

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 3

Level 4

Harvey De Groot

Copyright © 2020 Harvey De Groot

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

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

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

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

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

www.norlandegroot.com

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

Preface

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

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

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

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

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

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

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

Lesson 1

God's Prerogative in Election

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

Scripture: Genesis 27:1–28:9

Memory Verse: “Therefore may God give you of the dew of heaven, of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let the peoples serve you, and the nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, and let your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be those who bless you!” (Genesis 27:28-29)

Lesson Truth: God maintains His prerogative in election.

Lesson

The lesson from Genesis 27–28 tells us how God allowed the blessing of Abraham to pass to Jacob in spite of sinful actions of four key people. The four key people whose personal sins could not hinder God’s plan of salvation were Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, and Jacob. Isaac continued to favor Esau even when he knew that Jacob would inherit the promise. Rebekah took matters into her own hands and helped Jacob deceive his father. Esau married Hittite wives showing he had little respect for the covenant. And Jacob was willing to deceive his father so he could receive the blessing of Abraham.

Isaac was old and had lost his sight. He knew he was nearing the time of his death. As an act of faith Isaac wanted to give the blessing of Abraham to his son. It is tragic that he insisted on giving it to the wrong son. He instructed Esau to go out to the field and hunt game and prepare it for him. He wanted to give Esau the blessing of Abraham. Isaac should have known that Esau with his Hittite wives could not be the son of promise. Yet he planned to give Esau the blessing.

When Rebekah heard Isaac give Esau instructions to prepare food so he could receive the blessing, she took matters into her own hands. She told Jacob of Isaac’s instructions and shared with him a plan to deceive Isaac. She prepared food the way Esau prepared it and dressed Jacob in Esau’s clothing. She then urged Jacob to go to Isaac and pretend he was Esau, so he would receive the blessing. She was even willing to bear the curse of Jacob if he should be found out. Rebekah acted in a sinful way by planning to deceive Isaac. At the same time, she showed her faith, because God had told her before her twins were born that Jacob should receive the blessing.

Jacob carried out Rebekah’s plan to deceive Isaac. He not only deceived Isaac by pretending he was Esau, but also lied to Isaac when he was asked, “Are you really my son Esau?” In spite of Isaac’s determination to give the blessing to Esau, he was made, by deception, to give it to Jacob. Isaac should have realized that Jacob was the son of promise and given him the blessing without being deceived.

After Jacob received the blessing, we see the pitiful figure of Esau. Esau had carelessly sold his birthright and had married heathen wives, which showed how little respect he had for God’s covenant promises. He now cried with an exceedingly bitter cry that he had been robbed of a blessing. He pleads with Isaac to also give him a blessing. As a prophet Isaac was able to tell Esau what would happen in his life. He would live by the sword, and he would serve his brother.

We then should note how God's plan for Jacob and his seed is worked out through Esau's desire for revenge. Esau hated his brother Jacob and intended to kill him after Isaac died. When Rebekah learned of Esau's desire for revenge, she told Jacob to flee to her brother Laban. She asked her husband Isaac to send Jacob to Padan-Aram to find a wife. After all this deception, lying and hate in Isaac's family we are comforted to know that God's plan of salvation will be carried out through Jacob. Isaac sent Jacob away with this blessing: "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. To whom did Isaac want to give the blessing? (Gen. 27:1-4)
2. Who overheard Isaac giving instructions to his oldest son? (Gen. 27:5)
3. What did Rebekah tell Jacob to do so he could receive the blessing? (Gen. 27:6-10)
4. Should Isaac have tried to give Esau the blessing of Abraham? (Gen. 25:23)
5. How do we know from Jacob's blessing that God would make him a great nation? (Gen. 27:29)

6. Why did Esau say that his brother had the right name? (Gen. 27:35-36)

7. What did Isaac command Jacob about getting a wife? (Gen. 28:1)

8. Jacob was the son of promise; whose blessing did he receive? (Gen. 28:3-4)

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: “Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.’ And he was afraid and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!’” (Genesis 28:16-17)

Lesson Truth: As the One, who takes the initiative in the covenant, the Lord offers His communion to His own.

Lesson

Jacob had tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing of Abraham, but he had not yet seen a personal revelation of God. Jacob's experience at Bethel helps us understand that God chose Jacob to be the bearer of the covenant blessing. At Bethel God appeared to Jacob in a dream. This made it clear that the covenant promise Jacob received, came from the faithfulness of God and not from anything Jacob had done.

Because Esau vowed to kill him, Jacob had to flee to Padan-Aram. He was cut off from the covenant circle, which was found in his father Isaac. He had to learn that the covenant blessing was really his, not because he tricked his father Isaac, but because God Almighty chose him. God revealed this to Jacob in a dream.

On the evening of the first day of his lonely journey, Jacob had to sleep outdoors. He found a stone to use for a pillow. As he slept that night, he dreamed he saw a ladder that reached from the earth way up to heaven. Even more amazing Jacob saw angels going up and down on this ladder and at the top he saw the Lord. The Lord then spoke to Jacob and said: “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac.” God then repeated the blessing He had given to Abraham that in his children all the families of the earth would be blessed. The Redeemer of all mankind would come from Jacob's seed. God helped Jacob understand that the blessing of the covenant came from God alone and not because Jacob had tricked his father. God's promises do not depend on what we do, but on what He does.

When Jacob awoke following the dream, he was a different man. He realized something very special had happened. He knew that God had chosen him to carry the promise of the covenant. This made him feel afraid of the majesty and power of God, a God who would make a covenant promise to a sinful man like Jacob. He said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” Jacob felt this was a holy place because God had revealed Himself to him. He gave it the name Bethel, because the Lord is in this place.

In a response to the revelation of God, Jacob made a vow. He vowed that he would serve the Lord. He surrendered everything to the Lord, vowing to give the Lord a tenth of everything the Lord had given him. He then set up the stone he had used for a pillow as a reminder that he had promised to serve the Lord when he returned. Jacob wanted the whole land to be a Bethel, a house of God. Today we should desire to have everything in the earth a Bethel, a place where God dwells.

Questions

1. What did Jacob use for a pillow on the way to Padan-Aram (Haran)? (Gen. 28:11)
2. What did Jacob see in his dream at Bethel? (Gen. 28:12)
3. Whose God was speaking to Jacob in the dream? (Gen. 28:13)
4. Why did Jacob know he would someday return to the land of Canaan where Isaac lived? (Gen. 28:15)
5. Why was Jacob afraid when he awoke? (Gen. 28:17)
6. What monument did Jacob set up and how did sanctify it? (Gen. 28:18)

7. What name did Jacob give to his monument? (Gen. 28:19)

8. What part of all God would give him did Jacob promise to give back to God? (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: “For I the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people, all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed.” (Isaiah 61:8-9)

Lesson Truth: The promise receives its initial fulfillment when Jacob is blessed.

Lesson

The story from Genesis 29–30 tells how our sovereign Lord worked out His plan of salvation in the life of Jacob. This is done in spite of deceit and sinfulness on the part of Jacob, his wives, and his father in law. Rev. De Graaf gave this lesson the title, “The Word Becomes Flesh” a phrase from John 1 that referred to the birth of our Lord. However, the story of Jacob also showed how the promised Word of God became flesh in the birth of eleven sons to Jacob. (a twelfth son was born later) Man’s sinful nature was being sanctified according to the purpose of God’s grace.

Jacob had left home to escape the wrath of his brother Esau. After many days of travel, he came to the area where his mother’s brother, Laban, lived. There he saw shepherds gathered around a well to water the flocks. These shepherds assured Jacob that his uncle Laban was well. They also indicated that Laban’s daughter Rachel was coming to water the sheep. When Rachel came to the well Jacob greeted her as a relative and watered her sheep. We are told that Rachel ran to tell her father that Jacob had come. Because Jacob was a relative, Laban allowed him to stay for a month. Then we see the craftiness of Laban, as he negotiated with Jacob for wages.

Because Jacob loved Rachel, he saw an opportunity to get her as a wife. He offered to work for seven years for Laban’s younger daughter. When he had worked seven years for Rachel, he asked Laban to complete the agreement and give him his wife. His uncle prepared the wedding feast and gave his daughter to Jacob. This time however, the deceiver was deceived, Laban gave him his daughter Leah instead of Rachel the one he loved. Jacob immediately offered to serve Laban an additional seven years for Rachel. This was the beginning of a lot of tension and jealousy in Jacob’s family. Jacob loved Rachel and this made Leah jealous. Then we are told that God intervened.

Because God saw that Leah was unloved he gave her children while Rachel remained barren. Leah gave birth to children and this made Rachel jealous. In spite of this tension we see how God worked out His plan to bring the Savior into the world. The names Leah gave to her sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah all include a reference to the covenant God. It was from Leah’s son Judah that the Redeemer would come. God gave to Leah the, unloved one, the blessing of being the mother of the line of Christ.

Both Leah and Rachel tried to manipulate the blessing of children by giving their maids to Jacob to bear children for them. This was the same thing Sarah did when she gave her maid, Hagar, to Abraham. The child born to Abraham’s maid had to be sent away because he was not part of the covenant line. The children born to the maids of Leah and Rachel; however, became part of the great nation God was going to use to bring forth the

Redeemer. God's grace could overcome the sinfulness of Jacob's family and become the nation He promised to Abraham.

After Jacob fulfilled his agreement with Laban he wanted to leave with his family and flocks. Laban convinced him to stay because he knew that God blessed him because of Jacob. God used this extended stay with Laban to make Jacob a very wealthy man in spite of Jacob's tricks to get this wealth. God worked His plan of salvation through sinful people in the family of Jacob.

Questions

1. What was Rachel's occupation before she met Jacob? (Gen. 29:9)
2. Describe Jacob's emotions when he met Rachel? (Gen. 29:11)
3. For what was Jacob willing to work seven years? (Gen. 29:18)
4. After Jacob worked for seven years whom did he receive as a wife? (Gen. 29:23-25)
5. Which of his two wives did Jacob love most? (Gen. 29:30)

6. What gift did the Lord give to Leah because He saw she was unloved? (Gen. 29:31-32)

7. What made it possible for Rachel to have a son? (Gen. 30:22-23)

8. Why did Laban want Jacob to continue to work for him? (Gen. 30:27)

Lesson 4

Separation by the Word

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

Scripture: Genesis 31

Memory Verse: “And Laban said, ‘This heap is a witness between you and me this day.’ Therefore its name is called Galeed, also Mizpah, because he said, ‘May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.’” (Genesis 31:48-49)

Lesson Truth: Jacob and Laban are separated by the Word of the Lord.

Lesson

God had called Abraham to be separate. By separating a people unto Himself, God would bring the Redeemer. For that reason it was also necessary for Jacob to be separate. Genesis 31 tells us how God brought about the separation of Jacob and his uncle, Laban.

Jacob had worked for Laban, the Syrian, fourteen years for his two wives. He worked an additional six years for wages. In that six years Laban changed his wages time and again with the intent of taking advantage of Jacob. In spite of Jacob’s tricks to increase the numbers of his flocks, God watched over Jacob. Jacob was the son of promise. It was from Jacob’s line that the Redeemer would come. For this reason we understand why God allowed hostility between Jacob and Laban. Jacob had to separate from Laban and go back to Canaan.

Laban and his sons became very envious of Jacob. Jacob’s flocks increased much faster than Laban’s. Jacob knew, by the attitude of Laban and his sons, that they were beginning to treat him as the enemy. Just when Jacob felt the hostility of Laban and his sons, God talked to him. The Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you.” Under God’s direction Jacob talked to Leah and Rachel and told them about his plans to leave Padan-Aram. God also prepared the hearts of Rachel and Leah to separate from their father and brothers. They too felt like strangers in their father’s house. They agreed with Jacob that all the riches that God had taken from their father really belonged to them and their children.

We wonder why Jacob stole away from Laban’s house. Why didn’t he tell Laban about the command he received from the Lord to return to Canaan? We know that in spite of Jacob’s deceit, he was separated from Laban by the Word of the Lord. Rachel also showed her weakness by stealing the household gods of her father. She too had to learn to put her trust completely in the Word of God.

Three days after Jacob stole away with his wives, his children, and his livestock, Laban learned of his departure. He decided to pursue Jacob and possibly prevent him from returning to Canaan. Again we notice how God controlled the destiny of Jacob. God talked to Laban in a dream and told him not to speak either good or bad to Jacob. We know it was the Lord who sent Jacob away and also protected him.

When Laban caught up with Jacob he did admonish him for stealing away. He pretended that he would have planned a farewell for Jacob and his daughters if he had been informed. Laban was also upset that his household gods were gone, so he searched for them among Jacob’s things. Jacob finally showed his displeasure with Laban and asked, “What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me?” Jacob then gave a testimony about the God of Abraham and Isaac preserving him.

After a direct exchange, Laban proposed that they make a covenant between them. Jacob agreed to this and set up a pillar as a reminder that they would not cross the pillar to do each other harm. They called the name of

the place Galeed or Mizpah, which meant. “May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.”

Questions

1. Who instructed Jacob to return to the land of his fathers? (Gen. 31:3)
2. Who caused Jacob to become wealthy with Laban’s livestock? (Gen. 31:9, 16)
3. Of what place did God remind Jacob, a place where he had previously talked to Jacob? (Gen. 31:13)
4. What did Rachel take from her father’s house that showed she did not fully trust God? (Gen. 31:19)
5. Who spoke to Laban the Syrian and told him not to speak either good or bad of 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: “So He said to him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Jacob’ And He said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.’” (Genesis 32:27-28)

Lesson Truth: The Lord reveals Himself as a wrestler.

Lesson

Each time we read about the life of Jacob, we become aware of God guiding him. As Jacob separated from Laban, angels of God met him. The angels met him at a time when he was afraid to meet his brother Esau. We will learn about Jacob's preparations to meet Esau, his struggle at Peniel, and his meeting with Esau.

Jacob made a covenant with Laban that they would not cross Mizpah to do each other harm. Now he was afraid to meet his brother, Esau. You may remember that he obtained the blessing that Isaac wanted to give to Esau, by deceit. He was afraid Esau still hated him. He became even more afraid when the messengers he sent to Esau returned saying that his brother was coming with four hundred men to meet him. Jacob responded by dividing his family and flocks into two companies, and by going to the Lord in prayer. He asked the God of Abraham and Isaac to deliver him from the hand of Esau. In his prayer he confessed that God had instructed him to return to Canaan. He confessed that he believed the covenant promise that his descendants would be as numerous as the sand of the sea. He believed the promise of the covenant, and yet he was afraid of Esau. Jacob could find no rest. It seemed that the Lord was against him.

After Jacob made up a number of droves of livestock to send as gifts to Esau, he had his wives and children cross the Jabbok stream. Jacob stayed behind to be alone with God. While he was alone with God a Man wrestled with him until sunrise. What a wrestling match this was as Jacob's sins and deceitful nature became a testimony against him. In spite of his sins, Jacob knew he could trust God to be faithful to His promises. The Man with whom he wrestled touched his thigh and made him limp. He also asked Jacob to let him go because it was near daybreak.

Jacob had not been defeated while wrestling, so he dared respond to the request to be let go by saying: “I will not let You go unless You bless me.” Then Jacob was acknowledged in a wonderful way. The Lord with whom he wrestled changed his name. His name would no longer be Jacob, meaning deceitful. It would be Israel, meaning you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed. Jacob then asked the man with whom he wrestled what his name was. He was not given the name, God cannot reveal Himself all at once, but he did receive a blessing. Jacob wanted to remember this place as had both Bethel and Mizpah, so he gave it the name Peniel. He said, “For I have seen God face to face, and my life has been preserved.”

After Jacob's encounter with God, he was now ready to meet his brother. He was confident God's favor would go with him. He lined up his family by rank to have them greet Esau. By God's grace Esau was able to greet his brother Jacob and embrace him. He was also able to accept the gifts from Jacob. After a stay at Succoth,

Jacob finally arrived at Shechem, which was in the land of Canaan. There Jacob built an altar. He had returned to the Land of Promise.

Questions

1. What did Jacob name the camp where he met the angels of God? (Gen. 32:1-2)
2. According to Jacob's prayer, who told him to return to Canaan? (Gen. 32:9)
3. How did Jacob try to appease his brother, Esau? (Gen. 32:20)
4. What physical reminder of the experience at Peniel did Jacob receive? (Gen. 32:25, 31)
5. What was the new name Jacob received at Peniel? (Gen. 32:28)
6. What was the meaning of the new name Jacob received? (Gen. 32:28)

7. Why did Jacob call the name of that place Peniel? (Gen. 32:30)

8. At what city in the land of Canaan did Jacob pitch his tent? (Gen. 33:18)

Lesson 6

Holy is the Lord

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

Scripture: Genesis 34–36

Memory Verse: “Also God said to him, ‘I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body. The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.’” (Genesis 35:11-12)

Lesson Truth: The Lord’s holiness is made manifest to Jacob.

Lesson

The lesson today contains sinful incidents that God allowed, to remind Jacob to live up to the vow he made at Bethel. These incidents were the violation of Dinah and the deceitfulness of Jacob’s sons in asking the men of Shechem to be circumcised. The sins of the men of Shechem and of Jacob’s sons should disturb us. Yet, we must be thankful that our covenant God could use these sinful acts to get Jacob to leave Shechem and return to Bethel.

Jacob and his family lived near Shechem for a long time. They had become acquainted with the people of Shechem. Jacob’s daughter, Dinah, started to hang around with the girls of the city. While she was in this social circle the son of the prince of the city noticed her. This son by the name of Shechem looked at Dinah lustfully. Even more he forced Dinah into an intimate relationship. After this awful deed he wanted to have Dinah as his lawful wife. He asked his father, the prince, to request permission from Jacob and his sons to marry Dinah. He was ready to give a large dowry for the woman he loved.

When Jacob shared the request for Dinah with his sons, they were outraged. They responded with a deceitful act. They pretended that it was the sign and seal of the covenant, the sacrament of circumcision, that kept them from giving their consent. They told the men that they would give their consent to the marriage if they would all be circumcised. All the while they intended to attack the men of Shechem before they were healed from this rite. This was a sinful thing for the sons of Jacob to do. Yet, God used this incident to make sure that Jacob and his family would return to Bethel and remain a separate people.

Following the incident at Shechem, God called Jacob and told him to go back to Bethel. God reminded Jacob of the vow he made at Bethel, that he would serve God if he were allowed to return. With this reminder from a covenant keeping God, Jacob made work of collecting and hiding all the foreign gods from his family. God again assured Jacob that he would become a great nation, that kings would come from him. He reminded Jacob that the land He had given to Abraham and to Isaac, He was now giving to him. Our covenant-keeping God also reminded Jacob that his name had been changed to Israel. This was the Israel who had wrestled with God and men and had prevailed.

Jacob then set out to see his father, Isaac. He now understood that the blessing of the Lord that his father Isaac had given him, was the blessing he must pass on to his sons. God helped Jacob to see that he was the heir of the covenant blessing. As Jacob traveled to Mamre, his father’s house, his beloved wife Rachel died while she was giving birth to a son. Jacob named this son Benjamin, meaning, son of my right hand. Jacob, now known as Israel, was schooled by the Lord to be the son of promise. His growth was evident in the disgust he showed with his son, Reuben, who had intimate relations with Jacob’s wife Bilhah. When Jacob blessed his sons at his death, he rejected Reuben as the first-born.

Jacob finally arrived at his father's house. He was without Rachel and his son Reuben had dishonored him. Through these sorrows Jacob learned to acknowledge the Lord. He knew that the Lord was his covenant God.

Questions

1. Who violated Jacob's daughter, Dinah? (Gen. 34:2)
2. What was Shechem, the son of Hamor, willing to give as a dowry for Dinah? (Gen. 34:12)
3. What two sons of Jacob destroyed the men of Shechem because of Dinah? (Gen. 34:25)
4. Who instructed Jacob to go to Bethel and build an altar there? (Gen. 35:1)
5. What did Jacob ask the members of his household to do before he went to Bethel? (Gen. 35:2)
6. What was the new name God gave to Jacob that He repeated at Bethel? (Gen. 35:10)

7. To whom had God given the land He was now giving to Jacob? (Gen. 35:12)

8. How did Jacob try to remember Rachel after she died? (Gen. 35:20)

Lesson 7

Sold for Twenty Pieces of Silver

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

Scripture: Genesis 37–38

Memory Verse: “And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him and delivered him out of all his troubles, and gave him favor and wisdom in the presence of Pharaoh, king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.” (Acts 7:9-10)

Lesson Truth: Joseph is banished from the community so that one day he will be able to save it.

Lesson

Jacob had returned to Canaan and buried his father Isaac. Jacob was now the patriarch and the one who carried the promise of the covenant. The story of Jacob continues by telling about Jacob’s sons. Two of Jacob’s sons had a special place in God’s plan of redemption. They were Judah the son of Leah, and Joseph the son of Rachel. Joseph was hated by his brothers and banished from the family, and Judah was chosen to produce the line of Christ. Again we learn that God’s plan of salvation is carried out in spite of the sins found in the covenant line.

Because Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons, his brothers hated him. They also hated him because he told his father about the immoral behavior of his brothers with Canaanite women. This envy and hate became even worse when Joseph told his brothers about his dreams. In these dreams eleven sheaves bowed down to Joseph’s sheaf, and the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph. What a story of God’s grace! In spite of Joseph’s pride and his brothers’ rejection of a revelation from God, God’s plan of salvation was carried through this family.

The story continues with Joseph being sent by his father to visit his brothers as they tended the flocks. When his brothers saw him in the distance they immediately thought of a plan to get rid of him. Some of the brothers were ready to kill him, but Reuben, the oldest, convinced the others to put him in a pit. Then it was Judah who asked that Joseph be sold to a band of Ishmaelites instead of killing him. In spite of all these sinful actions we can see that God was working out His plan of salvation. Joseph was being sent to Egypt so that one day this chosen family could be kept alive.

After Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver, we see the deep sinfulness of his brothers. Not only did they get rid of Joseph, but they also made a plan to deceive their father. The brothers did not dare to face their father without Joseph, so they decided to dip Joseph’s many-colored coat in blood and pretend he had been killed by wild animals. When they brought this coat to Jacob he was convinced that Joseph was dead. He tore his clothes in sorrow, and could not be comforted. Because of the deceit of Joseph’s brothers it almost seems that there is no hope for Jacob’s family. But in God’s plan hope will return. Joseph was not dead but was being prepared to save Jacob’s line.

We then read about the awful sins of Judah, the fourth son of Leah. Yet, in spite of Judah’s sins, God chose him to be the father of the line of the Redeemer. Christ would come from the children of Perez. He was one of the twins born to Tamar, from her illicit relationship Judah, her father-in-law. God’s grace is always amazing! Judah was chosen to be the forefather of Christ simply because it was God’s good pleasure.

Questions

1. How old was Joseph when he tended flocks with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah? (Gen. 37:2)
2. Who was Israel's most loved child? (Gen. 37:3)
3. What was Joseph's dream about sheaves? (Gen. 37:6-7)
4. What was Joseph's dream about the sun, moon, and stars? (Gen. 37:9)
5. What did Joseph's brothers first think of doing to Joseph? (Gen. 37:19-20)
6. Who prevented the brothers from killing Joseph? (Gen. 37:22)

7. Who convinced the brothers to sell Joseph? (Gen. 37:26-27)

8. How did Jacob react when he thought Joseph was dead? (Gen. 37:33-35)

Lesson 8

God's Word in Egypt

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

Scripture: Genesis 39–41

Memory Verse: “The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man, and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand.” (Genesis 39:2-3)

Lesson Truth: The Word of God prepares Egypt for receiving Israel.

Lesson

The world has always needed the Word of God. What a marvel of God's grace that He brought the Word of God to Egypt along with Joseph. First we see Joseph proclaim God's Word in the house of Potiphar, and later he brought that Word to the palace of Pharaoh. God sent His Word with Joseph to get Egypt ready to receive Israel His chosen people.

After his brothers sold Joseph to the traders from Midian, they took him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar an officer of Pharaoh. The Bible tells us that God was with Joseph so that he was successful in all that he did. In this way we know that God chose Joseph to bring His Word to the house of Pharaoh's official. The Word of God that came to Potiphar's house came as a Word of judgement against the wickedness of his wife.

Joseph was given the responsibility to take care of all the affairs of Potiphar's house. Because of the Lord's blessings he did this very well. It was in his service as a highly respected servant that we are made aware of the dangers Joseph faced. The danger that brought about his downfall in the house of Potiphar was that Potiphar's wife was attracted to him. She sinfully tried to seduce him day after day. It was in response to her seduction that Joseph brought the Word of God. When she asked him to go to bed with her, he said, “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” Because seduction did not work, she decided to trap Joseph and ruin him. She accused Joseph of trying to seduce her when he fled from her and left his coat. In this way she got her revenge and Joseph was sent to prison. It may seem that God had forsaken Joseph, but this was not true. God was directing the events in Joseph's life to bring him to the palace of Pharaoh.

Joseph also received the blessing of God while he was in prison. The prison keeper treated him with favor. He put him in charge of all the prisoners in the prison. It was in this capacity that he became aware of the dreams of the king's butler and baker. They each had a dream the same night that made them troubled. When Joseph asked why they were sad, they told him about their dreams. They were sad because they did not know what they meant. Once again Joseph brought the Word of God, when he said, “Do not interpretations belong to God?” He then told them God's interpretation of their dreams. The chief butler would be restored as butler to the king, and the chief baker would be hanged. He asked the chief butler to remember him when he was restored to his position, but he promptly forgot Joseph.

The chief butler forgot Joseph until king Pharaoh had some dreams, and the king's magicians could not interpret them. He then remembered that Joseph told the meaning of the dreams of the butler and baker. He shared with Pharaoh that it happened just as Joseph had interpreted. Pharaoh quickly sent for Joseph and told him his dreams. When Joseph heard the dreams, he brought the Word of God to Pharaoh saying, “God has shown Pharaoh when He is about to do.” He told Pharaoh that God was going to send seven years of plenty to Egypt followed by seven years of famine. He advised the king to appoint a wise man to store up grain in the years of plenty so there would be food in the years of famine.

Lesson 9

Restored Unity

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

Scripture: Genesis 42–45

Memory Verse: “And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 45:7-8)

Lesson Truth: Unity is restored through sacrifice on the part of everyone.

Lesson

God used Joseph to restore unity to the house of Jacob. Unity had to be restored in Jacob’s house so they could be the chosen family from whom the Redeemer would come. The anxiety that Joseph put his family through was the means that God used to restore the unity of this family. The brothers had to recognize their sin against Joseph. Jacob had to let go of Rachel and everything associated with Rachel. And Joseph had to demonstrate that he would not seek revenge against his brothers.

The events in the lives of Jacob’s family help us understand how God directs the lives of His people. It was God who brought about the famine that forced Joseph’s brothers to go to Egypt to buy grain. It was the Spirit of God who guided Joseph to find a way to restore unity to this family. After being sold as a slave and spending time in prison Joseph could have been filled with hatred for his brothers. But as God’s appointed leader of this family he had to forego any desire for revenge. This did not mean that he had to immediately make himself known to his brothers. But it did mean that he had to find a way to help them recognize their sin and bring repentance. Joseph did this by treating his brothers as spies. As spies he could put them into prison where they could reflect on the way they had treated Joseph. It was while they were in prison that the brothers realized that they were in trouble because of their sin against Joseph. Their hearts were ready for repentance.

Father, Jacob also had to surrender his hold on everything that belonged to Rachel. He had forgotten his other sons as he grieved for Joseph the son of Rachel. When Joseph sent his brothers home and told them not to return without Benjamin, his father was forced to see the spiritual needs of the whole family. Jacob did surrender Benjamin and thus placed himself under the authority of the Lord God Almighty.

Imagine how the brothers felt when they returned to Egypt with Benjamin and were ordered to go to Joseph’s house for dinner. Even more amazing they were seated in order from the oldest to the youngest. It was now time for Joseph to determine if they had repented. He also needed to know if they despised Rachel’s younger son as they had despised him. So he planted his cup in Benjamin’s sack of grain before he sent them away. When they had traveled just a short distance, Joseph sent his servant to overtake them and falsely accuse them of stealing the ruler’s cup. Thankfully we now see a spiritual change in the family. They did not allow the servant to return with Benjamin alone in whose sack the cup was found. They all returned and pleaded for the life of Benjamin and the life of their father. Judah became the spokesman for the brothers and in a Christ-like attitude offered himself in the place of Benjamin. God had surely used Joseph to bring about repentance and reconciliation in Jacob’s family.

The most touching scene in the whole experience of the brothers occurred when Joseph made himself known. This must have been a most humbling experience for Joseph's brothers. Here was their flesh and blood, the brother whom they had sold. But what is even more incredible is that Joseph reminded them that in spite of their sins, God had directed their lives for His good purpose. He said to his brothers, "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life." When Joseph's brothers returned to Canaan to tell their father the restoration of Jacob's family was complete. Jacob could once again assume the name Israel. He was a prince who wrestled with God and men and prevailed.

Questions

1. What made Joseph remember his dreams as a youth when his brothers came to Egypt? (Gen. 42:6-9)
2. For what reason did Joseph's brothers think they were in trouble? (Gen. 42:21-22)
3. When the brothers returned to Canaan and found the money in their sacks who did they feel was ultimately responsible for this? (Gen. 42:28)
4. What forced Jacob to agree to send Benjamin to Egypt? (Gen. 43:1-4)
5. What was Jacob's attitude when he allowed Benjamin to go to Egypt? (Gen. 43:13-14)

6. How did Joseph test his brothers to see if they would defend Benjamin? (Gen. 44:1-12)

7. Who was willing to offer himself in a Christ-like way for another? (Gen. 44:33-34)

8. Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to grieve because they sold him to Egypt? (Gen. 45:5-8)

Lesson 10

The Preserver of Life

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

Scripture: Genesis 46–47

Memory Verse: “You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children, your children’s children, your flocks and your herds and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household and all that you have come to poverty.” (Genesis 45:10-11a)

Lesson Truth: Joseph is given by God as a preserver of life.

Lesson

God’s chosen people needed to be preserved as the heirs of the covenant from whom the Redeemer would come. They needed to be preserved from the famine in Canaan, as well as from mixing in marriage with the Canaanites. It was very difficult for Jacob to leave Canaan because he had to let go of the land that was promised to his seed as an inheritance. Even though he had to leave Canaan, Jacob did not forget the promise. He made Joseph swear that he would bring him back to Canaan for burial. He knew his family would one day inherit this land.

After Joseph made himself known to his brothers, Pharaoh sent wagons to Canaan to transport Jacob and his whole family to Egypt. Jacob reluctantly began his journey to Egypt. He knew God had promised the land of Canaan to his seed, so he wasn’t sure he should leave. In his desire to know God’s will for his life, he stopped at Beersheba, at the border of Canaan, and offered sacrifices to God. It was at Beersheba that God again appeared to Jacob. God had not appeared to Jacob or his family for a long time, not since Joseph’s dreams. Now God spoke to Jacob in a vision at night and told him not to be afraid to go to Egypt. God promised Jacob that He would go with him and that He would make Jacob’s family into a great nation. With this assurance from his God, Jacob was ready to go to Egypt. He knew that his children would return to Canaan.

Now Jacob was ready to meet Joseph, whom he thought had been devoured by wild animals. He sent Judah ahead to get the directions as to where to go. Joseph sent his father and his family to the land of Goshen, where they could remain separate from the Egyptians. He then took his royal chariot to go to meet his father. The Bible tells us they wept on each other’s shoulders for a long time when they met. Jacob had his beloved son Joseph back again. The son of Rachel was alive and well.

Jacob now knew that Joseph’s dreams had come true. He was not only a ruler in Egypt, but he was also the spiritual leader of Jacob’s house. God had used Joseph to lead the family of Israel out of Canaan. In this way God prevented the Israelites from mixing with the Canaanites. God also used Joseph to keep Jacob’s family from mixing with the Egyptians. Joseph asked his brothers to tell Pharaoh they were shepherds. He knew that Pharaoh would then give them a separate place to live, because Egyptians would not live near a shepherd. God truly did send Joseph to Egypt as a preserver of life. Joseph not only saved his family from famine, but also from mixing with the Canaanites and the Egyptians.

After Jacob came to Egypt we see him function as the heir of the covenant, as the promised son of Abraham and Isaac. He was brought to the court of Pharaoh, and there, as the covenant head, he blessed Pharaoh. Pharaoh was envious of Jacob because of his age, because his only hope was his years of life on this earth. Jacob gave a testimony to Pharaoh that his days on earth had been filled with hardship, but that his hope was in the life to come.

Jacob lived in Egypt but his heart remained in Canaan, the Promised Land. When he became weak and knew he was going to die he called Joseph and asked him to swear with an oath that he would not bury him in Egypt. Jacob's request to be buried in Canaan showed his confidence in the promise that God had made to him as well as to Abraham and Isaac. Jacob was confident his family would not only live in the land of Canaan, but that the Redeemer would come from his children. Joseph also showed that he believed God's promise when he swore on oath to bury his father in Canaan.

Questions

1. Where did God speak to Jacob in a vision and tell him not to fear to go to Egypt? (Gen. 46:1-3)
2. What assurance did Jacob have that it was right to go to Egypt? (Gen. 46:4)
3. Who did Jacob send ahead to get the directions to Goshen? (Gen. 46:28)
4. Describe the emotions of the meeting of Jacob and his son, Joseph. (Gen. 46:29)
5. What did Pharaoh receive from Jacob? (Gen. 47:7, 10)

6. What did Jacob call his life on this earth? (Gen. 47:9; Heb. 11:13)

7. How long did Jacob live in the land of Egypt? (Gen. 47:27-28)

8. What did Jacob ask Joseph to swear he would not do? (Gen. 47:29-31)

Lesson 11

The Bringer of Peace

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

Scripture: Genesis 48–50

Memory Verse: “Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’” (Genesis 50:19-20)

Lesson Truth: The prophecy about Shiloh brings light to the house of Israel.

Lesson

As Jacob neared the end of his life, he prophetically blessed his sons. From this blessing we learn that Joseph was blessed as the first born by receiving a double portion, and Judah would establish the line of the Messiah. Jacob knew his children would inherit Canaan so he asked to be buried with his fathers in the Promised Land.

Jacob came to Egypt on Pharaoh’s wagons and lived there until his death. When Joseph, the ruler in Egypt, was told that his father was nearing death he went to see him. He took the two sons born to him in Egypt with him. In a final effort Jacob sat up in bed and passed the blessing he had received from his fathers on to Joseph. He claimed Joseph’s two sons as his own. By having Ephraim and Manasseh each receive a blessing as a son of Jacob, Joseph received the double portion blessing usually given to the first born. Joseph was a ruler in Egypt, but he did not consider himself be an Egyptian. He wanted his inheritance with God’s chosen people from his father Jacob. He also wanted his two sons to be part of the chosen people, so he brought them to his father to receive his blessing.

When Jacob blessed Joseph’s sons he was very specific about who would receive the blessing of the first-born. Joseph placed his sons so that Jacob’s right hand would be placed on Manasseh and his left hand on Ephraim. Joseph wanted his first born son to receive the greater blessing, but Jacob crossed his hands deliberately so that Ephraim received the blessing of the first born. Even more significant than receiving the blessing was that Joseph’s sons accepted that blessing in faith. They had an Egyptian mother but they wanted to be Israelites rather than Egyptians. They wanted to be part of God’s covenant people.

Although Joseph received the double portion blessing of the first born, he was not chosen to be the spiritual leader of Israel. Judah received the calling to be the spiritual leader. It was to Judah that Jacob said. “Judah you are he whom your brothers shall praise . . . 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.” Just think of the blessing that Jacob left his family! Judah would rule until Shiloh, the King of Peace, would come. That King of Peace is the king who brings everlasting peace with God. This was the assurance Jacob passed on to his sons.

Jacob was so certain that God would fulfill His promise that he insisted he be buried in the land of Canaan in the cave of Machpelah. This was the burying place of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah. Jacob wanted his sons to be bound to the Promised Land. At Machpelah Jacob’s sons were united, they would return to Canaan as God’s chosen people. The Redeemer would come from Jacob’s family.

When Joseph was one hundred ten years old and near death he also showed that he believed the promise God had given to Jacob. He called his brothers when he was dying and made them promise that when they returned

to Canaan they would take his bones along. Joseph knew the Israelites would take possession of Canaan and Shiloh would come. The King of Peace would come. Because He has come we must wait for His return and our complete deliverance.

Questions

1. Who were Joseph's two sons that were blessed by Jacob? (Gen. 48:13)
2. Who did Jacob believe fed him all his life? (Gen. 48:15)
3. Who would tell what would happen to Joseph and his brothers in the last days? (Gen. 49:1-2)
4. What kind of instruments did Jacob say Simeon and Levi were? (Gen. 49:5)
5. Who was the brother that would be praised? (Gen. 49:8)

6. What would not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes? (Gen. 49:10)

7. Where did Jacob command his sons to bury him? (Gen. 49:29-30)

8. What did Joseph want his brothers to do with his bones? (Gen. 50:24-25)

Lesson 12

I Am Who I Am

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

Scripture: Exodus 1–4

Memory Verse: “And God said to Moses, ‘I Am Who I Am,’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I Am has sent me to you.’ Moreover God said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14-15)

Lesson Truth: The Lord meets his people in the mediator.

Lesson

The book of Exodus introduces us to the people of God as a nation. God was going to establish an everlasting covenant with His people. In order for this to happen preparations had to be made. Moses had to be prepared to lead God’s people and God’s people had to be prepared to meet God at Sinai.

The Lord promised Abraham that nations would come from him. This promise came to partial fulfillment as the children of Israel grew from a family into a nation in Egypt. While they grew in numbers to become a great nation, they also had to grow in their relationship to the Lord. The children of Israel had to know that they deserved death and that they were allowed to live and grow as a nation only because of God’s mercy. God used Pharaoh as his instrument to teach His people about His grace and mercy. Pharaoh put the children of Israel through cruel oppression to stop them from multiplying. He did it out of hatred so he was guilty of this sin even though God used this oppression to bless Israel. The more Pharaoh oppressed the people of God the more they increased in number. Yet Pharaoh was determined to curb the growth of God’s people. He finally commanded that all the Israelite boy babies be thrown into the Nile River. He believed that if the Israelites had only girls, in time they would have to marry Egyptians and would mix with them. Pharaoh did not yet realize that even kings cannot frustrate the plan of Almighty God.

Not only did God need to prepare his people, but he also had to prepare His leader. God did this in a most astounding way. He had the leader of His people brought up and trained in the palace in Egypt. When the command was given to drown all the boy babies of Israel, the parents of Moses disobeyed this command. They did this in faith believing that God would deliver them from the king’s decree. After hiding the baby for three months they put him in a floating basket in the Nile hoping that Pharaoh’s daughter would find him. Not only did she find him but she also adopted him, which assured Moses of the best training in the Egyptian court. But Moses needed more training than the Egyptian court could give him. He had to turn from his self-willed thoughts of delivering his people to complete trust in God.

God provided for these aspects of Moses’ training by having him flee for his life to the land of Midian. In Midian Moses learned to wait on the Lord. The cause of God’s people in Egypt never left him, but had to understand that God, and not Moses, would deliver His people. After some years in Midian Moses did change. When God called him to lead His people out of Egypt, Moses felt unworthy to serve as a mediator between God’s people and Pharaoh. God told Moses He would be with him and that His people would worship God on the very spot they were standing. Then we are given a glimpse of the real reason for the deliverance of God’s people. This becomes evident when Moses asked God. “What shall I say to them when they ask what is the name of Him who sent you?” Then God told Moses, “I Am Who I Am.” You must tell them, “I Am has sent me to you.” This was the real reason for the deliverance of God’s people from Egypt. It was for His Name. God would bring His people to Mt. Sinai to re-establish His covenant with them.

Moses was now prepared by God to lead His people. God gave him Aaron, his brother as his spokesman as well as other signs that he was sent by God. Moses was then confronted with one more omission in his family. His second son did not have the sign and seal of the covenant. God was going to take Moses' life for this omission until his wife did the circumcision and God let him go. Our covenant God showed his signs in Egypt and led His people to Mt. Sinai to re-establish His covenant.

Questions

1. What command did Pharaoh give to try to curb the growth of Israel? (Exodus 1:15-16, 22)
2. How did the man of Levi and his wife try to save their boy baby from Pharaoh's decree? (Exodus 2:3)
3. Who discovered the boy baby in the basket in the Nile River? (Exodus 2:5)
4. What does the name Moses mean? (Exodus 2:10)
5. Who heard the cry of the children of Israel and planned their deliverance? (Exodus 2:23-25)

