

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 4
Level 4

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: “So the Lord said to Moses: ‘See I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.’” (Exodus 7:1-3)

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

Lesson

The struggle between good and evil, between God and Pharaoh, is demonstrated in a most dramatic fashion in Exodus. Pharaoh was the temporary guardian of the Israelites until they could mature to go into the Promised Land. But now that they had matured they needed to have the freedom to serve the Lord. God sent his mediator in the person of Moses to reveal to Pharaoh and Egypt that God directs the affairs of men. Egypt and Pharaoh had to know that God is the God of heaven and earth. No nation or king may interfere with the freedom of God’s people to serve Him. You and I must also submit to this sovereign rule of God.

In the struggle for freedom to serve the Lord, Pharaoh is used as an example to demonstrate the power and majesty of God. God called Moses to serve as a mediator between God and His people and between God and Pharaoh. Moses and Aaron were given an awesome task to bring God’s Word to His people as well as to Pharaoh. It was an awesome task because neither was ready at first to believe the Word of the Lord. The faith of God’s people faltered as soon as Pharaoh decided to make their tasks heavier because they asked to be allowed to worship. The Bible tells us that God intended to show His power and his might in Egypt when He said, “I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

The story of these signs and wonders, seen in the ten plagues, is a story of God revealing Himself as “Yahweh” the God who declares, “I Am Who I Am.” God would show His power in a way that even the patriarch’s had never seen. Israel would learn to seek refuge with the Lord and Pharaoh would be destroyed in the hardness of his heart. God promised that Israel would be delivered from Egypt, and his promise is certain. No earthly king can hinder the plan of Almighty God. Equipped with a sign from the Lord Moses and Aaron went to see Pharaoh.

Aaron threw the staff of Moses on the ground as a sign from the Lord and it became a serpent. What is curious is that the magicians in Pharaoh’s court threw down their staffs and they also became serpents. However, theirs were not a match for the serpent from the staff of Moses, as his serpent swallowed each of theirs. But Pharaoh’s heart was hard so he did not acknowledge God.

God then directed Moses to turn the water of Egypt to blood. This was a plague directed against a god of Egypt as they worshiped the Nile River. Because Pharaoh’s magicians were able to also change water to blood the king would not listen. Then Moses stretched his staff over the streams again and frogs covered the land. Once again the magicians were able to duplicate this plague so Pharaoh’s heart remained hard. The third plague of dust becoming lice was one the magicians could not duplicate, they then admitted to Pharaoh that this was the finger of God. With the fourth plague of flies there was a God-directed change.

Lesson 2

Resurrection

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

Scripture: Exodus 12:1–13:16

Memory Verse: “And it shall be, when your children say to you, ‘What do you mean by this service?’ that you shall say, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.’ So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.” (Exodus 12:26-27)

Lesson Truth: God raises Israel from the dead.

Lesson

The Lord works on behalf of His people at exactly the correct time. He knew that the children of Israel were in danger of adopting the ways and the life of the Egyptians. The Lord knew that if Israel adopted the ways of Egypt it meant death. So it was that at just the right time God instructed His people to slay the Passover lamb. The blood of this lamb was to be sprinkled on the doorposts of their houses so the angel of death would pass over their houses. In this way God not only delivered the firstborn of Israel, but He also delivered all of Israel from spiritual death in Egypt. This deliverance was a resurrection of Israel from the dead.

God had demonstrated his power in Egypt by sending nine plagues and yet Israel had not been given the freedom to serve Him. Israel would surely perish with Egypt unless God would deliver them. God prepared His people for the last plague to be visited on Egypt. After this plague the Egyptians would drive God’s people out of Egypt. This plague would be an awesome display of God’s power and might and would bring about the deliverance of Israel. God instructed his people to prepare for this last plague with a sacrifice and a sacrament.

First Moses told the people they were to consider the present month as the first month of a New Year. This would represent a new beginning for Israel; a time when Israel would be raised from their death in Egypt. They were then told to have each family select a lamb for a sacrifice on the tenth of the month. On the fourteenth day of the month they were told they should kill the lamb at twilight. They were to take some blood of the lamb and put it on the doorposts and lintel of the houses where they were going to eat the lamb. God also gave specific instructions about roasting the lamb with fire and eating all of it the same night along with bitter herbs. They were also to have a belt on their waist and sandals on their feet.

The fourteenth day of this first month of Israel’s new calendar was called the Lord’s Passover. The Lord’s angel of death was to pass through the land of Egypt on that night and put to death all the firstborn in the land. This would include the firstborn of man and animals as a judgment against all the gods of Egypt. Then we see God’s salvation of Israel when he promised to pass over the houses where the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on the doorposts. That blood of the lamb was an unmistakable sign of the blood of Christ that would be shed to atone for the sins of God’s people. The bitter herbs were to remind them of the bitter oppression God’s people experienced in Egypt.

As the people of Israel were eating the Passover lamb the Lord’s angel of death was destroying all the firstborn in Egypt. The Lord selected the firstborn of Egypt for destruction while he claimed the firstborn of Israel for his own. From that day on every firstborn of man and animal had to be ransomed because they were set apart for the Lord. The children of Israel were to remember the Passover as an everlasting ordinance. When their children asked what the Passover Feast meant, they were to tell them of their delivery from Egypt.

6. Who in Egypt were affected by the tenth plague? (Exodus 12:29-30)

7. What did the Egyptians urge the people of Israel to do after the tenth plague? (Exodus 12:31-33)

8. Whom did the Lord ask to be consecrated to Him? (Exodus 13:2)

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: “I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and rider He has thrown into the sea! The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation; He is my God, and I will praise Him; my father’s God and I will exalt Him.” (Exodus 15:1b-2)

Lesson Truth: The day of the Lord is a revelation of the rights of the Lord’s love.

Lesson

The crossing of the Red Sea by Israel can be referred to as the day of the Lord. That was a day the Lord came to deliver Israel from the armies of Pharaoh. God Himself led Israel to the Red Sea rather than the shorter route along the Mediterranean coast. God knew that this was the way of Pharaoh’s destruction, and He knew that Israel needed to be tested to see if they could put their trust in God alone. God was ready to bring about the separation of Israel from Egypt for all time.

From a human viewpoint it was a terrible mistake for Israel to leave Egypt and go in the direction of the Red Sea. This route was a certain trap should Pharaoh decide to pursue Israel and bring them back to Egypt. But once again we are given the Biblical insight to know that it was God who led Israel. God would use this route, by way of the Red Sea, to bring about the destruction of Pharaoh and his armies. God also used this route to teach His people how to live in a covenant relationship with Him. God knew they were not ready for war with the Philistines, and He knew they needed to grow in faith. As Moses led God’s people from Egypt they showed that faith was present when they carried the bones of Joseph with them. Yet God would help them grow in faith in the wilderness.

The results of leading the children of Israel by way of the Red Sea worked just as God had planned. Pharaoh was certain that Israel was bewildered and had gone the wrong direction. Because of this he decided to pursue them and bring them back into captivity. He made ready his chariots and his armies so he could bring Israel back by force. But God had said, “I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.”

Now we witness two dramatic events that demonstrate God’s grace and his power. The first event God sent in response to the fear expressed by the Israelites. When they saw the armies of Egypt closing in, they cried out to Moses asking, “Did you bring us out to the wilderness because there were no graves in Egypt?” And Moses assured them by saying, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. Then the Lord told Moses to lift up his rod and stretch it over the sea and divide it. And, wonder of wonders, the waters divided, and Israel walked through the sea on dry ground. The second event came about because Pharaoh hardened his heart. He was determined to bring his slaves back to Egypt, so he pursued them between the walls of water. After seeing the ten plagues, with all their destruction, Pharaoh was not yet ready to acknowledge God. It was a heart-wrenching sight to see armies of Pharaoh struggling in the midst of the sea. First the Lord caused the wheels to come off their chariots, and then the water closed in and Pharaoh and his hosts drowned. Not one of them escaped this destruction. Indeed, they could not escape, for the Lord had said, “And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So, I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.” The day of the Lord had come!

Through this dramatic display God was with his people. The Angel of God along with the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire that were leading Israel went behind them. Thus there was a cloud and darkness to the Egyptians and a fire and light to God's people. God's people and the sin of Egypt were separated for all time. In a response of gratitude for such a mighty deliverance Moses and the children of Israel sang a song of praise to the Lord.

Questions

1. When the children of Israel left Egypt what indicated that they believed they would go to Canaan? (Exodus 13:19)
2. What sign of the presence of the Lord went with God's people when they left Egypt? (Exodus 13:21)
3. What was the Israelites' complaint to Moses when Pharaoh pursued them? (Exodus 14:11-12)
4. What was Moses' reply to the Israelites' complaint? (Exodus 14:13)
5. Who promised to fight for Israel when they were being pursued? (Exodus 14:14)

6. What would the Egyptians know when God gained honor over Pharaoh? (Exodus 14:17-18)

7. How did God frustrate the Egyptian army in the midst of the sea? (Exodus 14:25)

8. According to the song of Moses and the children of Israel who is their strength? (Exodus 15:2)

Lesson 4

Borne on Eagles' Wings

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

Scripture: Exodus 15:22–17:16

Memory Verse: “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord bears His people on eagles' wings and in His covenant brings them to Himself.

Lesson

The journey of the children of Israel from the Red Sea to Mt. Sinai was a journey of training and discipline. God's people had to learn that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord. It was on this journey that the Lord truly did bear them on eagles' wings. He bore them on eagles' wings as He healed the waters at Marah, as He sent quails for meat and manna for bread, and as He brought water from a rock so they could drink.

God had miraculously brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea, but that did not mean they were ready to live as a covenant people. At this time they still looked back to Egypt as their provider. After they traveled just three days into the wilderness the water from Egypt was gone. Even worse the water at Marah was bitter so they could not drink it. Immediately they complained to Moses because they were not yet ready to trust that God could supply their needs. Moses continued to act as the mediator and brought their complaint to the Lord.

In response the Lord showed Moses a tree which he cast into the waters. By the Lord's hand the waters were made sweet and the people could drink. It was at Marah that the Lord made a statute and an ordinance for the children of Israel. The statute was that He would provide for all the needs of His people, and the ordinance was that His people would trust in Him for all their needs. As the Lord healed the waters at Marah He promised to be their healer. He promised that none of the diseases that came upon Egypt would come on His people. He said, “I am the Lord who heals you.”

How wonderful it would have been if the children of Israel had learned to trust the Lord completely at Marah, but they didn't. After they left Elim they came to the Wilderness of Sinai and found they did not have bread or meat. Instead of trusting that the Lord would supply their needs, they complained to Moses. Once again they demonstrated that their heart was still in Egypt when they said, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!” Then the Lord promised Moses that He would rain bread from heaven and that the people would have meat in the evening, but first you will see the glory of the Lord.

At Moses' command Aaron gathered all the people and told them to look toward the wilderness. When they did, the glory of the Lord appeared in a cloud. God showed His people that He is a God of grace, but in His grace, he is full of glory, exalted above all the earth. That evening quails came on the wind and covered the camp, so the people had quail for meat. In the morning a white seed came on the dew that the people were told to pick up for bread. As God supplied their need for bread and meat, He also taught them to observe the Sabbath day. They were told to gather just enough manna for each day except on the sixth day when they had to gather a double portion to be used on the Sabbath day. The Lord was bearing his people on eagles' wings and teaching them to trust so they could receive the covenant as a nation at Sinai.

However, their training wasn't finished. As they came to Rephidim, they were once again without water. How wonderful it would have been if they had trusted the Lord who promised to supply all their needs,

Lesson 5

The Covenant Established

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

Scripture: Exodus 18–24

Memory Verse: “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.” (Exodus 19:4-5)

Lesson Truth: The Lord takes Israel into His covenant as a nation.

Lesson

Jehovah God not only led His people through the wilderness and taught them to trust him, he also entered into a covenant with them as a nation. Today’s lesson tells us how Israel was organized as a nation, how they saw the holiness of God, how they received the law of the covenant, and how the covenant was established with blood.

Moses, God’s servant, led the children of Israel from Egypt to Sinai. When they came to Rephidim Moses’ father-in-law, Jethro came to visit him. He brought Moses’ wife and his sons to join him on the rest of the journey. While Jethro was visiting, Moses told him about the deliverance of Israel from the land of Egypt. How God had visited Egypt with a mighty hand. Jethro knew that Israel was a special people before a mighty God. He also noticed that Moses was doing all the work of leading the people. Moses settled all the disputes and tried to answer all the questions. So Jethro was guided by God to advise Moses to organize this family of Israel into a nation. Moses followed this advice and appointed rulers of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. Moses remained the prime ruler and mediator. It was with this nation that God would establish his covenant.

Before the covenant was established God had to prepare the nation of Israel to be ready to receive the covenant. They were to be made aware that the God of Israel is a holy God. It was this holy God that called Moses to come up into the mountain. He told Moses to remind the children of Israel that it was Jehovah God who bore His people on eagles’ wings to bring them to God Himself. Now He instructed Moses to tell the people that if they would keep His covenant they would be a special treasure to God above all people. Because all the earth belongs to God He could promise that they would be a nation of priests, a holy nation. All the nations of the earth would be blessed through them. They told Moses they would keep God’s covenant. Israel still had to learn that the only one who could keep God’s covenant is the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the head of the covenant.

Before God gave the people the law of the covenant, He showed them His holiness. The people had to consecrate themselves before the Lord. They had to wash their garments and confess their sins, and they were not allowed to come near the mountain. Following these preparations on the third day the Lord descended on the mountain. There was lightening, thunder, the sound of a trumpet, and a thick cloud. The people were terrified. Then Moses climbed the mountain and spoke with the Lord. The Lord told him to warn the people not to break through the barriers and gaze on the Lord. If they did, they would perish. Then God spoke and gave the people the law of the covenant. This law came as ten Words, Ten Commandments, which were mostly prohibitions. In this way God instructed His infant nation. Moses comforted the people. God would not let them perish. Because of our Lord Jesus Christ you and I do not need to fear God’s wrath. What we must fear is sin.

Lesson 6

The Mediator

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

Scripture: Exodus 32–34

Memory Verse: “Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, ‘Oh these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! Yet now, if You will forgive their sin – but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.’” (Exodus 32:31-32)

Lesson Truth: The Mediator is revealed as the covenant is restored.

Lesson

After God spoke to the children of Israel on Mount Sinai and established the covenant, He asked Moses to come up to the mountain to get the Ten Commandments written on stone tablets. The Lord also gave Moses all the laws that would regulate Israel’s lifestyle in the covenant. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. While Moses was away the children of Israel nearly forgot the Lord who spoke from the fire and smoke on the mountain. They also forgot Moses as their leader and mediator. These rebellious people were ready to break the covenant the Lord had so recently made.

Moses had been away only forty days when the children of Israel asked Aaron to make gods to lead them. With Moses away the people acted as if God had also left them. They could not live by faith. They needed a visible form of the Lord to lead them, so they asked Aaron to make gods that would be their leader. The first words of the law of the covenant that God spoke from Mount Sinai were: “You shall have no other gods before me.” Now the people were ready to break that law. Aaron knew it was wrong to make an idol god, but he was afraid the people would reject his leadership if he refused. So he had the people bring gold from their jewelry and with it he fashioned a golden calf. Then the people said, “This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt.” Even worse Aaron made an altar before this idol and proclaimed a feast for next day.

When Jehovah God saw that feast from heaven, He told Moses to let Him alone so that his wrath could burn against the people. God told Moses the people had broken the covenant so he would destroy them. Then He would make a new nation from the seed of Moses. It was then that Moses was seen as the mediator of the Old Testament. On Mount Sinai we see Moses acting in the Spirit of the Mediator Jesus Christ. He pleaded with God not to destroy the children of Israel. He reminded God of the way their destruction would appear to the Egyptians. Wouldn’t the Egyptians 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 pleaded with God to remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, “Your servants by whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven.” Then Jehovah God turned from His wrath against the people. He saw in this intercession from Moses something of the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. Moses was the mediator of the Old Testament.

The Lord did turn away from His wrath against the people, so He did not completely destroy them, but He did send judgment. When Moses saw what Aaron allowed the people to do he was very angry. He threw the stone tablets of the law to the ground and broke them. He ground the calf idol into powder and threw it into the water and made the people drink it. Then Moses stood at the entrance of the camp and said: “Whoever is on the Lord’s side, come over to me.” He then commanded the people to take up their swords and kill their brothers who did not take a stand for the Lord. About three thousand men died by the sword. Now Moses was able to return to the Lord and plead for the people. His plea was so passionate that he asked the Lord to blot his name out of the book of life if He could not forgive the children of Israel. The Lord promised He would only blot out those who sinned against Him.

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 what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’” (II Corinthians 6:16)

Lesson Truth: God's renewed dwelling among men in the Christ (and through Him, in the world) is symbolized in the tabernacle.

Lesson

Moses had spent forty days on Mount Sinai with the Lord when the children of Israel made a golden calf. After that experience he spent another forty days on the mountain with the Lord. It was at this second meeting that Moses was assured that God wanted to dwell with his people. To be sure God would send His Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of His people after Christ Jesus had made atonement for their sins, but this was way before Christ came to earth. What a marvel of God's grace that He sent a symbol of how He would dwell with his people. That symbol was the tabernacle. This is the place where God dwelt with His people as they traveled to Canaan. God gave Moses detailed instructions for building the tabernacle.

The instructions God gave to Moses for building the tabernacle had to be followed exactly. This was because the arrangement and the furniture in the tabernacle helped the Israelites understand the Holiness of God. The tabernacle was a tent that could be carried when the people of Israel traveled. This tent was divided into two parts consisting of the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. The furniture in the Holy Place was the Altar of Incense, the Golden Candlestick, and the Table of Showbread. Each piece of furniture pointed to the acceptable way by which the people of Israel should come to God. The Holy of Holies had only one piece of furniture with some very significant parts. That piece was the Ark of the Covenant which had a golden cover called the Mercy Seat. On top of the Mercy Seat were two cherubim, two figures of angels made of gold. In the Ark were the two tables of the law and some manna in a golden pot.

God is a holy God and only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the great Day of Atonement. On this day the high priest would go into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood of an animal on the Mercy Seat. The Ark of the Covenant with the Mercy Seat was a beautiful picture of how the coming Messiah would make atonement for sin. Just as the Mercy Seat was between the tables of the law and the cherubim, so Christ is between God's people who cannot keep the law and God who demands that the law be kept. It was this picture of God's mercy in Christ that the Holy of Holies with the ark, the cherubim and the mercy seat pointed to.

The Holy Place was the place where the priests could come each day. It was in the Holy Place that the priests offered incense on the Altar of Incense every day. As the incense rose up to the Lord this was a symbol of how the prayers of the priests would rise to the Lord each day. Also in the Holy Place was the Table of Showbread, which was a symbol of the food, and drink God gave to His people each day. The Golden Lampstand or Candlestick was also in the Holy Place and was likely a symbol of the light of truth in the dark world. God did dwell with His people but at a distance. The people could not come into the Holy Place. Today we can be very close to God in Christ Jesus who opened the way to a Holy God.

The tabernacle with the Holy Place, the Holy of Holies and all its furniture showed how God wanted to live among his people. Exactly one year after the exodus from Egypt after Moses had built the tabernacle,

just as the Lord had instructed, a cloud covered the tabernacle. Then the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. That glory was so majestic that even Moses was not able to enter. Yes, God did dwell with His people in the tabernacle. How grateful we must be that today He dwells in our hearts by His Holy Spirit.

Questions

1. Why were God's people instructed to make a sanctuary? (Exodus 25:8)
2. Who gave the instructions to Moses regarding how to build the tabernacle? (Exodus 25:9)
3. How did the people respond to God's command to bring offerings for the sanctuary? (Exodus 36:4-6)
4. What did the offerings of the sacrifices in the tabernacle picture? (Hebrews 9:8-14)
5. The priests had to purify themselves in the laver in the tabernacle. How are we purified? (Titus 3:5-6)

Lesson 8

Consecrated to God

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

Scripture: Leviticus 8:1–10:7

Memory Verse: “And the Lord spoke to Moses saying, ‘Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, the anointing oil, a bull as the sin offering, two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread; and gather all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.’” (Leviticus 8:1-3)

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

God showed the children of Israel that He wanted to dwell with them when He instructed Moses to build a tabernacle. Now we will learn how He instructed Moses to consecrate the priests and the sanctuary for service to the Lord. This was a beautiful service conducted at the door of the tabernacle where the whole congregation was gathered. This was to signify that both the priests and the sanctuary had to be set apart for specific service to the Lord. Moses consecrated Aaron and his sons by sprinkling anointing oil and blood on Aaron and his sons and on their garments.

The story of the consecration of Aaron and his sons is a wonderful story of how God reaches out to make the priests acceptable for service. Aaron and his sons were not chosen because they were better than the rest of the people. Only our Lord Jesus Christ would ever be worthy to be a priest. Moses was instructed to consecrate Aaron and his sons because God loved his people. On the day the Lord told Moses to consecrate the priests he called all the children of Israel to the outer court of the tabernacle. Aaron and his four sons stood in front of the sanctuary ready to be consecrated as priests. Moses washed them with water from the laver and then he dressed them in the garments God had appointed for priests.

Aaron was to be the high priest and dressed in a robe of white. Over the robe he wore a blue garment and over the blue garment he wore the ephod jacket. Covering his chest was the chestpiece with the Urim and the Thumim that could be used to inquire of God. Aaron stood before the people in all his splendor, not because he was worthy to be a priest, but because his garments signified that God made him acceptable. God made him acceptable to wear the turban with the golden plate of the holy crown on his head that read, “Holy to the Lord.” On his shoulder piece Aaron had the names of the twelve tribes of Israel engraved with precious stones. Only when he wore these garments did he become holy to the Lord. In this very same way we become holy to the Lord when we are dressed in the garments of the righteousness of Christ Jesus. Our Lord carries the names of those who belong to Him, not on His chest or on His shoulder, but in His heart.

Moses also took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it. He then did as the Lord instructed and brought a bull for a sin offering. After Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the bull it was killed. Moses took some of the blood and some of the anointing oil and sprinkled it on Aaron and his sons and on their garments. Moses then brought a ram as a burnt offering. When the ram was killed he took some of its blood and put it on the tip of the priest’s ears, on the thumb of their right hands, and on the big toes of their right feet. Their ears had to be consecrated to hear the Word of God, their hands for their priestly work, and their feet to stand in the sanctuary. Everything was profaned by sin. So everything had to be consecrated by sacrificial blood and anointing oil. Our High Priest is Christ Jesus who stands perfectly holy before God. He offered himself as the complete sacrifice for our sins.

God then instructed Moses to have Aaron and his sons offer burnt offerings, sin offerings, and peace offerings for the atonement of the priests and the people. This was the first time Aaron offered sacrifices and the first time he was allowed to lift his hands and bless the people. When he offered his sacrifice fire came out from the Lord and consumed the burnt offering. The people shouted for joy and fell on their faces because they saw that the Lord had accepted Aaron's sacrifice. Then an awesome thing happened. Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu offered incense that the Lord had not commanded and a fire came out from the Lord and devoured them. God's people learned that a priest may not do whatever he pleases. A priest must live in perfect obedience to the Lord. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest who lives in perfect obedience to the Father.

Questions

1. Who instructed Moses to anoint Aaron and his sons as priests? (Lev. 8:1-2)
2. Where was the whole congregation of Israel to gather for this anointing? (Lev. 8:3)
3. In addition to anointing Aaron and his sons what else did Moses anoint? (Lev. 8:10)
4. What and whom did Moses consecrate with anointing oil and blood? (Lev. 8:30)

Lesson 9

Israel's Calling

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

Scripture: Numbers 9:15–10:36

Memory Verse: “Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that our fathers were under the cloud, and passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.” (I Corinthians 10:1-4)

Lesson Truth: Led by the Angel of the Lord, Israel sets out in a holy calling.

Lesson

God was dwelling among His people after the tabernacle was built and consecrated. The priests were consecrated to God to offer sacrifices for the sins of the people. Now one year after the children of Israel left Egypt God instructed Moses to have them keep the feast of the Passover. They remembered the miracles of the exodus and the Red Sea. God made a covenant with them at mount Sinai and gave them the law of the covenant. Now they were ready to begin the journey to the Promised Land.

The Angel of the Lord led the children of Israel. His presence was seen in the cloud that covered the tabernacle by day and the pillar of fire by night. What an amazing way to travel through the wilderness! When the cloud lifted from the tabernacle they were allowed to travel and when the cloud settled they had to pitch their tents and wait. In this way they began a journey that could have taken only days. Instead of following the Angel of the Lord in faith, doubt captured their attitudes. A journey of days lasted forty years. How the Lord loved His people that He nurtured them and taught them until they were ready to enter the Promised Land in faith.

Not only did the children of Israel have the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire to lead them; they were also given the sound of trumpet blasts to guide them. God instructed Moses to make two silver trumpets. These trumpets were to be used to call the people to the tabernacle for special meetings. If one trumpet was blown the leaders of the tribes and clans had to meet at the tabernacle. If both trumpets were blown the whole congregation had to meet. The trumpets were also used to tell the people when to set out. A special blast of the trumpet would indicate which tribes had to set out. Something of the exultation of God's grace and His joy rang out over the people in the sound of the trumpets, drowning out all the other sounds of life. The sound of God's grace can still be heard. It is there in the preaching of the gospel in church on Sundays for those who want to hear it. Israel was truly called to journey to the Promised Land, but their faith was not yet mature enough to enter.

There were very special instructions for the order in which children of Israel had to march. When the cloud moved forward the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of the army. Then three tribes under the leadership of Judah followed. Next came part of the Levites carrying the tabernacle. Following them were three tribes led by Reuben. Then more Levites came with equipment from the tabernacle. The remaining six tribes followed, led by Ephraim and Dan. This was the way God's dwelling place was protected on the journey. This was their most precious possession. The tabernacle was the sign that God was in their midst. Even when they set camp three tribes camped on each side of the tabernacle. Today we have an even more wonderful assurance of His presence. At Pentecost He poured out His Holy Spirit who lives in the hearts of God's people.

Lesson 10

For His Own Sake

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

Scripture: Numbers 11

Memory Verse: “So Moses said to the Lord, ‘Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me?’” (Numbers 11:11)

Lesson Truth: The Lord forgives His people’s sin for His own sake.

Lesson

The children of Israel were called by God to go to the Promised Land. In a spirit of anticipation Moses asked God to scatter His enemies and to return to the thousands of Israel. Now after just three days journey the people forgot the great things God had done. They forgot that God was in their midst in the tabernacle and that He would go with them. They forgot the presence of the Lord in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. Instead of trusting the Lord to lead them, they complained.

Rather than keeping their eyes on the cloud and the fire above the tabernacle, they felt sorry for themselves because they had to be in the wilderness. They complained against the Lord and against Moses. This time when the Lord heard their complaints, He became angry. We are told His anger was aroused so that He sent a fire to consume some of the Israelites on the outskirts of the camp. When the people saw the results of the Lord’s anger, they cried out to Moses to speak to the Lord for them. Once again Moses served as a mediator and prayed to the Lord for the people. Once again, the Lord heard the prayers of Moses and the fire was quenched. They called the place “Taberah” meaning place of fire.

After the people saw the anger of the Lord in the fire, would they ever complain again? They had not yet learned to keep their eye on the Lord. They were influenced by the strangers in their company who had come with them from Egypt. God’s chosen people joined the strangers in complaining about the manna that they had to eat. They did a very evil thing when they looked back to Egypt where they were slaves and said they preferred Egypt. They whined that in Egypt they had plenty of fish and produce. The people would rather have the food of Egypt without God’s blessing than to have manna with His blessing. Faith in the Lord always reflects how we receive God’s blessings.

This time when the people complained Moses was overwhelmed. He came to the Lord with his displeasure and asked: “Why have you afflicted Your servant? Why have You laid the burden of all these people on me? Did I father all these people that you have asked me to carry them to the Promised Land?” Moses, the mediator of the Old Testament, felt he was no longer able to lead God’s people. In fact he challenged the God he loved by saying, “If You insist that I must lead these people, then kill me now so I won’t have to see myself destroyed.” Moses failed as mediator. How thankful we must be that our Mediator, Jesus Christ, will never fail. He is always able to speak to God for us.

God then showed His respect for Moses. He told Moses to gather seventy elders and bring them to the tabernacle of meeting. He then promised to give to those seventy elders the same Spirit that Moses possessed. With that Spirit the elders would help Moses bear the burden of serving a complaining people. They would stand with Moses so he would have more strength to go to God in prayer.

Now the question remained. What would God do with the people who complained? What would He do with people who did not believe the covenant He made with them? It would have been right for God to destroy this people. He chose not to destroy them. God would continue to go with them for His own sake. He would show His glory, His faithfulness, and His grace because He is God. Then He told Moses He would send an abundance of quail for the people to eat. However, before the people were finished eating

the quail God sent a very great plague so that many people died. The Lord had put to death all the people who gave in to the craving for meat as they had in Egypt.

Questions

1. What was the Lord's reaction to the complaints of the people? (Num. 11:1)
2. What happened to people on the outskirts of the camp because of their complaints? (Num. 11:1)
3. What caused the fire of the Lord to be quenched? (Num. 11:2)
4. For what did the mixed multitude of people crave? (Num. 11:4)
5. What did Moses ask God to do if He insisted that Moses should bear the burden of these people? (Num. 11:15)

Lesson 11

Illegitimate Honor

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

Scripture: Numbers 12

Memory Verse: “Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream. Not so with My servant Moses; He is faithful in all My house. I speak with him face to face, even plainly and not in dark sayings; and he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?” (Numbers 12:6-8)

Lesson Truth: The one called by God is faithful.

Lesson

When the children of Israel craved the fancy food of Egypt, Moses was overwhelmed with their rebellion against God. He even asked that the Lord take his life rather than that he be undone by their willfulness. Moses was obedient and faithful to the calling he received to lead God’s people to the Promised Land. He was a humble servant of the Lord who did not seek his own honor.

This was not the attitude of Miriam and Aaron, Moses sister and brother. They sought their own honor and in a spirit of pride turned against Moses. Weak follower Aaron listened to his sister, Miriam, when she insisted that the Spirit of God spoke to her as well as to Moses. The occasion she used to speak against Moses was his marriage to an Ethiopian woman. No doubt Miriam’s discontent had been building for a long time. She was not satisfied with the role God had given her in the ruling family of Israel. Now when Moses married a woman who was not Israelite, she thought she had the right to admonish her brother. She and Aaron became guilty of sinful pride. In her pride she concluded that the Lord spoke to her as well as to Moses.

Foolish Miriam did not yet understand that a true prophet never boasts about what he has received from the Lord. A true prophet would be very humble about what the Lord has revealed to him. He would understand that a true prophet only says what the Lord commands. Moses was that kind of prophet whose only desire was to say what the Lord called him to say. Miriam was not content to say only what the Lord told her to say. She wanted to determine what had to be said. Now when Moses married the Ethiopian she thought she had the right to correct him.

The Lord does not look with favor on anyone who prides himself on having the gift of the Holy Spirit and then misuses this gift. This is what Miriam and Aaron did and the Lord heard it. Because Moses was such a humble man he did not try to defend himself. That is when the Lord intervened. He called Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to come to the tabernacle. There He appeared in the pillar of cloud and demanded the attention of all three, but especially Miriam and Aaron. He told Miriam and Aaron that a prophet never prophesies out of his own heart. A prophet only says what the Lord tells him to say. This is what Moses has done. He has spoken only what I told him even though I spoke with him face to face. Then the Lord asked Miriam and Aaron: “Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?” In this way the Lord honored Moses because he submitted to the Word of the Lord. The only one who surpassed Moses is our Lord Jesus Christ. Our faithful Mediator always submits to the will of His Father.

Then in anger the Lord left the tabernacle and when he left, there stood Miriam as white as snow. She had become a leper. What a disgrace! The prophetess who had been consecrated to the Lord was now unclean. She was obligated by the law of unclean lepers to live outside the camp. Aaron may have been spared because the pride began with Miriam. Now Moses again assumed the office of mediator. He cried out to

the Lord and asked that Miriam be healed. The Lord promised Moses he would heal her but only after she had lived in shame outside the camp for seven days. In this way the shame of our sins are removed by our Mediator the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Who spoke against Moses because of an Ethiopian woman? (Num. 12:1)
2. What was the question Moses' brother and sister asked about words from the Lord? (Num. 12:2)
3. What was a characteristic of Moses that the Lord loved? (Num. 12:3)
4. From His words to Miriam and Aaron: How does the Lord make Himself known to a prophet? (Num 12:6)
5. In what different way did the Lord speak to Moses? (Num. 12:7-8)

6. When the Lord, in the cloud, departed from the tabernacle what happened to Miriam? (Num. 12:10)

7. Who prayed that Miriam would be healed? (Num. 12:13)

8. Who is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession who was faithful as Moses was faithful? (Heb. 3:1-2)

Lesson 12

Light Shining in the Darkness

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

Scripture: Numbers 13–14

Memory Verse: “Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now. The Lord said: ‘I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord.’” (Num. 14:19-21)

Lesson Truth: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not comprehended it.

Lesson

Moses’ sister Miriam received leprosy for her rebellion against Moses. After seven days she was restored to the camp of Israel. But this was not the end of rebellion and fear on the part of God’s people. From the wilderness of Paran, Moses sent out twelve spies to check out the land of Canaan. As these spies determined if they could conquer the land of Canaan, we become aware that there was certainly a light shining in the darkness but the darkness of unbelief could not understand it.

Moses selected a leader from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to go into the land of Canaan and determine if God’s people could go in and take possession. The reports that the twelve men brought back indicated two opposite points of view. All twelve spies agreed that the land was very fertile and produced abundant crops. However, ten of the spies also reported that there were fortified cities and giants in the land. They were convinced that it would be impossible to conquer the land. After all the signs and wonders God had shown them when they left Egypt, they still were not able to completely trust God. They lived in fear instead of faith.

But there was a light in this darkness. Two spies saw God’s power and strength instead of fortified cities and giants. Joshua and Caleb urged the people to go in and possess the land. They were convinced that if the Lord delighted in His people, He could bring them into the land of Canaan. They had looked at the land in the light of God’s promises. They walked through Canaan believing this was the land God had given His people.

How sad that the report of Joshua and Caleb did not convince the people. They listened to the ten spies and their bad report. A cry of despair arose from the people. Because of their lack of faith, they suggested that Joshua and Caleb be stoned to death. They even considered finding a new leader to lead them back to Egypt. Their unbelief convinced them that even if they could conquer the enemies in Canaan, they would never be able to keep the land safe.

Then the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle. He spoke to Moses and asked: “How long will these people reject Me?” He suggested to Moses that He would destroy the people and make a great nation of Moses’ family. Once again Moses approached God as a mediator. He pleaded for the people, reminding God of what the Egyptians would think if all Israel were destroyed. He asked God to pardon the iniquity of the people according to the greatness of His mercy. It is truly amazing that the Lord responded to Moses by saying: “I have pardoned according to your word.” The Lord answered the request of Moses, but the people would pay the penalty for their unbelief.

God then informed Moses that all the people who had seen the glory of the Lord in the signs and wonders he did in Egypt and yet put Him to the test would die in the wilderness. Only two would be spared. They were the two faithful spies, Joshua and Caleb. They would enter the Promised Land along with the children of Israel under twenty years of age at the time of the spies’ reports. We too weary the Lord with our unbelief. How thankful we must be that we have our Mediator, Jesus Christ who asks the Father that our sins be pardoned for His sake.

Questions

1. Who instructed Moses to send spies into the land of Canaan? (Num. 13:1-2)
2. What things did Moses ask the spies to look for in the land of Canaan? (Num. 13:17-20)
3. What did the spies bring from the valley of Eshcol? (Num.13:23-24)
4. What was the bad report the ten spies gave to the children of Israel? (Num. 13:32-33)
5. What evil thing did the people think of doing when they heard the bad report of the ten spies? (Num.14:4)

6. Who were the two faithful spies who tore their clothes when the people rebelled? (Num. 14:6-7)

7. Who prayed for the people when they listened to the bad report? (Num. 14:13, 19)

8. What was the consequence of rejecting the Lord by believing the bad report? (Num. 14:20-23)