

Promise and Deliverance

Student Workbook

Volume 7

Level 4

Harvey De Groot

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Preface

When S.G. De Graaf wrote his four-volume series, *Promise and Deliverance*, he showed educators how to teach Bible stories from a redemptive-historical perspective. Rather than turning Bible stories into moralistic tales, De Graaf taught us how all the Bible shows God revealing himself as the God of the covenant, who is working out His redemptive plan for humanity and all of creation.

The 80 workbooks written by Harvey De Groot are meant to supplement De Graaf's work. They are divided by volume and level number: 20 volumes with four levels per volume. Workbook lessons are written at four levels so that families with students in various grades can study the same Bible stories during the week in preparation for their classes on Sunday. Prior to class, the Sunday School teacher should study the lesson in De Graaf's book. The teacher and students can go through the workbook during class.

The levels are divided according to the following grades:

- **Level One:** Grades K-1
- **Level Two:** Grades 2-3
- **Level Three:** Grades 4-6
- **Level Four:** Grades 7-8

Each volume contains 12 or 13 lessons, and each lesson has the following sections:

- **Reference:** The volume and lesson number in De Graaf's series.
- **Scripture:** The passage from Scripture on which the lesson is based.
- **Memory Verse:** A memory verse related to the lesson.
- **Lesson Truth:** A short statement to help the class focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Lesson:** The lesson itself, which the teacher can read in class. For older grades, the teacher may opt to assign it as homework.
- **Questions:** Items to be discussed in class. For older grades, the teacher can assign these questions as homework but should also use them as a basis for class discussion. These are not the only questions that could or should be asked. Teachers should encourage students to come with their own questions as well.

This edition was written by Harvey De Groot and edited by his son Norlan De Groot.

Lesson 1

Crisis

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

Scripture: I Samuel 18:14–20:42

Memory Verse: “Then Jonathan said to David, ‘Go in peace, since we have both sworn in the name of the Lord, saying: May the Lord be between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.’ So he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.” (I Samuel 20:42)

Lesson Truth: In His covenant, God brings events to a crisis.

Lesson

David was the man chosen by God to be the successor to Saul. We are told that he behaved himself wisely in all his ways and that the Lord was with him. This should have been a sign for Saul to submit to the Lord’s decision and thank Him for His grace in choosing David as king. But Saul was proud and loved himself too much to submit to the grace of God. So, Saul schemed to kill David, which brought a crisis that God used to carry out His covenant.

Saul saw that the Lord blessed David. This filled him with a desperate fear. He should have submitted to the Lord’s election of David as the next king, but Saul was too set on himself to do that. He chose rather to reject David and the grace of God and instead planned ways to kill David. His first plan followed on his promise to give his daughter in marriage to the man who killed Goliath. Now in addition to killing Goliath he asked for a second condition. This condition was that the person who was to marry his daughter would bring proof of having killed one hundred Philistines. Saul hoped that the Philistines would kill David if he went out to fill this requirement.

Saul’s plan did not materialize with his daughter Merab as she did not love David. But his daughter Michal did love him, so David agreed to this additional requirement. Not only did he bring proof of killing one hundred Philistines; he brought proof of killing two hundred. So, David became Saul’s son-in-law. Saul saw that his daughter Michal loved David and that God blessed him. Yet he continued to reject David and God’s grace to His people.

Now the Lord used another avenue to speak to Saul. He spoke through Jonathan, Saul’s son, when he had Jonathan plead with Saul to remember that David had been good to him. Saul was touched by these words and for a short time David was restored to his place in Saul’s court. It is sad to note that Saul was so close to the Kingdom of God, but again he rejected the grace of the Lord. In a spirit of angry jealousy, he threw his spear at David to try to kill him. David escaped first to his own house and from there he escaped farther with the help of his wife Michal. The Lord saved David through Michal’s love.

David went to seek Samuel at Ramah to unburden his heart. Together he and Samuel went to the school of the prophets at Naioth. Surely Saul would not pursue them among the prophets, but again they would be disappointed. This was the time for Saul to make a decision. Would he rebel against the Spirit of the Lord? The Lord had caused events to come to this crisis because of His covenant. When Saul sent messengers to get David at Naioth they prophesied through the Spirit of the Lord. The same thing happened to a second and a third group. Then Saul finally came himself and he also prophesied. Saul should have known that the Spirit of the Lord was protecting David. Just think Saul spoke of heavenly matters at the same time his heart was filled with

hatred of the Lord's Spirit. The final decision about Saul as a person was now made. God rejected Saul as a person.

The rejection of Saul was a three-stage rejection. First the kingship was taken from his family. Then he was rejected as king, and finally he was rejected as a person. Saul had been brought to a crisis and had failed. Now he pursued an evil course, he was determined to destroy David, God's chosen king. David too had been brought to a crisis. Would he rebel against Saul? David surrendered to the Lord and would not lift up his hand against the Lord's anointed. The Lord showed his grace to David in giving him Jonathan as a friend and a source of comfort as Saul sought his life. David considered Jonathan his superior and, in that spirit, he made a covenant with him and his family forever. This is our call to submit to the grace of the Lord to His people.

Questions

1. Which daughter was Saul first going to give David as a wife because he killed Goliath? (I Sam. 18:17)
2. Who was the daughter of Saul that loved David? (I Sam. 18:20)
3. What did Saul hope would happen to David if he brought proof of killing 100 Philistines? (I Sam. 18:25b)
4. What did Saul know about David after he slew 200 Philistines? (I Sam 18:28)
5. What did Saul want Jonathan and his servants to do to David? (I Sam. 19:1)

6. What did Jonathan do for David before his father? (I Sam. 19:4)

7. Who helped David escape from his house? (I Sam. 19:11-12)

8. Describe the Love Jonathan showed for David? (I Sam. 20:17)

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: “Then David said, ‘O Lord God of Israel. Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand?’” (I Samuel 23:10-11a)

Lesson Truth: The anointed one has no place to lay his head.

Lesson

In the Bible lesson today, we see David as a fugitive, fleeing as Saul pursued him to take his life. There did not seem to be any place that David was safe. As a fugitive, David had no place where he could lay his head. In this way David experienced some of the same things the Lord Jesus Christ experienced when He was on earth. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus said of himself: “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head” (Matt. 8:20). The Lord used David’s experience as a fugitive to make him humble and to prepare him to lead His people.

After David said goodbye to Jonathan he fled from Saul’s court. Where was he to go? He knew that it would be difficult to escape Saul in the land of Israel, so he thought of crossing the border. But could David really look for protection and be a faithful servant of God among the enemies of the Lord? As he fled, David came to Nob, which is the place where the tabernacle was kept and where he found the high priest, Ahimelech. David posed as a messenger from Saul and asked Ahimelech to inquire of the Lord for him. David’s deception in posing as a messenger from Saul was seen by Doeg an Edomite who was sympathetic to Saul. David also asked Ahimelech for bread for he and his men and for a weapon that could be used to defend himself. He was given the showbread, which was to be used only by the priests and the sword of Goliath whom David had killed. Later, Doeg told Saul what he had seen.

David went from Nob to the land of the Philistines to the city of Gath. He hoped he would not be recognized as the one who had killed Goliath. But they saw who he was immediately. Then David acted like he was insane. He scratched on the doors and the gates and let saliva run down his beard. When king, Achish saw David as insane he didn’t want anything to do with him, so David escaped from Gath. It is sad that Israel’s future king relied on his own craftiness rather than on his faith.

From Gath David went to the cave of Adullam. While at Adullam David’s father and mother and his brothers went to join him. They no longer felt safe under Saul. Also, a number of people who were in trouble in their own land joined David and his men. David’s group began to appear like a band of out-laws. With a larger group it was more difficult for David to hide so he decided to go to Moab. At Moab he found safety for his family, but the Lord would not allow him to live in peace in a strange country. The prophet Gad told David he was to return to his own country. David would be tested in Israel.

In the meantime, Saul had become a real tyrant. He complained that his own men, including his own son, supported David. Then Doeg the Edomite told Saul what he had seen at Nob when David inquired of Ahimelech the priest. Saul in his crazed mind accused Ahimelech of treason and ordered his men to kill the Lord’s priests. When they refused to carry out this mad order, Doeg killed them for Saul. Saul was still not

Lesson 3

Vengeance is Mine

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

Scripture: I Samuel 24–26

Memory Verse: “Now it happened afterward that David’s heart troubled him because he had cut Saul’s robe. And he said to his men, ‘The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.’” (I Samuel 24:5-6)

Lesson Truth: The Lord’s anointed is willing to submit his cause to the One who judges in righteousness.

Lesson

Samuel had anointed David to be the king of Israel. Yet if David was going to be the righteous king the Lord wanted him to be, he could not reach out with vengeance against those who wanted to harm him. Today we will learn of two times that the Lord placed Saul into David’s hands and David was given the grace to respect the Lord’s anointed. We will also learn how the Lord kept him from taking vengeance on the self-seeking Nabal. David had to learn that vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Because Saul had to resist the Philistines when they attacked Israel, he was unable to pursue David for a time. But this reprieve did not last long as Saul again went after David when he returned from following the Philistines. This time he followed David to the wilderness of En Gedi. Saul took three thousand men with him with the intent of capturing David to put him to death. When Saul came to the wilderness he went into a cave to rest. Saul did not know that David was hiding in the cave he had just entered or that the Lord placed him in David’s hand. David’s men saw an opportunity for David to destroy his enemy and advised him to kill Saul. How grateful we must be that David was given the grace to show the Spirit of Christ. He went and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe, but he did not harm him. He told his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master the Lord’s anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the Lord.”

Imagine how Saul felt when he left the cave and David called after him and showed him the corner of his robe he had cut off. Saul acknowledged that David was more righteous than he was, and even admitted that he knew that David would be the king. He only asked of David that he would promise not to destroy his family. Saul was touched but he did not submit to the Lord in faith.

At this time Samuel died taking away a strong voice from the Lord. Yet after the death of Samuel the people did start to look to David as the leader of Israel. As the leader of his band of men David requested a gift from Nabal, a very rich rancher that he and his men had protected. David was again put to the test when Nabal sharply refused his request. Would he take vengeance into his own hands and destroy Nabal and his house? David took four hundred men to go after Nabal vowing that he would take his life. This time the Lord raised up Abigail, Nabal’s wife, to intervene. She made a large gift of livestock and produce and went to meet David. She told David that the Lord sent her to prevent him from taking the law into his own hands by killing Nabal. She told David he should not tarnish his calling of the Lord to be king, by shedding Nabal’s blood. Through the words of Abigail David again saw his calling as a call from the Lord. Shortly after Abigail intervened for Nabal he died. When David heard of Nabal’s death he asked Abigail to marry him, and she consented. In this encounter, David again learned that vengeance belongs to the Lord.

How beautifully the Lord visited David with His grace. Saul again pursued David to take his life, this time in the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon. This time David found Saul’s camp and with Abishai his captain sneaked

Lesson 4

Forsaken and Sought Out

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

Scripture: I Samuel 27–31

Memory Verse: “But David said, ‘My brethren you shall not do so with what the Lord has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hands the troop that came against us. For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.’” (I Samuel 30:23-24)

Lesson Truth: The people are forsaken by the Lord and then sought out again in the anointed one.

Lesson

David knew that the Lord takes vengeance on those who want to harm His anointed. Yet he yielded to the temptation to work out his own strategy to escape from Saul. The time when the Lord had rejected Saul, and David lived among the Philistines, was a dark time for Israel. Saul was unable to lead in the name of the Lord and David was absent to escape from Saul.

Isn't it amazing that a man like David, whom the Lord had delivered again and again from the hand of Saul, was still not ready to rely on the Lord completely? David forgot that the hand of the Lord reached farther than the hand of Saul. He decided that if he was to escape from Saul he had to live among the Philistines. David went back to Achish king of Gath and asked if he could live in his country as an ally. David's scheme seemed to work because Achish treated him as an ally. He even allowed David to occupy the city of Ziklag instead of staying at Gath. From this position David attacked Israel's enemies along Canaan's southern border. But the tragedy was that David was really denying the Lord and His people by pretending to be an ally of the Philistines.

In the meantime, the Philistines continued to make war against Saul and Israel. Saul gathered his army at Gilboa in preparation to fight the Philistines. Saul who had been a strong soldier as he led Israel in battle after battle was desperately afraid. He had been forsaken by God. The terror that previously fell on his enemies now fell on Saul. He could recall that he previously had inquired of the Lord before he went into battle, but now the Lord had forsaken him. The Lord did not answer him either by a prophet or by the Urim. In his desperation Saul decided to consult a medium. There was a medium at Endor who was known to be able to speak with the dead. Saul disguised himself and went to consult this woman. When he asked her to bring up Samuel, she was deathly afraid. She was afraid because Saul had forbidden the spiritists and mediums to practice in the land. After Saul assured her that no harm would come to her, she conducted a séance and brought up Samuel.

The minute she contacted Samuel she was aware that it was Saul who was inquiring of her. Again, Saul assured her that she would not be harmed if she would only tell him what she had seen. Then the Lord through the spirit of Samuel gave Saul the terrible pronouncement of the end of his kingdom and the end of his life. The spirit of Samuel reminded Saul that because of his disobedience with the Amalekites Israel would fall into the hands of the Philistines. He was told that the following day he and his sons would die in battle. When Saul heard these words he collapsed, partly because he had been fasting. Saul left Endor in utter despair. This was a judgement against the sins of both Saul and Israel.

God in his mercy again protected David. He did not allow David to fight against the people of the Lord. The lords of the Philistines would not permit Achish to use David as an ally in war. So David and his men were sent back to Ziklag. When they returned, they found that the Amalekites had raided their city and taken all the

women and children captive. David was able to rescue all the women and children as well as the loot. David not only rescued his possessions, but he was also restored to fellowship with God again. After the dark days in which Israel was left without leadership from either Saul or David, there was new hope for the people in the restoration of David. God did not forsake his people and for Christ's sake did not forsake David.

The end for Saul came just as the spirit of Samuel had predicted. Saul and his sons died on the mountain of Gilboa. Saul became separated from his men and knew he could not escape the Philistines. He asked his armor-bearer to kill him so he would not fall into the hands of the Philistines. When his armor-bearer refused to do so, Saul fell on his own sword and died. The end of Saul was tragic. He had come so close to the kingdom of God, but had not yielded to God's grace in faith. He glorified himself over the grace of the Lord. The Philistines showed utter contempt for Saul by hanging the bodies of him and his sons on the wall of Beth-Shan. In an act of respect, the men of Jabesh Gilead took the bodies off the wall at Beth-Shan under cover of darkness and burned them.

Questions

1. Where did David think he could escape from the hand of Saul? (I Sam. 27:1)
2. What city did Achish, king of Gath, give David to live in? (I Sam. 27:5-6)
3. Where did Saul gather his armies together to fight the Philistines? (I Sam. 28:4)
4. What response did Saul get when he asked the Lord about the battle with the Philistines? (I Sam. 28:6)

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: “The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen! Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph.” (II Samuel 1:19-20)

Lesson Truth: The Lord subjects His people to their king.

Lesson

As we learn about the death of Saul and his sons, we should notice how much David respected the Lord's anointed. In the transition from the kingship of Saul to the kingship of David we see how David lived in total dependence on the Lord. He did not force the people to accept him as king.

David was back at Ziklag after he pursued the Amalekites and rescued the women and children along with his possessions. While he was at Ziklag a messenger came to David with the bad news that the Philistines had defeated the armies of Israel. He went on to tell David, what he thought would be good news. He said he saw that Saul and his sons were killed in the battle. Then he embellished the story by telling David that at the king's urging, he had killed Saul. He showed David the king's crown and bracelets to prove that the story was true. The messenger failed to realize that David deeply respected Saul, because he had been anointed by the Lord to be king.

The Amalekite messenger must have been perplexed when he saw that David and his men tore their clothes in anguish upon hearing that Saul and his sons were dead. He probably expected to get a reward for bringing the news of the death of the one who sought David's life. Even though the man was lying, he condemned himself to death when he took credit for killing Saul. David commanded one of his men to put the messenger to death because he claimed to have killed the Lord's anointed. Israel's future king did not desire revenge and would not ascend the throne by injustice and bloodshed. David then wrote a lamentation for Saul and Jonathan and asked that it be taught to the children of Judah.

After the death of Saul, David showed that he was willing to be a theocratic king. He recognized that God was king and that he would receive his instructions from God to rule the people. Therefore, before he returned to Judah, he inquired of the Lord about where he should go. The Lord told David to go back to Judah and to settle at Hebron. At Hebron the men of Judah came and anointed him king. But the whole land of Israel was not yet ready to recognize David as their king.

The land was so divided at this time that a civil war broke out between Judah and the rest of the tribes. Abner, Saul's general, led the other tribes in their fight against Judah. This was a bad experience for David, a man who loved all the people of Israel. A fierce battle raged until Abner and his men were defeated. That battle ended, but the civil war continued. The war could not end until all Israel submitted to the Lord, who had chosen David to be Israel's king.

Abner initially tried to take over the leadership of Israel, but was rebuked by Ishbosheth. Later Abner consulted with the elders of Israel and acknowledged that David was to be the deliverer of Israel. Now the people of Israel were willing to accept David as king. However, he could not claim the throne of Israel by human

negotiations. Joab, David's commander, killed Abner. David again showed his respect for Saul and his general by mourning for Abner and singing a lament for him.

After Abner's death everyone realized that Saul's house was lost. Saul's son, Ishbosheth was assassinated. David executed the assassins. Then the elders of all the tribes came to David and recognized his call to be Israel's deliverer. Finally, the whole country of Israel submitted to God's choice to have David as their king. One of David's first official acts as king was to attack the stronghold of the Jebusites. This was the city of Jerusalem that David had chosen as the capital of his kingdom. The Lord also gave David the decisive victory over the Philistines. Now Israel knew that David ruled by the grace and favor of the Lord. The Lord Himself had come to deliver Israel.

Questions

1. What message did the man from Saul's camp bring to David? (II Sam 1:4)
2. According to the man from Amalek who killed Saul? (II Sam. 1:9-10)
3. What did David have done to the Amalekite who said he killed Saul? (II Sam. 1:14-15)
4. What was David's reaction to the deaths of Saul and Jonathan? (II Sam. 1:17-18)
5. From whom did David seek instructions before he went to Judah? (II Sam 2:1)

Lesson 6

King of Israel

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

Scripture: II Samuel 6–9

Memory Verse: “And now, O Lord God, You are God and Your words are true, and You have promised this goodness to your servant. Now therefore, let it please You to bless the house of Your servant, that it may continue before You forever; for You, O Lord God have spoken it, and with Your blessing let the house of Your servant be blessed forever.” (II Samuel 7:28-29)

Lesson Truth: Israel’s king will rule over God’s people forever.

Lesson

After David became the king over all Israel, he thought of the ark of the Lord that had remained at Abinadab’s house. He wanted to bring the ark to the city of David, so that everyone would know that he ruled Israel in the name of the Lord. Once the ark was in Jerusalem, David told Nathan the prophet that he wanted to build a house for the Lord. Instead, Nathan gave him the message that the Lord would build his house and he would have a son to sit on the throne forever.

David as the king of all Israel wanted to rule in the name of the Lord. Therefore, he gathered the representatives of the people and suggested that the ark of the Lord be brought to Jerusalem. The leaders of the people agreed, so they made plans to take the ark from the house of Abinadab and bring it to the city of David. The ark was placed on a new cart just as the Philistines had done when they sent the ark back to Israel. Ahio one of the sons of Abinadab would walk before the ark and Uzzah another son would walk alongside the ark. Then in the spirit of the occasion David and the people followed the ark, dancing and singing accompanied with instruments.

Then a heart-wrenching thing happened as the ark moved toward Jerusalem. The oxen pulling the cart stumbled and Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark. When he touched the ark the Lord immediately struck him dead. Uzzah as well as the whole procession had forgotten that God is a holy God. David was angry with himself when Uzzah died. He was convinced that there was some sin that had ruined the whole joyous occasion. Because of this he did not dare to bring the ark to Jerusalem, instead he brought it to the house of Obed-edom nearby. After three months David knew that the house of Obed-edom had been blessed because of the ark. He also came to understand the cause of the Lord’s anger. The Lord had clearly instructed that the Levites must carry the ark and not that it be placed on a cart. Now David believed the ark could safely be brought to Jerusalem.

The second procession was even more jubilant than the first. As the ark went through the gate of Jerusalem, David and the people sang and played and danced before the Lord. Now the people knew that the Lord was the true king of Israel. The sign of the Lord’s presence in the ark was with king David in Jerusalem. David sang to Jerusalem’s gates: “Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in” (Ps. 24:9). This is the way Christ Jesus was honored when He accepted His royal authority.

On this joyous occasion not everyone was happy. Michal, Saul’s daughter who had again become David’s wife despised David for dancing before the ark. She thought his dance was not fitting for a king. Even more Michal did not share David’s faith. She was more concerned about her own honor and the king’s honor than the honor of the Lord. Michal shared the same sin as her father, Saul.

After David fought many wars, peace finally came to Israel. When peace came, David became aware that while he lived in a house made of cedar, the Lord still lived in a tent. The presence of the Lord was in the tabernacle that the children of Israel carried through the wilderness. Now David shared his desire to build a house for the Lord with Nathan the prophet. Nathan's first reaction was to approve of the plan. Then the Lord appeared to Nathan in a vision and told him to inform David that he would not build the house of the Lord, but a son who followed him would build it. Even more the Lord made a covenant with David that he would have son to sit on the throne forever. This son of David who sits on the throne today is the Lord Jesus Christ. David was overwhelmed and asked, "Who am I, Lord, that You grant me this?" David realized that this promise did not come because of his righteousness, but only because of God's grace to His people.

David now sought justice and righteousness among the enemies of the Lord. The Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Amalekites, and the kings of Syria were all defeated in the name of the Lord's justice. Now Israel could feel safe under their king who ruled in the name of the Lord. David then showed his faithfulness to the house of Saul. He located Mephibosheth a son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul and restored him to a place of honor at the king's table. David was faithful to his covenant with Jonathan. The Lord Jesus is even more faithful to the covenant He has with all believers.

Questions

1. What did David and the people who were with him from Baale Judah bring up from Abinadab? (II Sam 6:2-3)
2. What happened to Uzzah when he touched the ark of God? (II Sam. 6:6-7)
3. Where did David allow the ark of God to rest when he was afraid to bring it to Jerusalem? (II Sam. 6:9-10)
4. What was Michal's punishment for despising David when he danced? (II Sam. 6:23)

Lesson 7

The Lord's Beloved

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

Scripture: II Samuel 10–12

Memory Verse: “So David said to Nathan, ‘I have sinned against the Lord.’ And Nathan said to David, ‘The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.’” (II Samuel 12:13-14)

Lesson Truth: The Lord's grace for His people is in His beloved.

Lesson

Today we will learn about God's amazing grace in spite of the sins of David the one chosen by God to be the king of Israel. David sent his men to war, and in his loitering and luxury he sinned against God. Yet God in His grace, showed David his sin and gave him a new son that was named, 'Beloved of the Lord.' This son would carry on the hope of the Promised Redeemer.

The war that David waged against the Syrians and Ammonites is told in detail, because it was his misconduct at the time of this war that led to his sin with Bathsheba. Here is what happened! A new king came to the throne in Ammon and David sent a delegation to express sympathy for the death of his father. This friendly gesture was met with derision when the new king had half the beards of the delegation shaved off and cut off the bottoms of their garments. Because of their shameful appearance David told the delegation to stay at Jericho until their beards grew back. Then David made plans to wage war against Ammon. In the first battle David's commanders, Joab and Abishai, defeated the Syrians who had come to Ammon's aide. They then went back to Jerusalem.

In the springtime David realized he had not completely dealt with the Ammonites for the shame they had put on his delegation. So, he sent out Joab with Israel's army to destroy the Ammonites. This time David remained at home. This was a tragic mistake because David had time to wander around the roof of the king's house. As he did so he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath. At that point David forgot who he was before the Lord, and followed his own desires. He had Bathsheba, the beautiful woman, brought to the palace and committed adultery with her. When she later informed David that she was with child he tried to cover his sin by having Uriah her husband return from the war and live with her. In this way David thought everyone would believe that Bathsheba's child was conceived with Uriah, her husband. But his plan backfired when Uriah refused to go home to his wife because he thought this would be failing his fellow soldiers.

Now David began to add one sin to another in an effort to hide his guilt. He asked Joab to put Uriah in the thick of the battle with Ammon so he would be killed. What a tragedy to see the one whom God had chosen to be the king of Israel commit both adultery and murder. After Uriah was dead, David took Bathsheba as his wife. All the while he kept silent to God and his people about his sins. Then Nathan the prophet came and related a story to David about a poor man who had but one lamb, and a rich man with huge flocks and herds. Nathan asked David what should be done to the rich man for taking the one lamb from the poor man and making it his own. In anger David replied that the rich man should be put to death. Imagine David's reaction when Nathan told him that he was the rich man. He was the man that took the one possession of Uriah and made it his own. Nathan told David that God would send His judgement, he said you sinned in secret but your judgement will be before all Israel.

David listened to the judgements Nathan told him would come. He also noted that Nathan assured him that he would not die. This assurance of grace broke David's heart and he confessed his sin before God. He realized that his sin was first of all against God and said, "Against You only have I sinned" (Ps. 51:4). When the child born of this adulteress relationship became ill, David fasted and pleaded with God for his life. David struggled for the Lord's grace even more than for the life of the child. Now the people knew they could not put their trust in a sinful king. They had to live by faith in the promised Redeemer.

This story concludes with wonderful account of the Lord's grace. David and Bathsheba were forgiven, and the Lord gave them another child. David named the child Solomon, which means "Peace," but he also gave him the name Jedidiah, which means "Beloved of the Lord." God in His grace gave a son from whom the Promised Redeemer would be born. David and the people could not put their trust in armies, but in the Savior who is indeed the "Beloved of the Lord."

Questions

1. What did the king of Ammon do to the messengers David sent to bring sympathy? (II Sam 10:4)
2. Where did David want his messengers to remain until they were again presentable? (II Sam. 10:5)
3. Whom did David send to destroy the people of Ammon for the shame of the messengers? (II Sam. 11:1)
4. What was David doing that made him want another man's wife? (II Sam. 11:2)

Lesson 8

Rejected and Restored

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

Scripture: II Samuel 13–20

Memory Verse: “Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: ‘O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom, if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!’ ” (II Samuel 18:33)

Lesson Truth: The Lord preserves the place of the king among His people.

Lesson

David the king of Israel whom God had chosen suffered much following his sin with Bathsheba. He was rejected, first by Absalom and then by all Israel. Yet the key to understanding these passages is not the rebellion of Absalom against his father, but his rejection of David as the head of the covenant. He not only rejected the head of the covenant, but he rejected the covenant itself.

Nathan told David that because of his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah; that the sword would never depart from his house. The truth of this prophecy is evident when we see his own son rebel against him and against the covenant. Absalom and Amnon were self-seeking, proud sons of David. Amnon fell in love with his half-sister, Tamar, and permitted himself to be overcome with desire for her. He pretended to be sick and then asked that Tamar wait on him. When she did, he attacked Tamar and violated her. When Absalom heard of this violation, he determined to kill Amnon, which he did at the time of sheepshearing. Through a rape and murder, we see the judgement the Lord brought on David’s house because of his sin! Absalom fled to the king of Geshur and stayed there for three years.

After three years Absalom returned to Jerusalem but was estranged from his father, David. Absalom had shown his contempt for the covenant and was allowed to return to Jerusalem without repenting of the evil he had done. Now Absalom took advantage of this estrangement and planned to seize his father’s throne. He was very deliberate about his plans and sought first to gain the affection of the people. He intercepted people that were seeking advice from the king and told them the things they wanted to hear. When he had gained a large following among the people, Absalom went to Hebron and there proclaimed himself king of Israel. Ahithophel, David’s trusted adviser, went with Absalom and became an adviser for the revolt. David left Jerusalem with his bodyguard and a small contingent of soldiers knowing that he was not only rejected by Absalom, but by the people as well. David felt God’s judgment in all of this. He was deeply hurt because he knew that the people were really rejecting the Lord when they rejected David as their king.

In the meantime, Hushai another one of David’s trusted advisers pretended that he too wanted to join Absalom in usurping the throne of David. Only the Lord used Hushai to offset the advice that Ahithophel gave to Absalom. Ahithophel had also taken a stand against the Lord and His covenant with David. God was going to again restore David to his throne as the chosen king of Israel.

Now the battle with the followers of Absalom began. David sent three commanders with their soldiers to do battle and asked that they deal gently with Absalom if they captured him. This was a weakness on David’s part to not want to deal decisively with the sin of rebellion. When Joab found Absalom hung in the boughs of a tree by his long flowing hair, he killed him.

When David was told of Absalom's death, he went to a room over the city gate and wept for his son. He cried, 'O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!' As David wept for Absalom, we see his real sin in this confrontation. He did not see himself as the head of the covenant and Absalom as the covenant breaker. David allowed himself to be controlled by his self-centered love as a father rather than by his appointment by God as the head of the covenant. He should have insisted that his sons live in obedience to the covenant or face the consequences.

David now prepared to return to Jerusalem. Yet he still did not insist that the followers of Absalom recognize him as the Lord's anointed and the head of the covenant. In this way he did a disservice to Joab by telling Amasa, Absalom's commander, that he could replace Joab. Because David was so keenly aware of the Lord's judgement due to his sin with Bathsheba, he was unwilling to take action against the sins of others. Yet God restored David as the king of Israel. David was back, but there was no inner unity because the people had not confessed their sins before the Lord.

Questions:

1. Who was the sister of Absalom that Amnon loved? (II Sam. 13:1)
2. What happened to Amnon's love for Tamar after he violated her? (II Sam. 13:15)
3. What was David's reaction to the sin Amnon had committed? (II Sam. 13:21)
4. What did Absalom plan to do to Amnon because of his treachery against Tamar? (II Sam. 13:28)
5. What was Absalom's plan when he left Jerusalem to go to Hebron? (II Sam 15:10)

Lesson 9

Israel's Lamp

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

Scripture: II Samuel 21–24

Memory Verse: “But Abishai the son of Zeuriah came to his aid, and struck the Philistine and killed him. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, you shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel.” (II Samuel 21:17)

Lesson Truth: Through His anointed, the Lord is a lamp for His people.

Lesson

In II Samuel 22, we note that David's mighty men said they would no longer allow him to go into battle because he might put out the lamp of Israel. David was the person chosen by the Lord from whose line the Redeemer would come. He was chosen in spite of his sins and served in Israel as the anointed of the Lord. As the lamp of Israel, he declared that the Lord was his lamp.

God appointed David to be the lamp of Israel. David was to be the light that pointed to the Redeemer, Christ Jesus. On the other hand Saul's lamp was extinguished. David learned this after a three-year drought in Israel. He knew that three years of drought was not an accident, so he inquired of the Lord why the famine continued. The Lord told him it was because of Saul and the way he dealt with the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites were an Amorite group that came to Joshua years before in old clothing pretending to be from a far country. No matter what they pretended, Joshua promised them, in the name of the Lord, that they would be servants but they would not be harmed. Saul ignored that promise of Joshua and tried to destroy the Gibeonites. The famine was a judgment against Saul. David understood that promises given in the name of the Lord, cannot be ignored, so he asked the Gibeonites how he could atone for that sin. The Gibeonites asked that they be allowed to hang seven of Saul's descendants before the Lord. David delivered seven of Saul's descendants into their hands. Not only were they hung at Gibeah but they were allowed to hang all through the harvest. This judgement showed that the kingship was forever removed from Saul's house.

The Philistines continued to be a menace to David through most of his reign. A significant battle took place when a Philistine giant, whose bronze spear weighed three hundred shekels, tried to kill David. A mighty warrior named Abishai killed the giant and delivered David. Then David's mighty men showed that they recognized who David really was. They told him they would no longer allow him to go into battle because if he would be killed the lamp of Israel would go out. They recognized that God anointed David as king to point to the real lamp of Israel, the Christ. David also indicated that by faith he knew the real lamp of Israel. He wrote a song of praise to God for deliverance from all his enemies. In that song he called the Lord his Rock, his Shield, his Refuge, and his Redeemer. Because Christ's Spirit lived in David, he too was made righteous before the Lord. By the Spirit of the Lord he became a prophet. He foretold the coming of his great Son, who would be like the morning light in glory. David believed the covenant that God made with him, when He promised that his son would be the Redeemer.

David was a man of faith, yet he had to deal with sin in his life. Near the end of his life he committed a great sin that led to an outbreak of pestilence sent from God. David instructed Joab to number the people. This numbering in itself was not wrong, but to number them for military purposes and depend on military strength rather than on God was a serious sin. As a result of this sin the prophet Gad came to David and gave him three choices from the Lord. The three choices were: Three years of hunger, three months of flight before his

Lesson 10

The Kingdom of Peace

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

Scripture: I Kings 1–4

Memory Verse: “Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: ‘I go the way of all the earth; be strong therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God; to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.’” (I Kings 2:1-3)

Lesson Truth: The Lord establishes the Kingdom of peace.

Lesson

All through his life, as king of Israel, David fought wars to conquer the Lord’s enemies. As it came time for him to die, he anointed his son Solomon as king. This brought a kingdom of peace to Israel, a kingdom that pointed to the Kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

Before Solomon was crowned king of Israel by David his father, another son of David tried to usurp the throne. Adonijah noticed that his father was physically weak and was not able give the proper attention to the needs of the kingdom. He took advantage of this weakness and gathered a group of men who supported him. Adonijah’s group included influential men such as Joab, David’s commander, and Abiathar, one of the high priests. Adonijah, a brother of Absalom, planned to declare himself king in the place of David. He likely knew that the Lord had chosen Solomon as king, but he refused to submit to the will of the Lord. Therefore, Adonijah plotted against Solomon.

Nathan the prophet learned of Adonijah’s plot. He immediately went to Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother, to ask her to go in and remind David of the oath he had sworn to her that Solomon would be king. David assured Bathsheba and Nathan, with an additional oath, that it was the Lord’s decree that Solomon would be king. He then took action by ordering Zadok, Nathan, and Beniah to have Solomon ride on the king’s mule and anoint him king. They were then to blow the trumpet and shout, “Long live King Solomon!” Then Solomon would sit on David’s throne.

Jonathan, the son of Abiathar, notified Adonijah that Solomon was crowned king and sat on the throne of David. He also informed him that David indicated that the Lord chose Solomon to be king. This made Adonijah fear for his life, and he fled to a tent in which the ark of the Lord was kept. He hoped to find protection at the altar even though he had plotted a revolution. But there could be no peace in Solomon’s kingdom if justice was not exercised. Crime had to be punished and the law had to be followed according to the Word of the Lord. Solomon knew that Adonijah continued to plot against him, so he had Adonijah put to death. He was put to death because he did not submit to the one whom the Lord had chosen to be the head of the covenant. Justice was also administered to others who joined Adonijah’s revolt. Abiathar, the priest, was banished from Jerusalem, and Joab was killed at the altar. Solomon knew there could be no peace without justice. Christ Jesus too will judge His enemies when He ushers in His Kingdom of peace.

Solomon went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, and to consecrate his reign as king of Israel to the Lord. The Spirit of the Lord was with Solomon as he went to Gibeon and appeared to him in a dream. In the dream the Lord asked him what could be given to him. Solomon responded by saying he knew that the Lord wanted him to

Lesson 11

The Palace of His Holiness

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

Scripture: I Kings 5–9

Memory Verse: “Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: ‘Lord God of Israel, there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.’” (I Kings 8:22-23)

Lesson Truth: The Lord establishes the palace of His holiness in Israel.

Lesson

Solomon was the king of Israel. The first thing he wanted to do as the king in a time of peace was to build a temple as God’s dwelling place. He knew that David longed to build a place for God to dwell. Solomon knew that the temple, the palace of God’s holiness, would be a sign that God lived among his people.

Solomon made agreements with Hiram, king of Tyre, to have cedars from Lebanon cut and delivered to Jerusalem to be used in building the temple. Hiram had great respect for David and now was ready to help his son, Solomon, in building the temple. In order to harvest the cedars, Solomon drafted thirty thousand men to go to Tyre to cut them. He would send ten thousand at a time to cut cedars for a month. Then he would allow them to come home for two months. In addition, he made one hundred fifteen thousand Canaanites serve as stone cutters and carriers. All the organization needed to build the temple showed the great wisdom God had given Solomon to do this task.

The building of the temple was unique in that the cutting was done before the materials came to Jerusalem. This made it possible for the temple to be erected without the sound of an ax or hammer. The workmen were reminded of the holiness of God as the temple was quietly erected. The Word of the Lord came to Solomon as the temple was being built and assured him that the Lord would live in the midst of Israel. He would keep His Word when he promised that David would have a son to sit on the throne forever. It took seven years to build the temple that was patterned after the tabernacle.

After the temple was built, Solomon began building the royal palace. It took thirteen years to build the palace, which was a structure of magnificent glory. This was not built for Solomon’s personal honor, but for his honor as the king of God’s Kingdom. As the palace was being built the furnishings for the temple were made. They were similar to the furnishings of the tabernacle, only much larger. The two pillars that were in the front of the porch of the temple commanded attention. These pillars were given names meaning: “He confirms” and “In Him is Strength.” They pointed to the promise that this royal rule was forever sure.

The most significant thing happened when the priests carried the ark of God into the Holy of Holies. In the ark were the stone tablets on which the law was written. They placed the ark beneath the cherubs. Then as the priests left the Holy of Holies a cloud filled the temple. The priests were not able to continue the service as the glory of God’s grace was revealed in the cloud. The presence of God in the cloud was an assurance that the Lord would dwell among His people according to His covenant.

Solomon knelt before the people and stretched out his hands toward heaven and prayed. He showed homage to Almighty God, and asked that God would hear His people if they looked to this temple and prayed for

Lesson 12

The Light of the World

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

Scripture: I Kings 10–11

Memory Verse: “Blessed be the Lord your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.” (I Kings 10:9)

Lesson Truth: The world’s only enlightenment is the revelation of the Lord’s grace in the Christ.

Lesson

Solomon ruled a kingdom of peace in Jerusalem. As long as he lived by the light of the revelation of the Lord’s grace, he was a light to the world. It was known throughout the world that Solomon received his wisdom from the Lord. The queen of Sheba recognized that the Lord was the source of Solomon’s great wisdom. It is sad that Solomon began to trust in his own wisdom and insight and not in the Lord’s grace. Therefore ten tribes would be taken from him.

The Bible gives us the story of the queen of Sheba as evidence of the glory and wisdom of Solomon’s kingdom. After this queen heard of Solomon’s wisdom, she traveled to Jerusalem so she could hear and see for herself, if what she heard was true. Her testimony after she heard Solomon was that she had not been told half of what she observed. As a result, she praised the Lord who had obviously blessed Solomon and placed him on the throne of Israel. She concluded that the Lord must truly love Israel to give them such a king. This conclusion was correct, because it was the eternal love of Israel, for Christ’s sake, that moved the Lord to give Israel a king that pointed to the rule of Christ.

We do not know if the queen of Sheba became a believer and submitted her heart to the Lord’s grace. But we do know that she saw in Solomon the peak of the civilization of that day. He was at the summit of the culture of his time. He did have more wealth and possessions than any king on earth. The reign of Solomon certainly pointed to the time when Christ Jesus shall reign and give the entire earth to those who belong to Him, to use for God’s honor. Yet Solomon did not escape the danger of his wealth.

It was tragic that Solomon forgot that his wealth and his wisdom came from the Lord’s grace. In his pride he took a great many wives from unbelieving countries. He tried to surpass other kings of his day by taking these many wives. But these unbelieving wives became a snare to Solomon as they convinced him to be tolerant of the gods from other countries. It was likely that these women came to Solomon with flattery and lies asking him if such an enlightened leader as he, could appreciate the progress of other nations. The truth was that Solomon’s heart did not remain loyal to the God of David. He was willing to build high places for idol gods, so the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the God of Israel. Solomon who had been so near to the Lord; now drifted far away from Him.

Solomon had broken the Lord’s covenant. For the sake of the Lord’s grace over His people, Solomon and his house would have to be rejected, just as Saul had been rejected years before. The Lord told Solomon that the kingdom would be taken away from him, and given to his servant. Yet the Lord remained true to His covenant with David. God promised that David would always have a son to sit on his throne. Because of this promise God allowed the house of David to continue to reign over one tribe. God also showed His grace toward Israel

