abraham. This is a story of how our covenant God gave the blessing of Abraham to Jacob. It is a beautiful story of how God passed on the covenant promise through a family who sinfully tried to do things their own way.

Isaac was old and had lost his eyesight. He knew he was chosen by God to pass the covenant blessing on to one of his sons. He knew from talking to Rebekah that the blessing should go to Jacob, but he preferred his son Esau. Isaac wanted to bless the son he preferred, so he told Esau to hunt some game and prepare a meal for him. He told Esau when you have your game prepared I will give you the blessing before I die. Rebekah knew this wasn't right because God had told her before her twins were born that the older would serve the younger. Instead of trusting that God would make sure Jacob received the blessing, Rebekah decided to scheme with Jacob to trick Isaac.

Rebekah told Jacob to get a kid goat from the flock. She said she would prepare it just like Esau prepared his game. She then told Jacob he should go in to his father Isaac and pretend he was Esau. She wanted Jacob to bring her the kid goat she had prepared and then get the blessing. Jacob was afraid the trick wouldn't work because he was a person with smooth skin, and Esau was a person with hairy skin. Rebekah then had him put the hairy skin of an animal on his neck and arms to make him appear to be Esau. She was even willing to bear the curse if Isaac should discover the trick and curse Jacob instead of blessing him. Rebekah was right to want the blessing for Jacob; however, she was sinful in not trusting that the Lord would make this happen.

How sad to see Jacob go in to his father Isaac and pretend to be Esau. Jacob even lied to his father when Isaac asked him, “Are you really my son Esau?” He said, “I am.” It is possible that Isaac knew that he was being tricked, but he gave Jacob the blessing anyway. It is possible that his conscience bothered him because he was wrong in preferring Esau. We can be very happy that in spite of the sinfulness of Isaac and his family the blessing of Abraham was given to the person God had chosen to receive this blessing.

When Esau returned with his game, Isaac knew he had been deceived. Esau also knew that Jacob was the one who received the blessing. Esau still was not ready to bow before the Lord and recognize that Jacob was the one whom God elected to receive the promise of Abraham. Instead Esau became angry and vowed to kill his brother after his father died. Again we see how God used

the sinful attitude of Esau to make sure that Jacob would remain a separate people. Jacob had to find a wife from among God's people rather than from the sinful people in Canaan. Jacob had to flee to Padan Aram to escape the anger of Esau. In this way God brought Jacob to the place where he would find a wife.

God also helped Isaac understand more clearly that Jacob was the one whom He had elected to receive the blessing. In faith Isaac was able to tell Jacob, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan." Isaac then repeated the blessing by saying: "May God Almighty bless you, and make you fruitful and multiply you, that you may be an assembly of peoples; and give you the blessing of Abraham, to you and your descendants with you, that you may inherit the land in which you are a stranger, which God gave to Abraham."

Questions

1. When Isaac was old and blind to whom did he want to give the blessing of the covenant? (Gen. 27:1)
2. Who was listening when Isaac spoke to his eldest son? (Gen. 27:5)
3. What did Jacob's mother want him to do to receive the blessing from Isaac? (Gen. 27:8-10)
4. What plan was made to deceive Isaac into thinking Jacob was a hairy man like Esau? (Gen. 27:15-17)
5. What lie did Jacob tell his father? (Gen. 27:24)
6. How do we know that God elected Jacob to receive the blessing in spite of his sins? (Rom. 9:10-13)

7. What did Esau plan to do that made Jacob go to Padan Aram to find a wife? (Gen. 27:41)

8. Who reminded Jacob that he should not find a wife from the daughters of Canaan? (Gen. 28:1)

Lesson 2

God's Primacy in the Covenant

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 26

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-22

Memory Verse: “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 spoken to you.” (Genesis 28:15)

Lesson Truth: The Lord communed with Jacob in a dream, because He took the initiative in the covenant.

Lesson

Jacob had to leave his father's house. He left because Esau vowed to kill him after Isaac died and because Isaac told him not to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. As Jacob began his journey toward Haran God visited him in a dream. God took the initiative to reveal Himself to the one he had chosen to carry the blessing of Abraham. Jacob had to realize that the blessing of Abraham was a gift of God's grace and not a result of his deception of Isaac.

When Jacob left home he likely felt very much alone. His brother hated him because he deceived his father to get the blessing. His father warned him not to take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Jacob was aware that he was cut off from his father and the covenant circle. When night came he had to sleep outdoors and used a stone for a pillow. Before we feel sorry for Jacob, we should realize that God chose to reveal Himself to Jacob when He felt forsaken. In His love, the Lord wanted Jacob to know that even though he received the blessing in a wrong way it was really his. It was his because God chose him to carry the blessing.

In a dream Jacob saw a ladder that reached to heaven with angels going up and down on it. God told Jacob in this dream that he was the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and that the land of Canaan would one day be his. God gave him an even greater message, he told Jacob that in his seed all the families of the earth would be blessed. This was the promise that the Redeemer would come from Jacob's children. No wonder Jacob was a changed man after God communed with him in this dream.

When he awoke Jacob exclaimed, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.” Now Jacob was ready to learn that God would be his God, just as he had been a God to Abraham and to Isaac. The Bible tells us Jacob was afraid. This was not a sense of terror, but a sense of holy awe at the wonderful grace of God. Jacob was aware that God had revealed himself and lifted up his voice and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” He then took the stone he had used for pillow, set it up as a pillar, and anointed it with oil. Because he felt God was there, he named the place Bethel.

Jacob showed how much he had changed when he made a vow to the Lord. He vowed that he would be reminded that God would be his God when he returned to Bethel and saw the stone pillar he had set up. Jacob also vowed that he would return to God, one tenth of everything God had given him. God in His grace had revealed Himself to Jacob in a dream. Jacob responded in faith and established a place called Bethel. He wanted the whole land to be a Bethel, a place where God dwells. You and I should long to have the whole earth a Bethel, a place where God is present.

Questions

1. What did Jacob use as a pillow after he left Beersheba? (Gen. 28:10-11)
2. What did Jacob see in the dream he had at Bethel? (Gen. 28:12)
3. The Lord told Jacob He was the God of whom? (Gen. 28:13)
4. What promises did God make to Jacob in his dream? (Gen. 28:14)
5. What did Jacob say when he was afraid of the awesome grace of God? (Gen. 28:17)
6. How did Jacob mark the spot where God appeared to him in a dream? (Gen. 28:18)
7. What name did Jacob give to the place where God communed with him in a dream? (Gen. 28:19)
8. What did Jacob vow to give the Lord if he would be allowed to return to Bethel? (Gen. 28:22)

Lesson 3

The Word Becomes Flesh

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 27

Scripture: Genesis 29–30

Memory Verse: “And Laban said to him, ‘Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me for your sake.’” (Genesis 30:27)

Lesson Truth: When God gave sons to Jacob, we see the covenant promise begin to be fulfilled.

Lesson Explanation

As we study the story of Jacob’s marriage and the birth of his sons, we should be aware of the grace of our covenant God. God’s promises to Abraham and Isaac began to be fulfilled in Jacob in spite of the sinfulness found in Jacob’s family.

Jacob felt the presence of the Lord at Bethel. Inspired by this experience he journeyed on to Haran. He wanted to find his mother’s brother, Laban. It must have been a welcome sight for Jacob to come upon a well and find three flocks of sheep resting nearby. When Jacob learned that the shepherds knew Laban, we realize that God had directed Jacob’s steps. He brought Jacob to Laban and to his daughter Rachel. Jacob greeted Rachel like a relative and she ran to tell her father about Jacob’s arrival.

After Jacob had been at Laban’s house for a month the sinful negotiations between the two began. Laban asked Jacob to stay as one of his shepherds and to name wages. Jacob knew he loved Laban’s younger daughter, so he offered to work seven years for Rachel. Imagine his surprise when after seven years he was given Leah as his wife instead of Rachel. Jacob the deceiver had been deceived. The excuse Laban gave for deceiving Jacob was that it was the custom to have the older marry before the younger. Jacob then also married Rachel for an additional seven years of labor. This was the beginning of a lot of sinful jealousy and misery in Jacob’s family.

The Bible tells us that Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah. This must have been very difficult for Leah to be the unloved one. Then the Bible tells us that the Lord did something special for Leah. The Lord made it possible for Leah to have children. The names she gave her sons tell us that she sought the Lord in her suffering. The names of her sons Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah all refer to the God of the covenant. Judah was the son from whose line the Redeemer would come. The birth of these sons to Leah made Rachel very jealous. She complained bitterly to Jacob that she could not have children.

Both Leah and Rachel thought they could find the blessing of children by raising children born to their maids. Four of Jacob’s sons were born to the maids of Rachel and Leah. These sons were really born out of jealousy and unbelief. Yet the Lord, in His grace, accepted them as the heads of future tribes of His chosen people. When Sarah tried to have a son from her maid, Hagar, he had to be sent away. Now the Lord sanctified these sons, born from maids, because it was His will.

After Jacob worked for Laban for fourteen years for his two wives, he wanted to leave. He wanted to go back to his father’s house and raise the family that would become the great nation God promised to Abraham. Laban asked Jacob to stay because he realized that he was blessed for the

sake of Jacob. Even though Jacob was deceptive in the way he had the flocks reproduce; he was blessed because of God's Word of promise.

Questions

1. Who watered the flock for Rachel? (Gen. 29:10)
2. What did Jacob ask for wages from Laban? (Gen. 29:15-18)
3. How did Laban deceive Jacob after he worked seven years for Rachel? (Gen. 29:23-25)
4. What name did Leah give to the son when she said she would praise the Lord? (Gen. 29:35)
5. How desperate did Rachel feel because she did not have children? (Gen. 30:1)
6. How come Rachel was later able to have a child? (Gen. 30:22)
7. Why did Laban want Jacob to continue to work for him? (Gen. 30:27)
8. What did Jacob ask for wages if he was to remain with Laban? (Gen. 30:32)

Lesson 4

Separation by the Word

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 28

Scripture: Genesis 31

Memory Verse: “Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be witness between you and me. So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.” (Genesis 31:44-45)

Lesson Truth:

God instructed Jacob to separate from Laban. Jacob listened to the Word of God.

Lesson

When we study the separation of Jacob and Laban it first appears that this separation came about because of very ordinary differences. This would not be the whole and accurate story. They were separated because the Word of God instructed them to separate. Jacob was called to remain separate just as Abraham, in order to prepare a Holy Nation from whom Christ would come.

Jacob knew it was time to leave Haran when he heard Laban’s sons talking. They said that Jacob had taken all that really belonged to their father. Jacob also saw that Laban’s attitude was against him. These ordinary differences made Jacob ready to separate from his father-in-law. But the thing that made him take action and prepare to go back to Canaan was the Word of the Lord. The Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.”

The Word of the Lord prompted Jacob to call Rachel and Leah and tell them to make plans to leave. He shared with them how he had tried to serve Laban faithfully but in return had his wages changed again and again. Rachel and Leah agreed with him. They were also convinced that the wealth in flocks and herds that Jacob possessed was really part of their inheritance. They claimed that God had taken this wealth from their father and given it to Jacob.

It was with his wives approval that Jacob chose to leave Haran when Laban was away shearing his sheep. He stole away with his wives, his sons and all his possessions without telling his father-in-law. Jacob should have been ready to tell Laban that God told him to go back to his father’s house. This would have showed he was ready to fully trust God. Rachel too showed she wasn’t ready to fully trust God, when she stole her father’s household gods. She may have thought these gods could help her have another son.

After three days Laban learned that Jacob had left with all his family and possessions. This really angered Laban because he felt the possessions belonged to him. Again the Bible tells how God protected Jacob, the son of promise. God appeared to Laban in a dream and told him not to speak either good or bad to Jacob. He was not to try to bribe him or threaten him to make him return to Haran. God had brought about the separation and Laban had to submit to it.

Laban pretended he was hurt that Jacob left, because he hadn’t been able to say farewell to his sons and daughters. Jacob’s response was that he feared He would have been sent away empty handed. After Jacob pointed out that he had served his father-in-law faithfully, Laban was forced to admit that it was the God of Abraham and Isaac who blessed Jacob.

It was Laban who requested that they settle their differences and make a covenant. To this Jacob agreed and set up a stone as a pillar as a reminder. Jacob asked his kinsmen from Haran to join in

making a heap of stones as a monument to remember the covenant made between them. He called it Mizpah because he said, “May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent one from another. Jacob and Laban agreed they would not cross the Mizpah pillar to do each other harm.

Questions

1. How did Laban and his sons feel toward Jacob before he left Haran? (Gen. 31:1-2)
2. Who told Jacob he should return to the land of his fathers? (Gen. 31:3, 13)
3. With whom did Jacob share his plans to leave Laban’s house? (Gen.31:4-5)
4. How did Rachel and Leah feel their father felt toward them? (Gen. 31:15)
5. How many days was it before Laban learned that Jacob had stolen away? (Gen. 31:22)
6. What did God tell Laban, the Syrian, concerning Jacob? (Gen. 31:24)

Lesson 5
Israel's God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 29

Scripture: Genesis 32–33

Memory Verse: “He took his brother by the heel in the womb and in his strength he struggled with God. Yes he struggled with the Angel and prevailed.” (Hosea 12:3-4a)

Lesson Truth: The Lord wrestled with Jacob in order to confront him with his sins and purify him.

Lesson

The Lord told Jacob to return to the land of Canaan and promised that He would be with him. He revealed Himself to Jacob in a special way on his way back to the land of his fathers. The Lord showed His love for Jacob by confronting him with his sins and wrestling with him. He did this when Jacob was living in fear of his brother, Esau. Because the Lord wrestled with Jacob and allowed him to prevail, he was given the name Israel.

Jacob had left Laban after they made an agreement at Mizpah. We are told that God sent angels to meet him. Jacob became so aware of the presence of God that he said; “This is God’s camp.” He called the place, Mahanaim. Even though he knew that God was with him, Jacob was still afraid to meet his brother, Esau. He was fearful because he had received the blessing from Isaac by deceit. At that time he thought his struggle for the blessing was with his brother. Jacob had to learn that the struggle for the blessing of Abraham was really with God.

Jacob became very fearful of his brother when his messengers reported that Esau was coming to meet him with four hundred men. He immediately planned a defense by dividing his company in two. His strategy was that if Esau attacked one company the other company would escape. But Jacob did more than plan a strategy; he also called on God in prayer. He addressed God as the God of Abraham and Isaac, and as the God who told him to return to the land of his fathers. He confessed that he was afraid of his brother, and asked God to deliver him from Esau. He also sent droves of livestock as gifts to Esau to try to appease him. When Jacob was in this fearful and prayerful frame of mind, the Lord made Himself known in a special way.

Jacob sent his wives and sons over the Jabbock brook and he remained alone. While he was alone at the Jabbock a Man wrestled with him all night. Jacob was confronted with his sins as he wrestled on until morning. Then the Lord touched the socket of his hip so that he had a limp. As they continued to struggle the Lord asked Jacob to let Him go. To this Jacob replied, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!” The blessing the Lord gave Jacob was evident in the new name he was given. His name was changed from Jacob, meaning deceiver, to Israel, meaning, “You have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.” Once again Jacob wanted to remember this place, as he remembered Bethel and Mizpah, so he named this place, “Peniel.”

Jacob then went on to meet his brother, Esau. He arranged his family by rank, keeping the most valuable until last, to meet Esau. Instead of being angry with Jacob, the Lord gave Esau a spirit of acceptance. He was able to embrace Jacob and weep with him. It surely was the Lord’s will

that Jacob enter Canaan in peace. After a stay in Succoth, Jacob arrived in Canaan. He pitched his tent at the Shechem. God had promised both Abraham and Isaac the land of Canaan. Now Jacob had arrived as the heir of the promise.

Questions

1. What did Jacob say when he met the angels of God? (Gen. 32:1-2)
2. How many men were with Esau as he came to meet Jacob? (Gen. 32:6)
3. What did Jacob do as a defensive strategy to meet Esau? (Gen. 32:7)
4. What specific request did Jacob make concerning Esau in his prayer? (Gen. 32:11)
5. Of what promise did Jacob remind God in his prayer? (Gen. 32:12)
6. Who stayed with Jacob after he sent his wives and sons over the brook Jabbock? (Gen. 32:22-24)
7. What did the Man who wrestled with Jacob ask him to do? (Gen. 32:26)
8. What was the meaning of the new name, Israel, given to Jacob? (Gen. 32:28)

Lesson 6

Holy is the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 30

Scripture: Genesis 34–36

Memory Verse: “Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone.” (Genesis 35:3)

Lesson Truth: Jacob is shown the holiness of the Lord in the events that led to his return to Bethel.

Lesson

We see the holiness of the Lord in the life of Jacob. The holiness of the Lord was seen when Jacob was called to return to Bethel. This call came after some sinful actions of the men of Shechem and of Jacob’s sons. It was also seen in Jacob’s sorrow over Rachel’s death and his grief over Reuben’s sinful act. Jacob, as the son of promise, had to realize that the Lord is completely holy.

Jacob had one daughter who lived with him at Shechem. His daughter, Dinah became acquainted with the girls of the city. As she made friends with the girls of the land, the son of prince Hamor noticed her. Not only did he notice her, but he also took advantage of her. He then asked his father to arrange a marriage to Dinah, with Jacob and his sons. When Jacob shared this request with his sons, they made an evil plan.

Their plan was to tell the men of Shechem that they could not allow Dinah to marry the son of this prince. The reason they said was because the men of Shechem did not have the sign of the covenant. This sign was the rite of circumcision. They suggested that if the men of Shechem would be circumcised then Dinah could marry the prince’s son. Their plan was to attack the men of Shechem when they were disabled because of the circumcision. Jacob’s sons were right in wanting to protect Dinah’s honor and the covenant. But their plan to use the covenant sign to destroy the men of Shechem was very sinful.

In spite of the sinful actions of Jacob’s sons, God used this means to separate His chosen family from the people of the land. When Jacob was deeply troubled by the actions of his sons, the Lord called him to return to Bethel. Bethel was the place where Jacob had the dream of a ladder that reached to heaven. It was the place where he promised that the Lord would be his God.

When Jacob thought of returning to Bethel, he became aware that he hadn’t kept his family free from idols. He told his family to purify themselves and put away their foreign gods. Jacob collected all these foreign gods and hid them under a terebinth tree. Then he was ready to go to Bethel and build an altar to his covenant God. God in his holiness made Jacob separate from people of Shechem. He brought Jacob back to Bethel where he was reminded of his vow that the Lord would be his God.

At Bethel God again appeared to Jacob and repeated His covenant promise. He reminded Jacob that his name was changed to Israel, because he wrestled with God and men and prevailed. He

also assured Jacob that nations and kings would come from him. He said that the land He had given to Abraham and Isaac now belonged to Jacob. Jacob then renewed his part of the covenant by setting up a pillar as a reminder of his pledge that the Lord would be his God.

Jacob, now aware of the holiness of God, was ready to bring his family to his father, Isaac. On the way his beloved Rachel died as she gave birth to his twelfth son. In his sorrow he set up a pillar on Rachel's grave in memory of her. He named the son of Rachel, Benjamin, meaning, son of my right hand. Because he was now aware of the holiness of God, Jacob grieved over the sinful act of his son Reuben. He was now ready to witness the death of his father and carry the covenant blessing.

Questions

1. Who were the father and mother of Dinah? (Gen. 34:1)
2. What did Hamor request of Jacob for his son? (Gen. 34:8)
3. What did Jacob's sons do to Shechem and Hamor when they got Dinah? (Gen. 34:26)
4. Where did God tell Jacob to go to make an altar? (Gen. 35:1)
5. What did Jacob tell his family to do before they went to Bethel? (Gen. 35:2-3)
6. Why didn't the people of the cities pursue Jacob and his family? (Gen. 35:5)

7. What did Jacob do to remember Rachel after her death? (Gen. 35:19-20)

8. Who buried Isaac after his death? (Gen. 35:29)

Lesson 7

Sold for Twenty Pieces of Silver

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 31

Scripture: Genesis 37–38

Memory Verse: “Then the Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.” (Genesis 37:28)

Lesson Truth: The Lord allowed Joseph’s brothers to sell him, so that one day he might save them from a famine.

Lesson

The story of God’s plan of salvation now focuses on two sons of Jacob. They were Joseph and Judah. We will learn how God directed the history of Joseph so he could be used to save the chosen family from famine. We will also note that God chose Judah to be the father of the line of Christ in spite of his shame. God’s ways are forever wonderful as He uses sinful men to work out His plan of salvation.

Joseph was the favorite son of his father. Jacob did not try to hide this from his other sons. He showed his favoritism by making a coat of many colors for Joseph. This favoritism made his brothers hate him. This hate became even more intense when Joseph shared some dreams with his brothers. Those dreams were sent by the Lord as a revelation to Joseph of how he would be used to save the family from starvation. The dreams were about the brother’s sheaves bowing to Joseph’s sheaf. And the sun moon and stars bowing to Joseph’s star. Joseph’s brothers never thought that the dreams could be from the Lord. They hated Joseph and therefore rejected God’s revelation that came through him.

On a day when Joseph was sent by his father to check on the welfare of his brothers, their hate turned to thoughts of murder. They wanted to kill him because they refused to think of bowing to Joseph as the dreams suggested. It was only the request of Reuben that saved him. Reuben asked that he be put into a pit with the hope of finding a way to bring him back to his father. When they saw a band of Midianite traders coming, it was Judah who thought of the idea of selling Joseph. Judah, without knowing it, was used by the Lord to save the life of Joseph and bring him to Egypt. They not only hated Joseph because he was favored, but also because he was a believer. They wanted to be rid of him, so they took the advice of Judah and sold him for twenty pieces of silver. In this way Joseph was sold just as Christ was sold years later. He was banished from the chosen family just as Christ would one day be banished.

After Joseph was sold we see the waves of grief and sorrow that it brought to Jacob’s house. First Reuben grieved, not because he believed Joseph or wanted to save him, but he was afraid to face his father. Then we see the sorrow of Jacob when the brothers’ showed him the bloody coat of many colors. They pretended they found it, as all that was left, after some wild animal devoured Joseph. They showed how far they had fallen, by not only doing away with Joseph, but also being willing to deceive their father. They sold their brother and now they pretended to grieve and tried to comfort Jacob. But Jacob refused to be comforted. These members of the chosen family had rejected not only Joseph, but also the God who had appeared to Joseph. Would they ever come

under the revelation of God again? If the brothers had gotten their way they would have destroyed the covenant promise. But God in His grace was able to work out His plan in spite of their sins.

We again see the marvel of God's grace in the life of Judah. Judah left the chosen family to live among the Canaanites. He even married a Canaanite woman and had three sons with her. These sons were so wicked that God destroyed the two oldest sons. Then God gave Judah twin sons as a result of his sinfulness. It seemed that Judah's family had completely forgotten God. Yet from this family God chose Judah's son Perez to be the line of Christ.

Questions

1. At seventeen years old Joseph was feeding the flocks with whose sons? (Gen. 37:2)
2. Who did Israel (Jacob) love more than all his children? (Gen. 37:3)
3. What did Joseph dream about sheaves? (Gen. 37:7)
4. What was Joseph's dream about the sun, moon and stars? (Gen. 37:9-10)
5. Who convinced the brothers not to kill Joseph? (Gen. 37:21-22)
6. Who convinced the brothers to sell Joseph? (Gen. 37:26-27)

7. How much money were the brothers given for Joseph? (Gen. 37:28)

8. For whom did Judas receive thirty pieces of silver? (Matt. 26:14-15)

Lesson 8

God's Word in Egypt

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 32

Scripture: Genesis 39–41

Memory Verse: “There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God.” (Genesis 39:9)

Lesson Truth: Joseph brought the Word of God to Egypt. This prepared Egypt for the coming of Israel.

Lesson

The focus is on Joseph as we see God's Word come to Egypt. This is a story of how God directed the life of Joseph from being a slave and a prisoner to become a ruler in Egypt. All these experiences occurred in the life of Joseph so Egypt would be ready to host God's chosen people. God would prepare His people to return to the land of promise while they were in Egypt.

Joseph's brothers sold him to a band of traders who took him to Egypt. The traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Here he was a slave in the house of an Egyptian official, but God was with him. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. Because of this his master made him overseer of everything he had. As the man in charge of Potiphar's house, Joseph enjoyed many privileges. These privileges also came with some real dangers. One of these dangers was that Potiphar's wife was attracted to him.

It was through the experience of being tempted by Potiphar's wife that Joseph brought the Word of God. The Word of God came as a Word of judgment against Potiphar's wife. Joseph was able to resist the temptation of Potiphar's wife because the Spirit of Christ was with him. She tried to get him to commit a sexual sin. Joseph knew that God's Word commanded him to be faithful in every relationship. So he told Potiphar's wife that to become involved with her would be a sin against God.

When Potiphar's wife knew that Joseph would not sin against God or break his trust with his master, she decided to trap him. She falsely accused him of the thing she tried to do. She told her husband that he tried to seduce her. This made her husband angry, so he put Joseph in prison, a prison where the king's prisoners were kept. It almost appears that God forgot Joseph. But this was not true, as the prison where the king's prisoners were kept was the way God chose to bring Joseph to the king's palace.

God was with Joseph when he was in prison. He made the prison keeper look at him with favor. Joseph was put in charge of all the prisoners. God chose his position as prison supervisor to put Joseph into contact with the king's chief butler and chief baker. The butler and the baker each had a dream and became very sad because they did not know what the dreams meant. When Joseph asked why they were sad, they complained that no one could interpret their dreams. Joseph then brought the Word of God to the king's officials when he said, “Do not interpretations belong to

God?” He then gave them God’s interpretations of their dreams. When Joseph told the chief butler that he would be restored to his position in the palace he asked to be remembered. He reminded the butler that he had done nothing to deserve to be in prison.

It was only after Pharaoh had some dreams that his magicians could not interpret, that the butler remembered Joseph. He told the king about the Hebrew in prison that interpreted his dream and the dream of the baker. The king immediately sent for Joseph. He told Joseph his dreams about seven fat cows being eaten by seven lean cows, and seven fat ears being devoured by seven thin ears. Joseph again brought the Word of God when he said, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.” He told Pharaoh there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. He advised the king to appoint a wise man to arrange to store grain in the years of plenty that would provide food in the years of famine.

Pharaoh did not know anyone wiser than Joseph, so he appointed him a ruler in Egypt. The Word of God came to Egypt through Joseph. Israel was in danger of being caught up in the ways of Canaan. So God sent Joseph to prepare Egypt to host Israel until they were ready to enter the Promised Land.

Questions

1. How come Joseph was able to prosper in the house of Potiphar? (Gen. 39:2-3)
2. Why did the Lord bless the house of Potiphar? (Gen. 39:5)
3. What happened to Joseph after Potiphar’s wife falsely accused him? (Gen. 39:19-20)
4. How come the keeper of the prison trusted Joseph with running the prison? (Gen. 39:23)

Lesson 9

Restored Unity

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 33

Scripture: Genesis 42–45

Memory Verse: “Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provisions of bread. He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave.” (Psalm 105:16-17)

Lesson Truth: All the members of Jacob’s family had to give up something in order to restore unity.

Lesson

Each member of Jacob’s family had to forget selfish personal ideas in order to restore unity. The leaders of the family that were used by God to demonstrate the sacrifice of personal ideas were Jacob, Joseph, and Judah. God revealed this in the story of Joseph as a ruler in Egypt dealing with his brothers.

The land of Egypt had seven years of huge crops. In this time Joseph as a ruler stored a large amount of grain. There was not only enough for the citizens of Egypt, but grain was also sold to people from other countries. From the story it seems that Joseph assigned himself to handle the request for grain from foreigners. As the one who approved requests for grain from people of other lands, imagine his surprise when he recognized his brothers asking for grain. When he saw his brothers bow down with their face to the ground, appealing for grain, he remembered the dreams he had as a youth. These were the dreams of his sheaves and stars bowing down to his sheaf and star. We should be aware of the grace of God in Joseph’s life as he works with his brothers to restore unity in Jacob’s family. Instead of anger and revenge against his brothers he worked for healing.

Joseph knew that the way to restoration is by repentance and forgiveness. He understood that his brothers had to recognize their sin in hating the son of Rachel and selling him to Egypt. So he treated them as spies and put them in prison. While they were in prison they came to realize why this hardship came to them when they said, “We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us.” Joseph sacrificed thoughts of revenge and helped his brothers recognize their sin. But more sacrifices needed to occur before unity was restored.

Joseph released his brothers from prison, keeping only Simeon, and sent them back to his father. He put the money back in their sacks, which alarmed them enough to make them humble. In this way they were being prepared for restoration in the family. But God needed more in order for unity to be restored. He needed Jacob to surrender his hold on everything that belonged to Rachel and place his dependence on Almighty God. God used Joseph to bring this about by insisting that the brothers could not buy any more grain unless Benjamin was with them. When Jacob asked his sons to go back to Egypt for more grain, Judah spoke for the brothers. He insisted they could not go without Benjamin, and he offered to be a guarantor for his safe return. Jacob finally let go of everything that belonged to Rachel. He could again be known as Israel, a prince who wrestled God and prevailed.

The Preserver of Life

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 34

Scripture: Genesis 46–47

Memory Verse: “Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, ‘Jacob, Jacob!’ And he said ‘Here I am.’ So He said, ‘I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.’” (Genesis 46:2-3)

Lesson Truth: God used Joseph to preserve the lives of his family as well as the Egyptians.

Lesson

God used Joseph to preserve the life of Egypt as well as Israel. Israel not only had to be preserved from famine, but also from mingling with the Canaanites. The preservation of Israel occurred when Jacob was called to leave Canaan and to live separate from the Egyptians in Goshen.

Can you imagine the response of Jacob when his sons returned from Egypt? They brought Benjamin and Simeon with them as well as wagons from Pharaoh to transport their father to Egypt. Jacob was, no doubt, eager to see his beloved son, Joseph. But he was afraid to leave Canaan, the land that had been promised to him as well as to Abraham and Isaac. Jacob stopped at Beersheba on his journey to Egypt to offer sacrifices to God. While at Beersheba God appeared to Jacob in a night vision. In this vision He assured Jacob that it was right to go to Egypt. God told Jacob that he would go with him, and make him into a great nation in Egypt. He told Jacob that his family would return to Canaan and that his beloved son Joseph would put his hand on his eyes.

With this assurance from God, Jacob was ready to go to Egypt. He was ready to separate his family from the evil influences of Canaan. He sent Judah ahead to inquire the way to Goshen. Jacob and Joseph knew that God’s chosen people should also live separate from the Egyptians. Joseph instructed his brothers to be sure to tell Pharaoh they were shepherds. He knew that Pharaoh would give them a separate place to live because the Egyptians would not live near shepherds. In this way God used Joseph to save the chosen family from famine and from mixing with the people of the world.

Joseph then brought his father, Jacob, to the court of Pharaoh. Here Jacob assumed the role as the head of the covenant when he blessed Pharaoh. Pharaoh, who lived only for this life, enviously asked Jacob his age. He told the king that he was one hundred thirty years old. He called his life a pilgrimage that had been filled with hardship. In calling his life a pilgrimage, he indicated he was not a citizen of this world, but a citizen of the world to come.

Because of Pharaoh’s orders Jacob’s family went to live at Goshen. Here Joseph was able to take care of his father, his brothers and their families. Joseph understood that the care of God’s chosen people was his chief concern. He remembered the dreams God had given him and the promises that were given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. But Joseph also took care of the people of Egypt. Before the famine was over the people had exchanged all their land and even themselves for food. In this way all the land became Pharaoh’s.

Jacob and his family lived in Egypt, in the land of Goshen, but his heart remained in Canaan. He was certain that the promise God had made to him and his fathers was true. His children would live in Canaan some day and from his children the Redeemer of the world would come. Because Jacob was so certain of this promise, he asked Joseph to swear on oath that he would not bury him in Egypt but bring his body back to Canaan. He would be buried at Machpelah with Abraham and Isaac. We too must believe in the promised Redeemer then our place is secure among the saints.

Questions

1. Who called in a vision and said, “Jacob, Jacob?” (Gen. 46:2)
2. What did God assure Jacob would become of his family while they were in Egypt? (Gen. 46:3)
3. How many were all the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt? (Gen. 46:27)
4. What was Jacob ready to do after he had seen the face of Joseph? (Gen. 46:30)
5. How many of his brothers did Joseph present to Pharaoh? (Gen. 47:2)
6. What term did Jacob use to describe his life? (Gen. 47:9)

7. How many years did Jacob live? (Gen. 47:28)

8. What was Jacob's one request from Joseph before he died? (Gen. 47:29)

Lesson 11

The Bringer of Peace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 35

Scripture: Genesis 48–50

Memory Verse: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.” (Genesis 49:10)

Lesson Truth: Jacob prophesied that Judah would rule until Shiloh came. Shiloh is the peace of Christ.

Lesson

It was Jacob who carried the blessing God had given to Abraham and Isaac. Now as he neared death, he passed this blessing on to his sons. Two sons, Joseph and Judah, were chosen to receive special blessings. In a burst of strength on his deathbed, Jacob called his sons to tell them how God would deal with them in the future.

Although Joseph was a ruler in Egypt, he considered himself to be an Israelite. He demonstrated that he knew his father, Jacob, was the heir to the promise of God. When he learned that his father was dying, he brought his two sons to Jacob to receive the blessing of God from him. Joseph chose not to be considered an Egyptian, nor did he want his sons, born of an Egyptian mother, to be Egyptian. He believed they were also heirs to God’s promise.

Joseph was not disappointed when he brought his sons to Jacob. His father not only gave them a blessing, but he also gave them each an equal share of the inheritance with all of Jacob’s sons. This was the way God chose to honor Joseph, by giving him two portions of the inheritance. This honor and greatest portion was usually reserved for the first-born, but Jacob gave it to Joseph. The blessing of the first-born went not to Reuben the first-born of Leah, but to Joseph the first-born of Rachel.

Jacob carefully crossed his hands when Joseph brought his sons for a blessing. He knew that the younger would be the greater of the two, so he placed his right hand on the head of Ephraim and his left on Manasseh. It was a wonder of God’s grace that Joseph’s sons were blessed as equals to Jacob’s sons, but even more wonderful was that they accepted this blessing. They were ready to share in the faith of Israel. They wanted to be Israelites rather than Egyptians.

When Jacob gathered all his sons around him to bless them before he died it was a surprise that he did not choose Joseph to be the spiritual head of his family. He had given Joseph a double portion, but he chose Judah to be the spiritual head. He told Judah his brothers would praise him. He then gave Judah the promise and hope for all mankind when he said, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to him shall be the obedience of the people.” Shiloh is the one who brings peace. This prophecy was partially fulfilled in the reigns of David and Solomon and completely fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who brought peace and will establish the eternal Kingdom of peace.

Jacob then showed how certain he was that God would keep His promise to the children of Israel. He asked Joseph to make sure he was buried in the land of Canaan. He was confident that his children would occupy the Promised Land, so he wanted to be buried in the same grave as his fathers. Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah and his wife Leah were buried there, so this is

where Jacob asked to be buried. In this way Jacob's family was forever bound to Canaan. In this way they were reminded of the promise God made to Abraham and to his seed.

Joseph also showed that he believed God's promise. When his brothers asked for forgiveness for their sin in selling him, he told them they were forgiven a long time ago. He told them he knew they meant it for evil, but that God meant it for good. He also showed his faith in the promises of God by asking his brothers to swear they would carry his bones along when they returned to Canaan.

Questions

1. Who appeared to Jacob at Luz and blessed him? (Gen. 48:3)
2. Jacob thought he would never see the face of Joseph again, now what more did he see? (Gen. 48:11)
3. Which of Jacob's fathers walked before God? (Gen. 48:15)
4. Who had to be gathered to listen to Israel before he died? (Gen. 49:1-2)
5. Which of Jacob's sons would have his hand on the neck of his enemies? (Gen. 49:8)
6. Which of Jacob's sons would be a fruitful bough? (Gen. 49:22)

7. What charge did Jacob give to his sons? (Gen. 49:29)

8. How long did the Egyptians mourn for Jacob? (Gen. 50:3)

Lesson 12

I Am Who I Am

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 36

Scripture: Exodus 1–4

Memory Verse: “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.” (Hebrews 11:23)

Lesson Truth: God chose Moses to be the mediator between His people and Pharaoh.

Lesson

The Lord revealed Himself to Moses as “Yahweh” that is “I Am Who I Am.” In this lesson we learn how God prepared Moses and His people to meet with Him at Mt. Sinai to renew the covenant. God used Pharaoh to oppress His people to remind them that they deserved death, but by grace He would give them life.

Egypt had a new king who did not know Joseph. This king became afraid of the children of Israel because they had become a great nation. They were more in number than the Egyptians. The king thought he could control their numbers by oppressing them, so he set taskmasters over them to afflict them. It seemed that God had forgotten His people, but this wasn’t true. God was preparing His people and Moses, the leader of His people, to meet with Him at Mt. Sinai. At Mt. Sinai the covenant would be re-established.

When the children of Israel continued to multiply in spite of oppression, Pharaoh became more drastic. He ordered the midwives to kill all the Israelite boy babies they delivered. The midwives disobeyed this command and were blessed by God for doing so. Then Pharaoh ordered that all the Israelite boy babies be drowned in the Nile River. Had God forgotten His people? We know that He did not forget, because He chose the destruction of these babies to place the leader of His people in Pharaoh’s court. How could this happen?

A beautiful baby boy was born to a man of Levi and his wife. They decided to hide the baby for three months and then they placed him in a basket and put him in the Nile River. They put him right where Pharaoh’s daughter went to bathe. Not only did she find the baby, but she also made him her son. God surely used these circumstances to bring the leader of His people to the place where he would be trained. At Pharaoh’s court Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. Yet he still considered himself to be a Son of God’s people. He also felt he should take up the cause of his people and actually killed an Egyptian to defend an Israelite. Moses needed to be trained to forget his self-will and rely entirely on God. After he killed the Egyptian he had to flee for his life to the land of Midian.

In the land of Midian Moses’ training to lead God’s people was completed. He learned to wait on the Lord. While tending the flock on Mt Horeb God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. As the bush burned but was not consumed so it was with God’s people in Egypt. They were oppressed but not destroyed. Moses was now a changed man. When God called him to be the leader of His people Moses felt he was not worthy for this great task. His self-will was gone. Now he waited for

the Lord. When Moses asked God what he should tell the people when they asked who sent him, God revealed the real purpose of the Exodus. God told Moses to tell the people, “I Am Who I Am.” And He said, “Thus shall you say to the children of Israel, I Am has sent me to you.” God would take His people out of Egypt and bring them to Mt. Sinai for the sake of His Name.

God’s people were now prepared by oppression to meet God, and Moses was prepared to lead God’s people. God also gave him his brother Aaron to serve as his spokesman as well as other signs that showed he was chosen to be the leader of God’s people. God would deliver His people from oppression re-establish the covenant with them at Mt. Sinai.

Questions

1. How did Pharaoh try to keep the Israelites from increasing in number? (Exodus 1:9-11)
2. Who did Pharaoh’s daughter chose to nurse the baby she found in the river? (Exodus 2:6-9)
3. How did Moses try to defend the people of God? (Exodus 2:11-12)
4. What was Pharaoh’s attitude toward Moses after he defended an Israelite? (Exodus 2:15)
5. Where did Moses flee to from the face of Pharaoh? (Exodus 2:15)
6. What was very unusual about the bush that was burning at Horeb? (Exodus 3:2)

