

Promise and Deliverance Student Workbook

Volume 10
Level 1

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.

The Power of Grace in a Time of Judgment

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 52

Scripture: II Kings 21; II Chronicles 33

Memory Verse: “Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.”
(II Chronicles 33:13b)

Lesson Truth: The Lord showed the power of His grace to king Manasseh. This happened when Manasseh was carried away as a prisoner.

Lesson

Do you know what God’s grace is? It is His favor to sinners. He shows His favor even when we do not deserve it. His favor is free. God showed the power of this free favor to king Manasseh. He did this when Manasseh was a prisoner. Manasseh was sorry for his sins when God showed His grace. Still Manasseh’s sins caused the people of Judah to forget God.

Manasseh became king when he was only twelve years old. The story of Manasseh is sad. He was a very wicked king. He did not obey God like his father Hezekiah. Manasseh brought back the idols that Hezekiah destroyed. He taught the people to worship Baal. Manasseh also taught the people to worship the sun, moon, and stars. This was a very wicked thing to do. God’s people were to worship only God. They were not to worship the things God made.

Manasseh did even more wicked things. He mocked the sacrifices to the Lord. Do you know what he did? He offered his own sons as sacrifices. This was the same thing the godless people did. How could God allow wicked Manasseh to be king? He could allow it because He knew the people’s hearts. God knew that the people wanted to be wicked like Manasseh. One day they would be taken captive because of their wickedness.

God sent the Assyrians to fight His people in Judah. They captured King Manasseh. Do you know what they did to the king? They put hooks in his

nose. They tied him with chains. Then they took him to Babylon. In Babylon God showed Manasseh the power of His grace.

In his chains Manasseh thought about God. He remembered the God of his father Hezekiah. Manasseh became humble before God. He begged God to hear his prayer. Then a wonderful thing happened. God heard Manasseh's prayer. God allowed Manasseh to go back to Jerusalem. He allowed him to be king again. God's grace was stronger than Manasseh's sin!

Manasseh was a believer when he died. He trusted in the God of Hezekiah. He trusted in the God of David. Still Manasseh's wickedness was bad for the people. Because of his sins the people worshipped idols. They did not forget the idols Manasseh taught them to worship. The people would be punished for Manasseh's sins and their sins.

Do you know what their punishment was? Their punishment was another wicked king. God gave the people another wicked king. His name was Amon. He was king for only two years. Then, his servants killed him. Later the people killed these servants. The kingdom of Judah was all mixed up. One day the people would be taken to Babylon.

God showed Manasseh the power of His grace. But the people suffered because of Manasseh's sin. The country of Judah needed a sinless king. Christ Jesus came to earth as that sinless king. He won the victory for Judah. Christ Jesus also won the victory against sin for you and me. Do you put your trust in Jesus?

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. (Manasseh – Hezekiah) became king when he was only twelve years old.
2. (Hezekiah – Manasseh) taught the people to worship the sun, moon, and stars.

3. Manasseh offered (a lamb – his sons) as sacrifices on the altar.
4. God sent the (Israelites – Assyrians) to fight Judah and capture king Manasseh.
5. When (Hezekiah – Manasseh) was in chains in Babylon, he became humble before God.

The Need for Reformation by the Spirit

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 53

Scripture: II Kings 22–23; II Chronicles 34–35

Memory Verse: “Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you.” (Deuteronomy 5:32a)

Lesson Truth: King Josiah served the Lord. He obeyed the law. He taught the people to obey the law. Yet the people needed the Spirit of the Lord Jesus in their hearts.

Lesson

Josiah became the king in Judah. He was only eight years old. He became king after his father Amon. His father Amon was very wicked. His grandfather Manasseh was very wicked. Josiah was different. He was a very good king. Josiah wanted to serve the Lord.

Josiah’s grandfather brought idols into the temple. His father worshipped these idols. Now Josiah wanted the people to serve the Lord. He put the idols out of the temple. Josiah also decided to repair the temple. He wanted the temple to be beautiful. He wanted the temple to honor the Lord. Josiah asked the people to bring gifts to repair the temple.

There was a man who wrote Josiah’s letters. His name was Shaphan. Josiah told Shaphan to bring the gifts from the people to the high priest. The high priest was Hilkiah. Hilkiah gave the gifts to the workers to repair the temple. Then the temple would honor the Lord.

Hilkiah told Shaphan something wonderful. He told him that he found an old book in the temple. It was the Book of the Law. This was the Book of the Law that God gave to Moses. It was a very important book. God wanted the king and the people to read this book often. God wanted them to know the law. For many years no one had read the Book of the Law.

Hilkiah told Shaphan to show this book to King Josiah. Shaphan read the Book of the Law to the King. Do you know what King Josiah did when he heard the book? He tore his clothes in sorrow. He was sorry because

he knew that God's people had broken the law. He knew that God would punish the people who broke His law. What could Josiah do?

King Josiah wanted to ask the Lord what to do. He sent his officials to ask Huldah the prophetess for a word from the Lord. Huldah told the king that the Lord would punish Judah. This punishment would come after Josiah died.

Josiah continued to destroy idols. He destroyed images and altars that his wicked grandfather made. King Josiah could destroy the idols, but he could not change the hearts of the people. Only Christ Jesus can change hearts. Only Christ Jesus can send His Spirit to live in peoples' hearts.

Good King Josiah did another great thing. He kept the Passover feast. The Passover helped the people remember. They remembered that the angel of death passed over. The angel of death passed over homes that had blood on the doorframes. This happened before the children of Israel left Egypt. The blood on the doorframes was the blood of a lamb.

The Passover that Josiah kept did not keep Judah from harm. The king of Egypt killed Josiah. The blood of lambs no longer took away people's sins. Only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can pay for sins. The Lord Jesus is our Passover Lamb. He paid for our sins!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. Josiah was only (twenty – eight) years old when he became king of Judah.
2. Josiah asked (the people – the high priest) to bring gifts to repair the temple.
3. (Shaphan – Hilkiah) the high priest found the Book of the Law.

4. King (Manasseh – Josiah) tore his clothes in sorrow when he heard the words of the Book of the Law.

5. Only the blood of (a lamb – the Lord Jesus Christ) can pay for our sins.

Fading Light

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 54

Scripture: II Kings 24–25

Memory Verse: “The Lord is good to those who wait for Him.”
(Lamentations 3:25a)

Lesson Truth: The reign of David and the temple of Solomon were like a light in Jerusalem. That light went out when David’s house was carried away captive. God brought new light to His people when Jesus came.

Lesson

The words of the title of this lesson are fading and light. Fading means to slowly go away. Light helps us see things. King David was a light to God’s people. Solomon’s temple was a light to the people. The temple and King David helped the people to see and understand God. Our lesson today is sad. It tells about the light of David’s house going out.

Do you know what happened? The king of Egypt beat good king Josiah in battle. Later the king of Babylon beat the king of Egypt. The king of Babylon made Jehoiakim king in Jerusalem. He made Jehoiakim give him many treasures. This caused Jehoiakim to become angry. He decided he would not give his treasures to the king of Babylon. Then the king of Babylon sent raiders to steal from Jehoiakim and the people.

The Bible tells us why the raiders came to steal. They came because the Lord wanted them to punish Judah. The Lord wanted them to punish David’s house. Do you know why the Lord wanted to punish David’s house? He wanted to punish them because of wicked king Manasseh. Wicked King Manasseh made the house of David very sinful. The people no longer listened to the Lord or His prophets. The Lord would allow them to be taken as captives.

The king of Babylon put his soldiers around Jerusalem. They did not let anyone bring food into the city. At last King Jehoiachin gave up. He was taken to Babylon. The princes and the craftsmen were also taken to

Babylon. It was a bad dark time in Judah. The light of David's house no longer shone in Jerusalem. Did God forget His promise to David? No, He did not. God would keep faithful people even in Babylon. Christ Jesus would come as a new light to God's people.

Now Zedekiah was made king in Jerusalem. He did not listen to the prophet Jeremiah. He did not obey the king of Babylon. The king of Babylon sent his soldiers to Jerusalem again. Once again, they guarded around the city. They did not allow any food to get into Jerusalem. The people became very hungry. Then Zedekiah tried to run away. He ran to the plains of Jericho. There the Babylonians caught him. They did terrible things to Zedekiah. They made him watch when they killed his sons. They plucked out Zedekiah's eyes. They burned the temple and the king's palace. It was a bad dark time in the land of Judah.

Most of the people had been carried away captives. Jerusalem had been destroyed. It seemed that this was the end of David's house. But it wasn't. God gave his captive people a sign. He had the king of Babylon take King Jehoiachin out of prison. The believers knew this was a sign from the Lord. They knew the Lord had not forgotten His promise to David. God would make a new covenant with David's house. Christ Jesus would come from David's line. He would be the new light in Jerusalem. He is the Light of the World. He is our Light!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The light of (David's – King of Babylon's) house was going out in Jerusalem.
2. Raiders came to the land of Judah because (the Lord – Jehoiachin) wanted to punish Judah.
3. King Zedekiah did not listen to the prophet (Jehoiakim – Jeremiah).

4. The (Men of Judah – Babylonians) took out Zedekiah's eyes.

5. Christ Jesus came as the new (darkness – light) of David's house and the world.

A Kingdom Not of This World

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 55

Scripture: Daniel 1–2

Memory Verse: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His.” (Daniel 2:20b)

Lesson Truth: The king of Babylon had a strange dream. Daniel told him the meaning of the dream. The dream told about the coming of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesson

Do you know what a kingdom is? A kingdom is a country ruled by a king. We want to learn about the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus. The Kingdom of the Lord Jesus is in people’s hearts. It is not a place in the world. God told the king of Babylon about the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus. He told about this Kingdom in a dream. The king did not know what his dream meant. God told Daniel what the king’s dream meant. Daniel told the king.

God’s people no longer lived in Judah. They were captured and taken to Babylon. But God did not forget His people. God sent prophets to His people in Babylon. Daniel was one of God’s the prophets in Babylon. Daniel and his three friends served God in Babylon. Daniel and his friends were chosen to serve the king of Babylon. They had to learn how to serve the king. The king wanted them to eat his fancy food. Daniel and his friends thought it was wrong to eat the king’s food. They wanted to eat food that God’s servants eat.

Daniel asked the man in charge if he and his friends could eat only vegetables. The man in charge agreed to test them. He allowed them to eat only vegetables for ten days. Do you know what happened? God took care of Daniel and his friends. They looked stronger and healthier than the ones who ate the king’s food. God always takes care of His people. God also gave Daniel and his friends a lot of wisdom. They were wiser than the wise men of Babylon.

One night the king had a dream. It was such a strange dream. It made the king afraid. In the morning he could not remember his dream. He called his wise men and magicians. He asked them to tell him his dream. He also wanted them to tell the meaning of the dream. They told the king this wasn't fair. They said no one could tell him what he dreamed. The wise men wanted the king to tell them his dream, then they would tell what it meant. The king became angry with his wise men. He said they would be put to death. The king's captain came to get Daniel to put him to death. Daniel told the captain that God could tell what the king dreamed. Daniel and his friends asked God to make the dream known. Do you what happened?

God told Daniel what the king dreamed. The captain brought Daniel to see the king. Daniel told the king he dreamed about a huge image. The image had a head of gold. It had a chest and arms of silver. The belly and thighs were of bronze. It had iron legs. And the feet were part iron and part clay. The king then dreamed he saw a stone cut out of a mountain. The stone was cut without hands. This stone crushed the big image. It became bigger and bigger. Finally, it filled the whole earth.

Daniel then told the king what the dream meant. It meant that there would be great kingdoms in the world. The stone would crush these great kingdoms. Do you know what the stone stood for? It stood for the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ will crush all the other kingdoms. It will take the place of all other kingdoms. Just think! You and I are part of that Kingdom.

The king of Babylon knew that God showed Daniel his dream. He knew that the meaning of the dream was true. He made Daniel the ruler of Babylon. Daniel's friends were also made rulers. Daniel and his friends served God in Babylon.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God's people no longer lived in the land of (Judah – Babylon).
2. (David – Daniel) was one of God's prophets in Babylon.

3. Daniel and his friends wanted to eat only (the king's food – vegetables).
4. God told (Daniel – David) what the king dreamed.
5. The (head of gold – stone) stood for the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Power of Grace in Babylon

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 56

Scripture: Daniel 3

Memory Verse: “The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” (Psalm 34:7)

Lesson Truth: God saved Daniel’s three friends from the fire in the furnace. He showed His grace in Babylon.

Lesson

The country of Babylon had a king. His name was Nebuchadnezzar. He was very proud. He was proud because he captured many nations. He was proud because of his power. This king wanted everyone to praise him for his power. He forgot that he would not have power unless the Lord gave it to him. Do you know what he did to show off his power? He made a huge image. The image was about ninety feet tall. The king said everyone had to bow down to his image. They had to bow down when they heard the music of instruments. Do you know what would happen if someone did not bow down? The king said he would throw them into a fiery furnace.

Nebuchadnezzar thought he could make everyone praise Babylon’s power. He forgot that only God is all-powerful. The king was going to see the power of God’s grace. Do you know what happened? Three of Daniel’s friends did not bow down to the king’s image. They believed it was wrong to bow to an image. They were servants of the God of heaven. They would only worship their God. Everyone bowed down to the king’s image. But Daniel’s friends remained standing. Some men who did not like Daniel’s friends told the king.

The king called Daniel’s friends. He said he would give them another chance. They had to bow to the image when they heard the music. These men of God told the king they did not need another chance. They said they would never bow to an image. They would worship only God. Then

these men said something wonderful. They told the king that their God could save them from the fiery furnace. But even if He did not save them, they would not worship an image.

This made the king very angry. He told his soldiers to make the furnace seven times hotter than usual. Then he told them to tie up Daniel's friends and throw them into the fire. Do you what happened? The soldiers who threw them into the fire were killed.

Then the king was surprised at what he saw. The three men did not die in the fiery furnace. They walked around in the fire. They were not hurt. But there was something even more surprising. The king saw a fourth man walking in the furnace. His soldiers told him that they only threw three men into the fire. How come the king now saw four men? He said the fourth man looked like the Son of God. Now the king was afraid. He called to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He said they were servants of the Most High God.

Daniel's friends came out of the fiery furnace. The king and his men saw that the fire did not hurt them. They were not burned at all. The king then blessed the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He said that their God was able to keep them from being hurt by the fire. The king made a new rule. He said that no one might say anything against the God of Daniel's friends. They would be put to death if they spoke against this God. The king said there is no other God that could save like this. The king knew that God was great. But still, he did not believe that God was the only true God.

We know that God can do all things. God saved His servants from the fiery furnace. He will save all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The name of the king of Babylon was (Shadrach – Nebuchadnezzar).
2. The king of Babylon was very (proud – humble).

3. The king wanted everyone to bow down to (the king – an image).
4. (The king – Daniel's friends) did not bow down to the image.
5. The king was surprised to see (three – four) men in the fiery furnace.

The Sovereignty of Israel's God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 57

Scripture: Daniel 4

Memory Verse: “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.” (Psalm 115:3)

Lesson Truth: God is the supreme ruler of the world. He made King Nebuchadnezzar humble. He showed His grace in Christ. He allowed the king to keep his kingdom.

Lesson

The title of our lesson tells about God's sovereignty. Sovereign means the ruler. God is the only ruler of the world. God controls everything in the world. He made the proud king of Babylon humble. He made this king eat grass like an animal.

The king of Babylon had a dream. It was a very strange dream. The dream made the king afraid. He was afraid because he did not know what the dream meant. The king called for the Babylonian wise men. He asked them to tell the meaning of the dream. But they were also afraid and could not tell the meaning. Then the king thought about Daniel. He knew that Daniel had the Spirit of God in him. The king believed that Daniel could tell the meaning of his dream.

The king dreamed he saw a huge tree. The tree was so big it could be seen all over the world. The people of the world could eat its fruit. Animals rested in its shade and birds sat in its branches. Then the king dreamed he saw an angel. The angel from heaven cried out. He cried out to cut down the tree. But the stump had to be left standing. The king then dreamed that the stump had to be tied up with a band of iron and bronze. The stump would start to act like an animal. It would eat grass and it would become wet with dew. Isn't this a strange dream?

God told Daniel what the dream meant. Daniel was afraid of what it meant. He wished it were against the king's enemies. But it wasn't. It was

a dream about things that would happen to the king. The big tree was a picture of the king. The king's kingdom could be seen all over the world. This kingdom would be cut down like the tree was cut down. The king would be like the stump. He would be tied like an animal. He would eat grass like an animal. The king would be wet with the dew. His hair would look like feathers. And his fingernails and toenails would be like claws. The king would stay like an animal for seven periods of time. He would stay that way until he knew that God is the ruler of the world.

The king was first ready to listen to the message of the dream. Then he became proud again. He walked about his palace and boasted. He boasted about the great Babylon that he built. When he was talking, the things in the dream happened to him. He acted like an animal. The king stayed that way until he honored God's name.

The king blessed the name of the Most High God. He knew that God's Kingdom is everlasting. He knew that Daniel's God rules the world. It is sad that the king did not confess that God is the only true God. God talked to the king of Babylon in a dream. He made him humble. God showed His grace to the world. He kept the world safe until Jesus came. You and I must also remember that God is the ruler of the world.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The king of (Babylon – Moab) had a dream.
2. The king dreamed he saw a huge (image– tree).
3. God told (David – Daniel) what the king's dream meant.
4. The big tree was a picture of (the king – Daniel).

5. The king knew that (Nebuchadnezzar's – Daniel's) God ruled the world.

Like a Potter's Vessel

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 58

Scripture: Daniel 5

Memory Verse: “You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.” (Psalm 2:9)

Lesson Truth: God destroyed the kingdom of Babylon. He showed His grace because He would not allow them to dishonor His name.

Lesson

Psalm two tells about God dashing nations to pieces. He dashed them to pieces like a potter’s vessel. Why would God break a nation to pieces like a flowerpot? He would do this because He would not allow them to dishonor His name. God broke the nation of Babylon to pieces like a potter’s vessel.

Babylon had been a great kingdom. It is sad that the people were very proud. The kings led them to worship men. God would not allow the Babylonians to worship men. God would end the kingdom of Babylon. This is what happened! A man named Belshazzar was king. He was very proud and very wicked. The Persians had conquered part of his kingdom. He wanted to show his officials that he wasn’t afraid. He decided to have a big dinner party. He would drink wine for all of them to see. He thought God or the Persians could not hurt him!

The king was at the dinner party. He and his officials drank their wine. Then the king did something very bad. He told his servants to bring the vessels from the temple in Jerusalem. He and his officials would drink wine from these vessels. These vessels were used to worship the God of heaven. They were not to be used for a wine feast. The king showed no respect for the things of the Lord. He was ready to dishonor the God of the covenant.

All of a sudden, a strange thing happened at the party. A hand wrote some words on the wall. The king and his officials stopped drinking. The king became afraid of this strange hand. He quickly called for his wise men. He asked them to read the words on the wall. The king also wanted to know their meaning. But the wise men could not read the words. They did not know the meaning. The king became so afraid that his knees knocked together. He trembled all over.

The queen found out that the king was afraid. She went to the king's party. She reminded the king that there was a man of God in Babylon. This man of God was Daniel. She knew the Spirit of God lived in Daniel. She reminded the king that Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream. He could tell the meaning of the writing on the wall.

The king sent for Daniel. He told Daniel he would give him gifts if he could read the writing the wall. Daniel said he did not want any gifts. Still, he would tell the king the meaning of the writing! Then Daniel read the words. He told the king the words meant that his kingdom would be destroyed. His kingdom would be destroyed because he dishonored God. God would not allow the king to treat the vessels from the temple as ordinary cups. These vessels were to honor the God who gave the king air to breathe.

The king did honor Daniel. But that honor did not put off the destruction of Babylon. That very night the Persians attacked Babylon. King Belshazzar was killed. This was the end of the kingdom of Babylon. God showed His grace. He would not allow the Babylonians to dishonor His name. Now the hope for the Kingdom of Christ Jesus would remain alive. It would live in other kingdoms until Jesus came to earth.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God broke the nation of (Israel – Babylon) to pieces like a potter's vessel.
2. King (Belshazzar – Nebuchadnezzar) gave a big party where he drank wine for all to see.

3. The king told his servants to bring (gold – vessels) from the temple in Jerusalem.
4. The king and his officials saw a hand write on (a tablet – the wall).
5. The writing meant the kingdom of Babylon would be (saved – destroyed).

Worshipping the Name of the Lord

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 59

Scripture: Daniel 6

Memory Verse: “I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.” (Daniel 6:26a)

Lesson Truth: God saved the worship of His Name when he saved Daniel from the lions.

Lesson

The story today is about Daniel in the lions’ den. It is also about keeping the worship of God’s name alive. The princes of Persia made a law that no one might pray to God. God could not allow this law to stand. God saved Daniel from the lions. He also saved the worship of His name. This is what happened.

The Medes and Persians conquered Babylon. They made Darius king over this part of the kingdom. Darius decided to use one hundred twenty governors to help him rule. He set three presidents over the governors. One of these presidents was Daniel. Daniel had God’s Spirit in him. Because God’s Spirit was in him, his work was excellent. The king thought about making Daniel the chief president. This made the other presidents and governors jealous. They tried to find something wrong with Daniel’s work. They wanted to make trouble for him. But they could not find anything that Daniel did wrong.

The governors decided they would have to find another way to make trouble for Daniel. They knew that he prayed to his God every day. They decided to ask the king to make a law about prayer. The law would allow people to pray only to the king. If people prayed to anyone but the king, they would die. They would be thrown into a den of hungry lions. The governors thought that this would get Daniel into trouble. They got the king to pass this terrible law. It became a law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot change.

Daniel knew about this terrible law. He also knew that he had to honor God's name. How terrible if people were not allowed to pray to God for thirty days! Daniel decided to honor God's name. He went home and opened his windows toward Jerusalem. Then he kneeled down and prayed to God. Three times that day he kneeled to pray.

The governors went right to the king. They reminded the king of the law about prayer. Then they told the king that Daniel prayed to God and not to the king. Now the king felt bad about the terrible law. But it was a law he could not change. So, he commanded his soldiers to throw Daniel into the den of lions. He told Daniel that the God Daniel served would be able to keep him safe from the lions.

The king could not sleep that night. He did not eat anything. The king just walked all night wondering what happened to Daniel. Early the next morning he rushed to the lions' den. He called out to Daniel, "Has your God been able to save you from the lions?" (Daniel 6:20). Daniel then told the king what happened. He said, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so they have not harmed me" (Daniel 6:22). The king had Daniel taken out of the lions' den. Now he knew that Daniel's God was the God of all the earth.

The king then told his soldiers to bring the governors who plotted against Daniel. He commended them to be thrown with their families into the lions' den. The hungry lions tore them apart before they reached the ground. Then the king made another law. It was far better than the first one. This law said that all the people of his kingdom had to fear and tremble before Daniel's God. The king also said the Kingdom of Daniel's God would never be destroyed. God did save Daniel from the hungry lions! He also showed that people must always be allowed to worship God in prayer!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. King (Darius – Daniel) decided to use one hundred twenty governors to rule the kingdom.

2. Because (Darius – Daniel) had the Spirit of God in him, his work was excellent.
3. Daniel prayed to God (five – three) times on the day that the king's terrible law was passed.
4. It was (Daniel – Darius) who could not sleep after Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.
5. God saved (the governors – Daniel) from the hungry lions in the lions' den.

The Temporary Restoration of the Lord's House

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 60

Scripture: Ezra 1–6

Memory Verse: “And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the Lord made them joyful.” (Ezra 6:22a)

Lesson Truth: The temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem. God lived among His people in the temple. This pointed to the coming of Jesus. His Spirit would live in the hearts of His people.

Lesson

God's people sinned against Him. That is why they were carried away as captives. The prophet Jeremiah said they would be captives for seventy years. The seventy years were now over. God was going to allow His people to go back to Jerusalem. In Jerusalem they would build a new temple. The temple was a sign that God lived with His people.

God used the king of Persia to bring His people back to Israel. This king's name was Cyrus. The prophet Isaiah told about Cyrus years before. Isaiah said that Cyrus would tell God's people to go back to Jerusalem. He would tell them to build a new temple. It happened just like God's word said it would. It happened the first year Cyrus was king.

Cyrus sent an announcement to his whole kingdom. He said that the God of heaven had given him his kingdom. He also said that God told him to build a new temple in Jerusalem. This temple would be God's house. The people could worship God's name in the temple. Cyrus asked God's people to go to Jerusalem to build the temple. He told the people of Persia to give gifts to God's people. These gifts would help them pay for the temple.

God's Spirit worked in the hearts of His people. His Spirit caused many of them to want to go back to Israel. They wanted to build a new temple. They wanted to worship God again. King Cyrus gave them the vessels from the first temple. Nebuchadnezzar had taken these from Solomon's

temple. Now Cyrus wanted them to be put back into the Lord's house. It all happened just like Isaiah said it would. Do you know what God's people did soon after they got back to Jerusalem? They gathered to worship God. The leaders built an altar to offer burnt offerings. They wanted to follow the laws of Moses.

They offered burnt offerings and sacrifices. Then they started to build the temple. The workmen laid the foundation. The people shouted for joy when they saw the foundation. Only those who remembered Solomon's temple did not shout. They began to weep. They knew the new temple would not be as beautiful as Solomon's temple. This was sad because they did not look ahead. They did not understand that the temple would not be the Lord's house forever. This temple pointed to Christ Jesus. Jesus would send His Spirit to live in the hearts of His people. In that way God lives in peoples' hearts and not in a temple made of stone.

The Samaritans lived in Israel. They were a mixed race. They were part Jewish and part strangers. They wanted to help build the temple. The leaders of God's people could not allow them to help. The Samaritans did not keep the covenant. Then the Samaritans decided to try to harm God's people. They tried to keep them from building God's house. This made the work on the temple stop for fourteen years. But the people did build their own houses.

God then sent Haggai and Zechariah to warn the people. The prophets urged the people to trust God to help them build the temple. God also directed Darius to help His people. Darius was the king of Persia at this time. Darius searched the books of Persia. He found the announcement that Cyrus made years before. He told the people of his kingdom that God told Cyrus to build the temple in Jerusalem. With God's help the temple was built. Now God's people had to learn not to trust in the temple. They had to understand that the temple was just for a while. The temple pointed to Jesus whose Spirit would live in the hearts God's people.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God sent the king of (Babylon – Persia) to bring His people back to Israel.
2. King (Cyrus – Darius) said that God told him to build a new temple in Jerusalem.
3. Cyrus wanted the (altar – vessels) to be put back into the Lord's house.
4. Jesus would send His Spirit to live in the (temple – hearts of His people).
5. The (Samaritans – Jews) were a mixed race who tried to harm those building the temple.

The Law Reinstated

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 61

Scripture: Ezra 7–10

Memory Verse: “Now therefore, make confession to the Lord God of your fathers, and do His will.” (Ezra 10:11a)

Lesson Truth: Ezra taught God’s people to obey the Law of the Lord again. They could not be righteous if they broke God’s Law.

Lesson

Do you know what it means to reinstate? It means to bring something back that people have forgotten. God’s people had forgotten the Law. They no longer obeyed God’s Law. These were the people who came back to Israel from Babylon. They were the ones who built the new temple in Jerusalem. God wanted His people to obey His Law. He told Ezra to go to Israel and teach the people to obey His Law.

Ezra was a priest who lived in Babylon. He Loved God’s Law. Ezra heard that the people in Israel had forgotten God’s law. He asked the king of Persia if he could go back to Israel. Ezra wanted to help the people to honor God’s Law. He knew they could not be righteous before God if they broke the Law. God made the heart of the king of Persia be kind to Ezra. He gave Ezra a special letter. This letter told God’s people they could go back to Israel with Ezra. The letter also told the governors in Israel to help Ezra. The king also gave Ezra gold and silver and other gifts. God touched the heart of the king of Persia. That is why he was kind to Ezra.

God kept Ezra and his group safe on the way to Jerusalem. They offered burnt offerings when they came to Jerusalem. They also brought the gold and the silver to the temple. Then some leaders came to Ezra. They told him the people had disobeyed God’s Law. Do you know how they disobeyed the Law? The men took unbelieving girls to be their wives.

These girls were from other countries. It was bad for the people to break God's Law.

Ezra felt very bad when the leaders told him about this sin. He tore his clothes. Ezra even pulled hair from his head and his beard. Then he fell on his knees and spread out his hands to the Lord. Ezra then acted like Jesus would act. He took the people's sin as his own. Ezra cried out to God in confession.

Ezra said their sins were higher than their heads. He confessed their sins had reached up to heaven. Ezra knew the people had broken God's law. He knew that they were not to marry unbelieving girls. How could the people be righteous if they broke God's Law?

Now Ezra knew he had to tell the people to obey God's Law. He believed God would be merciful if they obeyed His Law. The people told Ezra they would obey the Law. He told them that they would have to put away their unbelieving wives. God's people listened to Ezra. They sent their unbelieving wives back to their own land. There was real sorrow and crying. They cried because their wives and children were sent away. Even more, they cried because they had sinned against God's law.

God's people had to understand that the covenant was only for Israel. If they would only look forward to the time that Christ Jesus would come. Christ Jesus would make it so everyone who believes could be in the covenant. We should be very happy because Christ Jesus did come. We must always put our faith in Him! That is how God's law was brought back to Israel. The Law was reinstated!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. God's people had forgotten God's (Law – temple).
2. Ezra asked the king of (Judah – Persia) if he could go back to Israel.

3. God touched the heart of the king of (Babylon – Persia) so that he was kind to Ezra.

4. The people disobeyed God's (Law – covenant) when they took unbelieving girls to be their wives.

5. Ezra told the people they would have to put away their (idols – unbelieving wives).

A Witness

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 62

Scripture: Esther 1–10

Memory Verse: “And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” (Esther 4:16b)

Lesson Truth: Mordecai, Esther, and the Jews were witnesses for the Lord in Persia.

Lesson

The book of Esther tells us that God takes care of His people. God took care of His people in the land of Persia. He did this when He made Esther the queen of Persia. Because Esther was the queen, she could ask the king to let her people live.

The king and his nobles had a meeting for many months. After the meeting the king made a big feast. The feast lasted a whole week. At this feast the king and his nobles drank wine. When the king was drunk, he called for his queen. He wanted to show off his beautiful queen, Vashti. Vashti did not want to be foolish. She would not come out when the king was drunk. The king was angry that Vashti would not listen. So, he would no longer allow her to be queen.

The king asked his nobles how he could find a new queen. They told him to bring beautiful unmarried girls to the palace. Then he could choose a new queen from these girls. Then a wonderful thing happened. An Israelite named Mordecai brought his cousin to the palace. His cousin’s name was Esther. Mordecai brought Esther up in his home because Esther did not have a father or mother. Then another wonderful thing happened. The king picked Esther to be his new queen. Yet this was really the way God was going to save His people.

The king had one important nobleman. His name was Haman. The king made Haman the second ruler in the kingdom. Because he was the second ruler everyone bowed to Haman. Everyone bowed except Mordecai.

Mordecai would not bow to a man. He would only bow to the Lord God. Haman hated Mordecai because he did not bow to him. He hated him so much that he decided to kill Mordecai and all his people. Haman got the king to sign a law to put Mordecai and all his people to death. This was terrible because Mordecai's people were God's people. They were the sons of Abraham. They believed the promise of the covenant!

Mordecai asked Queen Esther to help. He asked her to go to the king and beg him to let her people live. But Esther knew the king had a law about anyone coming to see him. The law said that anyone who came when the king did not call would be put to death. They could live only if the king held out his golden scepter. Esther went to the king anyway. She knew she might die because she had not been called. When the king saw Esther, he held out his golden scepter. She was allowed to live. The king asked Esther what she wanted. Esther said she wanted the king and Haman to come to a dinner party. This made Haman very happy. But he hated Mordecai even more. Haman's wife told him to build huge gallows to hang Mordecai.

Then everything started to change. God made it so the king could not sleep. Because he could not sleep, he asked his servant to read some records. He learned that Mordecai once saved his life. In the morning, the king asked Haman the best way he could honor someone. Haman thought the king would honor him. He told the king to have the one he wanted to honor led around the city on the king's horse. The king then told Haman to honor Mordecai that way.

Later the king and Haman went to Esther's dinner party. At her second dinner party she begged the king to save her life. She also begged the king to save the lives of her people. Then she told the king about Haman's wicked plot. The king became very angry and commanded his servants to put Haman to death. He told them to hang Haman on the gallows that he made for Mordecai. The king then honored Mordecai. He became the second ruler in the kingdom. God used Mordecai and Esther to save His people from Haman's plot.

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. The king wanted to show off his beautiful queen (Vashti – Esther) to the noblemen.
2. The king picked (Vashti – Esther) to be his new queen.
3. Everyone bowed to (Mordecai – Haman) the king's nobleman.
4. Mordecai asked queen (Vashti – Esther) to beg the king to let her people live.
5. God used Esther and (Haman – Mordecai) to save His people from a wicked plot.

The Temporary Restoration of the City of God

Reference: De Graaf, *Promise and Deliverance*, Volume 2, Lesson 63

Scripture: Nehemiah 1–13

Memory Verse: “Remember me, O my God, for good!” (Nehemiah 13:31b)

Lesson Truth: Nehemiah led a group to rebuild Jerusalem. This pointed to the time when Christ Jesus would build the Kingdom of God.

Lesson

Temporary means that something is just for a little while. Restoration means to rebuild something that has been broken. The story today is about rebuilding Jerusalem. Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls, but Jerusalem did not last forever. Jerusalem was only temporary. Still rebuilding Jerusalem’s walls helped God’s people. This rebuilding pointed to the Kingdom that Christ Jesus would build. Christ Jesus came to build the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is not temporary. The Kingdom of God is forever!

Nehemiah was an important officer in the king’s court. He had to serve the king’s wine. The king had to trust the man who served his wine. Nehemiah was also a man of Israel. He loved God’s people. He often asked about God’s people in Jerusalem. One day a man told him that the walls of Jerusalem were all broken. This made Nehemiah very sad. Do you know what Nehemiah did when he was sad? He prayed to God. He prayed that God would touch the king’s heart so that the king would allow Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem.

The king asked Nehemiah why he was sad. Nehemiah told the king about the broken walls at Jerusalem. God touched the king’s heart. He told Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem. He even told the governor of Jerusalem to help Nehemiah.

Nehemiah rode around Jerusalem at night. He wanted to look at the broken walls. He was very sad. The walls were broken everywhere.

Nehemiah told the officials of Jerusalem. God also touched their hearts. They agreed to help Nehemiah rebuild the walls. Nehemiah got everyone to help. Both the rich and the poor helped rebuild the walls. Bad people tried to stop them from building. The builders worked with a spear in one hand and a trowel in the other hand. Nehemiah told the people that God was with them.

The Spirit of God was with Nehemiah. So, they finished building the walls. Now the people in Jerusalem would be safe again. They would worship God in Jerusalem once again. But Nehemiah found other problems. The rich people did not help the poor. They made the poor people sell their sons and daughters to pay the taxes. Nehemiah told the people that they had to share with each other. Do you know what happened? God touched the hearts of the people. Then they listened to Nehemiah. They promised that they would share.

Then something wonderful happened. Nehemiah asked Ezra the scribe to read the Law of God to the people. The people cried when they heard the law. They cried because they knew they had sinned. Then Ezra told them not to cry. He told them to remember the blessings God had given them. Later they confessed their sins. And they did another wonderful thing. They remembered the promises God made to them. These promises of God were called the covenant. The people said they would obey the Lord and keep the covenant.

God was with Nehemiah. He was with the people. Because God was with His people it took only fifty-two days to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Now Nehemiah wanted to dedicate the new walls. He gathered choirs to sing. He asked the people to bring a sacrifice of thanksgiving. The new walls were made to keep Jerusalem safe. If they were safe, they would praise and honor God. Later Nehemiah made more reforms. He sent strangers away from the temple. He had the people honor the Sabbath Day. Nehemiah also told the men to put away wives of other nations. In this way the city of God was made new. It should have reminded the people to look for the Kingdom of God. This is the Kingdom that Christ Jesus brought!

Questions

Choose the correct answer.

1. An important officer in the king's court, who served the king's wine was (Ezra – Nehemiah).
2. Nehemiah was sad when he heard that the walls of (Babylon – Jerusalem) were broken down.
3. It was (Ezra – God) who touched the king's heart so he would allow Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem.
4. Nehemiah asked (the king – Ezra) to read the Law of God.
5. The people (cried – rejoiced) when they heard the Law of God.