

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 5

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

The Head of the People Upheld

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 49

Scripture: Numbers 16:1-40

Memory Verse: “And Moses said: ‘By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me.’” (Numbers 16:28-29)

Lesson Truth: In spite of the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram the Lord kept Moses as the leader of Israel.

Lesson

In previous lessons we noted that the children of Israel were a nation of complaining, discontented people. They were assigned to wander in the wilderness for forty years because of their lack of faith when the spies reported. Miriam became a leper when she tried to occupy the place of God’s appointed leader. Nadab and Abihu were consumed by fire when they put fire in their censers, which the Lord had not commanded. Our story today tells of another rebellion. This was the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against God’s appointed leaders.

Korah, a man from the tribe of Levi, was discontent with the leadership God had appointed for Israel. He seemed to hold Moses and Aaron responsible for not bringing them into the land of Canaan. He decided to present himself as a leader who could do the job better than Moses and Aaron. However, he enlisted the help of others who were also discontent. He sought out Dathan and Abiram from the tribe of Reuben to join in his rebellion. These three recruited two hundred fifty other leaders from Israel, who were men of renown, to confront Moses and Aaron with the need for a change in leadership. It is sad that they forgot that God had appointed Moses and Aaron to lead.

Korah was a Levite so he may have thought he would make a much better high priest than Aaron. He may also have thought that Dathan and Abiram could lead in the political affairs as well as Moses. But Korah, Dathan, and Abiram would learn that it is a wicked thing to rebel against the leaders whom God had appointed. They would learn that to reject God’s appointed leaders is a rejection of the leadership of God Himself. How could these men have forgotten the signs God had shown to Israel? How could they have forgotten Miriam and Nadab and Abihu? But they did forget and their forgetting brought them eternal destruction.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram came with two hundred fifty others to challenge the leadership of Moses and Aaron. When they did so, Moses fell on his face in prayer. He spoke to the group and asked them to bring censers with fire in them to the door of the tabernacle. Moses added that the following day the Lord would show whom He had chosen to be leaders of Israel. He also asked Dathan and Abiram to come to the tabernacle, but they refused. Moses then asked that the Lord not respect their offerings. Moses once again stood as a mediator between God and the people. When God asked Moses and

Lesson 2

A Thriving Priesthood

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 50

Scripture: Numbers 16:41–17:13

Memory Verse: “Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, and the plague broke out among them. Then Phinehas stood up and intervened, and the plague was stopped.” (Psalm 106:29-30)

Lesson Truth: The selection of Aaron as high priest pointed to the High Priest, Jesus Christ, who was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Lesson

It is hard to imagine that only a day after the earth swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and all their possessions that the children of Israel continued to complain. They were so self-righteous in their complaints that they accused Moses and Aaron of killing the Lord’s people. They still did not see the grace of the Lord, and did not believe He had the right to choose His leaders. They did not understand the Lord’s judgment against Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Just one day after Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had been swallowed by the earth, the people gathered at the tabernacle in opposition to Moses and Aaron. Then a frightening thing happened. All of a sudden, the cloud that covered the tabernacle was filled with the glory of the Lord. From the cloud the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and told them to get away from the people because he was going to destroy them in a moment. Instantly the plague began, and people died everywhere. As before, Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in prayer, but this time they could not point to any reason that God should stay His judgment.

When Moses saw the people dying all around him, he realized their only hope was the prayers of the high priest ascending to God with the incense. Moses knew that Aaron, in the office of high priest, pointed to the great High Priest, Jesus Christ. He knew that the prayers of this High Priest could stop the plague. So Moses told Aaron to take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, and put incense on it. He told Aaron to hurry among the people and let the incense rise to the Lord. Aaron stood between the dead and the living and made atonement for the people. Then the plague stopped, but by this time fourteen thousand seven hundred people had already died. The prayers of Christ Jesus as the great High Priest stopped the plague.

The Lord in His grace now instructed Moses to collect a rod from each of the twelve tribes of Israel. He would demonstrate with an unmistakable sign that He had chosen Aaron as the high priest. After Moses collected a rod from each of the tribes of Israel, he wrote the name of the tribe on their rod. On the rod that represented the tribe of Levi Moses wrote Aaron’s name. He then placed all the rods in the tabernacle before the testimony. God then told Moses that the rod of the man He chose to be high priest would blossom.

Think of the grace of the Lord when He not only chose Aaron to be the high priest, but also indicated His choice by having Aaron's rod blossom and bud and produce fruit. The dead wood of Aaron's rod came to life and produced fruit in one night. In this same way human life which has died spiritually can be made to produce fruit by the great High Priest, Jesus Christ. As the children of Israel had to acknowledge Aaron as God's chosen high priest, so we must acknowledge the Lord Jesus as Our High Priest chosen by God.

Moses followed the Lord's instructions and placed the rod of Aaron before the ark of the testimony as a reminder of how clearly God pointed out the man He had chosen as high priest. When the people saw the rod that produced, they finally saw something of the glory of the Lord. Then they were very much afraid. They were afraid they would perish. The people humbled themselves before God. We do not know if they truly repented, but they did show the first signs of faith.

Questions

1. What covered the tabernacle when the people gathered against Moses and Aaron? (Num. 16:42)
2. Who spoke to Moses telling him to get away from the congregation? (Num. 16:44)
3. What did the Lord suggest He would do to the congregation? (Num. 16:45)
4. Why was Aaron asked to make atonement for Israel? (Num. 16:46b)

Lesson 3
The Living God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 51

Scripture: Numbers 20:1-13

Memory Verse: “They angered Him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses on account of them; because they rebelled against His Spirit, so that he spoke rashly with his lips.” (Psalm 106:32-33)

Lesson Truth: The Lord would not allow Moses to dishonor His name. He remained the God of His people when he told Moses he could not enter Canaan.

Lesson

God showed the children of Israel with unmistakable signs that Aaron was His chosen high priest. The priesthood of Aaron pointed to the great High Priest Jesus Christ who would atone for the sins of all believers. As the children of Israel continued their travels they came to Kadesh. They were ready to enter the Promised Land. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness they should have known that the Lord would always take care of them. But, when they camped at Kadesh they found they had no water. Just as they had done before, they complained against Moses and Aaron.

Their complaints were so bitter that they told Moses they wished they had died with their brothers in the plague God had sent. This was a very wicked thing for them to do because it showed that they did not yet trust the Lord to take care of them. They also looked back to their slavery in Egypt as if that would be better than being under God’s care. They asked Moses, why did you bring us to this wilderness where there are no pomegranates, or figs, or grain and where there is no water. They said they would sooner have stayed in Egypt. By their complaints they profaned the name of the Lord. They acted as if the Lord did not exist. Their covenant relationship with the Lord meant very little to them.

When Moses and Aaron heard their complaints, they once again went to the tabernacle and fell on their faces before the Lord. When they did this, the glory of the Lord appeared to them. Then the Lord spoke to Moses and told him what he was to do. Moses was to gather the people before a big rock. Then as they watched he was to speak to the rock. He was to tell them that the Lord could provide water for them from the rock. In this way he was to honor the name of the Lord. But this time Moses failed as a mediator.

Instead of speaking to the rock as the Lord had commanded him to do, Moses showed his anger and discouragement. He was angry that the people did not remember the great signs the Lord had shown them. He was angry that the people did not remember the times he prayed for them and pleaded with the Lord to spare them. In his anger he addressed the people as rebels and asked, “Must we bring water out for you of this rock?” (Num. 20:10). Then he struck the rock two times instead of speaking to it as the Lord had instructed him to do. When Moses struck the rock, water immediately came out

Lesson 4

Humiliation

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 52

Scripture: Numbers 20:14–21:9

Memory Verse: “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:14-15)

Lesson Truth: Edom humiliated the children of Israel by not allowing them to pass through their land. This humiliation helped them learn to look to the Lord for help.

Lesson

Our lesson today tells about the children of Israel being humbled by Edom. We will learn about the grace of a continuing priesthood. We will see the first glimpse of how Canaan was reserved for God’s judgment. And we learn about the people being saved by looking to a bronze serpent.

The children of Israel were camped at Kadesh and were ready to go in and occupy the land of Canaan. The leaders felt it was not wise to enter Canaan from the south because that route would be steep and dangerous. In order to avoid coming in from the south they decided to enter from the east. But this meant that they would have to go through the land of Edom. You may remember that the people of Edom were descendants of Esau who was a twin brother of Jacob, who was renamed Israel. The people of Edom hated the children of Israel and would not allow them to pass through their country. They even said they would fight with the sword rather than allow Israel to pass. This was very humiliating for Israel to be refused by this brother nation. Must Israel pass through Edom by force?

Remember that this humiliation was not Israel’s alone. The Angel of the Lord went ahead of Israel in the cloud. This angel of the Lord is Christ Jesus who not only humbled Himself before Edom but also before the Father in heaven. Christ demonstrated that His kingdom would be obtained by serving rather than by force. In His grace the Lord was helping Israel to be humble and was teaching them to live by faith and service. Now they followed the Lord’s instructions and traveled south to Mount Hor to go around Edom.

While they were at Mount Hor two significant things happened. Aaron was told he would die before he entered the land of Canaan, and the office of high priest was given to Aaron’s son Eleazer. Even though Aaron was stripped of the office of high priest, the priesthood would continue. Eleazer was clothed with the priestly garments pointing to the great High priest Jesus Christ. Now the people knew that it was pure grace that the priestly office remained among them.

On the way to Mount Hor the king of Arad attacked the children of Israel. It was through this attack that the Israelites were made aware that the Canaanites, including the king of Arad, were reserved for God’s judgment. Israel made a vow to the Lord that if He would deliver them from the king of Arad they would utterly destroy this Canaanite king and his cities. They could have used the spoils of a war

Lesson 5

Blessed by the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 53

Scripture: Numbers 21:10–24:25

Memory Verse: “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.” (Numbers 24:17)

Lesson Truth: Heathen nations learn that Israel, God’s chosen people, is blessed forever.

Lesson

After they went around Edom, the children of Israel continued on toward Canaan. The Lord gave them complete victories over Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan. The land they conquered from these kings was to be part of their inheritance along with Canaan. The victorious Israelites now camped in the plains Moab near the Jordan across from Jericho.

Balak, the king of Moab, became very uneasy seeing the victorious Israelites camped in the plain of Moab. He went to talk to the elders of the Midian to see what they and Moab could do together as protection against Israel. They realized that Israel had defeated Sihon and Og with strength that did not come from an army. They saw that Israel was blessed by God and thought the only way they could be defeated was to have a seer curse them. The task for them was to find a seer, or prophet, who could curse Israel. The only one they could think of was Balaam, a seer from Mesopotamia. Balaam made prophecies and was also a fortune teller.

King Balak sent elders from Moab and Midian to coax Balaam to come to Moab to curse the children of Israel. These elders had the fee for divining with them, which was really tempting for Balaam. Yet he had the sense to ask them to wait until morning so he could inquire of the Lord what he should do. That night the Lord did appear to Balaam, but he gave him a message he didn’t really want to hear. God told Balaam he should not go with the elders from Moab because he was not to curse the children of Israel.

When the elders returned to king Balak with Balaam’s response he did not give up easily. He thought Balaam wanted a bigger reward, so he sent the elders with bigger gifts. Once again Balaam showed that he understood that he could only do what the Lord allowed him to do. He said: “Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.” Balaam knew the right answer, but he still wanted to go to Moab. He really wanted the honor and the rewards. Once again he asked the elders to wait overnight so he could inquire of the Lord.

Even though the Lord was not pleased He told Balaam he could go along with the elders. He warned him that he could only speak what the Lord told him to speak. It seems that Balaam thought there

Lesson 6

The Sovereignty of God's Justice

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 54

Scripture: Numbers 25–36

Memory Verse: “They joined themselves also to Baal of Peor, and ate sacrifices made to the dead. Thus they provoked Him to anger with their deeds, and the plague broke out among them.” (Psalm 106:28-29)

Lesson Truth: Israel, God's covenant children, must live under the supreme rule of God's justice.

Lesson

The prophet, Balaam, found he could not curse God's chosen people for the king of Moab. Yet the Moabites and Midianites remained enemies of Israel. Balaam, because he remained an enemy, now advised the daughters of Midian and Moab to tempt the sons of Israel. He encouraged these daughters to invite the men of Israel to the sacrificial meals offered to their gods. How sad to know that the Israelites yielded to these temptations and were willing to break the covenant with their Lord.

This happened when the Israelites were ready to enter Canaan while they were camped just east of the Jordan River. After they had seen so many demonstrations of the power and majesty of the Lord, they were still ready to yield to the temptations of Midianite women by joining with the Baal of Peor. This aroused the anger of the Lord of heaven and he instructed Moses to take the leaders, who offended the Lord, and hang them. Not only were they to be killed by hanging, but they were also to be hung out in the sun as a sign that Israel must live under the Lord's justice. The Lord once again sent a plague causing thousands of people in Israel to die.

Tragically, the children of Israel were not ready to follow the Lord's command to Moses and hang the offending leaders. Instead they gathered at the tabernacle and were standing there weeping in self-pity. One man of Israel became so bold in his rejection of the Lord's command that he brought a Midianite woman and announced before Moses and the congregation that he would live with her. Chills run up our spine when we think of such disrespect of the Lord's commands.

How grateful we must be that the Lord filled Phinehas, the priest, with His zeal so that he took a spear and drove it through the bodies of both the man of Israel and the woman of Midian who defied the Lord. With that drastic action of killing the offenders in cold blood the Lord stopped the plague. Twenty four thousand people died in the plague before Phinehas followed the Lord's command to Moses and killed the offenders. It is likely that the other offenders were also hanged so the Lord's anger was stayed. The action of Phinehas in putting to death one who offened did not in itself satisfy God's justice, but it did point to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The one sacrifice of Christ on the cross did satisfy the justice of the God of heaven.

Lesson 7

The Word Is Very Near You

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 55

Scripture: Deuteronomy 29–34

Memory Verse: “Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?” (Deuteronomy 32:6)

Lesson Truth: God’s Word is very near to His people who live in a covenant relationship with Him.

Lesson

There was no question that all mankind must live under the supreme rule of God’s justice. The prophet, Balaam, could not curse what the Lord had blessed. The Midianites were defeated because God’s justice demanded their defeat. The time for Moses to go to be with the Lord was near. His successor, Joshua, was appointed to lead the children of Israel. Now as Moses prepared to die, he showed one more time that he was a leader directed by the Lord. He renewed the covenant. He had the law read. And he wrote a song of remembrance and blessing for the children of Israel.

Moses did what a great leader would do. He prepared the people to go on without him. He knew they could only be blessed if they lived in covenant with the God of heaven. So he called the people of Israel together in the fields of Moab. He reminded them of the many great things the Lord had done for them in Egypt and through all the years in the wilderness. Yet he said: “The Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.” Moses knew and we must be reminded that only God’s grace can make it possible for us to live in a covenant relationship with the God of heaven and earth. We cannot rely on our own strength nor could the children of Israel. In order to direct the people to rely on this grace of God, Moses renewed the covenant the Lord had made with them at Mount Sinai. He then reminded them that if they didn’t keep the covenant, the Lord would destroy them just as He did Sodom and Gomorrah.

Moses added a strong word of encouragement for the people. He told them that to live in a covenant relationship with the Lord was certainly possible. This relationship was not a mystery that they could not understand. He told them: “The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” This was a call for the children of Israel to obey the Lord’s commands and to walk in His ways. He also encouraged Joshua reminding him that the Lord would not leave him or forsake him.

Moses worked hard to prepare the people of Israel to go on without him. He now read the law in their hearing and then wrote it in a book and delivered it to the priests to keep in the sanctuary. He commanded that the priests should officially read the law every seven years so the future generations would know about the Lord’s covenant.

Following this renewal of the covenant and encouragement from Moses, the Lord appeared in the pillar of cloud and shared with Moses the reality of the ways of sinful people. He told Moses that the

Lesson 8

Brought into Canaan

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 56

Scripture: Joshua 1:1–5:12

Memory Verse: “Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7)

Lesson Truth: The Lord brought the children of Israel into the Promised Land by faith

Lesson

The children of Israel had wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Moses their leader for all those years died on Mount Nebo. Today we will learn, not only how God provided a new leader for them, but also how He brought them into the Promised Land.

Moses had done as the Lord commanded. He appointed Joshua to lead the people of Israel. Now the Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to lead the children of Israel into Canaan. This must have seemed like an impossible task for Joshua, to not only lead a rebellious people, but also to take over an occupied land. We must remember that Joshua did not have to lead Israel by his own strength. The Lord charged Him with a huge task and then encouraged him by telling him that no man would be able to stand before him and said: ‘I will be with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ The Lord charged Joshua to be strong and courageous and to do according to all the law that Moses had shared.

Joshua believed the word of the Lord and instructed the people to prepare to enter the land of Canaan. He told the people to make provision because within three days they would be crossing the Jordan River. In faith Joshua accepted the call to lead God’s people and now the Lord caused the people to accept Joshua as their leader.

In preparation for conquering the city of Jericho, Joshua sent two spies to determine how strong the enemy would be. The spies crossed the Jordan River and hid at the home of a harlot who lived on the wall of Jericho. The spies gleaned some very important information from the harlot, Rahab. She told them that the hearts of all the Canaanites are melted. When they heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea and how Israel defeated Sihon and Og they knew that the Lord had given the land of Canaan to Israel. When the spies brought this report back to Joshua, he knew the Spirit of the Lord had gone before them. It was the Spirit of the Lord who made Israel’s enemies feel that victory for Israel was certain. Joshua could lead the children of Israel into Canaan with confidence in what the Lord had done.

There was one major obstacle preventing the Israelites from entering Canaan. The Jordan River was flooded because of the rainy season. How could an army along with women and children cross this

Lesson 9

Set Apart to the Lord by the Ban

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 57

Scripture: Joshua 5:13–8:35

Memory Verse: “It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.” (Joshua 6:5)

Lesson Truth: Canaan is devoted to the Lord for the sake of the Commander of the Army of the Lord.

Lesson

The children of Israel had crossed the Jordan River at flood time. A monument of stones was left at the Jordan as a memorial. Joshua knew that the army of Israel had to begin to conquer the land of Canaan. Yet he did not fully understand that it was the Lord who would destroy the Canaanites and not just the armies of Israel. The Canaanites would be destroyed because their wickedness was full. Their godlessness had reached its peak. It was to help Joshua understand that the Lord presented Himself in a dramatic way, just as He did to Moses at the burning bush.

As Joshua looked toward Jericho, possibly wondering how he could conquer this fortified city, he suddenly saw someone standing before him with a drawn sword in His hand. Joshua asked this being if he were a friend or an enemy. He was told that he was speaking to the Commander of the Lord’s Army. This was the Angel of the Lord, Christ Himself. When Joshua heard this he fell on his face and worshiped and said he was ready to listen. He was told to remove his sandals because he was standing on holy ground. Now Joshua understood that the Lord Jesus Christ had come to visit Canaan with judgment. The presence of the Lord would be seen in the way the city of Jericho was defeated.

The Commander of the Army of the Lord gave Joshua specific instructions concerning the way they would conquer Jericho. Joshua was instructed to have the fighting men of Israel march around the city once each day for six days. In the middle of the procession of fighting men, the priests were to carry the Ark of the Covenant. In front of the ark seven priests walked, carrying trumpets to be blown as a sign that the Lord would show His grace. The ark between the soldiers was to signify that the Lord was among them. With this arrangement there could be no mistake that it was the Lord who defeated Jericho.

For six days this procession of soldiers and priests marched around the city each day in complete silence. The children of Israel had to learn to wait for the Lord. For six days they had to march and wait. The silent marching around the city of Jericho must have filled the people of the city with fear. What was the God of Israel, who stopped the waters of the Jordan River, going to do? Then came the seventh day. The procession started to march early in the morning and marched around the city seven

times and after the seventh time around the city it happened. The priests blew the trumpets. Joshua commanded the people to shout. He said: “Shout for the Lord has given you the city.”

The people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets and the walls of this fortified city fell down. The soldiers went in straight-ahead and completely destroyed the city and all its inhabitants. The only ones to escape were Rahab and her family. She was saved as the spies had promised. What a dramatic victory the Lord gave to His people. Now they were filled with confidence that they could defeat the wicked people of Canaan. But they had more lessons to learn.

The next city to be conquered was the city of Ai. When Joshua sent spies to determine the strength of Ai they came back and advised him to send only two or three thousand soldiers because the city was not that strong. Imagine their surprise when they went to fight Ai and were forced to flee for their lives. When they fled before Ai, Joshua again showed that he was a servant of the Lord. He fell on his face before the ark of the Lord and inquired, “What shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?” (Josh. 7:8). The Lord then told Joshua to get up and find the one who sinned against the Lord. Joshua then cast lots by tribes and by families and found the family of Achan. Achan had taken things from the city of Jericho that the Lord had commanded should not be taken.

This sin was so serious in the sight of the Lord that it had to be punished. Joshua and the people took Achan and all his family and possessions out to the valley of Achor and stoned them to death. Now when the sin of Achan had been removed from the camp, the Israelites defeated Ai. They completely destroyed the city and its inhabitants according to the Lord’s instructions. The only thing saved was the livestock and booty, which the Lord allowed the people to keep.

Joshua then assembled the people on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim, half on each mountain, to renew the covenant. Joshua had the leaders gather on each side of the ark and there he read the law the Lord had given to Moses. He read both the blessings and the curses. Now the children of Israel knew that the land of Canaan was set apart by the Lord, the inhabitants for destruction and the precious metals for the sanctuary.

Questions

1. What did Joshua ask the man with the drawn sword in his hand? (Josh. 15:13)

2. What promise did the Lord give to Joshua concerning Jericho? (Josh. 6:2)

Lesson 10

The Righteousness of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 58

Scripture: Joshua 9–12

Memory Verse: “For the Lord will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon - That He may do his work, His awesome work, and bring to pass His act, His unusual act.” (Isaiah 28:21)

Lesson Truth: The enemies of the Lord are destroyed so His righteousness is not violated.

Lesson

Joshua read the law to the children of Israel at Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. They were reminded that they were God’s people who lived under the law. They served a righteous God who told Moses and Joshua that the wickedness of the Canaanites was full so they had to be destroyed. How was this to be done? The Israelites were camped at Gilgal in the heart of the land of Canaan. There were Canaanite cities to the south and to the north of Gilgal. The Canaanite kings had heard how Israel defeated Jericho and Ai. They were filled with fear because they knew that the Lord had given the land to Israel with a command to destroy all the inhabitants.

The people of Gibeon were convinced that they would be destroyed so they decided to trick Joshua and the leaders of Israel into making an agreement with them. They sent a delegation to Israel dressed in old clothes that were torn and mended. They carried old water bottles and moldy bread and pretended they were from a distant country. They asked the leaders of Israel to swear on oath that they would not destroy them. The trick worked, the Bible tells us, because Joshua and the leaders of Israel did not ask counsel of the Lord. The leaders of Israel made a covenant with the men of Gibeon.

Imagine how surprised the men of Israel were when they came to Gibeon three days later and learned they had been tricked. Yet the rulers of Israel would not let the soldiers attack the Gibeonites. They reminded them that they had made an oath in the name of the Lord. They could not break an oath made in the name of the Lord. Now they would have to find a way to let the Gibeonites live among them as they inherited the Promised Land. Joshua let them live but he made them slaves for Israel to cut wood and carry water. The curse of Noah upon Canaan was fulfilled with the curse of the Gibeonites.

The kings of the south were not at all happy with the covenant made between Israel and Gibeon. Five kings got together and decided to attack Gibeon. But the Gibeonites had asked Joshua to fight for them against the five kings. Once again the Lord fought for His people Israel. He killed them with a great slaughter at Gibeon and chased them to Beth-Horon. There it appeared that they tried to escape through a mountain pass at Beth-Horon. Then the Lord rained great hailstones on them so that more died from the hailstones than from the swords of Israel.

Lesson 11

The Heritage of the Saints

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 59

Scripture: Joshua 13–22

Memory Verse: “These were the inheritances which Eleazer the priest, Joshua the son of Nun, and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the children of Israel divided as an inheritance by lot in Shiloh before the Lord, at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. So they made an end of dividing the country.” (Joshua 19:51)

Lesson Truth: The Lord directed the inheritance for each tribe when lots were cast.

Lesson

For hundreds of years the children of Israel anticipated inheriting the Promised Land. The promise of the covenant first shared with Abraham included the promise of a country. After all these years the Israelites were brought into the Promised Land under the leadership of Joshua. In three swift maneuvers Israel occupied central, southern, and northern Canaan. Now the Lord gave the aging Joshua one more task. He instructed him to divide the land of Canaan among the tribes of Israel.

Joshua had set up the tabernacle at Shiloh for the people to worship God. Now he gathered the heads of the tribes along with Eleazer the priest at Shiloh to divide the inheritance to each tribe by lot. As the lot was cast for each tribe’s inheritance Joshua knew that it was the Lord who directed the disposing of the lot. It was the Lord who gave the inheritance to each tribe.

Although Moses had assigned an inheritance to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh east of the Jordan River, Judah was the first to receive an inheritance west of the Jordan. One faithful member of the tribe of Judah was Caleb. Caleb had been promised his own inheritance because he had been a faithful spy who reported that he Lord could surely defeat the giants at Hebron. Now he received Hebron as his inheritance. However, the Anakim giants still occupied Hebron, so Caleb had to remove them. While other Israelites were afraid of the people in the land, Caleb went ahead in faith to conquer the enemies at Hebron.

After Judah was allotted an inheritance, the next tribes to receive their lot were Ephraim and Manasseh. The promise that Jacob made to Joseph that he would receive a double portion now came true. These two sons of Joseph were counted as sons of Jacob as they received their inheritance. What a comfort to know that the promises of the covenant are always certain.

The remaining tribes were hesitant to take possession of the land because they were afraid to go to war to destroy the inhabitants of Canaan. Joshua then assembled the congregation at Shiloh the place where the tabernacle was set up. He urged the people to acknowledge that God was with them in Canaan. The evidence of His presence was the tent of meeting at Shiloh. The Angel of the Lord was at Shiloh. This was the Lord Jesus Christ whom Jacob had called Shiloh when he blessed Judah.

Lesson 12

Confirmed in the Inheritance

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 1, Lesson 60

Scripture: Joshua 23–24

Memory Verse: “So Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord for yourselves, to serve Him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses!’” (Joshua 24:22)

Lesson Truth: Joshua confirmed Israel’s possession of the land of Canaan as their inheritance.

Lesson

Joshua, Israel’s God-fearing leader, told the people he was going to go the way of all flesh. He led Israel in their conquest of Canaan and divided the land according to the Lord’s instructions. Now before he died, he called the elders and judges of Israel together to give them one last reminder of who they were as God’s people. Joshua reminded them that it was the Lord who had given them the land of Canaan. It was the Lord who drove out their enemies along the way. Now he assured them that no enemies would be able to withstand them if they would believe God’s promises. They had to accept this promise in faith and cleave to the Lord.

Joshua knew of the dangers that surrounded the Israelites. Not all the Canaanites were destroyed. The Israelites would be tempted to rely on the skills of these Canaanites and not drive them out. Then God’s people would mix with them and they would become a snare and a trap. Joshua warned that if that happened, the Canaanites would again become strong and the judgments of the Lord would be carried out just as certainly as His promises. Then the Israelites would perish from the good land the Lord had given them.

As a servant of the Lord, Joshua knew that the only real hope for God’s people resided in the covenant God made with them. Now before he died, he gathered all the elders, judges, and officers of Israel at Shechem to renew the covenant. He had these officials present themselves before the Lord. As they stood before the Lord Joshua reminded them of the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He recalled for them the history of Israel in Egypt and in the wilderness. He reminded them that it was the Lord who drove out their enemies and gave them a land for which they never worked. It was the Lord who gave them cities they did not build, and let them eat from vineyards and olive groves they had not planted. Then Joshua asked for a response from these officials in the name of the Lord.

He urged them to serve the Lord in sincerity and truth, and to put away the gods their fathers had served on the other side of the River. As the covenant was renewed at Shechem Joshua said they had to choose if they would serve the Lord and His favor or if they would serve idols. He then, filled with the Spirit of Christ, stated his choice: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!” (Josh. 24:15).

