



EIGHTEEN LESSONS IN “GENESIS”

From “The Salvation Workbook”

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This workbook is also available in individual lesson format at www.callaochristianchurch.org
or in print by special request.

Audio book available at website or by special request as well.

Each lesson ends with questions for review. An answer key is at the rear of the book.

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CHAPTER 1 – Restoring the Biblical Concept

There is much confusion in the church today concerning salvation. Tradition, history, man-made interpretations, etc. have all played into the confusion concerning salvation. Our goal is not to investigate the many ideas of man but to restore the concept of salvation found in the Bible.

The salvation story begins in Genesis and ends in Revelation; the story of saving man's soul is the story of the Bible – it is God's chief concern from Genesis 3 until the final chapter of Revelation. God's love and mercy for man permeates the story in His Word and our proper understanding of it helps us appreciate His love fully.

The salvation story takes different forms throughout the Bible until it is fully established in the New Testament church but the previous forms build up to it; they are not disconnected from it. We will investigate in our study how the salvation story begins in Genesis 3:15 and builds to the resurrection of Christ and the first church service and invitation in Acts 2, and finally conclude in Revelation. Then, we will enjoy a full picture of God's love for us and His (not man's) plan of salvation today!

What you will read in this study might seem foreign to you because it attempts only to be true to the Bible – any idea of man is purposefully left out. It might be the first time you have heard many of these concepts because they are not commonly taught or preached; they are usually reserved for [often fruitless] discussions in colleges and seminaries where nothing more than an intellectual nod is given them. This is a grave

injustice, and God's Word is for all men, and all men have both the privilege and right to hear it fully and without bias.

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter 1:

- 1) There is much _____ in the church today concerning salvation. Tradition, history, and man-made interpretations have all played into this confusion.
- 2) Our goal is not to investigate the many ideas of _____ but to restore the concept of salvation found in the Bible.
- 3) The salvation story begins in _____ and ends in _____.
- 4) God's _____ and mercy for man permeates in His Word and our proper understanding of it helps us appreciate His love fully.
- 5) True or False (Circle one): The salvation story takes different and disconnected forms throughout the Bible; they are independent stories, not related to one another.
- 6) True or False (Circle one): Salvation of man is first mentioned way back in Genesis 3:15.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): The first Christian church service happened in one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), before Jesus' death and resurrection.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): The Bible's plan of salvation might seem foreign because any idea of man is purposefully left out.
- 9) Who is God's Word for? _____
- 10) How should all men hear the Word of God? _____

Congratulations! You have completed Chapter 1, understanding that God's plan of salvation is better than any understanding of man's!

CHAPTER 2 – The Beginning of Salvation

Most people know the basic story – Adam and Eve were created and lived in the Garden of Eden. There were many trees to eat from but there were also two special trees – the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam and Eve they could eat from any tree of the garden except the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; if they ate from that tree, they would surely die (Genesis 2:17).

So Adam and Eve had an ideal life – abundant food (Genesis 2:16), creative and fulfilling work (Genesis 2:15+19), and companionship with both each other and God (Genesis 2:22+3:8). However, there was a tempter lurking about (Genesis 3:1).

Satan approached Eve (called a “serpent” in Genesis 3:1) and immediately questioned God's Word – “Did God really say...” (Also Genesis 3:1). Friends, this has been and remains Satan's #1 tool to cause men to alter or ignore God's commandments. And just like Eve, we have all fell for it from time to time. It is time we stop questioning God's Word!

Eve answered Satan accurately except she added a prohibition God did not say – “you shall not touch it”. Why did Eve do this? Was she forgetful? Doubtful; sin and its physical consequences had not yet entered the world. Rather, Eve was overstating the prohibition because she was already tempted by “the forbidden fruit”. Even today, teenagers, including young women like Eve, are

often tempted greatly by what their parents (in this case, the Lord was Eve's only Father) forbids. We should see this as a direct attack of Satan on ourselves and our children – we should resist the devil and teach our children to do the same! (James 4:7)

Next, Satan flatly denies the penalty and purpose of the fruit of the forbidden tree. Satan said, “You will not surely die...” Then, he offers a false promise, “You will be like God, knowing good from evil.” Satan was sly the first time, questioning God's Word – now having Eve herself questioning God's specific commands – he goes in with an outright lie and false hope. Another one of Satan's favorite tools to this day!

Men used to have to be deceived into false beliefs, idolatry, wickedness, and selfishness – now they just swallow the lie whole. This is much easier to do when God's Word is in question in a person's mind, like it was Eve's. However, if we stand firm on God's Word (like Jesus did when He was tempted by the devil – Matthew and Luke chapter 4), we can resist the devil and his lies!

Finally, Eve rationalizes her choice to sin (Genesis 3:6) – it was good for food (physically speaking), pleasing to the eye (gratifying the flesh), and desirable for gaining wisdom (a lie of Satan, swallowed whole). She took a bite and then gave it to her husband. Adam shows no resistance here; he has no need to be deceived as he just eats the forbidden fruit without second thought. I assume Adam also quickly rationalized his choice to disobey God in his mind (“Well, Eve seems OK, and I don't want to make her mad”) and without second thought dove in. Ladies, always realize the influence you have over your man; God might have put him in charge of the family, but he gave you an overwhelming influence in

his thought process. Use it for good for him and your family, not selfish ambition, or vanity, like Eve!

It was not until Adam ate that “their eyes were opened” (Genesis 3:7). Why did Eve’s eyes not open when she ate first? Simple, Adam and Eve were “one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). When both of them had sinned, the consequences of sin were then fully rendered to both of them. This story also teaches us a valuable lesson here that sin does not necessarily bear out immediate consequence – some sin will not bear out consequence until the Final Judgment! Don’t rely on consequences of somebody else’s gamble with sin to tell you whether or not something is OK – God’s Word alone tells us what is acceptable in God’s sight. “Cause and effect” is a very poor gauge of what is acceptable to God. Too much theology has been misinterpreted based on anecdotal accounts of playing with age-old truths; don’t fall for Satan’s lies!

God “discovers” (of course, He already knows) Adam and Eve’s sin and punishes them for it. However, His first threat is not towards Adam and Eve – it is towards Satan! In Genesis 3:14+15, God curses the serpent’s physical form, and then explains to Satan that a boy born of a virgin woman (“her seed” or “her offspring”) would rise up to defeat him with a fatal blow (“He will crush your head”). This is God’s first threat to Satan, but it is also the first promise to man that His salvation is already in the mind of God! God loves His creation, even when they are faithless (2 Timothy 2:13). From the beginning, God knew man would fall and Jesus would have to come of His own free will to atone for man’s sin (Hebrews 10:12). Having already known that, God made man anyway, because He loved man, and still does! God’s love for man

is not based on guilt, but rather love manifested in a desire to remove guilt from the conscious and fate of man!

It is sorry for so many to see God as a “squelcher of fun” when only He knows as our Creator where our real joy lies – in relationship with Him!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter 2:

- 1) God said Adam and Eve could eat from _____ tree in the Garden, except one.
- 2) God told Adam and Eve if they ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they would surely _____.
- 3) Satan tempted _____. He _____ God’s Word.
- 4) Eve added a _____ God did not say.
- 5) True or False (Circle one): Satan upheld God’s penalty but tried to tempt Eve with the taste of the fruit.
- 6) True or False (Circle one): Adam did not resist Eve; he took the fruit of the forbidden tree and ate it without a second thought.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Eve realized the consequences of sin immediately, even before Adam ate.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): We should depend on God’s Word for what is right and wrong, not somebody else’s experience.
- 9) Who was God’s first threat for? _____
- 10) What Scripture records that God already has the salvation of man in mind? _____

BONUS QUESTION:

11) Where does our real joy lie? _____

Congratulations! You have completed Chapter 2, understanding that God has had the salvation of man in his mind from the start!

CHAPTER 3 – GOD WORKS ON HIS PROMISE TO BRING A SAVIOR

As we read in Genesis 3:15, God promised Satan’s defeat through a Savior (“Messiah” in Hebrew, “Christ” in Greek, translates to “Savior” in English). Adam and Eve both heard Satan’s curse as well as their own, so although they suffered the terrible fate of being cast out of the garden as well as other troubles, they believed on God’s promise by naming their first son, “Cain”. Cain in Hebrew means “striker”. We often think of Cain as a murderer – and he did become one – but Cain’s parents thought their first-born son would be the Messiah as evidenced by his name.

However, just as Adam and Eve was aware of God’s threat to Satan and hoped to fulfill, all the same Satan hoped to stop it so he went right to work corrupting Cain, making him proud, teaching him lies. We’re not told this directly, but Satan never just sits on his hands waiting for his destruction; no, we’re told all throughout Scripture how Satan is always after us, looking for an opportunity to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). All the more so with Cain as Satan did not know whether Cain really was Messiah or not (Satan is not all-knowing); either way, Cain was a man, and Satan was working to corrupt him!

Adam and Eve’s second son as we all know was called “Abel”, his name meaning “useless”. Yes, Adam and Eve named their son “useless”.

Why did they do such a horrible thing? Simple, they thought Cain was going to be Messiah, so they didn't understand the purpose for the second boy. Nonetheless, Abel was not corrupted (though we're sure like all men he was not perfect) by Satan, and was shown to offer the proper sacrifice unto God (Genesis 4:4). Jesus honored him by calling him "a prophet" (Luke 10:50-51). God was obviously concerned for Abel, even when his parents were not, as God stated that Abel's "blood calls to me from the ground" (Genesis 4:10).

Somehow Cain persuaded Abel to go out in to a field. We can only assume that Cain tricked Abel into thinking that he was going to buy a proper blood (i.e. unblemished animal) sacrifice from Abel. Of course, Cain decided to kill Abel out of jealousy instead.

Obviously, Cain was not going to be Messiah, even though he had been named and risen up to believe that he was "predestined" to this course. This goes to show that the faith of our parents, nor our name, nor anything will determine the proper course of our lives than a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17) before God (as Abel had), worshipping Him in the manner He expects (Genesis 4:3-5), and living a life continuously faithful to Him (1 Corinthians 4:1+2).

Cain is cast out and his descendants fill the earth with worldly pursuits (Genesis 4:12-22). It is no surprise that a people void of God and filling their lives with worldly things would excel at worldly things so we should not marvel at Cain's descendants' progress. They also excelled in their wickedness, contributing significantly to the reasons for the Great Flood ten generations later in Noah (Genesis 6-9). Men without God might succeed in this temporary life, but to lose their soul? (Matthew 16:26)

Adam and Eve bore their third son and name him, “Seth”, which means “substitute”. Eve states that Seth is a substitute for Abel, not Cain, who she now recognizes was righteous in God’s sight (Genesis 4:25+26). She again hopes that Seth is Messiah, but God did not specifically say (yet) who in her seed would be Messiah, only that from her seed would come Messiah. God does bring Messiah through Seth’s line, but it was not Seth himself. Satan, in the meantime, works to corrupt Adam and Eve’s children in general, as he is always in the business of doing. Apparently he succeeds, as in through their lines only Enoch, seventh generation from Adam, is mentioned to be one who walked with God and was then no more (Genesis 5:22). It is interesting that Enoch did not begin this “walk with God” until he was 65, after the birth of Methusaleh (grandfather of Noah and the longest living man ever). Sometimes parenthood changes a man into a father, and more importantly, a godly one. Enoch is mentioned in Jude 13-15 as a prophet, preacher of repentance, which indicates most of his contemporaries (also his relation) were already corrupt, likely intermarrying with Cain’s descendants (also relation, but much more distant now), and following after the devil’s temptation, even as their matriarch Eve did way back in the garden.

Through Noah, tenth generation from Adam, God would bring judgment to the world and its rampant sin. In just ten generations (of whom Adam himself was alive for most of it, living 930 years), mankind had sinned, sinned some more, and now had become so numerous and so sinful that repentance through preaching was no longer effective at all (after Enoch, Noah would attempt to preach repentance again for a long time, but there was absolutely zero converts). Noah alone was righteous in God’s sight (Genesis 6:8) so God decided to preserve the human race and Messiah’s line through his three sons and their wives.

Noah's flood has a very important New Testament application to it which we will review in detail in the next chapter. God's plan of salvation is not "divorced" from Old Testament to New, but rather the whole story of God in the Bible serves to arrive at Christ, establish the new covenant, and now save men completely from their sin!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter 3:

- 1) God promised a _____ to defeat Satan and bring forgiveness of sins to men.
- 2) Cain's name means _____.
- 3) Abel's name means _____.
- 4) Adam and Eve believed Cain to be the _____ and Abel to be _____.
- 5) True or False (Circle one): Jesus called Abel a prophet.
- 6) True or False (Circle one): Cain killed Abel but admitted his guilt before God without hesitation.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Cain's descendants were successful in worldly pursuits.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Seth's name means "substitute".
- 9) Who walked with God and then was no more? _____
- 10) Who did God promise salvation from the flood to? _____

BONUS QUESTION:

- 11) How many generations from Adam until Noah? _____
- 12) How long did Adam live? _____

Congratulations! You have completed Chapter 3, understanding that God was working throughout even the earliest Old Testament stories to bring Jesus in the world even despite Satan's best efforts.

CHAPTER 4 – GOD CONTINUES PREPARATION FOR MESSIAH THROUGH NOAH

Genesis 5, by itself, just seems like one of those long, “boring” genealogies from the Old Testament. However, we learn a great deal about man's “state” from this quick read. We understand that Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5); this means he lived on this earth for about 14% of the earth's total lifespan! We can also ascertain that Adam lived to see much of man's corruption before the flood. Adam lived to see most of God's perfect creation descend into such violence and sin that God would determine to destroy the man he had made (Genesis 6:5-7). We have no record if Adam repented; only that he and Eve begat other children after Seth and then died.

However, God made a promise (Genesis 3:15) that He would bring Messiah into the world, and He found one man Satan had not yet corrupted – Noah (Genesis 6:8). Satan had been working hard in the background, even bringing his fallen angels to intermarry with women and create soulless, inhuman giants both before and even after the flood (Genesis 6:4, Numbers 13:33, Deuteronomy 2:11 & 3:11, etc.).

These giants, Satan's handiwork, would be the cause for God's people to lose faith on more than one occasion, most notably later when

the ten of twelve spies sent into Canaan reported the giants living there (Numbers 13:31-33). This is also why God ordered the complete destruction of certain “peoples” – they weren’t people at all! God wanted Canaan ridden of the Nephilim – those giants – as they were the soulless, inhuman, giant offspring of fallen angels. There was no place for them in the world or the world to come (Deuteronomy 20:16-18).

So after the first incarnation of the Nephilim came to earth (Genesis 6:4), God had enough between men’s sin and Satan’s corruption amplifying the effect. God determined to wipe out all mankind and even the animals. Why the animals? God set forth dominion of man over all the animals (Genesis 1:26), even to the extent that man named the animals (Genesis 2:20). If God would have just smote all the men except Noah, his sons, and their wives, animals would have easily dominated the earth. By saving a “remnant” (2 Kings 19:31, etc. – “remnant” is a concept of how God brings out Messiah and hope even with men in a state of consistent sin) of man AND animal life, balance would be such that man would be able to thrive and dominate as God had originally instructed and predicted – as God never lies.

2 Peter 2:5 tells us that Noah was a “preacher of righteousness”. We know that Noah preached while the ark was under construction, and yet no one – not a soul – repented. Even while God had condemned mankind, and gave Noah and his family hope of salvation through the water (see 1 Peter 3:21; Peter writes how Noah’s salvation through the water is like our baptism today), he had Noah preach to the impenitent in an attempt to change their minds. Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The flood victims heard the Word preached to them but they refused to listen, believe, or repent. How does the old saying go, we can

take a horse to water but we can't make him drink? So as it was with Noah, so it will be when the end of days is near (Luke 17:26).

We know that Noah was five hundred years old when his three sons were born (Genesis 5:32) and he was six hundred years old when the flood waters came (Genesis 7:6). Simple math would lead a person to believe that Noah took one hundred years to build the ark, but we are not actually told that. We do not know when God called Noah to build the ark in the meantime. Although it is reasonable to believe that it would take several years to build the ark, it is highly unlikely that Noah would need one hundred years or that he would have preached that long to the impenitent. Regardless of how long it was, we know that Noah was faithful to God's commands (Genesis 6:22), preached the Word as God always shows mercy on all (2 Peter 2:5), and finally was saved through the waters unto his salvation (1 Peter 3:20-21).

The whole human race started over again with Shem, Ham, and Japheth with their wives (Genesis 8:16-18). God specifically chose Shem to carry the line of Messiah forward (Genesis 9:26). God did not curse the lines of Ham or Japheth as a result; in fact, he instructed all three boys to fill the earth and multiply it (Genesis 8:17)! God did curse Canaan, the one son of Ham, for his sexual misconduct (Genesis 9:25). This is often interpreted to mean the whole race or line from Ham but it was Canaan himself who committed the sin and the sin of the fathers do not transfer guilt to the sons (Ezekiel 18:20, Deuteronomy 24:16).

God kept His promise to continue to work to redeem man through Messiah despite Satan's temptation unto man and his corruption unto his flesh (the Nephilim). The truth is man still wanders from God as a general rule, and yet God is still vying for the repentance of fallen men everywhere (1 Timothy 2:4). We serve a great and merciful God who is also a God of perfect justice and wrath. God shows His perfect justice

in the flood, and His perfect mercy in His Son. God will judge the living and the dead for all they have done (2 Timothy 4:1); the only relevant question is will our sins be remitted – will we appear as white as snow (Isaiah 1:19)? Only with Jesus can our sins be forgiven through His plan of salvation in this dispensation (i.e. age) of grace. Will you submit to Jesus' plan of salvation today, and have your sins wiped away?

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter 4:

- 1) Adam lived about _____% of the earth's total lifespan.
- 2) We have no _____ of Adam and Eve living a godly or ungodly life after they are cast out from the garden; we hope they both did repent and lived for the Lord.
- 3) Among all man's corruption, God found favor in _____.
- 4) The Nephilim were _____, found both before the flood and after the flood in the land of Canaan, the soulless, inhuman offspring of fallen angels and pagan women.
- 5) True or False (Circle one): The majority of animals suffered death in the flood not because of their own wrongdoing but because man was promised to dominate them before and after the flood.
- 6) True or False (Circle one): Noah did not preach to the local people while he built the ark; God had called him and only his family, and nobody else was given the opportunity to repent.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Therefore, God has used preaching in the Old and New Testament times to persuade people to repent.

- 8) True or False (Circle one): The sins of the father do find guilt in their offspring.
- 9) What is a Scripture reference that shows God still vies for the repentance of all men? _____
- 10) In this age of grace, whose plan of salvation saves? _____

Congratulations! You have completed Chapter 4, understanding God's promise of a Messiah was coming no matter what man or Satan did.

BONUS CHAPTER #1 – THE ORIGIN OF PAGAN RELIGION, EASTER, IDOLS, ETC.

In Genesis 10:8, we are told the origin of a particularly nasty individual named Nimrod.

Nimrod, the grandson of Ham (coincidentally, this had nothing to do with the curse of Canaan from Noah in Genesis 9:25), grew to be a mighty king on the earth, establishing the first post-Cain pagan culture after the Great Flood of Genesis 6. This pagan culture was the origin of the great and evil nation of Babylon and also the wicked nation Assyria. The pagan city of Nineveh also had its roots with Nimrod. Nimrod, you might say with a great deal of understatement, “was up to no good.”

Nimrod and his wife Ishtar (Semiramis in some languages, “Easter” is the transliterated form in Phoenician, now her most common name) set themselves up as the first king and queen to be worshipped as “god and goddess.” Especially after Nimrod's death, Ishtar greatly increased the worship of Nimrod as a spirit-god (a disembodied god) and she preached that she would ascend to be with him upon her death.

This pagan worship establishment was so successful that *to this day* their images are worshipped by various names in various ways.

One of the most disturbing elements of this development of pagan worship is Ishtar's Phoenician name, Easter, and all the symbols and worship that have proceeded since. Easter, as we now know her, was the pagan goddess of fertility (If you are ever curious why the Israelites and other nations were always so drawn to idolatry – it was because of the lasciviousness that was encouraged in its false “worship”).

Easter's three symbols of fertility were... an egg, a rabbit, and now what we call an “Easter lily”. Yes, these are the same symbols we use to “celebrate Easter” today, all while being terribly ignorant of their pagan origins.

How did Jesus' resurrection get so tied up with a pagan goddess' name? Throughout the church age, paganism swept into church rituals, traditions, and understandings just as paganism did back in the Israelites' time. Often, such influences would stick around for hundreds of years. At some point, God would raise up people against this terrible mixing of truth and sin, and for a time the association would cease.

Friends, I suggest we drop the Easter moniker. At best, we're supporting an old-as-time pagan religion ignorantly, and at worst, we're doing so deliberately. Let's call Jesus' Resurrection for the truth it is!

Finally, from Nimrod came “Baal” (just as Easter came from Ishtar) – the pagan, mythical “god” we hear so much about in the Old Testament. In the Bible, Baal is likely most famous by Elijah's battle with the false prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 18), where needless to say, Baal did not win (in fact, his prophets were slaughtered).

“Nimrod” and “Baal” would take on other names such as Ra, Horus, Zeus, etc. in various mythologies, but all basically supporting the same old pagan ideas of false worship, lascivious lifestyle, etc. They are all the same!

Baal’s most terrible claim is the origin of “Cahna-Baal”, or “Priest of Baal”, where we get our modern word, “cannibal”. This is because the price a young couple would pay for receiving Baal’s blessing of fertility and the right to worship lasciviously would be to give up their first-born child for sacrifice and to be (you can guess the rest) by the priests, appropriately living up to their name.

You can see Satan at work thoroughly in the above. Nimrod, the first pagan king and idolater after the Great Flood, would influence ALL generations to come with his idolatry, with its lasciviousness lifestyle in the name of “worship”, and ultimately horrible acts such as the priests of Baal. Even the mixing of our common holidays practiced today are mixed in with ancient, pagan mythology that has harmed millions (possibly billions) since the beginning of time.

Babylon, Nineveh, and Assyria were all born from Nimrod. Babylon, as the original city of sin, even has its image used in the book of Revelation as a representation of all sin of all mankind that God is coming to completely destroy (Revelation 17). Nineveh was finally and completely destroyed by God; God cursed also the land of Nineveh that no one would ever build there again. Even thousands of years later, the ruins of Nineveh lay across the river from the present-day city of Mosul. Assyria was used as God’s hand to punish completely the rebellious and idolatrous ten northern tribes of Israel in the days of the Divided Kingdom, but eventually Assyria and the tribes were completely destroyed too (only leaving the two Southern tribes of Israel until Jesus

came). Babylon lives on the hearts of the wicked, testing God, but only to their inevitable doom.

Throughout all this – can you believe it? – God was *still* working on bringing Messiah into the world to save mankind! Satan’s moves were awful and vast, but our God’s plans were mightier and in Jesus, found victory for good over Satan. What good did mankind deserve at this point? If we’re honest with ourselves, none of us are good enough for God, be it a pagan king, an everyday sinner, or a priest of Baal. No matter who we are, we have all fallen short (Romans 3:23) and are in need of God’s mercy (Titus 3:5). Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Cor. 9:15)

Let us each find peace, mercy, and grace in Jesus today!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Bonus Chapter #1:

- 1) Nimrod built the first post-Cain _____ culture after the flood.
- 2) Nimrod’s wife’s name was _____ which translates to _____.
- 3) Their joint establishment of pagan worship was so successful that elements of it are worshipped to this _____.
- 4) The pagan goddess Ishtar’s (“Easter”) three symbols of fertility were a _____, an _____, and an “easter _____”.
- 5) True or False (Circle one): Easter is a harmless name tied to our celebration of Jesus Christ’ resurrection.
- 6) True or False (Circle one): The famous battle between Elijah and the false prophets of Baal can be found in 1 Kings 18. God won!
- 7) True or False (Circle one): “Cahna-Baals” were priests of Baal. They committed horrible atrocities that earned them their name.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Satan is not at work in the above paganism. Man just made it up himself with no outside influence.

- 9) What three cities/nations were all born from Nimrod?
 _____, _____, and _____.
- 10) Even with all this awful sin in the world, who was still working on bringing Messiah (our Savior, Jesus) into the world? _____

BONUS QUESTION: What Bible reference tells us that all have fallen short (i.e. none of us are good enough for God)?

BONUS QUESTION #2: Who alone can give us grace?

CHAPTER 5 – THE TOWER OF BABEL

In Genesis 9:1+7, immediately after the Great Flood, God gives a command to the sons of Noah: “Multiply and fill the earth.” In Genesis 9:19, a prophecy is given that Noah’s sons and their descendants will be “scattered”. This little-known prophecy is fulfilled in Genesis 11 in the city of Babel in their futile attempt to stay together against God’s commands.

Babylon, the future name of “Babel”, would become the foremost city of evil in the Bible. In fact, its evil reputation lives on in the New Testament, by being forever immortalized (in a bad way) as representing the “full cup” of sin of all mankind which will be completely destroyed by God in the last days (see Revelation 17).

Babylon, as it would later be known, had its origin in Babel, the capital city of the land of Shinar, under the leadership of the first pagan king (after the flood, post-Cain’s descendants), Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-12).

We are told in Genesis 11 that the people of Babel came together and decided to build a tower “to heaven” (specifically meaning, “to the sky”) in order that they would not be scattered all over the earth. This was directly against God’s command in Genesis 9:1+7, and so God

already foreseeing (Genesis 9:19) their disobedience, had a plan to scatter them against their will – by confusing the languages of the people present so they could not work together, forcing them to scatter with like-tongued people.

Why was this important? When I was a child, I heard this story, and it was explained a variety of ways. One explanation is that the people were trying to build a tower to heaven itself, in order that they would be gods. Possibly, in their primitive minds, the people of Babel might have thought that possible, though we certainly understand now that would have been a completely futile effort. Since they really could not reach heaven, God could not have been threatened anyway, so this did not satisfy even my child's mind at the time.

Another explanation often given is that by working together, they would no longer see their need for God, so they would ignore him. True enough – this seems to be an issue in our present, globalizing world. However, why would God make such a drastic move to confuse their languages? Why not just send a prophet/preacher, like He did throughout the rest of the Old Testament (Hebrews 1:1)?

No, it would seem the answer is deeper than that. All along we have been studying the Old Testament to understand ONE thing – how God would bring Messiah/Christ/Savior into the world to save men from their sins as He promised in Genesis 3:15. How was this accomplished at Babel?

In Genesis 9:26 forward, God provides the prophecy that Messiah would come through the race of Shem. In order to keep this prophecy, Shem's descendants could not intermix with Ham or Japheth's descendants. This was NOT because Shem's race would be superior; no, this was because in order for the prophecy to be fulfilled, and the signs for who the Messiah would be narrowed down and thus recognizable for all people, Jesus had to come through one people.

It's a simple, logical necessity. This was also true for choosing the Hebrew nation of the race of Shem in Abraham just a chapter later in Genesis to be the specific nation that Jesus would be born through. There was nothing special about the Hebrews; instead, God was narrowing down the line through which Messiah would come, so God's promise would be fulfilled, the prophecies would be fulfilled, and Messiah's coming would be recognizable. It was these very signs through the prophecies that helped both Jew and Gentile realize later that Jesus was the Christ!

So since the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth did not scatter, God did it for them in Genesis 11:5-8. This specifically separated the descendants of Shem from Ham and Japheth so that Messiah's prophecies would be fulfilled as God had said.

Though we have already covered that this did not make Shem's race superior to the others, but merely chosen, we must again address the issue that the Hebrew nation was not superior to the rest of the race of Shem. The Hebrews struggled with sin the same as the rest of the human race – in fact, the vast majority of the Old Testament from Genesis 12 on tells of the Jews failures, culminating in their failure to recognize their own Messiah. No race is superior to another, and being “chosen” of God does not make one morally superior or saved. God's choices of race, nation, etc. were not a commendation to those people; rather, they were all a tool to bless ALL nations! (Genesis 12:3)

The Jews were chosen to be the race through whom Messiah came, but they still needed Jesus like the rest of us (Romans 10:1ff). The race of Shem was not superior because they were chosen; Japheth and Ham's descendants were offered salvation through Jesus all the same (Genesis 12:3, culminating in Acts 8 and 10 respectively with the Ethiopian Eunuch (of Ham – the blacks) and Cornelius (of Japheth – the whites)). The nation of the Hebrews was not superior because Abraham was their earthly ancestor (John 8:39, Matthew 3:9). No, ALL have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) and there is no other name by which we

must ALL be saved (Acts 4:12)! May we never forget the universal need for Jesus!

From this story, we learn that God accomplishes His purpose in separating Shem's race from the others in order fulfill His promises in bringing the universal Messiah, Jesus, into the world. Praise God!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #5:

- 1) In Genesis 9:1+7, God tells the sons of Noah to _____ the earth.
- 2) Babel is the former name of _____, the most famous wicked city.
- 3) Babel's first king was _____, the first pagan ruler after the Flood.
- 4) God confused the people's language so the people would _____.
- 5) True or False (Circle one): The Tower of Babel had nothing to do with God bringing Jesus into the world; it is an isolated story.
- 6) True or False (Circle one): God provided the prophecy that Messiah would come through the race of Shem.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): God chose the race of Shem to be the race through which Messiah would come because the race of Shem was better than the other races.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): God narrowed down the lineage of the Messiah so Jesus would be recognizable at His coming.
- 9) True or False (Circle one): The descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth scattered on their own; language differences were just a natural consequence of their separation from each other over time.
- 10) True or False (Circle one): Only through Jesus can anyone, from any race, anywhere, in any time period, be saved (Acts 4:12).

BONUS QUESTION:

The Jews in Matthew 3 and John 8 said they were saved and chosen of God because Abraham was their father. Who rebuked them?

Congratulations! You have completed chapter five, telling how God narrowed down who Jesus would be born through to be our Savior!

CHAPTER 6 – ABRAHAM

Undeniably, the most celebrated human being in the Old Testament is Abraham. He is mentioned, often multiple times, in twenty-seven books of the Bible. He is noted as the icon of faithfulness, a hero of obedience, and the origin of God's promises after Noah's son Shem to bring Messiah (Jesus) into the world.

Abraham's story begins in Genesis 12. At this point, his name is Abram, meaning "exalted father" in Hebrew. Abram was a rare find in his time, worshipping the one true God even though his father and family were idolaters, worshipping the moon (Joshua 24:2). This rare trait of faith and obedience in the one true God earned Abram chosen to continue God's original promise to bring Messiah into the world (Genesis 3:15).

His future name, given in Genesis 17:5, is Abraham, meaning "Father of a great multitude." God's initial promises to Abraham were three-fold: 1) it was personal ("I will bless you" – 12:2), 2) it was national ("I will make you a great nation" – 12:2), and it was international ("In your seed will all the families of the earth to be blessed" – vs. 3). Indeed, God would make Abram a father of a great multitude, necessitating his name change.

God often changes the name of people when their purpose is expanded. God changed Jacob's name to Israel after Jacob wrestled with the pre-incarnate Christ (Genesis 32:28), and God repeated the promises He made to Abraham to Jacob. God changed the name of Sarai to Sarah to indicate she would be the mother of the seed of promise (Genesis 17:15+16), not just the surrogate mother of Ishmael. Simon's name was changed to Peter (Matthew 16:19), meaning "rock", indicating he would have the keys to the kingdom (the church), as fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

Abraham was already a worshipper of the one true God, but his "faith" (as in simple belief, or intellectual-assent) was not enough. He had to obey God continually, ultimately "peaking" at the obedience he demonstrated towards God by being willing to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:1-19). From that point forward, no fault of Abraham's is listed, and it is for this climactic act of obedience Abraham is canonized in the book of Hebrews' hall of heroes in chapter 11, verses 17-19.

The first commands God gave Abram were significant (and heavy): 1) leave your homeland, 2) leave your family, 3) leave your father (renounce his authority/idol worship), and 4) go to another land (not yet specified). How many of us would be willing to leave our hometown, leave behind our families, forsake our families' values, and not take any of them with us? On top of this, not even know where we are being sent? This author does not presume to have this level of faith though Abraham's example is a model to live up to – and an example of just what God can do if we truly have obedient, believing faith!

In exchange, Abraham would receive rewards for his faithfulness: 1) a family, 2) a nation, 3) a great name, and 4) and land. Abraham's rewards are types, or shadows, or our own in Christ's Kingdom (church) today: 1) a local church family, 2) a single, universal, worldwide "church", 3) the privilege to be called "sons of God", and 4) heaven.

Nonetheless, Abram – like every other human being – had his faults (this lets us know that despite our imperfection, God can and does work with our faithfulness). He took his father, Terah, with him, as well as his nephew Lot, both against God’s express command (Genesis 12:1). Both would cause him delays and problems. Abram lied – twice – to Pharaoh. He lied to Abimelech. He slept with his wife’s servant, Hagar, and produced a child by her that caused problems for both his family and the nation (Israel) to come. Truly, Abram’s sins’ consequences still affect people worldwide to this day, much like Adam’s sin before him.

Nonetheless, Abram’s faithfulness (not perfect obedience, but consistent obedience made complete through God’s grace) resulted in him being the man through whom Messiah would come.

Abram begins his story in a land called Ur of the Chaldees. Ironically, this homeland of his father means, “Fiery Destruction”. Leaving his father’s idolatrous homeland, he escapes God’s wrath. Instead, God calls him to Canaan, which means, “to bow the knee” (as in Canaan’s predicted subservience from Genesis 9:25). The land of Canaan would bow the knee to God’s plan to turn it into the land of Israel, where the vast majority of Old Testament history and the Gospels unfold.

Terah’s (Abraham’s father) name means “delay”. Indeed, by Abram committing his first transgression against God, by taking his father along, Abram is delayed from entering Canaan, instead settling in Haran for several years until Terah passed. Haran means “fruitless.” Indeed, Abram’s time in Haran was fruitless, delaying God’s plan to bring Messiah while Abram tarried around waiting for his father to die. God did not speak to Abram while Abram disobeyed. After Terah died, and Abram moved onto Canaan, he arrived near Sichem (“Place of Strength”) and Moreh (“Place of Instruction”). Here, God provided Abraham His plan to make Abraham a great nation in the land of Canaan.

In gratitude, Abram built an altar to God and sacrificed to Him. This place was called Bethel (“House of God”). From that point, Abram looked for a city whose Builder and Maker was God (Hebrews 11:10). God brought Abraham to Canaan to bring Messiah into the world, for us!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #6:

- 1) Abraham is mentioned in _____ books of the Bible.
- 2) Abraham’s original name was _____, changed in Genesis 17:5.
- 3) Abram’s father was an _____, worshipping the moon.
- 4) God made Abraham _____ main promises. God expected Abraham’s obedience to specific commands in return.
- 5) God changes people’s _____ when He expands their purpose.
- 6) Abraham’s _____ was not complete without obedience, but made complete in Hebrews 11:17-19 with the sacrifice of Isaac.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): God’s commands to Abraham were light and easy; obedience to God does not require effort or sacrifice.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): God’s promises to Abraham are types, or shadows, of the promises given to us by God as Christians.
- 9) True or False (Circle one): Abram had his faults but God, through His grace, used Abraham’s faithfulness to bring about Messiah.
- 10) True or False (Circle one): Abram was from Canaan. He never had to move or leave his family to accomplish God’s purposes.

BONUS QUESTION:

Why did God not speak to Abram while he tarried in Haran?

Congratulations! You completed chapter #6, telling how God called Abraham to be the father of a nation, to ultimately bring our Savior!

CH. 7 – ABRAHAM, Section 2 – TRIP TO EGYPT

The people of Egypt were of Noah's son's Ham. This does NOT mean they were cursed. Remember, it was Noah's grandson Canaan (one of Ham's sons) specifically that was cursed (Genesis 9:25), not all of Ham's descendants. Nonetheless, neither the descendants of Ham nor Japheth could father Messiah, only the descendants of Shem (Genesis 9:26).

So Satan was targeting all of the male descendants of Shem, and after coming to the knowledge that Messiah would now come from the nation of Abraham from that race (Genesis 12:1-3), Satan would now target Abram. If Abram had any sons (like God promised and did occur), then Satan would naturally target them as well.

In this part of the story though, Abram has yet to have any children, so Satan works on trying to get Abram killed. Hence comes his encounters with Pharaoh, Abimelech, the peoples of Gerar, Sodom, and Gomorrah, as well as the battle he would fight to save his foolish nephew's (Lot) life.

Honestly, a lot of these incidents were self-inflicted stupidity that Satan tried to take advantage of. Other times, Satan was the author of the problem. Regardless, let us learn from the life of Abraham that God will work through our mistakes to carry out His plan, but a lot of heartache and delay can be removed if we follow His will to begin with.

At this point in our story, Abram's "on a roll." His father (an idol worshipper – Joshua 24:5), finally died, and Abram moved out of Harran ("fruitless"), where he was not supposed to be. Abram had sacrificed to God, and was finally on his way to Canaan as instructed (Genesis 12:7-8). This was good! Before this, God did not speak to Abram while he disobeyed living in Harran, waiting on his father's passing. This story reminds us when Jesus told a disciple in Matthew 8:21 to "let the dead bury their own dead", when the disciple had asked "to bury his father first" (meaning, wait for his father to die, in order to bury him himself). Jesus was reminding this disciple of Abram's similar error; he was warning this disciple that obeying God's calling was essential to God's blessing. Any excuse is no excuse for obeying God!

However, Abram was quickly distracted. A famine came into the land where Abram was, and instead of believing God would provide through the promises already made, Abram took off for Egypt. If there is any place in the Bible where "not" to go, it seems to be Egypt. The exception of course is Mary and Joseph's trip there to avoid Herod's slaying of the baby boys in Judea (Matthew 2:13-15). This was also to fulfill prophecy (Hosea 11:1).

However, God did NOT tell Abram to go to Egypt; when God wants us to go somewhere, He will tell us. If God does not, then we do not go there; instead, we trust in Him. An angel of the Lord specifically came to Joseph and Mary (Matthew 2:13); God had told Abram to trust Him (Genesis 12:7). When Abram did not trust and obey, trouble came. Again, the lesson here is to trust the Lord and lean not on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).

So Abram arrives in Egypt and immediately realizes a problem – his wife is very beautiful and it was not uncommon for foreign kings to take any women they wanted for their harem (Genesis 12:11-16). So, to save his own skin, he tells her to lie, and to become part of his harem. This alone should prove that coming to Egypt was NOT part of God’s plan for Abram; when would God encourage lying and fornication to bring about His plan? Never! – Romans 6:1-2.

Nonetheless, that is what Abram did, and Pharaoh took Sarai (Genesis 12:15). Pharaoh treated Abram well for her sake, as was customary when profitable commerce was taking place (Genesis 12:26). If Abram had not been wealthy and influential, Pharaoh likely would have just killed him. Satan would have loved that, or to have Pharaoh impregnate Sarai. Satan tried and tried, but failed.

God, watching while Abram once again took things into his own hands, intervenes to keep His promises. The Lord sends a plague to the house of Pharaoh (Genesis 12:17), motivating Pharaoh to seek out the reason (this Pharaoh was obviously much less stubborn – and stupid – than the Pharaoh of the Exodus). In Genesis 12:18-20, Pharaoh chastises Abram (as he well deserved), and returns Sarai to him as well as many treasures. Satan naturally hoped Pharaoh would seek revenge on Abram and kill him. However, this Pharaoh shows wisdom, and sends Abram and Sarai on their way, able to make the journey. It is kind of sad that Pharaoh, in this particular instance, was much more akin to appeasing God than Abram was. Abram obviously had some growing in faith yet to do.

Abram’s lies were not quite finished yet. He (by then, Abraham) would lie again, the same way, to Abimelech, king of Gerar (Genesis 20). Again, this was not trusting God for provision. We will cover that in detail in a future lesson, but the point is – like us – Abram had a way to go.

Abram’s faith wavered, especially early in his walk with God. We see how people still struggle early in faith – and sometimes later. Trusting

God for our provision is never “easy”; faith, as described in Hebrews 11:1ff, is obeying God when the path is not clear. Abram did eventually grow in faith, and was eventually canonized for his obedience, as it was imputed to him for righteousness (Hebrews 11:17-19). May we learn from Abram’s mistakes, hopefully in advance! Our God is good and we can trust Him for what we need.

God fulfilled His promises despite Abram’s failings. Praise God!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #7:

- 1) Satan wanted Abram _____ after Abram received the promises of Genesis 12:1-3, that Messiah would come through his descendants.
- 2) A lot of Abram’s troubles were self-inflicted _____ but Satan also _____ some of the problems.
- 3) Obedience to God is _____ to receive God’s blessings.
- 4) Abram did not _____ God, so he went to Egypt for help.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): It was common for foreign kings to take any woman they wanted for their own personal harem.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Pharaoh tried to kill Abram.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): This Pharaoh was a lot more intelligent than the Pharaoh of the Exodus.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Pharaoh apologized to Abram.
- 9) Abram needed to grow in what?

- 10) God fulfills what, despite our failings?

BONUS QUESTION #1:

What Scripture reference describes a hall of heroes of faith we can be like if we want to please God?

BONUS QUESTION #2:

Who did Abraham lie a second time to?

Congratulations! You completed chapter #7, telling how God kept His promises to Abram and us to bring about Messiah! This chapter also showed us how God continually foiled Satan's attempts to ruin those promises. Our God is faithful!

CH. 8 – ABRAHAM – LOT/HAGAR

God had originally told Abraham (then, Abram) to leave his kinsman in Ur (Genesis 12:1). Nevertheless, he allowed Lot to go with him (Genesis 12:4). Lot would be nothing but trouble for Abraham as a result, and Satan would try to take every advantage of it:

First, Lot was wealthy just like Abraham was. In their joint travels, their servants would commonly fight over the pasture land for their animals to graze on. Satan naturally hoped they would have a little civil war, and Abraham would die in the battle, preventing Messiah from coming into the world. But Abraham was patient with Lot, and let Lot choose the land he would have for his animals and servants. Lot chose the green pastures fed near the Jordan River, towards Sodom. Satan did not succeed!

Second, Lot and his family were captured by the king of Elam in Genesis 14 and Abram had to go fight them to retrieve him. Satan naturally hoped Abraham would once again be a casualty of war but God in His mercy (even for Abram's direct disobedience in taking Lot with him in the first place) spared Abram. God shows mercy endless times in the Old Testament. Do not buy the lie that God was full of wrath in the Old Testament but full of mercy in the New. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God has always been merciful, giving man an "out", if only he would take it, and stay obedient!

Third, Lot got Abraham involved with Sodom because he lived near there to begin with (because Abraham granted him the lands for his servants and cattle near the Jordan, facing Sodom) and later had relatives and friends that lived there. Satan knew that Sodom was incredibly wicked, and God would deal with Sodom at some point (decisively in Genesis 18 + 19). Abraham visited there as a result, pleading for the sparing of the city because of his friends and family that lived there. This is the famous story of Abraham asking God if there were 50, 40, 30, etc. righteous living in the city, would He spare it? It turns out there was no one righteous, and judgment was cast. Lot and his wife got out with Abraham's help at the last minute, but for Lot's wife's disobedience in looking back on the accursed city, she was turned into a pillar of salt. Let's suffice to say she died with Sodom for her sins the same as they did for theirs.

Satan naturally hoped Abraham would be there when judgment would come, or the wicked people of Sodom would find a reason to kill him who had so much wealth (jealousy, etc.). Nonetheless, Satan failed to kill the man whom God promised the promised Messiah would come.

Abram's stumbling was not done yet. God promised Abram a seed that would bless him, the nation to come after him, and the eventually the whole world (Genesis 12:1-4). Sarai, Abram's wife, was not patient to wait upon the Lord, so she tempted Abram with her Egyptian maidservant, Hagar.

Let us be clear that this could never have worked anyway – Hagar was of Hamitic descent, not Semitic – so she could never have bore the Messiah anyway. God promised that the Messiah would only come from the race of Shem (Genesis 9:26). As discussed in a previous study, Shem's race was not superior to Ham's or Japheth's; rather, Messiah, in order to fulfill prophecy, and narrow down the signs of Messiah's coming, a race had to be picked – and God chose Shem. So Hagar could not have been the mother of Messiah. This was a foolish attempt to speed along God's promises, and its consequences – though forgivable – were world-changing, and not for the better.

“The end does not justify the means!” Let us remember this from Sarai's foolishness in trying to speed along God's promise. Instead, we should fully understand that the end is always defined by the means. This was especially true in the case of Sarai and Hagar.

God grants Abram to allow Sarai to cast out Hagar (as Hagar had been difficult with Sarai as a result of all this drama), but there are two consequences still as a result of their sin: 1) the coming of their promised son (and thus Messiah) was delayed a minimum of thirteen years (Genesis 17:25), and 2) Ishmael's descendants also became a mighty nation (Genesis 17:20), and would always stand opposed to Isaac's descendants. The turmoil in the Middle East which *has never ceased* is a direct fulfillment of Biblical prophecy (Genesis 16:12). And you can be sure the turmoil will not cease until Christ's return.

Abraham loved his son Ishmael (Genesis 17:18). Nonetheless, God's promises through prophecy would be fulfilled as He originally promised, down to the last letter (Genesis 17:21). This was of paramount importance, for Messiah would need to fulfill every last prophecy, be narrowed down as exactly as God had prescribed, so when He came Jesus would be clearly recognizable as the foretold Messiah! Jesus' pedigree had to be exactly as God had promised, as another part of His being the perfect sacrifice on the cross for you and me.

Praise God for preserving the line of Jesus so even we today can know He is in fact the predicted Messiah and King! Abram made a lot of mistakes – and this lesson we can learn a lot from his self-imposed issues with Lot and Hagar. May we heed God's obedience, to prevent trouble today and tomorrow, and not get ahead of God's promises, but instead – trust and obey!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #8:

- 1) Lot was _____ supposed to go with Abram; God told Abram to leave his kinsman behind (Genesis 12:1-4).
- 2) Satan tried to get Abram _____ due to Lot's various problems. God showed mercy despite Abram's disobedience.
- 3) God endlessly shows _____ in the Old Testament.
- 4) Lot's wife died for her _____ the same as Sodom did.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Hagar could have been the mother of Messiah.

- 6) True or False (Circle One): God said Messiah would only come from the race of Shem (Genesis 9:26).
- 7) True or False (Circle one): The consequences of Abram and Sarai's sin with Hagar had negative, world-changing effects.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): "The end justifies the means!"
- 9) Isaac's (and Messiah's) coming was delayed how long?
-
- 10) What Bible reference prophesies the turmoil in the Middle East until the end of time?
-

BONUS QUESTION #1:

What Scripture reference indicates that Abraham loved Ishmael?

CHAPTER 9 – ABRAHAM, SECTION 4 – MEETING MELCHIZEDEK

"Many of the battles we are fighting today may be the result of only partially obeying God yesterday!" – George Faull, referencing Abram/Abraham

Last week we discussed Abram's mistakes with Lot and Hagar. However, his mistakes with Lot are not over with yet –

After Lot had chosen to move to Sodom (to benefit from its nearby lush fields), the city was attacked by four kings. God had prophesied that Canaan's descendants would serve Shem's (Genesis 9:24-27), and indeed the Canaanite nations were under tribute to the nations of Shem.

However, the Canaanite nations rebelled, thinking they could succeed with the Nephilim on their side (Genesis 14:5).

As the four kings of Shem advanced, they captured Sodom, and Lot with them. Abram found out from a man who had escaped from Sodom, so he led out a force of 318 to get Lot back.

Let's keep in mind that if Abram would have listened to God (Genesis 12:1) and not taken along his nephew, father, etc. this whole problem would have been avoided. But by taking his father with him, he had already delayed God's fulfillment of promises to him by seven years (that is how long it took for Abram to wait to bury his father – Genesis 11:26-32). Now, by taking Lot, he has to risk his life in battle!

Abram here exhibits no pacifist sympathies as he goes after his nephew among the conquering kings of Shem. Satan would have loved it if Abram would have been killed in that battle, but God preserved Messiah through Abram as He had promised.

With Lot retrieved and the spoils of the battle in his possession, he meets Melchizedek, priest of the Most High God. Melchizedek confirms Abram's special place in God's plan by blessing him, and in exchange Abram tithed all he had to Melchizedek.

Many ask if Melchizedek was Jesus. Although Jesus appears many times in his pre-incarnate form in the Old Testament, this is not one of those cases – we are clearly told otherwise in Hebrews 7:3, 7, 23-24. Instead, Melchizedek was the shadow of Jesus to come as our future, permanent High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:1).

Just as Abram was blessed by Melchizedek, so we receive our blessings through Jesus' blood. Just as Abram tithed to Melchizedek, so Christians enter the assembly, and one function is to give a tithe (1 Corinthians 9:6-7, 16:2). Melchizedek was king of Salem (the old Jerusalem) and Jesus is King of Heaven (the New Jerusalem). Melchizedek had no record of beginning of life, or end (this does not mean he was not born or did not die – but rather his lack of a record was

a *shadow* of how Christ also does not have a beginning of life or end as He is our Eternal Priest and King).

Melchizedek was the only priest before the Mosaic line, when the Levites would become the only eligible priests. Jesus is the only other priest in the Melchizedek line. This was important because God had predicted Messiah would come through the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:8-12) but would also be a priest. Well, Jesus could not very well come from the lines of Judah and Levi, so what to do? Simple, Jesus is not a priest after the Levites, but a priest after Melchizedek.

What does all this mean for us today?

- 1) God kept His promise to us bring Messiah, even through Abram's mistakes
- 2) Satan failed to thwart God's plans for Abram, despite Abram's sins
- 3) Abram tithed to Melchizedek, as we today tithe to Christ
- 4) Jesus is our Priest, just as Melchizedek was Abram's priest
- 5) Jesus is our King, just as Melchizedek was king of Salem
- 6) Jesus is our Messiah, just as predicted throughout the Old Testament and made incarnate in the New Testament
- 7) So we learn that in despite of our sins, despite Satan's attempts to tempt and destroy us, God honors our faithfulness (specifically, in this instance, the tithe) just as He did for Abram.

Just like us though, Abram's life continued, and so many other things happened: Abram would lie to Abimelech, contend for Sodom and Gomorrah (yes, Abram attempted to save Sodom and Gomorrah), begin the practice of circumcision, see Lot's wife turned to a pillar of salt, see his son Isaac born, and then be asked to sacrifice him on a mountaintop!

The truth is life is never easy and neither was Abram's. Abram was not perfect, and his faults are recorded for us in the #1 bestselling book in the world (we ought to be thankful God has spared us similar

publicity!). Nonetheless, God honored Abram's faithfulness, and because Abram did obey faithfully, God blessed Him, and Messiah came through his seed!

The story of Melchizedek and Abram is multi-layered: there is a lesson about recognizing God's chosen priest (i.e. Jesus today), about tithing to that Priest (our gifts and offerings today), about our disobedience yesterday very well may cause problems today and tomorrow, etc.

Let us be grateful to live in the age of grace through Jesus Christ! Will you submit to your High Priest and King and Savior today?

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #10:

- 11) "Many of the battles today may be the result of only _____ obeying God yesterday!" – George Faull, referencing Abram
- 12) Lot had chosen to move to _____.
- 13) God had predicted Canaan's descendants would serve _____; their rebellion was attempted but thwarted by four kings.
- 14) Lot was captured because he lived in Sodom, but also because _____ had taken him along to begin with, against God's command.
- 15) True or False (Circle One): Melchizedek was Jesus in pre-incarnate form.
- 16) True or False (Circle One): Just as Abram tithed to Melchizedek, so we are to tithe to Jesus, our High Priest.
- 17) True or False (Circle one): Jesus was a Priest in the line of Levi.
- 18) True or False (Circle one): Jesus is King of Heaven (New Jerusalem), just as Melchizedek was king of Salem (Old Jerusalem).

19) Abram's faults are recorded in what #1 bestseller?

_____ (we should be grateful not to have suffered similar publicity!)

BONUS QUESTION #1:

What are two of the lessons we learn from the story of Abram and Melchizedek?

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Congratulations! You completed chapter #9, telling how God worked through Abram's human weakness and sin to fulfill His promise to bring about Messiah to us! Praise be to our Priest and King, Jesus!

CHAPTER 10 – SODOM AND GOMORRAH

As of this writing (late 2014), the topic of homosexuality has become a very contentious one indeed. One cannot read the story of Sodom and Gomorrah without obviously mentioning this subject, and so we will deal with it here, as Scripture deals with it (unapologetically).

We can, however, choose our approach. We must preach homosexual behavior as sinful (Genesis 2:18-25, 19:5+6; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13-15; Judges 19:22; Ezekiel 16:49; 1 Kings 14:24; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26+27, 32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 7:2; 1 Timothy 1:10; Jude 1:7, among others). We must not back down from that simple, solid truth.

At the same time, we must not make homosexuality “a greater sin”, or “the only sin” we talk about, or present it in such a way that it turns people off from the life-saving nature of the Gospel. Anyone who comes to Christ repents of their sin, regardless if their sin was lying, homosexual behavior, other sexual sin, drunkenness, wrath, debauchery, unbelief, or anything else. There are many sins, and each of us has some! (Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:8) Therefore, we should ask ourselves how we became convicted of our sin: first, it was by hearing (Romans 10:17). Second, we heard it from a source of humility, brotherly love, and only in the power and credit to God (1 Corinthians 2:1-8). So we should approach anyone with the sin of homosexual behavior the same way as we received the Gospel, so it could be unto their salvation, not their turning away.

Your preacher has a favorite illustration when it comes to presenting the Gospel: imagine you are serving a friend a steak dinner. You can serve it hot, lukewarm, or cold. You could grill it, broil it, microwave it, or even serve it raw. You could present it whole, or put it all in a blender. You could set it before them, or throw it at them. You could offer it in kindness, or with a brash or rude attitude. It’s still the same steak dinner with the same nutritional value. But how you present that steak dinner matters!

My friends, the steak dinner represents truth. God has given us the duty to “serve” the truth to the world. We can do it in a variety of ways. We can serve it in such a way that has the best opportunity of our unbelieving friends receiving it gladly, desiring it, and enjoying both its taste and in memory. Or they can receive that exact same truth in such a way that it is repugnant, undesirable, and with a poor memory of both you and the dinner afterwards!

So take it from your preacher – presentation matters! If we do not like our steak pureed’, but rather served hot, seasoned just how we like it, and presented to us with a smile, then we should do the same for others with the truth so much more valuable and lasting than even the greatest steak dinner!

Now all of this commentary and we have not yet got to the story yet; yet I must mention one last thing: how we speak of homosexuality today is important, both for the sake of winning the lost, but also to protect ourselves. As much as persecution of Christians en masse is likely inevitable, I would prefer not invite myself or you to it any sooner than necessary!

The present legal protection with regards to talking about any undesirable behavior is to refer the behavior itself. You might have already noticed that I have been referring to “homosexual behavior”, and not specific people. This is presently legally-protected speech. The truth is all of our sin is some form of God-forbidden behavior, be it in action, words, or thought. Naming people specifically or stereotyping groups of people as condemned does not enjoy the same legal protections (nor is wise).

We are protected religiously when we speak of Sodom and Gomorrah because they are in a religious text. However, if we were to specifically target a particular person or group of people in our speech, publication, or otherwise, we unnecessarily expose ourselves to possible legal action.

Yes, this seems like walking on eggshells, and many well-meaning Christians tend not to care. It is naturally your call. However, if we are to truly love the sinner but hate the sin (the behavior), I do not find a problem with utilizing this protection as a way of being as shrewd as snakes but as innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16). As long as I can preach against sin itself, I am content to use whatever terms I must to convict any person of the behavior(s) that is separating them from God, and thus unto their perishing (Jude 1:23).

So let us be content with the story of Sodom and Gomorrah as follows: God went down and saw for Himself their evil (there was evil besides homosexuality, but homosexual behavior is both specifically mentioned and condemned – Genesis 19:4-11) in Genesis 18:20-21. Abraham actually contends for Sodom multiple times but fails (Genesis

18:16-33). Sodom and Gomorrah was guilty of many sins, and God destroyed the twin cities for ALL of their iniquities (Genesis 19:24-25).

This occurred after the Great Flood, where there was in that time also great sin in all the earth (Genesis 6:1-8). God promised not to destroy the earth again by water, but He would do so by fire. Sodom and Gomorrah was only a sample of God's wrath upon sin that is coming at the end of days (Revelation 20:14+15). May we take His example in Scripture seriously, and not try to re-interpret His truth to fit our culture. We might serve that truth differently than we used to, and that serving will change again undeniably, but our job to evangelize the lost remains!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #10:

- 1) Scripture deals with the sin of homosexual behavior _____.
- 2) Homosexual behavior is condemned in both the _____ and _____ Testaments.
- 3) Homosexual behavior is _____ a "greater" sin than any other.
- 4) Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:8 teach us that we all have _____ in our lives. Acts 2:38 tells us how to be saved from it!
- 5) True or False (Circle One): It does not matter "how" we preach truth, as long as we preach it.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): A steak dinner pureed' or microwaved is as appetizing and welcome as one grilled and seasoned just right.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): There are some approaches we can take when we speak of sin to protect ourselves legally at this time.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): It is Scriptural to be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves (Matthew 10:16).
- 9) True or False (Circle one): We must preach against sin in love!

- 10) Was there more than one kind of sin in Sodom and Gomorrah (Y/N)?
- 11) Did Abraham contend for Sodom and Gomorrah (Y/N)?
- 12) God destroyed both cities for
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BONUS QUESTION #1:

Regardless of what is happening in our culture, what is our job?

Congratulations! You completed chapter #10, how God must eradicate evil. Jesus was sent into the world to save sinners from their sin (Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10). How our job is now to do the same! (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15+16, Luke 24:37)

CHAPTER 11 – ISAAC

There are many more stories to the life of Abraham – they span from Genesis 12 to 25, and beyond in various mentions all throughout the Bible (in 27 books total). Most importantly, Hebrews 11 mentions Abraham twice to his credit, God's glory, and to our benefit. The reader is invited to read Hebrews 11:8-19 to see how Abraham's life of faithfulness can encourage us to similar attitude and action.

When we read the grandiose promises God made and kept unto Abraham, there is one promise that meant more to him and Sarah personally – the promise of a child.

Even today, but especially in ancient times, children were a crown. Without children, a couple was seen as cursed, or at the very least to be pitied. Abraham and Sarah had waited on a child their whole life. God promised them one from the beginning, but both Sarah and Abraham tried to get ahead of God by having Abraham impregnate Hagar to bear Ishmael.

Though Sarah had no love lost for Ishmael, Abraham did care for him greatly, and desired good things for him (Genesis 17:18). A deep study of Abraham will reveal a man who wanted good things for all men, and worked hard and often paid a price to make sure it happened. Abraham surely is an example of a faithful, sacrificial, trusting life we can all strive to live up to. Abraham is an Old Testament, Christ-like character.

Even with Ishmael born, and Abraham's desire to see him be the Promised Seed, God kept His original promise to Abraham and Sarah by promising them a son of their own. In Genesis 17, God reiterates that despite Hagar and Ishmael, whom God would bless, their son-to-come, Isaac (meaning "laughter", because Abraham and Sarah laughed when they were told by God that they would bear a son in their old age), would be born. God always keeps His promises!

We can determine that God had restored not only Sarah's barrenness, but her beauty as well, for even in "old age" she appeared very beautiful to the likes of Pharaoh and Abimelech. By the time she becomes pregnant with Isaac, Abraham and Sarah had not even met

Abimelech yet, yet Abimelech desires to take Sarah into his harem when he meets them later on in Genesis 21.

Isaac is born to Abraham and Sarah, and God's promise to bring Messiah through Abraham is one person closer to fruition. Many do not realize that Abraham had many children: Isaac and Ishmael, of course, but also Zimram, Jokshan, Medan, Midian (later, of the Midianites), Ishbak, and Shuah. These last five were sons born to Keturah, Abraham's wife after Sarah (Genesis 25:1 ff).

After Sarah died, Abraham remarried, had five other sons, and each of these sons also became nations, just like Isaac and Ishmael. Abraham, in his wisdom, gives each of these sons' gifts, however, and sends them away from Isaac so there would not be any conflict that Satan would definitely otherwise take advantage of.

When Isaac was being weaned, and Ishmael was thirteen, Ishmael taunted Isaac and therefore Sarah was enraged. Abraham, caught in the middle (ever been there?), asked God what to do (again, showing great wisdom). God said to honor Sarah's request, for the promise would come through Isaac, but God Himself would care for Ishmael, and He did (Genesis 21:20). Hagar got an Egyptian (Hamitic) wife for Ishmael, sealing the deal that the promised Messiah would not come through Ishmael.

Islam claims that Ishmael really was the promised seed because he was born first. Muslims hold the Old Testament as their own also, but instead reinterpret it to their favor.

This can be answered via the following: 1) though Abraham and God both did care for Ishmael and blessed him into a nation (the Arabs), he was still not the promised seed (Genesis 21:12), 2) God prophesied

through Noah (another prophet the Muslims hold in high regard) that Messiah would come through Shem (Genesis 9:25), not Ham, and Ishmael was born of a Hamitic woman (Hagar) and married a Hamitic wife, and 3) birth order was commonly reversed by God for the purposes of bring about Messiah: Esau and Jacob (Jacob was the younger, but chosen), Ishmael and Isaac (Isaac the second born to Abraham, but firstborn “to the free woman” (Galatians 4:31), and even Cain and Abel: Abel, being faithful, though thought of as useless by his parents (what “Abel” means in Hebrew), was deemed as God’s first prophet by Jesus (Luke 11:50-51; and Muslims also hold Jesus as an honored prophet).

Isaac would prove to be a “type” of Christ, or a shadow of the Christ to come. Some examples: Isaac was a child of promise, like Christ. Isaac’s birth was announced to his mother, as was Christ’s. God planned on Isaac’s birth, just like He did Christ’s. Both were pre-named by an angel. Both were miraculously born (one in old age, the other by a virgin). Both were only begotten sons. Both were loved by their fathers. Both were hated by family (one physically, one spiritually). Both were “sacrificed”. Both were compared to a lamb (Genesis 22:7, John 1:36). Both went up the hill of Moriah (later called Golgotha, after Goliath’s skull was buried there). And both carried their own wood, and both were accompanied by two men (Genesis 22:3, Luke 23: 26+32). And there are many more!

Isaac’s story is another of Christ-likeness. May we do the same!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #11:

- 1) The promise that meant the most personally to Abraham and Sarah was the promise of a _____.
- 2) Abraham _____ Ishmael (Genesis 17:18).
- 3) Abraham wanted _____ things for all men he ran into, even Sodom and Gomorrah, Hagar and Ishmael, among others.
- 4) Sarah's _____ was restored as both Pharaoh and Abimelech found her very beautiful.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Abraham only had two sons.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Abraham remarried after Sarah's death.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): When Ishmael was thirteen, he welcomed Isaac as his younger brother.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): God took care of Hagar and Ishmael the rest of their lives (Genesis 21:20).
- 9) Muslims believe who is the promised seed?

- 10) Christians are children of the _____ woman (Galatians 4:31).

BONUS QUESTION #1:

With whom does Isaac share many characteristics?

CH. 11a – ISAAC'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Isaac shares a special relationship with Christ – he is a “shadow” or “type” of Christ (Hebrews 11:17-19). This merits a special study of Isaac, and what happened on Mount Moriah those three days (and later on, as you will see).

In Genesis 22, God tells Abraham to take his “only begotten son” Isaac and sacrifice him (vs. 2). Was Isaac Abraham’s only son? No, there was Ishmael by Hagar, and the six sons of his second wife Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2). Nonetheless, Isaac was the only son “of the promise” (Genesis 17:16+19) and God’s command to sacrifice him over all the other sons seemed like God was going to kill off His own promise!

If you can imagine with me Satan lounging back thinking, “Huh! God’s going to do my work for me!” Satan naturally was always targeting the heir through whom the Messiah was promised – Seth, Noah, and Shem before Abram. Now God was going to kill the seed of the promise without an inch of work by Satan. However, God had something much different – much better – in mind.

The sheer prophecy fulfilled in the type of Isaac to Christ is mind-boggling. We would be remiss not to mention them, so (thanks to a study done with the Daytimers!), here is a pretty comprehensive list:

- 1) Isaac “only begotten son”; Jesus “only begotten son”
- 2) Isaac was miraculously born to Abraham and Sarah in old age; Jesus was born miraculously to a virgin
- 3) Isaac “sacrificed” figuratively on Mount Moriah; Jesus sacrificed on that same mount (vs. 14) called by that time “Golgotha” (or, “Place of the Skull” – because Goliath’s skull was buried there by David)
- 4) Isaac walked besides a donkey; Jesus rode in on a donkey
- 5) Isaac had two servants with him; Jesus was crucified with two thieves
- 6) Isaac was “dead” to Abraham for three days; Jesus was dead for three days
- 7) Isaac carried his own wood; Jesus carried his own cross
- 8) Isaac compared to a lamb; Jesus is the Lamb
- 9) Isaac gave his own life willingly; Jesus gave his own life willingly
- 10) Abraham offered up his own son; God offered up His own Son
- 11) Ram caught by his horns in the thicket; Jesus wore a crown of thorns

- 12) God provided a substitute sacrifice for Isaac with the ram; God provides a substitute sacrifice for us with Jesus
- 13) Mount of Moriah place of Isaac's sacrifice; same mount, named Golgotha later, place of Jesus' sacrifice

Among others!

This act of incredible courage and obedience on Abraham's part resulted in him being credited righteousness (predicted in Genesis 15:16, fulfilled in Genesis 22:12-19) and no fault of his ever recorded again.

We are promised this same (Romans 4:3, 9, 13) salvation!

Hebrews 11:19 tells us that Abraham believed God could raise Isaac from the dead and in fact, that He would, because Abraham believed God would fulfill His promise to him that Isaac would indeed be the son of promise (Romans 9:7). So while Satan was sitting back thinking God was doing his dirty work for him, God was planning a substitutionary death that would not know its equal until Christ Himself!

To Abraham, Isaac was dead for three days (Genesis 22:1-4). Then, when God provided the ram in substitute, Isaac was "raised" from the dead (figuratively – as said in Hebrews 11:19). God gave us this story to show us three very important facts about our faith:

- 1) Obedience's reward is substitutionary death
- 2) Christ is Isaac's sacrifice in reality, perfected and fulfilled
- 3) WE are beneficiaries of Abraham's faith, through Christ

Equally so, when God provided the ram instead of Isaac, Satan must have been stumped, thinking, "What was that all about?" Little did he know that God was giving all of us a beautiful story by which to identify Christ and our salvation's path!

It's also possible that Satan here was all over Abraham, tempting him to spare his son, and disobey God. Then maybe God would slay

them both for disobeying! But Abraham was surely faithful (much more than likely your preacher would have been in this situation) and Isaac was surely willing. Their example gives us an example that when we obey God, He surely does provide (Genesis 22:14).

Almost 1800 years later, Christ would be sacrificed on this same hill, as the real Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Isaac's physical death would have meant nothing (that's why God substituted it); Jesus' death means our sins were nailed to the cross and buried with him. We can receive that forgiveness when our sins and old life die in baptism (Romans 6:3+4), after we have repented and believed upon Him who Abraham (and Isaac) believed (Romans 4:3).

This is also why the deaths of animals in the Old Testament sacrifices meant nothing ultimately; they could not take away sins (Hebrews 10:4). Only Jesus could offer up one sacrifice for all to take away the sins of the world (Hebrews 10:12). Only Jesus can save (Acts 4:12). May we never forget Isaac's incredible bravery as a "type" of our own lives when things get hard – if we willingly obey God – He will provide!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #11a:

- 20) Isaac is a _____ or _____ of Christ.
- 21) Isaac was the _____ son of promise.
- 22) Isaac is a type of Christ in at least _____ different ways.
- 23) Abraham's obedience in "sacrificing" Isaac resulted in him being _____ righteousness, no fault of his ever recorded again.
- 24) True or False (Circle One): Abraham believed in resurrection.
- 25) True or False (Circle One): To Abraham, Isaac was dead four days.

- 26) True or False (Circle one): Isaac was raised from the dead, figuratively speaking (Hebrews 11:19).
- 27) True or False (Circle one): Isaac's sacrifice would not know an equal until Christ Himself.
- 28) What is obedience's reward?
- _____
- 29) How many years later until Christ?
- _____

BONUS QUESTIONS #1-3:

What is the name of hill Jesus would be crucified on?

Was it the same hill Isaac was sacrificed on?

What verse in Genesis 22 indicates this?

Congratulations! You completed chapter #11a, telling the incredible story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac and how it is a "shadow" of the story of Christ's sacrifice for us!

CH. 11b – ISAAC'S GREAT PATIENCE

Isaac was miraculously born (Genesis 17:16-17). He was Abraham's "only begotten" son of Sarah (Genesis 22:2). He willingly gave himself up to be sacrificed (Genesis 22:9). He was chosen to continue Messiah's lineage (Genesis 22:18). Isaac's son Jacob would be the father of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28), still having impact until the end of

time (Revelation 21:12). Though he did make some mistakes (Genesis 26:1-17), Isaac's life was incredible and for our example (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Isaac's life also had its more mundane, but still great, moments. One of these was dealing with some herdsmen (shepherds) of Gerar (Genesis 26). Isaac's father, Abraham, had been promised the land of Canaan. Gerar was nearby. Abraham had purchased and dug some wells that Isaac then returned to. The wells were filled with earth, so Isaac dug them again, knowing there was water there. Water was there, but the local herdsmen claimed the waters belonged to them.

Satan naturally hoped to get Isaac to fight over the wells, and why wouldn't he? Think about it – his father had purchased the land fair and square – deed in hand – and Isaac saw to the digging of the well again. He had the right and put in the work! Which of us would have fought over the well? Your preacher would have likely contended for it!

All the same, Isaac did not do this. In fact, he simply let the herdsmen have the well that he had the right to, that he had dug, and moved onto another well.

Abraham had purchased this well also. Isaac and his group went back to digging the well again. Upon being finished and reaping the water underneath, the herdsmen reappeared claiming the well was theirs.

Some of us may have had patience once, but twice? Isaac once again packed up and peacefully moved on.

He came to a third well, dug it, and settled there, naming it, "Rehoboth", meaning "spacious". There the Lord blessed Isaac and his family and they were fruitful in the land.

Satan loves to use our "rights" to incite us to anger. Think about it – Isaac had the "right" to both wells! Deed in hand, money paid, and "sweat equity" put into the digging of the wells! Yet, Isaac wisely moved

on, knowing it was not worth a fight – giving Satan the edge – for mere water.

Proverbs 16:7 says, “When a man’s ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

Isaac obviously exemplified this wisdom. We cannot let our “rights” be the sole reason why we would fight, kill, or divide people. We cannot let our “work” be an excuse to tell someone else they cannot have what we have worked for. This does not mean we are doormats; however, it does mean we look for the peaceful solution, and trust in God, before we rationalize a battle over mere physical goods.

Satan must have been dumbfounded at Isaac’s responses. What man would not find for his land? How many battles and wars in ancient and modern history are fought over land, rights, and work? How might we do better to trust God and “pick our battles”, always attempting to make peace – even with our enemies (Proverbs 16:7).

Forgiveness obviously plays a part here. Grudges obviously do not. Isaac peacefully left his wells and settled elsewhere – he trusted God for vengeance, and forgot about it himself. Consider the following verses:

Proverbs 15:1 - “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Proverbs 16:24 – “Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”

Ephesians 4:29 – “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

How might we change our daily language to reflect gentle answers, gracious words, and talk only good for building up?

Isaac teaches us that our words matter. “Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me.” That old nursery rhyme

might be single most unintelligent phrase ever said. We all know words help or hurt, aid or harm. Some people are extra-sensitive to words, and not to be careful about our words around them can cause them to stumble (Romans 14:19+21).

Words are in fact so important that God has placed the very means by which people can be saved to be communicated through words (Romans 10:17). Words are so important that God put His Word in the Bible alone, and it is our only rule for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16). “The pen is mightier than the sword” (one of many lessons from Hebrews 4:12). We should not only guard our words, but we should make use of them for the Kingdom of God! (Matthew 28:19-20)

Isaac was not perfect, however. He had developed favoritism with his sons, and this would prove to be a great difficulty for not only his family, but his descendants moving forward. Next week we will also look at this fault of Isaac so we can learn not only from his good examples, but his poor ones as well. May we learn by grace as Isaac did!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #11b:

- 1) Isaac _____ Messiah’s lineage (Genesis 22:18).
- 2) Isaac’s son Jacob would be the _____ of the twelve tribes of Israel (Genesis 49:28).
- 3) Isaac’s father Abraham had _____ two wells.
- 4) The herdsmen (shepherds) of _____ said the wells were theirs.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Isaac fought for the wells.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Isaac had the right to the wells.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Isaac finally settled at the third well, living in a spacious land he named “Rehoboth.” God blessed him there.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Satan did not try to start a battle with Isaac and the herdsmen of Gerar over the wells.

9) Who does Proverbs 16:7 say we can have peace with if our actions please the Lord?

10) What kind of answer turns away wrath?

11) What kind of words are sweet and healing?

BONUS QUESTIONS #1-3:

What kind of talk should we have?

Do words matter? (Y/N) Give one Bible reference:

What Scripture reference teaches us that God has chosen words to help lead men to saving faith?

Congratulations! You completed chapter #11b, telling how even Isaac's mundane facts of his life show his incredible example of patience that we can follow to our blessing as well!

CH. 12 – JACOB & ESAU

God spoke to Rebekah, Isaac's wife, and told her in Genesis 25:23, "The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

This prophecy spoken to Rebekah was *not* about the boys themselves, but rather their descendants. Notice that the verse says, "two

peoples”; other translations say, “two nations”. The point is that Esau never served Jacob himself, but Esau’s descendants certainly did.

Their relationship was tenuous from the beginning for one simple fact – each parent chose a “favorite” child. Isaac had Esau as his favorite, as he liked the fact that Esau was a manly-man (hairy), a well-known hunter, and a cook of wild game that Isaac liked.

Rebekah liked Jacob better, because he was a momma’s boy, stayed at home most of the time, and was the “promised seed” that Rebekah had been told about.

There were two issues between the boys that would define the rest of their existence – the birthright and the patriarchal blessing. One day Esau came in from a hunt that did not go well and he was starving. He asked Jacob for “some of that red stuff” (Genesis 25:30), which was a bowl of beans and broth that Jacob was cooking. Jacob told him the price of the soup was his birthright. Esau did not care about the birthright, so he “despised” it (Hebrews 12:16-17). Jacob gained the birthright in exchange for a bowl of beans!

This now meant that the Messiah was going to come through Jacob! It also meant that the blessed nation God had promised would come through him, and the land God had promised his grandfather Abraham would also be promised to him. However, each of these was far-off promises; Esau was only interested in the more immediate, physical reward of the patriarchal blessing (the inheritance). For selling one he would lose the other via another deception of Jacob (and his own mother!).

God had predicted this all along, but if Jacob had not been deceptive, God would have brought about His prediction through His own righteous way; the deceptive path that Jacob chose resulted in generations-long hatred between him and his brother’s descendants. Jacob’s name in Hebrew means “supplanter” or “trickster”, and indeed he would be both trickster and tricked in his own lifetime.

Jacob's deceptions would result in a long, tough life, ultimately, without much of the wealth and security his grandfather and father enjoyed. Indeed, his own testimony to Pharaoh rightfully concludes that much (Genesis 47:9).

Esau's name in Hebrew means "hairy", which he was, but his descendants became known as "Edomites", or "red men". Some Bible scholars surmise this might have been the origin of the red man, but the Biblical origin of the name comes from the red soup that Esau sold his birthright for; it did not have to do with his or his descendants' skin color. Instead, the name was more or less a cursed reminder that their patriarch had made them second-place people in exchange for a bowl of red beans!

The next issue was the patriarchal blessing (the physical inheritance):

Isaac was wise, patient, and faithful throughout his life, but he made a sincere mistake here showing Esau favor over Jacob. This caused the whole family trouble and ultimately resulted in deception and permanent separation of his family shortly thereafter.

Isaac was also a bit melodramatic; he requested Esau bring him some wild game before he was to "die". Isaac lived another forty-three years! Nonetheless, Esau went out to get the game his father wanted, so he could receive his blessing. While Esau was gone, Rebekah gave Jacob bad advice – deceive his own father to receive the patriarchal blessing. Rebekah wanted her son not only to be the line through whom Messiah and blessings of Abraham would come, but receive the physical wealth as well. She assured him that if he was cursed by being caught, that she would take the curse (although she had no power to do this). For this sin, this would be the last time Rebekah would ever see her "favorite son" again.

Jacob put on goat's hair and made stew like Esau did to deceive his father's sense of touch and taste. He fed his father, spoke as best he

could like Esau, and even lied that God was behind the catch of the stew (Genesis 27:20). His father blessed him as a result.

When Esau came home, Rebekah told Jacob to flee to her brother (Jacob and Esau's uncle) Laban for awhile to escape Esau's wrath (undeniably, Rebekah did not want a repeat of Cain and Abel). Little did she know that she would never see Jacob again.

Esau was very angry and begged his upset father for a blessing. He was merely told that he would inherit a mountain range, which he did (Deuteronomy 2:5), and that his descendants' service to his brother would be broken eventually. That also happened, more or less when the Edomites eventually went extinct.

Jacob, the deceiver, would later be deceived by his own uncle, and his own sons, showing us deception is never God's plan. Nonetheless, God would work through all of these sins of man to bring our Savior! Praise Him!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #12:

- 1) "Two _____ are in your womb..." (Genesis 25:23)
- 2) Therefore, Esau's descendants served _____ descendants.
- 3) Isaac preferred _____. Rebekah preferred _____.
- 4) Two issues defined Jacob and Esau's existence for the rest of their lives: the _____ and the _____.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Esau sold his birthright for red beans.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Messiah would come through Esau.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Jacob's name means "trickster".
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Jacob's life was full of wealth and the security that both his father and grandfather enjoyed.

- 9) Isaac lived another _____ years after saying he was going to die.
- 10) Rebekah told Jacob to _____ his father. Little did she know this would be last time she would see her favorite son!
- 11) What did Esau inherit? (Deut 2:5) _____

BONUS QUESTION

Jacob would later be deceived by his own _____ and _____.

BONUS FACT

Jacob deceived his father with goat's hair; his own sons would deceive him with goat's blood on Joseph's coat when they faked Joseph's death.

Congratulations! You have finished Chapter 12, learning how this whole family's mistakes were still able to be remedied by God to bring our Savior into the world. Romans 8:28 is a timeless truth.

CH. 12a – THE TRICKSTER (JACOB) IS TRICKED

Jacob had just run away from home. His mother told him to run to her brother Laban's house so Esau would not be able to kill him for stealing the Patriarchal blessing (the inheritance). Rebekah thought it would be just for "a few days" (Genesis 27:44), but indeed Jacob would

never return home, and Rebekah would never see her favorite son again as a result of her sin, telling Jacob to deceive her husband and his father.

Isaac once again spoke to Jacob and blessed him saying, “You shall not take for yourself one of the daughters of Canaan.” Why did this matter? Because Messiah was to come through Shem (Genesis 9:26), and the Canaanites were from Ham! Satan naturally wanted to mix the seed of Messiah, so that God’s promise that Messiah would come through Shem would be broken. However, Isaac was wise and knew God’s plan, and his prophecy was inspired of God when he instructed Jacob to go down to Rebekah’s brother and find himself a wife.

Esau, being a “profane” man (“profane” in the Bible means “unconcerned with spiritual things” (Hebrews 12:16) – ever meet someone like that?), did not care about what pleased his father after this point, or what would please God for that matter, so he purposefully went to the daughters of Ishmael and took a wife. Thus the Edomites, long-term enemies of Israel, were born.

Jacob stopped and slept along the way, using a rock for a pillow (Genesis 28:11). Here the famous story of “Jacob’s Ladder” happens: a grand staircase appeared, and angels were ascending and descending from heaven. God spoke to Jacob and repeated the promises of Abraham and Isaac to him, fulfilling the birthright. Messiah was going to come through Jacob, the best promise of them all!

Jacob did go to Laban and settled there. He met Rachel, and fell in love with her. He asked Laban for her to become his wife, and Laban told him that if he worked for him for seven years, he could have Rachel as his wife.

Laban responded that if Jacob worked for him for seven (7) years, Rachel would be his wife. Probably one of the most romantic verses in the Bible is Genesis 29:20, “So Jacob worked seven years for Rachel and they seemed to him only a few days because of his love for her.”

However, when those seven years were up, Jacob received Leah, Rachel's older sister, with Laban only responding, "It is not our tradition to give the younger daughter before the elder" (Genesis 29:26). So Jacob had to work another seven years for Rachel! He did, because he still loved Rachel.

However, Leah, jealous of her husband's love for her sister, had multiple children by Jacob, and even gave her maidservant over to have children with Jacob, so she would be more fruitful than her sister. This bitter rivalry followed Jacob his whole life; multiple wives, though permitted in the Old Testament at times, were never described as favorable to the wives or the husband who was involved in them. God's plan for marriage from the beginning was one man, one woman (Genesis 2:24). Anyone in times past or today who ever says multiple wives were (or are) God's plan for families simply has not read the results of such arrangements in the Scriptures.

Moses too had two wives – Zipporah, and later a Cushite woman. Having two wives was no day in the park for Moses either, for this caused a riot among the people, led by sister Miriam and brother Aaron, who was the high priest (Numbers 12:1)! So I think we can be certain multiple spouses are not God's plan under any case, certainly not today.

Jacob finished his additional seven years working and received Rachel. What a happy day, right? Not for long - Leah and Rachel were bitter against each other, and Jacob had to live with this reality the rest of his life. He too, like his father, would pick a favorite son (you would think being the "unfavorite" child he was, he would have learned from this), and be deceived yet again! Indeed, Jacob – the trickster as so named – would be tricked twice. "What goes around comes around"; sin and the devil never rest from their afflictions!

Jacob worked another seven years for Laban, but this time to amass wealth. He did so, but even money would not solve his many woes. His rushed trip away from Laban, the confrontation with Esau

(and later his descendants), the loss of his favorite son Joseph, a famine, a trip to Egypt, death in a foreign land, and other trials were awaiting him.

Jacob's life is a perfect example that just because one is chosen of God, and is smart, and wealthy, is no guarantee of a peaceful or even happy life. Jacob had smarts, God's favor, and wealth, but still lived in danger, in turmoil, and in deceit. May we pray for God's will and peace, instead of the supposed riches and "security" offered by a world that cannot offer either that lasts!

Soon, Jacob would leave Laban, and steal away with his own wealth, wives, and some more unexpected trouble. This preacher has taken this story to be one of self-examination – where do I rely on the world and not God? Do I desire riches more than obedience? Do I believe God's favor gives me license? If I do, I am deceived (Romans 6:1-4, 1 John 1:8).

Instead, let us look forward to the prize heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). Let us obey to the saving of our souls (Philippians 2:12). Let us not look to wealth as a sign of God's favor, but rather look to the Word of God to what He says to do and then trust He will provide.

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #12a:

- 1) Rachel thought Jacob would be gone "a few _____" (Genesis 27:44) but her sin of deception resulted in her never seeing Jacob again.
- 2) Isaac told Jacob to take a wife from the family so he would not marry a daughter of Canaan, because Messiah was to come through _____.
- 3) "Profane" means _____ with spiritual things.
- 4) God blessed Jacob in Genesis 28 through the famous Jacob's ladder dream. _____ would come through him!

- 5) True or False (Circle One): Jacob loved Leah and Rachel.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Jacob got Rachel first, but also took Leah.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Jacob deceived his father, but was deceived by his uncle. The trickster was tricked!
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Jacob's multiple marriages were pleasant.
- 9) Jacob became wealthy. Did this bring him happiness? (Y/N)
- 10) Let us _____ to the saving of our souls (Philippians 2:12).

BONUS FACT

Jacob ended up with two wives and their maidservants given to him by them producing twelve sons. These sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.

BONUS FACT #2

God would change Jacob's name to Israel, hence the "Israelites".

Congratulations! You have finished Chapter 12a, learning how Jacob's life was hard and difficult despite his wealth, wives, and God's favor. He deceived others, and was deceived himself as a result. God worked through it all to bring our Savior Jesus! What a mighty God we serve!

CH. 12b – JACOB HAD TWELVE SONS

Large families today are relatively rare – books and movies like "Cheaper by the Dozen" and "Kids by the Dozen" illustrate the fascination the general public today has with large families. Even a couple of generations ago, it was just merely noteworthy.

However, in Bible times, large families were generally how people protected and provided for one another, so they were both desirable and common. A large family that allied with another large family (or groups

of other families) was often called "a clan" and then clans that came together were often called "a tribe". This would accurately describe, over time, what would happen with Jacob's sons. Jacob's sons would form the basis for the twelve tribes of Israel, the beginning of the nation that God first promised Abraham back in Genesis 12:1-2.

How Jacob came to have twelve sons was not pleasant, however. In fact, his life was filled from one woe to another (Genesis 47:9). This was largely due to his deceitful nature, both as a young and middle-aged man. The consequences of his deceitfulness followed him all of his days until the very end, when in Egypt under Joseph's care he finally enjoyed a respite before death.

Jacob had two wives – Leah and Rachel. Rachel he loved, but Leah was second choice (though she was the first wife). Because Jacob favored Rachel, Leah was jealous, and bore many sons to Jacob in an attempt to win his favor. Her sons were Reuben (the firstborn), Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

Reuben would inherit land, but would not excel because of his sin (Genesis 49:2-3). Simeon and Levi were deceivers and guilty of being bloody men (Genesis 34:25-39). However, God would establish the priesthood through Levi (and Aaron and his sons as priests themselves) to show that the priesthood – through and through – was established through grace, not merit.

Judah was promised that Messiah was coming through him! (Genesis 49:8-12) However, Judah was not a righteous man, but actually committed incest (albeit unknowingly) with Tamar by seeking prostitution (this part he did knowingly) in Genesis 38. This was to fulfill prophecy that Jesus would be born after sinful flesh (Romans 8:3). Both Judah and Tamar are in the line of Christ (Matthew 1:3) through Joseph. Judah was the "royal" line of Jesus, whereas Jesus would sit on David's throne after Jesus' resurrection (2 Samuel 7:12-16, Psalm 132:11, Daniel 7:14).

One other very important fact and prophecy about Judah was that the “scepter would not depart from Judah until He whose right it is comes” (Genesis 49:10). David was the first King of Israel from the tribe of Judah, and the kingship of Judah stayed in David’s royal line until the time of King Herod (who was outside of Israel entirely, an Edomite). Then, Jesus came, just as Jacob had predicted! Even Herod himself recognized this, because his wise men recognized this fact from the Scriptures, informed Herod, and this is why Herod tried to have all the baby boys killed in his area of rule (Matthew 2:1-18). The wise men went to look for Jesus, but instead of hunting him down like Herod wanted, they worshipped Him as the newborn King (Matthew 2:11). This fulfilled Jacob’s prophecy that “He whose right it is” had indeed come. Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod’s attempt at killing his competition. This was also fulfilled prophecy (Hosea 11:1). As well, the death of the babies who did die also fulfilled prophecy (Jeremiah 31:15).

Issachar and Zebulun inherited land (Genesis 49:13-15): Zebulun by the sea and Issachar would be inland.

Leah also had a maidservant she gave to Jacob to have even more children by him. Her name was Zilpah. Zilpah gave birth to Gad and Asher. Gad and Asher both inherited land.

Rachel, Jacob’s favorite wife, was initially barren. However, in order to have some kids by which to counter her sister’s great fertility, she too gave her maidservant over to Jacob and had sons by her. Her name was Bilhah. She gave birth to Dan and Naphtali. Both boys inherited land.

Finally, Rachel herself had two sons through God’s blessing: Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph of course is a well-known Biblical hero. His role was not to settle in Canaan and inherit land like the other boys; no, he was to prepare the way for his father and brothers to survive the famine Satan would send to try to snuff out the Messianic line. This he did faithfully, and although he himself did not inherit land or even leave Egypt for home, his sons (Manasseh and Ephraim) would.

Benjamin was Jacob's last son by his favorite wife, Rachel. Benjamin was born after Joseph was taken captive, and Joseph was not aware of Benjamin's existence until after his brothers told him about Benjamin (Genesis 42:4, 13). Benjamin would be the smallest tribe, and would be guilty of homosexuality (for which they suffered great losses – Judges 20), but King Saul would come from Benjamin, and Benjamin was only one of two tribes (along with Judah) to survive the various captivities later on in the Old Testament. Again, this survival was obviously not by merit, but by God's grace to help protect the Messianic line.

God's plan was to rise up Messiah (Jesus) through Judah, and protect the Messianic line by the other tribes. Why 12 tribes? The number "12" is mentioned 187 times in the Bible. It consistently represents God's authority laying down a complete foundation. Indeed, God established his foundation through Jacob's sons, and Jesus' coming through Judah!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #12b:

- 1) Jacob's sons became the _____ tribes of Israel.
- 2) Jacob had two wives: _____ and _____.
- 3) Jacob had ____ sons by Leah, ____ sons by Rachel, and ____ sons by Leah's maidservant Zilpah, and ____ sons by Rachel's maidservant, Zilpah.
- 4) The priesthood was given to _____ out of grace, not merit.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Messiah came through Judah.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Judah was a righteous man.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): King David came through Judah, the first King of Israel to do so.

- 8) True or False (Circle one): Herod tried to have Jesus killed by killing all the baby boys in his area of rule after his wise men told him of the prophecy from Genesis 49:10.
- 9) Rachel was barren at first, but then gave birth to whom? _____ and _____.
- 10) The only other surviving tribe other than Judah was _____.

BONUS FACT

Jesus fulfills over 336 prophecies from the Old Testament. The prophecy Jesus would be King started in Genesis 49:10 and it's just one of many.

BONUS FACT #2

Judah himself never ruled nor his descendants until King David.

Congratulations! You have finished Chapter 12b, learning how God set apart Jacob's sons with the very special task of building a nation to protect the tribe (Judah) whom Messiah would come.

CH. 13 – JOSEPH

Jacob had two wives, two maidservants of his wives he had children by, and twelve total sons. The two youngest were his favorite – Joseph and Benjamin – because they were by his favorite wife, Rachel. Rachel, however, died during childbirth with Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-20).

Benjamin would eventually become the ancestor of his own tribe and the ancestor of Israel's first King, Saul. However, our focus today is

Joseph, who like John the Baptist, would “prepare the way” for the other sons of Jacob to survive a severe famine Satan would send upon the land.

Jacob’s family was always a mess as we have read about before. The rivalry between his two wives (who were also sisters) was constant, and having children by four different women, and then showing favor to two of those children, increased Jacob’s woes exponentially. Jacob, the supplanter, or trickster (what his name means), would himself be tricked and fooled and suffer as a result of his own sin.

Nonetheless, when Joseph was born, he decided to show him great favor. This was the first son by his favored wife, Rachel. Before Joseph came eleven other boys by the other women, so too have yet another son – in this case a preferred heir – by Rachel, was his desire.

Joseph grew up favored by Jacob, with his mother Rachel. When Esau was approaching and Jacob feared he would attack, he put Rachel and Joseph at the rear of the travel line, to protect them best. Everybody else was charged with protecting his favorite two (Genesis 33:2).

Joseph also received a special coat – a long-sleeved coat (Genesis 37:3). The King James Version renders this, “coat of many colors”. The NASB says, “ornate” or in the foot-notes, “long-sleeved.” Although it is not a terribly important distinction, historically, a long-sleeved coat given to a son solidified his position as “heir” of the family. An heir would receive 2/3’s of the inheritance, with the remaining children having to divide up the remaining 1/3. The purpose of this was to preserve the family land, heritage, name, and prominence in an area. Nonetheless, this made Joseph’s other sons upset, as the youngest, favored son was given preeminently the position of heir before having “earned it”, although they likely would have been jealous either way.

Another point is they were not jealous of the coat itself, but rather what it meant – that Joseph would be heir – and they would be scrapping over the remains.

Joseph also had dreams (Genesis 37:1-11). He had two dreams in particular where he was being lifted up above his brothers, submitted to by all of them. Even Jacob rebuked Joseph for saying simply what he had seen (Genesis 37:10). Jacob knew Joseph's brothers were jealous of him but did not want to encourage harm (it happened anyway – favoritism simply has that effect).

One day when Joseph was seventeen, Jacob sent him to check on his brothers. Joseph did so, but when he was approaching, his brothers began conspiring against him. Interestingly enough, Reuben, the oldest – who would have been first in line to be heir – was least jealous and did not want to harm Joseph (Genesis 37:21-22, 29-30). Nonetheless, his brothers gathered together, conspired, and sold Joseph into slavery to Ishmaelites (the persecution that began at Isaac's birth continues towards his descendants by Ishmael's descendants to this day – Genesis 21:9ff).

Joseph's brothers conspired to cover up Joseph's demise. They put goat's blood on Joseph's coat and brought it to their father. He deceived his own father by goat's hair was now deceived by goat's blood! Both were deceptions, but both elicited a great emotional reaction (Genesis 37:33-35).

Jacob's loss was great to him, so much so, that he would never be comforted until much later when he actually sees Joseph face to face again (Genesis 48:11).

What Joseph's brothers did to him was despicable but God was working through Jacob's terrible family dynamic to find a way to preserve His Messianic line. In order to do so, he prepared the way for his family to survive the great famine Satan would bring up on the land (Genesis 43:1) by sending Joseph to Egypt preventatively.

Many books, commentaries, movies, etc. paint Joseph as a spoiled boy but Scripture never records even one instance of Joseph's sin or bad attitude. This does not mean he was sinless, but it does mean he was looked upon by God and his ancient Israelite progeny as a stand-up

citizen and faithful man. Joseph dealt with slavery well by being a good slave in Potiphar's house. He was then such a good prisoner that the warden put him in charge of managing the prison he was in. Finally, he was faithful to the point that God used him as an instrument for Pharaoh to preserve both the Egyptian nation and upcoming Israelite nation. Joseph was faithful in every hardship and worked hard, no matter how menial the task.

Joseph and Jesus share some similarities that way. Jesus was born into humble circumstances, besides being a King. Jesus was mistreated by his Israelite brethren, although He was one of them. Jesus worked hard as a carpenter before taking on the much more important role of the Messiah. Finally, Jesus submitted to death on a cross for the greater good, just as Jacob suffered much in Egypt before being lifted up Himself. Both were faithful to God because they believed in God's greater purpose (Genesis 50:20). We would do well to imitate Joseph!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #13:

- 1) Rachel had two sons: Benjamin and _____.
- 2) Joseph was number _____ of twelve sons by Jacob.
- 3) Jacob favored Rachel and Joseph by putting them at the _____ of the battle line (Genesis 33:2).
- 4) Joseph received a long-sleeved coat from his father, indicating he was the chosen _____.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Reuben, the assumed heir, wanted to harm Joseph the most.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Joseph was sold to Ishmaelites, descendants of their grandfather's persecutor.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Jacob was deceived by goat's blood, just as he deceived his own father by goat's hair.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): God sent Joseph to Egypt preventatively, to preserve Jacob's family through the upcoming famine.
- 9) Does Scripture ever mention any fault of Joseph's? (Y/N)

10) Do Joseph and Jesus share some similarities? (Y/N)

BONUS FACT

Joseph was a “type” (or shadow) of Jesus:

- 1) Joseph had no sin of his recorded; Jesus was actually sinless.
- 2) Joseph was loved by his father; Jesus was loved by His Heavenly Father (Matthew 3:17).
- 3) Joseph was hated by his brothers; Jesus was hated by his Israelite brethren.
- 4) Joseph was sold for silver; Jesus was sold for silver. And many other comparisons as well!

CH. 13a – JOSEPH PREPARES THE WAY

The purpose of Joseph’s life was to prepare the way for the Messianic line to be preserved. Joseph did this by protecting from the coming famine the fledgling Israelite nation that all the sons of Jacob represented (of whom Joseph was one).

For Joseph to go to Egypt was God’s plan all along (Genesis 50:20). Just as well, it was God’s plan all along to send Jesus to redeem man through suffering, so Joseph’s life of suffering would serve to redeem his brothers to preserve the line through whom Jesus would come.

Joseph and John the Baptist have many similarities therefore:

1) Joseph did not carry the Messianic line; John the Baptist was not the Christ.

2) Joseph prepared the way for his brothers to survive the famine Satan would send to try to destroy them; John the Baptist prepared the way for the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

3) Joseph would die before he would see his purpose come to full fruition (the preservation of the Messianic line through the fruition of the nation of Israel); John the Baptist would die before Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

4) No sin or fault of Joseph is ever recorded; Jesus said that John the Baptist was the "greatest man born of woman" (Matthew 11:11).

So we can understand that God always has a plan, foretells the plan, prepares the way for the plan, and then executes the plan perfectly. He did this both in the Old and New Testaments over and over again. The character of our God never changes (Hebrews 13:8).

Continuing our story from last week's workbook (Genesis 37 and 39 on), Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and was purchased by Potiphar, captain of the palace guard. Joseph did such good work that Potiphar put him over the work of his whole house and treated him well.

Potiphar's wife (who is unnamed) takes a liking to Joseph too, but in an adulterous manner. She tries again and again to tempt Joseph but he honors his master Potiphar and refuses to indulge her. Eventually she forces herself upon him and he flees – but leaves behind his coat.

She is greatly angered at Joseph's rejection and turns on him with vengeance accusing him of rape. Joseph denies the charges but Potiphar believes his wife and throws him into prison.

Joseph has now been sold into slavery, and now thrown into prison. Most anyone (including your preacher, quite likely) would be throwing

quite the pity party at this point. However, Joseph's behavior is so excellent that the prison warden puts him in charge of the prison, even while an inmate.

Joseph meets two characters in the prison – a cupbearer and a baker. They are both troubled by dreams, and Joseph invites them to discuss their dreams with him. The cupbearer dreams about a vine with three branches with grapes that he squeezes into Pharaoh's cup. Joseph interpreted this dream to mean that in three days Pharaoh would restore the cupbearer back to his former position. It happened as Joseph said it would.

The baker however had a dream where he was carrying a basket of bread on his head but the birds kept eating the bread meant for Pharaoh. Joseph interpreted this dream that in three days the baker would lose his head and his body would be impaled for the birds of the air to eat. It also happened as Joseph had said.

Joseph had asked the cupbearer to tell Pharaoh about him, but the cupbearer forgot for two years. At the end of those two years, Pharaoh was tormented by dreams no one could interpret. The cupbearer then remembered Joseph's gift and told Pharaoh. Pharaoh called for Joseph and Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams to mean seven years of plenty were coming, followed by seven years of famine. Grain would need to be saved each year to be ready for the famine to come.

Pharaoh then put Joseph second in charge over all Egypt. Later, Joseph's brothers would come seeking grain in exchange for silver. Through a variety of tests Joseph would deal with his brothers to see if they were still treacherous. Instead, they were penitent and sorrowful for what they had done to him. Joseph then revealed himself ultimately, and was reunited with his father, and acquainted with the younger brother he never knew he had (Benjamin).

Joseph explained what had happened to him by them this way:
“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish

what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Through Joseph’s faithfulness in carrying out God’s plan despite all the suffering and agony he endured, Joseph had preserved the way for his family – and thus the Messianic line – to survive.

Joseph’s life is one worthy of emulation. No fault or sin of his is mentioned in the Bible. This does not mean he was sinless, but it does mean that from beginning to end he was faithful to God and His purposes. May we trust in God like Joseph did – no matter what happens to us – trusting God has a greater plan for our suffering than we do.

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose.” As Joseph obeyed God’s purpose, so can we!

NOTE: Pencil is recommended for easy correction.

Review Questions for Chapter #13a:

- 1) The purpose of Joseph’s life was to _____ the Messianic line.
- 2) Joseph and _____ share many qualities.
- 3) God always has a _____, foretells the plan, prepares the way for the plan, and executes the plan perfectly.
- 4) Joseph, though a slave, did such good work for _____ that he was raised to be in charge of all the work of his master’s home.
- 5) True or False (Circle One): Potiphar’s wife wanted Joseph for herself.
- 6) True or False (Circle One): Joseph rejected Potiphar’s wife advances.
- 7) True or False (Circle one): Joseph had such good behavior in prison that he was put in charge of the prison by the warden.
- 8) True or False (Circle one): Joseph met a baker and a cupbearer while in prison and interpreted their dreams.
- 9) Did Pharaoh believe Joseph’s interpretations? (Y/N)

10) Did Joseph save his brothers from the famine? (Y/N)

BONUS FACT

Although Joseph was one of the twelve sons of Jacob, he himself does not have a tribe or land named after him – instead – this honor passes to his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. The tribe of Levi did not have a land inheritance, so this is where the both of Joseph's sons fill in.

BONUS FACT #2

When Joseph died, the Pharaoh at that time still knew Joseph and revered him and his people. When a Pharaoh came that did not know Joseph (Exodus 1:8 – or did not care about Joseph's previous status in Egypt), this is when the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt.

ANSWER KEY FOR ALL CHAPTERS

Chapter 1: 1) confusion, 2) man, 3) Genesis/Revelation, 4) love, 5) false, 6) true, 7) false, 8) true, 9) all men, 10) fully and without bias

Chapter 2: 1) any, 2) die, 3) Eve/questioned, 4) prohibition, 5) false, 6) true, 7) false, 8) true, 9) Satan, 10) Genesis 3:15

Bonus Question 11: in relationship with God

Chapter 3: 1) Savior (Messiah/Christ is also acceptable), 2) “striker”, 3) “useless”, 4) Messiah/useless, 5) true, 6) false, 7) true, 8) true, 9) Enoch, 10) Noah

Bonus Questions 11+12: 11) ten, 12) 930 years

Chapter 4: 1) 14%, 2) record, 3) Noah, 4) giants, 5) true, 6) false, 7) true, 8) false, 9) 1 Timothy 2:4, 10) Jesus

Part 4, Bonus Chapter 1: 1) Pagan, 2) Ishtar/Easter, 3) day, 4) rabbit/egg/lily, 5) False, 6) True, 7) True, 8) False, 9) Assyria, Nineveh, and Babylon (in any order), 10) God, Bonus Question: Romans 3:23, Bonus Question #2: Jesus

Chapter 5: 1) Fill, 2) Babylon, 3) Nimrod, 4) scatter, 5) False, 6) True, 7) False, 8) True, 9) False, 10) True, 11) Jesus

Chapter 6: 1) 27, 2) Abram, 3) idolater, 4) three, 5) names, 6) faith, 7) False, 8) True, 9) True, 10) False, Bonus Question: He took his father with him, and waited in Haran for him to die, before obeying God to go to Canaan

Chapter 7: 1) Dead, 2) stupidity/authored, 3) essential, 4) believe, 5) True, 6) False, 7) True, 8) False, 9) Faith, 10) His promises, Bonus Question #1: Hebrews 11, Bonus Question #2: Abimelech

Chapter 8: 1) Not, 2) killed, 3) mercy, 4) sin, 5) False, 6) True, 7) True, 8) False, 9) 13+ years, 10) Genesis 17:18

Chapter 9: 1) Partially, 2) Sodom, 3) Shem, 4) Abram, 5) False, 6) True, 7) False, 8) True, 9) the Bible, Bonus Question #1: (see second to last paragraph in lesson)

Chapter 10: 1) Unapologetically, 2) Old, New, 3) not, 4) sin, 5) false, 6) false (duh), 7) true, 8) true, 9) true, 10) yes, 11) yes, 12) all their iniquities (sin), Bonus Question #1: Evangelize the lost

Chapter 11: 1) Child, 2) loved, 3) good, 4) beauty, 5) false, 6) true, 7) false, 8) true, 9) Ishmael, 10) free, Bonus Question #1: Jesus

Chapter 11a: 1) Type/shadow, 2) only, 3) 13, 4) credited, 5) True, 6) False, 7) True, 8) True, 9) Substitutionary death, 10) about 1800, BONUS QUESTIONS #1-3: Golgotha, Yes, vs. 14

Chapter 11b: 1) Continued, 2) father, 3) purchased, 4) Gerar, 5) False, 6) True, 7) True, 8) False, 9) our enemies, 10) gentle, 11) gracious, Bonus Questions #1-3: 1) good for building up, 2) Y, Hebrews 4:12, 3) Romans 10:17

Chapter 12: 1) nations, 2) Jacob's, 3) Esau/Jacob, 4) birthright/patriarchal blessing, 5) True, 6) False, 7) True, 8) False, 9) 43, 10) deceive, 11) a mountain range (Seir), Bonus Question: uncle/sons

Chapter 12a: 1) days, 2) Shem, 3) unconcerned, 4) Messiah, 5) False, 6) False, 7) True, 8) False, 9) N (No), 10) obey

Chapter 12b: 1) twelve (12), 2) Leah/Rachel, 3) 6/2/2/2, 4) Levi, 5) True, 6) False, 7) True, 8) True, 9) Joseph/Benjamin, 10) Benjamin

Chapter 13: 1) Joseph, 2) 11, 3) rear, 4) heir, 5) False, 6) True, 7) True, 8) True, 9) Y, 10) Y

Chapter 13a: 1) preserve, 2) John the Baptist, 3) plan, 4) Potiphar, 5) True, 6) True, 7) True, 8) True, 9) Yes, 10) Yes

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