

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 5
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

The Head of the People Upheld

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

Scripture: Numbers 16:1-40

Memory Verse: “Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.” (Numbers 16:31-33)

Lesson Truth: The Lord preserves the nation’s head.

Lesson

The children of Israel were assigned to wander in the wilderness for forty years because they listened to the ten spies and lost the faith to occupy the land of Canaan. Now as they wandered in the wilderness under the leadership of Moses and Aaron, a man from the tribe of Levi and two men from the tribe of Reuben decided to challenge the authority of Moses’ leadership. These three men were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. They were jealous of the position of leadership that belonged to Moses and Aaron.

Korah, the man from the tribe of Levi, was the leader of the rebellion. Korah wanted to share some of the glory of leadership with Moses and Aaron, but he was not in any position to question their leadership on his own. He therefore stirred some discontent in the tribe of Reuben, the oldest son of Jacob. The Reubenites were envious of the leadership role entrusted to the tribe of Levi, so Korah was able to find Dathan and Abiram in the tribe of Reuben to join in his rebellion. The way it appeared, Korah would appoint himself as High Priest and the two hundred fifty men with him would be priests. Dathan and Abiram would be the political leaders. With this kind of plan in mind these men came to challenge the leadership of Moses and Aaron.

After all the signs the Lord had shown to Israel through Moses it is amazing that these men dared to question the authority of God’s appointed leaders. The reason they dared to challenge God’s appointed leaders was because they did not know or honor the Lord. The real tragedy of the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram was that they rejected the Lord. Anyone, who submits to the authority of the Lord, submits to the authority of the ones whom the Lord has appointed. Korah and his band of rebels rejected the Lord and the covenant He made with Israel because they rejected the mediator, Moses, whom God had appointed. We too must realize that we cannot honor God if we reject Christ our Mediator.

God’s servant, Moses, was crushed when the rebels came and challenged his authority. The Bible tells us he fell on his face, and once again looked to the Lord to indicate who was really His appointed leader. Moses told the rebels to bring their censers with fire in them to the Lord and the Lord would point out whom He had chosen as priest. This request should have reminded them of the way God destroyed Nadab and Abihu when they insisted on offering sacrifices in their own way. Moses warned Korah and his followers that they were not rebelling against Aaron, but against God. When Moses asked Dathan and Abiram to appear with Korah, they refused to come. It is amazing that Korah and his followers dared to appear at the tabernacle with Aaron and Moses. They should have remembered what God did to Nadab and Abihu.

When Korah gathered the whole congregation against Moses and Aaron at the door of the tabernacle, once again we see Moses function as mediator. God spoke to Moses and Aaron and said, “Separate yourselves from this congregation that I may consume them in a moment.” Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces

Lesson 2

A Thriving Priesthood

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

Scripture: Numbers 16:41–17:13

Memory Verse: “Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.” (Numbers 16:47-48)

Lesson Truth: The One ordained of God is also anointed with the Holy Spirit.

Lesson

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram with their families and possessions had been swallowed by a crack in the earth because of their rebellion against God’s appointed leaders. In spite of this awful judgment the children of Israel still did not understand that puny man could not get by with complaining about what God had ordained. They were not ready to submit to the authority God had placed in their lives.

Just one day after the destruction of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and their followers, the people complained that it was Moses and Aaron who killed the people of the Lord. How did they dare to speak against the leaders whom God had so clearly chosen? They were spiritually blind. Because they did not see the grace of the Lord in their lives, they were unable to see the majesty of His judgments.

This time as the people complained against Moses and Aaron, they gathered at the tabernacle. Then an awesome thing occurred. The glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud that covered the tabernacle. It was the same glory that appeared when the tabernacle was first set up. Once again the Lord would show His grace by not allowing the people to live in their rebellion. The Lord in His glory told Moses and Aaron to move away from the congregation so He could consume them in a moment. As before, Moses and Aaron fell on their faces to plead for the people. But this time Moses realized that he could not claim before the Lord that it was the sins of only a few. Moses realized they had all sinned and there was no longer any basis to ask God to stay His judgment. The only thing he could do was to tell Aaron to take a censer and bring incense to the Lord.

This censer with incense was a symbol of the office of the high priest whose intercessions would rise with the incense to the throne of God. Aaron’s intercession with the incense pointed to the real intercessor Jesus Christ. Only through the intercessions of His Son will God gather His people. The destruction of the children of Israel was so certain that their only hope was the intervention of the high priest. So Aaron hurried among the people with the censer and the incense because the wrath of God was already destroying the people. The plague had begun, so Aaron stood between the dead and the living and made atonement for the people. As Aaron made atonement for the people the plague was stopped, yet fourteen thousand seven hundred people died. Would the people now accept the leaders God had given them? To strengthen their faith, the Lord provided one more sign that Aaron was the appointed high priest.

God told Moses to ask each of the leaders of the tribes of Israel to bring a rod to the tabernacle. The name of each tribe was to be written on the rod, except for the tribe of Levi. Aaron’s name had to be written on the rod representing the tribe of Levi. Moses took these twelve rods, which were merely dried branches of wood, and placed them before the Lord. The next day when Moses went back into the Holy of Holies eleven of the rods continued to be only dried sticks. But Aaron’s rod had sprouted and put forth blossoms and buds and produced ripe almonds in a single night. This was a miracle from the Lord! Dead wood had been stirred to life. The children of Israel now had to acknowledge Aaron as the high priest chosen by the

6. What did the Lord tell Moses to get from each tribe of Israel? (Num. 17:2)

7. What did Moses do with the rods he collected? (Num. 17:7)

8. What happened to the rod of Aaron at the tabernacle? (Num. 17:8)

Lesson 3

The Living God

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

Scripture: Numbers 20:1-13

Memory Verse: “Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying: “Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals.” (Numbers 20:7-8)

Lesson Truth: The Lord sanctifies Himself as the God of His people.

Lesson

The Lord had established the priesthood of Aaron that pointed to the priestly office of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ. Now the children of Israel continued on their journey and arrived at Kadesh where Miriam died and was buried. It was at Kadesh that we see Moses, the servant of the Lord, fail as a mediator. Moses, the man who talked with the Lord face to face on Mount Sinai, failed to honor the Lord’s command at Kadesh. This is what happened:

When the children of Israel came to Kadesh on the border of the Promised Land they found they had no water. Instead of reflecting on the many miracles they had seen in the wilderness and trusting God to supply their need for water, they resorted to their sinful habit of complaining against Moses and Aaron. Once again they whined to Moses that he had brought them to the wilderness to have them die of thirst. Again they looked back with longing and asked why Moses had led them from Egypt to the wilderness to die? Their rebellion became so blatant that they even said they wished they had died with their brothers before the Lord in the plague. They were certainly a sinful, rebellious people who profaned the name of the Lord. They acted as if the Lord did not exist.

Then a sad thing happened. Moses, the mediator between God and His people, lost control of his emotions and became bitter. Moses, who had always been able to bring the complaints of the people before the Lord, now took their complaints personally. This time, in his anger, he failed to honor the name of the Lord. The Lord expressly told him to gather the congregation together and to speak to the rock before their eyes and it would yield water for them to drink. Instead of making sure that the people understood that the Lord would provide for their needs, Moses acted as if he was the one who would produce water from the rock. In his anger he addressed the people as rebels and said: “Must we bring water for you out of this rock?” (Num. 20:10) Then Moses took the rod in his hand and struck the rock twice and water came out of the rock in abundance so the people and animals had water to drink.

The Lord was not pleased with Moses and Aaron because they failed to honor His name before the people. He told them that because they did not honor His name before the people they would not be allowed to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. This seemed like a very severe punishment for Moses and Aaron, but we must remember that no one is allowed to put himself before the honor of God’s name. Moses and Aaron had failed as mediators. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Mediator who has never failed. Because Christ is the Mediator who never failed, Moses and Aaron received grace. Through Christ’s atonement all that was sinful in Moses and Aaron has been paid for. Only their faithfulness will be remembered. This grace in Christ Jesus is not only for Moses and Aaron; it is for all believers. Everything that is sinful in our lives will be wiped away if we believe in Jesus our Savior.

The judgment on Moses and Aaron was also a judgment on the people. Because of their rebellion they prevented their leaders from entering the Promised Land. We believe many of the children of Israel

confessed their guilt and the Lord was glorified among them. We too must confess our guilt and humble ourselves before the Lord.

Questions

1. Why did the children of Israel gather against Moses and Aaron at Kadesh? (Num. 20:2)
2. What did the children of Israel wish had happened to them rather than dying of thirst? (Num. 20:3)
3. What country did the people look back to with longing eyes? (Num. 20:5)
4. What did Moses and Aaron do when the people complained about a lack of water? (Num. 20:6)
5. Who appeared to Moses and Aaron at the tabernacle? (Num. 20:6b)
6. What did the Lord tell Moses to do as the congregation gathered at the rock? (Num. 20:8)

Lesson 4

Humiliation

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

Scripture: Numbers 20:14–21:9

Memory Verse: “Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, ‘We have sinned for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it shall live.’” (Numbers 21:7-8)

Lesson Truth: In their humiliation, the people turn to look to the Lord.

Lesson

The Lord in His grace continued to teach His chosen people Israel. It was the Lord’s grace that caused the children of Israel to humble themselves before Edom. The Angel of the Lord, that is, the Christ, went before them and humbled Himself before Edom. He showed Israel that He was the one who would come, not to be served, but to serve. The grace of the Lord Jesus was also seen in the transfer of the priesthood to Eleazar and in the erection of the bronze serpent to which the children of Israel could look to be saved from the bites of the fiery serpents.

The children of Israel remained camped at Kadesh. Moses and Aaron received word that they could not enter Canaan because they did not honor the Lord’s name at the waters of Meribah. The children of Israel were camped south of Canaan and were ready to go into the Promised Land. The direct route would be to enter Canaan from the south, but this was a steep and treacherous route. Moses chose rather to circle to the east, but that meant traveling through the land of Edom. When Moses sent messengers to seek permission to pass through the land of Edom, we see how the Lord used this experience to humble His chosen people.

We should remember that the Edomites were descendants of Esau, the twin brother of Jacob, who was renamed Israel. The children of Israel most likely thought it would be easy to get permission to pass through Edom, but the Lord in His grace would have Israel humiliated before Edom so they would learn to rely on God alone. When Israel asked permission to pass through Edom, the Edomites not only denied their request but they also said they would declare war if they tried to go through their land by force. This left Israel with only one choice and that was to take the long and difficult route south to go around Edom. The Lord would humble the children of Israel, just as He humbled Himself by leading His people around Edom in the cloud. He demonstrated that He would obtain His Kingdom not by force, but as a servant.

As the Israelites traveled south, they came to Mount Hor. It was at Mount Hor that the Lord told Aaron he would die. However, the office of high priest would continue. Moses was instructed to take the priestly garments from Aaron and to put them on Eleazer his son. It was a humiliation for Aaron to die before he reached Canaan, but the Lord showed his grace in continuing the priesthood in Eleazer. The office of high priest pointed to the Christ who is the great High Priest. The one who would atone for not only the sins of Aaron, but also the sins of all believers.

The children of Israel were growing in grace. This was seen when they promised to utterly destroy the Canaanite king of Arad, but they still did not trust the Lord completely. As they traveled near the Red Sea to go around Edom they again found themselves short of food and water. Instead of looking to the Lord for help they went back to their old way of complaining against Moses and against God. This time the Lord sent fiery serpents to bite the people and many of the people died.

God's chosen people had been humiliated before proud Edom. If that was not enough they were now bitten by fiery serpents. Then we see they were a changed people. This time they confessed their sin. They said, "We have sinned for we have spoken against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord that He take away the serpents from us" (Num. 21:7). When Moses prayed to the Lord he was given a remarkable sign. He was told to make a fiery serpent out of bronze and set it on a pole and to inform the people that anyone who would lift up his eyes and look at the bronze serpent would be saved. This sign was remarkable because it so clearly pointed to Christ. In the third chapter of John we are told that as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up. The children of Israel had to go through humiliation so they would learn to live by faith, faith in the promised Son.

Questions

1. What request did the children of Israel make of the king of Edom? (Num. 20:17)
2. What response did they get from the king of Edom? (Num. 20:18)
3. What was to happen to Aaron when the Israelites came to Mount Hor? (Num. 20:24)
4. Why would Aaron not be allowed to enter Canaan? (Num. 20:24b)
5. Who became the high priest in the place of Aaron? (Num. 20:28)

Lesson 5

Blessed by the Lord

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

Scripture: Numbers 21:10–24:25

Memory Verse: “And he took up his oracle and said: ‘Balak the king of Moab has brought me down from Aman, From the mountains of the east. Come, curse Jacob for me, and come, denounce Israel! How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?’” (Numbers 23:7-8)

Lesson Truth: The Lord reveals that Israel is the one blessed forever.

Lesson

The children of Israel had been humiliated when they were forced to go around Edom. Now as they traveled along the eastern border of Moab they were attacked by Sihon, king of the Amorites, and by Og, king of Bashan. The Lord removed some of their humiliation by giving them decisive victories against these two kings. As the victorious Israelites now camped in the plains of Moab across from the Jordan, they posed a real threat to the king of Moab. The Bible tells us that the king and the people of Moab were exceedingly afraid. They saw there was a power in Israel that could not be conquered by an army. Therefore, king Balak of Moab decided to try to find a way to curse Israel.

King Balak discussed his idea with the princes of Midian and together they thought of a fortune teller from Mesopotamia. He was a Balaam, a kind of prophet, to whom the Lord revealed Himself at times. These leaders from Moab and Midian thought they could get Balaam to curse Israel and in this way remove the threat of being defeated by the Israelites. What they did not understand is that no one can curse what God has blessed.

When the elders of Moab and Midian asked Balaam to come along with them so he could curse Israel, God came to Balaam and warned him not to go along with these elders. However, when they came a second time Balaam really wanted to go with them. He wanted their honor and their rewards, yet he told them he could only speak what the Lord told him to say. With the hope of finding a way to curse Israel, Balaam went with the elders. This hope did not please the Lord.

As Balaam traveled on his donkey to Moab, the Angel of the Lord came and stood in the way as an enemy. Balaam did not see the Angel of the Lord, but, by a miracle, the donkey did see Him. This caused the donkey to turn aside, which made Balaam angry so he beat the donkey to keep him on the road. This happened three times and each time Balaam became more frustrated with his donkey. Each time he beat the donkey and then a miraculous thing happened. The donkey opened his mouth and spoke to Balaam. He questioned Balaam about the beatings, and as he did so Balaam’s eyes were opened and he saw the Angel of the Lord. Then he realized that he had been driven by greed. He knew that the Angel of the Lord would have killed him if the donkey had not shied away. This terrified Balaam and he told the Lord he would go back to where he came from. The Lord said he could go on, but now he knew he could only speak what the Lord told him to speak. In this way Balaam would pronounce a blessing on Israel and not a curse. Balaam was not on the Lord’s side, but he could only do what the Lord allowed him to do.

King Balak took Balaam to three different locations to have him curse Israel. From each of these locations Balaam blessed Israel. Balaam could only say: “How shall I curse whom God has not cursed? And how shall I denounce whom the Lord has not denounced?” God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a man that He should repent. Has he said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken and will He not make good?

How lovely are your tents, O Jacob! Your dwellings, O Israel!” (Num. 23:8, 19; 24:5). After three blessings upon Israel Balak sent Balaam away. It had been publicly declared to the heathen nations what God, in His grace, wanted for His people.

Before Balaam returned to Mesopotamia he spoke one more prophecy. He told Balak what would occur in the future. This was a prophecy of great promise for Israel, as well as a curse on the enemies of Israel, when he said: “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” (Num. 24:17). The star that would come out of Jacob was the great Son of David, the Messiah.

Questions

1. Who were the kings of Amon and Bashan? (Num. 21:21, 33)
2. Why didn't Israel have to fear these kings? (Num.21:34)
3. Who sent for Balaam to curse the children of Israel? (Num. 22:10-11)
4. Why did Balaam want to go Moab according to the apostle Peter? (2 Peter 2:15)
5. What truth do we learn from Balaam's first prophecy? (Num. 23:8)

Lesson 6

The Sovereignty of God's Justice

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

Scripture: Numbers 25–36

Memory Verse: “Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying: ‘Phinehas the son of Eleazer, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal.’” (Numbers 25:10-11)

Lesson Truth: The people of the covenant live under the sovereignty of the Lord's justice.

Lesson

Balaam, the prophet from Mesopotamia, was asked by king Balak to curse the children of Israel. He found that he could not curse what God had blessed. Now he found protection among the Midianites. He knew the weakness of God's people, so he advised the Midianites to work for the destruction of the children of Israel by tempting them instead of having a prophet curse them. He suggested that the Midianite and Moabite women should invite the Israelite men to their sacrificial meals. This strategy seemed to work very well, for the men of Israel fell right into the trap.

What a shame that the children of Israel could so easily break their covenant with the Lord. It seemed that the favor of the Lord meant very little to Israel. The men of Israel not only bowed down to the gods of Moab, but they also committed harlotry with the women of Moab. This shameless forsaking of the Lord's commands aroused the Lord's anger against Israel. Once again the Lord showed His mercy by His command to Moses to have the leaders of this sinful activity hung out in the sun. The sin of the people had to be purged from Israel or the promise of a Redeemer could never occur. The Lord also sent a plague upon Israel that killed thousands in addition to the ones that were hanged. First, the people hesitated to hang the leaders as the Lord commanded Moses. The plague continued until Phinehas, the priest, took action.

The action that Phinehas took was dramatic and decisive. With a passionate zeal that came from the Lord, Phinehas took a javelin and thrust it through the bodies of an Israelite man and a Midianite woman who boldly committed adultery. This zeal of Phinehas finally got the people to see that they had to honor God's justice. They did hang the leaders who led in this rebellion against the Lord. When Phinehas took his dramatic action and the people followed the Lord's command to Moses the plague was stopped. The death of this man and woman could not appease the wrath of God, but it did point to the death of Christ Jesus through whom sin would be atoned for and divine justice restored. Christ Jesus honored divine justice so much that he gave His own life to satisfy this justice.

Our God is a just God. God's justice demands that sin be punished. Now that the sin of God's people with the Moabites and Midianites was punished His people could prepare to enter the Promised Land. God instructed Moses how the land was to be divided with each tribe assigning some cities for the Levites to live. The tribe of Levi would continue to serve as priests and do the work of the Lord in the sanctuary. Because Moses had dishonored God at the water of Meribah, he was not allowed to enter the Promised Land. Moses accepted the judgment of the Lord that he could not enter Canaan, but he did ask the Lord to appoint his successor. The Lord told Moses to take Joshua, the son of Nun, and designate him as the leader of Israel. This Moses did before the Eleazer the high priest.

As an unmistakable sign that all mankind must live under the absolute justice of God, Moses was instructed to take vengeance on the Midianites. He was told to do this because of the scheme they used to tempt and seduce Israel. Moses sent a thousand men from each tribe of Israel to fight the Midianites. The men of

Israel were used by the Lord to bring His judgment on Midian. They defeated Midian and killed all the men, including the king, but they spared the women and children. This displeased Moses and Eleazer, because the women were the ones who tempted the men of Israel. Therefore all the boys and married women were put to death. This was the message of Israel's encounter with Midian; everyone, both believer and unbeliever, must live under the sovereignty of God's justice.

Questions

1. What evil did the Israelites commit with the women of Moab? (Num. 25:1-2)
2. Why was the anger of the Lord aroused against Israel? (Num. 25:3)
3. What was Moses instructed to do with the men who offended the Lord? (Num. 25:4)
4. How many Israelites died in the plague because of this sin? (Num. 25:9)
5. Why didn't the Lord consume the children of Israel because of their sin? (Num. 25:11)
6. Who was appointed as the leader of Israel to replace Moses? (Num. 27:18-19)

Lesson 7

The Word Is Very Near You

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

Scripture: Deuteronomy 29–34

Memory Verse: “For I proclaim the name of the Lord: Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:3-4)

Lesson Truth: In God’s covenant, the Word is very near His people.

Lesson

When Moses was instructed by the Lord to bring vengeance on the Midianites, they learned that everyone must live under the sovereignty of God’s justice. After destroying the Midianites Moses prepared to leave this earth. His preparation to die was as significant as the life he lived before the Lord. He encouraged Joshua as the new leader. He renewed the covenant, spoken first at Mount Sinai. He repeated the entire law to the people and wrote it in a book. The last thing he did as mediator before he died was to give the children of Israel a song of blessing and honor to the Lord he served and a blessing for each of the tribes of Israel.

Moses is referred to as the mediator of the Old Testament. He was a man who understood the grace of God in his life. As a mediator between God and the children of Israel, he understood how difficult it was for Israel to be obedient to their covenant relationship with God. He knew that the covenant could only be fulfilled by the grace of our faithful Lord. He told the Israelites: “The Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day” (Deut. 29:4). Moses knew that only through grace the covenant could be kept. He also knew there are means to that grace.

One of the means of grace that Moses shared with the children of Israel was a renewal of the covenant while they were in Moab. Moses reminded the people that it was through Israel that the blessings of the covenant would be brought to all mankind. He then called on heaven and earth to be a witness against Israel. That is how the Spirit of the Lord struggled in Moses to get the people to understand God’s faithfulness in the covenant. He urged the people to obey the voice of the Lord and His commandments. He reminded them of the Lord’s assurance that His commandments are not a mystery. For the Lord said: “But the Word of the Lord is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart that you may do it” (Deut. 30:14).

Moses also set Joshua before the people and encouraged him to not be afraid. He reminded Joshua that all the enemies in the land of Canaan would be defeated as were Sihon king of Ammon and Og King of Bashan. A new leader for God’s people was also a means of grace. Joshua, a man in whom the Spirit of God lived, would surely lead the people in honoring God as they conquered Canaan.

One additional means of grace that Moses left with the people was the law of God. He wrote the law and delivered it to the priest to keep in the sanctuary. He then instructed the priests to read the law every seven years in the hearing of all the people. They were to do this so that future generations would know the Lord’s covenant. For that reason we continue to read the law today.

The last thing Moses did as mediator before he died was to write a song; which included a blessing for each tribe of Israel. In this song Moses praised the name of the Lord for his work is always glorious. He reminded the people of Babel when God confused the languages so that the vanity of the people would not keep Him from establishing His covenant. Moses was prophetic in the blessing he gave to each of the tribes.

Each tribe received a special blessing, but the tribe of Judah carried the blessing first promised to Adam and Eve. From Judah, Israel's true king would one day be born. Moses concluded his blessings by declaring that Israel was blessed because her King and abiding protection was the Lord.

Questions

1. What had God not given to the children of Israel so they failed to understand their trials? (Deut. 29:4)
2. What was miraculous about the forty years of wandering in the wilderness? (Deut. 29:5)
3. What would make the children of Israel prosper in all they did? (Deut. 29:9)
4. Where could the Israelites find the word that was not beyond the sea? (Deut. 30:14)
5. How often was the Law to be read before the people? (Deut. 31:10-11)
6. What can be said about the work and the ways of the Lord proclaimed as the Rock? (Deut. 32:4)

7. According to the song of Moses what is the Lord's portion and His inheritance? (Deut. 32:9)

8. What was unusual about Moses when he died at 120 years old? (Deut. 34:7)

Lesson 8

Brought into Canaan

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

Scripture: Joshua 1:1–5: 12

Memory Verse: “That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come, saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’ ‘They you shall answer them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it crossed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. And these stones shall be for a memorial to the children of Israel forever.’” (Joshua 4:6-7)

Lesson Truth: The Lord leads Israel by faith into the land of Canaan.

Lesson

Moses, the servant of the Lord, died at Mount Nebo. We wonder how Israel could go on without this champion of the Lord to lead them. The answer of course is that the Lord continued to provide for His people. The Lord chose Joshua as a successor to Moses. Today we will learn how the Lord encouraged Joshua and how He brought the children of Israel into Canaan.

Joshua could have been overwhelmed with the task of leading the children of Israel into the land of Canaan. The only reason he wasn't was because he knew the Lord was with him. The Lord told him again and again to be strong and courageous. He told Joshua not to be afraid or to be dismayed for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. With this encouragement from the Lord Joshua assumed his task of preparing the people to go into Canaan.

The children of Israel were ready to enter the Promised Land. If they could find a way to cross the Jordan River they would be there. Then Joshua made the announcement to make provisions for within three days they would be crossing the Jordan. The people responded by saying they would do as Joshua commanded. They would obey Joshua just as they obeyed Moses. Their prayer was that God would be with Joshua just as He had been with Moses. After all these years of anticipation they were about to enter the land of Canaan. The Lord would bring them into Canaan as He had promised.

Joshua now conducted himself like a military leader and sent two spies to Jericho to plan an attack against that city. The spies chose to hide at the home of Rahab a harlot, thinking they would not be discovered at her home. But the king of Jericho sent soldiers to find them at Rahab's house. It was then that the spies learned that the Spirit of the Lord had gone ahead of them into Canaan. Rahab told them: “I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you” (Josh. 2:8). With this inside information they were able to go back to Joshua and say: “Truly the Lord has delivered the land into our hands” (Josh. 2:24). The only barrier now between the Israelites and the Promised Land was the Jordan River.

The rainy season had come, and the Jordan River was overflowing. It seemed nearly impossible for an army along with women and children to cross this formidable river. Then the Lord revealed Himself to Joshua and said he would bring the people into Canaan by an unknown way. He then instructed Joshua to have the people sanctify themselves in preparation for the crossing. The Lord told Joshua to have the people fasten their eyes on the Ark of the Covenant as the priests carried it into the waters of the Jordan River. As the priests carrying the ark stepped into the water the impossible happened. The waters of the river stopped running! The priests with the ark moved to the middle of the river and stood there. As they stood in the river the Israelites walked past the ark and into the land of Canaan. Now they knew who had prepared the way for them to enter the Promised Land. The ark pointed to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ who through His death and resurrection made it possible for believers to live in fellowship with God.

The Lord then instructed Joshua to have one man from each tribe carry a stone from the dry river and set it up for a memorial to the children of Israel. Whenever the children of Israel would see these stones, they would remember that God brought them into Canaan. The Canaanites had no spirit left when they saw this miraculous crossing, so they did not dare to attack Israel. In this time of calm the Lord told Joshua to do something they had not done for years. He told him to renew the covenant by celebrating the Passover and by administering the sacrament of circumcision. Now the daily manna stopped falling. The children of Israel were in the land the Lord had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Questions

1. What instructions did God give to Joshua when Joshua became Israel's new leader? (Josh. 1:2)
2. Why would no man be able to stand before Joshua all the days of his life? (Josh. 1:5)
3. At whose house did the spies lodge? (Josh. 2:1)
4. What did Rahab tell the spies so they knew the Lord had given the land to Israel? (Josh. 2:9)
5. What did the spies tell Joshua that should have encouraged him? (Josh. 2:24)

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: “But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only, they marched around the city seven times. And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: ‘Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!’” (Joshua 6:15-16)

Lesson Truth: For Christ’s sake, Canaan is devoted to the Lord.

Lesson

The history of the defeat of Jericho is a history of how the Lord set the land of Canaan apart for destruction. The land of Canaan was under the ban which meant that it was set apart to the Lord for either a blessing or a curse. The city of Jericho with everything in it had to be utterly destroyed, except for the precious metals. The precious metals were devoted to the Lord for His treasury. Everything and everyone else was devoted to the Lord for destruction.

The Lord brought the children of Israel across the Jordan River. The first thing Joshua saw was the walled city of Jericho ahead of them. However, before he could lead the Israelites to conquer Jericho he had to be instructed as to who the conqueror really was. As Joshua looked toward Jericho, suddenly he saw someone stand before him with a drawn sword in His hand. When he asked if the one with the drawn sword was a friend or an enemy, he was told that he was speaking to the Commander of the Lord’s army. The Commander of the Lord’s army is the Mediator, Christ Jesus. Joshua was to know, as he fought with the Canaanites, that the Angel of the Lord would give the victory. He had to know that the wickedness of the Canaanites was full and that therefore they were devoted to the Lord for judgment.

The destruction of this first city in the land of Canaan was going to occur entirely by the hand of the Lord. Joshua and the children of Israel would know that Canaan would belong to them only because the Lord gave it to them as He promised. Joshua then gave the unusual orders as to how the city of Jericho would be defeated. He told the armed men that they would march around the city once each day for six days. The priests were instructed to carry the Ark of the Covenant in the middle of the procession with seven priests carrying trumpets going ahead of them. The ark was a sign that the Lord was among them. Joshua told the armed men that they were not to make any noise as they marched around the city each of the first six days. Think how eerie this must have felt for the people in the city.

Then on the seventh day Joshua told the armed men to rise early and march around the city seven times. After they completed the seventh round around the city the priests were commanded to blow the trumpets and the people were commanded to shout! Joshua said: “Shout for the Lord has given you the city” (Josh. 6:16). The grace of the Lord was then evident as the walls of Jericho fell down. The soldiers then went in and completely destroyed the city and all its inhabitants except for Rahab and her family because she hid the spies. She had believed in the God of Israel and in faith helped the spies. Now the children of Israel knew that the Canaanites were set apart by the Lord for destruction.

After the spectacular victory over the city of Jericho, Joshua and his army looked to the city of Ai. Again Joshua sent spies to determine how strong the city of Ai would be. His spies were so confident that they advised Joshua to send only a couple thousand soldiers to fight with Ai. Imagine their surprise when they had to flee before the army of Ai. Joshua tore his clothes and fell on his face before the ark of the Lord

Lesson 10

The Righteousness of God

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

Scripture: Joshua 9–12

Memory Verse: “Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel: ‘Sun stand still over Gibeon; and Moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.’ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies.” (Joshua 10:12-13)

Lesson Truth: God’s righteousness is maintained in the extermination of His enemies.

Lesson

After the children of Israel entered Canaan, Joshua brought them to Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim to renew the covenant. From there he had them camp at Gilgal which was in the heart of the land of Canaan. From Gilgal there were Canaanite cities both to the south and to the north. The kings and people in the cities of Canaan heard about the defeat of Jericho and Ai and were filled with fear of Joshua and the Israelites.

The people of Gibeon were so fearful that they decided to try to save their lives by a shrewd trick. They sent a delegation to Joshua at Gilgal pretending they had come from a very distant country. They wore weathered and worn clothing and carried old water bottles to deceive the Israelites into making an alliance with them. The deception worked because we are told: “They did not ask counsel of the Lord.” The men of Israel made a covenant with Gibeon that they would let them live.

The deception of Gibeon was not well received by the other Canaanite kings. Five kings in the south combined their military forces to attack Gibeon. When they arrived at the gates of Gibeon they met more than they anticipated. Gibeon had convinced Israel to fight with her because of the covenant that had been made. Israel could not break the covenant they made with Gibeon because it was sworn to in the name of the Lord. They could not disgrace His name. So Israel fought with Gibeon against the five kings of the south. The Spirit of the Lord caused the allied kings and their soldiers to fear so they fled toward the mountain pass at Beth-horon. While the Israelites pursued them the Lord rained large hailstones on them. More enemies were destroyed with the hail than with the swords of Israel.

However, the battle was not yet finished. Then Joshua called on the name of the Lord in a most spectacular way. He commanded in the sight of all Israel that the sun stand still over Gibeon; and the moon in the Valley of Aijalon. The Lord was certainly bringing His judgment on the Canaanites because He heard Joshua’s command and the sun and the moon did stand still. That day the kings and people of the south were utterly destroyed. Now Israel knew they were exclusively God’s people.

When the report of Israel’s victory reached the kings in the north they too formed an alliance. They formed a large army that included many horses and chariots. This large army gathered at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. But the Lord told Joshua: “Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I will deliver them slain before Israel” (Josh. 11:6). Joshua believed the Lord and attacked the kings of the north with confidence and utterly destroyed them. He had his soldiers cut through the tendons of the horse’s hind legs and then killed them. He also burned all the chariots. These were to be signs that man couldn’t rely on anything outside of God.

Joshua destroyed the city of Hazor where Jabin the northern leader lived. Now all of Canaan was under the rule of Joshua, the Lord’s appointed leader of Israel. Not all the cities were captured, but the Canaanites no

longer had any strength to defend themselves. God had used His people Israel to execute His righteousness upon the Canaanites. God will also execute His righteousness upon us unless we are covered by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. Who used deceit to get Joshua and the men of Israel to make an agreement with them? (Josh. 9:3-4)
2. Why were the Gibeonites able to deceive the leaders of Israel? (Josh. 9:14)
3. Why didn't the leaders of Israel dare to break the oath they made with the Gibeonites? (Josh. 9:19)
4. What were the Gibeonites made to do because of their deceit? (Josh. 9:21, 27)
5. What promise did the Lord give to Joshua when he went to fight the kings of the south? (Josh. 10:8)
6. What did the Lord do to destroy the kings of the south at Beth-horn? (Josh. 10:11)

7. What astounding miracle took place the day the Lord delivered the Amorites to Israel? (Josh. 10:12-13)

8. Why were the kings of Canaan unable to make a peace agreement with Israel? (Josh. 11:20)

Lesson 11

The Heritage of the Saints

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

Scripture: Joshua 13–22

Memory Verse: “When they had made an end of dividing the land as an inheritance according to their borders, the children of Israel gave an inheritance among them to Joshua the son of Nun. According to the word of the Lord they gave him the city which he asked for, Timnath Serah in the mountains of Ephraim; and he built the city and dwelt in it.” (Joshua 19:49-50)

Lesson Truth: In the name of God, the inheritance is distributed to the saints by the Mediator.

Lesson

It had been more than four centuries since Abraham was called to leave the land of Ur and received the promise that the land of Canaan would one day belong to his heirs. All this time the faithful sons and daughters of Abraham talked about the Promised Land. They knew that God had promised a land in which His people would grow and mature. They not only talked about a Promised Land, but also about a Promised Son, the Messiah.

After all the years in bondage in Egypt and after more than forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the children of Israel were now in Canaan. They had crossed the Jordan River and the Lord had given them victories over Jericho and Ai as well as the kings of the north and south. Now the Lord instructed Joshua to divide the Promised Land giving each of Jacob’s sons their inheritance. Joshua was old and would not live to see the day when all the Canaanites were destroyed. But the division of the land could not wait. Joshua had to complete the work that Moses had begun east of the Jordan River. Moses had assigned an inheritance to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh. Now Joshua had to assign the inheritance to the remaining tribes.

Joshua realized that if the land of Canaan were to be divided fairly then the Lord would have to decide the portions. Joshua cast lots to determine which tribe received which parcel of land. In this way it was the Lord who directed the inheritance of each tribe. After each tribe received their inheritance they had the task of destroying all the Canaanites in their parcel of land. This was a task most of the tribes dreaded, but God’s faithful servant, Caleb, set out immediately to rid his parcel of the giants that lived there. Caleb inherited Hebron within the inheritance of the tribe of Judah. He received Hebron as an inheritance because only he and Joshua believed God could deliver the giants at Hebron into the hands of Israel.

After Judah received her inheritance the lot fell to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh to receive their inheritance. Although they were sons of Joseph they were counted as sons of Jacob when he blessed his sons; therefore, they each received an inheritance. These two tribes had to overcome doubt when they complained to Joshua that they could not drive out the Canaanites because they had iron chariots. They had to learn that they could only receive their inheritance by faith. This is also our lesson.

Because of a lack of faith, the other tribes also feared the Canaanites still in the land. So Joshua assembled the whole congregation at Shiloh. It was at Shiloh that Joshua set up the tabernacle to show the people that the Lord was with them in Canaan. Shiloh means rest. This is where the Lord rested after the journey through the wilderness, and this is where the people would also find rest if they placed their faith in the Lord.

There were two additional inheritances that we must note. The tribe of Levi did not receive a parcel of land but rather as the priestly tribe they received cities within the inheritance of the other tribes. Moses said:

“The Lord the God of Israel is their inheritance.” This was an inheritance of full measure as the presence of the Levites reminded all the tribes of the presence of the Lord in the Promised Land. The other inheritance was that of Joshua. He and Caleb were the only two faithful spies, so they were given a special inheritance. Caleb received Hebron and Joshua received Timnath-Serah. After Joshua completed the work of dividing the land, he went to live on his inheritance. He did not want to be Israel’s leader for the Lord would lead His people.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh were now ready to go back to their inheritance east of the Jordan River. When they arrived there, they set up an impressive altar. The tribes west of the Jordan thought they were going to offer sacrifices to the Lord on this altar and were afraid that this would bring the judgment of God upon them. So they set out to do battle with the tribes east of the Jordan. When they were given assurance that they did not intend to offer sacrifices on this altar the battle was called off. All the tribes now agreed to keep the covenant of the Lord and live in obedience to Him. The Spirit of the Lord was faithful to His people through all their sins. This same Spirit will never depart from His people because of Christ’s obedience.

Questions

1. How many tribes would receive an inheritance west of the Jordan River? (Josh. 13:7)
2. Which of the twelve tribes did not receive an inheritance of land? (Josh. 13:14)
3. What city did the faithful spy, Caleb receive as an inheritance? (Josh. 14:13)
4. Why did Caleb receive a special inheritance? (Josh. 14:14)

Lesson 12

Confirmed in the Inheritance

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

Scripture: Joshua 23–24

Memory Verse: “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15)

Lesson Truth: Joshua, as a type of the Mediator between God and men, confirms Israel’s possession of the inheritance.

Lesson

The end of Joshua’s life was near. He faithfully led the children of Israel as they conquered Canaan, and he faithfully distributed the land as the Lord directed. He called the leaders of Israel together for one final exhortation. He stood as a type of Christ, the Mediator, between God and His people. In this final gathering he pointed out that their inheritance in the land of Canaan was a gift from God. He urged the people to be faithful and promised that if they were faithful the Lord would drive out the Canaanites who still lived in the land.

Joshua, as a mediator, knew the Israelites would be tempted to use the skills of the Canaanites in the land, and then fail to drive them out. He encouraged them by telling them that if they would be faithful to the Lord, He would continue to drive out strong nations from before them. He assured them that God would continue to fight for them so that one Israelite would be able to chase a thousand Canaanites. But Joshua also warned them that if they failed to be faithful the Lord would allow the Canaanites to become strong again and become a snare and a trap to God’s people.

This servant of the Lord knew that all the hope for God’s promises to be fulfilled rested in the faithfulness of his covenant God. So he gathered the tribes of Israel at Shechem and had the heads, the judges, and the officers present themselves before God. As they presented themselves before God, Joshua rehearsed their history, and the history of the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He reminded them that the Lord brought Abraham to Canaan, that the Lord brought His people out of Egypt, and that the Lord gave them the land of Canaan. He asked them to remember that they now lived in a land for which they never worked, and in cities they did not build. They ate from vineyards and olive groves they did not plant.

As a response to the mighty hand of God in their life, Joshua urged them to fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth. Then he demanded in the name of the Lord that they make a choice saying: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15). The Spirit of the Lord gave him the power to speak out this way.

When the people responded by answering, “We will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:18). Joshua warned them that they really couldn’t serve the Lord. He reminded them that God is a holy God and a jealous God. He warned that this holy God must be everything to them. They must serve Him alone or He would consume them. When the people repeated that they wished to serve the Lord, Joshua told them they were a witness against themselves. At Shechem the covenant between the Lord and His people was renewed under the leadership of the mediator, Joshua.

Not long after the Israelites left Shechem, Joshua died at age 110. Eleazer, Joshua's trusted priest also died. Both Joshua and Eleazer were buried in the land of Canaan as well as the bones of Joseph that the children of Israel brought from Egypt. Now the Israelites knew that Canaan was their land. They lived in the faith that these leaders would one day be resurrected at the appearing of the Redeemer. God promised His people land and He promised a Redeemer. The land was now theirs. The faithful among them could look for the coming Redeemer. This was confirmed in the inheritance.

Questions

1. According to Joshua who fought for the children of Israel? (Josh. 23:3)
2. What did Joshua urge the people to be very courageous to do? (Josh. 23:6)
3. If the Israelites served the Lord how many enemies could one man of Israel pursue? (Josh. 23:10)
4. Where did Joshua gather all the tribes of Israel? (Josh. 24:1)
5. Who took Abraham away from serving other gods and brought him to Canaan? (Josh. 24:2-3)
6. From whom did Israel receive the land, the cities and the vineyards of Canaan? (Josh. 24:13)

7. What choice did Joshua ask the Israelites to make in the name of the Lord? (Josh. 24:15)

8. What choice did Joshua make? (Josh. 24:15b)