

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 6

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 Earth Is the Lord's

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 1

Scripture: Judges 1–5

Memory Verse: “I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you. And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars. But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?’” (Judges 1b-2)

Lesson Truth: Canaan belonged to the Lord as the place He alone would be worshipped.

Lesson

The Lord made it possible for the children of Israel to conquer Canaan under the faithful leadership of Joshua. Following some major battles, the Israelites occupied the Promised Land. Yet not all the inhabitants of Canaan were driven out. The Israelites knew they were supposed to drive out the remaining Canaanites. They realized that if they did not drive them out, they would mingle with them and even begin to serve their gods. This would be a direct violation of the Lord's decree that He alone was to be served in the land.

Judah and Simeon began the task of cleansing the land of idol worshippers but did not complete the job. They along with the other tribes were afraid of the Canaanites in the valleys because they had iron chariots. They forgot that the Lord would fight for them, and in their unbelief, they left the land in the hands of the Canaanites. But the situation became even worse when the people began serving the Baals of Canaan and forsook the Lord God of their fathers.

Despite the Israelites not doing what the Lord commanded, the Angel of the Lord came out from Gilgal to Bochim to remind them of the covenant. He told them He would never break that covenant, but He also admonished them for their unfaithfulness in not claiming the entire land for the Lord. Then he announced His judgment that He would no longer deliver their enemies into their hands. These enemies would be a snare and a trap to the children of Israel, causing them to sin against the Lord.

This was an awesome judgment, but it was also an act of mercy. It was mercy for the Lord to leave these enemies in the land to remind the future generations how destructive it is to follow the gods of Canaan. The new generations would fall into the hands of the Canaanites until they recognized their sinfulness and would cry out to the Lord for deliverance. After the people would repent and cry to the Lord for deliverance from their enemies, He would send a deliverer called judge.

After the king of Mesopotamia oppressed Israel for eight years, the Lord sent Othniel. The Spirit of the Lord came over Othniel so he had the faith that the Lord would always be true to His covenant. With this faith the king of Mesopotamia was defeated, and the land of Israel had peace for 40 years. But the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Lesson 2
The Reign of Grace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 2

Scripture: Judges 6–9

Memory Verse: “So Gideon said to God, ‘If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said— Look I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.’” (Judges 6:36-37)

Lesson Truth: The victory is always certain when God rules His people in mercy.

Lesson

The prophetess, Deborah sang a song of praise to the God of heaven after He delivered Jabin the king of Canaan into Israel’s hands. She led the children of Israel in the worship of the God of heaven and earth. But the Israelites again forgot God and worshipped idols. They became so hard in their rejection of the God of Israel that they worshipped the forces of nature in the form of Baal and Astarte. It is difficult to imagine that God’s chosen people could believe there was power in nature, not governed by God. The Israelites forgot God’s favor and followed the gods of the Canaanites.

Again, God was true to His word that if they served other gods He would not drive out the Canaanites before them. He sent the Midianites to attack them and harass them by stealing their grain and livestock. In the shame of this harassment and oppression from the Midianites, the children of Israel cried out to the Lord. Even though they did not completely break their contact with the Canaanites, the Lord looked on His people with favor. Because of His faithfulness, for the sake of Christ Jesus, He sent a prophet to encourage the people.

God also sent another deliverer in the person of Gideon the son of Joash. Gideon was surrounded by idols even in his own father’s house, yet he was a man who was disturbed by this idolatry. He often thought about the great things God had done for Israel in years past. God approached this Gideon at his hidden threshing floor and told him he would be used to deliver Israel from the Midianite raiders. Gideon immediately raised a question about his ability to lead the children of Israel. He reminded the Angel of the Lord that he came from the poorest in Manasseh and that he was the youngest of his father’s house. But the Angel informed him that deliverance would not depend on a lowly man, but on the Lord.

Gideon then asked for a sign that he might know it was truly the Lord who was charging him to lead Israel against the Midianites. The Lord gave him a spectacular sign when he returned from preparing food for the Angel with whom he spoke. The Angel told him to place the food on a rock and then made fire come out from the rock and consume the food as a sacrifice. This made Gideon fear for his life. He thought he would die because he had seen the Lord. The Lord assured him he would not die. Then Gideon built an altar and called it, “The Lord Is Peace.”

Lesson 3

Moved by Israel's Misery

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 3

Scripture: Judges 10–12

Memory Verse: “Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few. For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool’s voice is known by his many words.” (Ecclesiastes 5:2-3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord is moved by the misery of His people even when they have sinned.

Lesson

Gideon subdued the Midianites in the name of the Lord. His son Abimelech was killed by his armor bearer after a woman dropped an upper millstone on his head. Following Abimelech, the judges Tola and Jair judged Israel for forty-five years. After all this time of being governed by judges who ruled in the name of the Lord, we read: “The children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve him” (Judges 10:6).

As the Lord promised, if His people served other gods, He would not drive out their enemies before them. He now gave them into the hands of the Ammonites and the Philistines to oppress them. This time the usual cycle of sin, oppression, repentance, and deliverance did not immediately follow. To be sure, when the oppression from Philistia and Ammon became severe the children of Israel again cried out to the Lord for deliverance. But the Lord’s initial response was different. After He reminded them how He had delivered them from many enemies, He told them He would not deliver them any longer. The Lord told them: “Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress” (Judges 10:14). For a time, the Lord turned away from His own people.

After the Lord turned away from Israel, the Ammonites and the Philistines conquered major portions of Canaan. This made the Israelites terribly afraid. They were afraid they might even lose the Promised Land. Then they confessed their sin and put away the foreign gods from among them. We then learn of the love and compassion a covenant God has for His people. In spite of their idolatry we read of this covenant God, “And his soul could no longer endure the misery of His people” (Judges 10:16). For the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ they were still His covenant people.

In His compassion the Lord sent Jephthah to deliver His people from the Ammonites. Jephthah came to lead the men of Gilead in an unusual way. He was a son of Gilead born to him from a harlot. Because he was only a half-brother, the other sons of Gilead sent him away so he would not receive part of the inheritance. Yet when they wanted to go in a struggle to the death with the Midianites they thought of Jephthah, a man of valor. Jephthah agreed to lead them under one condition, that they make him their leader if he won the battle. He wanted the honor of being their leader so his shame would be erased of being sent away.

Lesson 4

The Mighty One of Israel

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 4

Scripture: Judges 13–16

Memory Verse: “So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew and the Lord blessed him. And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.” (Judges 13:24-25)

Lesson Truth: The Lord called Samson to begin to deliver his people.

Lesson

After Gideon judged Israel and God delivered them from the Midianites, they once again forgot the Lord and served other gods. God then sent the Philistines and the Ammonites to oppress Israel until they cried out to the Lord for deliverance. God then sent Jephthah as a judge to deliver His people from the Ammonites in the east. However, the Philistines continued to oppress Israel in the west.

We then see the hand of God work in a miraculous way to raise up a deliverer for the children of Israel in the west. The Angel of the Lord appeared to the wife of Manoah and announced that she would have a son, and that he would be a Nazirite. It was truly a miracle for this woman to receive this announcement, because she was a barren woman. This was a miracle of God’s grace similar to the miracle of grace when he gave a son to Abraham and Sarah to carry on the covenant line. These miracles of God’s grace help us understand the greatest miracle of His grace, when He sent the Lord Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of all who believe.

The Angel of the Lord gave special instructions to Manoah and his wife before their son was born. Because their son was to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God, his mother could not drink any wine or strong drink before he was born. They were also instructed to raise their son to keep the vows of a Nazirite. No razor was ever to shave his head and he too, was to avoid strong drink. When he was born he was given the name Samson, which means the mighty one.

Even though we are told that the Spirit of the Lord began to move in Samson, we notice that he fell into the same sins as the other Israelites. He visited Timnah in the land occupied by the Philistines. At Timnah he fell in love with a Philistine woman and asked his parents to get this woman to be his wife. His parents objected to this kind of union by asking him why he couldn’t find a woman from the people of Israel. Yet the Bible tells us that his father and mother did not know that this was of the Lord. They did not realize that God would use a Philistine wife to make an occasion for Samson to begin to destroy God’s enemies, the Philistines.

On the way to Timnah Samson encountered a lion and killed it leaving the carcass lie in the sun. Sometime later he saw the lion carcass filled with bees and honeycombs. When he saw this, he thought of a riddle to put to his thirty Philistine companions who were to celebrate the wedding feast with him. Samson’s companions agreed that if they could not answer the riddle in seven days, they would give him thirty garments of linen. However, if they did give Samson the answer, he would give each

Lesson 5

Falling and Rising

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 5

Scripture: Judges 17–21

Memory Verse: “And Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, stood before (the ark of the covenant) in those days, saying, ‘Shall I yet again go out to battle against the children of my brother Benjamin, or shall I cease?’ And the Lord said, ‘Go up, for tomorrow I will deliver them into your hand.’” (Judges 20:28)

Lesson Truth: It is the grace of the Lord Jesus that causes many in Israel to fall when they turn away from Him.

Lesson

God in His grace allowed Samson to destroy many of His enemies, the Philistines. Yet many of the children of Israel followed the ways of the Canaanites and forsook the ways of the Lord. The lesson today is about the sins of idolatry and sodomy that occurred in Israel in the time of the judges. In both these sinful practices a Levite was involved. Just think, the Levites who were the tribe set apart to reveal God’s grace to Israel, now caused them to stumble and fall.

In the book of Judges, we often read, “In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.” One man who did what was right in his own eyes was Micah. He lived in the hill country of Ephraim. This Micah stole 1100 pieces of silver from his mother. When his mother cursed the thief, Micah became afraid and confessed to his mother that he was the thief. Following his confession, she immediately blessed him. She seemed to be more concerned with the money than with her son’s misconduct. Then we see this mother’s own sinful desires when she told Micah to take 200 of these pieces of silver and have an image made. She wanted to have her own private worship center where she could worship the Lord as she looked at the idol. This was contrary to the Lord’s will.

Micah followed his mother’s wishes and had a silversmith craft an image. Then he made a shrine in his home, even going so far as installing one of his own sons as the priest. The son served as priest until a Levite from Bethlehem came along looking for a place to stay. Micah installed this Levite as his private priest. He thought he was doing the right thing by making a Levite his priest, but he failed to realize that he really was breaking the covenant. Now the consecrated tribe became a curse to Israel.

It happened when a scouting party from the tribe of Dan passed the house of Micah and learned that he had a Levite as a private priest. They convinced the Levite that it would be better to serve a whole tribe than to serve just one household. The Levite went along with the wicked plan of the men of Dan and allowed them to steal all the contents of Micah’s shrine. The Danites went their own way in opposition to the Lord, the God of the covenant, and set up their own self-willed worship center. By going along with the men of Dan the Levite caused the people of an entire region to stumble and fall.

Lesson 6

The Redeemer

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 6

Scripture: Ruth 1–4

Memory Verse: “And Boaz answered and said to her, ‘It has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people whom you did not know before.’” (Ruth 2:11)

Lesson Truth: Boaz, the kinsman redeemer, bought back the inheritance of Elimelech and had a son to carry on his name by marrying Ruth.

Lesson

When Joshua divided the land of Canaan among the tribes of Israel, it was important for each family to receive land as an inheritance. The hope that lived in the heart of each family of Israel was that they would live on their own land until the Messiah would come. The book of Ruth tells the story of one family who lost their land inheritance when they moved to Moab in a time of famine. It also tells how a kinsman redeemer redeemed this land and the name of that family. God provided laws of redemption that would help his people remember they were chosen to bring forth the Redeemer.

During the time of the judges the land of Israel experienced a severe famine that was most likely exaggerated by invasions of the Midianites. In this time of famine, Elimelech from Bethlehem decided to escape by moving his family to the country of Moab. This showed a weakness of faith. Elimelech was willing to give up his inheritance in Israel in order to escape the famine. Yet God provided a way for this inheritance to be redeemed and for this family to become direct ancestors of the Messiah.

While they were in Moab Elimelech’s two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married women from Moab. Then even more tragedy struck this family as we learn that Elimelech and his two sons died. This left Naomi, Elimelech’s wife, a widow as well as her two daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth. Following this grief Naomi learned that the famine in Israel had abated and decided she would go back to her people in Bethlehem. When she made that decision, she urged her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab and possibly remarry. This seemed to make sense to Orpah, and she returned to her people. But Ruth was not willing to leave Naomi. Ruth’s heart had been opened to the covenant that God made with His people Israel. She was not willing to leave that hope so she insisted on going with Naomi. She insisted that Naomi’s people would be her people and that Naomi’s God would be her God. So she told Naomi that she would live where Naomi lived and she would die where Naomi died. Ruth made a beautiful confession of faith in the God of Israel.

Following Ruth’s confession, she and Naomi returned to Bethlehem. At Bethlehem Naomi asked her family and friends to call her Mara because she said the Lord dealt bitterly with her. She was forced to sell the land that belonged to the family because she was poor and was therefore left without land and without a name in Israel. Elimelech went to Moab in unbelief, yet God would once again respond with His grace. This is what happened.

Ruth conducted herself as one of the poor in Israel and went to glean grain after the reapers. In this way God led her to the field of Boaz. Now Boaz was a close relative of Elimelech and as such was by Israelite law able to serve as a kinsman redeemer to this family. When he saw Ruth, he immediately showed favor to her. This reminded Naomi of the law of kinsman redeemer and prompted her to have Ruth ask him to redeem their land and to continue the name of Elimelech's family.

Ruth followed Naomi's instructions and went to lie at the feet of Boaz when he was at the threshing floor. When he awoke, she made her request that he be the kinsman redeemer. After Boaz got a pledge from one other relative that he did not wish to be the kinsman redeemer, Boaz bought back the land of Elimelech and also married Ruth. By marrying Ruth, he was able to have a son who would carry on the name of Elimelech's family. This son born to Boaz and Ruth was Obed. Obed was the father of Jesse who was the father of king David and the direct line of the Redeemer, Christ Jesus. Just as Boaz was the redeemer of Elimelech's family, so Christ Jesus is the Redeemer of His own and gives them an eternal inheritance.

Questions

1. What was the name of the man from Bethlehem who went to live in Moab? (Ruth 1:2)
2. What was the name of the man's wife and his two sons? (Ruth 1:2)
3. What sad thing happened to Elimelech and his two sons? (Ruth 1:3, 5)
4. What was the name of the daughter-in-law who agreed to stay in Moab? (Ruth 1:14)

5. What was the name of the daughter-in-law who refused to part from Naomi? (Ruth 1:15-16)

6. What custom of the poor people in Israel did Ruth ask Naomi for permission to do? (Ruth 2:2)

7. Into whose field did Ruth go to glean grain? (Ruth 2:3)

8. Who was the great-grandson of Boaz and Ruth who became king of Israel? (Ruth 4:17)

Lesson 7

The Forerunner of the King

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 7

Scripture: I Samuel 1–4

Memory Verse: “Then she made a vow and said, ‘O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.’” (I Samuel 1:11)

Lesson Truth: The Lord used the prophetic work of Samuel to prepare the hearts of his people for the coming of the king.

Lesson

All through the time of the judges the children of Israel longed to have a king. They wanted someone to lead them and be their commander in the times of war. This was not a sinful desire since the Lord had promised them a king. (Deut. 17:14-20) It became a sin for God’s people when they put their trust in the king instead of in the Lord. Today we will learn about the one whom the Lord sent to be the forerunner of the king. This was the prophet Samuel, who anointed Israel’s first king.

The birth of Samuel was a miracle of the Lord. He was born into the family of Elkanah where there was jealousy and hurt because Elkanah had two wives. The hurt came about because Elkanah’s wife Penninah had children and his wife Hannah did not. Penninah tormented Hannah because she could not have children. This made Hannah grieve and cry out to the Lord to give her a child. Elkanah loved Hannah more than Penninah, yet this did not relieve her grief. When they were at the tabernacle in Shiloh Hannah went into the sanctuary and poured out her soul to the Lord. She made a promise that if He would give her a son, she would return him to the Lord as a Nazirite, all the days of his life.

Eli the priest at the tabernacle watched Hannah as she prayed and noticed that her lips moved but she did not make a sound. He first thought Hannah was drunk until she shared with him why she was pouring out her heart to the Lord. He then spoke to her as a prophet and assured her that her request would be granted. God would give her a son. Hannah believed Eli’s prophecy and in time was given a son whom she named Samuel, which means heard of God. Then Hannah sang a beautiful song in which she prophetically sang of the Christ, Israel’s true king.

While God gave Hannah a son, even though she was barren, and put a song of salvation in her heart, all was not right with God’s people. The sons of Eli, the priests, were very wicked as they did the priestly work at the tabernacle. They stole the priestly offerings and took the best of the sacrifices for themselves. They even committed adultery with the women who came to the tabernacle. Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, became so evil that God in His mercy spoke His judgement on the house of Eli. The house of Eli led Israel to depart from the Lord, for that reason it would be destroyed.

The pronouncement of this judgment on the house of Eli came by way of Samuel after he was called to be a prophet. Samuel’s call came when he was still a boy ministering in the tabernacle. One night

Lesson 8

The Return of the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 8

Scripture: I Samuel 5-7

Memory Verse: “So they gathered together at Mizpah, drew water, and poured it out before the Lord. And they fasted that day, and said there, ‘We have sinned against the Lord.’ And Samuel judged the children of Israel at Mizpah.” (I Samuel 7:6)

Lesson Truth: The Lord left his people for a time when the ark of God was captured; now he returned to live in covenant with his people.

Lesson

It is a joy to God’s people to learn that the Lord returned to re-establish a covenant relationship with them. He abandoned them for a time when the Philistines captured the ark of God. Now we learn how God visited His judgment on the Philistines and made sure that the ark of God was sent back to Israel. The Lord’s return to His people was evident by His presence in the ark.

The Philistines, no doubt, thought the children of Israel would always live in subjection to them after they captured the ark of God. They brought the ark to Ashdod and placed it in the temple of their god Dagon. They thought they could place the symbol of God’s presence at the feet of Dagon as a sign of the defeat of Israel’s God. They would soon learn that the God who initiated the covenant of grace with Israel could re-establish this covenant for Christ sake.

Imagine the celebration in the land of the Philistines as they brought the ark of God to the temple of Dagon. Then imagine their thoughts on the following morning when they found Dagon lying face down on the floor before the ark. The Philistines were not yet ready to recognize the God of Israel, so they set up the statue of Dagon with the ark at his feet. But they would learn that God had returned to His people and that he was present in the ark. The next morning the statue of Dagon had again fallen face down before the ark. This time the hands and the head of Dagon were broken off. The Philistines would learn that a god without a head and hands is powerless before the grace of God Almighty.

In addition to the destruction that God visited on Dagon, He also sent boils or tumors on the people of Ashdod. As their bodies suffered with these tumors, God destroyed their fields by having rodents eat their crops. The destruction sent by God now got the attention of the men of Ashdod and they decided that the ark of God was the cause of their pain. Therefore, they insisted that the ark be sent away to the city of Gath. At Gath the same destruction followed with tumors breaking out on the people, so the men of Gath sent the ark on to Ekron. By this time the Philistines knew that the God of Israel was again fighting for His people. The Ekronites cried out in fear when they saw the ark of God come into their city. They said, “They have brought the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people” (I Sam. 5:10).

4. How were the Philistines going to check if it was the Lord who brought destruction on them?
(I Sam. 6:9)

5. How did the people of Beth-Shemesh show their joy that the ark was returned to Israel?
(I Sam. 6:14)

6. Into whose house did they bring the ark of the Lord after the men of Beth-Shemesh died?
(I Sam. 7:1)

7. What is the meaning of the stone “Ebenezer” that Samuel set up? (I Sam. 7:12)

8. How long did Samuel judge Israel? (I Sam. 7:15)

Lesson 9

Collision

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 9

Scripture: I Samuel 8–12

Memory Verse: “Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.” (I Samuel 12:24)

Lesson Truth: The Lord counseled the Israelites to live under the rule of His grace. The people’s desire for a king collided with this counsel.

Lesson

The story of the anointing of the first king of Israel shows us a collision. This is the collision of the Lord’s counsel to live under the rule of grace, with the desire of the Israelites to have a king. It was not wrong for the Israelites to want to have a king. What was wrong was their desire to have a king that did not need to take the time to inquire of the Lord. They were not so much rejecting Samuel as a judge as they were rejecting the rule of God over them.

Although the request for a king did not please Samuel, the Lord told him to do as the elders requested. Samuel was to anoint a king. Before he did this, the Lord told him to warn the people how a king would enslave them. A king would inflict them with heavy taxes and take their children for his service. Yet the people did not want to listen to this counsel from the Lord.

The people wanted a king just like the nations surrounding them. Samuel was ready to anoint a king as the Lord instructed, but whom should he anoint? The man the Lord had chosen to be king was made known to Samuel in a most unusual way. Saul, a son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin, was sent by his father to look for some lost donkeys. As he and his servant came into the area where Samuel was judging they decided to ask the prophet if he could help them. Now the Lord told Samuel the day before that a man from Benjamin would come to see him. This was the man the Lord had chosen to be king. Samuel told him that his father’s donkeys had been found. He then said something that Saul did not understand. He said to Saul that all of Israel had been looking for him. Saul objected that he came from the smallest tribe in Israel, why would they look for him?

Samuel told Saul that he could look for three signs to be certain that God had chosen him to be king. All the signs that Samuel predicted occurred. Yet Saul would be tested to see if he would rule the people according to the Word of the Lord. God had given Saul many gifts. He was a noble man who enjoyed the favor of the Lord’s prophet. But the question if he could lead the people to see that their desire to have a king to escape the rule of the Lord was wrong.

Then Samuel, alone with Saul, anointed him as the first king of Israel. Later he gathered the people together at Mizpah and went through the ceremony of casting lots to demonstrate whom the Lord had chosen as king. The lot fell to the tribe of Benjamin and finally to Saul the son of Kish. But Saul was a humble man and when they went to find him, he was hidden among the equipment. When they

brought him out the people shouted: “Long live the king.” Would king Saul live by faith in leading the people? Did the Spirit of Christ dwell in Saul?

It took a wicked challenge from the Ammonites to awaken in Saul the desire to lead. The Ammonites wanted to make war with the men of Jabesh Gilead. The men of Jabesh offered to serve the Ammonites if they would make a treaty with them. The Ammonites said they would only make a treaty if the men of Jabesh would all put out their right eyes as a disgrace to Israel. When Saul heard this challenge, he became angry for the people of the Lord. He enlisted men from all Israel and won a great victory over the Ammonites. This was the way he began his role as the leader of God’s people.

When the people declared Saul as king at Gilgal, Samuel resigned as judge. He then reviewed the history of Israel and urged the people to live in obedience to the Lord. Samuel asked the Lord to send one more sign so the people would know that the Lord is God. He asked God to make it thunder and rain in the dry harvest season. The Lord did send thunder and rain. In fear the people confessed their sins and asked Samuel to pray for them so they would not die. The Lord for His own name sake would not forget His people.

Questions

1. What kind of men were the Samuel’s sons? (I Sam. 8:1-3)
2. How did Samuel feel about the elder’s request for a king? (I Sam. 8:6)
3. How did the Lord instruct Samuel to respond to the request for a king? (I Sam. 8:22)
4. Who was Saul’s father from the land of Benjamin? (I Sam. 9:1-2a)

Lesson 10

Put to Shame

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 10

Scripture: I Samuel 13–14

Memory Verse: “But the people said to Saul, ‘Shall Jonathan die, who accomplished this great deliverance in Israel? Certainly not! As the Lord lives, not one hair of his head shall fall to the ground, for he has worked with God today.’ So the people rescued Jonathan, and he did not die.” (I Samuel 14:45)

Lesson Truth: Even after Saul and the people sinned, the Lord put them to shame by giving them His blessing.

Lesson

Saul was anointed to be king over Israel. Would he rule the people in the name of the Lord or would he trust in himself? Just a couple of years after Saul became king we learn of his true character. It happened when the Philistines came to fight against the Israelites. The Lord put His people to shame by giving them a victory over the Philistines in spite of their sins and the sins of their king.

Saul gathered a small army of three thousand men to serve as guard against the Philistines. Saul put a thousand of these soldiers under the command of Jonathan. The other two thousand he commanded himself. Jonathan took his thousand men and attacked the Philistine garrison at Geba. This made the Philistines angry and they came out against Israel with thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen plus men you could hardly number. This was a real challenge for the new king of Israel as his people hid in caves and holes to escape the Philistine invasion.

Saul showed that he was aware of the instructions Samuel had given him. He waited seven days for Samuel to come and offer sacrifices and inquire of the Lord for him. After seven days he became impatient when Samuel still did not come, and he offered the sacrifices himself. This was a sinful thing for Saul to do. The sacrifices were to be offered only by a priest. Saul knew he could not break the commands of the Lord even when an enemy threatened. Then Samuel reminded Saul that the Lord would have established his kingdom forever if he had obeyed. Now because of his disobedience Saul’s kingdom would be taken away and given to another man chosen by God.

The huge Philistine army remained as a threat to Israel. Saul counted his soldiers and found he only had six hundred men. What was even worse they had no weapons because the Philistines had killed the blacksmiths who made the weapons. In this situation Jonathan showed that he was still willing to live by faith. He called his armor-bearer and said let’s go down to the Philistine garrison. He reminded his armor-bearer that the Philistines were uncircumcised and therefore had no protection from the Lord. He told the armor-bearer that the Lord could save by many or by few because there isn’t anything that restrains the Lord. Armed with this faith Jonathan and his armor-bearer went to the Philistines.

Then the Lord showed a miracle of His grace. Jonathan and the armor-bearer were able to kill twenty Philistines. But more than that the Philistines were made to believe that a great army was attacking them. They fled in confusion before the armies of Israel. Saul became so excited about the Philistines fleeing before Israel that he put a curse on anyone who would eat before evening. He made this curse in the name of the Lord because he said I must work vengeance against my enemies. Saul made two serious mistakes, he made a rash oath and he thought the enemies were his enemies and not the Lord's enemies.

The foolishness of Saul's curse on anyone who ate was seen when the men became faint because they had not eaten. They were so faint that they rushed on some of the animals taken from the Philistines and ate the meat with the blood still in it. This was a sin against the law of the Lord. Later Saul asked the high priest to inquire of the Lord if they should pursue the Philistines. This time the Lord did not answer. Now Saul understood that there was a sin that stood between the Lord and His people. In order to find who had committed the sin the lot was cast and it pointed to Jonathan. When Saul learned that Jonathan had eaten honey that day he said that he must die. Then the people objected because Jonathan had led Israel in this great victory over the Philistines. To be sure when the Lord did not answer it told of a sin among the people, but the sin was the sin of Saul's rash vow. Saul continued to reign as king for some time. This earthly king should have made the people long for the heavenly king, Christ Jesus.

Questions

1. How great an army did the Philistines gather to fight Israel? (I Sam. 13:5)
2. How long did Saul wait for Samuel to offer a sacrifice? (I Sam. 13:8)
3. What would happen to Saul's kingdom because he offered sacrifices only priests were to offer? (I Sam. 13:14)

Lesson 11

Divine Rejection

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 11

Scripture: I Samuel 15

Memory Verse: “So Samuel said: ‘Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.’” (I Samuel 15:22)

Lesson Truth: God showed His grace toward His people by rejecting a disobedient king.

Lesson

Our lesson today tells about the disobedience of king Saul. Even more it shows God’s grace to His people when He rejected Saul as king. God would not allow a disobedient king to stand in the way of His plan of salvation. The promise of the Redeemer would live in the hearts of faithful people.

God sent the prophet Samuel to Saul with a special set of instructions concerning the Amalekites. Samuel told Saul the Lord wanted him to totally destroy the Amalekites. Total destruction was their just reward for attacking the Israelites when they left Egypt. The Amalekites had shown their hatred for God and for the people of His covenant. They represented the hatred of all the powers that would rise up against God’s covenant people. Therefore, Saul was instructed to destroy every man woman and child and all their livestock. Amalek would not be allowed to blaspheme God’s grace!

Saul gathered a large army and attacked the Amalekites and soundly defeated them. He also put the people to death with the edge of the sword. Then Saul forgot the instructions Samuel had given him and became disobedient. He started to think about his own honor instead of the honor due the Lord. He wanted a trophy he could use to show off his skill as the commander of Israel’s army. So he kept the king of Amalek alive. He also rejected the word of the Lord by keeping the best of the livestock to bring home with him. This was a sad day for Saul because the Lord would now reject him.

The Lord told Samuel what Saul had done and said He was sorry He had made Saul the king of Israel. This made Samuel feel so bad that he cried out to the Lord all night. Samuel arose early in the morning and went to find Saul. He was told that Saul had gone to Carmel and set up a monument to himself. When Samuel found Saul he was greeted with a cheerful greeting. Saul said to Samuel, I have done just what the Lord commanded. Samuel knew better so he responded with disgust and asked, “What then is the bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen, which I hear?” (I Sam. 15:14). Then Saul showed how he had rejected God’s grace. He said we kept the best of the livestock so we could use them to sacrifice to the Lord. This angered Samuel so much that he told the king to be quiet. Samuel said listen to what the Lord told me last night. Samuel reminded Saul that when he was humble God chose him to be the king of Israel. Why, he asked Saul, didn’t you obey the Lord’s commands?

Saul again tried to make excuses about the people taking the livestock for sacrifices. Then Samuel asked the question that each of us must ask even today. He asked, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?” (I Sam. 15:22a). Samuel then

warned Saul with these words: “Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is an iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king” (I Sam. 15:22b-23).

After this strong rebuke, Samuel turned to leave, and Saul caught his robe and tore it. Samuel then looked at Saul and said, “The Lord has torn the kingdom from you today” (I Sam. 15:28). This divine rejection was an act of God’s grace. A king who rejected the word of the Lord could not prepare God’s people for the coming Messiah.

Questions

1. Who had sent Samuel to anoint Saul king over Israel? (I Sam. 15:1)
2. Who did Saul allow to escape the destruction of the Amalekites? (I Sam. 15:6)
3. Why was this group of people allowed to leave Amalek before the destruction? (I Sam. 15:6)
4. Why did the Lord regret that he had made Saul the king of Israel? (I Sam. 15:11)
5. What quality of character did Saul have when the Lord anointed him, king? (I Sam. 15:17)

6. Who did Saul blame for keeping the best of the sheep and oxen? (I Sam. 15:21)

7. Why, according to Samuel, had the Lord rejected Saul as king? (I Sam. 15:23b)

8. What happened to Agag, king of the Amalekites? (I Sam. 15:33)

Lesson 12
Divine Election

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 12

Scripture: I Samuel 16

Memory Verse: “But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’” (I Samuel 16:7)

Lesson Truth: The Lord chose David to be king in Israel and trained him in the court of Saul.

Lesson

After the Lord rejected Saul as king of Israel, He elected David to serve as king. Today we will learn how the hand of the Lord moved to choose David as king. The Lord guided Samuel to the man He had chosen to be the next King of Israel,

Samuel continued to grieve that Saul had been rejected as king of Israel. No doubt he loved Saul and had high hopes for what he would do as king. But the Lord knew what He had planned for Israel. A proud, self-willed king could not help to prepare God’s people for the coming Messiah. The Lord had to help Samuel understand that He had chosen someone to replace Saul. He told Samuel to go to Bethlehem and anoint one of Jesse’s sons to be the new king.

At first Samuel was afraid to go to Bethlehem. He told the Lord that if Saul would hear of his going to Bethlehem, he would kill him. But the Lord instructed Samuel to bring a heifer and offer a sacrifice at Bethlehem. Saul would not question Samuel’s activity if he went to offer a sacrifice. The Lord also told Samuel to invite Jesse to his sacrifice then He would show him what to do. Samuel did as the Lord commanded and went to Bethlehem. There he told the elders of Bethlehem to purify themselves before the Lord. Samuel carefully watched the purification of Jesse’s family because he was going to eat the sacrificial meal with them. When he saw the oldest son of Jesse, he was convinced that this was the man whom the Lord had chosen to be king. He thought this because the oldest son, Eliab, had a striking appearance. But the Lord informed Samuel that He judged a person by a different standard.

He said to Samuel, “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (I Sam. 16:7b). Samuel then had seven of Jesse’s sons pass before him, only to learn that the Lord had not chosen any of the seven. He then asked Jesse if he had any other sons. Jesse informed him that there was one additional son out tending the sheep. So Samuel had him brought in and was then told that this young shepherd was the one whom the Lord had chosen. So Samuel anointed Jesse’s youngest son, David, to be the king of Israel in the presence of his brothers.

David was the man God chose to replace Saul. Would he desire the throne for himself or would he want it only to serve the Lord? The Lord would test David by making him wait many years before he

Lesson 13

The Deliverer Revealed to the People

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 13

Scripture: I Samuel 17:1–18:13

Memory Verse: “Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God.” (I Samuel 17:36)

Lesson Truth: David is revealed as the deliverer of Israel.

Lesson

The lesson today is about David fighting the giant Goliath with a sling and some stones. Yet it is even more about the Lord revealing the one He had chosen as the deliverer of Israel. There was a serious decline of faith in Israel after the Lord rejected Saul as king. Now the Lord called David, a man of faith, to deliver His people from their enemies.

Israel continued to be troubled by their enemies, the Philistines. The armies of the Philistines were camped on a hill opposite the hill on which the armies of Israel were camped. Saul was not only troubled by the Philistines, but also by the evil spirits that came upon him. One particular trouble for Saul and the armies of Israel was a champion fighter of the Philistines named Goliath. Goliath was a giant who came out each day to challenge the Israelites to send out a man to duel with him. He promised that if a man from Israel could defeat him the Philistines would serve Israel. But if he defeated the man from Israel, then Israel would serve the Philistines. No one dared to fight this giant. So each day Goliath would come out and sneer at the armies of Israel and Israel’s God. Saul promised his daughter in marriage to any soldier who would kill this giant. Not a man had the faith to believe God would fight for him. Was faith in Israel gone? It wasn’t gone, but it was weak because of Saul’s proud spirit.

As the armies of Israel lived with the sneers of Goliath each day, David was sent by his father to visit his brothers in Saul’s army. It so happened that when David was visiting his brothers, Goliath came out to sneer at the armies of Israel. This ridicule of Israel’s army and the God of that army filled David with a righteous anger. He questioned if this happened every day, and if there wasn’t anyone who was willing to fight the giant. Then he made it known that he would be willing to fight Goliath. When Saul heard that David would fight Goliath, he tried to suit him in his armor. But David found Saul’s armor too heavy to carry so he said he would fight Goliath with his shepherd staff and sling.

When Goliath saw David come with his staff and sling, he scoffed saying: “Am I a dog, that you come after me with sticks?” (I Sam. 17:43). He cursed David and said he would feed his flesh to the birds and the animals. To this cursing and scoffing David replied, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord God of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (I Sam. 17:45). David told Goliath the Lord would deliver him into his hand and he would feed the flesh of the bodies of the Philistines to the birds and wild beasts. Then David said that all the earth would know that there is a God in Israel.

