

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 4

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

Freedom to Serve the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 37

Scripture: Exodus 5–11

Memory Verse: “But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments.” (Exodus 7:4)

Lesson Truth: The Lord visited Egypt with great judgments so His people would be free to serve Him.

Lesson

God’s people must be free to serve Him when He calls. No king or kingdom is able to stand in the way when God calls His people to serve Him. God graciously sent Moses, a mediator, to Egypt and to Pharaoh. He knew that Pharaoh would not listen to the request to let His people go to serve Him. Because Pharaoh would not listen, He could show His wonders in Egypt. God showed His power and might by sending the ten plagues. All people would know that there is a God of heaven and earth.

The children of Israel had to be convinced that the great, “I Am” had sent Moses and Aaron to deliver His people. Now Moses and Aaron were sent to the court of Pharaoh to request that he let God’s people go to serve Him in the wilderness. Pharaoh’s first reaction was to question, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?” His response showed his scorn for the God of heaven and earth. He was not only unwilling to listen, but he also ordered that the tasks of the Israelites be made heavier. When the tasks became severe the children of Israel complained that Moses and Aaron were responsible for this oppression. They had to learn to seek refuge in the Lord and to become separated from Egypt.

Just as God’s people would learn who Jehovah really was, so also Pharaoh would learn that there is a God of heaven and earth. God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh’s court with a sign to show that God had sent them. Aaron was told to throw the staff of Moses on the ground and it became a serpent. The magicians of Egypt also produced serpents from their staffs, but Moses’ serpent swallowed all their serpents. Pharaoh was about to see the power and might of Jehovah God. At the Lord’s command Moses struck the waters of Egypt and they became blood. The magicians were able to duplicate the first two plagues by making water turn to blood and producing frogs so Pharaoh would not listen. Then a change took place because the magicians were not able to duplicate any more plagues. They could not turn dust into lice as Moses and Aaron did. The magicians then told Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God.” Yet, Pharaoh hardened his heart.

With the fourth plague God made another important distinction. The fourth plague of flies did not come on God’s people, nor did any of the remaining plagues. Now God would show His grace to His people while he visited Egypt with His plagues. He sent a disease on Egypt’s livestock. Boils were sent

on man and beast even covering the magicians. Then hail was sent that destroyed everything in its path. Still Pharaoh's heart remained hard. So God sent a plague of locusts that devoured everything that remained after the hail. With the ninth plague of an intense darkness over the land of Egypt we become aware of another change. Pharaoh told Moses that he would die if he ever came into the presence of Pharaoh again. After this the Lord announced to Moses one more plague would be sent. All the firstborn in Egypt would die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the servants. God promised that after this plague Pharaoh would let His people go. He would drive them out of the land, because he would know there is a God of heaven and earth.

God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that their children would inherit the land of Canaan. Now was the time for them to leave Egypt. God would provide the freedom for His people to serve the Lord.

Questions

1. What did Moses and Aaron tell Pharaoh that God commanded? (Exodus 5:1)
2. How did Pharaoh treat the people of Israel because of this request? (Exodus 5:6-9)
3. How old was Moses when he and Aaron went to Pharaoh? (Exodus 7:7)
4. What was the first plague God sent on Egypt? (Exodus 7:16-20)

Lesson 2

Resurrection

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 38

Scripture: Exodus 12:1–13:16

Memory Verse: “For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.” (Exodus 12:12)

Lesson Truth: Israel was brought to life from the death in Egypt.

Lesson

Israel had been in Egypt for four hundred thirty years and was in danger of adopting the ways of Egypt. To adopt the ways of Egypt meant death for Israel. Exodus 12–13 tell of a resurrection for Israel. God raised them from the death of Egypt by a mighty hand. They were told to prepare a sacrifice and a sacrament as God gave them a new birth of freedom.

God had visited Egypt with nine plagues, nine awesome displays of His power and His might. Yet Pharaoh was not ready to bow to the authority of Israel’s God. Now God had Moses instruct the children of Israel to prepare for a new beginning. They would experience a New Year as God showed His majestic power in the tenth plague. On the tenth day of this New Year each family had to select a lamb without blemish to be used as a sacrifice to God. On the fourteenth day they had to kill the lamb at twilight and sprinkle some of its blood on the doorposts and lintel of the house where they would eat the lamb. They had to eat the lamb in one evening without having any leftovers. Along with the lamb they had to eat unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

All this preparation was for the coming of the Lord in judgment on Egypt. He was going to slay the firstborn of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh to the firstborn of the servant. Israel would be spared this terrible judgment, not because they not sinful, but because they had the blood on the doorposts. They were shown the way of salvation for all mankind which would be the shed blood of the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. The bitter herbs were to be a reminder of the bitter oppression they experienced in Egypt. The Lord called the preparation and slaying of the lamb his Passover. He told the people of Israel to keep the Passover every year. Even today that command has not been abolished. We gather in church at the table of the Lord for the Lord’s Supper to remember the shed blood and broken body of the Lamb of God.

With the tenth plague we see Israel and Egypt set apart in special way. While the people of Israel were eating the Passover lamb the angel of death was going through Egypt destroying the firstborn. Israel was passed over because of the blood on the doorposts. But Israel was commanded to set apart the firstborn as God’s possession. From this day on the firstborn of man and animal in Israel had to be ransomed because they were dedicated to the Lord.

There was real sorrow in Egypt when the angel of death killed all the firstborn. Now Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and urged them to leave Egypt. He told them to take everything, their wives and

Lesson 3
The Day of the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 39

Scripture: Exodus 13:17–15:21

Memory Verse: “And Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever.’” (Exodus 14:13)

Lesson Truth: The Lord showed His love for His people by the destruction of Pharaoh and his army.

Lesson

The story today is about God leading his people out of Egypt. Not only did God lead His people; He also destroyed Pharaoh and his army because they hardened their hearts against Him. When the Lord comes with his power and might, that is the day of the Lord. It was the day of the Lord when God’s people left Egypt and the final resistance of Egypt was crushed.

God visited Egypt with ten terrible plagues. This should have made Pharaoh ready to submit to God’s command to, “Let My people go.” But his heart was still hard. Now God would lead His people to freedom from Egypt in a spectacular way. The Lord led the children of Israel in a pillar of cloud by day, and He became a pillar of fire at night to give them light. With this display of His presence, the Lord led them toward the wilderness and the Red Sea. This seemed like it was the wrong way because the shortest way would be along the Mediterranean Sea. But the Lord would show His power and His might that the Egyptians might know that He is the Lord.

Not long after God’s people left Egypt, Pharaoh was sorry he let them go. Who would now work for him? Who would be his slaves? So he prepared his chariots and his army to go after the children of Israel. He would bring them back to Egypt. But the Lord said, “I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army.”

When the children of Israel saw the army of Pharaoh following them they were very frightened. They complained to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?” This was the Lord’s test to see if they could trust God completely to deliver them. So Moses told the people, “Do not be afraid, Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today.” Moses even told the people that after this great day of the Lord they would never again see the Egyptians that were pursuing them.

Then God told Moses to stretch his rod over the sea and divide it. God sent a strong east wind that night and divided the sea and made dry land for the people to cross. Moses then told the people to march through the sea on the dry ground. God’s people really did see the salvation of the Lord.

Pharaoh and his army thought that if the people of Israel could cross between the walls of water they could follow. They did not realize that God was fighting for Israel until the wheels on their chariots

5. According to Moses who would bring salvation for the children of Israel? (Exodus 14:13)

6. From what position did the Angel of God change in the camp of Israel? (Exodus 14:19)

7. How many Egyptians were saved from drowning in the Red Sea? (Exodus 14:28)

8. According to the song of Moses and Israel what happened to the horse and rider? (Exodus 15:1)

Lesson 4

Borne on Eagles' Wings

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 40

Scripture: Exodus 15:22–17:16

Memory Verse: “I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’” (Exodus 16:12)

Lesson Truth: God’s people are carried on eagles’ wings, so He could make a covenant with them

Lesson

The journey of the children of Israel from the Red Sea to Mt Sinai was a journey filled with tests. God would test His people and prepare them to receive the covenant as a nation at Mt. Sinai. These tests included finding bitter water at Marah, receiving bread for only one day at a time, being without water at Rephidim, and fighting a battle with Amalek.

When the children of Israel left Egypt through the Red Sea, God intended to bring them to Mt. Sinai. At Mt. Sinai He would take them as a nation into His covenant. In order for them to be ready to receive the covenant they had to learn to trust completely in the God of Abraham. As they left Egypt they were not yet ready to do this. They were still looking to Egypt to supply their needs. So the Lord instructed them by way of hardship and testing.

The children of Israel had traveled just three days from the Red Sea when they encountered their first test. The test was to see if they would rely completely on the Lord for all their needs. The water they had brought from Egypt was gone when they arrived at Marah. They found water at Marah, but it was so bitter they could not drink it. Instead of trusting that the Lord could take care of their need for water, they complained to Moses. Moses acted like the mediator he was by bringing their complaint to the Lord. The Lord then showed He was ready to care for His people if they would put their trust in Him. He showed Moses a tree, which he threw into the waters. When he did so the waters at Marah became sweet and the people could drink. Then the Lord made a statute and an ordinance for His people. The statute was that He would supply all needs of his people, and the ordinance was that that the people must trust Him for all their needs. In this way the Lord bore them on eagles’ wings to bring them into a covenant with Himself.

God’s people had seen His care for them at Marah, but they were still not ready to trust in the Lord for their daily provisions. When they arrived at the Wilderness of Sinai, the Lord helped them learn how to trust Him for their daily bread. The children of Israel had been away from Egypt for over a month and the food they brought from Egypt was gone. Once again instead of trusting the Lord, they complained to Moses that they had no bread or meat. The Lord then assured Moses that he would rain bread from heaven, but before that happened the people would see the glory of the Lord. As they saw the glory of the Lord they would fear Him and with this fear they would learn to trust.

Then the Lord showed His wonderful way of providing for His people. At night He sent quails to cover the camp so the people could have meat, and in the morning He sent seeds with the dew that

Lesson 5

The Covenant Established

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 41

Scripture: Exodus 18–24

Memory Verse: “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Lesson Truth: Israel was organized into a nation with whom the Lord made a covenant.

Lesson

Think of the change that took place when the Lord brought Israel to Mount Sinai. They were changed from a downtrodden slave people to the most favored nation on earth. Jehovah was her king. He gave this nation the laws by which they were to live. The Lord sent Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro, to advise him as to how to organize this family clan into a nation. The Lord showed them His holiness and gave them the law of the covenant. The covenant of the Lord was then established with Israel’s leaders.

In the third month after the children of Israel left Egypt; Moses’ father-in-law came to visit. He brought Moses’ wife and two sons so they could continue the journey with the children of Israel. When Moses told his father-in-law all the things the Lord had done to deliver them from Egypt, Jethro praised the name of the Lord. He confessed that the Lord was greater than all other gods. Then the Lord used Jethro in a special way. As he watched Moses govern the people he saw that this task was too great for one man. He then advised Moses to organize the clan by appointing judges of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and tens. In this way the children of Israel were organized as a nation.

This newly organized nation was to have the Lord Himself as their king. Their laws would come directly from the Lord. The Lord would show them His holiness and then enter a covenant with this favored nation. It was an awesome experience when the Lord showed his holiness. The Lord told Moses to prepare the people to stand in the presence of the Lord on the third day at the mountain. Moses had to consecrate the people and they had to wash their clothes to get ready to stand before the Lord. No one was allowed to go beyond the bounds set around the mountain. Anyone who would go beyond the bounds or touch the mountain would be put to death. It was this awesome setting that prepared the people to stand before a holy God.

On the third day the mountain was covered with a thick cloud, there were thunderings and lightnings and a long loud blast of a trumpet so that all the people trembled. Once again, the Lord told Moses to warn the people not to touch the mountain or He would break out against them. Then Jehovah God spoke the words of the law of the covenant. God addressed this new infant nation as a child and gave them Ten Commandments that would guide them to live as a holy nation. The people were terrified at this display of the presence of the Lord and asked Moses to speak with them so they would

Lesson 6

The Mediator

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 42

Scripture: Exodus 32–34

Memory Verse: “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” (Exodus 33:13)

Lesson Truth: Moses as the mediator of the Old Testament Pointed to Christ, the Mediator, when the covenant was renewed.

Lesson

Just days after God gave the words of the law of the covenant in a spectacular way on Mount Sinai; the children of Israel were ready to break this covenant. Our lesson is about this covenant breaking and how Moses acted as the mediator of the Old Testament. Then we learn of God’s judgment on Israel and how the covenant was renewed.

Moses went up on the mountain to receive all the commandments God wanted to use to regulate the lifestyle of Israel in the covenant. While he was away the children of Israel asked Aaron to make them a god. They were afraid Moses would not return so they wanted a visible form of the Lord to lead them. Aaron knew this was an evil request, but he was afraid the people would reject his leadership if he refused. So he asked them to bring their gold jewelry so he could fashion a god. Not only did Aaron fashion an idol in the form of a calf, but he also made an altar before this idol. Then he proclaimed a feast for the following day so the people could worship this idol.

When God looked down from heaven and saw the feast and the people worshipping an idol, He told Moses to stand aside so he could destroy them. He then told Moses He would make a new nation from his family. At this point Moses took on the role of mediator. He pleaded with God not to let His wrath burn against the people. He asked God to imagine how the destruction of Israel would look to the Egyptians. The Egyptians would say: “He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth.” He also asked God to remember His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, that He would make them into a great nation. Then the Lord turned from His wrath. He saw in the pleadings of Moses something of the Spirit of “The Mediator” our Lord Jesus Christ.

As Moses came down the mountain and heard the people shouting at the feast to this golden calf, he became angry and threw the tablets of stone with the law to the ground. This breaking of the stone tablets really symbolized how the people had broken the covenant and deserved to have God break the covenant with them. Then Moses stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “Whoever is on the Lord’s side-come to me.” He then instructed those who came to him to take their swords and destroy those who had not taken a stand for the Lord. After this judgment he returned to the Lord and pleaded that the Lord would forgive the people. Moses’ work as mediator was truly evident when he asked the Lord to blot his name out of the book of life if He could not forgive His people. After this request

Lesson 7

God's Dwelling Place

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 43

Scripture: Exodus 25–31; 35–40

Memory Verse: “And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.” (Exodus 25:22)

Lesson Truth: The tabernacle is a symbol of the way God would dwell with mankind in Christ Jesus.

Lesson

The number of chapters of Scripture devoted to telling about the tabernacle emphasizes the importance of God choosing to dwell with His people. All the instructions about the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies point us to the Christ who dwells within us by His Holy Spirit. The tabernacle is a prophetic symbol given to the nation of Israel to teach them that God would live in the midst of His chosen nation.

Moses was spending a second period of forty days on the mountain with the Lord. The first period on the mountain God gave the law of the covenant to Moses. This second time on the mountain God gave Moses the specific instructions as to how to build the tabernacle. These instructions had to be very carefully followed so the children of Israel would know how awesome it was to have Almighty God dwell in their midst. When Moses had received all the instructions, he called the Israelites together and asked them to bring a freewill offering of gold, silver, skins, materials, precious stones and other possessions to show their desire to have God dwell in their camp. Their desire to have God dwell in their midst was evident when the craftsmen who were building the tabernacle told Moses: “The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work which the Lord commanded us to do.”

The instructions that Moses was given to build the tabernacle showed that God truly lived with His people and yet He was separate. God remained in the Holy of Holies, a place where only the high priest could come once each year on the great Day of Atonement. The tabernacle was a tent that was divided into two parts. The large part in front was the Holy Place. In it were three pieces of furniture; the golden lampstand, the table of showbread, and the golden altar of incense. The golden lampstand with its seven arms, in which oil was burned, was a symbol that God's people were to be a light to the world. The table of showbread with its bread and wine on it was a symbol of how God supplied the food and drink for His people both physical and spiritual food. The golden altar of incense with its incense rising from the altar was a symbol of the prayers of the priests for the people rising to God. Each day the priest had to represent the people in the Holy Place and pray for them as they poured incense on the altar.

The Holy of Holies had only one piece of furniture with some very significant parts. That piece was the ark of the testimony. The ark was made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. On the top

Lesson 8

Consecrated to God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 44

Scripture: Leviticus 8:1–10:7

Memory Verse: “Then Moses took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood which was on the altar, and sprinkled it on Aaron, on his garments, on his sons, and on the garments of his sons with him; and he consecrated Aaron, his garments, his sons and the garments of his sons with him.” (Leviticus 8:30)

Lesson Truth: Aaron and his sons with their garments were consecrated to the Lord when Moses anointed them to do the priestly work of the tabernacle.

Lesson

Nothing on this earth is fit to be used in the service of the Lord. Everything has been profaned by sin. For that reason it was necessary to use anointing oil and blood to consecrate the priests, their garments, and the whole sanctuary to the Lord. God instructed Moses how this was to be done for Aaron and his sons. The lesson today tells how the Lord, through his servant Moses instituted the priestly office.

In order to prepare the nation of Israel to live as a covenant community God gave Moses detailed instructions about how to consecrate the priests and the sanctuary. God chose the tribe of Levi for this priestly service, not because they were better than the rest of Israel, but because God would show His mercy through them. Only the Lord Jesus Christ is worthy of the office of High Priest.

The anointing of the priests was done in the presence of the whole congregation of Israel. God told Moses to have the congregation gather at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. He then shared with them all the things the Lord commanded be done for this consecration ceremony. He had Aaron and his four sons stand in front of the sanctuary. There he washed them with water from the laver, which was a symbol of their need to be cleansed. Then he put the priestly garments on Aaron first and later on his sons. Aaron and his sons were not worthy to be priests, that is why the garments were necessary so they could be presented as holy to the Lord. Christ had no need of these garments; He is clothed in His own righteousness and holiness.

In this beautiful service Aaron stood before the people dressed in his priestly garments. He had a white robe with a sash, and over this he wore a blue garment. Over the blue garment he wore the ephod jacket. On his breast hung the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim in it. On the blue garment hung the pomegranates and the bells that tinkled. The names of the twelve tribes of Israel were engraved with precious stones on his shoulderpiece. Then on his head he wore the turban that had a golden plate of the holy crown with the words “Holy to the Lord” written on it. Aaron was a symbol of the Word of God that rings out from heaven. He carried the names of the twelve tribes into the presence of God when he entered the sanctuary. All this pointed to our great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, who carries our names into the presence of God and makes atonement for us.

Lesson 9

Israel's Calling

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 45

Scripture: Numbers 9:15–10:36

Memory Verse: “At the command of the Lord the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the Lord they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.” (Numbers 9:18)

Lesson Truth: The children of Israel set out on a holy calling led by the Angel of the Lord in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire.

Lesson

Israel had received the law of the covenant. Moses followed the instructions of the Lord and built the tabernacle, a place for the Lord to live among His people. The priests and all the temple service had been consecrated. Now the Lord gave His people a special call. He called them to begin the journey to the Promised Land. They would not travel without guidance. The Angel of the Lord would go with them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

A year after the children of Israel left Egypt they celebrated the Passover for the second time. They remembered that the angel of death passed over their homes and visited the homes of the Egyptians by taking the life of each of their firstborn. They knew they were a special people chosen to bring God's covenant promises to reality. Now they heard the call for the journey to begin. Their journey could begin with confidence because the Lord was with them in a spectacular way. The cloud by day and the fire by night would indicate to them when they should march and when they should camp. If the cloud did not lift from the tabernacle they would remain camped. If it lifted and moved they would march in a specific formation. Thus they began a forty-year journey that could have been completed in days. Forty years God took to teach His people to rely completely on Him before they could occupy the land of Canaan.

In addition to the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire to guide the people, God also instructed Moses to make two silver trumpets. These trumpets were to be used to call the people to assemble in front of the tabernacle and also to indicate when they should march. When both trumpets were blown the whole congregation was to gather at the tabernacle. If only one trumpet was blown then just the leaders of the tribes of Israel were to assemble. The trumpets were also used to sound a signal to march. The first sound to march indicated that the tribes on the east had to begin marching. The second sound to march started the people on the south and further sounds started the rest of the people marching. What a comfort this should have been for God's people to know that He directed their movement. That direction and leading of the Lord is still there today if we will listen. It is there in the preaching of the gospel on Sunday in church. God continues to lead His people if they will be instructed from His Word.

The order in which the children of Israel marched was highly significant. When the cloud moved forward, the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of the army. Three tribes followed the ark with Levites following the three tribes carrying the tabernacle and the tabernacle equipment. The rest of the tribes followed. The holy dwelling place of God was always carried in the middle of the armies of Israel. When they camped the tabernacle was also in the center of the camp with three tribes on each side of it. What a blessing it must have been to have the dwelling place of God in the center of the camp. Today we have an even greater blessing when we know that the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts.

What a thrill it must have been for the children to see the cloud lift from the tabernacle and to hear the trumpet sound the signal to advance. They were moving out to go to the Promised Land. The first leg of the journey was only three days from the Wilderness of Sinai to the Wilderness of Paran. The Ark of the Covenant went before them and the cloud stayed above them when they marched. God's presence was evident when Moses said as the ark set out: "Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, And let those who hate You flee before You." When the ark rested he said, "Return, O Lord, to the many thousands of Israel."

Questions

1. What covered the tabernacle on the day it was raised up? (Num. 9:15)
2. According to whose command did the children of Israel camp and journey? (Num. 9:23)
3. Who spoke with Moses about making trumpets? (Num. 10:1-2)
4. Who was to blow the trumpets to call the people to the tabernacle? (Num. 10:8)

Lesson 10

For His Own Sake

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 46

Scripture: Numbers 11

Memory Verse: “Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and his anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.” (Numbers 11:1)

Lesson Truth: The sins of the children of Israel deserved punishment, but the Lord forgave them to show His faithfulness and grace for His own sake.

Lesson

Israel shared the blessing of having the Angel of the Lord present with them in a cloud and fire above the tabernacle. The Lord was with them in the wilderness He told them when to march and when to make camp and wait. The Lord supplied them with manna to eat each day. In spite of all these blessings our story today tells about the complaints of God’s people. In their sinfulness they complained again and again. It would have been just for the Lord to destroy them. But for His own sake and to glorify His faithfulness and grace to them He forgave them.

The cloud lifted above the tabernacle and the children of Israel began their journey. After three days they came to the Wilderness of Paran and remained there for some time. It was while they were at Paran that they began to feel sorry for themselves. Instead of looking to the cloud and the fire above the tabernacle they looked at the wilderness and the difficulties of living there. Then they complained against the Lord. When the Lord heard their complaints He was very displeased and His anger was aroused. His displeasure was so aroused that a fire went out from the Lord and consumed some of the people and tents in the outskirts of the camp.

When the people saw the fire they turned to Moses and cried out for deliverance. Moses saw the fire as a sign from the Lord that His anger was kindled against the people. He knew that if the Lord turned against them they would be destroyed. So Moses came to the Lord as a mediator and prayed that the Lord’s anger would be stayed. After Moses prayed the fire was quenched, but God’s Word tells us that did not turn the people from their self-pity.

The strangers among God’s people now started to talk about a strong craving for meat and produce such as they ate when they were in Egypt. To their shame the children of Israel joined the strangers and wept that they had no meat and fresh produce. They complained about the manna they had to eat. They no longer saw the riches of God’s favor in the cloud and the fire above the tabernacle. They lost their faith in the God who promised to journey with them. This time when Moses heard their weeping and saw the anger of the Lord against them, he shared his grief with the Lord. Instead of approaching the Lord as a mediator he questioned Him asking: “Why have You afflicted me by laying all the burden of this people on me? Did I father this group of people that You ask me to carry them to the Promised Land? Moses was overwhelmed. He felt he could no longer serve as the leader of this rebellious nation. Under the burden of the people’s sins Moses asked the Lord to take his life right

5. Whom did Moses think was asked to carry the burden of the children of Israel? (Num. 11:11)

6. What was Moses cry to the Lord because of the heavy burden? (Num. 11:14)

7. By what means did the Lord send quail for the people to eat after their complaints? (Num. 11:31)

8. What happened to the people while the meat was still between their teeth? (Num. 11:33)

Lesson 11

Illegitimate Honor

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 47

Scripture: Numbers 12

Memory Verse: “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house.” (Hebrews 3:1-2)

Lesson Truth: In spite of the challenge of Miriam and Aaron, Moses was faithful to his calling.

Lesson

Moses nearly despaired of leading the children of Israel when they complained in the wilderness. Yet he remained faithful to the calling God had given him. He was a humble servant of the Lord who did not seek honor for himself. This could not be said about his sister Miriam and his brother Aaron. They thought they deserved more recognition; after all they were a priest and a prophetess. But the Lord does not look with favor on anyone who demands a position in pride.

It was while the Israelites were at Hazeroth that Miriam and Aaron challenged the authority of Moses. No doubt Miriam was discontent for some time about her position in the ruling family of Israel. She was able to convince Aaron to join her in complaining about Moses being the single authority to God’s people. It seems that she looked for some occasion to take issue with her brother Moses. When Moses married an Ethiopian woman, Miriam thought she had a good reason to question his authority.

Miriam thought that Moses’ marriage to an Ethiopian woman was forbidden. Now in a spirit of pride, she spoke against Moses’ authority. She questioned, “Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?” She was certain that she and Aaron should share the authority given to Moses. After all she was a prophetess who could communicate with the spirits and determine the will of the Lord. How tragic that Miriam did not understand that a prophet never boasts about what he has received from the Lord.

The Lord heard the complaint of Miriam and Aaron and immediately called them to meet with Moses at the door of the tabernacle. There the Lord appeared to them in the pillar of cloud and told Miriam and Aaron to step forward. Then the Lord reminded them that He makes Himself known to a prophet in a vision or a dream, except to His servant Moses. The Lord said I spoke to Moses face to face very plainly so he alone knew My will. Moses is a humble man who lives by My word. “Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?”

The Lord was very angry with the sin of Miriam and Aaron and in His anger turned away and left them. The cloud departed from above the tabernacle and then a terrible punishment came on Miriam. She became leprous, as white as snow. The Lord showed that the pride of Miriam and Aaron was a

terrible sin in His eyes. We do not know why it did not come on Aaron, except that he did not lead in the rebellion against Moses, he only followed Miriam.

Miriam had been consecrated to the Lord as a prophetess, now she was a leper. She was unclean and had to be banned from the camp of the Israelites. Aaron realized their sinful action and pleaded with Moses saying: “Oh my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned.” Moses realized that Miriam and Aaron had sinned against the Lord and asked the Lord to heal her. Once again Moses functioned as a mediator. He based his plea on the blood that would be shed by our Mediator, Jesus Christ. Our Mediator speaks to the Father in heaven for us, asking that our most horrible sins be forgiven. Our sins are forgiven through the blood of our Savior and we are restored just as Miriam was restored.

Questions

1. Who married an Ethiopian woman? (Num. 12:1)
2. Who, in addition to Moses, did Miriam and Aaron believe the Lord spoke through? (Num. 12:2)
3. In what did the Lord come down to speak to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam? (Num. 12:5)
4. What question did the Lord ask Miriam and Aaron concerning Moses? (Num. 12:8b)

5. What was the Lord's reaction to the sin of Miriam and Aaron? (Num. 12:9)

6. What was Aaron's reaction to Miriam's leprosy? (Num. 12:11-12)

7. How long was Miriam shut out of the camp? (Num. 12:15)

8. What does the Bible tell us about Moses? (Heb. 3:5)

Lesson 12

Light Shining in the Darkness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 48

Scripture: Numbers 13–14

Memory Verse: “The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and fourth generation.” (Numbers 14:18)

Lesson Truth: The light of God’s forgiveness and mercy shines in the darkness of the unbelief of God’s people at Kadesh.

Lesson

The children of Israel were at Kadesh after traveling through the Wilderness of Paran. They were ready to go into the Promised Land. After they had murmured and complained and been fed with manna and quail, they were now ready to inherit the land. Yet there was the darkness of unbelief with Israel. The hearts of the children of Israel were not ready for a bold advance in faith. In contrast to the darkness of the Israelites unbelief, we see the light of God’s grace and mercy.

Here at Kadesh the Lord told Moses to send twelve men, one man from each tribe, as spies into the land of Canaan. They were to see if the land was good or bad, whether the people in the land were strong or weak. They were also to bring some of the fruit of the land as a sample of the bounties they found there. For forty days they checked out the land of Canaan and then returned to Kadesh to report what they found.

All twelve spies were agreed that the land of Canaan was a very fertile land and filled with all kinds of produce. Yet ten of the spies were afraid. They not only saw the fertile land, but they also saw fortified cities and descendants of Anak, who were giants. The ten spies traveled in fear instead of in faith and they brought that fear to the people. With this fear in their hearts they concluded the land could not be conquered. The darkness of unbelief caused the people to believe the report of the ten spies.

However, there was another report that was brought by Joshua and Caleb, two faithful spies. Caleb urged the people to go up at once and take possession of the land. He and Joshua saw the land with the eye of faith in the promises of God. They said it is a good land and if the Lord delights in us, then He will give us this land. They urged the people not to fear the inhabitants of Canaan because the Lord would go with them. The response of the people to the report of Joshua and Caleb was to suggest that they be stoned to death. How tragic that God’s chosen people believed the bad report of the ten spies rather than the good report of the two spies.

The children of Israel then became even more rebellious. They complained against Moses and Aaron and even went so far as suggest that they find a new leader to lead them back to Egypt. At this rebellion the Lord shared His anger with Moses. He said, “They refuse to believe My Word, in spite of My many signs. I will strike them with disease and cast them out. Then I will make a great nation of you instead.” Moses saw the danger in the Lord’s anger and once again acted as a mediator.

Moses pleaded for the people. He reminded the Lord of what the Egyptians would think if all of Israel was destroyed in the wilderness. He then asked that the Lord in the light of His grace pardon the iniquity of His people. The Lord granted Moses' request to pardon the sins of the people, but He said there would be a consequence for their unbelief. Not one of the people over twenty years of age, who had seen the signs the Lord did in Egypt would enter the Promised Land except Joshua and Caleb. They would enter Canaan because they had a spirit of faith in them.

As the spies spent forty days wandering in the land of Canaan so the Lord said the children of Israel would spend forty years in the wilderness until all those twenty years and older had died. God would use this judgment to glorify His name over all the earth. All people will know that no one is worthy to enter into communion with the Lord except by His grace.

Questions

1. How many men were sent to spy the land of Canaan? (Num. 13:2)
2. How many faithful spies brought a good report? (Num. 14:6)
3. How small did the ten spies feel compared to the sons of Anak? (Num. 13:33)
4. How did the people of Israel respond to the bad report of the ten spies? (Num. 14:1-2)

