

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 7

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

Crisis

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 14

Scripture: I Samuel 18:14–20:42

Memory Verse: “So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, ‘Let the Lord require it at the hand of David’s enemies.’ Now Jonathan again caused David to vow, because he loved him; for he loved him as he loved his own heart.” (I Samuel 20:16-17)

Lesson Truth: God brought things to a crisis in the life of Saul so He could keep His covenant.

Lesson

The Lord made it known that David would be the deliverer of his people. The Lord helped him kill the giant, Goliath. He was the one blessed by the Lord. Saul should have acknowledged this and thanked the Lord for the one He had chosen. Because of Saul’s unbelief he could not do this. The Lord then brought a crisis into Saul’s life causing him to choose between himself and the Spirit of the Lord.

As David gained military victories it became evident that the Lord was with him. Saul was also aware of the Lord’s blessings in David’s life. He should have submitted to the Lord’s grace and acknowledged that God had chosen David to lead His people. But Saul was proud and would not do that. Instead, he planned ways to destroy David. Saul had not given his daughter in marriage to the one who killed Goliath as he promised he would. Now he considered giving Merab his oldest daughter to David with one added condition. He wanted proof of killing an additional one hundred Philistines. He hoped that if David went to kill another one hundred Philistines he would be destroyed in the battle. Although David did not go out to kill another one hundred Philistines for Merab, he did do so for Michal, Saul’s daughter who loved him. In fact, he killed an additional two hundred Philistines and brought the proof of their death to Saul. Still Saul did not submit to the Lord’s grace in choosing David as the deliverer.

But the Lord is gracious and filled with compassion even to one like Saul who rejected the Lord’s grace. He brought Saul’s son, Jonathan to him to speak to his father on behalf of David. Jonathan reminded Saul that David was good to him and that the Lord used David to deliver him from the Philistines. At the words of Jonathan, Saul swore that David would not be killed. He even restored David to a place of honor in his court. How tragic that Saul could not break with his sin of pride after being so close to the Kingdom of God! He had turned away from the Lord before and now he did so again. In a fit of jealous anger, he threw his spear at David and tried to kill him. The Lord helped David escape through the love and help of Michal, his wife.

David went to Ramah to seek counsel of Samuel the prophet and priest. Samuel took David to Naioth the school of the prophets. Surely David would be safe at the school of the Prophets. But he and Samuel were to learn the depth of sin in Saul’s heart. Saul sent messengers to Naioth at Ramah to take David. When the messengers came to Ramah the Spirit of God came upon them and they began to prophesy. Saul then sent a second and a third group, but these also began to prophesy. Finally, Saul went himself to Naioth at Ramah to find David, but he also prophesied. How tragic to see Saul speak

Lesson 2

No Place To Lay His Head

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 15

Scripture: I Samuel 21–23

Memory Verse: “For strangers have risen up against me, and oppressors have sought after my life; they have not set God before them. Behold God is my helper; the Lord is with those who uphold my life.” (Psalm 54:3-4)

Lesson Truth: David was anointed to be king, but lived as a fugitive with no place to lay his head.

Lesson

After Jonathan warned David about his father’s intent to kill him, David fled from Saul’s court. But he had no place to go. He was certain that Saul could find him anywhere in Israel. Then he decided to go to Nob and inquire of the Lord through Ahimelech, the high priest. He posed as a servant of Saul, which was a deception, so that Ahimelech would dare to talk with him.

David asked Ahimelech for bread for he and his men and was told that there was no common bread available. But Ahimelech told him there was holy bread that had just been taken from the table of showbread and replaced with fresh bread. He added that David could take this bread if he and his men had kept themselves pure from women. David also asked for a weapon so he could defend himself. He was told the only weapon at the tabernacle was the sword of Goliath whom David had killed. David tried to keep his contact with Ahimelech a secret so Saul would not be able to find him. But Doeg the Edomite was at the tabernacle that day and knew that David had been there.

After taking the showbread for food and the sword of Goliath for an offensive weapon, David continued to flee from Saul. He finally decided to flee to Gath with the hope that he would not be recognized. But just as soon as the king’s servants saw him, they asked Achish, “Isn’t this David the king of the Land? Isn’t this the one the Israelites sang about when they sang, ‘Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten-thousands?’” When David became aware that they knew him he decided to act like he was insane. He scratched at the doors and gates and even let saliva run down his beard. His act worked because Achish, the king didn’t want anything to do with him, so David escaped.

He then went to the cave of Adullam to hide. At Adullam his father and mother joined him as did his brothers and many who were in trouble in the land. This gave David a band of nearly four hundred men that he commanded. He soon found that it was difficult to hide a group this large and decided to go to the land of Moab. In the land of Moab, he found safety for his father and mother, but the Lord would not allow him to live in peace in a foreign land. The prophet Gad told David he was to return to the land of Judah. In the land of Judah David would be tested, but he obeyed the prophet and went to Hereth.

Lesson 3

Vengeance Is Mine

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 16

Scripture: I Samuel 24–26

Memory Verse: “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

Lesson Truth: David was willing to submit his cause to the righteous judge.

Lesson

David was anointed to be king of Israel. Would he be willing to submit his cause as a fugitive to the judge of all the earth? As Saul pursued him to take his life would he take vengeance into his own hands when the Lord gave him opportunity? Would the Spirit of Christ dwell in David so that he could truly become the deliverer of Israel? The stories of this lesson tell us the answer.

Saul had to fight off an attack by the Philistines so for a time he did not pursue David. But just as soon as Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he again went after David. He learned that David was in the wilderness of En Gedi so he took three thousand men to find him. When he came to the wilderness, Saul went into a cave to rest. What he did not know was that David and his men were hiding in this cave. David’s men immediately saw the opportunity and reminded him that the Lord had given Saul into his hands. But David kept his men back by telling them that he would not stretch out his hand against the one the Lord had anointed to be king. He did steal close enough to Saul to cut off a piece of his robe, but even that troubled David because Saul was the Lord’s anointed.

Think of how Saul felt when David called to him after he left the cave. David asked Saul why he tried to take his life when he did not wish to harm the king? He showed Saul the piece of his robe to prove that he would not harm him. Saul was ashamed of his conduct and admitted that he knew David would be the king someday. But he did not submit in faith to the Lord.

During this time the prophet Samuel died, and the people truly mourned for him. A powerful voice for the Lord was now quiet. With Samuel no longer there as a guiding force the people began to look to David as the one whom the Lord had chosen. That the Lord had chosen David was shown in a dramatic way by the woman named Abigail. Nabal, Abigail’s husband was very rich. David and his band had protected Nabal’s livestock and produce in times past. Now David sent his men to ask for a gift from Nabal when he was preparing for his harvest banquet. Nabal not only refused David’s request, but he also insulted him by calling him a rebel. David was deeply offended and set out to take Nabal’s life.

As David gathered his men to take vengeance on Nabal, the Lord alerted Abigail through one of the young men. Abigail saw how foolish her husband had been and made a huge gift of livestock and produce for David. She then went out to meet David and presented her gift. The Lord gave David the grace to understand what Abigail had done when he said: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice, and blessed are you, because you have kept

me this day from coming to bloodshed and avenging myself with my own hand.” The Lord certainly used Abigail to teach David that vengeance belongs to the Lord. The Lord is the one who will repay. A short time later Nabal died and David asked Abigail to marry him and she consented.

In spite of the evidence of the guiding hand of the Lord, David’s life as a fugitive was not over. The people from Ziph told Saul where David was hiding, so Saul again pursued him. This time when Saul was camped in the hill of Hachilah, David and Abishai stole their way into Saul’s camp. Abishai was convinced that the Lord had delivered Saul into David’s hand. He asked David’s permission to strike him dead. But David was again given the grace to see Saul as the Lord’s anointed in spite of Saul’s failures. He said to Abishai: “Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?” (I Sam. 26:9). When David called out to Abner from a distance and asked why he failed to protect the king, Saul recognized his voice. This time Saul confessed that he had sinned. This was a victory for David who submitted to the Lord. David knew that vengeance belongs to the Lord!

Questions

1. When Saul returned from the Philistines where was he told he could find David? (I Sam. 24:1)
2. How did David feel about even cutting a piece of Sauls’ robe? (I Sam. 24:5)
3. According to David who had delivered Saul into his hand? (I Sam. 24:10)
4. What kind of gift did David send his young men to request from Nabal? (I Sam. 25:8b)

Lesson 4

Forsaken and Sought Out

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 17

Scripture: I Samuel 27–31

Memory Verse: “So David inquired of the Lord saying, ‘Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?’ And He answered him, ‘Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.’” (I Samuel 30:8)

Lesson Truth: Israel was forsaken by the Lord and later they were sought by David the anointed one.

Lesson

The lesson today is about a dark time in Israel. David, God’s chosen king, went to live among the Philistines, which was really a denial of God’s people. Saul came under the power of Satan as he sought out a witch to try to get a word from the Lord. But thanks to the grace of God in the life of David and God’s chosen people there was restoration.

David knew that he did not have to seek vengeance on Saul, because the Lord works vengeance on His enemies. Yet, David still tried to escape Saul by his own craftiness. He was afraid that Saul would kill him some day if he stayed in the land of Israel, so he went to live in the land of the enemy. David went back to Gath to king Achish. He pretended he wanted to be an ally of Achish. He asked Achish if he could live in the city of Ziklag rather than in the capital of Gath. From Ziklag David made attacks on his enemies completely destroying each one so no reports came back to Achish. By acting like an ally of Achish, David denied the people of God. Yet, for Christ’s sake, God did not forsake David. God remained faithful to his covenant and restored the deliverer of His people.

While David pretended to be an ally of the Philistines, Saul continued to war against them. Saul and his army were camped at Gilboa. Because the Lord had forsaken Saul, he was desperately afraid of the Philistines. He did not get any word from the Lord either by a prophet or by the Urim. He finally asked his men to find a medium for him to consult. A medium was a witch that could at times speak with the dead. Saul went to a medium at Endor and asked if she could bring up Samuel, so he could speak with him. Saul was that desperate that even though he had forbidden mediums to practice, he consulted one anyway. The minute the medium saw Samuel she knew that it was Saul who was consulting her. Saul assured her that she would not be harmed if she would only tell him what she heard.

The spirit of Samuel then confronted Saul and gave him a message of utter destruction. He told Saul that Israel would be delivered into the hands of the Philistines. And even more devastating to Saul, he was told that the next day he and his sons would be with Samuel. When Saul heard that his life and the lives of his sons were at an end, he collapsed. He had fasted for some time, so he was weak. After being under the power of Satan at Endor, Saul left in utter despair. He had heard pronouncement of the judgement of God not only on himself, but also on God’s people.

Lesson 5

The People's Submission to Their King

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 18

Scripture: II Samuel 1–5

Memory Verse: “Saul and Jonathan were beloved and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided; They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.” (II Samuel 1:23)

Lesson Truth: In the Lord's way and in the Lord's time the people accepted David as their king.

Lesson

Even after Saul's death, David did not immediately become king of all Israel. The Lord tested David by having him wait to be recognized as the king of all His people. During this time David's attitude was one of submission. He was willing to wait for the Lord. As a theocratic king, he recognized God as the supreme ruler.

David returned to Ziklag after rescuing his possessions and the women and children from the Amalekites. Two days after his return a messenger came from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. From his appearance he brought a message of sorrow. When questioned about the battle, he told David the Israelites fled before the Philistines and Saul and his sons were dead. He brought the king's crown and bracelet as proof of his message. Then he tried to gain some recognition for himself by claiming that he was the one who killed Saul. He told David that Saul was dying and urged him to kill him, so he did. But instead of bringing joy at the news of Saul's death he brought real sorrow. David and his men tore their clothes and wept at the news of the death of Saul and Jonathan.

David then asked the messenger who he was and why he wasn't afraid to kill the one whom the Lord had anointed. David showed his deep respect for Saul because the Lord had anointed him king, even though Saul had sinned against him. He told the messenger that because he claimed to have killed Saul his blood would be on his own head. Then he had his men execute the messenger from Amalek. From the depths of his sorrow David wrote a song of lamentation for Saul and Jonathan. He ordered that this song be taught to the children of Judah out of respect for the Lord's anointed.

David then showed that he was ready to submit to the Lord. He inquired of the Lord if he should return to Judah and where he should go? The Lord instructed David to go to Hebron. At Hebron the elders of Judah anointed David to be king over one tribe. He would have to wait for some time before he would be recognized as the king of all Israel.

Israel wasn't ready to accept the king whom God had chosen. Rather than uniting behind David they engaged in a civil war. The rest of the tribes went to war against Judah in an attempt to impose the leadership of Saul's general, Abner on the people. Israel was not yet ready to submit to the Lord, who had chosen David to be king of His people. The Lord caused David to become stronger as Saul's house became weaker.

A turn in relations between Judah and the rest of the tribes came when Abner became angry with Ishbosheth. Ishbosheth, Saul's son, admonished Abner for taking a concubine of his father Saul for a wife. In anger Abner told Ishbosheth that he would work to turn the kingdom over to David as he knew that was the Lord's intention. Later Joab, David's commander, assassinated Abner. Even though Abner had been an enemy, David showed his respect because he had led the army of the Lord's anointed. David also wrote a song of lamentation for Abner and fasted for him. The people were now bound to the Lord through the king He had chosen.

Ishbosheth the son of Saul was murdered by Rechab and Baanah. Abner, Saul's general, was dead and Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son was crippled; so the house of Saul lost its influence. Now the elders of all the tribes recognized that the Lord had called David to be the deliverer of His people. All Israel finally submitted to God's choice of David to be their king. David as the king of all Israel set out to conquer Jerusalem from the Jebusites. David had chosen Jerusalem to be his capital city. Now the people understood that David ruled by the grace and favor of the Lord. David would deliver his people.

Questions

1. What ornaments of the king did the man from Amalek bring to David? (II Sam.1:10b)
2. How did David show his sorrow when heard that Saul was dead? (II Sam. 1:11)
3. What testified against the man from Amlek so that he was put to death? (II Sam. 1:16)
4. Where did David not want the news of Saul's death proclaimed? (II Sam. 1:20)

Lesson 6

King of Israel

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 19

Scripture: II Samuel 6–9

Memory Verse: “Therefore You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.” (II Samuel 7:22)

Lesson Truth: God promised David that he would have a son to sit on the throne forever.

Lesson

When we talk of Israel’s king, we are not talking only about David, but about the son of David, Christ Jesus our Lord. God promised David that he would have a son to sit on the throne forever. This is the central message of today’s lesson. This is what happened when David became king of all Israel.

One of the first things David thought about when he became king of all the tribes was the ark of God. David remembered that the ark of God was still at the house of Abinadab. He took a group of choice men of Israel to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. The men made a new cart to carry the ark of God and had Abinadab’s sons walk before and alongside the ark. Then David and the people sang and danced before the Lord. What a procession of joy!

Then a terrible thing happened. The oxen towing the cart on which the ark rested stumbled and Uzzah, Abinadab’s son reached out his hand to steady it. David and his company, including Uzzah, had forgotten that the ark was the sign of a holy God. So, when Uzzah touched the ark he was struck dead. This made David angry and afraid. He was angry with himself for not realizing what sin made God strike Uzzah dead. He was also afraid to continue the journey with the ark to Jerusalem, so he brought it to the nearby house of Obed-edom. There it remained until David understood what sin had been committed that caused the death of Uzzah. He remembered that God had clearly instructed that the ark be carried by the Levites. He wasn’t to copy the Philistines and put it on a new cart.

Now David was ready to bring the ark to Jerusalem. He had Levites carry the ark from Obed-edom’s house. David was dressed in a white linen ephod or robe with a cape. He and the people danced and sang before the Lord as the ark came through the gates of the city. What a joyous time for Israel, the sign of the presence of the God of Israel was in the city of David. But not everyone was happy. Michal, David’s wife, the daughter of Saul despised David when she saw him dance. She was more concerned with David’s appearance before men, than she was with the honor of God. Michal had the same kind of sinful pride as her father, Saul, had. Because she did not share David’s faith the Lord made her barren.

Following wars with many of Israel’s enemies, in which the Lord gave him victories, David had one more strong desire. He wanted to build a house for the Lord. He told Nathan, the prophet, that he lived in a house of cedar, but the Lord still lived in a tent. Nathan’s first response was to tell David to do what he desired, but then in a vision God told the prophet to inform David that he was not the one who should build a house for the Lord. Then Nathan shared with David a prophecy that nearly

overwhelmed him. The Lord through Nathan told David that he would have a son to sit on the throne, and this son would build a house for the Lord. Even more David was told that he would have son who would sit on the throne of Israel forever. This son of David is the Lord Jesus Christ who is our eternal King. David was so moved he could only ask, "Who am I, Lord, that You grant me this?" However, he knew that the Lord did this, to show His grace to His chosen people.

All Israel's enemies turned on David when they saw he had power. David defeated the enemies on every side and carried out the justice of God against them. He also ruled the children of Israel with justice so they could feel secure under their king. David also showed that he was faithful in keeping his covenant with Jonathan. He searched for Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, and brought him to the king's court where he ate daily with the king's household. David was faithful to his covenant, but our Lord Jesus Christ is even more faithful to the covenant God made with those who believe!

Questions

1. How was the ark of God carried when it was brought from the house of Abinadab? (II Sam. 6:3)
2. How did David and the people show their joy at bringing the ark to Jerusalem? (II Sam 6:5)
3. How long did the ark of God stay at the house of Obed-edom? (II Sam. 6:11)
4. Who despised David for leaping and dancing before the Lord? (II Sam. 6:16)

Lesson 7

The Lord's Beloved

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 20

Scripture: II Samuel 10–12

Memory Verse: “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.” (Psalm 51:1-2)

Lesson Truth: God showed His grace to His people by His beloved, first Solomon then the Christ.

Lesson

God revealed His grace to David and his people by showing David his sin and by giving him a son from whose line the Redeemer would come. The birth of Solomon came about after David was reminded of his sin and sought forgiveness.

The war that David had with the Ammonites and the Syrians came about after the king of Ammon brought shame on David's messengers. David sent messengers with a message of sympathy to the king of Ammon after his father died. The king treated the messengers like spies and shaved off half their beards and cut off their bottom garments. When David learned about this treatment, he told the messengers to stay at Jericho until their beards grew out so they would not have to come home in shame. He also sent Joab and the army to deal with the Ammonites. The Ammonites called for help from Syria, but Joab defeated the Syrians.

The following spring David sent Joab to destroy the Ammonites for the shame they brought on his messengers. It turned out to be a tragedy that when Joab went to battle, David stayed home. In his leisure, David walked about on the roof of the palace. As he did so he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath. When he saw this woman, David forgot who he was before the Lord and thought only of his own desires. He inquired about the woman and learned that she was Bathsheba the wife of Uriah who was a soldier for Israel. Even though David knew she was married he sent for her anyway and committed adultery with her. When she later told David she was with child, he tried to make it look like Bathsheba was going to have a child with her husband. He sent for Uriah and told him to enjoy some time with his wife. But Uriah refused to go home while his countrymen continued to fight. Now David had to find a new way to hide his sin. He told Joab to go into battle and put Uriah in the heat of the battle so he would be killed. Can you imagine the king that God chose to deliver His people doing these things?

But God did not forget David, he sent Nathan the prophet to make him aware of his sins. Nathan told David a story about a rich man, who had many flocks and herds, and a poor man who had but one little lamb. Nathan asked David what should be done to the rich man for taking the poor man's lamb to feed his guests. David was filled with anger at the thought of such injustice and said the rich man should be put to death. Imagine how David felt when Nathan pointed out that he was that rich man who had taken the one lamb from Uriah. David immediately confessed that he had sinned against the Lord.

Lesson 8

Rejected and Restored

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 21

Scripture: II Samuel 13–20

Memory Verse: “So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot. And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up weeping as they went up.” (II Sam. 15:30)

Lesson Truth: Even after God allowed David to be exiled from Jerusalem, He remained the king.

Lesson

The story today is about David’s son Absalom who tried to take the throne away from his father. This is a story about Absalom rejecting his father as the head of God’s covenant in Israel. It is a story of Absalom rejecting the covenant, and the Lord of the covenant. After David was rejected by Absalom, the people of Israel also rejected him. Yet God restored the king He had chosen.

Absalom first showed his proud and willful spirit in the way he dealt with Amnon, his half-brother. Amnon fell in love with his half-sister, Tamar. He desired her so much that he devised a wicked plan to get his desires. He pretended he was sick and then asked that Tamar wait on him. When she waited on him in the privacy of his own room, he attacked her and violated her. This made Absalom very angry and he waited for a time to kill Amnon. He did this at the time of sheep shearing. Although Amnon’s act was very sinful, it was also wicked for Absalom to take his life. When David heard of the wicked things his sons had done, he tore his clothes with grief. As David grieved, Absalom fled to Geshur and stayed there three years. All the while David longed for Absalom.

After three years Absalom was allowed to return to Jerusalem. David did not insist that Absalom repent of the sin he had committed. All the while Absalom planned to take the throne away from his father. He worked very carefully to gain the affections of the people so they would follow him. When he felt he had a large enough following he asked his father for permission to go to Hebron on business. At Hebron he declared himself king and made plans to occupy the capital in Jerusalem. David left the city weeping and barefooted. He wept because he knew that by rejecting the king whom the Lord anointed, the people were really rejecting the Lord. As he went, Shimei, a member of Saul’s family, cursed him. David longed for the ark of the Lord at Jerusalem, but he was leaving as one rejected. David’s adviser Ahithophel went with Absalom because he had also rejected the Lord’s covenant.

In order to defeat the advice of Ahithophel, Hushai a trusted adviser to David pretended that he too was a follower of Absalom. Hushai did defeat the advice of Ahithophel and Absalom’s army had to fight David and his men. As the battle raged Absalom was fleeing on a donkey and got caught in a tree by his long hair. Joab, David’s commander killed him and had his soldiers pile a heap of stones over his body. When David learned of Absalom’s death he wept openly for his son. He wept until Joab came and rebuked him for having more respect for his rebellious son than for the Israel and her people. David failed to see himself as the head of the covenant and he failed to see that Absalom was a covenant breaker. He allowed himself to be controlled by his self-centered love as a father.

David was now ready to return to Jerusalem, but the people were not yet ready to fully accept David as the anointed of the Lord. They did not see David as the head of the covenant and did not come with a confession of their guilt. Yet God restored David to the throne in Israel in spite of the people's unfaithfulness. Peace had come to Israel. But there was no inner unity, because the people had not confessed their sins before the Lord. In his love the Lord would confront His people with their guilt.

Questions

1. Who helped Amnon devise a trick so he could violate Tamar? (II Sam. 13:3-5)
2. In the first report David received, which of his sons did they say Absalom killed? (II Sam.13:30)
3. To where did Absalom flee after he killed Amnon? (II Sam. 13:38)
4. How did Absalom try to gain the affection of the people so they would follow him as king? (II Sam. 15:2-3)
5. What were David's emotions as he left Jerusalem? (II Sam. 15:30)

6. Whom did David send to Absalom to defeat the advice of Ahithophel? (II Sam. 15:32-35)

7. What strange way did the Lord cause Absalom to be caught so Joab could kill him? (II Sam.18:9)

8. Who rebelled against David after Absalom was dead? (II Sam. 20:1)

Lesson 9
Israel's Lamp

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 22

Scripture: II Samuel 21–24

Memory Verse: “And he said: ‘The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; The God of my strength, in whom I trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; my Savior, You save me from violence.’” (II Samuel 22:2-3)

Lesson Truth: God anointed David to be a lamp in Israel to point to the Christ, the Lamp of His people.

Lesson

David wrote in his song, “You are my lamp, O Lord.” His men of war talked of David being Israel’s lamp. It was possible for David to be Israel’s lamp only because the Lord was his lamp. The true and everlasting lamp of Israel is the Christ. While David was chosen as the lamp of Israel, Saul’s lamp was put out.

The land of Israel endured a famine for three years. This was brought on by a severe drought. After three years David knew that the famine was from the Lord. He inquired of the Lord as to the reason for the famine. The Lord told him it was because of Saul’s sin. Saul tried to destroy the Gibeonites which was a violation of a promise that Joshua had made to them. The Gibeonites had come to Joshua years earlier pretending to be from a far country. They asked Joshua to show mercy when he came to their land as he conquered the land of Canaan. Joshua promised them, in the name of the Lord, that they would be his servants, but he would not harm them. Saul paid no attention to this promise, made in the name of the Lord, and tried to kill them. When David asked the Gibeonites how he could atone for Saul’s sin, they asked that he deliver seven of Saul’s children to be hung before the Lord. Seven of Saul’s descendants, that David delivered to the Gibeonites, were not only hung, but their bodies were left hanging through the harvest time. The kingship was removed from Saul’s house forever.

David continued to have trouble with the Philistines. One giant Philistine whose spear weighed three hundred shekels thought he could kill David. But Abishai one of David’s soldiers struck the giant and killed him. Then David’s men did a very faithful thing. They told David they no longer wanted him to go into battle. They said they did not want the lamp of Israel to go out. These soldiers knew that David was anointed by God to be a lamp to Israel. It was only possible for David to be a lamp to Israel because he declared the Lord to be his lamp. It was because Christ’s Spirit lived in David that he was made righteous before the Lord. David foretold of the coming of a Ruler in Israel. He longed for the coming of that Ruler who would be like the morning light in glory. David sang a song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord as he neared the end of his life. He called the Lord his Rock, his Shield, his Refuge, and his Redeemer. David remembered that the Lord had made a covenant with him that he would have a son to sit on the throne forever. That son of David is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord used a sinful act of David to punish the people of Israel for their rejection. They rejected David, first for Absalom, and then for Sheba. Now a sinful thought came into David’s mind. He

decided to number the people. It was not wrong for David to count the people unless he did it for the wrong reason. The reason David counted the people was to determine his military strength. It was sinful for David to trust in his military might rather than in God. Because of this sin God sent the prophet Gad to speak to David. He told Gad to give David three choices for punishment for this sin. He could choose three years of hunger, three months of fleeing before his enemies, or three days of plague sent by the Lord. David said he would take the three days of plague because he would rather be in the hands of a merciful God than in the hands of an enemy. The plague broke out over Israel causing seventy thousand to die. The people were punished for the sin of rejecting David, but David was also punished. When the people died of the plague David fell on his face and confessed: "It is I who have sinned; I am the one who acted wickedly. But these sheep, what have they done? Let Your hand, I pray You, be against me and my father's house!" David offered himself in the place of the people. This pointed to the Redeemer who would offer Himself in the place of the people of the Lord. In His mercy the Lord stopped the plague before the end of the three-day period. Then David offered a sacrifice to God on the place where the angel of destruction had stood.

Questions

1. When David sent seven of Saul's descendants to the Gibeonites, whom did he spare? (II Sam 21:7)
2. How did Rizpah show respect for the members of Saul's family who were hung? (II Sam. 21:10)
3. How did David show respect for Saul and Jonathan? (II Sam. 21:14)
4. Who was the soldier who struck and killed the giant with the huge spear? (II Sam. 21:17)

Lesson 10

The Kingdom of Peace

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 23

Scripture: I Kings 1–4

Memory Verse: “And all Israel heard of the judgement which the king rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.” (I Kings 3:28)

Lesson Truth: Solomon’s kingdom was a kingdom of peace that pointed to Christ’s Kingdom of Peace.

Lesson

Christ Jesus will usher in the real kingdom of peace. However, the kingdom of Solomon was a kingdom of peace that pointed to the Kingdom of Christ. Still there was controversy before Solomon became king and ruled in peace.

David was old and his strength was spent so he did not give attention to many things in the kingdom. His son, Adonijah, took advantage of this weakness and decided to set himself up as the king in place of David. Adonijah gained the support of some of David’s officials. Joab, David’s commander, and Abiathar, the high priest, conspired with him. But the prophet, Nathan, and other officials stayed with David. When Nathan heard of Adonijah’s intention to make himself king, he immediately went to Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother. He asked Bathsheba if she would go to David and remind him that he swore on oath that Solomon was to follow him as king.

After Bathsheba talked to David, Nathan confirmed her words before David. Then David assured them that he had sworn on oath that Solomon would be the next king. He then took action and sent Zadok, the priest, and Nathan, the prophet, to put Solomon on the king’s mule and to anoint him king of Israel. After he was anointed, they were to blow the horn and shout: “Long live king Solomon.” The celebration was so great that Adonijah and his group heard the noise. They were ready to listen when Jonathan, the priest’s son, told them that David had made Solomon king. Then Adonijah was filled with fear and he went to the tent where the ark of God was kept and took hold of the horns of the altar. This was a plea for mercy from Solomon. Solomon assured Adonijah that no harm would come to him if he proved to be worthy. The name Solomon meant peace. Under him the kingdom of peace came to Israel.

Yet Solomon knew that there could never be peace without justice. If a crime was committed it had to be punished. Solomon was ready to follow the advice of David and exercise judgement. This meant he had to judge Adonijah, who continued to plot against him. Therefore, Adonijah was put to death. Abiathar was banished from Jerusalem, and Joab was killed. In this way Solomon administered justice. Christ Jesus will also judge His enemies when He ushers in His Kingdom of peace.

Solomon then went to the tabernacle at Gibeon to offer sacrifices and to consecrate his kingdom to the Lord. When he was at Gibeon the Lord came to him in a dream and asked him to make a request for anything that would help him rule Israel. Solomon answered, that since he was made king in the

Lesson 11

The Palace of His Holiness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 24

Scripture: I Kings 5–9

Memory Verse: “Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O Lord my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before you today: that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which you said, My name shall be there, that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place.” (I Kings 8:28-29)

Lesson Truth: Solomon built the temple in Jerusalem, which was the palace of God’s holiness.

Lesson

After Solomon became king, he built two beautiful buildings in Jerusalem. The first was the magnificent temple that was to be God’s dwelling place. The temple was a symbol of the presence of God’s grace. The second was the palace that Solomon built as an honor for the king of God’s Kingdom.

Solomon made elaborate preparations for building the temple. He arranged with Hiram the king of Tyre to cut cedars from Lebanon and transport them to Jerusalem. Hiram had great respect for David and was ready to help Solomon build a temple as a place for God to dwell. Solomon used thirty thousand men to harvest the cedars in Lebanon. He also used one hundred fifteen thousand men from Canaan to cut stone and serve as carriers. The people could see the wisdom that God had given Solomon as he organized this vast army of men to do the work of building the temple.

It took seven years for the temple to be built. As soon as the temple was completed, Solomon began building the royal palace. The palace also had to be a magnificent building as a reflection of the glory of the God of Israel. This would point to the glory of our King, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to dwell in the heavenly places. It took thirteen years to build the royal palace. At the time the palace was built the furnishings of the temple were made. These furnishings were similar to the furnishings of the tabernacle only much larger. Solomon had the builders make two pillars for the front court of the temple. He gave these two pillars names that indicated that David would have a son on the throne forever as God promised in His covenant.

Solomon made a special ceremony of bringing the ark of God into the temple. In a beautiful procession, the priests carried the ark and all the furnishings from the tabernacle into the temple. The priest put the ark into the Holy of Holies under the cherubs. As soon as the priests left the Holy of Holies a cloud filled the temple so completely that priests could not continue the service. The glory of the Lord’s grace was in the cloud. Now the children of Israel knew that God would dwell among His people just as He promised in His covenant.

Then Solomon acted like the head of the covenant. He acted like the chosen king of God’s people. He knelt before the people and spread out his hands toward heaven. He confessed that there is no God like Jehovah God. Then he asked that if God’s people sinned and looked toward this temple and

begged for forgiveness that God would hear their prayer. Then the king blessed the people and pronounced a benediction. He asked that the Lord incline Israel's hearts to serve Him. Then all nations would know that the Lord is God.

The temple was dedicated by offering thousands of peace offerings and each section of the temple was consecrated to the Lord. After the dedication ceremonies the Lord came to Solomon in a dream. He told him that He had heard his prayer. He told Solomon that the temple was made holy. But He warned him that he must walk before the Lord. If he turned from the Lord and followed other gods, Israel would be removed from the land, and the temple would be destroyed. Yet God would always be faithful to his promise to David. He would never break His Word. David would have a son on the throne forever. That son is the Lord Jesus Christ. Solomon's kingdom was strong and well organized. Would the king and his people remain faithful to their covenant God?

Questions

1. Why could David not build a house for the name of the Lord? (I Kings 5:3)
2. Who really authorized Solomon to build a house for the name of the Lord? (I Kings 5:5)
3. What materials did Hiram give to Solomon to build the temple? (I Kings 5:10)
4. How many years after the children of Israel left Egypt was the temple built? (I Kings 6:1)

Lesson 12

The Light of the World

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 25

Scripture: I Kings 10–11

Memory Verse: “Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king’s Son. He will judge your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice.” (Psalm 72:1-2)

Lesson Truth: God’s grace revealed in Christ is the Light of the World.

Lesson

Solomon was a wise king whose fame spread to all nations. Solomon’s wisdom became a light to the world because he let it be known that his wisdom was a gift of the Lord’s grace. Solomon was seen as the cultural leader of his time. His downfall came when he thought he was capable of tolerating other gods along with Jehovah God.

One of the people from other nations that heard of the Wisdom of Solomon, was the queen of Sheba. The reports of his wisdom and wealth were so amazing that she decided to come to Jerusalem and see for herself. She arrived in Jerusalem with an impressive train of gifts and personnel. When she arrived she was allowed to ask Solomon all the questions that were on her mind. She was amazed to find that there were no questions that he could not answer. When she saw Solomon’s wealth and wisdom she confessed that she had not been told half of the truth about him. She insisted that the Lord must certainly love the people of Israel to give them such a king.

The Bible does not tell us if the queen of Sheba became a believer. But she did come from a far country to hear Solomon’s wisdom and was amazed when she heard it. We are told that the Lord Jesus showed wisdom far greater than Solomon’s, yet the Jews did not listen. Today we have His wisdom in the Bible, but we are seldom amazed and overjoyed with that wisdom. The queen of Sheba returned to her country with a renewed spirit. She was aware that God visited his people.

Not only was Solomon wise, but he was also very wealthy. He displayed his wealth with gold shields, with a magnificent throne, and with horses and horsemen. All this wealth along with his wisdom made Solomon the center of the culture of his day. The Lord did not withhold anything from Solomon because he was to be the king who pointed to the Christ. The kingdom of Solomon was a forerunner to the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord owns the earth and everything in it, and will give it to those who belong to Him, to use for God’s honor.

The wealth and recognition of Solomon also had its dangers, and he did not escape the danger. He began to think about his wealth and his wisdom apart from the Lord’s grace. He thought he was wise enough to be tolerant of the gods of his many wives and still remain faithful to the Lord. But Solomon fell for the flattery and lies of his unbelieving wives. He believed them when they told him he was such an enlightened ruler that he could see the advantage of recognizing the gifts of other nations.

