

ADAM

Adam really lived according to: Jesus (Matthew 19:4-5); Paul (Romans 5:14); Jude (Jude 14)

ADAM'S CREATION

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7

- Flesh: Dust of the ground - Eccl. 12:7
- Spirit: Image of God - Gen. 1:27; cf. Jno. 4:24

ADAM WAS THE FIRST...

- First human being - Gen. 2:7; 1 Tim. 2:13
- First place over God's creation - Gen. 1:28
- First to have fellowship with God - Gen. 2:15; 3:8
- First laborer - Gen. 2:15; 3:17-19
- First marriage - Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-6
- First to have moral choice - Gen. 2:16-17
- First to sin * - Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12

ADAM, SIN AND DEATH

Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-19

- Sin's source: Temptation - cf. 1 Tim. 2:14
- Sin's form: Unbelief and disobedience - cf. 1 Jno. 3:4
- Sin's effect: Death, shame and guilt - Gen. 2:17; 3:8-10
- Sin's entrance into the world - Romans 5:12
- Redemption - Genesis 3:15

ADAM: A TYPE OF CHRIST

Romans 5:14

- The Spirit of Man: Adam and Christ in Romans 5:14-19
- The Flesh of Man: Adam and Christ in 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49

ADAM AND THE HEADSHIP OF MAN

1 Timothy 2:12-14

- Adam honored woman (Gen. 2:23)
- The headship of man over woman (1 Cor. 11:3)
- Why this order exists (1 Tim. 2:12-14)

LESSONS FOR US

- God wants and expects us to make right choices when tempted to sin.
- Our responsibility to God mirrors the privileges received from Him.
- Fellowship with God is precious: Do not take it for granted.
- Marriage is special: Do not defile, discard or disrespect it.
- We cannot hide from God.

- Accept responsibility for our own sin, and repent of it.
- Faithful living must follow a good beginning.

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to say that Adam was a dual being? How was Adam "in the image of God"? (Gen. 1:26-27)
2. Name as many blessings as you can with which God blessed Adam in Genesis 2:8-25. What was Adam's responsibility to each one?
3. What is the wife's relationship to her husband? What traits of marriage are implied in Genesis 2:24?
4. Was Adam deceived when he sinned? What were the consequences of Adam's sin?
5. Why did Adam and his wife make coverings for themselves in Genesis 3:7?
6. What was Adam forbidden to do after he sinned? Why?
7. Who were the sons of Adam? How long did Adam live?
8. What is a "type"? How is Adam typical of Christ?

EVE

"The Lord God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.'" (Genesis 2:18)

HER NAMES

Genesis 2:23, 5:2; 3:20

- Woman: Generic description of her relation to man - Gen. 2:18, 21-22; 1 Cor. 11:8-9
- Adam: Her "married" name alludes to her unity with her husband - Gen. 5:2; 2:24; Matt. 19:6
- Eve: Her function and destiny - Gen. 3:20; 1 Cor. 11:12; 1 Tim. 2:15

EVE WAS THE FIRST...

- First woman - Gen. 2:18, 21-22; 1 Tim. 2:13
- First wife - Gen. 2:23-24; 1 Pet. 3:1
- First mother - Gen. 3:16; 4:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:15
- First to be deceived by Satan - Gen. 3:1-6; 1 Tim. 2:14
- First to actually commit sin - Gen. 3:1-6

THE TEMPTING OF EVE

Genesis 3:1-6

- Eve was deceived by Satan - Gen. 3:13; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14
- Satan lied to her about God's word and God's character
- Eve was lured by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life
- Eve took the lead in committing sin

THE RESULTS OF HER SIN

Genesis 3:7-16

- Eve experienced spiritual death
- Eve experienced the shame and guilt of sin
- Eve blamed her sin on the serpent
- The pain of children bearing would increase

- Her desire would be to her husband and he would rule over her
- Eve did not lose her faith in God - Gen. 4:1, 25

THE SEED OF WOMAN

Genesis 3:15

- Satan would ultimately be defeated by her seed, Christ - Gal. 4:4; 1 Jno. 3:8

LESSONS FOR US

- God intends us to experience happiness and contentment in all of His blessings (for instance, marriage).
- We must be on guard against temptation and sin even in the best of circumstances.
- God never lies and we must never question His integrity.
- A woman's role is not to rule over man, but to submit to his rule.
- Although God caused childbearing to occur with pain, He also blessed it with great joy.

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Does the name "Eve" carry any meaning for us? Physically? Spiritually?
2. Why and how are husband and wife "one flesh?" (cf. Eph. 5:28-29)
3. Did Eve ever question her contentment? How do you know? What is the lesson for us?
4. What does it mean "your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you"? (Gen. 3:16)
5. Why weren't fig leaves enough covering for Adam and Eve? (Gen. 3:7, 21)
6. Do you believe Eve was the loveliest woman who ever lived? If so, why? (Gen. 2:22-23; 1 Pet. 3:3-6)

CAIN and ABEL

"By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain..." (Heb. 11:4)

SEVERAL "FIRSTS" OF GENESIS 4

- First children
- First offerings
- First sin against man
- First civilization
- First spiritual seed

CONTRASTING CAIN AND ABEL

- Occupations: Farmer and Shepherd
- Reverence toward God: Faithless and Faithful
- Worship: Self-centered and Faith-centered
- God's Testimony: Murderer and Righteous

FAITHFUL ABEL (He being dead still speaks)

Genesis 4:3-4; Hebrews 11:4

- Worshiped in faith
- Obeyed God in faith
- Live in faith (was steadfast)
- He was righteous (Matt. 23:35; Heb. 11:4; 1 Jno. 3:12)
- He was persecuted for his righteousness
- His shed blood typifies the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 12:24)

THE WAY OF CAIN

Genesis 4:3-8; Jude 11; 1 John 3:11-12

- The way of false worship
- The way of faithlessness
- The way of envy and jealousy
- The way of hatred
- The way of murder

CAIN'S SIN

Genesis 4:5-15

- His sin was chosen (deliberate), not forced
- His murderous act was motivated by anger and hatred
- His sin was seen by God
- He was punished by God
- The mark of Cain was a token of sin and a token of redemptive compassion

LESSONS FOR US

- The lives and deeds of the dead can speak great lessons to us.
- We are our brother's keeper.
- God sees every work of faith and every work of sin.
- It matters to God how we worship Him.
- We can choose to not allow sin to rule over us.

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Name as many points of contrast between Cain and Abel as you can.
2. Who was Cain "of" according to 1 John 3:12?
3. How are we our brother's keeper?
4. Using the example of Cain and Abel, answer the notion that man cannot keep from sinning.
5. Where did Cain go after murdering Abel? What was his spiritual condition?
6. Who was the first polygamist?
7. Through which child of Adam and Eve would the promised seed come?
8. According to Jude 11, who follows the way of Cain?

NOAH

"By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith." (Heb. 11:7)

NOAH'S GREAT FAITH

Genesis 6

- Noah demonstrated great faith even in an unbelieving world - Gen. 6:5, 8-9
- Noah exhibited great faith by preaching an unbelievable message - 2 Pet. 2:5
- Noah displayed great faith by completing an unbelievable task - Gen. 6:14, 22
- Noah's faith seen in his:
 - Character - Gen. 6:9
 - Conduct - Gen. 6:9 (cf. 5:24)
 - Family - Gen. 6:18 (Heb. 11:7)
- Because of his faith, Noah became "an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Heb. 11:7; cf. Ezek. 14:14, 20)

NOAH AND GOD'S GRACE

- Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8)
- God was gracious to Noah because of Noah's faith (Gen. 6:9; cf. Eph. 2:8)
- God's grace was obtained through Noah's obedient faith (Gen. 6:22; 7:1, 5)

THE FLOOD

- Purpose of the flood (Gen. 6:5-7, 11-13, 17)
- The ark of safety (Gen. 6:14-22)
- Survivors of the flood (Gen. 7:7-10, 13-16; 1 Pet. 3:20)
- The source of the flood waters (Gen. 7:11)
- The waters prevailed on the earth (Gen. 7:17-24)

- The duration of the flood (Gen. 7:12-8:14)
- Exiting the ark (Gen. 8:15-19)

GOD'S COVENANT WITH NOAH, HIS DESCENDANTS AND ALL FLESH

Genesis 8:20-9:17

- Noah's offerings and God's acceptance (8:20-22)
- God's blessings and commands (9:1-3-7)
- God's covenant and its sign (9:8-17)

AFTER THE FLOOD

Genesis 9:18-29

- Repopulation of the earth (9:18-19)
- Noah's shame and Canaan's curse (9:20-27)

LESSONS FOR US

- God is faithful and gracious to deliver and save those who obey Him in faith.
- Obedience is a long-term commitment.
- God is longsuffering toward sinners.
- God will punish sinners who do not repent.
- Faithful men sin and need God's mercy.

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What contributed to the prevalence of sin in Noah's day? (Gen. 6:1-5)
2. What shows God's "longsuffering in the days of Noah"? (1 Pet. 3:20)
3. How was the ark to be built? Discuss principles of following God's pattern (Gen. 7:14-22; cf. Heb. 8:5).
4. What groupings of the animals went into the ark?
5. Name the sons of Noah and the peoples descended from each. (Gen. 5:32; 9:18; 10:1-32; 1 Chron. 1:1-28)
6. Why was Noah a "perfect" man? (Gen. 6:9; cf. 7:1; Ezek. 14:14, 20)

ABRAHAM

"Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." (Rom. 4:3; cf. Gen. 15:6)

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 12:1-5

- He was chosen and called by God (Gen. 12:1; Neh. 9:7-8; Heb. 11:8)
- God made promises to Abram (Gen. 12:2-3, 7; Heb. 6:13-20)
 1. NATION: "I will make you a great nation" (Gen. 12:2)
 2. SEED: "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen. 12:3)
 3. LAND: "To your descendants I will give this land" (Gen. 12:7)
- Abram showed great faith by obeying God (Gen. 12:4-5; Heb. 11:8-10)

ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY IN CANAAN

Genesis 12:6-13:18 (Joshua 24:3; Acts 7:2-8)

- Shechem (Gen. 12:6-7)
- Between Bethel and Ai (Gen. 12:8)
- South to Egypt (Gen. 12:9-20)
- The Negev (the South) (Gen. 13:1)
- The oak of Mamre (Gen. 13:18)

ABRAHAM'S JOURNEY OF FAITH

· The **GROWTH** of faith:

1. FEARING MEN: Telling half-truths (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18)
2. TRYING TO OUT-THINK GOD: Hagar & Ishmael (Gen. 15-16)
3. ACCEPTING GOD'S ARRANGEMENT: Sarah is promised a child (Gen. 18:1-15)
4. PRAYING TO GOD: Intercession for the righteous (Gen. 18:16-33)
5. Fearing God: Offering Isaac (Gen. 22:1-14; Heb. 11:17-19)

· The **CHARACTER** of faith:

1. OBEDIENT (Heb. 11:8; Gen. 26:5; Jas. 2:21-22)
2. COURAGEOUS (Gen. 14:12-17; 17:9-11, 23)
3. HUMBLE (Gen. 14:18-20)
4. Unwavering (Rom. 4:17-25)

· The **RESULT AND REWARD** of faith:

1. HIS FAITH WAS COUNTED TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:1-3; Jas. 2:20-24)
2. GOD ASSURED HIM OF ETERNAL BLESSING (Gen. 22:15-18; Heb. 6:13-15; 11:10, 13-16)
3. ABRAHAM "SAW" THE SAVIOR BY FAITH (Jno. 8:56; Gal. 3:8)

ABRAHAM IS DESCRIBED AS:

- Abram: Exalted father (11-13, 17)
- Abraham: The father of a multitude (Gen. 17:5)
- The friend of God (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; Jas. 2:23)
- Faithful Abraham (Gal. 3:9)
- Father of the faithful / Father of us all (Rom. 4:11, 16)

ABRAHAM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Ancestor of Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:1-2, 17; Lk. 3:23, 34)
- Father of the Hebrew nation (Matt. 3:9; Acts 13:26; 2 Cor. 11:22)
- In the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 8:11; Lk. 13:28)

- Now in "Abraham's bosom" (Lk. 16:23-31)
- Abraham still lives, though not on the earth (Matt. 22:32; Mk. 12:26-27; Lk. 20:37)
- Abraham obeyed God in faith (Acts 7:2-8; Heb. 11:8, 17-19; Jas. 2:21-24)
- Counted righteous by faith (Rom. 4; Gal. 3:6-9)
- Father of the faithful (Rom. 4:11, 16; Gal. 3:29)

LESSONS FOR US

- Faith develops and grows throughout one's life - it is not complete in a day.
- Like Abraham, our faith is accounted for righteousness when we obey God.
- God always keeps His word.
- Man can never out-manuever God.
- God accepts the prayers of the righteous.

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Abraham grew up under what religious influences? (Josh. 24:2, 14-15)
2. How was Sarah related to Abraham? (Gen. 11:27-29; 20:12)
3. Who was Lot? Discuss Abraham's involvement with him. (Gen. 11:27-32; 12:4; 13:1-13; 14:1-17; 19:1-38)
4. Who was Melchizedek? What did Abraham do to him? (Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-16)
5. What was the covenant God made with Abraham? (Gen. 17)
6. What kind of a father was Abraham? (Gen. 18:19)
7. What did Abraham do which showed the fullness of his faith?

SARAH

"By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised." (Hebrews 11:11)

SARAH'S FAMILY & BACKGROUND

Genesis 11:27-32; 17:17; 20:12

- Daughter of Terah
- The half-sister and wife of Abraham
- Ten years younger than Abraham (Gen. 17:17)
- Barren (Gen. 11:30)

SARAH'S BEAUTY

Genesis 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 1 Peter 3:5-6

- Uncommon physical beauty
- Used for protection, but exposed a weakness
- Uncommon inner beauty

SARAH'S IMPATIENCE

Genesis 16-18

- Convinced Abraham to marry Hagar and have a child
- Result of her impatience
- Laughed at the thought of bearing a son

SARAH'S JOY

Genesis 21

- Indicated in the name given her son
- Gave credit and thanks to God
- Cast out the bondwoman and her son

SARAH'S FAITH

Hebrews 11:11

- She had faith in the word of God
- She had faith in the power of God
- She considered God to be faithful
- Her faith was rewarded

SARAH'S LONGEVITY & DEATH

Genesis 23

LESSONS FOR US

- Her faith grew throughout her life
- True faith waits patiently on the Lord
- A woman who fears the Lord shall be praised (Prov. 31:30)
- Inner beauty and strength is most lovely
- Never doubt the word and power of God
- The consequences of sin bring heartache and grief

CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What does the fact that Sarai left her homeland and traveled faithfully with Abraham suggest to you about the kind of wife she was? (Gen. 11:31; 12:4-5)
2. What was unusual about Sarah's beauty?
3. How did Abraham use her beauty for protection? What resulted from it? (Gen. 12, 20)
4. Who was Sarah's handmaid? What did Sarah do with her and what was the result? (Gen. 16; 21:8-21)
5. How was the casting out of Hagar and her son prophetic? (Gal. 4:21-31)
6. Both Abraham and Sarah laughed when told they would have a son (Gen. 17:17-21; 18:10-15). Was there any difference in their laughter? Explain your answer.
7. What example does Sarah set for women today? (1 Pet. 3:5-6)
8. List the weaknesses and strengths of Sarah.
9. Why should we 'look to Sarah'? (Isa. 51:2)

ISAAC

"In Isaac your seed shall be called.' That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." (Romans 9:7-9)

ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S "ONLY BEGOTTEN" SON

Hebrews 11:17; Genesis 17:16-19; 22:2

- Child of promise

ISAAC AND HIS PARENTS

- Circumcised by his father - Gen. 21:4
- Protected by his mother - Gen. 21:8-10
- Submissive to his father - Gen. 22:6-10; 24:1-4, 61-67
- Heir of Abraham's estate - Gen. 25:5-6

ISAAC AND ISHMAEL

- Contrasted - Gal. 4:22-23, 28-29
- Conflict - Gen. 21:8-9
- Cooperation - Gen. 25:8-9

ISAAC AND REBEKAH

Genesis 24

- The search for a wife among his own people
- The faithfulness of a servant
- The providence of God
- The willingness of Rebekah

ISAAC AND HIS SONS

Genesis 25:19-28; 27:1-40

- Prayer for Rebekah answered - Gen. 25:20-21
- The twins are "two nations" - Gen. 25:22-23 (Rom. 9:10-13)
- Favoritism shown - Gen. 25:24-28
- Blessing of the firstborn given to Jacob - Gen. 27:1-40

ISAAC AND ABIMELECH

Genesis 26

- Famine and fear - Gen. 26:1-7 (Prov. 29:25)
- Falsehood and its rebuke - Gen. 26:8-11
- Prosperity and envy - Gen. 26:12-17
- Conflict and calm - Gen. 26:18-23
- Covenant with Abimelech - Gen. 26:24-33

TRAITS

STRENGTHS TO BE COMMENDED:

- Submission (Gen. 22:6, 9); meditation (Gen. 24:63); trust in God (Gen. 22:7-8); deep devotion (Gen. 24:67; 25:21); peaceable (Gen. 26:20-22), worshipful (Gen. 26:25), faith (Heb. 11:20), reverence for God (Gen. 31:42, 53)

WEAKNESSES TO AVOID:

- Fear of man (Gen. 26:7); played favorites between his sons (Gen. 25:28)

LESSONS FOR US

- Faithfulness brings contentment to life.
- Prayer is answered by our faithful God.
- Parental favoritism causes family turmoil.
- We must always fear God more than we fear man. (Gen. 26:7; 31:42, 53)

QUESTIONS

1. Since Abraham had more than one son, why is Isaac termed his "only begotten?" (Heb. 11:17)
2. Discuss the occasions and ways Isaac showed respect for and submission to his father.
3. What kind of relationship existed between Isaac and Ishmael? Between Isaac and his other brothers?
4. What lessons do we learn from the story of the search for Isaac a wife? Did Isaac learn these lessons? (Gen. 24; 26:34-35; 28:1-5, 6-9)
5. What led to Rebekah giving birth? Describe her pregnancy and its implications.(Gen. 25:21-26)
6. Why did Isaac favor Esau and Rebekah favor Jacob? Discuss the problems this caused. (Gen. 25:27-28)
7. Why did Isaac lie about his relation to Rebekah? What resulted from this incident? (Gen. 26)
8. Summing up his life, did Isaac fear God and have faith in Him? (cf. Gen. 26:3-4; 31:42, 53)

JACOB

And he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." (Genesis 32:28)

JACOB'S BIRTH

Genesis 25:21-26; Joshua 24:4; Romans 9:10-13

- Son of Isaac and Rebekah in answer to prayer

- Struggle of Jacob and Esau before birth depicted the struggle of two nations
- The favoritism of his parents (Isaac and Rebekah)

THE BIRTHRIGHT AND THE BLESSING

Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-41; Hebrews 12:16-17

- Jacob bargained for Esau's birthright
- The birthright granted:
 1. Superior rank in the family (firstborn, cf. Gen. 49:3)
 2. A double portion of the paternal inheritance (Deut. 21:17)
- Deceives Isaac and obtains the blessing of the firstborn

- Jacob is hated by Esau

FLIGHT INTO PADAN-ARAM (SYRIA)

Genesis 27:42-30:43

- Rebekah's plan to save Jacob's life
- Jacob's dream of heaven's ladder at Bethel
- Jacob's love, marriages and children
- Jacob's 20 year service to Laban
- His flight from Laban

JACOB RETURNS TO CANAAN

Genesis 32-35

- The angels at Mahanaim
- Wrestles with the angel of God and his name is changed to "Israel" (cf. Hosea 12:3-4)
- He meets Esau in peace
- The incident at Shechem
- Jacob returns to Bethel

JACOB AND HIS HOUSE ESCAPE FAMINE IN EGYPT

Genesis 37-50

- Jacob's favoritism of Joseph lead to jealous treachery
- Joseph rises to power in Egypt
- Israel goes down into Egypt
- There he blesses the sons of Joseph
- He speaks of the future to his sons
- His death and burial

JACOB'S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

· STRENGTHS INCLUDE:

-Determined to succeed (Gen. 32:24-28), faith (Gen. 28:16-22; 35:3; Heb. 11:21), sacrificial love (Gen. 29:18-20), dutiful servant (Gen. 31:36-42), prayerful (Gen. 32:9-12)

· WEAKNESSES INCLUDE:

-Crafty (Gen. 25:29-34), deception (Gen. 27:1-29), showed favoritism to sons (Gen. 37:3)

LESSONS FOR US

- God is long-suffering with man.
- God blesses those who rely on Him.
- God is always true to His word.
- God's sovereignty accomplishes His purposes among men.
- Treachery brings tumultuous consequences (we reap what we sow).
- Contentment comes, not from prosperity, but from faith in God.

QUESTIONS

1. What two nations were in Rebekah's womb?
2. Discuss some of the contrasts between Jacob and Esau and how they shaped or defined each man.
3. What was a birthright? What was Esau's attitude toward it? (Gen. 25:29-34)
4. Name the times in Jacob's life when he:
 - a. Struggled with man.
 - b. Struggled with God.
5. What blessing did Isaac give Jacob? (Gen. 27:26-29)
6. What promises did God make to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-15? What was Jacob's response? (28:16-22)
7. How did God bless Jacob in Padan-Aram?
8. Name the times in his life that God appeared to Jacob, and why.
9. Name Jacob's wives and their children.
10. Where was Jacob buried?

THE SONS OF JACOB

"And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days: "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father." (Genesis 49:1-2)

THE TWELVE SONS OF JACOB

Genesis 29:31-30:24; 35:16-26

- Sons of Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
- Sons of Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin
- Sons of Bilhah (Rachel's handmaid): Dan and Naphtali
- Sons of Zilpah (Leah's handmaid): Gad and Asher

CONFLICT & TROUBLE IN JACOB'S FAMILY

Genesis 29:15-30:24; 37:1-11

- Between his wives (Leah and Rachel)
- Between his sons (Gen. 37)
- The incident involving his daughter Dinah (Gen. 34)

CHARACTER, CONDUCT & BLESSINGS

- REUBEN: Forfeited privileges (Gen. 49:3-4; 35:22; 37:21-30; 42:21-22, 36-38; 1 Chron. 5:1; Deut. 33:6)
- SIMEON: Self-willed (Gen. 49:5-7; 34:25-31)
- LEVI: Partner in vengeance (Gen. 49:5-7; 34:25-31; Deut. 33:8-11)
- JUDAH: Praise and preeminence (Gen. 49:8-12; 44:18-34; 38:1-30; Deut. 33:7)
- ZEBULUN: Sea-dweller (Gen. 49:13; 30:20; Deut. 33:18-19)
- ISSACHAR: Wages from God (Gen. 49:14-15; 30:14-18)
- DAN: Judge among his people (Gen. 49:16-18; 30:1-6; Deut. 33:22)
- GAD: A strong troop (Gen. 49:19; 30:10-11; Deut. 33:20-21)
- ASHER: Bountiful favor (Gen. 49:20; 30:13; Deut. 33:24-25)
- NAPHTALI: Liberty (Gen. 49:21; 30:8; Deut. 33:23)
- JOSEPH: A fruitful bough (Gen. 49:22-26; 30:22-24; 37:50; Deut. 33:13-17)
- BENJAMIN: Beloved of God (Gen. 49:27; 35:16-18; Deut. 33:12)

LESSONS FOR US

- Character can develop early or later in life (cf. Joseph and Reuben).

- Sin brings hardships and no final blessing (cf. Simeon and Levi).
- Goodness is seen and blessed by God (cf. Joseph).
- Conflict within a family will impact its children.

QUESTIONS

1. Memorize Jacob's wives and sons.
2. Who was Jacob's firstborn? Why didn't he receive the blessing of the firstborn?
3. What did the sons of Jacob do at Shechem, and why? (Gen. 34)
4. Which son's mother died giving birth to him? (Gen. 35:16-18)
5. Why did Joseph's brothers hate and envy him? Did he repay them with hatred? (Gen. 37:1-11; 50:15-21)
6. Who was Tamar? What did she do? (Gen. 38)
7. Describe Joseph's appearance and character. (Gen. 39:6-23)
8. What dreams did Joseph tell his brothers about? How did they come true? (Gen. 37:5-11; 42:6, 9; 43:26; 44:14)
9. Name the sons of Joseph. What blessings did they receive? (Gen. 41:51-52; 48)
10. In death, how did Joseph show his faith in God? (Gen. 50:24-26; Heb. 11:22)

MOSES

"So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." (Exodus 33:11)

THE FAMILY OF MOSES (Prince of Egypt)

Exodus 1:1-2:10; Acts 7:20-41

- Israel suffers in Egypt (Exo. 1)
- Moses is born (Exo. 2:1-10; Heb. 11:23)
- Forty years in Egypt (Exo. 2:10; Acts 7:21-23)

THE FLIGHT OF MOSES (Shepherd of Midian)

Exodus 2:11-25; Acts 7:23-30

- Flees from Pharaoh (Exo. 2:11-15)
- A new life in the desert (Exo. 2:15-25)
- Forty years in the desert (Acts 7:30)

THE FAITH OF MOSES (Prophet of God)

Exo. 3 - Deut. 34; Acts 7:30-41; Hebrews 11:23-29

- God calls Moses at the burning bush (Exo. 3:1-4:17)
- "Let my people go!" (Exo. 5:1-12:42)
- The exodus from Egypt to Sinai (12:31 - 18:27; 1 Cor. 10:1-2)
- The law of Moses (Exo. 20-31)
- The rebellion of Israel at Sinai (Exo. 32)
- The rebellion of Israel in the wilderness (Num. 11-14)
- Forty years of wandering in the wilderness (Num. 14)

GLIMPSES OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF MOSES

- A glimpse of the greatness of God (Exo. 1-2)
- A glimpse of the grace of God (Exo. 3-4)
- A glimpse of the glory of God (Exo. 32-33)
- A glimpse of the holiness of God (Lev. 10:1-7)
- A glimpse of the wrath of God (Num. 25)

MOSES AND THE LAW

- The Law-giver (Exo. 24:12; Deut. 4:44; 31:9, 24-27; Jno. 1:17)
- The Law-follower (Exo. 25:40; 39:42-43; 40:16; Num. 15:32-36)
- The Law-breaker (Num. 20:1-13; Psa. 106:32-33)

MOSES AND THE MESSIAH

- Messianic prophecy (Deut. 18:18-19)
- Messianic visitation (Lk. 9:30-35)
- Messianic fulfillment (Lk. 24:44)

LESSONS FOR US

- God sees and responds to the trials of His people.
- God delivers us from the bondage of sin.
- God can and will use every person of faith.
- Perseverance is key to obtaining God's continuing approval.
- Man must hear and heed the law of God.
- God is not a respecter of persons.
- Successful leaders of God's people are led by God.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Pharaoh make slaves of the Hebrews? Why did he command that every Hebrew baby boy be killed? What did the midwives do? (Exo. 1:8-22)
2. Name the tribe and family members of Moses, including his wife and children.
3. What objections did Moses raise for not going to Egypt? (Exo. 3:11-4:17)
4. Did God harden Pharaoh's heart? How? Does this still happen today? (Exo. 7:14, 22; 4:21; 7:3-4; 8:15; 9:34; 1 Sam. 6:6; Heb. 3:7-13)
5. Name the 10 plagues and what they were intended they were intended to accomplish. (Exo. 5:22-6:13; 12:12)
6. Who challenged the leadership of Moses?
7. Why didn't God allow Moses to enter Canaan, the land of promise? (Num. 20:1-13; Deut. 1:37; Psa. 106:32-33)
8. What happened to the body of Moses when he died? (Deut. 34:1-7; Jude 9)

JOSHUA

Then He inaugurated Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you." (Deut. 31:23)

JOSHUA'S BACKGROUND: Exodus 17:9-14; 24:13; 32:17-18; 33:11; Num. 13:8, 16

- Son of Nun, tribe of Ephraim
- A slave in Egypt
- His name changed by Moses from "Hoshea" to "Joshua"
- Military commander

- Moses' assistant and successor
- One of the 12 spies sent into Canaan

JOSHUA'S FAITH : *Exo. 17:8-14; 32:17-18; 33:11; Num. 14:6-10; Josh. 1:1-9*

- Against the Amalekites
- As Moses' assistant (Exo. 24:13)
- With sin in the camp (Exo. 32:17-18)
- As one of the 12 spies
- When ordained by God to lead Israel
- In battle against the enemies of God's people
- At the end of his life

JOSHUA'S LEADERSHIP : *Exo. 17:8-14; 24:13; Num. 14:6-10; 27:12-23; Deut. 31:7-23*

- Good preparation and godly encouragement (Deut. 1:37-38; 3:28)
- A man of faith (Num. 14:6-10)
- A worshipper of God (Exo. 33:11)
- It was established by God (Num. 27:12-23)
- He sought God's help (Num. 27:21; cf. Josh. 7:6-9)
- The confidence of the people (Deut. 34:9; Josh. 4:14; 24:31)
- Courage (Josh. 1:2-9; 5:13-15; 24:14-15)
- He challenged the people to greater faithfulness (Josh. 23; 24:16-25)

JOSHUA'S CONQUESTS : *Exodus 17:8-14; Num. 33:50-56; book of Joshua*

- In the wilderness of Sinai
- East of the Jordan River
- The land of Canaan
- The division of the land

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL : *Joshua 23-24*

LESSONS FOR US

- God blesses those who are faithful.
- Obedient faith is saving faith.
- God's leaders are to trust in the Lord.
- God's leaders are to be respected.
- The victory of faith.
- Divine retribution against sin.

QUESTIONS

1. What king did Joshua defeat when Israel was coming out of Egypt? Describe what happened and God's judgment against this nation. (Exo. 17:8-14; Deut. 25:17-19)
2. Describe the official ceremony which was held in Numbers 27:12-13. Why was it held?
3. What was the Lord's instructions to Joshua after the death of Moses? (Josh. 1:1-9)
4. Describe how Israel crossed the Jordan River, and what they did. (Josh. 3-5)
5. Who was Rahab? How did she show faith in God? (Josh. 2; 6:22-25; Heb. 11:31; Jas. 2:25)
6. Why did the walls of Jericho fall? (Josh. 6; Heb. 11:30)

7. What happened at Ai? Why? What was the solution? (Josh. 7)
8. What did the Gibeonites do? (Josh. 9)
9. Why did the sun stand still? (Josh. 10:1-15)
10. Describe the military strategy used by Joshua to conquer Canaan. Were all the peoples driven out of the land? (Josh. 10-13)
11. What were the cities of refuge? Where were they located? (Josh. 20)
12. How much of Canaan was possessed by Israel? (Josh. 21:43-45; 23:14-16)
13. How long did Joshua's life and work influence Israel? (Josh. 24:31)

GIDEON

"O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man." (Judges 6:15-16)

THE MIDIANITE OPPRESSION : *Judges 6:1-10*

- Due to Israel's sin (6:1)
- Length and description (6:1-6)
- God's prophet (6:7-10)

GIDEON'S BACKGROUND : *Judges 6:11, 15*

- A son of Joash of the family of Abiezer, a Manassite
- Lived in the village of Ophrah
- A farmer whom God calls "a mighty man of valor" (6:12)

GIDEON'S CALL : *Judges 6*

- Gideon is visited by the Angel of the Lord while secretly threshing wheat (6:11)
- "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?" (6:13)
- God promised to be with Gideon and by him save Israel from Midianites (6:14)
- Gideon asked for a sign and built an altar (6:17-24)
- Gideon destroyed the altar of Baal and is called "Jerubbaal" (6:25-35)
- The sign of the fleece (6:36-40)

LESSONS FOR OUR LEARNING:

- Even the least in the kingdom of God are of use to Him (1 Cor. 12:14-26).
- God blesses those who obey Him and withholds the blessing from those who sin.
- Idolatry is a bankrupt system of belief. False gods can do nothing.

GIDEON DEFEATED THE MIDIANITES : *Judges 7:1-8:21*

- Gideon's army is reduced (7:1-8)
- A Midianite's dream reassures Gideon (7:9-15)
- Gideon's battle strategy and victory (7:16-25)
- Men of Ephraim help, men of Succoth and Penuel refuse (7:24-8:21)

LESSONS FOR OUR LEARNING:

- God does not depend upon large numbers of people to accomplish His goals.
- All spiritual victories occur because of God's power, not our power (Eph. 6:10-13; 4:13).
- We should always be ready to help those who are fighting the Lord's battles (3 Jno. 5-8).

THE PEOPLE WANT TO CROWN GIDEON : *Judges 8:22-35*

- "The Lord shall rule over you" (8:23)
- Gideon's ephod (8:24-27)
- Relief from the Midianites (8:28)

- The sons of Gideon (8:29-32)
- Unfaithful and forgetful Israel (8:33-35)

LESSONS FOR OUR LEARNING:

- God rules over us (Matt. 28:18).
- Men have a tendency to worship religious objects (cf. 2 Kings 18:4; Acts 17:22-23).
- People often forget God when things are going well (Gal. 5:7).

THE CHARACTER OF GIDEON : *Hebrews 11:32-33*

- Gideon and the winepress (6:11, 15) - (Obscure yet noble; humble, industrious)
- Gideon and the altar (6:25-27) - (God-fearing)
- Gideon and the fleece (6:36-40) - (Careful assurance of God's will)
- Gideon at the water (7:4-8) - (Courageous faith)
- Gideon and the men of Ephraim (8:1-3) - (Tactful)

QUESTIONS

1. Why did God send Israel a prophet? What was his message? (Judg. 6:6-10)
2. Why was Gideon in the winepress?
3. What did Gideon have trouble understanding? (Judg. 6:12-13)
4. What name was given to Gideon? Why? (Judg. 6:28-33)
5. Why did Gideon ask God to show him signs? Was it wrong for him to do so? Harmonize this with his faith (Heb. 11:32).
6. How is our fight against Satan like Gideon's fight against the Midianites?
7. What is an ephod? How did Gideon's ephod become a snare to him?
8. Why did the children of Israel return to Baal worship after Gideon died?

SAMSON

"For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines." (Judges 13:5)

SAMSON'S BIRTH : *Judges 13*

- The tribe of Dan (v. 2)
- Son of Manoah (v. 2)
- Announced by the Angel of the Lord to Manoah's barren wife (v. 3)
- He shall "begin to deliver Israel" from the Philistines (v. 5)
- Power and presence of the Lord shown to Manoah and his wife (v. 15-23)

SAMSON'S VOW : *Judges 13*

- Appointed to a Nazirite by God (13:5; Num. 6:1-21)
- To begin before birth (13:5, 12-14)
- To continue all of Samson's life (13:7)
- Not properly regarded by Samson (16:6-20)

SAMSON'S STRENGTH : *Judges 13*

- The Spirit of the Lord moved upon him (13:25)
- His strength was used to afflict the Philistines (14:19; 15:14)
- His strength was associated with his long hair (16:17)
- His strength demonstrated the Lord was with him (16:20)

SAMSON'S CONFLICTS WITH THE PHILISTINES : *Judges 14-16:3*

- Samson's wedding riddle (14)
- Samson's wife given to another man (15:1-8)
- The slaughter at Ramath-Lehi (15:9-19)

- The gates of Gaza (16:1-3)
- Samson judged Israel through twenty years of conflict (15:20)

SAMSON AND DELILAH : Judges 16

- Delilah's agreement to help capture Samson (16:5)
- Samson's pretence (16:6-15)
- Samson's capture and affliction (16:16-22)
- Samson's death (16:23-31)

A MAN OF CONTRASTS

- He was separated as a Nazirite (Jgs. 13:5), yet tampered with evil associations (Jgs. 14:1-3)
- He was occasionally Spirit-driven (Jgs. 13:25; 14:19; 15:14), yet yielded to carnal appetites (Jgs. 16:1-4)
- He appeared childish in some of his plans (Jgs. 15:4), yet was courageous in battle (Jgs. 15:14-17)
- He was mighty in physical strength (Jgs. 16:3), yet weak in resisting temptation (Jgs. 16:15-17)
- He had a noble beginning but a sad end (Jgs. 16:30)

THE SELF-INDULGENCE OF SAMSON

- Self-confidence: "I will go out" (Jgs. 16:20)
- Self-ignorance: "He did not know" (Jgs. 16:20)
- Self-weakness: "The Philistines took him" (Jgs. 16:21)
- Self-darkness: "They put out his eyes" (Jgs. 16:21)
- Self-degradation: "They brought him down to Gaza" (Jgs. 16:1-3, 21)
- Self-bondage: "They bound him with bronze fetters" (Jgs. 16:21)
- Self-drudgery: "He became a grinder in the prison" (Jgs. 16:21)
- Self-humiliation: "Call for Samson, that he may perform for us" (Jgs. 16:25, 27)

LESSONS FROM SAMSON

- The importance of separating ourselves from evil influences.
- Potential without self-control is of no lasting benefit.
- We must submit ourselves to the rule of God in our lives.
- We can and must depend on the strength of God for victory over sin.
- We must respect our God-given blessings and use them wisely.
- Sin will always take you farther than you wanted to go.
- Sin will always keep you longer than you wanted to stay.
- Sin will always cost you more than you intended to pay.

QUESTIONS

1. What was the Nazirite vow? Why do you believe Samson was to observe this vow?
2. What did the Angel of the LORD say Samson would do? (Jgs. 13:5)
3. How did the LORD seek an occasion against the Philistines? (Jgs. 14)
4. What happened when the Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson? What does he often appear to be driven by? (Jgs. 13:25; 14:19; 15:14)
5. What do you think Samson should have told Delilah when she tried to discover the source of his strength? What was its source? Did Samson appreciate this fact? (Jgs. 16)
6. Who left Samson when his hair was cut? (Jgs. 16:20)
7. Did Samson finally acknowledge the LORD as the source of his strength? How, and what did the LORD do? (16:25-30)

RUTH

"But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16)

RUTH'S BACKGROUND

- A Moabitess (1:4)
- Wife and widow of Mahlon, son of Naomi (1:4-5; 4:10)

- Great love for Naomi (1:8-18)
- A convert to the Hebrew faith (1:16-17)

RUTH'S PROFILE

- A young widow
- A faithful daughter-in-law
- A determined convert
- A humble gleaner
- A virtuous wife
- An honored mother

RUTH'S FAMILY

- Death of a family
- Ruth cares for Naomi
- Boaz cares for Ruth
- Birth of a family
- Ancestor of David and Christ (4:17-22; Matt. 1:5)

RUTH'S LOVE

- Ruth's decision to remain with Naomi (1:1-18)
- Ruth's devotion to care for Naomi (1:19-2:23)
- Ruth's request for redemption by Boaz (3:1-18)
- Ruth's reward of redemption by Boaz (4:1-22)

RUTH'S CHARACTER

- Love, fidelity and piety (1:16)
- Industry (2:6-7, 23)
- Family respect and kindness (3:5)
- A spotless name (3:11)

LESSONS FROM RUTH

- The value and reward of unselfishness, faithfulness and love.
- God takes care of those who put their trust in Him.
- Loyalty to what is right is rewarded.
- God accepts every person who honors Him.

QUESTIONS

1. Name the members of the Israelite family that moved to Moab. Why did they go there? How long did they stay there?
2. Who married Mahlon? Who married Chilion? (1:4; 4:10)
3. Why did Naomi refer to "sons in my womb" for marriage in 1:11? (cf. Deut. 25:5-10)
4. Discuss the implications and results of Ruth's choice. (1:8-18)
5. Why did Naomi say to call her "Mara?" (1:19-21)
6. Who was Boaz? (2:1)
7. What right did Ruth have to glean after the reapers? (2:2; Lev. 19:9-10)

8. What advantages did Boaz give to Ruth? (2:7-23)
9. How did Naomi set out to secure Ruth's long-term security? (3:1-7)
10. Was Boaz willing to redeem Ruth? How did he assure her? (3:8-18)
11. What was Ruth's relation to King David?

SAMUEL

Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." (1 Sam. 3:10)

SAMUEL'S CHILDHOOD : 1 Samuel 1-3

- His birth an answer to the prayers of Hannah (1:1-20)
- Given to the Lord as a Nazirite (1:11, 20-28)
- Hannah's prayer of joy (2:1-10)
- Samuel grew up assisting Eli the high priest (2:11, 18-21, 26)
- Eli's death predicted by an unnamed prophet (2:27-36; cf. 2:12-17)

SAMUEL AND ELI : 1 Samuel 1-3

- A child who served well (2:11, 18; 3:1)
- A student who grew under Eli's training (2:26)
- A prophet who announced God's judgment against the house of Eli (3:11-18)
- Samuel was established as a prophet in Israel (3:19-4:1)

SAMUEL AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL : 1 Samuel 4-8

- Philistines defeated Israel and took the ark of the covenant (4:1-11)
- The death of Eli (4:12-22)
- The Philistines and the ark (5:1-7:2)
- Israel defeated the Philistines and Samuel judged Israel (7:2-17)
- Israel demanded a king (8:1-22)

SAMUEL AND SAUL : 1 Samuel 9-15, 28

- Samuel meets and anoints Saul (9:1-10:1)
- Samuel instructs Saul and proclaims him king over Israel (10:2-27)
- Samuel's address at Saul's coronation (12:1-25)
- Samuel announced God's rejection of Saul as king (15:1-35)
- Samuel appeared to Saul after his death (28:1-25)

SAMUEL AND DAVID : 1 Samuel 16

- Samuel sent to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king (16:1)
- Samuel's fear is eased (16:2-5)
- Samuel anointed David (16:6-13)

SAMUEL'S CHARACTER

- Devoted, holy servant of God (1:11)
- Faithful and favored (2:26; Heb. 11:32)
- Truthful (3:18)
- Honorable (9:6)
- Courageous (15:10-33)
- Humble (Psa. 99:6)

LESSONS FROM SAMUEL

- When we are troubled we should turn to the Lord.
- God hears and answers prayer.
- We should receive God's blessings with thanksgiving.
- We can sometimes judge others unfairly (1 Sam. 1:14).
- We should grow in favor with both the Lord and men (1 Sam. 2:26).

- Like Samuel, we must listen and heed the word of the Lord.
- God's word is truth and will not fail.
- Faithful servants of God are recognized by others.
- God sees men's hearts.

QUESTIONS

1. What was at Shiloh? What happened there? (1:3)
2. What vow did Hannah make? Was she sincere? (1:8-18, 20-28)
3. Name the attributes of God praised by Hannah in her prayer of thanksgiving. (2:1-10)
4. How did Hannah show herself to be a godly mother?
5. Who were the sons of Eli? Contrast them with Samuel. (1:3; 2:11-17)
6. Why did the Lord bring judgment upon the house of Eli? (2:1)
7. What annual circuit did Samuel make while judging Israel? (7:15-17)
8. What did Samuel's sons do? (8:1-3)
9. Why did Israel demand a king? (8:4-9, 19-22; 12:12; Hosea 13:10-11)
10. What was the purpose of anointing?
11. On what occasions did Samuel show courage?
12. Did the medium cause Samuel to speak to Saul? (27:3-19)

SAUL

Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king." (1 Sam. 15:22-23)

SAUL'S BACKGROUND : 1 Samuel 9

- A Benjaminite, Son of Kish (9:1-2)
- Physically impressive (9:2)

GOD'S SELECTION OF SAUL AS KING : 1 Samuel 8-11

- A king is demanded by Israel (1 Sam. 8)
- God chooses Saul to be king (1 Sam. 9)
- Saul is anointed and introduced to Israel (1 Sam. 10)
- Saul rescued Jabesh-gilead from the Ammonites (1 Sam. 11)

GOD'S REJECTION OF SAUL AS KING : 1 Samuel 13-15

- His presumptuous sacrifice at Gilgal (13:11-12)
- His rash vow (14:24-46)
- His rebellion concerning Amalek (15:1-23)
- God rejected Saul as king over Israel (15:23-35)

SAUL'S SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL DECLINE : 1 Samuel 16-28

- The Spirit of the Lord departed Saul and an evil spirit troubled him (16:14-23)
- Saul began to resent, envy and fear David (18:1-16)
- Saul persecuted David and those who helped him (18:28-22:23)
- Saul's life was spared twice by David (1 Sam. 24 & 26)
- Saul consulted a medium (28:3-25)
- Saul and three sons die in battle with the Philistines (1 Sam. 31)

CHARACTER TRAITS OF SAUL

- In the beginning:
 - Courageous, dutiful, humble & reverent (9:3-7, 21; 10:22)

- He became:
 - Impulsive, disobedient, suspicious, jealous and vengeful (13:8-15; 15:11; 16:14; 18:8-12, 28)
- Contrast his humility, command of temper & spirit of forgiveness with his wounded pride, violence of temper & spirit of murder - (1 Sam. 9:21; 10:16; 11:5, 13; 16:27; 18:8; 19:1-15; 20:30)

LESSONS FROM SAUL

- We displease God when we are dissatisfied with His ways.
- First impressions and outward appearances can be deceiving.
- Situation ethics are elevate man's will above divine instruction.
- God wants obedience from the heart, not mere outward ritual.
- Obedience always involves sacrifice; but sacrifice is not always obedience.
- Good motives do not take the place of humble, full obedience.
- Weaknesses should help us remember our need for God's guidance and help.
- Jealousy, envy and hatred destroy one's life and soul.
- Faithful continuance is essential to please God (cf. Ezek. 18:24).

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Israel say they wanted a king? (1 Sam. 8:5-6, 19-20)
2. What led to Saul meeting Samuel? (1 Sam. 9)
3. Define "anoint" and tell why a king was anointed. (1 Sam. 10:1)
4. What happened with the Spirit of the Lord came upon Saul? Are we to be changed when the Spirit of the Lord "comes" upon us? (1 Sam. 10:6-13; Rom. 8:1-11; Gal. 5:16-26)
5. Who was Jonathan? What kind of a man was he? (1 Sam. 14; 18:1-4; 20:1ff; 2 Sam. 1:25-26)
6. What kind of heart did Saul have? (1 Sam. 13:13-14)
7. What did Samuel necessarily conclude when he heard the "bleating of the sheep" and the "lowing of the oxen" in 1 Samuel 15:13-19?
8. Why did Saul first meet David? (1 Sam. 16:14-23)
9. Give examples of Saul's downward spiritual course.
10. Did the medium have power to raise Samuel from the dead? (1 Sam. 28)
11. Describe the events of Saul's death. (1 Sam. 31; 1 Chron. 10)

DAVID

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son." (2 Sam. 7:12-14)

<p>FAMILY OF DAVID : 1 Samuel 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tribe of Judah, son of Jesse, youngest of eight sons (16:1-13) · His physical appearance (16:12) · From Bethlehem (16:1) · Descendant of Boaz and Ruth (Ruth 4:17-22) · Ancestor of Jesus the Christ (Matt. 1:1, 6; Rom. 1:3) 	<p>DAVID: THE SHEPHERD : 1 Samuel 16; Psalms 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · "The Lord is my shepherd" (16:11; Psalms 23) · Solitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The harp, composer, developed physical strength & endurance, marksman · Responding to God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -David's faith in God is developed: relationship, dependence, worship and praise · Anointed by Samuel to become king (16:1-13) · Inspired and strengthened by the Spirit of God (16:13) · Brought to King Saul's court (16:14-23)
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<p>DAVID: THE HUNTED : 1 Samuel 17-30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · "The Lord is my shield" (Psa. 28, 18) · Struggle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Against Goliath & the Philistines (victory of faith, 1 Sam. 17) -Against Saul (endurance of faith, 1 Sam. 18-26) -Against the Amalekites (the battle of faith, 1 Sam. 27) · Running from Saul (1 Sam. 18-26) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -His love for Jonathan, Saul's son (18:1; 20:14-17) -His respect for king Saul as the Lord's anointed (24:1-22; 26:1-25) -His marriage to Abigail (1 Sam. 25:2-44) 	<p>DAVID: THE KING IN TRIUMPH : 2 Samuel 1-10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · "The Lord is my strength" (Psa. 54, 21, 31) · Ruling God's people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -King over Judah in Hebron for 7½ years (2:1-11) -King over all Israel in Jerusalem for 33 years (5:5) -God's covenant with David (7:12-14) · Success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -War between the house of Saul and the house of David (2:12-4:12) -Conquest of Jerusalem (5:6-16) -Defeat of the Philistines (5:17-25) -The ark brought to Jerusalem (6:1-23; 1 Chron. 13, 15) -Further conquests (8, 10) -Kindness to Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan (9:1-13)
<p>DAVID: THE KING IN CRISIS : 2 Samuel 11-24; 1 Kings 1-2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · "The Lord is my salvation" (Psa. 32, 51) · Sin and sorrow (11:1-12:23) · Trouble, treason and sin (12:15-24:25) · Solomon proclaimed king of Israel (1 Kgs. 1:1-2:12) 	<p>DAVID AND THE MESSIAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · God's promise to David (2 Sam. 7:12-14; Psa. 89:3-4, 35-37; 132:11; Acts 2:30) · "David" used to speak of the Messiah (Jer. 23:5-6; Ezek. 37:24) · Messianic Psalms: 2, 22, 45, 69, 89, 110, 118, 132
<p>LESSONS FROM DAVID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Lord looks at the heart of man. · The battle is the Lord's and those who trust in Him will have victory. · Do not repay evil for evil (cf. Rom. 12:17-21). · Willingness to honestly confess and repent of sin brings God's forgiveness. · Forgiveness does not remove the consequences of sin. · The desire for revenge is a strong emotion, but vengeance is not justified. Vengeance belongs to God (Rom. 12:17-21). · We must respect authority and those in power (Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:13-17). · We easily see sin in others, but not so easily in ourselves. · God's judgments are righteous and just. 	<p>QUESTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the central lesson from David's victory over Goliath? (1 Sam. 17) 2. Why did Saul resent David? 3. Describe the love David and Jonathan had for each other. 4. Did David and his men sin in eating the showbread? (1 Sam. 21:1-9; Lev. 24:5-9; Matt. 12:1-8) 5. Who was Abigail? What honorable thing did she do? (1 Sam. 25) 6. From where and over whom did David reign as king? 7. How did David establish Jerusalem as his capital? 8. Why was Uzzah killed? (2 Sam. 6:1-11; 1 Chron. 13:9-12; 15:2, 12-13) 9. What did David want to do for God? What would God do for David? 10. What contributed to David's sin with Bathsheba? 11. Name the consequences of David's sin with Bathsheba? (2 Sam. 12:10-15) 12. Who was Abner? Joab? Amnon? Tamar? Absalom? 13. What was David's sin regarding the census of the people? (2 Sam. 24; 1 Chron. 21) 14. What preparations did David make for the temple of God? (1 Chron. 22-29)

SOLOMON

"Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin." (Neh. 13:26)

<p>SOLOMON THE PRINCE : <i>2 Samuel 12-18</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promise of Power 2. Loved by the Lord 3. Learning Wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · David and Bathsheba's son · "Loved of the Lord" - 2 Sam. 12:25 · Grew up amidst great family turmoil 	<p>SOLOMON'S EARLY REIGN : <i>1 Kings 1-3; 2 Chron. 1</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possession of Power 2. Loved the Lord 3. Requesting Wisdom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attempted coup by Adonijah - 1 Kgs. 1 · David's charge to Solomon - 1 Kgs. 2:1-9 · Solomon is crowned king - 1 Chron. 29:21-25 · Solomon's throne is established - 1 Kgs. 2:12-46 · Solomon's prayer for wisdom is granted, and more - 1 Kgs. 3; 2 Chron. 1
<p>SOLOMON'S GOLDEN YEARS : <i>1 Kings 4-10; 2 Chron. 2-9</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peak of Power 2. Built by the Lord 3. Living Wisely <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The prosperity and wisdom of his reign - 1 Kgs. 4:20-34 · Building the temple and palace - 1 Kgs. 5-7; 2 Chron. 2-5 · Dedication of the temple and other accomplishments - 1 Kgs. 8-9; 2 Chron. 6-8 · The queen of Sheba - 1 Kgs. 10:1-13; 2 Chron. 9:1-12 · Solomon's great wealth - 1 Kgs. 10:14-29; 2 Chron. 9:13-28 	<p>SOLOMON'S SAD DECLINE : <i>1 Kings 11</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passing of Power 2. Turned from the Lord 3. Living Foolishly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solomon's wives and idolatry - 1 Kgs. 11:1-13 · Solomon's adversaries - 1 Kgs. 11:14-40 · Solomon's death - 1 Kgs. 11:41-43; 2 Chron. 9:29-31
<p style="text-align: center;">LESSONS FROM SOLOMON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Wisdom is knowledge faithfully applied. · Like Solomon, we should pray for wisdom (Jas. 1:5-8). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · God is able to bless us beyond our expectation. · Who we choose to marry will affect the rest of our lives, especially our service to God. · Effective leadership can be nullified by an unfaithful personal life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Moral and religious compromise is sin. · God dwells with His people in His temple, the church. · God keeps His promises of punishment as surely as His promises of blessing. 	<p>QUESTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why was Gibeon called "the great high place?" (1 Kgs. 3:4; 2 Chron. 1:3; 1 Chron. 21:29) 2. What attitudes are reflected in Solomon's prayer? (1 Kgs. 3:5-9) 3. How did God answer Solomon's prayer? (1 Kgs. 3:10-14) 4. Give an example of Solomon's wisdom. (1 Kgs. 3:16-28) 5. Who supplied Solomon with the materials to build the temple? (1 Kgs. 5) 6. How long did it take to build the temple? Solomon's palace? (1 Kgs. 6:38; 7:1) 7. Describe Israel's worship in the early years of Solomon's reign (1 Kgs. 3:2). Compare 1 Kgs. 3:2 with Lev. 17:1-9 and Deut. 12:2-5, 13-14. Did it matter to God where Israel worshipped? (1 Kgs. 9:3) 8. What did the queen of Sheba learn about Solomon? (1 Kgs. 10:1-10) How is Jesus "greater than Solomon"? (Matt. 12:42) 9. Who (what) turned Solomon's heart away from God? (1 Kgs. 11:1-8; Neh. 13:26) 10. What did God promise to do as a consequence for his sins? (1 Kgs. 11:9-13) 11. Who was Jeroboam? What did Solomon try to do to him? (1 Kgs. 11:26-40) 12. From Ecclesiastes, tell what things from which Solomon tried to find happiness. Did he succeed? What did he conclude was the purpose of life? (Eccl. 12:13-14)

JEROBOAM

*"For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin."
(2 Kings 17:21)*

<p>JEROBOAM'S BACKGROUND : 1 Kings 11:26-28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Son of Nebat, tribe of Ephraim · An industrious man of valor · Appointed by king Solomon as an officer over the labor force of the house of Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh) · An effective leader 	<p>GOD'S PROMISE TO JEROBOAM : 1 Kings 11:29-39</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ahijah's prophecy of the division of Israel · God's reasons for dividing the kingdom (11:33): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Idolatry of Israel, led by Solomon 2. Disobedience to the law of God · God's promise to Jeroboam
<p>DEATH THREAT AGAINST JEROBOAM : 1 Kings 11:40-12:2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam · Jeroboam fled to Egypt until after Solomon's death 	<p>THE REVOLT AGAINST REHOBOAM : 1 Kings 12:3-24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The people's complaint and appeal (12:3-5) · Rehoboam's foolishness (12:6-15) · The division is complete (12:16-24)
<p>THE SINS OF JEROBOAM : 1 Kings 12:25-33 (2 Chron. 13:8-10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · His attempt to secure his kingdom became his downfall (12:25-27) · Calf worship in Bethel and Dan (12:28-33; cf. Hosea 8:4-7) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changed the object of worship - 12:28 2. Changed the place of worship - 12:29, 31 3. Changed the priesthood - 12:31 (13:33) 4. Changed the feast days - 12:32 · Devised in his own heart (12:33) · "More evil that all who were before you" (1 Kgs. 14:9) · "The sins of Jeroboam" a marker of subsequent sins in Israel (1 Kgs. 14:16; 2 Kgs. 17:21-23) 	<p>GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST JEROBOAM'S ALTAR : 1 Kings 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The prophecy of Josiah (13:2; 2 Kgs. 23:15-16) · Two signs confirming the word of God (13:3-6) · The man of God refuses to eat with Jeroboam (13:7-10) · The man of God is deceived, disobeys, and dies (13:11-32) · Jeroboam remained unrepentant (13:33-34)
<p>JEROBOAM'S REIGN : 1 Kings 14; 2 Chron. 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Marked by rebellion and idolatry (2 Chron. 13:8-10) · Marred by war with Judah (1 Kgs. 14:19; cf. 2 Chron. 13:13-20) · His house to be destroyed (1 Kgs. 14:7-14) · Israel to go into captivity (1 Kgs. 14:15-16) · King over Israel (northern kingdom) for 22 years (1 Kgs. 14:20) 	<p>LESSONS FOR US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Great opportunities are no guarantee of success. · Knowing God's word does not mean we will obey it. · Stubborn selfishness leads to destruction. · God will be honored by His people, or in their sin they will be destroyed. · God keeps His word, so we must put our faith in Him and not our own devices

QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the advantages and opportunities of Jeroboam. (1 Kgs. 11:26-28)
2. How did Jeroboam learn he would be king of Israel? (1 Kgs. 11:29-39)
3. How did Jeroboam rise to power? (1 Kgs. 12:1-19)
4. How did Jeroboam try to secure his throne? What was the outcome of his effort? (1 Kgs. 12:25-33; 13:33-34; 14:16)
5. Who would destroy the calf-worship of Bethel? When did this occur? (1 Kgs. 13:1-5; cf. 2 Kgs. 23:15-16)
6. What mercy did God show Jeroboam? Did it change Jeroboam? (1 Kgs. 13:4-8, 33)
7. Why was the man of God killed by the lion? (1 Kgs. 13:11-32)
8. Describe the incident surrounding the death of Jeroboam's son in 1 Kings 14.

ELISHA

"And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me." (2 Kings 2:9)

<p>ELISHA'S BACKGROUND : 1 Kings 19:19-21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Selected by God to be a prophet (1 Kgs. 19:16) · A farmer, the son of Shaphat of Abel-Meholah (1 Kgs. 19:16, 19) 	<p>ELISHA AND ELIJAH : 1 Kings 19:21; 2 Kings 2:1-18; 3:11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Humble and devoted servant of the prophet Elijah (1 Kgs. 19:21; 2 Kgs. 3:11; 2:1-6) · Asked to be Elijah's successor (2 Kgs. 2:9) · His request fulfilled (2 Kgs. 2:10-18)
<p>ELISHA'S WORK AS A PROPHET : 2 Kings 2:19-13:21 (5:8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · From his call to his death spanned a time of about 65 years (prophet for about 55 years) · The record of his prophetic work is not recorded in strict chronological order · Like Elijah's, his miracles showed the power of Jehovah over Baal while also showing God's mercy and salvation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jordan River parted - 2 Kgs. 2:13-14 (Water) 2. Spring purified at Jericho - 2 Kgs. 2:19-22 (Water) 3. Widow's oil multiplied - 2 Kgs. 4:1-7 (Oil) 4. Dead boy raised to life - 2 Kgs. 4:18-37 (Life of a child) 5. Poison in stew purified - 2 Kgs. 4:38-41 (Flour) 6. Prophets' food multiplied - 2 Kgs. 4:42-44 (Bread and grain) 7. Naaman healed of leprosy - 2 Kgs. 5:1-14 (Flesh) 8. Gehazi became leprous - 2 Kgs. 5:15-27 (Omniscient) 9. Ax head floated - 2 Kgs. 6:1-7 (Nature) 10. Syrian army blinded - 2 Kgs. 6:8-23 (Prayer) 11. The bones of Elisha - 2 Kgs. 13:20-21 (Death) 	<p>THE MERCY AND JUDGMENT OF GOD : Romans 11:22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Bible records 18 encounters between Elisha and needy people · The mercy and compassion of God are seen in Elisha's many miracles · (Elisha spent much of his time in the compassionate care of people) · The judgment of God was also on display: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Elisha also spoke condemnation upon the rebellious - 2 Kgs. 2:23-24; 5:20-27; cf. 9:1-10) <p>THE WORK OF ELISHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The sons of the prophets (2 Kgs. 2:3, 5, 7; 15-18; 4:38; 6:1-7; 9:1, 4) · The kings of Israel & Judah (2 Kgs. 3) · The widow and the Shunammite woman (2 Kgs. 4:1-37; 8:1-6) · Naaman and Gehazi (2 Kgs. 5) · The Syrians (2 Kgs. 6:8-7:20; 8:7-15) · Jehu anointed king of Israel, destroyed the house of Ahab & removed Baal worship from Israel (2 Kgs. 9:1-10; 10:10-11, 27-31) · The death of Elisha (2 Kgs. 13:14-21)
<p>THE CHARACTER OF ELISHA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Service to God and others is his hallmark (he zealously desired to serve God, 2 Kgs. 2:9) · Practiced compassion toward the trials of the people · Also showed stern, righteous indignation against irreverence · Prayer and action showed his faith in God's presence and power 	<p>LESSONS FOR US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · It is good to aspire to and be involved in spiritual service. · The measure of greatness in Christ's kingdom is service (Matt. 20:26-28). · Great faith brings great rewards (cf. the Shunammite woman). · God's word must be followed faithfully in order to receive God's blessings (cf. Naaman). · God surely punishes the unrighteous. · God's prophetic word is true.

QUESTIONS

1. What was meant by Elisha's request that a "a double portion" of Elijah's spirit be upon him? (2 Kgs. 2:9)
2. Explain the expression, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" To whom and what occurrences was it applied? (2 Kgs. 2:11; 6:17; 13:14)
3. Who rebelled against Israel (2 Kgs. 3)? What was the outcome?
4. How did Elisha help a prophet's widow? (2 Kgs. 4:1-7)
5. What did the Shunammite woman do for Elisha? What did he (God) do for her? (2 Kgs. 4:8-37; 8:1-6)
6. What caused Naaman to be healed of his leprosy? (2 Kgs. 5:1-15)
7. What were Gehazi's sins and punishment? (2 Kgs. 5:20-27)
8. What did Elisha see when the Syrian army attempted to capture him? (2 Kgs. 6:8-23)
9. Who tried to kill Elisha and why? (2 Kgs. 6:24-7:2)
10. How did the famine and siege of Samaria end? (2 Kgs. 7:3-20)
11. Who were Ben-hadad (1 Kgs. 20:1; 2 Kgs. 6:24)? Hazeal (1 Kgs. 19:15; 2 Kgs. 8:7-15; 12:17-18)? Jehu (1 Kgs. 19:16; 2 Kgs. 9 & 10)?
12. When Elisha neared death, why was he angry with the king of Israel? (2 Kgs. 13:14-19)
13. What happened when Moabites buried a man in Elisha's tomb? (2 Kgs. 13:20-21)

ELIJAH

And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again." (1 Kings 18:36-37)

<p>ELIJAH, THE TISHBITE : 1 Kings 17:1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A Tishbite of the inhabitants of Gilead · His appearance - 2 Kings 1:8 (cf. Zech. 13:4) · His piety - 1 Kgs. 19:10, 14; Jas. 5:17 · His work - 1 Kgs. 18:36-37 (cf. Lk. 1:17) 	<p>THE PROPHECIES OF ELIJAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Foretells the drought (1 Kgs. 17:1) · The destruction of Ahab and his house (1 Kgs. 21:17-29) · The death of Ahaziah (2 Kgs. 2-17) · Plague upon Jehoram, king of Judah (2 Chrn. 21:12-20)
<p>THE MIRACLES OF ELIJAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Showed the power of the true God over the purported realm of Baal: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food brought by ravens - 1 Kgs. 17:5-6 (Food) 2. Widow's food multiplied - 1 Kgs. 17:14-16 (Flour & oil) 3. Widow's son raised from the dead - 1 Kgs. 17:17-24 (Life) 4. Mt. Carmel altar & sacrifice consumed - 1 Kgs. 18:36-39 (Fire & water) 5. Ahaziah's soldiers consumed - 2 Kgs. 1:9-14 (Fire) 6. Jordan River parted - 2 Kgs. 2:6-8 (Water) 7. Transported to heaven - 2 Kgs. 2:11-12 (Fire, wind & death) 	<p>THE WORKS OF ELIJAH : 1 Kings 17:1-19:21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The impieties of Ahab, king of Israel (1 Kgs. 16:29-33) · Prophet of Jehovah, the living God of Israel (1 Kgs. 17:1) · The works of Elijah: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The judgment of drought - 1 Kgs. 17 2. The challenge between Jehovah and Baal at Mt. Carmel - 1 Kgs. 18 3. At Horeb - 1 Kgs. 19 4. The case of Naboth - 1 Kgs. 21 5. Elijah and Ahaziah, king of Israel - 2 Kgs. 1 6. Elijah translated - 2 Kgs. 2 7. The letter to Jehoram, king of Judah - 2 Chrn. 21:12-15
<p>THE FAITH & CHARACTER OF ELIJAH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Faith in Yahweh (the only true God): God of Nature & covenant God of Israel (cf. 1 Kgs. 17:1) · Consuming zeal against false religion which would displace Yahweh · Patience to wait on the Lord · Keen spiritual insight · Sharp wit to expose hypocrisy, falsehood and error · Boldness and disregard of self · Also know he was "a man subject to like passions as we are" (Jas. 5:17) 	<p>ELIJAH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Typical of John the Baptist and his work (Mal. 4:5-6; Lk. 1:16-17; Matt. 11:14; 17:10-13) · Present at Jesus' transfiguration (Lk. 9:30-31) · His plea to God at Horeb is applied (Rom. 11:2-4) · Example to us of the powerful supplication of a righteous man (Jas. 5:17-18)

<p>LESSONS FOR US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · God hates sin. · Like the widow, we will be blessed if we follow God's instructions. · God has promised to answer our prayers like He answered Elijah's prayer (Jas. 5:15-18) · The majority is not always right. · God will not accept partial loyalty. · "Jehovah, He is God!" · Man cannot escape God. · God has His remnant. · The wages of sin is death. 	<p>QUESTIONS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe Elijah's appearance and his piety. (2 Kgs. 1:8; 1 Kgs. 19:10, 14) 2. What was his essential work as God's prophet? (1 Kgs. 18:36-37; cf. Lk. 1:17) 3. What were Ahab's sins? How is he depicted in 1 Kgs. 16:29-33? 4. Why did God send Elijah to Zarephath? (1 Kgs. 17:9; Lk. 4:25-26) 5. What did the miraculous raising of the widow's son confirm? (1 Kgs. 17:24; cf. Mk. 16:17-20) 6. Discuss Elijah's words and statements to Ahab and the prophets of Baal. (1 Kgs. 18:17-29) Can we use such techniques to expose sin and error today? 7. Why did Elijah flee to Horeb? What did God tell him? What lessons are to be learned from this event in Elijah's life? (1 Kgs. 19) 8. Who became Elijah's servant? 9. Who was Naboth and what became of him? (1 Kgs. 21:1-17) 10. What were God's judgments against Ahab and Jezebel? (1 Kgs. 21:17-29) 11. Describe Elijah's departure from the earth. (2 Kgs. 2)
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JONAH

"And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left--and much livestock?" (Jonah 4:11)

JONAH'S BACKGROUND : 2 Kings 14:23-27; Jonah 1:1

- Son of Amittai (2 Kgs. 14:25)
- From village of Gath-Hepher in Zebulun (2 Kgs. 14:25; Josh. 19:13)
- Served as God's prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II {~780 BC} (2 Kgs. 14:23-27)
- He spoke God's word of Israel's victory and expansion of territory (2 Kgs. 14:25-27)

JONAH: MESSENGER OF GOD : *Jonah 1-4*

- Runs from God (Jonah 1)
- Runs to God (Jonah 2)
- Runs with God (Jonah 3)
- Runs ahead of God (Jonah 4)

THEMES FROM THE LIFE AND WORK OF JONAH : *Jonah 1-4*

- God's Sovereignty (over Jonah, over nature, over men and nations)
- God's Message (His word has relevance and application over all men)
- Man's Repentance (Who needs it and what it is)
- God's Mercy (God loves all men and will forgive all who turn to Him)

JONAH AND JESUS : *Matt. 12:38-41; 16:4; Lk. 11:29-32*

- Both were sent by God to preach

- The "sign of Jonah"
- Jesus is greater than Jonah

LESSONS FOR US

- A fervor for God which includes jealousy and revenge is not of God (Rom. 12:11, 19-21)
- The universality of divine grace (Rom. 1:16)
- National sin demands national repentance (Jonah 3:5-10)
- One cannot run away from God (Psa. 139:7-12)
- One should never underestimate the power of God's word to change the heart of the vilest of characters (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- The infinite love of God and the selfish coldness of man (Jonah 4)

QUESTIONS

1. Where was Jonah from? (2 Kgs. 14:25; Josh. 19:13) How do you explain John 7:52 in view of this?
2. Of what did Jonah prophesy during the reign of Jeroboam II? (2 Kgs. 14:25-27)
3. Discuss the contrast between Jonah's faith and his lack of faithfulness in Jonah 1:1-12.
4. What did God prepare for Jonah? (Jonah 1:17; Matt. 12:39-41)
5. Describe Jonah's "conversion" in Jonah 2.
6. Where was Nineveh? Over what country did it rule?
7. What message from God did Jonah preach to Nineveh? (Jonah 3:1-4)
8. How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah's preaching? Why did they have reason to believe his message would come to pass? (Jonah 3:5; cf. Lk. 11:30)
9. Define repentance using the Ninevites as a model. (Jonah 3:5-10; Lk. 11:32)
10. Why was Jonah displeased and angry over God's decision to not destroy Nineveh? (Jonah 4:1-5)
11. How did God teach Jonah a lesson on mercy? (Jonah 4:6-11)
12. What is among the reasons God offers salvation to us and to all?

DANIEL

"There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the Spirit of the Holy God. And in the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him" (Daniel 5:11)

OUTLINE OF DANIEL'S LIFE : *Daniel 1 (Isa. 39:7)*

- A YOUTH (Dan. 1)
 1. Captured and exiled by Nebuchadnezzar in 606-605 BC - Dan. 1:1-2; cf. Isa. 39:7
 2. Jewish nobility of the tribe of Judah - Dan. 1:3-4, 6
 3. Three years of training to serve king Nebuchadnezzar - Dan. 1:5, 17-21
 4. Babylonian name: Beltshazzar ("prince of Bel" or "Bel protect the king!") - Dan. 1:7
 5. Faith tested and prevails - Dan. 1:8-16

- COUNSELLOR TO KINGS (Dan. 2-6)
 1. Babylonian kings - Dan. 2-5 (4:9)
 2. Medo-Persian kings - Dan. 6 (6:28)
- INTERPRETER OF DREAMS AND VISIONS
 1. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great image - Dan. 2
 2. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a great tree - Dan. 4
 3. Belshazzar's vision at the feast - Dan. 5
- SEER OF VISIONS AND INTERPRETER OF THE TIMES
 1. Vision of four beasts - Dan. 7
 2. Vision of a ram & a goat - Dan. 8
 3. Vision of the glorious man - Dan. 10
 4. Prophecies of coming kingdoms - Dan. 11-12

DANIEL: GREATLY BELOVED : *Daniel 10:11-12*

- A devout man - 10:12 (1:8)
- A humble man - 10:12; 2:18
- A faithful man - 1:8; 2:20-23; 6:4, 10-11, 23
- A wise man - 1:17, 20; 2:14; 5:12
- A blessed man - 1:17-20; 5:11-12; 6:28
- Innocent before God - 6:22

TRIALS OF FAITH

- As an exiled Hebrew in the Chaldean court - Dan. 1
- The threat of death - Dan. 2
- Daniel's companions and the image of gold - Dan. 3
- The lions' den - Dan. 6

LESSONS FOR US

- Quiet convictions can earn long-term respect (1:21)
- Don't wait until you are in a tough situation to learn about prayer (6:10)
- We must always choose to obey God before man (4:17-18)
- We should spend less time wondering what will happen in the future and more time on how we should live in the present (2:22)
- God rules over the affairs of men and nations (2:20-21; 4:17, 25, 32)
- God's kingdom is superior to every kingdom of this world (2:35, 44; 7:14, 27)

QUESTIONS

1. Describe Daniel when he was taken into Babylon. (Dan. 1:1-4)
2. What was Daniel required to do for three years? What request did he make? What was the outcome? (Dan. 1:5-21)
3. What kings did Daniel serve?
4. Why did Nebuchadnezzar propose to kill all of his wise men? What did Daniel do? (Dan. 2:1-23)
5. Describe Nebuchadnezzar's dream and what it meant. Has it come to pass? Support your answer with scripture. (Dan. 2:24-45)
6. Why were Shadrach, Meshach & Abed-Nego thrown into a fiery furnace? What was the outcome? (Dan. 3)
7. Who was the subject of Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 4? What happened to him?
8. What happened at king Belshazzar's feast? What was God's message to the king? (Dan. 5)
9. Who defeated the Babylonian empire? (5:30) Who, in turn, defeated them?
10. Why was Daniel thrown into a den of lions? What did king Darius do afterward? (Dan. 6)
11. Has Daniel's vision in Daniel 7 been fulfilled? How do you know?

12. For whom and what did Daniel pray in Daniel 9?
13. What is the meaning of the "seventy-weeks" prophecy in Daniel 9:20-27? Has it been fulfilled?

PAUL: BECOME SUCH AS I AM

Intro.

1. Paul had held himself out as an example - 1 Cor. 11:1 (Phil. 3:17)
2. Now, he finds himself imprisoned, waiting to stand before Caesar (Acts 21:33ff).
3. Acts 26 - Before King Herod Agrippa II he makes his defense by preaching the gospel to save lost men.
4. Acts 26:28-29 - Except for bonds, Paul wanted them to be as he was. What was there about this man which commended his condition to others? Are we as Paul was?

I. HE WAS FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

A. cf. Agrippa & Company.

1. Incestuous relation w/ sister Bernice - Outrageous, even by heathen standards.
2. All others in courtroom - Guilty of sin, thus slaves of sin - Jno. 8:34.
 - a. Overcome by it - 2 Pet. 2:19.
 - b. Yield to it - Rom. 6:16.
3. Freedom from it - Jno. 8:36; Rom. 6:17-18.

B. cf. Paul.

1. Had at one time been in bondage to sin.
2. 1 Tim. 1:12-16 - Chief of sinners obtained mercy to show God's long-suffering.
3. Acts 9:6; 22:16 - What shall I do?

II. HE WAS FREE FROM THE MISTAKES OF THE PAST.

A. Paul's Past Was Filled With Sin - Acts 26:9-11.

1. Murderous persecutor of church.
2. v. 14 - All sin is futile & self-defeating.
3. Paul could not change the past, but he could (did) repent & become a "new creature" in Christ - 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:3-4.

B. How Are You Dealing With Your Past Mistakes?

1. Like Paul, repent & become Christian?
2. Cover, hide, ignore? - cf. Phil. 3:13-14.
3. Become & be a new creature in Christ!

III. HE WAS FREE FROM RITUALISM & CEREMONIALISM - Gal. 4:8-12.

A. Religious Ritualism Was Never An End In Itself - Hosea 6:6; Amos 5:21-24; Isa. 1:10-20; Psa. 51:16-17.

B. Man Offers Many Self-Made Religious Ceremonies To God (Lent / Easter / Christmas....)

1. Religious ceremony at the expense of truth is abominable to God! (Jno. 4:23-24)
2. Two basic lessons to remember:
 - a. Don't add man-made ceremonies.
 - b. Don't "ritualized" what God has commanded us.

IV. HE WAS FREE FROM THE LOVE OF THE WORLD.

- A. This Had **Not Always** Been So - Phil. 3:4-7.
 - Now, he gladly gloried in the cross of Christ - Gal. 6:14.
- B. Some Only **Half-Heartedly** Refrain From The World, Never Glorifying In The Cross.
 - 1. Exo. 16:3 - Israel longed for flesh-pots instead of rejoicing in their freedom!
 - 2. Lk. 9:62 - Some still put their hands to the plow & then look back!
 - 3. 1 Jno. 2:15-17 - Stern prohibition!

V. HE WAS FREE FROM VACILLATION.

- A. A Lack Of **Steadfastness** Did Not Characterize Paul - Phil. 3:14; 2 Tim. 4:7.
 - 1. Cf. Graph of life: Up or down?
 - 2. Be careful! We can be carried away w/ the error of the wicked - 2 Pet. 3:17-18.
 - 3. Things which could not stop Paul:
 - a. Suffering - Rom. 8:18.
 - b. Unlawful arrest (Acts 21-28).
 - c. Lies against him - 1 Cor. 4:13.
 - 4. 1 Cor. 15:58 - Be steadfast!

Conclusion

Paul was not a perfect man, but he was a forgiven man. His Christian life sets a standard of excellence for us to emulate - *To become such as he was.*

John the Baptist: A PREACHER WHO LOST HIS HEAD

-Mark 6:14-29-

Intro.

- 1. Matt. 11:7-11 - John a truly great man (Character, courage, consistency, humility....).
- 2. Mk. 6:14-29 - His preaching made enemies.
- 3. He "lost his head" preaching the truth.
- 4. What he preached & the reactions it caused continue to be relevant today (Gal. 4:16).

I. BECAUSE HE DARED TO CONDEMN ADULTERY - 6:17-18.

A. Adultery Must Continue To Be Condemned, Not Comforted - cf. Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 5:3, 13; 2 Sam. 12:7, 9.

- 1. Rom. 7:2-3 - Approved marriage: Bound by law for life.
 - a. cf. Matt. 5:32; 19:9 ▶ 1 Cor. 7:10-11.
 - b. Herod & Herodias - Mk. 6:17-18; Rom. 7:3.
- 2. Today, comfort being given adulterers:
 - a. Redefine: "Divorce & remarriage" (treachery against covenant).
 - b. Alien sinner not amenable (Matt. 19:9).
 - c. All remarriages eventually legitimate.

B. Evidence Of Compromise With Sin.

- 1. Reputation of teacher, emotions, charges of "judging," are having their effect: (1 Cor. 4:6)
 - a. "Don't preach" / Not preaching / Too difficult / Don't mark false teachers (Rom. 16:17) / Accepting into fellowship.
 - b. Peace at expense of truth causes: Fellowship w/sin, dishonors Christ, encourages disobedience, lessens respect for truth.

2. Our Present Need:

- a. Emphasize truth on marriage (Matt. 19:6).
- b. Warn against adultery in all its forms.
- c. Encourage purity / obedience / perseverance.
- d. Courage of John to teach truth & expose sin.

II. BECAUSE OF A RASH VOW - Mk. 6:21-26 (Eccl. 5:2-7).

A. Promises Before God Are Serious Business!

1. Eccl. 5:2 - Rash tongue--->Hasty heart!
2. 5:4-5 - Keep vows before God (conversion; diligence; marriage; etc.).

B. Tongue Control May Mean Retraction Rather Than Proceeding Further Into Sin - 6:26.

1. cf. Judges 11:30-31, 34-40 - Jephthah could and should have repented! (5:4-5, Legitimate vows before God, cf. v. 6).
2. Pride, selfishness & peer pressure prevent humble repentance of rash statements (home, church, work, etc.).

C. Rash Speech Damages Others - (Mk. 6:27); Jas. 3:7-10; Col. 4:6.

1. Speech must be tamed, so it is beneficial to others.
2. Parents - Children / Husband & Wife / Brethren / etc.

III. BECAUSE OF A DANCING DAUGHTER - Mk. 6:22 .

A. Dancing Continues To Excite Unlawful Lust - Gal. 5:19 ["unbridled lust...shamelessness... wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males & females"]. - 1 Jno. 2:16 - Lust of flesh & eyes (6:22).

B. What Are Parents To Do?

1. 6:22-24 - Parental permission precipitated passion! Herodias encouraged it!
2. Parental respon. to train children in the dangers of dancing, etc. - Prov. 22:6.
3. Don't close your eyes to the attraction it will have on your children - Prepare them for the pressures of rejection & isolation for doing what is right!
4. "Go, but don't dance" - Well, Herod didn't dance!
-(cf. Going into burning house to watch it burn!) - 1 Pet. 2:11-12; 2 Cor. 6:17.

Conclusion

1. Story of John, Herod & Herodias is a story of how people react to truth (courageous conviction w/o compromise; perplexed; vindictive; unrepentant; rejection; lost).
2. We must follow John's brave example: Would you lose your head for the truth of God?!

BARNABAS, SON OF CONSOLATION

Intro.

1. **Acts 11:19-26** - Barnabas was a "good man" - Impressive!
2. **Acts 4:36**: "Son of consolation" [PARAKLESIS] (encouragement, NKJV).
 - a. "A calling near, summons...imploration, exhortation, admonition, encouragement...consolation, comfort, solace....that which affords comfort or refreshment....persuasive discourse...instructive...powerful hortatory discourse" (Thayer, 483).

- b. Of Barnabas: "a man gifted in teaching, admonishing, consoling" (ibid.)
- 3. Important ideas in "consolation" include:
 - a. Exhortation (encouragement) - **Heb. 6:18.**
 - b. Comfort - Alleviation of grief; Cheering & supporting influence - **2 Cor. 1:6-7.**
 - c. Persuasive discourse - **Acts 13:15.**
- 4. *What was it about Barnabas that made him such a source of comfort & encouragement to his brethren?*

I. BARNABAS WAS SPIRITUALLY MATURE (Gal. 6:1).

- A. He Was **Full Of The Holy Spirit** - **Acts 11:24**; cf. **Eph. 5:18.**
 - 1. Non-miraculous - cf. **Lk. 1:15 (Jno. 10:41).**
 - a. Led by the Spirit - **Gal. 5:16, 18.**
 - b. Fruit of the Spirit - **5:22-25.**
 - 2. cf. **Acts 6:3** - See wisdom & reputation.
- B. He Was **Full Of Faith** - **Acts 11:24.**
 - 1. Believed in what he was doing! - **Heb. 11:6**
 - 2. His faith influenced others! (**11:24**)
 - 3. Those with stronger faith bear responsibility to strengthen the weak - **Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Ths. 5:14.**

II. BARNABAS SET MANY GODLY EXAMPLES.

- A. An Example In **Giving**:
 - 1. Of his possessions - **Acts 4:36-37.**
-(cf. Our giving - **2 Cor. 9:6-8**).
 - 2. Of his time/energy - **Acts 11:22, 26; Acts 13-14 (1 Cor. 9:6).** (cf. Use of ours - **Eph. 5:16**).
- B. An Example In **Trustworthiness** - **Acts 11:22-23, 30; 13:2; 15:2.**
 - 1. Time & again, when a work needed to be accomplished, Barnabas was the man!
 - 2. cf. **Acts 14:14** - He was "one sent" - He could be trusted!
 - 3. **Phil. 2:21-22** - Aptly apply to Barnabas! *Let us follow this example!*
- C. An Example In **Promoting Unity** Among Brethren - **Acts 9:26-28; 11:19-23.**
 - 1. **9:26-28** - Used truth to achieve it.
 - 2. **11:19-23** - Taught gospel to secure it.
 - 3. **15:1-2** - Would not compromise truth for peace/unity/fellowship. (cf. **Gal. 2:13**)
 - 4. **15:36-39** - Would go separate ways over a matter of judgment rather than cause lasting damage (cf. **1 Cor. 9:6; Col. 4:10**).
- D. An Example Of **Repentance** - **Gal. 2:13; 1 Cor. 9:6.**
 - 1. Wasn't sinless, but was a humble man!
 - 2. **1 Cor. 9:6** - Clearly, he repented, or Paul would not have commended his conduct on this later occasion!

III. BARNABAS TAUGHT OTHERS.

- A. He **Exhorted People With The Word Of God** - **Acts 13:5-12; 15:35.**
-(Strength of our exhorting must be our message! - **2 Tim. 4:2**).
- B. **How He Used The Word Of God To Exhort:**

1. *Grounded new saints* - Acts 11:22ff; 13:43.
2. With *boldness* - Acts 13:46.
3. With *persistence* - Acts 13:50-51.
4. *Defense of the truth* - 15:1-2.
5. What a good pattern for us to follow!

Conclusion

1. Encouragement, comfort & persuasion - *These are the hallmarks of consolation.*
2. He gave these to others through his mature faith, his examples & by teaching the gospel to others.
3. When these qualities are put into our lives, we will also be "sons of consolation."