

BASIC BIBLE STUDY



Basic Bible Study
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Originator



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Dr. Noe's Deaf ministry began in 1960 when he started church services for deaf people. He also hosted a weekly TV program called "Talking Hands." Later, he joined Deaf Missions, and in 1982 became the Lead Bible Translator for *The Bible: ASL Version* – then known as the "Omega Project." During his life, Dr. Noe also conducted more than 170 revival meetings across the United States, and was an author, professor, chalk artist, and the designer for the "Panoramic Bible Charts."

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BASIC BIBLE STUDY

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

■ INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

WELCOME

Welcome to the “Basic Bible Study”! We, the staff of Deaf Missions, are excited that you want to learn more about the Bible. We made this simple study so you can know more about God and Jesus. In these lessons, you will learn some of the most important ideas from God’s Word. We did not design this course to be a complete study of the Bible. It will just give you some important facts.

We will be using the Easy-to-Read Version of the Bible. If you know American Sign Language (ASL), you may also find it helpful to watch “The Bible: ASL Version” produced by Deaf Missions. The complete New Testament and part of the Old Testament are available on DVD for purchase from the Deaf Missions Store (www.deafmissions.com/store). Or you may download the free DeafBible.is app to view on your mobile device.

HOW TO STUDY

1. Use the Easy-to-Read Bible to help you study this course. Read the Bible verses that we suggest you read for each lesson. Underline or use a highlighter pen to mark important verses in your Bible.

EXAMPLE:

“God created the sky and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

OR

“Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

2. Find a place where you can study without being bothered.
3. Pray to God. Ask Him to help you learn and apply what the Bible teaches.
4. Use the charts, the lessons and the Easy-to-Read Bible while you study each lesson. Then answer the questions.
5. Reading the Bible, God’s Word, is exciting! We hope that you are excited about this “Basic Bible Study.” You will discover that the message of the Bible is that God wants to save you and have a relationship with you.

THE BIBLE

The Bible is the most important book. More people read the Bible than any other book. People in all parts of the world read the Bible. God blesses people who read the Bible and obey it. The Bible teaches us three important truths:

1. God loves us.
2. God wants us to obey Him.
3. People who obey God will live with Him forever.

The word “Bible” is a Greek word (biblos) meaning “books.” The Bible is like a library—it is a collection of 66 books. The names of the 66 books of the Bible are printed in the front of your Bible. The Bible has two main parts — the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The Old Testament has 39 books. These books are divided into five main groups:

1. LAW (God’s law) — Genesis through Deuteronomy (5 books)
2. HISTORY (of God’s people) — Joshua through Esther (12 books)
3. POETRY AND WISDOM — Job through Song of Songs (5 books) NOTE: “Song of Songs” is sometimes called “Song of Solomon”
4. MAJOR PROPHETS — Isaiah through Daniel (5 books)
5. MINOR PROPHETS — Hosea through Malachi (12 books)

The New Testament has 27 books. These books are divided into five main groups:

1. GOSPELS (Life of Jesus, God's Son) — Matthew through John (4 books)
2. HISTORY (of the Church) — Acts (1 book)
3. PAUL'S LETTERS — Romans through Philemon (13 books)
4. GENERAL LETTERS — Hebrews through Jude (8 books)
5. PROPHECY — Revelation (1 book)

Now take time to look at the back pages of your Easy-to-Read Bible. You will see a section called "Word List" which explains Bible words, and you will also find some maps.

Each book of the Bible has chapters and verses. When you see "Genesis 1:3"

1. It means the book of Genesis.
2. The "1" means chapter one.
3. The "3" means verse three.
4. If you see this (...) it means not all of the verse is being quoted.
5. The letters "vs." mean verse. So, if you see "vs. 13," it means verse 13.
6. If you see "Genesis 1:12a," it means the first part of verse 12 is what we want you to read; "Genesis 1:12b" means the last part of the verse.
7. "OT" means Old Testament.
8. "NT" means New Testament.

We will be asking you to read Bible verses from the Old Testament and the New Testament. If you are studying in the Old Testament, and you see the words "(NT) Hebrews," that means the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. Look in the front of your Bible and find the word "Hebrews" in the list of the New Testament books. You will find a page number beside the name of the book.

It took more than 1500 years for the Bible to be written. The people who first wrote the Old Testament wrote most of it in the Hebrew language. The people who wrote the New Testament wrote it in the Greek language.

People (men) wrote the Bible, but the Holy Spirit guided and directed them. (NT) 2 Peter 1:21 says, "...people were led by the Holy Spirit and spoke words from God." Who were some of these writers and what jobs did they have? In the Old Testament, Samuel was a judge, Amos was a shepherd, Ezra was a priest, and others were scribes, kings, prophets, poets, musicians, philosophers, farmers and teachers. Writers in the New Testament were fishermen, a tax collector, a doctor and a tentmaker. Some of the writers were well-educated like Paul. Other writers had little education. The important fact is that the Holy Spirit guided their writings.

Who will you read about in the Bible? The whole Bible is about God and His Son, Jesus, and about God's plan for your life. The Bible tells us who God is, what He has done, and what He is like (His character). You will learn how God created all things and people. You will read about God's love, mercy and justice. You will read that God has rules. Breaking God's rules is called sin. When you break God's rules, there is a penalty, or punishment. You will read about the great love that God has for you. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die on the cross. Jesus accepted the punishment for your sin. Why? Because He loves YOU!

You will understand the Bible better if you start with the book of Genesis. Genesis is the foundation for all Bible knowledge.

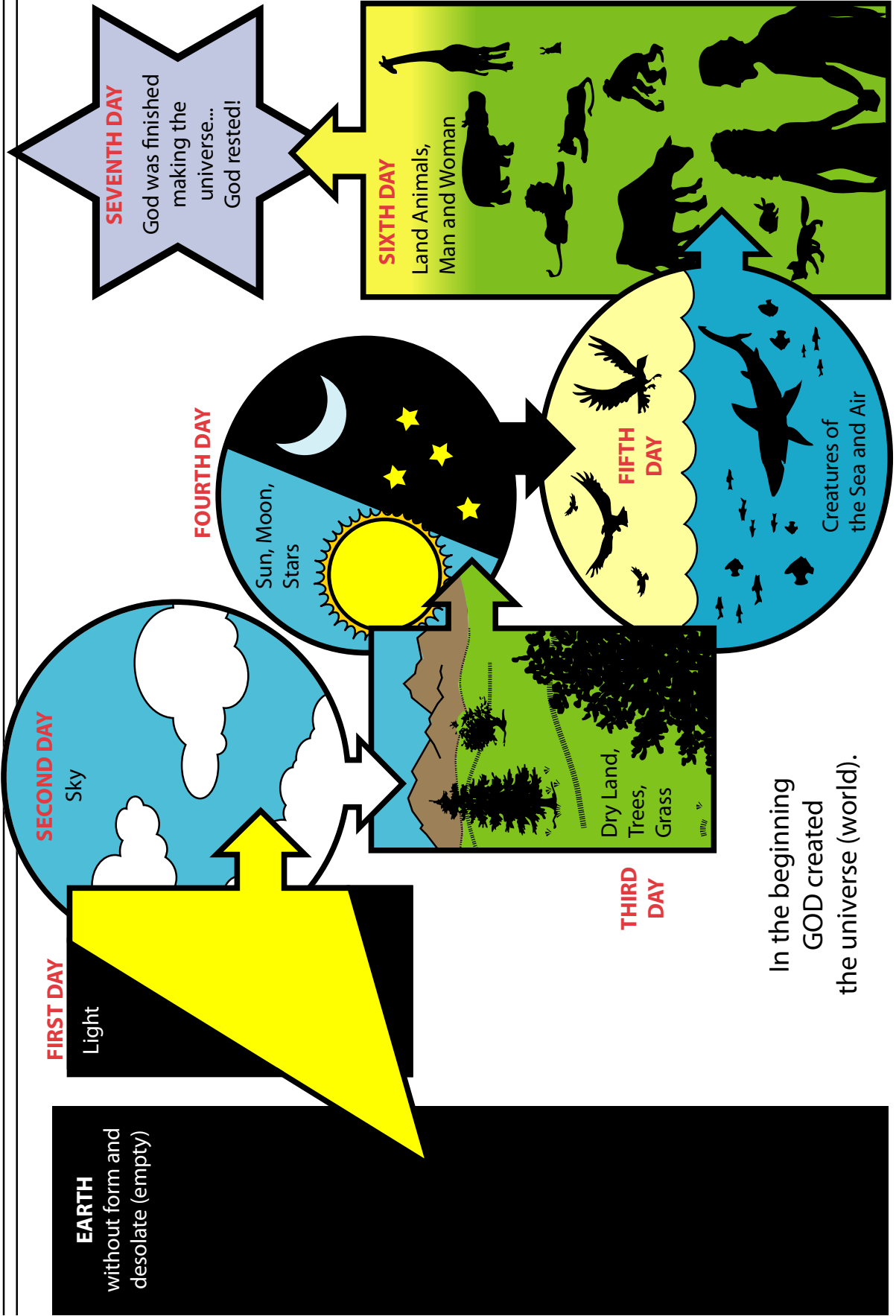
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT · LESSON 1

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 1:1-2:23 "God Made the World (Universe)"

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #1



LESSON 1

LESSON BACKGROUND

Genesis is the first book of the Bible. It was written by Moses. The word “Genesis” means “beginning.” Here is a list of some of the beginnings:

1. Beginning of the universe (sky and earth).
2. Beginning of humans.
3. Beginning of marriage.
4. Beginning of sin.
5. Beginning of God’s plan to forgive our sins.
6. Beginning of the family.
7. Beginning of different nations.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #1 / LESSON

Look at the chart. Genesis 1:1 says, “God created the sky and the earth.” The word “created” means “made.”

Who created the world? God created the world. When did it happen? It happened in the beginning. (NT) Hebrews 1:10 says, “O Lord, in the beginning you made the earth, and your hands made the sky.” God has always been alive. And He will continue to live forever.

What happened when God created the world? Moses used two Hebrew words:

1. One word **בָּרָא** (Barah) is “create” (means “to make out of nothing”). This word is used in Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:21, and Genesis 1:27.
2. The other word **עָשָׂה** (Aw Saw) is “made” (means “to make out of material already created”). You will find this word in Genesis 1:6-7 and Genesis 1:16.

In the following verses, you will read that God created and made things for six days, and then on the seventh day He rested.

1. The first day God said, “Let there be light!” (Genesis 1:3). God separated the light from the darkness. He named the light “day” and the darkness “night.” Read Genesis 1:4-5.
2. The second day God made a space to separate the water below it from the water above it. He called the space “sky.” Read Genesis 1:6-8.
3. The third day God made dry land and told the earth to grow grass, plants and fruit trees. Read Genesis 1:9-11.
4. The fourth day God made the sun, moon and stars. Read Genesis 1:14-19.
5. The fifth day God created the animals that live in the water and all kinds of birds. He told the sea animals to have more babies and fill the seas, and He told the birds to have many more babies. Read Genesis 1:20-23.
6. The sixth day God created the land animals and humans. Read Genesis 1:24-26.
 - a. Man and woman are the best of God’s creation. Man and woman are the most important of all God’s creation. Why? Because God breathed the breath of life into them. Read Genesis 2:7. They are created in the image (likeness) of God. Read Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:22-23.
 - b. God put man and woman in charge of everything He created. Read Genesis 1:28.
7. On the seventh day God stopped creating and making new things. He rested. “God looked at everything he had made. And he saw that everything was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

STOP AND THINK

- Remember that God was there in the beginning. He has always been alive.
- God made this beautiful world for you.
- God made you in His image (like Him). This makes YOU very important and special.
- God created you. How does this make you feel?
- Thank God today for everything He has made.

LESSON 1 - QUESTIONS

1. How many books are in the Bible? _____
2. What are the names of the two parts of the Bible?
_____ and _____
3. Who guided and directed men to write the Bible? _____
4. It took more than _____ years for all the books of the Bible to be written.
5. Who wrote the book of Genesis? _____
6. God created the _____ and the _____. (Genesis 1:1)
7. The earth was _____ . (Genesis 1:2)
8. God said, "Let there be _____ ." (Genesis 1:3)
9. What are the lights that God made on the fourth day?
_____ sky and clouds
_____ sun, moon and stars
10. God told the sea animals to have many _____ and _____ the seas. (Genesis 1:22)
11. Man and woman are the _____ of God's creation.
12. God rested on the _____ day. (Genesis 2:2)
13. In Genesis, chapter one, the word "created" is used three times. Find the verses where the word "created" is used and write their numbers in the blanks.
Verse _____
Verse _____
Verse _____
14. In the first chapter of Genesis, you will read the word "God" many times. Count them. How many times do you see the word "God"? _____

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH WORDS IN THE WORD BANK

1. "Genesis" means _____
2. Dry land, grasses and trees appeared on the _____
3. The Old Testament was first written in the _____
4. God created man on the _____
5. Breaking God's rules is called _____
6. God created the fish and birds on the _____
7. The New Testament was first written in the _____

WORD BANK

- ▶ sin
- ▶ Hebrew language
- ▶ third day
- ▶ Greek language
- ▶ fifth day
- ▶ sixth day
- ▶ beginning

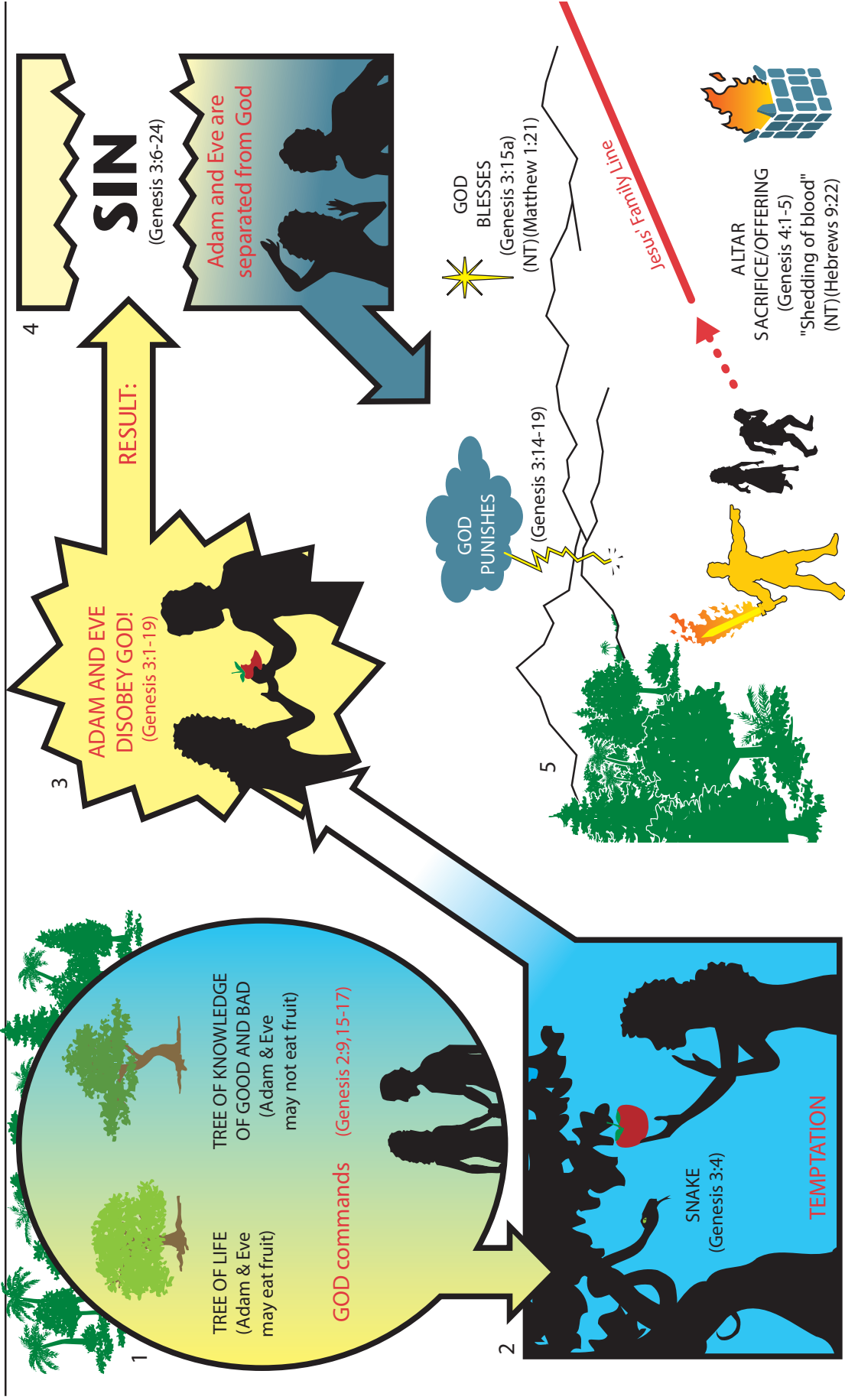
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT · LESSON 2

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #2

GENESIS 2:9,15-17, 3:1-4:5 "The First Sin"



GARDEN OF EDEN

FIRST SIN

ADAM AND EVE SENT OUT OF GARDEN

LESSON 2

LESSON BACKGROUND

God finished creating our world. Can you imagine what it was like? Everything was wonderful! Do you remember the first time you saw a beautiful mountain or walked through a large flower garden? Think about the most beautiful sunset you have seen. Do you remember all the different animals you have seen at the zoo? This is what it was like to see the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was the most wonderful place you have ever seen or imagined. It was a paradise, a beautiful place.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #2

Read the following verses before you start this lesson—Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-24 and Genesis 4:1-5. There will be other Bible verses in the lesson to read while you study.

As you look at the chart, start with picture number 1 and continue to number 5. Read the Bible verses written on the chart.

Look at the pictures in number 5. Find the words, “GOD BLESSES.” See the words “Genesis 3:15a.” In the very first book of the Bible (Genesis), we read a prophecy (something told about the future) about a blessing from God. This blessing is God’s Son, Jesus.

God said to the snake (the devil), “I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your children and her children will be enemies” (Genesis 3:15a). In this verse, “her children” means Jesus. This verse teaches that Jesus and His friends will always be enemies of the devil and his friends. This means we will hate the actions of the devil and the actions of the devil’s friends.

We can choose to be friends of Jesus or friends of the devil. If we are friends of Jesus, He will save us from the punishment of our sins. (NT) Matthew 1:21b says, “...he (Jesus) will save his people from their sins.”

On the chart, find the words, “GOD PUNISHES.” God sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden because of their sin (Genesis 3:23). There was more than one punishment. Read Genesis 3:14-19. The punishments were:

1. The snake will crawl on his belly and eat dust.
2. The woman will have pain in childbirth, and the husband will rule the family.
3. Man will have to work hard and sweat to make the soil produce anything.
4. All people will have a physical (body) death. “I used dust to make you, and when you die, you will become dust again” (Genesis 3:19b).

Notice the punishments that God gave to Adam, Eve and the snake (devil). These punishments continue today. The devil is also called a snake, a serpent, a dragon and Satan (NT) (Revelation 12:9).

Do you see the star on the chart by the words “GOD BLESSES”? It is the symbol we use at Christmastime to remind us that the wise men saw the star. This star told them that Jesus, the king, was born. Jesus is the blessing that God promised.

Find on the chart the words “SACRIFICE/OFFERING.” To make a sacrifice, or offering, to God, people would do the following:

1. Find a perfect animal without blemish or defect.
2. Kill the animal.
3. Build an altar. An altar is a raised place made of earth or stone where they could burn the sacrifice.
4. Burn the animal on the altar.

Notice the words “FIRST SIN” at the bottom of the chart. Adam and Eve ate fruit from the tree, even

after God told them not to eat from the tree. This was the first sin. Adam and Eve made a choice to disobey God. God loves us, but He does not force us to love Him.

Do you see the red line on the chart? The red line will be on each chart. It is called "Jesus' Family Line." It shows the ancestors, or family line, of Jesus. Jesus' family line started with Adam and Eve's son, Seth. Read Genesis 4:25.

LESSON

God created a man and a woman. Their names were Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:20). Can you imagine what it was like to be with God and talk with Him? Adam and Eve enjoyed a wonderful and close friendship with God because there was no sin. "Sin" means breaking God's rules.

God said, "You may eat from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil" (Genesis 2:16b,17a).

The devil, who was in the form of a snake, tempted Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from this tree. He lied about God. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. They ate the fruit from the tree. Adam and Eve made a serious mistake. They sinned.

Because Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they understood what is good and what is bad. Read Genesis 3:3,4. They knew that they were naked and covered themselves with fig leaves (Genesis 3:7).

God had to punish Adam and Eve because they broke His rule. God made them leave the Garden of Eden. Now Adam and Eve were not friends with God. They couldn't fellowship with God. Why? Because they sinned. They broke God's rule. There was a punishment for breaking God's rule. Now Adam and Eve were separated from God. That was a terrible situation. God did not want Adam and Eve to be separated from Him. God still wanted them to be His friends. Why? Because He loved them so much.

The Bible doesn't say what God asked Adam and Eve to do to come in close fellowship with God again. Genesis 4:3,4 says that Cain and Abel, sons of Adam and Eve, brought offerings to God. Cain brought some of his harvest, but Abel brought the firstborn lamb. God was pleased with Abel's offering. He was not pleased with Cain's offering. Obviously, God must have told them what to bring as an offering. Abel obeyed and Cain did not. (NT) Hebrews 11:4b says, "But Abel offered a better sacrifice to God because he had faith." Cain was angry that God wasn't pleased with his offering (Genesis 4:5-7). Cain continued to disobey God. Cain killed his brother, Abel (Genesis 4:8). God placed Cain under a curse. Cain could no longer farm the soil, and he would be homeless (Genesis 4:11-12).

God always requires obedience. As you continue to read the Old Testament, you will see that a time came when God required a blood sacrifice of animals as a payment for sin. (NT) Hebrews 9:22b says, "Sins cannot be forgiven without a blood sacrifice."

Many years later, God offered His only Son, Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for sin. Jesus died on the cross because of our sins. Remember what (NT) Matthew 1:21 said? Jesus would save us from our sins. Jesus was the final sacrifice for our sins. "Christ himself suffered when he died for you, and with that one death he paid for your sins" (NT) (1 Peter 3:18a). After Jesus died, the blood of animals was no longer needed.

STOP AND THINK

- The devil is still in our world today. He is a liar and wants to trick people into sinning. Why? Because the devil hates God, and he knows that sin separates people from God.
- God has a plan so that His people don't have to be separated from Him. God loved all people so much that He gave His only Son to die and take away their sins.
- The devil is powerful. We should not obey him. We should obey God. God is more powerful, and God loves us. (NT) James 4:7 says, "So give yourselves to God. Stand against the devil, and he will run away from you."

LESSON 2 - QUESTIONS

- The names of the man and woman that God created were _____ and _____.
- God put the first man and first woman in a beautiful garden named _____.
- God said, "But you must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil. If you eat fruit from that tree, on that day you will certainly die!" (Genesis 2:17). The snake said, " _____ " (Genesis 3:4).
- The snake who tempted the woman was what?
 _____ A good angel _____ A bad animal _____ The devil
- The snake tempted the woman with the fruit from the tree that gives knowledge about _____ (Genesis 2:16,17).
- Was it a sin to eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil?
 _____ yes _____ no
- After Adam and Eve sinned, whom did God punish?
 _____ Adam _____ Eve _____ snake _____ all three - Adam, Eve and the snake
- Did God send Adam and Eve out of the Garden? (Genesis 3:23)
 _____ yes _____ no
- The word "sacrifice" means _____.
- The first sacrifices were what?
 _____ people _____ animals
- The final sacrifice for sin is what?
 _____ our death _____ Jesus' death on the cross

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH WORDS IN THE WORD BANK

- Paradise was _____.
- God said, " _____ " _____.
- When you break God's law, _____.
- The devil _____.
- God's promise _____.
- If you resist the devil _____.
- Snake's punishment was _____.
- Woman's punishment was _____.
- All people will be punished by _____.

WORD BANK

- ▶ to crawl on his belly
- ▶ you sin against God
- ▶ lied about God
- ▶ You must not eat from the tree that gives knowledge about good and evil
- ▶ a beautiful place
- ▶ was that Christ would die for sins
- ▶ he will run away from you
- ▶ to have pain in childbirth
- ▶ physical death

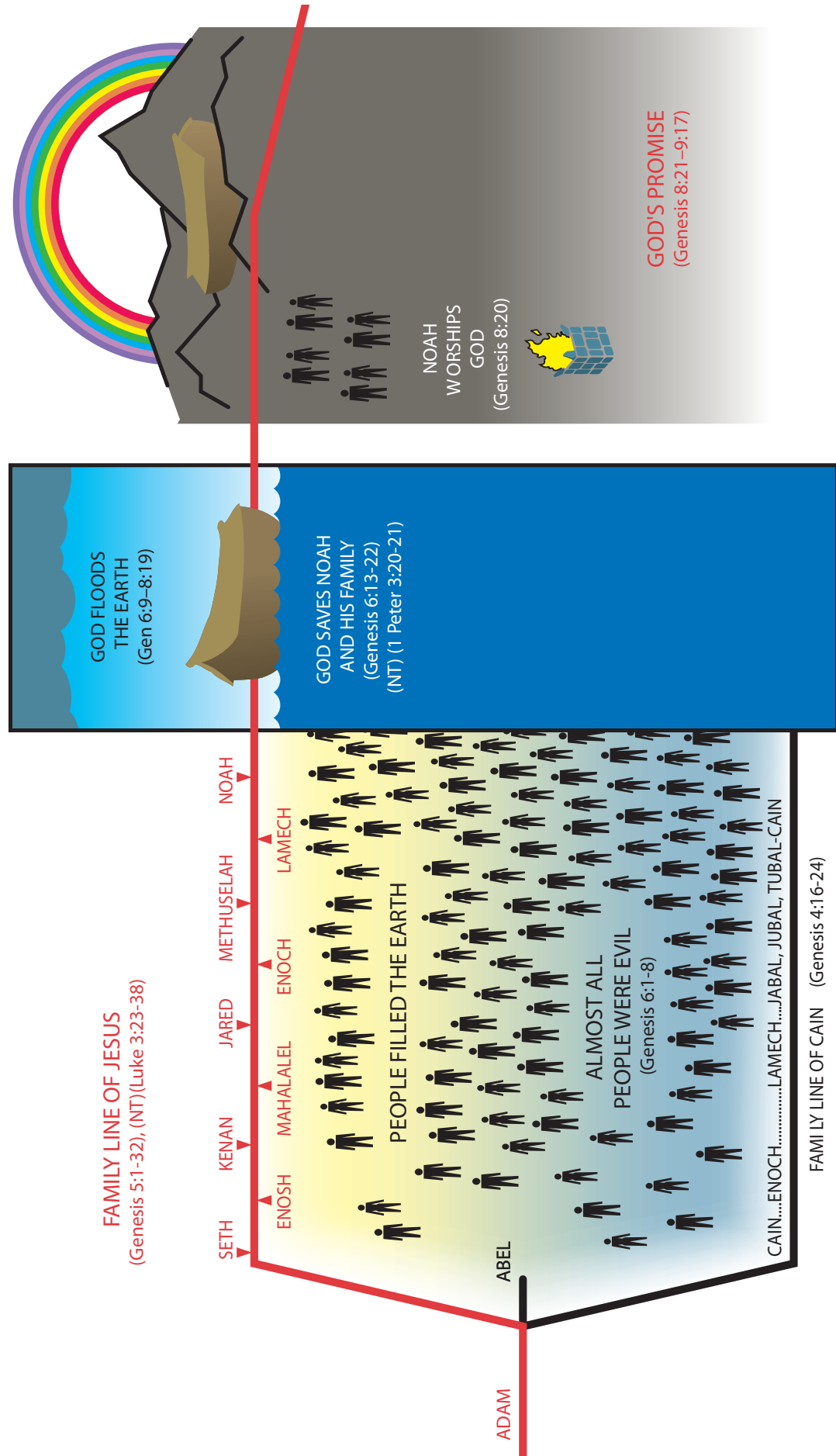
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 3

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 4:1-9:29

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #3



LESSON 3

LESSON BACKGROUND

God forced Adam and Eve to leave the Garden of Eden. What happened to them? Read Genesis 4:1-8. Adam and Eve had children. The first two children were named Cain and Abel. Abel became a shepherd, and Cain became a farmer. God must have told Cain and Abel how to offer a sacrifice to Him. (NT) Hebrews 11:4b says, "But Abel offered a better sacrifice to God because he had faith." It is clear that Abel obeyed God. Abel sacrificed the way God had told them. Cain did not obey God. God punished Cain for his disobedience.

Cain went away from God. He would not worship God anymore (Genesis 4:16). Cain rebelled against God. He even killed his brother, Abel. Cain and his family started the first false religion. They rebelled against God's rules. They broke His rules.

Adam and Eve had two lines, or groups, of descendants. The godly (good) line and the ungodly (bad) line. The ungodly line is sometimes called "sons of man." They are descendants of Cain. They did not follow God's rules. The godly line is sometimes called "sons of God." They are the people who follow God's rules. They are the descendants of Seth. Seth was Adam and Eve's third son. Seth was an ancestor (in the family line) of Jesus. (NT) Luke 3:38b tells us that "Seth was the son of Adam. Adam was the son of God."

In Genesis 4:1-8:22, you will read the history of the descendants of Cain and Seth. You will notice that sometimes the two families named their children by the same name, like Enoch or Lamech. At first Seth's family line followed God's rules. Then they forgot to obey God.

Almost all the descendants of Adam and Eve became very wicked. For 1500 years the people continued to be bad. The people were so wicked that God said they were evil all the time (Genesis 6:1-5). Because people were so bad, God said He would have to destroy them. God would send a flood to destroy the evil people. The flood was a punishment for their sin.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #3

On the left side of the chart you will find the names of Adam and his three sons — Seth, Abel and Cain. You can see the names of some of their descendants. Of course, Abel didn't have any children because Cain killed him. As you read Genesis 5:1-32, notice the ages of Seth's family. How old does it say Methuselah was?

Read Genesis 4:17-24.

1. What does it say that Jabal's family did, and where did they live?
2. What instruments did Jubal's family play?
3. What was the name of the man who worked with bronze and iron?

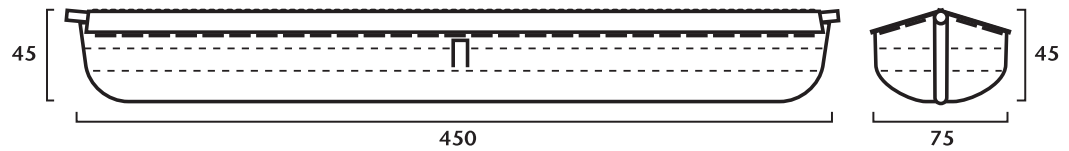
Near the top of the page you will see the words, "FAMILY LINE OF JESUS." The New Testament also has a list of Jesus' ancestors.

Look at the chart again. The sad part of our story is that almost all the people named on the chart and their descendants became wicked (Genesis 6:1-8). Noah tried to teach the people to follow God's rules. The people chose not to follow God's rules. God sent the flood to remove evil from the world. God saved Noah and his family from the flood. Notice that Noah worshiped God after he and his family came out of the boat. Noah made a sacrifice offering to God.

Notice what it says in Genesis 9:2-3. Who has power over the animals? Did you notice that God said people are to eat the animals and the plants?

LESSON

There was one godly man, Noah. He was a descendant of Seth. God told Noah to build a large boat (Genesis 6:14-16). God told Noah how to build the boat. It was to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. God said to put a window all around the boat 18 inches from the roof. The boat had 3 decks and a door in the side. It may have looked similar to the drawing below:



God said He would send a flood (Genesis 6:17-21). This boat would save Noah, his family, the animals and the birds from the flood. Read Genesis 7:1-5. It will tell you how many animals and birds that Noah took on the boat. He took at least two of every kind of animal and bird, one male and one female.

Noah preached righteousness. Righteousness means living right. Noah told the people God's rules, but they did not pay attention to him. Only Noah's wife, their three sons and their wives were saved from the flood (NT) (2 Peter 2:5).

Noah finished building the boat. He took the animals, birds, food and his family into the boat. Then God shut the door. It rained forty days and nights (Genesis 7:12). The water rose so high that the highest mountains had 25 feet of water on top of them. Everything, including people, animals and birds, on earth that breathed died. Only 8 people were saved.

After 150 days, the water started to go down. The boat landed on Mount Ararat. When Noah came out of the boat, he built an altar to worship God. God made a promise that He would never destroy the earth with a flood again. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise (Genesis 9:13-15).

STOP AND THINK

- God said He would send a flood, and He did. God keeps His word. He means what He says. God will punish people who do not obey Him.
- Noah obeyed the commands of God, and God saved Noah and his family from the flood. This is a wonderful example of God's mercy and care for those who obey Him.
- God placed a rainbow in the sky. We still see that sign — the rainbow — in the sky to remind us that God keeps His promises.

LESSON 3 - QUESTIONS

1. What were the names of the three sons of Adam and Eve?
 (1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____
2. God wanted Cain and Abel to offer a _____ to Him.
3. The animal should be what?
 _____ perfect
 _____ sickly
4. Who killed Abel? _____
5. What family line started the first false religion?
 _____ Cain's family
 _____ Abel's family
6. The descendants of Cain were named what?
 _____ sons of men
 _____ sons of God
7. The descendants of Seth were named what?
 _____ sons of men
 _____ sons of God
8. Just before the flood the world was which?
 _____ good
 _____ bad
9. Noah took at least two of every kind of animal in the boat.
 _____ yes
 _____ no
10. The boat had a window in it.
 _____ yes
 _____ no
11. Who shut the door of the boat? _____
12. How many days and nights did it rain? _____
13. How many people were saved? _____
14. The boat landed on what mountain? _____
15. God made a promise never to destroy the earth with a flood again. What was the sign of that promise? _____

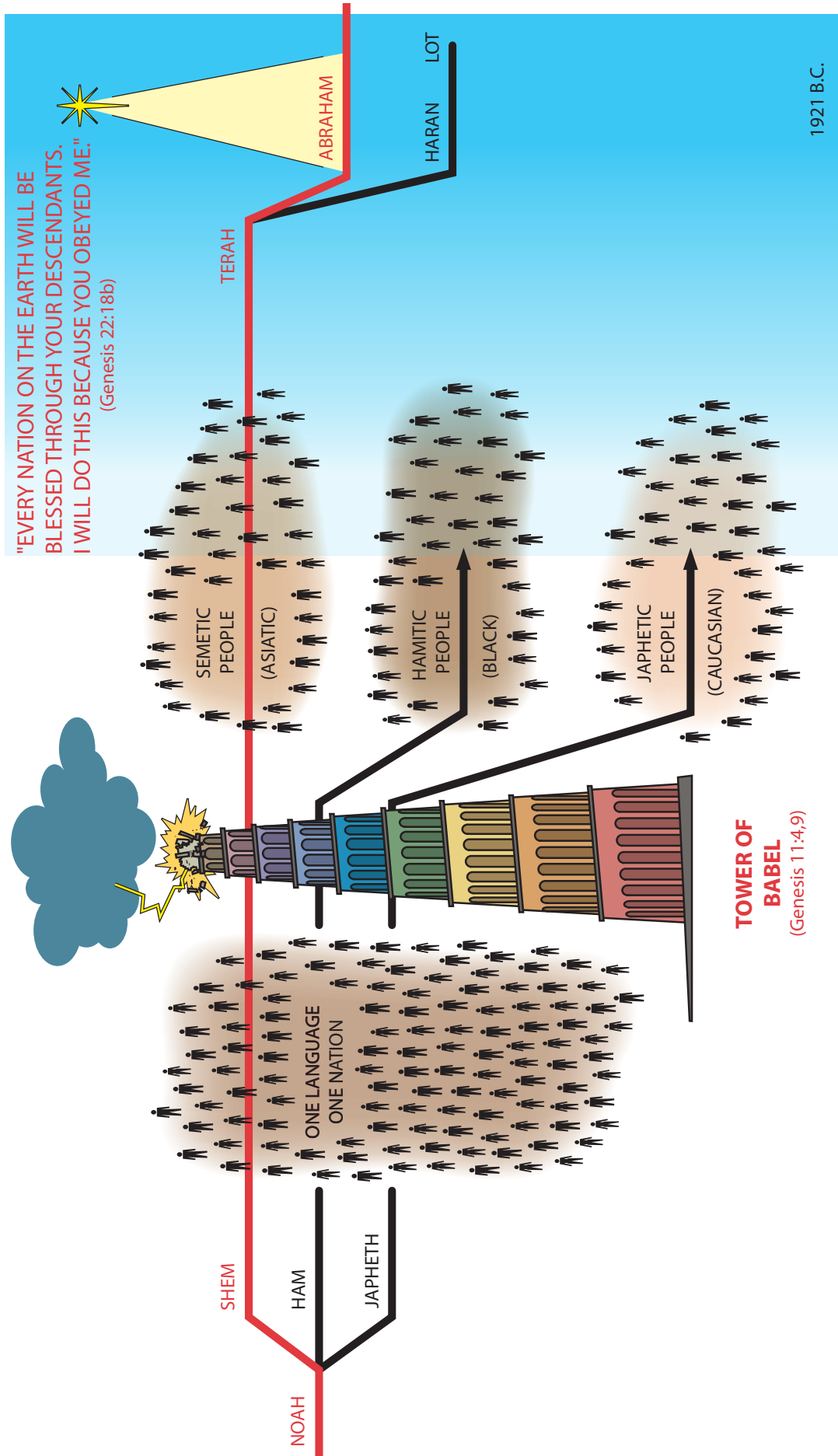
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 4

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS 7:1 – 12:3; 18,19,22

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #4



LESSON 4

LESSON BACKGROUND

God sent the flood to remove all evil people from the earth. The flood destroyed all living things except those people and animals in the boat. Noah and his family were in the boat with two of each kind of unclean animals (animals God said they couldn't eat) and seven pairs of each kind of clean animals (animals God said they could eat) (Genesis 7:2).

Noah and his family left the boat. What did they do first? Noah built an altar so his family could worship God (Genesis 8:20-21). God made a covenant, or agreement, with Noah. God promised that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood. The sign of God's promise was a rainbow in the sky (Genesis 8:22 and 9:11-15). God has made many promises. God always keeps His promises.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #4

The chart shows that Noah had three sons — Shem, Ham and Japheth. Shem's descendants became the Semetic or Asiatic people. Ham's family became the Hametic or African people. Japheth's descendants became the Japhetic or Caucasian people.

Remember that the red line on the chart is Jesus' Family Line. Notice that Noah's son, Shem, is on the red line. Shem was an ancestor of Jesus. The right side of the chart shows Abraham and his father, Terah. All of the people listed on the red line were ancestors of Jesus.

LESSON

Noah had three sons – Shem, Ham and Japheth. God told Shem, Ham and Japheth to have many children and to fill the earth with people again. Genesis 9:19 says, "These three men were Noah's sons. And all the people on earth came from these three sons." The Bible is the best historical record of the beginning of all races, or groups of people. The chart shows Shem's children. Shem's descendants are listed in Genesis 11:10-31. Shem is one of Jesus' ancestors.

At first, the descendants of Noah's sons all lived together in the same area. They all spoke one language. These people became proud and wanted to be famous (Genesis 11:4). They built the city of Babylon. In the city they built a tall tower. This tall tower is sometimes called the Tower of Babylon or Tower of Babel. These people wanted the tower to reach the sky.

God confused the people's language. Why? Because they became proud of themselves. God caused the people to speak many different languages. The people stopped building the city. God scattered the people all over the earth (Genesis 11:1-9).

In Genesis, chapter 12, we read about a man named Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham. Abraham is an important person in the Bible. His name is mentioned many times in both the Old and New Testaments. God started a great nation with Abraham's descendants (Genesis 12:1-3). Many years later, God's Son, Jesus, was born into Abraham's family.

God told Abraham to move from his home in Ur to the land of Canaan. Abraham did not know where God would lead him, but he obeyed God. Abraham took his family and his possessions and left Ur. Wherever Abraham stopped, he built an altar and worshiped God.

When Abraham left his home, he took his nephew, Lot, with him. The shepherds of Lot and the shepherds of Abraham argued with each other. Why? Because there was not enough water and grass for all the animals. So Abraham and Lot separated from each other. Abraham lived by the Oaks of Mamre. Lot chose to live near the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Later, God destroyed these cities because they were such wicked cities (Genesis 18,19).

God told Abraham that He would bless him and give him many children. These children would become

a great nation. Abraham must have thought it was strange for God to say this. Why? Because Abraham did not have any children! Both he and his wife, Sarah, were very old. When Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old, they had a son named Isaac (Genesis 17:17). He was the son that God had promised to Abraham. You can read the story about the birth of Isaac in Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7.

Later, God tested Abraham's faith. Read Genesis 22:1-18. Abraham had great faith in God. His faith was amazing. Could you do the same as Abraham did? Abraham obeyed God. (NT) Hebrews 11:8b says, "But he obeyed God and started traveling because he had faith." We who believe in God should follow Abraham's example. (NT) Galatians 3:8,9 says, "God said to Abraham, 'I will use you to bless all the people on earth.' Abraham believed this, and because he believed, he was blessed. All people who believe are blessed the same as Abraham was."

STOP AND THINK

- ✦ Notice what God did when people loved and obeyed Him. Notice what He did when people disobeyed Him.
- ✦ The people in Noah's time did not obey God. They were doing bad things all the time (Genesis 6:12-13). God destroyed these people with the flood.
- ✦ Noah and his family obeyed God. God saved them from the flood.
- ✦ God destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because the people were very sinful.
- ✦ Abraham followed God even when he did not know where God was leading him. Abraham believed that he would have a son, even when he and his wife were very old. God blessed Abraham and made him the father of many nations (Genesis 17:6).
- ✦ God gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take the punishment for sin. People who believe and obey God will be saved from this punishment.

LESSON 4 - QUESTIONS

1. God sent the flood. Why?
 - _____ yes
 - _____ no

2. How old was Noah when God sent the flood? (Genesis 7:6)

3. Noah and his family had seven of each kind of clean animal in the ark with them.
 - _____ yes
 - _____ no

4. After the flood, how did Noah worship God?
 - _____ He built an ark.
 - _____ He built an altar.

5. God made a covenant with Noah. What is a covenant?

6. Shem was the father of the _____ race of people or the Asiatic race of people.

7. Ham was the father of the _____ race or the African people.

8. Japheth was the father of the _____ race or the Caucasian race of people.

9. All the people of the earth descended from Noah.
 - _____ yes
 - _____ no

10. Before the Tower of Babylon (or Tower of Babel) there
 - _____ were many races.
 - _____ were many languages.
 - _____ was only one language.

11. God told Abraham to move from his home in Ur to the land of _____.

12. Who was the son that God had promised Abraham?
 - _____ Moses
 - _____ Isaac
 - _____ Noah

13. Did Abraham follow God even though he did not know where God was leading him?
 - _____ yes
 - _____ no

KNOW YOUR BIBLE

It is good for you to know the names of the 66 books in the Bible. Find the page called “Contents” in the front of your Bible. Read through the names of the books in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Notice that Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. The last book of the Old Testament is Malachi. Notice that Matthew is the first book of the New Testament and Revelation is the last book. The book of Psalms is about in the middle of the Bible.

Look at the list of the Old Testament books in your Bible. Read through the names of the books in each group. There are five books in the group called “Law” — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Continue to read through each group of names.

Look at the five books listed below. Put these books in the correct order. Put a “1” beside the first book, a “2” beside the second book, etc. The first one is done for you.

- Books of Law**
- ___ Exodus
 - 1 Genesis
 - ___ Leviticus
 - ___ Deuteronomy
 - ___ Numbers

Now let’s look at the books of History. Look at the list in your Bible and fill in the name of the correct book in order.

- Books of History**
- Joshua
 - _____
 - Ruth
 - 1 Samuel
 - _____
 - _____
 - 2 Kings
 - _____
 - _____
 - Ezra
 - _____
 - Esther

Here are the books of Poetry. Put them in the correct order. Put a “1” beside the first one, a “2” beside the second book, etc. The first one is done for you.

- Books of Poetry**
- ___ Song of Songs (also called Song of Solomon)
 - 1 Job
 - ___ Proverbs
 - ___ Psalms
 - ___ Ecclesiastes

In Lesson 10 we will study the rest of the names of the books of the Old Testament.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 5

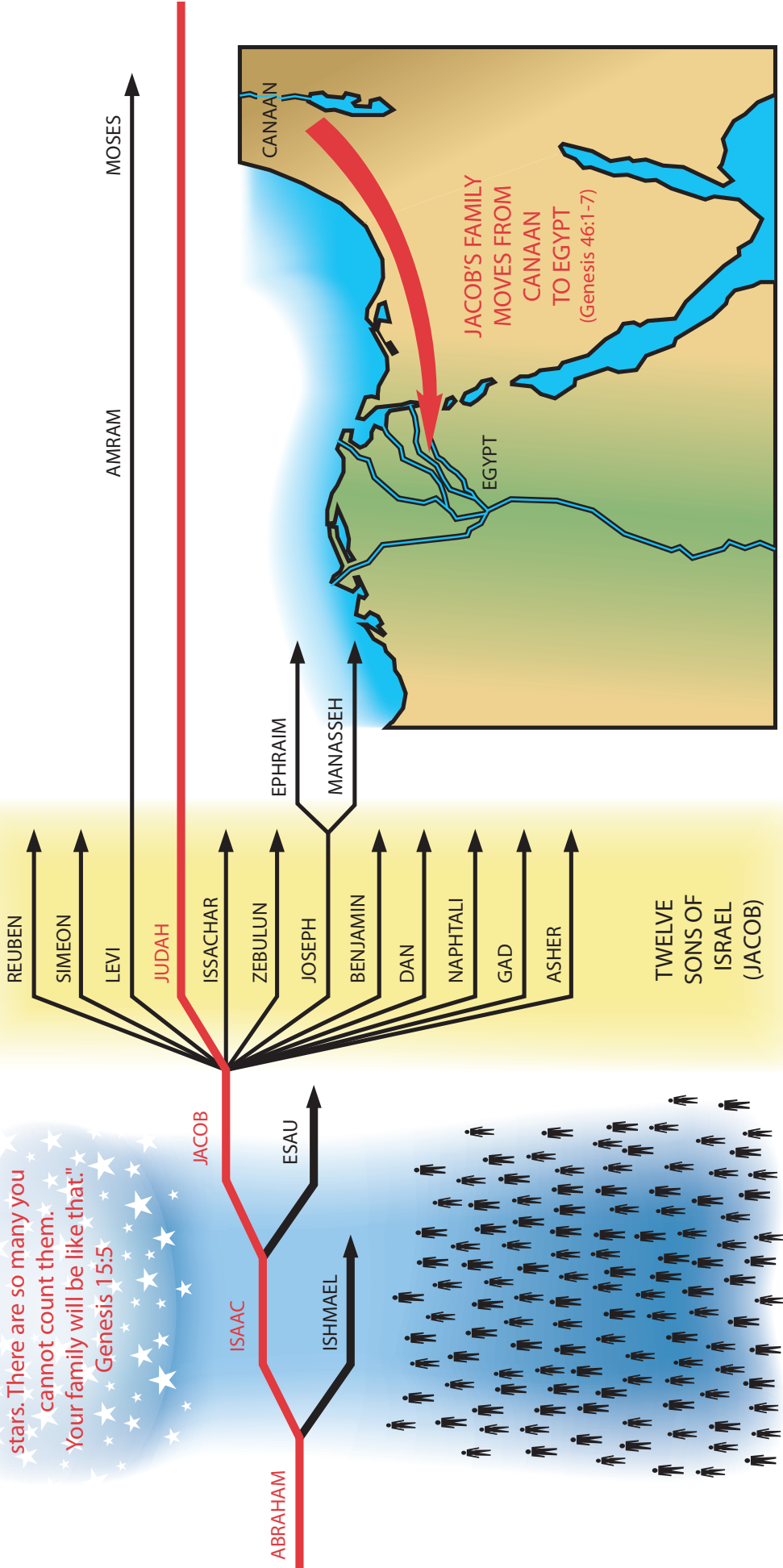
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #5

GENESIS 16:15; 21:5; 25:26; 35:23-26

EXODUS

[The Lord told Abraham:]
 "Look at the sky. See the many stars. There are so many you cannot count them. Your family will be like that."
 Genesis 15:5



PATRIARCHS (FATHER-RULERS)

TRAVEL TO EGYPT

SLAVERY IN EGYPT

LESSON 5

LESSON BACKGROUND

Who were Adam and Noah and Abraham? Do you remember that they are people in the Bible? We hope that you are beginning to think about some of the Bible people we have studied. What do you remember about them? A crossword puzzle is included with this lesson. This may help you remember the things we have studied in Lessons 1 through 4.

We would like to introduce you to a new word — “patriarch.” Adam, Noah, Abraham and some other men are called patriarchs. Patriarch means “father.” In those early days, God gave His instructions to the head of the family, the father. We call these men the fathers of our faith. Why? Because God told them what to do. These men are good examples to follow because they obeyed God. Adam, Noah and Abraham were leaders who followed God. We will learn about three more patriarchs: Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. These three men are descendants of Abraham.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #5

We have already learned that Abraham had a son named Isaac. Notice on the chart that Abraham also had a son named Ishmael. But Isaac was the special son that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah. Isaac’s name is on the red line because he was an ancestor of Jesus. Notice that Jesus’ Family Line continues with Isaac’s son, Jacob, and Jacob’s son, Judah. This shows that Judah was an ancestor of Jesus.

The chart lists the 12 sons of Jacob. Later, when the Israelites left Egypt and settled in Canaan, the land was divided among the twelve sons, or tribes. A tribe is a group of people. The tribe of Levi served as priests, and they did not receive any land. Because Joseph faithfully followed God, he was given an extra amount of land. His land was divided between his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

The map on the chart shows that Jacob’s family moved from Canaan to Egypt. Jacob’s son, Joseph, was already in Egypt when the family moved there.

LESSON

Isaac was Abraham and Sarah’s son. Isaac was the son that God had promised to Abraham and Sarah. They had to wait until Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old. Then Isaac was born.

In Lesson 4, we talked about Abraham taking Isaac to offer him as a sacrifice (Genesis 22:2). Genesis 22:6 tells us that Abraham made Isaac carry the wood. The next verse says that Isaac asked, “But where is the lamb we will burn as a sacrifice?” Abraham said that God would provide the lamb. When Abraham and Isaac came to the place where God told them to go, Abraham built an altar. He tied up his son, Isaac, and placed him on the altar.

Isaac must have really trusted his father. Isaac let Abraham put him on the altar to be sacrificed. Abraham really had great faith in God. He was willing to put his son on the altar as a sacrifice. This was the son that Abraham and Sarah had waited so long to receive. This was the son that Abraham needed so that he could have as many descendants as the stars.

Read Genesis 22:10-13 again. Can you imagine that you are Abraham? How do you feel? Can you imagine that you are Isaac? How do you feel? Of course, Isaac did not die. God provided a ram, or male sheep, for the sacrifice instead of Isaac.

Genesis, chapter 24, tells us how Abraham helped Isaac find a wife. Isaac and his wife, Rebecca, had twin sons named Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:19-34). Jacob married and had twelve sons. The twelve tribes of Israel came from these twelve sons. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel. That is why God’s people were called “Israelites.”

Now, we want to read about Joseph. He was Jacob’s favorite son (Genesis 37:2,3). Joseph’s brothers

were jealous of him. Why? One reason was because Joseph received a special coat from his father. Also, Joseph had dreams, and he could interpret them. In one dream, Joseph's brothers had to bow down to him.

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:12-36). Notice that verse 36 tells us that Joseph was sold to an officer of the king of Egypt. Joseph obeyed God. He did not complain about the bad things that happened to him. God blessed him and gave him the ability to interpret dreams. The king of Egypt had a dream, and Joseph interpreted that dream. The dream told the king that there would be a famine, a time when no food would grow in Egypt. The king was pleased that Joseph could interpret his dream. The king made Joseph governor over Egypt.

Later, there was also a famine in the country where Jacob and his family lived. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food. Joseph was in charge of selling food. So, the brothers had to ask Joseph for food. The brothers did not recognize Joseph. But Joseph knew his brothers. You can read this interesting story in Genesis, chapters 42 to 45. Was Joseph angry with his brothers? How did the money get in the sack of grain? Where was the missing silver cup?

Joseph's father and family - 70 people - moved to Egypt to live. This was the start of the nation of Israel. They brought their flocks of sheep, and they lived in an area by themselves. Why? Because the Egyptians did not like to be around shepherds and sheep (Genesis 46:34).

Joseph's father, Jacob, died. Joseph's brothers were still afraid that Joseph was angry with them. Joseph told his brothers that they had wanted bad things to happen to him. Instead, God blessed him with good things. Joseph said in Genesis 50:21a, "So don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children."

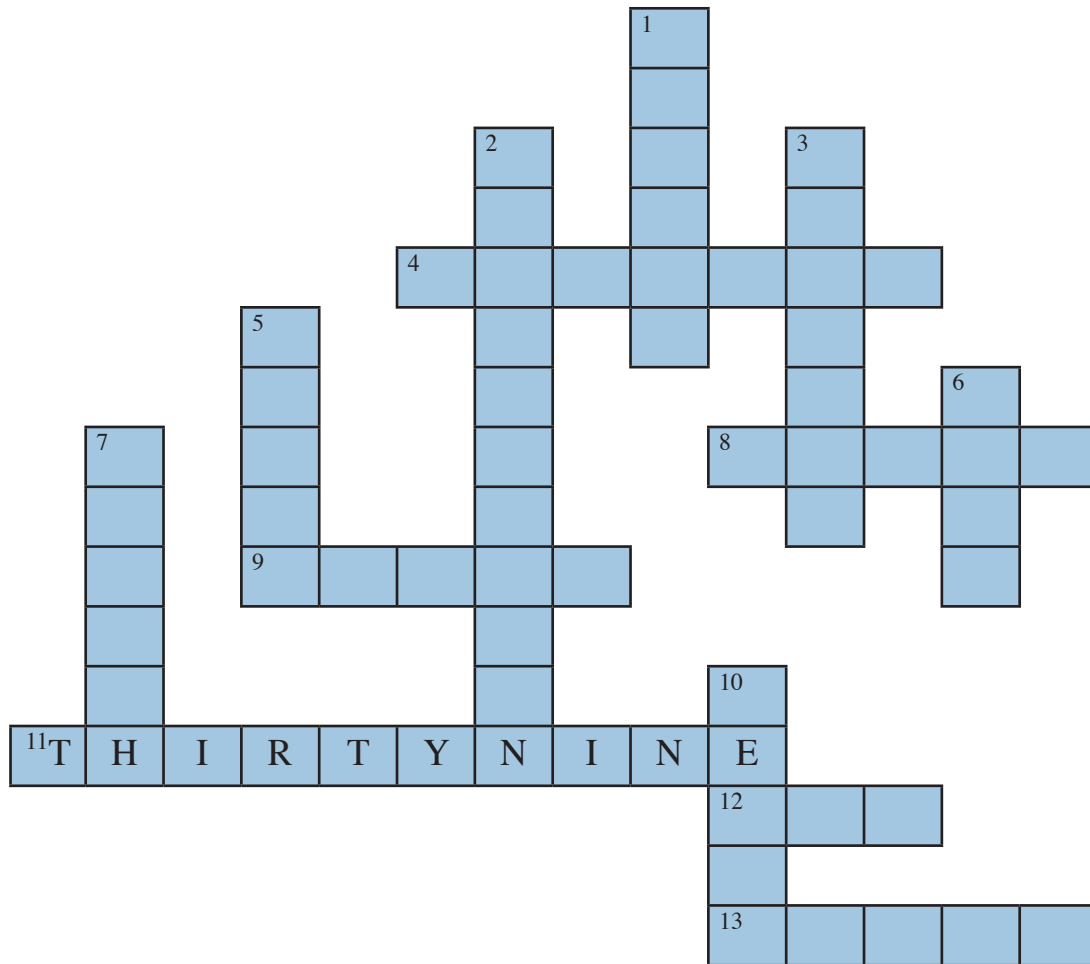
STOP AND THINK

- Abraham had great courage when he was willing to give Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham did what God told him to do. It takes courage to do what God wants you to do.
- Joseph's brothers hated Joseph. They sold him as a slave in Egypt. But Joseph forgave his brothers. Has someone done something bad to you or hurt your feelings? Can you forgive that person like Joseph forgave his brothers?

LESSON 5 • QUESTIONS

1. The word “patriarch” means _____.
2. How old was Sarah when Isaac was born? _____
3. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?
 50 years old
 70 years old
 100 years old
4. Isaac and Rebecca had two sons. What were their names?
_____ and _____.
5. Jacob had
 4 sons.
 8 sons.
 12 sons.
6. God changed Jacob’s name. What new name did God give him? _____
7. Who was Jacob’s favorite son? _____
8. What did Joseph’s brothers do to him?
9. Why did Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt?
10. Did Joseph’s brothers recognize that the man they asked for food was their brother, Joseph?
 yes
 no
11. Joseph’s father and family moved to Egypt. How many people moved?
 25
 50
 70
12. When Joseph’s family moved to Egypt, that was the start of the nation of _____.

LESSON 5 - EXTRA ACTIVITY



ACROSS

4. A name of a Bible book that means "beginning" (see Lesson 1)
8. The city where the people were so wicked that God destroyed it (see Lesson 4)
9. The Tower of Babylon was also called the Tower of _____ (see Lesson 4)
11. The number of books in the Old Testament (2 words)
12. From Lesson 1, the day that Adam and Eve were created
13. In Lesson 1, the number of beginnings that are listed

DOWN

1. The word "patriarch" means _____ (see Lesson 5)
2. The number of books in the New Testament (2 words)
3. Sign in the sky that God would not destroy the earth by flood again (see Lesson 3)
5. A son of Isaac and Rebecca (see Lesson 5)
6. From Lesson 3, the person who built the large boat
7. The favorite son of Jacob in charge of the food in Egypt (see Lesson 5)
10. God's son (see Lesson 2)

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT · LESSON 6

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

EXODUS 3:1-27:19

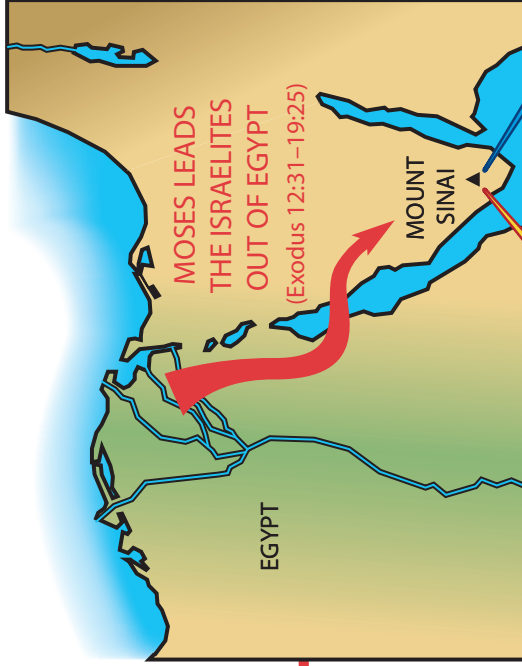
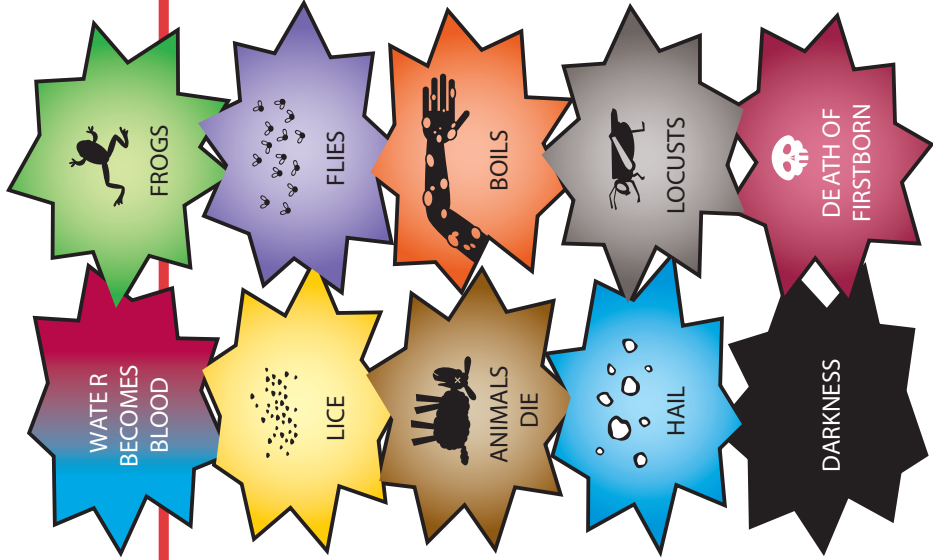
OLD TESTAMENT CHART #6

GOD TELLS MOSES TO LEAD HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT
(Exodus 3:1-4:17)

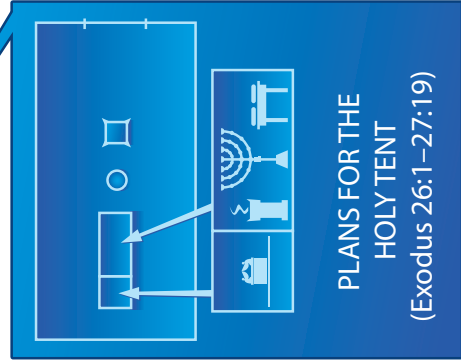


MOSES AND AARON TELL GOD'S MESSAGE TO PHARAOH
(Exodus 5:1-7:13)

GOD PUNISHES EGYPT (THE TEN PLAGUES)
(Exodus 7:14-11:10)



GOD GIVES HIS LAW TO MOSES
(Exodus 20:1-17)



PLANS FOR THE HOLY TENT
(Exodus 26:1-27:19)

SLAVERY IN EGYPT

ESCAPE FROM EGYPT

GOD GIVES HIS LAW TO MOSES

LESSON 6

LESSON BACKGROUND

We will now study from the book of Exodus, the second book of the Bible. The word “exodus” means “departure” or “going out of.” This is the story of the Israelites going out of Egypt. This was a very important event in the history of Israel.

The Israelites were slaves in Egypt. God brought ten plagues, or terrible happenings, on the Egyptians. God led Moses to help the Israelites escape from the king of Egypt. God divided the waters of the Red Sea, and God’s people walked across on dry land. This was one of God’s miracles. Miracles are amazing works done by the power of God.

After they crossed the Red Sea, the Israelites started a long journey to the Promised Land. “Promised Land” means the land that God told Abraham He would give to Abraham and his descendants. They traveled to Mount Sinai (also called “Mount Horeb”). In the back of your “Easy-to-Read Bible” you will find some maps. Can you find the Red Sea? Look for Mount Sinai.

On Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These were important rules for the Israelites to follow. God also gave Moses instructions on how to build a place of worship. This place of worship was like a very fancy tent. It was called a “holy tent” or “tabernacle.”

In the Bible and in these lessons you will read words like “Hebrews,” “Israelites,” “Jews” and “God’s people.” All of these words mean the same group of people. If you live in New York, you are a New Yorker, a northerner and an American. All these names could be given to you. In the same way, the names “Hebrews,” “Israelites” and “Jews” all mean “God’s people.”

UNDERSTANDING CHART #6

Look at Chart #6. The pictures on this chart follow the events you will study in your lesson. Be sure to look back at these pictures as you read through the lesson.

Notice the ten plagues on this chart. As you look at these pictures, think about how terrible it was to suffer through these plagues.

We have already found Mt. Sinai on the map in your Bible. Notice Mt. Sinai on this chart. This is where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments, His laws and His plans for the holy tent.

Do you see the red line on this chart? Remember that this is Jesus’ Family Line. Although no names are given on this chart, God was still keeping this family line alive. Why? So that later His Son, Jesus, would be born from this family.

LESSON

Many years later, a new king ruled Egypt. He did not know Joseph. This king saw that Joseph’s family, the Israelites, had grown to be many people. They had many flocks of animals. The king was afraid that these people would take over Egypt. So he made the Israelites slaves (Exodus 1:11). The Israelites had to work very hard. They prayed that God would send someone to free them.

God sent a “deliverer” to free the Israelites (Exodus 2:1-25). His name was Moses. His parents, Amram and Jochebed, were members of the tribe of Levi. The Levite people served as priests (Deuteronomy 10:8).

The Egyptian king did not want the Israelite baby boys to live. Why? Because these boys would grow up and help Israel build a strong army. Jochebed put baby Moses in a basket in the river so that he would not be killed. You can read this story in Exodus 1:15-22 and Exodus 2:1-10.

Moses lived in the king's palace 40 years. Because Moses killed an Egyptian, he ran away to Midian (Exodus 2:15). He stayed there 40 years. When Moses was 80 years old, God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses became another one of the patriarchs.

In Exodus 3:2-4 we read that God appeared to Moses in a burning bush! The bush did not burn up. God told Moses that He was sending him to Egypt to free the Israelites from slavery. Moses asked, "How can I do that? I am nobody." God told Moses that He would be with him. God proved to Moses that He would be with him. How? God made Moses' walking stick turn into a snake. When Moses picked up the snake, it became a walking stick again (Exodus 4:3,4). God also told Moses' brother, Aaron, to help Moses speak to the king of Egypt.

Moses did what God told him to do. Moses asked the king of Egypt to let the Israelites leave. The king said, "NO!" God sent 10 plagues on the Egyptians. Still the king would not let the Israelites go. You can read about these horrible events in Exodus 7:14-12:30. You will read about water turning to blood, people covered with boils, and other terrible things. All of these things happened because the king would not let God's people, the Israelites, leave Egypt. But God did not allow these bad things to happen to the Israelites. Why? Because they believed and obeyed God.

The last plague was the most important plague. God told the Israelites to put the blood of a lamb on the doorpost and the beam above the door of their homes. God said that He would kill all the firstborn Egyptian children because the king would not let the Israelites go free. God told the Israelites that if they put the blood on the doorpost and the beam, He would pass over their home and not kill their firstborn. The Egyptians did not put blood on their doors and beams, so their firstborn children died. Even the king's firstborn child died (Exodus 12:29). The Israelites obeyed God. Their children did not die.



Today the Jewish people still celebrate a feast called "Passover." This feast helps them remember the time when God passed over their ancestors' homes and did not kill their firstborn children. The Passover in the Old Testament is a picture of what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross.

STOP AND THINK

- Do you understand that God requires all people to obey Him? The king of Egypt did not obey God, and God punished him. The king's son died because the king did not obey God.
- Because God loves all people, He has a plan for everyone. God wants all people to obey Him.

When the king finally permitted the Israelites to leave Egypt, God led them by a cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night (Exodus 13:21). Soon the king changed his mind! He chased after the Israelites (Exodus 14:13-29). But God continued to be with the Israelites, and He kept them safe.

God loved the Israelites. He provided bread and meat for them while they were traveling. Their bread and meat were not like what we eat today. Their meat was quail, and their special bread was called "manna" (Exodus 16:11-18). You may read Exodus 16:20 to see what happened when they gathered too much manna!

Another important happening in Exodus was God giving Moses laws for the people to obey. Part of these laws are the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Some of these commandments are to worship the one true God, do not swear, do not steal, do not murder and do not commit adultery. God did not just suggest that the Israelites should follow these rules. Instead, God required the Israelites to obey these commandments.

God told Moses to make a holy tent as a place of worship. This was a place where God would speak to Moses (Exodus 33:9). The Israelites could worship God around the tent (Exodus 25:8). The people gave their gold, jewelry and best cloth to make the tent. Much of the wood in the tent was covered with gold. You may read more details about the holy tent in the last few chapters of Exodus.

Moses was a great leader who obeyed God. In Deuteronomy 34:4-10, you can read about Moses' death. Then Joshua became the new leader of Israel.

LESSON 6 • QUESTIONS

1. The word "Exodus" means _____.
2. Exodus is the story of the Israelites going out of Egypt.
 yes
 no
3. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mt. Nebo.
 yes
 no
4. The words "Hebrews," "Israelites," "Jews" and "God's people" are different names for the same group of people.
 yes
 no

Finish each sentence in List A by choosing the letter of the correct answer from List B.

List A

1. A miracle is an _____
2. God parted the water _____
3. Jewish people still celebrate the Passover.
Why? _____
4. God led the Israelites with a cloud _____
5. Moses made a place to worship. It was called _____
6. Joshua was _____

List B

- a. To remember that God did not kill the Israelites' firstborn children.
- b. by day and a pillar of fire by night.
- c. amazing work done by the power of God.
- d. and God's people walked on dry land.
- e. the new leader after Moses died.
- f. the holy tent.

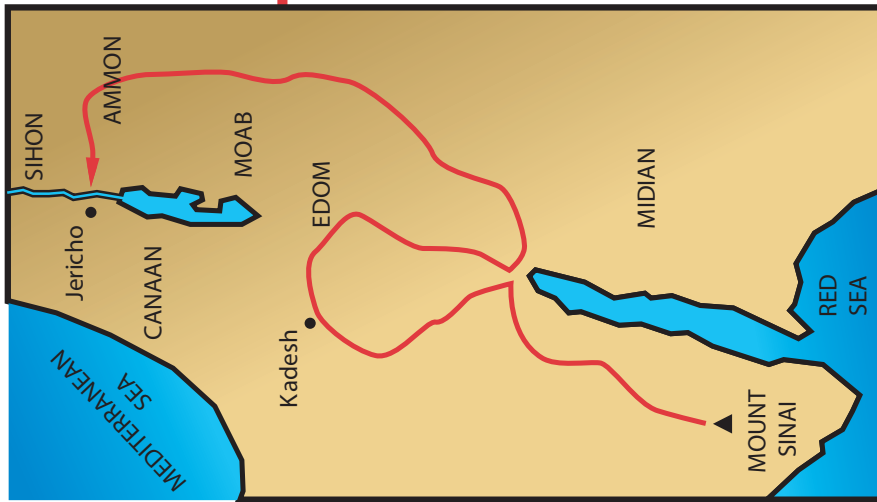
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 7

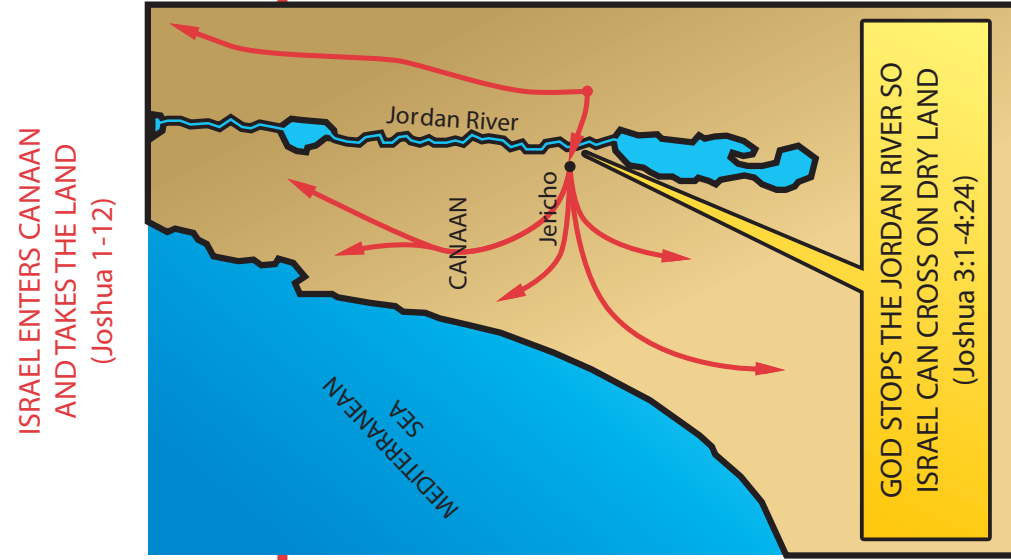
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY, JOSHUA

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #7

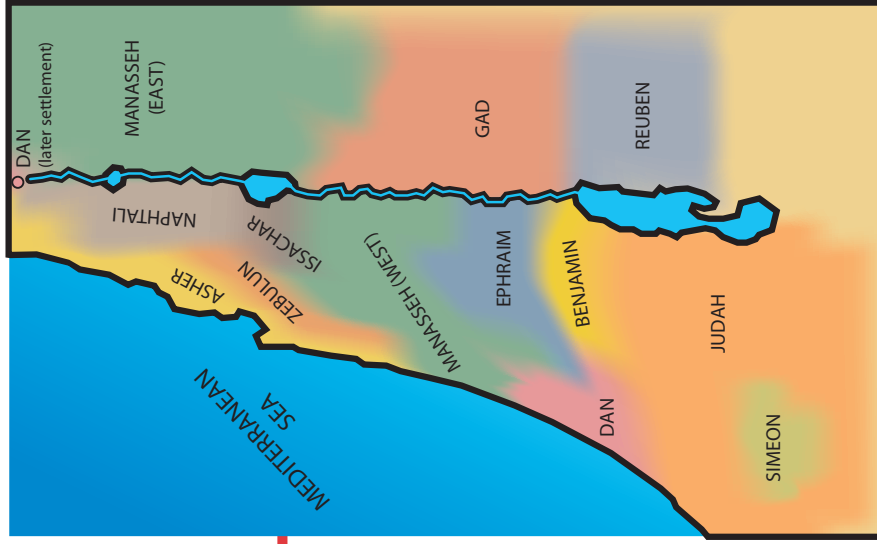


ISRAEL WANDERS
IN THE WILDERNESS
FOR 40 YEARS



ISRAEL ENTERS CANAAN
AND TAKES THE LAND
(Joshua 1-12)

GOD STOPS THE JORDAN RIVER SO
ISRAEL CAN CROSS ON DRY LAND
(Joshua 3:1-4:24)



GOD GIVES A PORTION OF LAND
TO EACH TRIBE OF ISRAEL
(Joshua 13-21)

IN THE WILDERNESS

CONQUEST OF CANAAN

ISRAEL SETTLES IN THE LAND

LESSON 7

LESSON BACKGROUND

You will remember that Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. God told them to go to the land that He had promised to Abraham and his descendants. The land was called "Canaan." Sometimes it is called the "Promised Land." The books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy tell about what happened to the Israelites as they traveled.

When Moses and the Israelites came to the Promised Land, God told them that the land would belong to them. He told the people that if they obeyed Him, He would always be with them and help them. God told them that He would help them conquer the people who were living in the land. But some of the Israelites doubted God. They asked Moses to send spies into the Promised Land. So Moses chose 12 men to go into the land. You can read this story in Deuteronomy, chapter 1.

When the spies returned, 10 of the men said that they were afraid. They said that the Israelites would not be able to conquer the land. But two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, said that it was a good land. They said that the Israelites could conquer the land with God's help. Because they trusted Him, God blessed Joshua and Caleb. But God was angry because the 10 men did not trust Him. God told Moses that, as a punishment, the Israelites would have to wander around for 40 years. All of the people who were 20 years old or older (except Joshua and Caleb), died during the 40 years.

God continued to take care of the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. He provided food and water for them. Deuteronomy 29:5 tells us that during this 40 years, the Israelites' clothes and shoes did not wear out! When Moses died, Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #7

On Chart #7 you will see three maps. These maps will help you understand some of the events that we will talk about in this lesson.

The map on the left side of Chart #7 shows the route that the Israelites traveled to reach the Promised Land. Notice that the route is not a straight line. Remember the 12 spies that we just talked about? God punished the Israelites because they did not trust Him to lead them into the new land. God made them wander for 40 years before they could enter the land of Canaan.

The map in the center shows the Jordan River and the city of Jericho. The Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land and went to the city of Jericho. This was the first city where God helped them conquer the people. Notice the red arrows. These show where the Israelites went throughout Canaan to conquer the land.

God divided the land of Canaan into several parts. Each tribe (see Chart #5) of Israel was given a piece of land. The tribe of Levi served as priests so they were not given any land for themselves. Instead, the Levites received the gifts that were offered as sacrifices to God (Numbers 18:21, Joshua 13:14).

Notice the red line that goes across the chart. As in Lesson 6, there are no names listed on the line. God is keeping Jesus' Family Line alive through all this time. Why? So that many years later Jesus would be born from this family.

LESSON

Joshua was one of the two spies who trusted God. God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites and to help them conquer the land that God had promised to them. The people living in the land did not follow God. God wanted His special people to live in a place where the people worshiped Him. In Joshua 1:5-9, God told Joshua that He would be with him. God said that if the people would continue to trust and follow Him, no enemy would defeat them.

Look at the maps in the back of your Easy-to-Read Bible. Find the Jordan River that flows between Lake Galilee and the Dead Sea. Find the city of Jericho just north of the Dead Sea. The Israelites were on the east (right) side of the Jordan River. God told them to cross the Jordan River. The first city that they were to conquer was Jericho.

When the Israelites came to the Jordan River, it was the time of the year when the river flooded. But God stopped the water from flowing so that they could cross on dry land (Joshua 3:13-14)! This was a miracle — something that only God can do.

The city of Jericho had a tall wall around it. God told Joshua to have the priests and soldiers march around the wall of the city one time each day for six days. While they were marching, the priests were to blow trumpets (Joshua 6:6-11). On the seventh day, the priests and soldiers marched around the wall seven times. On the seventh time around, Joshua ordered the priests to blow the trumpets and the people to shout. When this happened, the walls of the city collapsed (Joshua 6:20-21). Then the Israelites entered the city and destroyed it.

The Israelites continued to conquer the people in the Promised Land. God helped them in special ways. One time, God made the sun and moon stand still (Joshua 10:12-13) until Joshua was able to defeat the Amorites! This was another miracle.

Joshua 21:43-45 says that the Israelites conquered the land that God had given to them. Then it was time to divide the land among the 12 tribes. In Lesson 5 we talked about the 12 tribes of Israel. Look again at Map 3 in the back of your Easy-to-Read Bible. This map is similar to the map on Chart #7. Find the location of the 12 tribes: Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Zebulun, Issachar, Gad, Ephraim, Benjamin, Reuben, Judah and Simeon.

STOP AND THINK

- ✦ God told Noah that He would save him and his family from the flood. Noah trusted God, and God did what He said. God saved Noah's family from the flood.
- ✦ Even though Abraham was old, God told him that he would have a special son. Abraham trusted God, and God did what He said. God gave Abraham a son named Isaac.
- ✦ God told the Israelites that He would give them the Promised Land. The people trusted God, and God did what He said.
- ✦ God keeps His promises. We can always trust Him.

When Joshua was old and ready to die, he called the Israelites together. He reminded them about God's laws. He told them never to forget these laws. He told the people that God would continue to be with them and bless them if they would obey Him.

LESSON 7 - QUESTIONS

1. The land of Canaan is also called the _____.
2. How many spies did Moses send into the new land? _____
 How many spies said that they were afraid? _____
 How many spies said that they could conquer the land? _____
3. Who became the new leader of the Israelites after Moses died? _____
4. What river did the Israelites have to cross to enter the Promised Land?

5. _____ was the first city that the Israelites had to conquer.
6. What was around the city? (choose one)
 _____ a garden
 _____ a river
 _____ a wall
7. On the seventh day, how many times did the Israelites walk around the city wall? (circle the right answer) 8 7 10
8. On the last time around the wall, Joshua ordered the priests to _____ the _____ and the people to _____.
9. A _____ is something that only God can do.
10. How many tribes of Israel were there? _____
11. When Joshua was old and ready to die, he called the Israelites together and reminded them about (choose one)
 _____ God's Laws.
 _____ the weather.
 _____ their shoes.
12. Joshua told the Israelites to continue to follow God.
 _____ yes
 _____ no

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT · LESSON 8

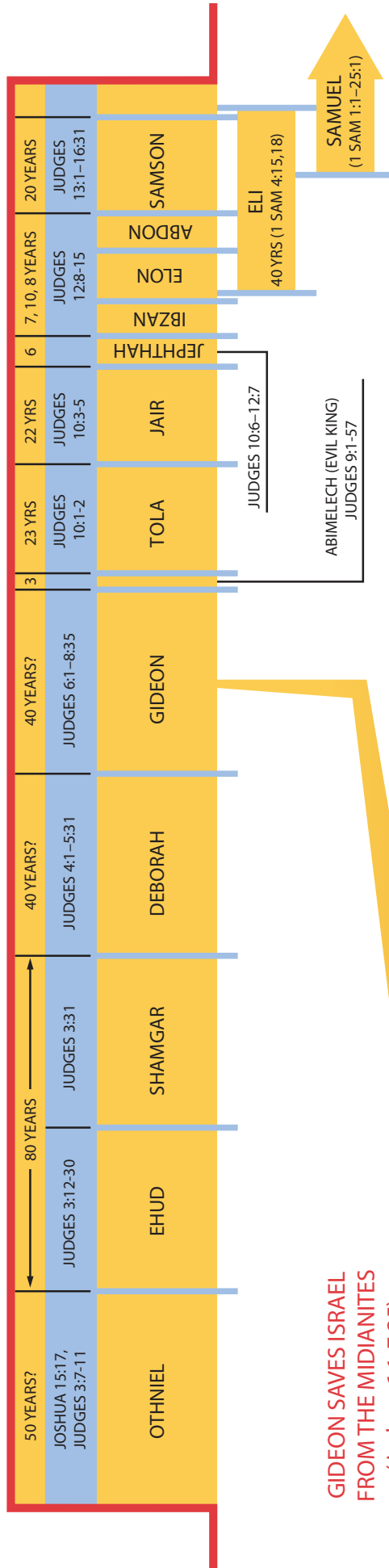
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #8

JUDGES, RUTH

1 SAMUEL

TIMELINE OF THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL



GIDEON SAVES ISRAEL FROM THE MIDIANITES (Judges 6:1-7:25)

GOD CALLS GIDEON
(Judges 6:1-24)

GIDEON TESTS GOD
(Judges 6:36-40)

WET WOOL
DRY GROUND

DRY WOOL
WET GROUND

GIDEON GATHERS AN ARMY OF 32,000 MEN
(Judges 6:33-35)

32,000

GOD TELLS GIDEON HIS ARMY HAS TOO MANY MEN
(Judges 7:2-3)

22,000 MEN LEAVE
(Judges 7:3)

10,000

GOD SAYS THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY MEN
(Judges 7:4)

GOD SHOWS GIDEON HOW TO SEPARATE THE MEN FROM HIS ARMY
(Judges 7:4-8)

300

GIDEON'S ARMY HAS ONLY 300 MEN LEFT

GOD USES GIDEON AND 300 MEN TO DEFEAT THE ARMY OF MIDIAN
(Judges 7:9-25)

AFTER ISRAEL HAS SETTLED IN CANAAN, BUT BEFORE ISRAEL HAS A KING

LESSON 8

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the book of Exodus we learned that God kept His promise to Abraham. The descendants of Abraham became the nation of Israel. They traveled to the Promised Land (Canaan). At Mt. Sinai, God gave the people laws to obey. God gave the Israelites leaders like Moses and Joshua.

Joshua led the Israelite army. He was able to lead them to conquer the people living in Canaan. Why? Because Joshua was faithful to God and obeyed His commands. As you read the book of Judges, you will see that sometimes the Israelites won a battle and sometimes the enemy defeated them. When the people obeyed God, He gave them victory. When the Israelites did not obey God, God allowed them to be defeated.

The people who lived in Canaan did not worship God. They worshiped false gods. God did not want the Israelites to live among these people and start worshiping other gods (Deuteronomy 7:1-7). So God commanded them to destroy all the people who lived in Canaan. But sometimes the Israelites did not obey God. They did not destroy all of the people who lived in Canaan. Soon after that, the Israelites started worshiping some of the false gods of the Canaanites.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #8

Look at Chart #8. At the top is a timeline of the judges of Israel. This chart shows each judge and approximately how many years he/she ruled. Bible verses are also given so that you can read about each judge if you want to. Notice that Eli and Samuel are listed below the timeline. These two men are not mentioned in the book of Judges. Instead you can read about them in 1 Samuel. Eli was a priest and Samuel was a prophet. However, most people think that Eli and Samuel were also judges.

All of our Old Testament charts have a red line. Remember that this red line is Jesus' Family Line, which shows the ancestors of Jesus.

The bottom of the chart shows events in the life of one judge — Gideon. Look at these pictures as you read about Gideon in the lesson.

LESSON

In chapter 1 of Judges, you will see that Israel defeated their enemy. But in chapter 3, they disobeyed God, and God allowed other people to rule over them. If the Israelites obeyed God, they were victorious. If they disobeyed God, they lost a battle. God said that He would bless and protect the Israelites, but only if they would obey Him.

At first, God led and taught His people through the patriarchs, like Abraham. Next, Moses was their leader, and then Joshua. After Joshua died, the Israelites started worshiping other gods. God became angry. He told the Israelites that He would not drive out their enemies any more. God wanted to see if the Israelites would obey Him (Judges 2:20-23).

When the Israelites were sad because they had disobeyed God, they asked God for help. When they repented, or turned back to God, He forgave them and sent them a new leader. The new leaders were called "judges." As long as the judge lived, the people remembered to follow God. When the judge died, the Israelites started worshiping other gods again.

In Judges, chapter 3, we read that the Israelites worshiped idols, which were statues or images of Baal and Asherah. So God became angry with the people. He let the nation of Mesopotamia conquer the Israelites. Then they had to serve the people of Mesopotamia for eight years. Once again, the Israelites repented and cried out to God for help. God sent Othniel, Caleb's nephew, to be the new judge. Remember that Caleb was one of the good spies. God gave Othniel victory over the Mesopotamians, and Israel had peace for 40 years.

Othniel died, and Judges 3:11-12 says that the people sinned against God again. Another country, Moab, conquered them. The Israelites had to serve Moab for 18 years. They asked God for help, and He sent another judge. The Israelites continued to disobey and repent, over and over again. They forgot that God demanded that they worship only Him. They let other people lead them into worshipping idols.

Judges 6:1 says, "Again the Israelites did what the Lord said was wrong. So for seven years the Lord allowed the Midianites to defeat the Israelites." The Israelites were so afraid of the Midianites that they hid in caves. The Midianites destroyed their crops and took their animals. Then the Israelites had nothing to eat. Again, the people cried out to God for help. This time God sent a leader named Gideon.

An angel appeared to Gideon. In Judges 6:12b the angel said, "The Lord be with you, brave soldier." Read Judges 6:13 to learn what Gideon said to the angel. God ordered Gideon to go with all his strength and rescue the Israelites from the Midianites. "Gideon answered and said, 'Pardon me, sir. How can I save Israel? My family group is the weakest in the tribe of Manasseh, and I am the youngest one in my family.' The Lord answered Gideon and said, 'I will be with you, so you can defeat the Midianites as easily as if they were only one man.'" (Judges 6:15-16)

Notice that God did not choose the strongest or the most skilled man to lead the Israelites. Remember that Moses thought he was not a good leader, either. God wants His leaders to be faithful. When we obey God, He will give us the strength to do the job. God told Gideon that He would give him the strength to rescue the Israelites.

Gideon had a hard time believing that God wanted him to be the leader of the Israelites. He wanted some proof that God would be with him. So Gideon had an idea. He told God that he would put a piece of wool (fleece) on the ground. "If there is dew only on the sheepskin, while all of the ground is dry, I will know that you will use me to save Israel, as you said." (Judges 6:37b) The next morning, the wool was wet and the ground was dry. Gideon still doubted, so he asked God if he could have one more test. This time Gideon wanted the wool to be dry and the ground to be wet. God made it happen just like Gideon asked. Then Gideon knew that God wanted him to be the leader of Israel.

Gideon thought that he would need a large army to defeat the Midianites, so he gathered 32,000 men together. But God told Gideon that he had too many men. God wanted the people to know that He was helping them. He did not want the Israelites to think that they won the battle because of their own power. So God told the men that if any of them were afraid, they could go back home. Twenty-two thousand men returned home!

STOP AND THINK

- God demanded that the Israelites worship and follow Him.
- God kept His promise to protect the Israelites when they obeyed Him.
- People who obey God are winners. You don't have to be the greatest, strongest or wisest to be a winner. Obeying God makes a person a winner.

Then God told Gideon that he would test the 10,000 men who were left. You can read this story in Judges 7:4-6. Gideon led the men to water. The men took a drink of water. God separated the men who lapped the water with their tongues like a dog from those who got down on their knees and cupped their hands to bring water up to their mouths. Only 300 men drank the water out of their hands. Because they did this, these men were able to look around and watch for the enemy. God knew these 300 men would be the best soldiers. Gideon must have had a strong faith to believe that these 300 men could defeat the Midianites. Judges 7:12 tells us that the enemy men were spread out like locusts (so many of them) and that they had as many camels as grains of sand on the seashore.

What weapons do you think God told Gideon's men to use? Not spears! Not swords! Gideon gave each man a trumpet and a jar with a torch inside it. The men gathered at the edge of the Midianite camp. They blew the trumpets, broke the jars and shouted. What happened then? "...the men of Midian began shouting and running away." (Judges 7:21b) It was not the power of the 300 men that won the battle. It was God's power!

God worked through about 15 judges over a time of about 300 years. The last judge mentioned in the book of Judges was Samson. Later a man named Samuel served God as a judge at Shiloh.

Read 1 Samuel 1:11-20 to learn about Samuel's birth. Samuel is also considered a prophet who spoke God's message to the people. 1 Samuel 3:21 says that when Samuel spoke God's message, everyone listened to him. He was the man who anointed Saul, the first king of Israel. This event brought about the beginning of the rule of Israel by kings.

LESSON 8 • QUESTIONS

1. Did the descendants of Abraham ever become a nation? (See Lesson 8, background)
 - yes
 - no

2. The name of this nation was _____.

3. Did God want the Israelites to live with other people who worshiped false gods?
 - yes
 - no

4. In chapter 1 of Judges, were the armies of Israel able to defeat their enemies?
 - yes
 - no

5. In chapter 3, the Israelites lost battles and other people ruled over them.
Why did this happen? _____

6. How many years were the Israelites servants to the nation of Mesopotamia? _____

7. How many years did they serve the nation of Moab?
 - 12
 - 18
 - 25

8. Were the Israelites afraid of the Midianites? (Judges 6:1-6)
 - yes
 - no

9. When God asked Gideon to be a leader, Gideon said that he couldn't because he was the youngest member of his family. What did God say? (Read Judges 6:16)

10. Did Gideon still doubt that he could be a leader of the Israelites?
 - yes
 - no

11. Did God make the wool (fleece) dry one morning and wet another morning?
 - yes
 - no

12. How many men did Gideon have in his army at first?

- 50,000
- 32,000
- 300

13. How many men did God use to win the battle? _____

14. What weapons did God have the soldiers use?

- guns
- bows and arrows
- trumpets and jars

15. The story of Gideon is in what book of the Bible?

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Judges

16. After the rule of the judges, Israel was ruled by _____.

17. Do you think God will bless people today if they obey Him?

- yes
- no

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

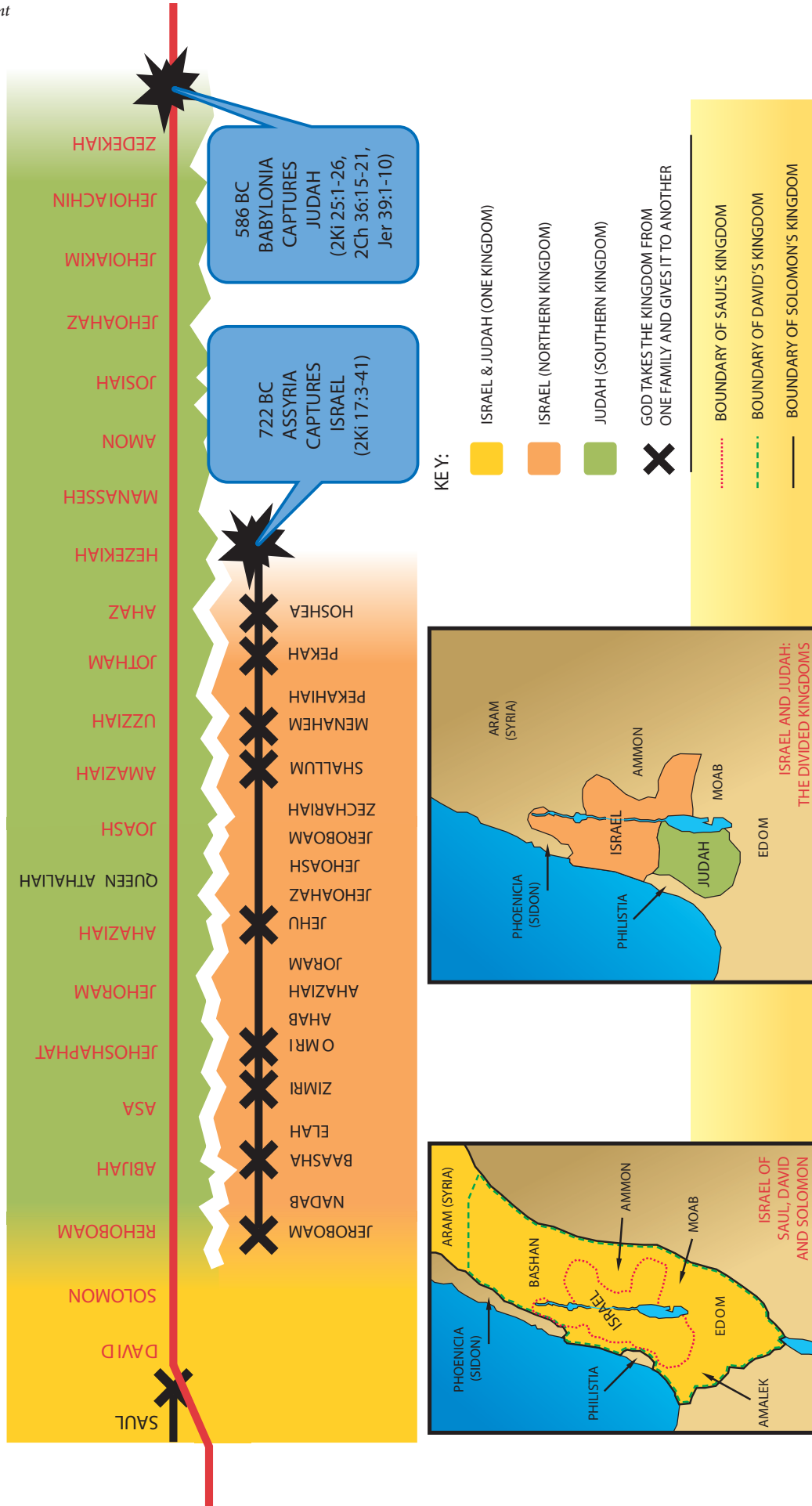
OLD TESTAMENT · LESSON 9

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #9

1 SAMUEL, 2 SAMUEL, 1 KINGS, 2 KINGS, 1 CHRONICLES, 2 CHRONICLES

TIMELINE OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH



EXILE

DIVIDED KINGDOMS: ISRAEL AND JUDAH

ONE KINGDOM

LESSON 9

LESSON BACKGROUND

At first, patriarchs like Abraham and Jacob ruled the families of Israel. Then Moses and Joshua led the Israelites to the Promised Land. In the last lesson we learned about the judges who led the Israelites into battle. Most of the nations around Israel were ruled by kings. Soon the Israelites wanted a king, too (1 Samuel, chapter 8). God warned the people that they would not be happy with a king, but the people still wanted a king. So God gave Israel a king.

The first king of Israel was Saul. The next two kings were David and Solomon. After that, the land was divided into two kingdoms — Israel and Judah. Israel, the northern kingdom, remained from 933 to 722 B.C. During those years, 19 kings ruled Israel. Judah, the southern kingdom, lasted from 933 to 586 B.C. Judah was ruled by 20 different kings.

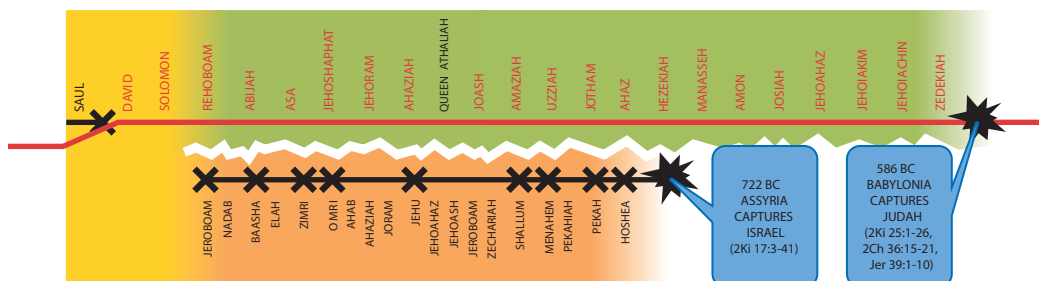
Some of the kings who ruled Israel and Judah were good kings. But many of the kings were bad and did not follow God. When a good king ruled, the people followed God. When a bad king ruled, the people turned away from God and worshiped false gods.

Many times God warned the Israelites that they should follow Him. But the people did not pay attention to God. Finally, God allowed other countries to conquer Israel and Judah. Many of the Israelite people were taken into captivity and sent to other countries.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #9

God provided leaders for Israel. In the beginning, patriarchs led the people. Then God chose judges. Finally, God allowed the Israelites to have kings. God did not want them to have kings, but He allowed it anyway.

As you look at chart #9, you see a long list of names of the kings. The first three kings were Saul, David and Solomon. Then, because of sin, God allowed the kingdom to be divided into two parts — Israel and Judah. The names in the green section are the kings of Judah. The names in the brown section are kings of Israel.



Look at chart #9. In the blue rectangles, read that Assyria captured Israel, and Babylonia captured Judah. Israel and Judah were valuable lands. Why? Because many people traveled through them on their way to Egypt. Notice the black X's. God took the kingdom away from these rulers because they did not obey God.

The word “exile” is at the bottom of the chart. To exile means to drive away, to take away or to force to leave a country. When the Babylonians and Assyrians captured Israel and Judah, they took many of the people away from their country. This time is called the “exile.”

When Babylon captured Judah, they burned down the temple and took the skilled people away. They left the poor and unskilled people to live there and take care of the land.

Please take time to read 2 Kings 17:1-12. Read how the people continued to sin against God.

LESSON

The books of 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and 1 and 2 Chronicles tell us about the kings of Israel. Much of the information in these books is about David, the second king. Many people think that David was the greatest king of Israel. Acts 13:22b tells us what God said about David. "...God made David their king. This is what God said about David: 'David, the son of Jesse, is the kind of person who does what pleases me. He will do everything I want him to do.'"

Saul, the first king of Israel, disobeyed God. Even before Saul died, God chose David to be the next king (1 Samuel 16:8-13). David served King Saul by carrying his weapons. David also played his harp to calm King Saul when he became upset. One day David was watching as the Philistine giant, Goliath, made fun of the Israelites. Goliath challenged someone to fight him. The Israelite army ran away, but David said that he would fight Goliath. God helped David defeat Goliath. You can read this story in 1 Samuel, chapter 17.

David became a great soldier. He led the Israelites to defeat many of their enemies. When Saul died, David became the king. David loved God, and he was a good king. Sometimes David sinned, but he always repented and obeyed God again.

Many people know about David because of the book of Psalms in the Old Testament. The psalms were written as songs to be accompanied by stringed instruments. Psalms are songs of praise to God. Many of the psalms were written by David. These songs were probably written to be part of a worship service. If you read some of the psalms, you will see that David trusted God and praised Him. You will learn that David turned to God when he was afraid or lonely. Also, David thanked God for His mercy and forgiveness.

David's son, Solomon, became the next king of Israel. God told Solomon that He would give him whatever he wanted. Solomon asked God to give him wisdom so that he could be a good king. God was pleased that Solomon asked for wisdom. In 1 Kings 3:12-14, God said to Solomon, "So I will give you what you asked for. I will make you wise and intelligent. I will make you wiser than anyone who ever lived or ever will live. And I will also give you what you did not ask for. You will have riches and honor all your life. There will be no other king in the world as great as you. And I will give you long life if you follow me and obey my laws and commands as your father David did."

STOP AND THINK

- God demanded that the Israelites worship and follow Him.
- Often the Israelites turned away from God. Then God would punish them. But if the people repented and turned to God again, God accepted them as His children.
- Sometimes we turn away from God. We may face difficulties in life. But if we are sorry and turn back to God, He will forgive us.

God made Solomon a very wealthy and famous king. People from many nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom. Solomon wrote many proverbs. These wise sayings are recorded in the book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. Solomon also wrote the books of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, or Song of Solomon. While Solomon was king, he had over 50,000 horses and many other animals. 2 Chronicles 1:15 tells us that "in Jerusalem Solomon gathered so much gold and silver that it was as common as rocks" when he was king.

Probably the greatest thing that Solomon did was build a temple where the people could worship God. For 400 years the Israelites had worshiped God in the holy tent. Now God wanted a beautiful building in Jerusalem. The Temple was built of great stones and cedar boards and covered with gold (1 Kings 6:15-22). Some people have estimated that the cost of building the Temple would equal \$5 billion today.

Solomon was a good king, but later he turned away from God. Solomon had more than 700 wives! Many of these wives were not Israelites. They worshiped false gods. God warned Solomon not to marry these women. God knew that they would cause Solomon to stop worshiping God. But Solomon did not pay attention to God. The women encouraged Solomon to worship false gods. God was angry with Solomon. He told Solomon, "You have chosen to break your agreement with me. You have not obeyed my commands. So I promise that I will tear your kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants." (1 Kings 11:11b) Later, God took the kingdom away from Solomon's son, and the land was divided into two kingdoms.

God's people were divided into two kingdoms for many years. During that time, most of the kings were bad. They led the people to worship false gods. God was very sad that the Israelites turned away from Him. Finally, the two kingdoms were captured by other countries. Many of the people were taken away to be servants in other countries. The city of Jerusalem and the beautiful temple that Solomon had built were destroyed. God allowed these things to happen because the people did not obey and follow Him.

LESSON 9 - QUESTIONS

1. Who did the Israelites want to rule over them? _____
2. Who were the first three kings of Israel? _____,
_____ and _____.
3. What was the name of the giant Philistine that David defeated?

4. What did David play for King Saul?
 trumpet
 harp
 drums
5. What are psalms? _____
6. David wrote many of the psalms.
 yes
 no
7. What did Solomon ask God to give him?
 wealth
 power
 wisdom
8. What are Solomon's wise sayings called? _____
9. Solomon's wives encouraged him to worship _____.
10. The land of the kingdom of Israel was divided into how many kingdoms? Check one.
 1 kingdom
 2 kingdoms
11. Do you think God will bless people today if they obey Him?
 yes
 no

Finish each sentence in List A by choosing the letter of the correct answer from List B.

List A

List B

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Number of Solomon's wives _____ | a. 50,000 |
| 2. Number of kings of Israel _____ | b. 700 |
| 3. Number of Solomon's horses _____ | c. 19 |
| 4. Number of years Israelites worshiped
in the tabernacle _____ | d. 20 |
| 5. Number of kings of Judah _____ | e. 400 |

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

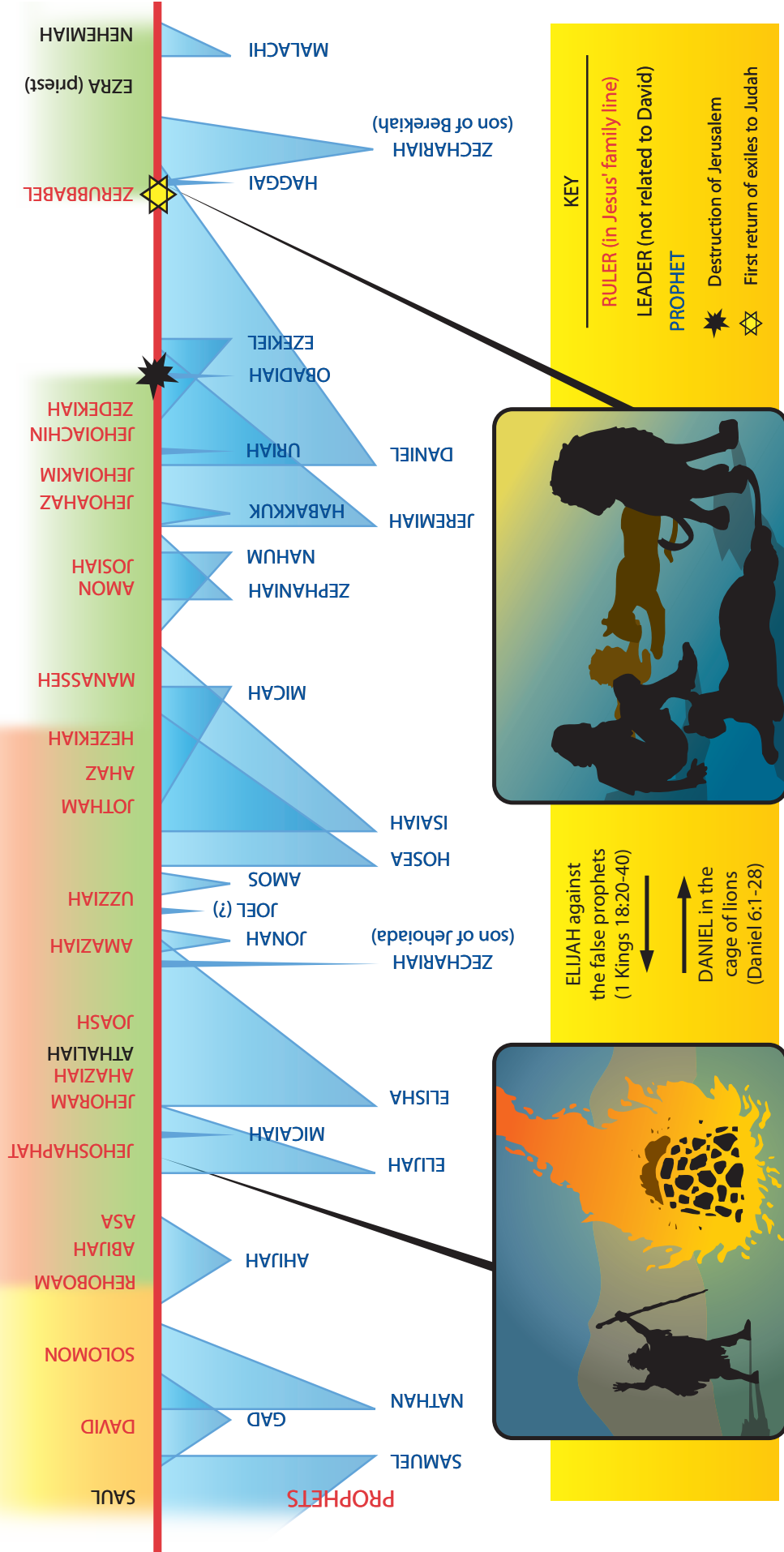
OLD TESTAMENT · LESSON 10

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #10

1 & 2 SAMUEL, 1 & 2 KINGS, 1 & 2 CHRONICLES, MAJOR PROPHETIC BOOKS*, MINOR PROPHETIC BOOKS**, EZRA, NEHEMIAH

KINGS OR OTHER LEADERS OF JUDAH (TOP)



*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

**Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

LESSON 10

LESSON BACKGROUND

Throughout the Bible, God used special people to speak His messages. These people were called “prophets.” God gave His message to the prophets. Then the prophets told the message to the people. A prophet usually told about something that would happen soon or in the future. When a prophet of God said that something would happen, it always happened. God’s prophets were never wrong.

Often the people hated the prophets. Why? Because the prophets told the people that God wanted them to repent and stop sinning. Sometimes the people even hurt or killed the prophets so they would stop telling God’s message.

During the time that Israel was divided into two kingdoms, God used many prophets to speak for Him. These prophets told the people that they must stop worshiping idols and worship only God. The prophets also warned the Israelites that if they did not obey God, He would allow them to be taken captive by other countries. Sometimes the people obeyed God for a short time, but soon they started worshiping false gods again. Finally, God allowed the two kingdoms to be conquered by other nations. During the time that the Israelites were forced to leave their homes and had to serve other nations, God also used prophets to encourage the people to stay faithful to Him.

God used ordinary men to be His prophets. Some were priests, some were part of the king’s family, and one was a shepherd. We can learn about some of the prophets by reading the books of 1 and 2 Kings and 1 and 2 Chronicles. More messages from the prophets may be found in the 17 books of prophecy in the Old Testament. These books were written by 16 prophets. One prophet, Jeremiah, wrote two books — Jeremiah and Lamentations. These books of prophecy are divided into two groups — major prophets and minor prophets. This does not mean that some prophets were more important than other prophets. It means that the books of the major prophets are longer than the books of the minor prophets.

The time of these prophets covers about 400 years (800-400 B.C.). During these years, the nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms. Then both kingdoms were taken captive, and finally, the Israelites were allowed to return home from captivity. Through all these years, the prophets reminded the people that God would not allow all the Israelites to be destroyed. Some people would be saved. The prophets also told them that in the future a special person would come from this group of people. This person would be the Messiah, the One chosen by God to save people from their sins. This Messiah was Jesus, the Son of God.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #10

The first line of this chart lists the Bible books that are covered in this lesson. You will see the words MAJOR PROPHETIC BOOKS*. The asterisk (*) means that you should find the asterisk (*) at the bottom of the page. There you will see the list of the major prophetic books. When you read MINOR PROPHETIC BOOKS**, look for the two asterisks (**) at the bottom of the page and read the names of the minor prophetic books.

Look at the first list of names at the top of the chart — kings or other leaders of Judah. These are the same as the names on Chart #9. Three names have been added to the list — Zerubbabel, Nehemiah and Ezra. Zerubbabel and Nehemiah were not kings, but they were given the authority to be leaders. Ezra was a priest during this time. He helped the people remember God’s laws. Ezra also helped the people start worshiping in the temple again.

The two rows of names printed in blue are the prophets that lived while those kings ruled. Remember that the kingdom of Israel was united under Saul, David and Solomon. Then the kingdom was divided into Israel and Judah. The southern kingdom was called Judah. Rehoboam was the first king of Judah. You can see that Rehoboam’s name is in red. That means he was in Jesus’ Family Line. David was in Jesus’ Family Line. The kings whose names are printed in black were not related to David.

Do you see the word “KEY” in the lower right hand corner? This key explains some important words and symbols. Example: Rulers are in red and prophets are in blue.

In the middle of the chart you will find “JOEL (?).” Joel was a prophet at two different times. Some people list Joel at a later date.

In the lower left hand corner, you will see a picture of Elijah against the false prophets. Notice the black line that points to the word “JEHOSHAPHAT.” This means that this event happened when Jehoshaphat was the ruler. The picture of Daniel in the cage of lions points to “ZERUBBABEL.” This means that this happened when Zerubbabel was the ruler.

LESSON

The books of prophecy in the Old Testament have many wonderful stories about God’s prophets and what happened to them. In this lesson, we will look at two prophets — Elijah and Daniel — and see how they faithfully followed God. We cannot study about all of the prophets in this lesson, but we hope that you will take time to read some of their writings. Read about Jonah and the big fish in Jonah, chapters 1 and 2. Read Daniel, chapter 3, to learn about Daniel’s three friends who were thrown into the furnace. Look at chapter 37 of Ezekiel to read about the valley filled with dead men’s bones.

Elijah was one of God’s prophets. He lived at the time when Ahab was king of Israel. Ahab was a very wicked king. His wife, Jezebel, was also very bad. Ahab and Jezebel did not like Elijah. Why? Because Elijah spoke God’s message. Ahab and Jezebel led many of the Israelite people to worship the false gods of Baal and Asherah. In 1 Kings 18:18-40, we read about the miracle that happened on Mount Carmel.

Elijah told King Ahab to bring the 450 prophets of Baal (a false god) and the 400 prophets of Asherah (another false god) to Mount Carmel. Why? Because Elijah wanted to have a contest to decide which god the people should follow. Elijah told the prophets of Baal to bring two bulls, cut one bull into pieces and put the meat on pieces of wood. But Elijah told the prophets of Baal not to start a fire on the wood.

Then the false prophets prayed to their god, Baal. They asked him to start the wood on fire. They prayed until noon, but nothing happened. Then they danced around the wood, but no fire started. Elijah started to make fun of the prophets. Elijah said, “If Baal really is a god, maybe you should pray louder! Maybe he is busy. Maybe he is thinking about something, or maybe he stepped out for a moment! He could be sleeping! Maybe you should pray louder and wake him up!” (1 Kings 18:27) The prophets of Baal prayed louder and acted wild until evening, but nothing happened.

Then Elijah gathered the people around the stone altar that he had built. He dug a small ditch around the altar. Next Elijah put water on the wood and cut the other bull into pieces. He put the pieces of meat on the wood. Three times Elijah had men pour water on the wood and the meat. Elijah prayed to God and asked Him to show the people that He was the true God. God sent fire and it burned the meat, the wood, the stones and the ground around the altar. When the people saw this, they bowed down and said, “The Lord is God! The Lord is God!” (1 Kings 18:39b) Then Elijah killed the prophets of Baal so that they could not continue to lead the people away from God.

More than 250 years later, a young Israelite man named Daniel was captured and taken to Babylon. While in Babylon, Daniel always served God. In Daniel, chapter 6, we read that God blessed Daniel, and he became an official in the government. He was one of the three supervisors chosen by King Darius to rule over the governors. The king was especially pleased with Daniel, and he planned to make Daniel ruler over all the kingdom. But the other two supervisors and the governors became jealous of Daniel and planned to get rid of him. They watched Daniel so that they could catch him doing something wrong, but he always did what was right.

Finally, these jealous men encouraged the king to make a new law. This law said that everyone in the kingdom had to pray to the king for 30 days. No one could pray to God. If someone prayed to God, he would be thrown into a den of lions. The two men knew that Daniel always prayed to God three times a

day. When Daniel heard about the new law, he did not stop praying to God. The two jealous supervisors caught Daniel praying, and he was thrown into a den with lions. But God was with Daniel. God shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt Daniel. The next morning the king ran to see what had happened to Daniel. Daniel told the king how God had saved him. The king was very happy. He made a new law that said, "All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel." (Daniel 6:26a)

Daniel continued to be successful under King Darius and later under King Cyrus. Daniel gave the people many prophecies from God. Some of these prophecies talked about things that would happen soon, and some talked about things that would happen in the future. God used both Elijah and Daniel to speak His messages to the people. Elijah and Daniel obeyed God. They did not worship false gods. We should follow their example today.

Sometimes today people call themselves prophets from God. Many of these people are false prophets because their messages are not from God. Remember that God's prophets in the Bible were never wrong. When they said that something would happen, it always happened. That is one way to test prophets today. See if their messages always come true. If not, then these prophets are not from God.

STOP AND THINK

- God chose the Israelites to be His special people. He wanted them to obey Him and to worship only Him. The Bible tells us many times that the Israelites forgot about God and started worshiping false gods. But God still loved the Israelites. He used people like Moses, the judges, the kings and the prophets to remind the Israelites to repent and serve Him again.
- Today we do not have judges and prophets like in the Old Testament. Instead we have the Bible. The Bible reminds us that we should love and serve God. When we read the Bible, we learn about God's rules and His plan for our lives. God loves all people. He wants everyone to love and obey Him.

LESSON 10 • QUESTIONS

1. _____ were people who spoke God's messages to the people.
2. How many books of prophecy are in the Old Testament? _____
3. These books of prophecy are divided into two groups. What are these two groups?
_____ and _____
4. Who was the king of Israel when Elijah spoke for God? _____
Who was the queen? _____
5. Where did Elijah meet the 450 prophets of Baal? _____
6. When the 450 prophets prayed, did Baal send fire to burn up the meat?
_____ yes
_____ no
7. Elijah set up the altar to worship God. Then God sent fire to burn up the meat, and the people said,
"The Lord is _____!"
8. Daniel was captured and taken to _____.
9. Daniel forgot about God, and he worshiped other gods.
_____ yes
_____ no
10. The king's law said that everyone had to pray to the king for (choose one)
_____ a week
_____ a year
_____ 30 days

Find the page called "Contents" in the front of your Bible. You will see a list of the books of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Find the book of Isaiah in the Old Testament list. Below is a list of the 17 Old Testament books of prophecy. Some of the names are missing. Look at the list in your Bible and fill in the names of the books in the right order.

Isaiah	_____	Habakkuk
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
Ezekiel	_____	Zechariah
_____	Micah	_____
Hosea	_____	

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

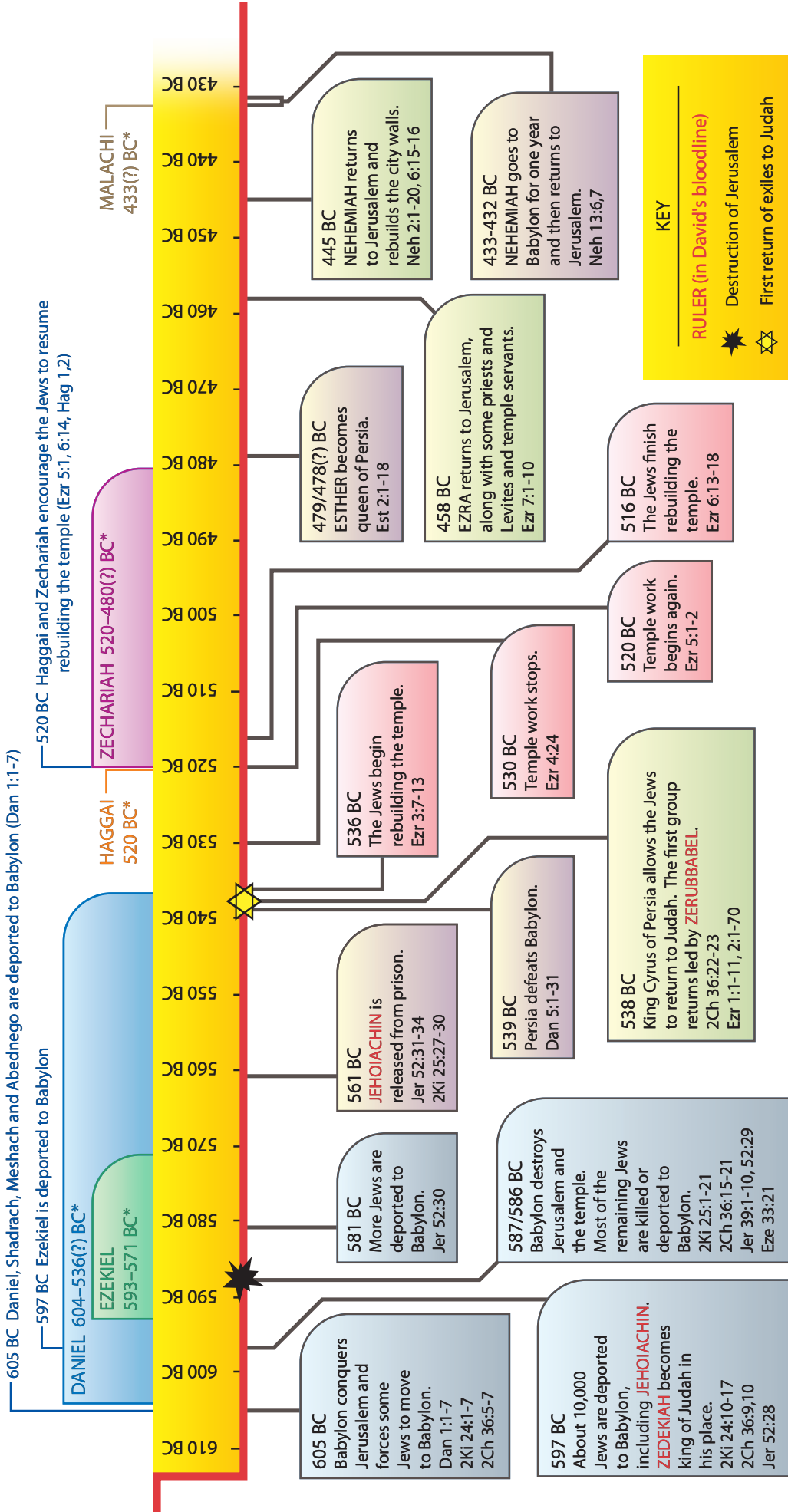
OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 11

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT CHART #11

2 KINGS, 2 CHRONICLES, JEREMIAH, EZEKIEL, DANIEL, ESTHER, EZRA, NEHEMIAH, HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI

EXILE AND RESTORATION OF THE JEWS



KEY

- RULER (in David's bloodline)
- ★ Destruction of Jerusalem
- ☆ First return of exiles to Judah

RESTORATION

EXILE OF JUDAH

*Dates indicate term of known prophetic activity, rather than lifespan.

LESSON 11

LESSON BACKGROUND

This lesson covers the time when many of the Jews were sent away to another country. While they were in exile, the Jews were captives (slaves) to the people in that country. Many years later, the Jews were allowed to return to their homes in Israel. As you study this lesson, you will learn that God allowed the Jews to be captured because they did not obey Him. You will also notice that God loved the Jews, and He always took care of them.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #11

On Chart #11 you will see several new words: exiled, deported and restoration. The words “exiled” and “deported” mean the same thing. When people are forced to leave their home country and go to another country to live, they are exiled or deported. Restoration means to bring the people back to their home country. When the Jews were conquered by another nation, they were exiled or deported to another country. While the Jews were in that country, they were forced to be slaves. Restoration happened when the Jews were restored, or sent back, to their homes many years later.

The exile was a terrible time for the Jews. They missed their homes. Some people were separated from their families. Often they were not allowed to worship God. But God was still with the Jews. He used His prophets to speak His message to the people. These prophets encouraged the people and reminded them that God was still taking care of them. Notice the red line on the chart and the dates above the line. Above these dates are listed some of the prophets during this time: Daniel, Ezekiel, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. The dates by their names are the years that they spoke God’s message.

The red line, Jesus’ Family Line, continues on this chart. The rulers listed in red letters — Jehoiachin, Zedekiah and Zerubbabel — are descendants of King David and ancestors of Jesus. This red line reminds us that God was still working on His plan to send His Son, Jesus, to earth.

On the chart you will notice question marks (?) after some of the dates. These question marks mean that people who study Bible history are not certain about the exact dates.

LESSON

In Lesson 9 we talked about the beautiful temple that King Solomon built. (1 Chronicles 22:6) You can read about the temple in 1 Kings 6:14-38. This temple stood for 400 years, and then it was destroyed. After some of the Jews were allowed to return to Israel, they started to rebuild the temple. Ezra 3:1-13 tells about the people who rebuilt the temple.

Two important men during this time were Ezra and Nehemiah. Ezra was a Jewish priest who helped the people remember to worship God and obey His rules. In the book of Ezra, you will see that Ezra made many lists. He listed the temple dishes, people, animals and leaders who returned to Jerusalem. Ezra even listed the names of the Jewish men who married foreign wives.

The enemies of the Jews didn’t want the Jews to rebuild the temple. Ezra 3:3 says, “They were afraid of the other people living near them, but that didn’t stop them. They built the altar on its old foundations and offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord.” The Jews were afraid to rebuild the temple. But, with God’s help, they were able to build the temple again.

Nehemiah was a Jew who became an important servant to the king of Persia. The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad because Jerusalem had been destroyed. So the king allowed Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem. Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls and the gates of the city so that the people would be safe. The enemies of the Jews tried to stop them by making fun of them and saying they would do bad things to the Jews. These enemies even sent a man who pretended to be a prophet. This man told Nehemiah to stop building the wall. But Nehemiah did not pay attention to this false prophet. God helped the Jews, and they were able to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in 52 days! (Nehemiah 6:15)

Remember that throughout all this time, God was still taking care of His people, the Jews. A Jewish woman named Esther became the queen of Persia. Haman was an evil man who planned to kill all the Jews. But Queen Esther learned about the plan and saved the Jews. This story is found in the Old Testament book of Esther. You can read this story in Esther 2:2-18; 3:1-6; and chapters 5, 6 and 7.

The prophet Isaiah predicted that King Cyrus would allow the Jews to return to Israel. Isaiah also predicted that Jerusalem and the temple would be rebuilt. Read Isaiah 44:26-28. Isaiah made these predictions two hundred years before they happened! How could Isaiah do this? Because God knows the future, and God told Isaiah what to say. Isaiah also made many other predictions. He told that God's Son, Jesus, would be born (Isaiah 7:14). Isaiah also told that Jesus would suffer and die (Isaiah, chapter 53). Isaiah spoke these prophecies 700 years before they happened.

STOP AND THINK

- ✦ You have studied the Bible and several lessons of the Old Testament "Basic Bible Study." You have learned that God required His people, the Jews, to obey Him. In this lesson you read how God allowed the Jews to be captured because they sinned, and they were sent to other countries. But, God was still with the Jews, and He helped them return to their homes.
- ✦ God still requires people to obey Him today. We can know how to obey God by reading and studying the Bible.

LESSON 11 - QUESTIONS

1. The words "exiled" and "deported" mean to take people from their country and force them to live in another country.
 yes
 no
2. What king built the temple? _____
3. How long did the temple stand before it was destroyed? _____
4. Did the enemies want the Jews to rebuild the temple?
 yes
 no
5. Nehemiah was an important servant to the king of _____.
6. Ezra helped the people _____ to worship _____.
7. _____ helped rebuild the walls and the gates.
8. The prophet Isaiah predicted that King _____ would allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem or Israel.
9. How many days did it take to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? _____
10. What was the name of the Jewish woman who became queen? _____

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 12

■ LESSON 12

LESSON

Let's review our lessons and see what we have learned about God. First, we learned that God has a book called the Bible. God's rules are written in this book. The Bible has 66 books in it. God's Holy Spirit guided about 40 men to write the Bible. The Bible was written over a period of about 1500 years.

We know that God was in the beginning. We know that He created (made out of nothing) people. God created people to be like Him. God created this awesome world and all the things in it. Look at the world around you. Look at the many things that God made. Remember that clothing and furniture were made from things that God created long ago, like wood and plants.

We know that the first man and woman were Adam and Eve. We know that the devil in the form of a snake told lies to Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve believed these lies, and they disobeyed God. God punished them because they did not obey. He kicked them out of their home, the Garden of Eden. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, we have pain and suffering today. Men must work hard to make a living, women have pain in childbirth, and all people have physical suffering and death.

Why did God have to kick Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden? Because God is holy and pure. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were not holy and pure any more. God still wanted to have fellowship with all people. So He made a way that people could be holy and pure again. God told the people that they must give a blood sacrifice. God told the Israelites to sacrifice a perfect animal, one that was healthy and looked well. We also learned that God had another plan for the future. God planned for His Son, Jesus, to sacrifice His life for all people. Then there would not be any more animal sacrifices. People could accept Jesus as their sacrifice.

God gave the Israelites great leaders — patriarchs, judges, kings and prophets. These leaders helped the Israelites to do the right things. Do you remember Abraham's faith? He was willing to move to a new land. Abraham was also willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Do you remember the courage of Moses and Gideon? Think about Noah. It may have taken him 120 years to build that boat! Remember how God took care of Joseph when he was sold as a slave. Later Joseph became a ruler of Egypt and saved his family from starvation.

As you studied the lessons and Bible verses, you saw that the people disobeyed God many times. God had to punish them. Later the people felt sorry for what they had done wrong. Then God forgave them. Remember that God was patient with the Israelites, even when they didn't follow His leaders. First the people had judges and then they wanted kings. So God gave them kings. God sent prophets like Elijah and Daniel to speak His message. God loved the Israelites very much! So He continued to give them leaders to help them obey. God always required the people to obey His rules, but He was also willing to forgive them when they asked for forgiveness.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

In this lesson, we are giving you some questions to review material that you have studied. We challenge you to answer as many questions as you can without looking back at the lessons.

LESSON 12 - QUESTIONS

INTRODUCTION

1. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
In the New Testament? _____
2. If you see "Genesis 1:3a," what does the "1" mean? _____
3. What does "3a" mean? _____
4. Most of the Bible was written in two languages. What are the languages?
_____ and _____
5. Who guided or directed men who wrote the Bible? _____

LESSON 1

1. What word means "to make out of nothing"? _____
2. Man and woman are the best of God's creation. Why? _____

LESSON 2

1. "I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your children and her children will be enemies." Who are "her children"? _____
2. Name two of the punishments for Adam and Eve's sin.
 - a. _____

 - b. _____

3. What does the red line on the chart mean? _____

4. Does sin separate us from God?
____ yes
____ no
5. Is the devil still in our world today? _____
6. What does the word "sacrifice" mean? _____

7. If we resist the devil, will he run away from us?

_____ yes

_____ no

LESSON 3

1. What did Noah build? _____

2. Who went into the boat?

_____ all the people

_____ Noah's family

3. Who shut the door? _____

4. What does the rainbow mean? _____

5. Who has power over animals? _____

LESSON 4

1. What did Noah and his family do first when they left the boat? _____

2. At first, the people spoke all the same language.

Who confused their language? _____

3. How many sons did Noah have?

_____ 2

_____ 6

_____ 3

4. Who told Abraham to move to the land of Canaan? _____

5. How old was Abraham when Isaac was born?

_____ 100

_____ 90

6. How old was Sarah when Isaac was born?

_____ 50

_____ 90

7. Did God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac?

_____ yes

_____ no

8. Did Abraham have great faith in God?

_____ yes

_____ no

LESSON 5

1. The word "patriarch" means _____.

2. What were the names of Isaac's two sons?

_____ and _____

3. How many sons did Jacob have? _____

4. Who was Jacob's favorite son? _____

5. Joseph became governor over Egypt, and he was able to give food to his brothers when they had a famine in their country.

_____ yes

_____ no

6. Joseph's family was the start of what nation? _____

LESSON 6

1. What does "exodus" mean? _____

2. God gave Moses

_____ 20 commandments.

_____ 10 commandments.

3. The words, "Hebrew," "Israelites," "Jews" and "God's people" all mean the same group of people.

_____ yes

_____ no

4. Moses was the

_____ deliverer.

_____ king.

5. When Moses was a baby, his mother put him in a _____ on the river.

6. How many plagues did God send to the people of Egypt because the king would not let the Israelites leave the country? _____

7. What was the place of worship that Moses built? _____

LESSON 7

1. When the Israelites left Egypt, they were going to the Promised Land or the land of _____.
2. How many of the twelve spies said that the Israelites would be able to conquer the land? _____
3. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Did their clothes or shoes wear out?
_____ yes
_____ no
4. The Jordan River flows between _____ Galilee and the Dead _____.
5. What was around the city of Jericho?
_____ garden
_____ wall
6. How many times did the priests and soldiers march around the wall of Jericho on the seventh day? _____
7. Did God ever make the sun stand still to help Joshua win a battle?
_____ yes
_____ no

LESSON 8

1. Why was Joshua able to conquer the people who lived in Canaan?
_____ Because he had many tanks, airplanes and guns.
_____ Because he obeyed God, and God was with him.
2. In chapter 3 of Judges, you will read that the Israelites were defeated by their enemies. Why? _____

3. After Joshua died, the Israelites started worshiping other gods. Then God became _____.
4. Which of these countries ruled over the Israelites?
_____ Mesopotamia
_____ Moab
_____ Midian
_____ all of them

5. Who helped Gideon to have the courage to fight the Midianites?

6. Did Gideon think that his family was the strongest group of his tribe?
____ yes
____ no

7. How many men did Gideon think he needed to fight the battle against the Midianites?
____ 32,000
____ 1,000

8. How many men did God want to use? _____

9. The battle was won by the power of _____.

10. People who obey God are winners!
____ yes
____ no

LESSON 9

1. Who chose David to be the king of Israel?
____ the people
____ God

2. Goliath was a tiny man.
____ yes
____ no

3. The Book of Psalms: (choose two answers)
____ is a book of songs of praise to God.
____ is a book of maps.
____ contains psalms written by David.
____ contains psalms written by Adam.

4. What did King Solomon ask God to give him? _____

5. What was the greatest thing that King Solomon did? _____

6. God told Solomon that because he deliberately disobeyed God's command, He would take the kingdom away from Solomon.
____ yes
____ no

7. During the reign of Solomon's sons, the kingdom was divided into how many parts?

_____ 5

_____ 2

LESSON 10

1. God used special people to speak His message. These people were called _____.

2. Why did some people hate the prophets?

_____ The prophets told the people that God wanted them to stop sinning.

_____ The prophets told the people they could worship any god they wanted to worship.

3. Who wrote the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations? _____

4. Name two prophets we studied in Lesson 10.

_____ and _____

5. When Daniel was thrown into the den of lions, did he die?

_____ yes

_____ no

6. Was Jonah swallowed by a big fish?

_____ yes

_____ no

7. How many times did Elijah have the men put water on the altar?

_____ 3 times

_____ 4 times

_____ 1 time

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

OLD TESTAMENT • LESSON 13

LESSON 13

LOOKING BACK

You have just finished a study of the Old Testament. Maybe you have some questions. Two important questions might be:

1. How do we know God is real?
2. How do we know that we can trust the Bible?

Let's look at the first question. The Bible does not try to prove that God is real. The Bible just tells us that God was there in the beginning. Is there any other proof that God is real? First, let me give you an example. When you look at a clock, you know that someone made that clock. Why? Because all of the parts didn't just fly around in the air and then all of a sudden decide to become a clock. Someone had to put the parts together. There was a designer or maker. Look at the world and see that the sun, moon and stars are always in their right places. Notice that plants grow from seeds, not chicken eggs, and chickens hatch from eggs, not apple seeds. This is proof that someone designed and made the world. That designer was God.

When you throw a ball into the air, why does it fall to the ground instead of going up into the sky? Why is it not the same on the moon? Gravity is not the same on the moon as it is on the earth. Did gravity just happen? Or did God design it and make it happen?

Why does the sun come up in the morning in the east and go down in the west? Why not come up in the north and go down in the south? Psalm 19:4b says, "The sun's tent is set up in the heavens." Read Psalm 19:5-6 and see how God made the sun move across the sky. Did you know that scientists have proven that if the sun was closer to the earth, we would burn up? And that if the sun was farther away, we would freeze? Or if the sun was any redder or any bluer, plants couldn't grow? Without plants, we would all die. If the earth would spin faster, a giant windstorm would blow us away. If the earth would spin more slowly, we would freeze at night and be too hot during the day.* Did someone create the world, like the Bible says? Is God real? How could all of the earth have been made without a designer and maker?

Now let's look at the second question. Is the Bible true? Archaeology - the study of old things - can help prove that the Bible is accurate. People find old things by digging in the earth. Sometimes the objects are uncovered by the wind, rain or a storm. An example of this is Noah's boat. One time Russian pilots saw something sticking out of the ice, high in the mountains of Armenia. The object looked like a boat. The measurements of the object matched the measurements of Noah's boat. This is something that can be seen today.

Astronomy - the study of the stars and planets - also helps prove that the Bible is true. Job 9:9 says, "God made the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades. He made the planets that cross the southern sky." You probably have seen these names in a science book that you read in school. But maybe this is the first time that you read them in the Bible. Does this help you believe that the Bible is true?

Verses in the Bible also tell us that it is true. Exodus 31:18 says, "When God finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two stone tablets of the agreement. God had written on the stones with his finger." Wow! God Himself wrote the Ten Commandments on the two tablets. God put the words in the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:9 says, "Then the Lord reached out with his hand and touched my mouth. He said to me, 'Jeremiah, I am putting my words in your mouth.'" Another proof from the Bible are God's prophets. When they said that something would happen, it always happened.

**"The Three Bears and the Origin of the Universe," Jenna Lusby, 02/02/98, "The Lookout"*

LOOKING AHEAD

As you already know, the Old Testament has 39 books. In our lessons we did not study all of the

books of the Old Testament. We tried to cover the most important facts. Not all of the Old Testament books have new information. Some books just tell more details about a story. If you read in a newspaper about a wedding, you learn the main facts. But if you talk with someone who went to the wedding, they will give you the details of the wedding. This is the same with some of the Old Testament books. Some tell the main facts and others give more details. Exodus tells us that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and the laws for the Israelites. The book of Leviticus gives us the details about these laws.

The books of the Old Testament are not put in your Bible in chronological (time) order. The books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther were probably the last books of the Old Testament to be written. These books tell us what happened to the Jewish people when Cyrus, the ruler of Babylon, allowed the Jews to return to their homes in Canaan.

From this time until Jesus was born, there were 400 years. During these 400 years, God did not give any special teaching to the Jews. This is called the “period of silence.” During this “period of silence,” the world rulers were the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks and Romans. God allowed the Jews to be ruled by these people. The Jews suffered hard times under these rulers. But God helped the Jewish nation to survive through all these problems.

God planned to use the Jewish nation to bring His Son, Jesus, into the world. So, at the right time, God sent Jesus to earth (NT) (Galatians 4:4-7). Jesus was born about 400 years after the last Old Testament books were written. The books of the New Testament were written 45 to 96 years after Jesus was born.

Studying the New Testament is exciting because it tells us about God’s plan for us. When you read the New Testament, you will learn about God’s love for all people. Also, in the New Testament, you will see that the promises made in the Old Testament came true. For example, Isaiah 7:14 says, “But the Lord will still show you this sign: The young woman is pregnant and will give birth to a son. She will name him Immanuel.” This promise from God came true when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matthew 1:23 in the New Testament says, “The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name him Immanuel. (Immanuel means ‘God with us.’)”

God is the same in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. God always requires obedience. And there is always punishment for sin. But God’s love for us is very strong! You will read in the New Testament that God gave His only Son, Jesus, for all people who believe and follow Him. Why? Because God loves you and me so very much! Remember that the word “testament” means “will.” The New Testament is God’s plan for you and me.

We hope that you have learned many things from this study of the Old Testament. Most of all, we hope that you have learned about God and that He loves you.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

WELCOME

You are now ready for the next step in your study of the Bible. For this New Testament study, we will continue to use the Easy-to-Read Bible.

Find the page named “CONTENTS” in the front of your Bible. Look at the list of books in the New Testament. You can see that Matthew is the first book. Now read through the list of the 27 New Testament books.

We learned in our Old Testament lessons that the Bible is like a library of books. Maybe you can memorize the names of all the New Testament books. That would be great!

THE BIBLE

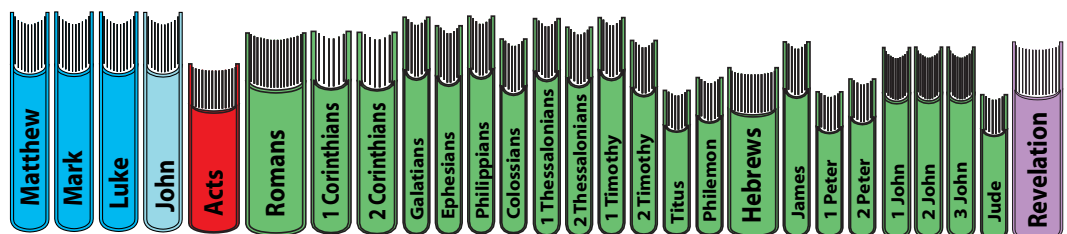
The New Testament tells many exciting facts about Jesus, God’s Son, and about the people who followed Him. When you study the New Testament, you will learn what the Bible says about becoming a Christian – someone who loves and obeys Jesus – and about obeying and living for Jesus every day.

The New Testament will show you that Jesus did many miracles and even raised people from the dead. When you read about these miracles, you will understand that Jesus has power over everything in the world. But most importantly, you will learn that Jesus loves you!

The message of the New Testament can be stated in one Bible verse. This verse is John 3:16, which says, “Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life.”

The New Testament books are divided into five main groups:

1. GOSPELS (Life of Jesus, God’s Son) — Matthew through John
2. HISTORY (of the Church) — Acts
3. PAUL’S LETTERS — Romans through Philemon
4. GENERAL LETTERS — Hebrews through Jude
5. PROPHECY — Revelation

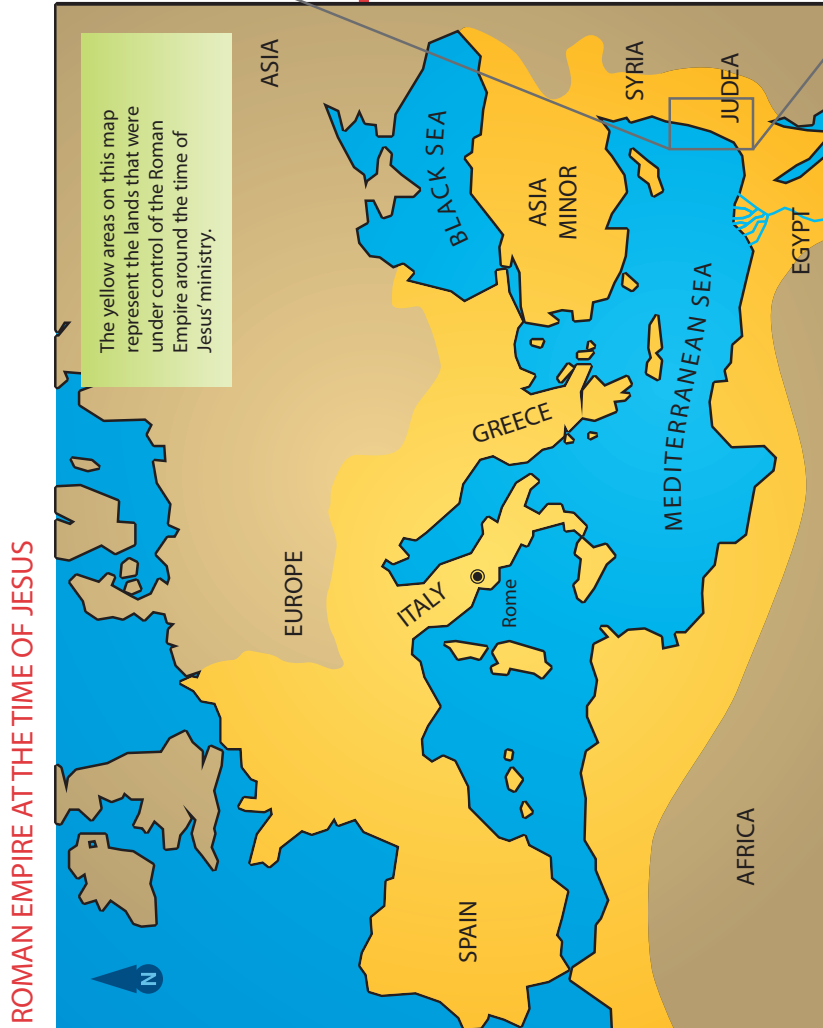


BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 1

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT MAP #1



The map to the right shows the Province of Judea and its surrounding provinces as they were at the time of Jesus' ministry. The area shown in this map is about the same size as the state of New Jersey in the modern United States of America. This province was only a small part of the Roman Empire at that time (see map above). In the map to the right, find the cities of Nazareth and Capernaum (in Galilee); notice that they are about 20 miles apart. It probably took a little more than a day to walk between these two towns.

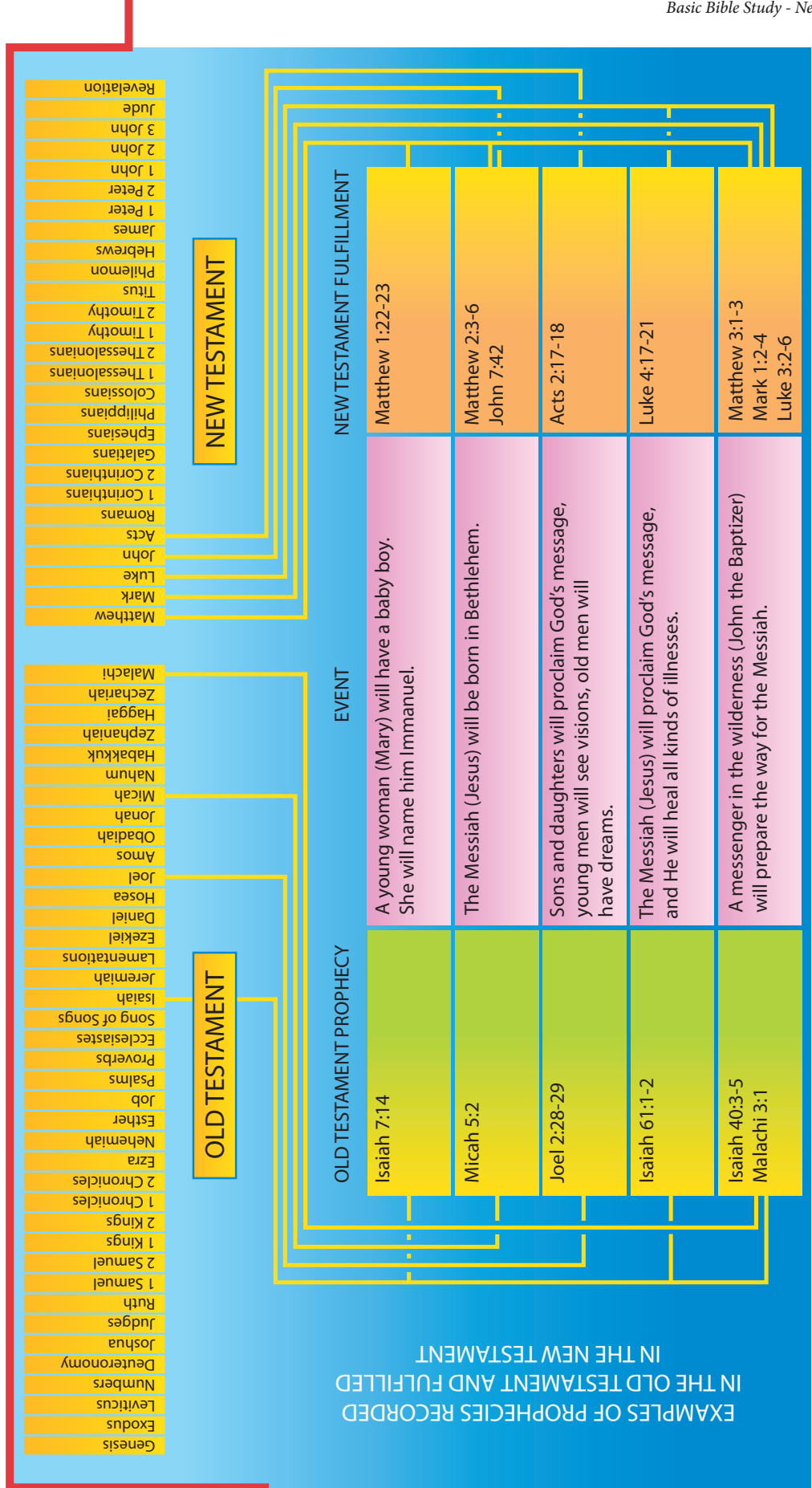
ROMAN PROVINCE OF JUDEA* AT THE TIME OF JESUS

*(Rome later changed the name of the province to "Palestine")

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #1

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



LESSON 1

LESSON BACKGROUND

When God created people, they were friends with Him. But God gave people the choice to be His friend or to not be His friend. To be God's friend, you must love and obey Him. In our Old Testament study, we learned that there were people who did not obey God. Adam and Eve did not obey God. They sinned. So God made a plan for people to be His friends again. This plan was for people to sacrifice animals. They had to make these sacrifices again and again. Sacrificing animals was not the complete plan. God planned for His Son, Jesus, to be the final sacrifice. 1 Peter 3:18a says, "Christ himself suffered when he died for you, and with that one death he paid for your sins." This plan took thousands of years to come true.

As the Old Testament ends, there is a time of silence for about 400 years. During these 400 years, God did not give any messages to the Israelites. Because of their sin, the Israelites were slaves to other nations. At the time of the New Testament, the Israelites were slaves to the Romans. During that time, God sent Jesus to be born. Galatians 4:4 says, "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, who was born from a woman and lived under the law." This was God's plan from the beginning. This plan was not just for the Israelites, but it was for all people. God's plan is for you and me, too. In Matthew 28:18-19a we read, "So he [Jesus] came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world.'" A follower is Jesus' obedient friend.

In the Old Testament, God said He would bless Abraham with a son. This son's name was Isaac. From Abraham and his son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob, a great nation was born. These people are called Jews or the nation of Israel. This nation started when Joseph brought his family to live in Egypt.

Many years later, Jesus was born from this Jewish nation. Egypt and many other nations treated the Jews very badly. The Jewish people were made slaves. Often they were killed. But God took care of the Jewish nation. God had a plan for all people to follow Him. We just read Matthew 28:18-19a. These verses tell us that God wants all people to be His disciples.

Jesus was a Jew. He was a descendant of Abraham. He lived under the rules of the Old Testament. Jesus came to set up a new plan. This plan shows us how to be saved from our sins. Under this new plan, Jesus is the sacrifice for sins. We don't have to make animal sacrifices so that our sins may be forgiven. Jesus was the final sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross to accept the punishment for our sins. Jesus' death on the cross was the dividing line between the Old Testament law and the plan of the New Testament. Ephesians 2:15a says, "Christ ended the law with its many commands and rules." So Jesus and all the Jews you read about in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were under the Old Testament law. When Jesus died on the cross, the new plan started. God's new plan is for both Jews and Gentiles – people who are not Jews. This plan is called the Gospel or Good News of Jesus. Read Ephesians 2:4-18.

UNDERSTANDING MAP #1

Each New Testament lesson will have a chart, and some lessons will also have a map. Look at Map #1. This map will help you understand more about where Jesus lived. Look at the map on the left. Now find the little rectangle in the lower right corner of the map. The word JUDEA is near this rectangle. Judea is the province, or state, where Jesus lived. You can see that Judea is not a very big area.

On the right is a bigger map of Judea. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Find Bethlehem. Find the Jordan River. This is where Jesus was baptized. Find the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is very salty. Some people call it the Sea of Salt.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #1

Chart #1 has a list of the books of the Bible — Old Testament books and New Testament books.

The Bible is such a wonderful book! Why? Because it is accurate, or correct. In the Old Testament,

God's prophets said that things would happen in the future. In the New Testament, we can read the fulfillment of these prophecies. Fulfillment means that the prophecies really happened. Some of these prophecies are listed at the bottom of Chart #1. Take time to read each Old Testament prophecy from your Bible. Then read the New Testament verses which tell us that the prophecy happened. We can trust the words in the Bible!

Look at the yellow lines on the chart. Follow the yellow lines from each prophecy and fulfillment to the Bible books in the list. You can also use this list to help you remember the order of the Bible books.

Notice that Jesus' Family Line is still on the chart. In Lesson 2 we will learn more about Jesus and His family line.

LESSON

The Bible has two parts — the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word "testament" means "will." The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. When a person writes a will, or legal paper, that will is not used until after the person has died. In the same way, the rules of the New Testament started after Jesus' death on the cross.

The story of God's plan began in the Old Testament, and the story is finished in the New Testament. The Old Testament tells that God's Son, Jesus, would come in the future. The New Testament tells that Jesus was born and lived on earth. As you study the New Testament, you will learn that the prophecies in the Old Testament were always accurate. These prophecies came true in the New Testament, or they will happen in the future. For example, one prophecy said that Jesus would be born in the city of Bethlehem. In the New Testament, we read that many years later, Jesus was truly born in Bethlehem.

Here are some examples of Old Testament prophecies and New Testament verses. These verses tell us that the prophecies really happened. Please take time to find these verses in your Bible and read them.

<u>Old Testament Prophecy</u> (<u>The Bible says it will happen.</u>)	<u>Event</u>	<u>New Testament Happening</u> (<u>The Bible says that it really did happen.</u>)
Isaiah 7:14	A young woman who is pregnant will have a son. She will name him Immanuel.	Matthew 1:23
Micah 5:2	A ruler for Israel, God's Son, will be born in Bethlehem.	John 7:42
Joel 2:28-29	Sons and daughters will proclaim God's message, young men will see visions, and old men will have dreams.	Acts 2:17

You have already learned that the New Testament is made up of 27 books. These books were written in the Greek language. The Greek language was the common language of the people at that time. The books of the New Testament were written from about 45 AD to 96 AD. AD means "after the birth of Jesus." So the books of the New Testament were written about 45 to 96 years after Jesus was born. The early Christians read these books and shared them with other churches. Later the books were collected and made into the New Testament.

The 27 books of the New Testament may be divided into five sections:

1. Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) — "Gospel" means "Good News." The "Good News" is that Jesus accepted the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross. Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote similar information about the life of Jesus. These three writers each had their own

style of writing, but they told about Jesus' life, His works, and His death, burial and resurrection – coming alive after death. In many ways, the book of John is like Matthew, Mark and Luke. But John emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of God. Read what Jesus said in John 10:30. John states very clearly why he wrote his book. In John 20:31 he says, "But these are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name."

2. History (Acts) — The Book of Acts tells about the beginning of God's church and how we can become part of that church. It also tells us how to be a friend of God and how to go to heaven when we die. Acts is the only book of history in the New Testament.
3. Paul's Letters (Romans through Philemon) — These books are letters that Paul wrote to churches and individuals.
4. General Letters (Hebrews through Jude) — The author of Hebrews is unknown. The other books are letters written by Peter, James, John and Jude to Christians.
5. Prophecy (Revelation) — Revelation is the last book in the New Testament. It is a book of "endings." This book tells us that God and His friends, or believers, will win over all evil in the world. Then these friends will live forever with God. This is the final victory over sin. Revelation also tells us that heaven is so beautiful that it is almost impossible to describe it. This is a book of prophecy.

STOP AND THINK

- ✦ It is amazing that God's prophets were able to predict things that would happen many years later. God spoke to those prophets. Then the prophets told God's message to the people. Many people have called themselves prophets, but only God's prophets spoke messages that were 100% accurate. When God's prophet said that something would happen in the future, it always happened just like the prophet said it would.
- ✦ Many people today want to know what will happen in the future. They read their horoscope in the newspaper or go to a fortune teller. But these predictions are never 100% accurate. Why? Because they are not from God. We can depend on God's Word, the Bible. The words in the Bible are true. God's message will never fail us.

LESSON 1 • QUESTIONS

1. How many books are in the Old Testament? _____
2. How many books are in the New Testament? _____
3. What are the names of the Gospel books? _____,
_____, _____, _____
4. What is the name of the one book of history in the New Testament? _____
5. What is the name of the one book of prophecy in the New Testament? _____
6. Which New Testament book emphasizes that Jesus is the Son of God? _____
7. Who was the final sacrifice for sin? _____
8. The message of the New Testament can be told in one Bible verse. Write the name of the book, the chapter and verse where this can be found. _____
9. Is the province of Judea the same size as the state of Texas?
____ yes
____ no
10. Write John 3:16 from memory on the lines below.

Yes, God _____ the _____ so much that he _____ his
only _____, so that _____ who _____ in him would not be
_____ but have eternal _____.
11. Did Jesus live under the rules of the Old Testament?
____ yes
____ no
12. When did God's new plan start? _____
13. What does the word "testament" mean? _____
14. All the prophecies of God in the Old Testament are 100% accurate.
____ yes
____ no
15. In what language was the New Testament written? _____
16. Which book of the New Testament tells about the beginning of Jesus' church?

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT · LESSON 2

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #2

JESUS' FAMILY LINE

(Matthew 1:1-17)



(Luke 3:23-38)

SOME EVENTS OF JESUS' LIFE

SCRIPTURE (IN MATTHEW)	EVENT
1:1-17	Jesus' family line
1:18-25	Jesus is born
2:3-23	Escape to Egypt, return to Nazareth
3:13-17	Jesus is baptized
4:1-11	Satan tempts Jesus
5:1-7:29	Sermon on the Mount
4:12-20:34	Jesus' ministry in Galilee
21:1-27:66	Jesus' last week and death on the cross
28:1-20	Jesus' resurrection, appearances and commands

MIRACLES FROM MATTHEW CHAPTERS 8 & 9

VERSES IN MATTHEW	MIRACLE
8:2-4	Jesus heals a man with a skin disease
8:5-13	Jesus heals an officer's servant
8:14-15	Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law
8:16a	Jesus casts demons out of people
8:16b-17	Jesus heals many sick people
8:23-27	Jesus stops a storm
8:28-34	Jesus drives demons out of two men
9:1-8	Jesus heals a paralyzed man
9:18-19,23-26	Jesus brings a dead girl back to life
9:20-22	Jesus heals a woman
9:27-31	Jesus heals two blind men
9:32-33	Jesus drives a demon out of a man
9:35	Jesus heals all kinds of illnesses

SOME STORIES JESUS TOLD

SCRIPTURE	A STORY ABOUT
Matt 13:1-9	A farmer planting seeds
Matt 13:24-30	Wheat and weeds
Matt 13:31-32	A mustard seed
Matt 13:33	Yeast in bread
Matt 13:44	Treasure hidden in a field
Matt 13:45-46	A man looking for pearls
Matt 13:47-51	A fishing net
Matt 13:52	The owner of a house
Luke 15:3-7	A lost sheep
Luke 15:8-10	A lost coin
Luke 15:11-32	A wasteful son

JESUS' FAMILY LINE AND EXAMPLES OF HIS MIRACLES AND PARABLES

LESSON 2

LESSON BACKGROUND

This lesson is about Jesus, God's Son. Jesus is the most important person in the New Testament. Knowing where Jesus was born will help you understand more about Jesus and His life here on earth. It also helps you to know what was happening in the world when Jesus was born.

In our Old Testament lessons you learned that God prepared ancestors for Jesus. The red line on the charts showed Jesus' Family Line. Sometimes the Bible says that Abraham was the beginning of Jesus' family line. Other Bible verses say that Adam was the beginning. Adam was an earlier ancestor of Jesus. Adam and Abraham are in the same family line.

God planned to send Jesus to earth at the perfect time. The book of Galatians tells us that Jesus was born at the "right time." God also prepared the right place for Jesus to be born. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem was a town in the province, or state, of Judea. Later, the Romans changed the name of Judea to Palestine.

Why did God plan for Jesus to be born in Palestine? Palestine was an important area of the world. If you look at a map of the world, you will notice seven continents. Palestine is located where three continents — Europe, Asia and Africa — come together. Many times other countries conquered Palestine. These other countries wanted to control Palestine. Why? Because Palestine was on the Mediterranean Sea. Traders from the east passed through Palestine on the way to Egypt. (See Map #1 in New Testament, Lesson 1.)

God prepared the countries around Palestine for the coming of Jesus. Greece conquered the people of Asia, Europe and Africa. These people were united under one government. They spoke one language, Greek.

Later, the Romans conquered the whole area. They built many roads which made traveling easier. During this time, the Jews were captured and scattered to many places. But they continued to worship God in special places of worship called "synagogues." The Jews told their children about God and what He had done for their ancestors.

God's plan was perfect. He chose the right family for Jesus. God chose the right place for Jesus to be born. The people had a common language so the news about Jesus could easily spread around the world. God carefully prepared the world for Jesus. His plan continued with the birth of Jesus in the small town of Bethlehem.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #2

This chart has Jesus' Family Line at the top. The names above the red line and below the red line are the ancestors (grandfathers, great-grandfathers, etc.) of Jesus' earthly parents, Joseph and Mary.

Find Matthew 1:1-17 in your Bible. The names above the red line start with Abraham. Read through these names and find them in the Bible verses. Verse 17 tells us that there were 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus.

Now find Luke 3:23-38 in your Bible. Then look at the names below the red line on your chart. Start with the last name on the right side of the page. Read through the names to the left. The last name you will read is Adam. Find these names in Luke 3:23-38.

This is the last chart that will have Jesus' Family Line. The end of the red line shows that Jesus was born. God had promised many years before that He would send His Son, Jesus, to earth. God sent Jesus to be born at just the right time.

Take time to read "Some Events of Jesus' Life." You will read about Joseph taking Mary and Jesus to Egypt, about Jesus' baptism and ministry, and about His death on the cross.

Then look at the list, "Miracles From Matthew Chapters 8 & 9." These verses will help you understand that Jesus has the power to control nature, disease, the devil and even death. Which miracle do you think is the most amazing?

When Jesus talked to the people, He wanted them to understand His teaching. Often Jesus told parables, or simple stories, that the people could easily understand. Some of these stories are about coins, planting seeds or a fishing net. Read some of these verses from Matthew and Luke.

LESSON

When you read the New Testament, you will learn about a very, very amazing person. This person is Jesus, God's Son. Why is Jesus an amazing person? Colossians 1:16a says, "Through his power all things were made." Jesus helped God create the world. Jesus is divine, part of God. He was a king, but He also served other people. Jesus stopped storms, healed sick people and raised people from the dead. Jesus showed that He was gentle when He blessed the little children (Mark 10:13-16). He also showed that He was bold when He drove the bad people out of the temple (Matthew 21:12-13). Many religious people and soldiers did not respect Jesus. They spit on Him and put a crown of thorns on His head. Then Jesus died on the cross. He died for the sins of all people.

Jesus loves us very much. He is preparing a beautiful place in heaven for His followers. Jesus has the power to force us to do what He wants. But He lets us make a choice. We can choose to follow Jesus or to reject Him. Jesus is God's Son, but He chose to die on the cross and pay the debt for our sins. WHY did Jesus do this? As you study the New Testament, you will learn the answer to this question.

Let's look at some of the events in the life of Jesus. Before Jesus was born, an angel spoke to Mary, His mother. The angel told Mary that she would have a child, even though she was a virgin. The angel told Mary that God would be the father of her baby. An angel also spoke to Joseph, who was engaged to Mary. The angel told Joseph that it was okay for him to marry Mary. Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. Many years before, God's prophets had said that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Shepherds came and worshiped baby Jesus. Wise men from the East brought special gifts to Jesus.

You can read about the birth of Jesus in Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20. While you are reading, think about the following questions. Who told the shepherds to go to Bethlehem to see Jesus? (Luke 2:8-20) Special visitors (wise men) came from the East to see Jesus at his house (Matthew 2:11). What did these men follow to the place where Jesus was living? (Matthew 2:1-11) Who told Joseph to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? Why did they need to leave Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:13-15)

When Jesus and his parents returned from Egypt, they lived in the city of Nazareth. Luke 2:40 says, "The little boy Jesus was developing into a mature young man, full of wisdom. God was blessing him." When Jesus was 12 years old, He went with His parents to Jerusalem (Luke 2:41-52). Why? To celebrate the Passover. The Passover was a special Jewish festival to remember how God helped the Israelites leave Egypt. While they were in Jerusalem, Jesus was eager to learn more about God. Jesus went in the temple and talked with the Jewish teachers. His parents and other people left to go home. Joseph and Mary did not know that Jesus was still in the temple. Three days later, His parents realized that Jesus was not with them, and they searched for Him. They found Jesus in the temple. Luke 2:49 says, "Jesus said to them, 'Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father's work is.'"

In Mark 1:4-13, you will read about John the Baptist. John and Jesus were cousins. John baptized Jesus. After that, Jesus went into the desert for 40 days. During this time, the devil tempted Jesus. This means that the devil tried to cause Jesus to sin and disobey God. Think about how terrible this must have been. Jesus did not eat any food during this time. Also, the devil kept trying to make Jesus do something wrong. But Jesus did not sin. 1 Peter 2:22 says about Jesus, "He never sinned, and he never told a lie."

Jesus wanted people to continue His work after He left earth. Jesus asked 12 men to be His special followers. Sometimes these 12 men were also called “disciples” or “apostles.” Remember that Jesus is the Son of God. He could have chosen any men in the world to be His disciples. He could have picked men who were rich or famous. Instead, Jesus chose common men. Some of these men were fishermen, and one was a tax collector. Jesus taught these men how to obey God and how to teach other people about God.

Jesus did many amazing things. In Matthew, chapters 8 and 9, we can read about 13 miracles that Jesus did. Miracles are amazing works done by God’s power. These miracles showed that Jesus had power to control sickness, nature, the devil and death. Jesus also taught people about God. Jesus used simple stories called “parables” to help the people understand what He was saying. In Matthew, chapter 13, we can find some examples of these stories. These parables are about the sower, weeds, the mustard seed and many more. Luke, chapter 15, has stories about the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. These chapters will help you understand what Jesus taught.

When you continue to read about Jesus’ life on earth, you may wonder why He was arrested (Matthew 26:47-50) and why He was crucified – put to death on a cross (Matthew 27:32-56). In Mark 16:5-8, you will learn that Jesus rose from the dead. How could Jesus do this amazing thing? Is Jesus truly the Son of God? Can you imagine how the people felt when they saw Jesus killed and then saw Him alive again? Wow!

Jesus did all these things for you and for me. Why did He do these things? Because He loves us so much!

STOP AND THINK

- ♦ Did you notice how carefully God planned for the birth of Jesus? God prepared the right place, the right time and the right ancestors.
- ♦ How did you feel when you read that Jesus died for you?
- ♦ We are like the lost son. We make mistakes, but God, our Heavenly Father, forgives us just like the father forgave his son.

LESSON 2 - QUESTIONS

1. Who helped God create the world? _____
2. Who is the very amazing person we studied in this lesson? _____
3. The first paragraph under LESSON tells some facts about Jesus. Write down three facts.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
4. Where was Jesus born? _____
5. Who told the shepherds to go to Bethlehem to see Jesus?

6. How did the special visitors (wise men) from the East find Jesus?

7. How did Joseph know that he should take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? _____

8. Why did Joseph, Mary and Jesus have to go to Egypt? _____

9. Jesus went to the temple when He was 12 years old. Did Jesus like going to the temple?
_____ yes
_____ no
10. After John the Baptist baptized Jesus, where did Jesus go? _____

11. Who tried to cause Jesus to sin? _____
12. How many days did Jesus go without food? _____
13. How many men did Jesus choose to continue His work? _____
14. Read Matthew 10:1-4. Write the names of the disciples on the lines below.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 3

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #3

MATTHEW

AUTHOR: Matthew (Matthew 9:9; 10:3)
PURPOSE: Helping Jewish people learn about Jesus

CHAPTERS: 28

CHAPTER OUTLINE:

- 1-2 Jesus' genealogy and birth
- 3-4 Jesus' ministry begins
- 5-7 Sermon on the Mount
- 8-18 Jesus' ministry in and near Galilee
- 19-20 Jesus' ministry in Judea and Perea
- 21-26 Jesus' final week
- 26-27 Arrest, trials and death of Jesus
- 28 Jesus' resurrection

MARK

AUTHOR: John Mark (Acts 12:12)
PURPOSE: Helping Gentiles learn about Jesus

CHAPTERS: 16

CHAPTER OUTLINE:

- 1-6 Jesus' ministry in Galilee
- 6-9 Jesus' traveling ministry
- 10 Jesus' ministry in Judea and Perea
- 11-14 Jesus' final week
- 14-15 Arrest, trials and death of Jesus
- 16 Jesus' resurrection

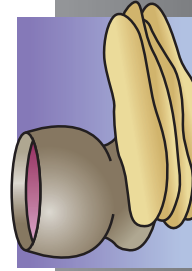
LUKE

AUTHOR: Luke (Colossians 4:14)
PURPOSE: Writing an orderly record of Jesus' life

CHAPTERS: 24

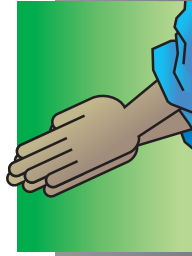
CHAPTER OUTLINE:

- 1 Preparation for Jesus to come
- 2 Jesus' birth and youth
- 3-4 Jesus' ministry begins
- 4-9 Jesus' ministry in and near Galilee
- 10-19 Jesus' ministry in Judea and Perea
- 19-22 Jesus' final week
- 22-23 Arrest, trials and death of Jesus
- 24 Jesus' resurrection



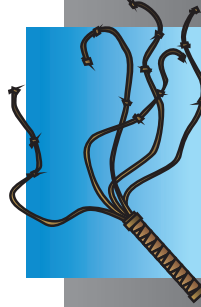
THE LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-35
 Mark 14:12-26
 Luke 22:7-20



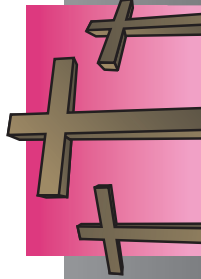
JESUS IN THE GARDEN

Matthew 26:36-46
 Mark 14:32-42
 Luke 22:39-46



JESUS' ARREST AND TRIALS

Matthew 26:47-27:31
 Mark 14:43-15:20
 Luke 22:47-23:25



JESUS' DEATH AND BURIAL

Matthew 27:32-66
 Mark 15:21-47
 Luke 23:26-56



JESUS' RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-10
 Mark 16:1-12
 Luke 24:1-12

THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

LESSON 3

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus did not write a book about His life on earth. But many other men wrote about Jesus' life. Jesus used His time teaching people about God. Many people who listened to Jesus believed in God and followed Jesus. Jesus walked and talked with His followers. These people knew that Jesus loved them. Years later, the Holy Spirit led some of these followers to write books about Jesus. These books became the New Testament.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had the same purpose in writing their Gospel books — to show that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (read John 20:31). But each writer told about Jesus' life in a different way. These four books are not just biographies or facts about Jesus' life. The Gospel books also tell us how to live for Jesus. Jesus lived on earth for more than 30 years. But you can read each Gospel book in a short time. Many things that happened in Jesus' life are not written in these books (read John 21:25).

If you and I saw the same car accident happen, we might remember different things. You might remember that the cars were blue and red. But I might remember that one driver wore a baseball cap and the other driver had gray hair. All the things that we remember are true. But we each remember different details. It is the same with the four Gospels. All of them are true. But each writer told the story about Jesus in a special way.

This lesson is about the books of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Matthew, Mark and Luke all wrote similar information about Jesus. But each writer wrote His book to different people. Matthew wrote his book for Jewish people. Mark wrote his Gospel for Roman Gentiles, people who were not Jewish. Luke also wrote his book for Gentiles. In this lesson, you will learn more about each Gospel book.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #3

Look at the blue, red and green boxes in the middle of chart #3. Each box lists: 1) the author of the book; 2) the purpose for writing the book; 3) the number of chapters in the book; and 4) an outline of the book.

Read through the information in these boxes. You will notice that Matthew and Luke tell about Jesus' birth, but Mark does not include information about Jesus' birth.

The small pictures at the bottom of the page show important events in Jesus' life. Under each picture is a list of Bible verses from Matthew, Mark and Luke. These verses tell you where we can read about these events in Jesus' life. For example, you can read about the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:17-35, Mark 14:12-26 and Luke 22:7-20.

LESSON

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Facts about the Author

1. Matthew was a tax collector (Matthew 10:3). When he met Jesus, he stopped being a tax collector and became one of Jesus' 12 disciples.
2. Matthew wrote his book for Jewish people. How do we know this? Matthew mentions Jewish prophecies more than 60 times. He quotes more than 40 Old Testament verses. The list of Jesus' family in Matthew, chapter 1, shows that Jesus was the person that the Jews had been waiting for.

Facts about the Book

Here are some ways that the book of Matthew is different from Mark and Luke:

1. Matthew tells about the wise men visiting baby Jesus and about Joseph taking Mary and Jesus to Egypt.

2. Jesus' special sermon, sometimes called "The Sermon on the Mount," in Matthew, chapters 5-7, includes more information about Christian living than in any other Gospel.
3. Matthew, chapter 13, has many parables not found in the other books.
4. In Matthew, chapter 28, Matthew gives us more information about what Jesus wants His followers to do. These verses are sometimes called the "Great Commission." Matthew 28:18-20 says, "So he came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time.'"

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Facts about the Author

1. Mark was the son of Mary of Jerusalem (Acts 12:12).
2. Mark was also called John Mark.
3. Mark was not one of the twelve special followers of Jesus. But Mark was probably a good friend of Peter. In 1 Peter 5:13, Peter calls Mark his "son." This does not mean that Mark was his physical son. It means that they had a close relationship. Therefore, Mark probably received some of his information about Jesus from Peter.

Facts about the Book

1. Mark is the second book of the New Testament.
2. Mark wrote his Gospel about 55-60 A.D. This was probably before Matthew and Luke wrote their books.
3. Mark wrote for people from Rome. These people were Gentiles. They did not know about God. Mark didn't quote any Old Testament prophecies. Instead, Mark talked about the things that Jesus did. These things helped Roman people understand that Jesus is the Son of God. Mark also showed that Jesus was a true servant. Mark 10:45b is an important verse. It says, "Even the Son of Man did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give life to save many people."
4. Mark is the shortest Gospel book, but it tells about 35 miracles that Jesus did. You can read about Jesus' miracles in almost every chapter of Mark. About 40% of the book of Mark tells about the last few days before Jesus died, His death and His resurrection.
5. Mark also gives Jesus' Great Commission in Mark 16:15-16.

STOP AND THINK

- Notice that God used people with different backgrounds (tax collector, doctor, fisherman, etc.) to tell the story of Jesus.
- God can use you, too, to tell other people about Jesus' birth, death, burial and resurrection.

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Facts about the Author

1. Luke was probably the only writer of the New Testament who was not Jewish. Most people think he was a Greek.
2. Luke was not a person who saw Jesus on earth. Instead, Luke received his information from people who followed Jesus when He was living on earth. Read Luke 1:1-4.
3. Luke's style of writing is very orderly.
4. Luke was a doctor. He was also Paul's friend (Colossians 4:14).

Facts about the Book

1. Luke wrote his book, and also the book of Acts, to Theophilus. In Luke 1:1, Luke calls Theophilus "Most Honorable" This probably shows us that Theophilus was a Roman official. The two books of Luke and Acts make up 28% of the New Testament.
2. The book of Luke is the longest Gospel. Luke wanted to give the most complete record of Jesus' life. In the list of Jesus' family line (Luke, chapter 3), Luke goes back to Adam. Also, Luke gives more information about Jesus' birth and childhood.
3. One important part of Luke is chapter 15. In this chapter, Luke tells Jesus' stories about the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son.
4. Luke emphasized prayer. Included in his Gospel are the Lord's Prayer in chapter 11, three parables about prayer and several of Jesus' other prayers.
5. Luke showed that Jesus was especially interested in poor people, lonely people and women. You can read about how Jesus helped these people in Luke 5:12-16, 7:11-17, 10:25-37, 13:10-17 and many more verses. These verses might help you when you are discouraged.

LESSON 3 - QUESTIONS

1. Did Jesus write a book about His life on earth?
 - yes
 - no

2. What was Matthew, Mark, Luke and John's purpose for writing the Gospel books?
 - _____
 - _____

3. Did Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell about Jesus in a different way?
 - yes
 - no

4. Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote to different people.
 - Who wrote to Jewish people? (circle one) Matthew Mark Luke
 - Who wrote to Roman Gentile people? (circle one) Matthew Mark Luke
 - Who also wrote to Gentile people? (circle one) Matthew Mark Luke

5. Who was a tax collector and one of Jesus' twelve disciples? _____

6. Write three ways that the book of Matthew is different from the books of Mark and Luke.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____

7. Was Mark one of Jesus' 12 special followers?
 - yes
 - no

8. Mark tried to help Roman Gentile people understand that Jesus is the Son of _____.
 - _____

9. How many miracles does the book of Mark tell about?
 - 35
 - 10
 - 5

10. What percent of the book of Mark is about the last few days before Jesus died?
 - 80%
 - 5%
 - 40%

11. What was the name of a Gospel writer who was a doctor and also Paul's friend?
 - _____

12. What other book in the Bible did Luke write? _____

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT · LESSON 4

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #4

JOHN

JOHN

AUTHOR: John, Zebedee's son (Mark 1:19,20)

PURPOSE: Prove that Jesus is God's Son

CHAPTERS: 21

CHAPTER OUTLINE:

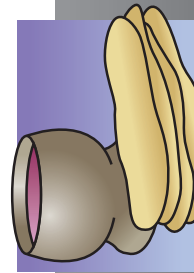
- 1 Beginning of Jesus' ministry
- 2-4 Miracles and teachings of Jesus
- 5 Jesus at a feast in Jerusalem
- 6 Jesus feeds more than 5000 people
- 7-10 Jesus in Jerusalem and Perea
- 11 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
- 12-17 Jesus' final week
- 18-19 Arrest, trials and death of Jesus
- 20-21 Jesus' resurrection

SEVEN "I AM" TEACHINGS OF JESUS

Jesus said:

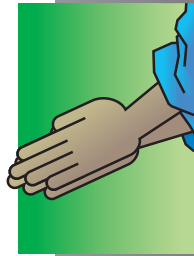
1. "I am the Messiah (God's Son)." John 4:25-26
2. "I am the bread that gives life." John 6:35-48
3. "I am the light of the world." John 8:12-9:5
4. "I am the gate." John 10:7,9
5. "I am the good shepherd." John 10:11-14
6. "I am the resurrection and life." John 11:25
7. "I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14:6

Verses:



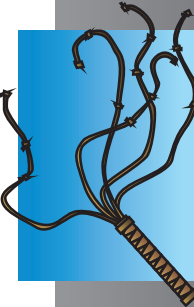
THE LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-35
 Mark 14:12-26
 Luke 22:7-20
John 13:1-17:26



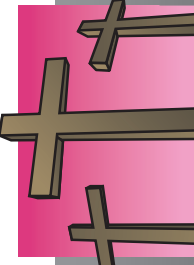
JESUS IN THE GARDEN

Matthew 26:36-46
 Mark 14:32-42
 Luke 22:39-46
John 18:1



JESUS' ARREST AND TRIALS

Matthew 26:47-27:31
 Mark 14:43-15:20
 Luke 22:47-23:25
John 18:2-19:16a



JESUS' DEATH AND BURIAL

Matthew 27:32-66
 Mark 15:21-47
 Luke 23:26-56
John 19:16b-42



JESUS' RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-10
 Mark 16:1-12
 Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

LESSON 4

LESSON BACKGROUND

In Lesson 3 we studied Matthew, Mark and Luke. Now we will study the fourth Gospel, the book of John. Remember that the word “Gospel” means “Good News.” The “Good News” is that Jesus died on the cross, was buried and rose from the dead so that our sins can be forgiven. If we believe in God and love and obey Him, we can spend eternity with Him in heaven. All four books tell us the Good News about Jesus, the Son of God.

Four men wrote about Jesus and His life on earth. Because four different men wrote about Jesus, we have much more information about His life. These books tell us why Jesus came to earth and why He died on the cross. The four Gospels are different from each other. But they support each other and help us know that all four books (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are true.

The book of John was written by John, the son of Zebedee. John also wrote four other New Testament books – 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Revelation. In Mark 3:17, Jesus called John and his brother, James, “Sons of Thunder.” John and James were fishermen like Peter and Andrew. John was one of Jesus’ 12 special disciples. In John 21:20,24, John calls himself the “follower Jesus loved very much.” John and Peter seem to have been leaders among the 12 disciples.

John tells us in John 20:31 why he wrote the book of John: “But these are written so that you can believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Then, by believing, you can have life through his name.” John wrote his Gospel book at a time when many people did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God. John said that Jesus was real and that His words were true. John showed that Jesus was the Son of God because of the miracles He did. John gave many facts to show that Jesus is the Son of God and our only Savior. We can believe in Jesus because of what John wrote in his book.

There are many important verses in the book of John. Here are a few of them: John 1:14, John 3:3, John 3:16, John 14:6, and John 20:30-31.

John wrote his book about 90 A.D. This was about 60 years after Jesus died, arose and went back to heaven. Here are some special things about John’s book:

- ♦ John includes Jesus’ longest prayer (chapter 17).
- ♦ John gives Jesus’ most complete teaching about the Holy Spirit (chapters 14-16).
- ♦ No parables are included in the book of John. Several long teachings of Jesus are recorded in the book of John. In John, chapter 8, Jesus speaks to the Jewish leaders. Chapters 13-17 tell about Jesus teaching His disciples before He was arrested and crucified.
- ♦ In John, chapter 5, Jesus says many times that He is the Son of God. Read verses 23, 24, 30, 36, 37 and 38.
- ♦ More than 100 times in this book, Jesus calls God “Father.”
- ♦ John, chapter 3, is the only place we find Jesus’ teaching about being born again, becoming a new Christian.
- ♦ In John 21:25, John tells us that Jesus did many more things that are not written down. This verse says: “There are many other things that Jesus did. If every one of them were written down, I think the whole world would not be big enough for all the books that would be written.”

UNDERSTANDING CHART #4

On New Testament Chart #4, you will find a dark blue box. In this box is information about the book of John — the author of the book, the purpose for writing the book, the number of chapters in the book, and an outline of the book.

In the yellow box are the seven “I Am” teachings that Jesus taught in the book of John. Often Jesus compared Himself to ordinary things like bread or light.

At the bottom of the chart are the same five pictures and Bible verses that were on chart #3. On this chart, more verses (printed in yellow) have been added. Notice that some authors used a few verses to describe the event and other authors used many verses. For example, look at the picture, "The Last Supper." Matthew, Mark and Luke used a few verses to tell about this event. But John used four chapters to tell about the same happening.

LESSON

When you read the book of John, you will learn many things about Jesus. Seven times in this book, Jesus compared Himself with something. These words of Jesus are called the "I Ams." These seven comparisons are listed below. If you read through the verses, they will help you understand more about Jesus.

1. I am the Messiah (John 4:25-26).
2. I am the bread that gives life (John 6:35-48).
3. I am the light of the world (John 8:12-9:5).
4. I am the gate (John 10:7,9).
5. I am the good shepherd (John 10:11-14).
6. I am the resurrection. I am life (John 11:25).
7. I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

John wrote about many miracles. We have listed seven of these miracles. These miracles show us that Jesus is God's Son. God gave Jesus the power and authority to do miracles.

1. Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11). This miracle shows us that Jesus cares about people and that He has power over things on earth.
2. Jesus healed the government official's son (John 4:46-54). Jesus has the power to heal people.
3. Jesus healed the man who was sick for 38 years (John 5:1-16). Jesus can make weak people strong again.
4. Jesus fed more than 5000 people (John 6:1-13). Jesus was God's Son, but He was also human. Jesus understood that the people were hungry, so He did a miracle to feed them.
5. Jesus walked on the water (John 6:16-21). This miracle shows us that things in nature (wind, water, etc.) obey Jesus.
6. Jesus healed the blind man (John 9:1-7). This is another time when Jesus healed a person. No matter what physical problems people had, Jesus could heal them.
7. Jesus made Lazarus alive again (John 11:1-44). Jesus has the power to raise a person from the dead.
8. These are only a few of the many miracles that Jesus did. All of Jesus' miracles prove that He is God's Son.

Now we will look more closely at three of Jesus' miracles. In John 6:1-13, we read about a time when Jesus was teaching a large group of people. Verse 10 says that there were 5000 men in the crowd. There were probably many women and children, too. It was time for the people to eat. But no one had enough food to feed all these people. Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, found a boy who had five loaves of barley bread and two fish. Jesus took this food, thanked God, and gave the food to the people. After the people had eaten all they wanted, there were 12 baskets of food left. This was a miracle!! This miracle shows us that Jesus is God's Son.

Later that same day, Jesus' disciples were in a boat on the lake. During the night, the wind started to blow, and the waves came over the boat. The disciples tried to row against the wind. Then they saw Jesus walking on the water. The disciples were afraid. But Jesus said in John 6:20, "Don't be afraid." Jesus got into the boat with the disciples, and they went to shore. This was another miracle! This miracle also shows us that Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus had three friends who lived in the town of Bethany. These friends were Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. One day Lazarus died. A few days later, Jesus traveled to Bethany. He went to the place where Lazarus had been buried for four days. Jesus ordered that they remove the stone that was placed at the opening to the tomb. Then Jesus prayed to God. After that, Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Jesus made Lazarus alive again! Lazarus came out of the tomb and went to his family. This was another miracle that shows us Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus did many miracles while He was on earth. God gave Him the power to do miracles. Why? Because Jesus is God's Son. You can read about Jesus' death, burial and resurrection in John, chapters 19-21. This is the greatest miracle of all! Jesus said in John 14:19b, "You will live because I live." This means that when Christians (people who believe and obey God) die, they will be raised from the dead to live forever with Jesus. John 6:40 says, "Everyone who sees the Son and believes in him has eternal life. I will raise them up on the last day. This is what my Father wants." This is a wonderful promise!

STOP AND THINK

- ♦ More than one-half of the book of John is about the last few days that Jesus lived on earth. Why is this information so important? Because these verses tell us that Jesus died on the cross to accept the punishment for the sins of all people. Jesus didn't die only for those people who lived two thousand years ago. Jesus died for you and me, too.
- ♦ Think about the many miracles that Jesus did. Can you do what Jesus did? Do you know anyone today who can do miracles like Jesus did? Jesus could do these wonderful things because He is God's Son.

LESSON 4 - QUESTIONS

1. What does the word "Gospel" mean? _____
2. What is the "Good News"? _____
3. Are the four Gospels true?
_____ yes _____ no
4. Did John have a brother named James?
_____ yes _____ no
5. What was John's job before he started following Jesus? _____
6. How many New Testament books did John write? _____
What are the names of these books? _____

7. Did the Gospel writers write about everything that Jesus did? (Read John 21:25.)
_____ yes _____ no
8. John wrote his Gospel to show that Jesus is the Son of _____.
9. Are there parables in the book of John?
_____ yes _____ no
10. Does Jesus call God "Father"?
_____ yes _____ no
11. List three of the "I Am" teachings in the book of John.
"I am _____."
"I am _____."
"I am _____."
12. What is a miracle? _____
13. One day Jesus was teaching a large crowd, and the people became hungry.
 - a. Who had some food? _____
 - b. What was this food? _____
 - c. How much food was left? _____
14. Who were Jesus' three friends who lived in Bethany?
 - 1) _____,
 - 2) _____ and
 - 3) _____
15. What happened to Lazarus after he died? _____

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

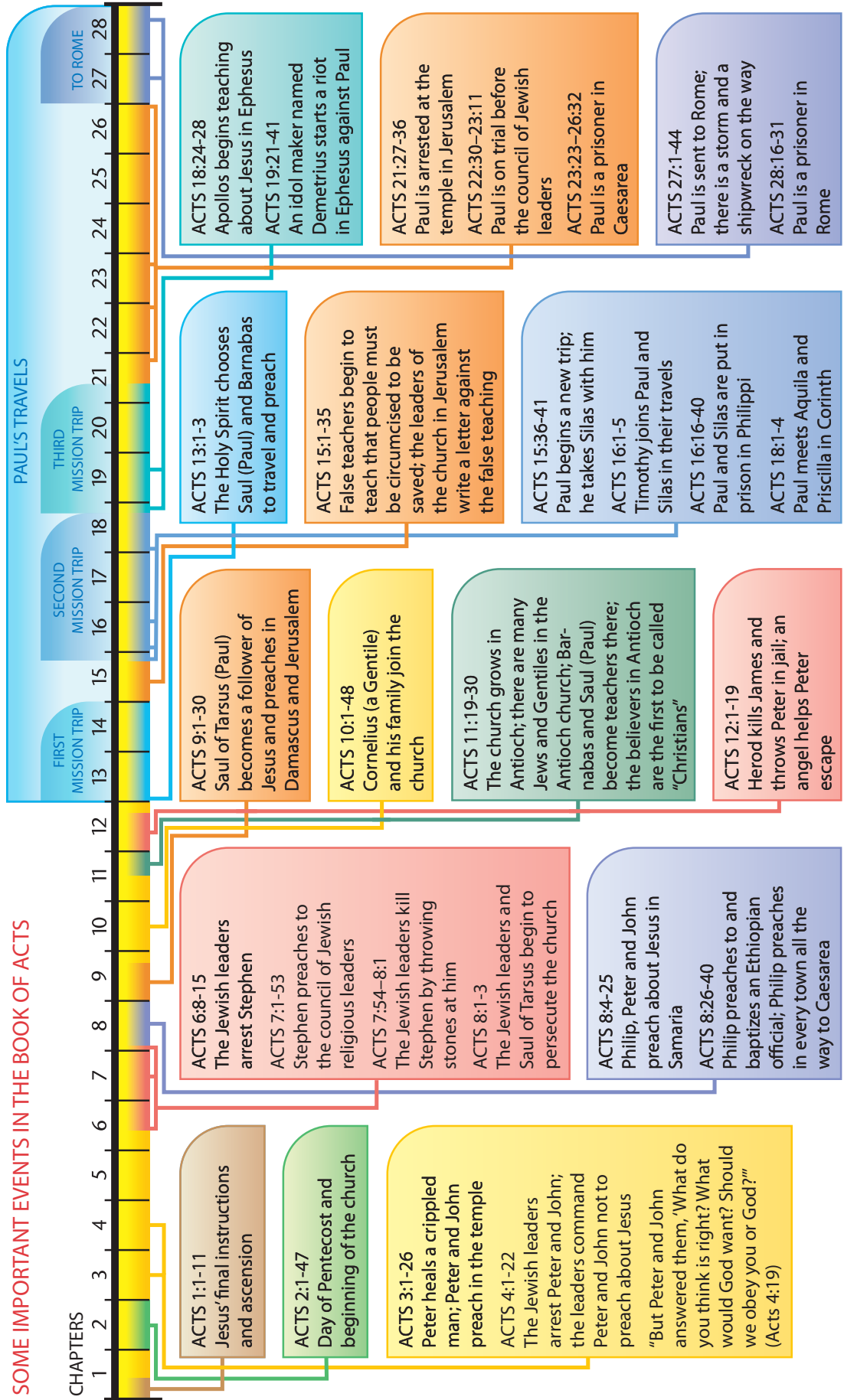
NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 5

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #5

ACTS

SOME IMPORTANT EVENTS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

LESSON 5

LESSON BACKGROUND

Acts is the fifth book in the New Testament. Acts is also called the “Acts of the Apostles.” The book of Acts tells much about what two of the apostles — Peter and Paul — did. Most of the book is about Paul. Paul told Gentile people about Jesus. Acts tells how the news about Jesus spread from Jerusalem to Rome. This book was written about 62 A.D.

You will find the Holy Spirit mentioned about 70 times in Acts. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity. Trinity means “three in one.” The Trinity is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. To help you understand about the Trinity, think about an egg. The egg is made of the yolk, the egg white and the shell. Each part is separate, but all three together make an egg. In the same way, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are separate but all three together make the Trinity. When Jesus left earth to go back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to help Christians (John 16:7). Jesus told the apostles that the Holy Spirit would tell them the truth about God and about things that would happen in the future (John 16:13).

The book of Acts is after the Gospels (Matthew through John) and before Paul’s letters. The Gospels tell us about Jesus and that He wants everyone to become a Christian. Acts shows us how the church started and how to become a Christian. Paul’s letters tell Christians how they should live and how to become stronger Christians.

Luke wrote the book of Acts. Do you remember what other book Luke wrote? Luke wrote both Acts and the Gospel book of Luke. Both Luke and Acts were written to the same person, Theophilus. Luke had the same message in both Luke and Acts — Jesus came to earth, died and paid the penalty for our sins. Luke encouraged Christians to share this message with all the world.

Luke was very accurate in his writing. In Luke 1:3 he said, “I studied it all carefully from the beginning. Then I decided to write it down for you in an organized way.” Luke and Paul were good friends. The book of Acts tells us that Luke traveled with Paul on some of his mission trips.

Maybe you remember that the book of Genesis in the Old Testament is a book of “beginnings” or “firsts.” The book of Acts also has many “firsts.”

1. Peter preached the first Gospel sermon (Acts, chapter 2).
2. For the first time, Peter told people how to become Christians (Acts 2:38-41).
3. The first church began (Acts 2:47). Today some people use the word “church” to mean a building. But in the book of Acts, the word “church” means a group of Christians.
4. People were first called “Christians” or “Christ-followers” (Acts 11:26).
5. The first church conference met to discuss a problem in the church (Acts, chapter 15).
6. The first missionary trips happened (Acts, chapters 13-28).
7. The first person was killed because he preached about Jesus (Acts 7:54-59). This person was Stephen. Stephen is often called the first “Christian martyr,” a person who is killed because he/she follows Jesus.
8. Acts is the first time we read about the beginning of a new covenant or agreement. A covenant is an agreement between two people. God will forgive our sins. We must follow God so that we can receive this forgiveness. This is a covenant. Remember that Jesus lived under the old covenant. Under the old covenant, people had to sacrifice animals so that their sins could be forgiven. When Jesus died, the new covenant began. Under the new covenant, people do not have to sacrifice animals any more. God forgives our sins through His grace. We do not deserve forgiveness, but God forgives us anyway. This is God’s wonderful grace! People who want to have their sins forgiven should read the book of Acts.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #5

The book of Acts has many exciting stories about the early Christians. Some of these stories are about amazing things that happened. An example of an amazing thing is Jesus’ return to heaven. The book of Acts also tells about how people persecuted, did bad things to, Jesus’ followers.

Look at the black line across the top of the chart. Above this line are the numbers 1 through 28. These numbers represent the chapters in the book of Acts. Follow the colored lines from the chapters to the boxes. For example, follow the tan line from chapter 1 to the tan box that tells what happened in chapter 1.

Follow the green line from chapter 2 to the box below. This chapter tells about the beginning of the church. People from many different countries were in Jerusalem. The apostles spoke to these people, and everyone heard the message in their own language. This was a miracle. Later, Peter preached to the people about Jesus. The people were sorry for their sins. They asked Peter how they could be saved. Peter told them to stop sinning and be baptized (Acts 2:38).

Continue to read all the boxes. As you read about the things that happened in the book of Acts, ask yourself these questions: Who are the important people in the story? What happened? Was this a happy time or a sad time for the Christians? What can I learn from these verses? Also think about these questions: How do you think Stephen felt as the Jewish leaders were throwing stones at him (chapter 7)? Were you surprised that Saul (later called Paul) became a Christian (chapter 8:1 and chapter 9)? Was Paul excited to tell other people about Jesus (chapter 9)? How many mission trips did Paul take (chapters 13 through 21)? Did Paul preach about Jesus even when he was in prison (chapters 16, 21 and 28)?

LESSON

A very important word in the book of Acts is “witness.” The word “witness” is used more than 30 times in Acts. A witness is a person who sees something happen. For example, if you see a car accident happen, you are a witness to the accident. When you tell other people about the car accident, you are witnessing about the accident.

Another important word in the book of Acts is “church.” When the word “church” is used in Acts, it means a group of people who believe in Jesus and follow His teachings. Today we also use “church” to mean the building where Christians meet to worship God.

An important verse that talks about being a witness is Acts 1:8: “But the Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power. You will be my witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about me — in Jerusalem, in the rest of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world.” These early Christians were witnesses for Jesus. They told other people that Jesus died, was buried and came back to life on the third day. Why? So that these people could become part of God’s church and have the promise of heaven.

God’s plan for spreading the news about Jesus is found in Acts 1:8. Look at the map called “Palestine in New Testament Times” in the back of your Easy-to-Read Bible. God’s plan was to start in the city of Jerusalem and spread to the areas of Judea and Samaria and then to the rest of the world. Find Jerusalem, JUDEA and SAMARIA on the map. We can learn about the book of Acts by studying this plan.

Witnessing in Jerusalem

1. Acts 1:8 says that the Holy Spirit would come and give the disciples power.
2. The Holy Spirit came on the disciples (Acts 2:4).
3. Peter preached the first Gospel sermon (Acts 2:14-36).
4. When the people heard Peter’s message, they asked, “What should we do?” (Acts 2:37).
5. In Acts 2:38 Peter told the people, “Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
6. In Acts 2:41 we learn that many of the people believed Peter’s message, repented and were baptized.
7. Then these people’s sins were forgiven, they received the gift of the Holy Spirit, and they were added to the church (Acts 2:41).
8. Every day more people believed and were added to the church (Acts 2:47).
9. People started persecuting the Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-3). Some Christians left Jerusalem. Wherever these people went, they witnessed about Jesus (Acts 8:4).

Witnessing in Judea and Samaria

1. Philip traveled to Samaria to preach about Jesus (Acts 8:5).
2. The people in Samaria were very happy to hear about Jesus (Acts 8:8).
3. Saul was a man who persecuted Christians. In Acts, chapter 9, we read that Saul became a Christian. Later, Saul was called Paul. Paul became a preacher who told people about Jesus.
4. In Acts, chapter 10, we read about a man named Cornelius. He and his family accepted Jesus and became Christians. This was a very important happening. Why? Because Cornelius was not a Jew; he was a Gentile. Cornelius and his family were the first Gentile people to become Christians.

Witnessing to the rest of the world

1. Chapters 1 through 12 of Acts tell us about Peter. Beginning in chapter 13, we learn about what Paul (Saul) did.
2. Chapters 1 through 12 are centered in Jerusalem and the surrounding area. Now, the Gospel spreads out from Jerusalem to the rest of the world.
3. The church in Antioch sent Paul out to preach (Acts 13:1-3). Barnabas traveled with Paul.
4. Paul made three mission trips. On each trip, different people such as Barnabas, Silas or Luke traveled with Paul.
5. On these three trips, Paul traveled to places like Galatia, Macedonia, Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus and Corinth. You can find these places on the maps called "Paul's Travels: Map A" and "Paul's Travels: Map B" in your Bible.
6. History books tell us that about 300 A.D. there was a Christian church in every important city of the Roman Empire. This is amazing! We can see that the Holy Spirit helped Christians to spread the Gospel.
7. Acts, chapter 15, tells us about a church conference in Jerusalem. Some of the Jewish Christians told the Gentiles that they had to follow the Jewish laws, too. But that was not true. These people were living under the new covenant with God. They did not have to follow the Jewish laws. To settle the dispute, the apostles and elders in Jerusalem wrote a letter to the Gentile Christians. This letter told the people that they did not have to follow the Jewish laws.
8. The rest of the book of Acts tells about Paul's arrest, trials and trip to Rome. Even while Paul was in prison, he continued to witness about Jesus.

STOP AND THINK

- ✦ The book of Acts is very important for Christians today. Why? (1) Acts shows us how to become a Christian. (2) Acts gives the plan for the church. If we follow that plan today, our church will be like the churches were in Acts.
- ✦ The book of Acts tells us about many amazing things that happened when the church started. These things should help us understand how much God loves us and how powerful He is.

LESSON 5 - QUESTIONS

1. The book of Acts talks about what two apostles? _____ and _____.
2. What does "Trinity" mean? _____ in _____.
3. The Trinity is _____, _____ and the _____.
4. When Jesus left the earth to go back to heaven, whom did He send to help Christians?

5. Look at the section LESSON BACKGROUND and fill in the blanks.

The Gospels tell us about _____ and that He wants _____ to become a _____. Acts shows us how to become a _____. Paul's letters tell Christians how they should _____.

6. Who wrote the book of Acts? _____
7. What message did Luke write in both Luke and Acts? _____

8. The book of Acts has many "firsts." List 3 of them.
 - a. "first" _____
 - b. "first" _____
 - c. "first" _____
9. Acts is the first time that we read about the beginning of a new covenant (agreement). Do people today have to sacrifice animals so their sins can be forgiven?
_____ yes
_____ no
10. A very important word in the book of Acts is "w _____."
11. A witness is someone who sees something happen.
_____ yes
_____ no
12. Where is this verse found in the book of Acts?
"But the Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power. You will be my witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about me — in Jerusalem, in the rest of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."
Acts ____ : ____
13. What question did the people ask Peter in Acts 2:37? _____

14. In Acts 2:38, Peter said: "Change your _____ and _____ and be _____, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will _____ your _____, and you will receive the gift of the _____."

15. Are Paul and Saul names for the same person?

_____ yes

_____ no

16. Who was the first Gentile person to become a Christian? _____

17. How many mission trips did Paul make? _____

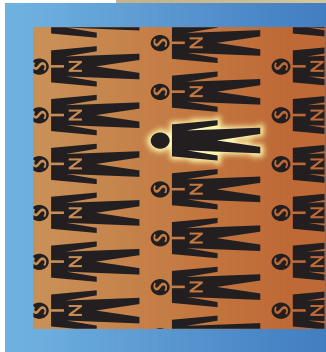
BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 6

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #6

GOD SAVES US FROM SIN THROUGH JESUS

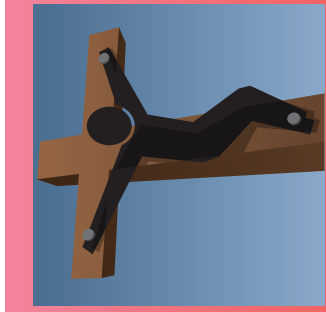


Sin is disobeying God's law. No person is able to obey God's law perfectly. All people have sinned.

1 John 3:4, James 2:10, Romans 3:10-20

God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus was perfect. Jesus never broke any of God's laws.

Hebrews 4:14-15, 1 John 3:5



Jesus gave Himself in exchange for us. He never sinned, but He accepted the punishment for our sins!

Romans 3:25-26

Romans 5:6

1 Peter 2:21-24

1 John 2:2

1 John 4:9-10



God raised Jesus from the dead. Now any person who has true faith in Jesus will be free from the punishment for their sins!

John 3:16-21

Hebrews 5:7-10

Hebrews 9:24-28

Hebrews 10:12-14

Hebrews 10:19-23

"WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?"

God has done all the work to save us, through the sacrifice of Jesus. Salvation is a free gift to any person who will receive it. The Bible tells how we can receive the free gift of salvation. The Bible also gives many examples of people receiving the gift, and what they did when they received the gift of salvation. Read these verses to see what the Bible says:

- John 6:28-29 (Jesus tells us to believe in Him)
 - John 8:31 (Obey the teachings of Jesus)
 - Acts 2:36-41 (About 3000 people are saved)
 - Acts 16:29-34 (The Philippian jailer is saved)
 - Acts 22:6-16 (Paul tells about his salvation)
 - Romans 10:9-13 (Calling to the Lord to save us)
- The Bible also has instructions Jesus gave His followers about how to share the free gift of salvation with other people. These instructions also help us understand how God expects us to respond to His gift of salvation through Jesus:
- Mark 16:15-16
 - Matthew 28:16-20
 - Also read Romans 10:14-17

"They are made right with God by his grace. This is a free gift. They are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ." Romans 3:24

"I mean that you have been saved by grace because you believed. You did not save yourselves. It was a gift from God. You are not saved by the things you have done, so there is nothing to boast about." Ephesians 2:8-9

LESSON 6

LESSON BACKGROUND

You have just finished studying the New Testament Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and the book of Acts. When you studied the Gospels, you learned about Jesus, God's Son. You also learned that Jesus died on the cross and accepted the punishment for your sins. In the book of Acts, you read about people who asked the question, "What do I need to do to have my sins forgiven?"

Maybe you are asking questions, too. Maybe you are wondering, "Do I believe in God?" "Do I believe that Jesus died for my sins?" "Am I ready to repent and be baptized?" This lesson about God's plan for you will help you answer these questions.

Maybe you are already a Christian. Studying this lesson will help you remember what God has done for you. It will also prepare you to share this Good News with your family and friends.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #6

Look at the blue box on the left side of chart #6. Do you see all the people? Notice that the word "SIN" is printed on each person except one. This shows us that all people have sinned. The one person without "SIN" is Jesus. Jesus never sinned. Hebrews 4:14-15 tells us that Jesus, our High Priest, understands our weaknesses. When Jesus lived on earth, the devil tempted Him to sin. But Jesus always did what was right. He never sinned. The wonderful news is that God will forgive our sins if we believe and follow His Son, Jesus.

In the red box on chart #6, we see a picture of Jesus on the cross. Jesus died on the cross for your sins and for the sins of all people in the world. This is amazing! Jesus was willing to take the punishment for the things we have done wrong.

Now look at the green box on chart #6. The person who is highlighted in white is Jesus. Notice the red spots on His hands and feet. These spots show us the nail prints where Jesus was nailed to the cross. This picture shows Jesus' ascension, going up, to heaven. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, He stayed with His followers for a few weeks. Then He went to heaven to be with God. Jesus will return to earth someday to take His followers to heaven to live with Him forever.

When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins. This is God's free gift to us. We can choose to accept this gift or refuse it. If we accept God's gift, we need to continue to obey His teachings in the Bible. We also need to share the news about God's gift with other people. Then more people will have salvation through Jesus.

LESSON

God's plan for your life is called "salvation." Salvation is the way that God forgives your sins and brings you close to Him. When we studied the Old Testament, we learned that sin is breaking God's law. 1 John 3:4 says, "Anyone who sins breaks God's law. Yes, sinning is the same as living against God's law." When Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from God. God made a plan to bring people close to Him again. In the Old Testament, people had to sacrifice animals for their sins. In the New Testament, Jesus became the final sacrifice for sins.

In Acts, chapter 16, we read about a man who knew that he had sinned. In verse 30, he asked Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul was a close follower of Jesus. The man knew that Paul's answer was from God. When we want to learn about salvation, it is important that we ask people who are Christians and who have studied the Bible. When we have questions, we should not get our answers from non-Christians. We must read the answers in God's Book, the Bible. Or we should ask someone who knows what God says about salvation.

The Old Testament tells us that God made rules for His people. When people break God's rules, they

sin. God punishes people when they break His rules. The New Testament tells us that all people have sinned and broken God's rules. "All have sinned and are not good enough to share God's divine greatness" (Romans 3:23). Isaiah 59:2a says, "It is your sins that separate you from your God." If we want to be close friends with God, our sins must be taken away.

The Bible shows us that God has a plan for how we can accept what He has done for us. This plan has two parts: 1) what God has done for us; and 2) what we need to do. We read in John 3:16, "Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not be lost but have eternal life." God loves us so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. That is what God did for us. We need to believe in God and Jesus and do what they want us to do. We must follow God's rules that are in the Bible. When we follow God, we will live forever with God.

Let's look closely at the two parts of salvation. First, we will look at what God has done for us. When Adam and Eve sinned, they hid from God. But God came to them and talked to them. God showed Adam and Eve that He wanted them to do something about their sin. God had a plan for people to make animal sacrifices to forgive their sins. Today God shows us through the Bible that He wants us to do something about our sin, too. God allowed His Son, Jesus, to die for us. Romans 5:8 says, "But Christ died for us while we were still sinners, and by this God showed how much he loves us." Why did God allow Jesus to die? Because He loves us so much. God wants us to accept Jesus as our Savior. God wants us to have close fellowship with Him. But God will not force us to be His friends. He wants us to choose to follow Him.

Now we will look at how we can accept God's salvation. When Jesus was living on earth, He taught His followers what they should do to be saved. Before He went back to heaven, Jesus said in Matthew 28:18-20, "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you to do. You can be sure that I will be with you always. I will continue with you until the end of time."

STOP AND THINK

- Now you know about God's plan for salvation — what God has done for you and what you should do. Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son? (Read Matthew 16:16.) Will you turn away from your sins and follow Jesus? (Read Acts 3:19.) Are you willing to be baptized like the people were baptized in the New Testament? (Read Acts 8:35-39.) We will learn more about baptism later in this Bible study.
- Think about these questions as you continue to study the New Testament.

Other verses in the Bible tell us what we should do to be saved. In Mark 16:15-16, Jesus said, "Go everywhere in the world. Tell the Good News to everyone. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. But those who do not believe will be judged guilty." After Jesus went back to heaven, Peter preached to a large group of people. These people asked Peter how to be saved. Peter said to them in Acts 2:38, "Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

It is very important that you have a personal relationship with Jesus. Having a personal relationship with Jesus means that you are Jesus' friend and you follow Him every day. Some people become Christians, and then they forget about following Jesus. They don't pray and read their Bible every day. They don't worship God and fellowship with other Christians. When you become a Christian, you need to continue to grow in Jesus every day. These verses from Matthew, Mark and Acts are very important.

Let's review the things that these verses say we should do to have a personal relationship with Jesus:

1. Learn about Jesus and believe in Him. We need to learn what the Bible says about Jesus. Then we need to believe that Jesus is God's Son.
2. Turn away from our sins (repent). Jesus wants us to admit that we have sinned. Then we need to decide to stop sinning and start following God.
3. Be baptized. Acts 2:41 tells us what happened after Peter told the people what they should do. "Then those who accepted what Peter said were baptized."
4. Continue to obey God. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, God gives us a gift — the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us learn the truth about God (John 15:26). The Holy Spirit also helps us to become stronger Christians. Read Acts 2:42 to learn how Christians should obey God.

LESSON 6 • QUESTIONS

1. When we sin, we are breaking ____'s law.
2. Did God have rules for His people in the Old Testament?
____ yes
____ no
3. The Bible shows us that God's plan for taking away our sins has two parts. Fill in the blanks to complete the two parts.
 - a. What _____ has done for us.
 - b. What _____ need to do.
4. God's part in taking away our sins was to give His only Son to die for our sins. Who is God's only Son? _____
5. Our part is to believe in _____ and _____ and to do what they want us to do.
6. Why did God allow Jesus to die for our sins? _____

7. Fill in the missing words from Acts 2:38.
"Change your hearts and _____ and be _____, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will _____ your sins, and you will receive the gift of the _____."
8. What two things does the Holy Spirit do for us?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT · LESSON 7

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #7

ROMANS - PHILEMON

PAUL'S LETTERS

ROMANS
Chapters: 16

1 CORINTHIANS
Chapters: 16

2 CORINTHIANS
Chapters: 13

GALATIANS
Chapters: 6

EPHESIANS
Chapters: 6

PHILIPPIANS
Chapters: 4

COLOSSIANS
Chapters: 4

1 THESSALONIANS
Chapters: 5

2 THESSALONIANS
Chapters: 3

1 TIMOTHY
Chapters: 6

2 TIMOTHY
Chapters: 4

TITUS
Chapters: 3

PHILEMON
Chapters: 1

KEY

- Letter written to an individual person
- Letter written to a church or group of churches
- Letter written while Paul was a prisoner
- Letter written in response to problems in the church
- Letter written to encourage believers

LETTERS OF PAUL

LESSON 7

LESSON BACKGROUND

In this lesson we will study 13 books of the New Testament. We will call these books “Paul’s letters.” Why? Because Paul wrote these thirteen letters to churches and to individual people. Paul wrote some of these letters when he was traveling on his three missionary journeys. And Paul wrote some of these letters while he was in prison. Why was Paul in prison? People put Paul in prison because he was preaching about Jesus.

Paul’s Hebrew name was Saul. When we first learn about Paul in the book of Acts, he is called Saul. Saul was from a wealthy family in the city of Tarsus. He probably studied at the university in Tarsus. An important teacher named Gamaliel taught Saul about the Bible. Saul was trained to be a tentmaker.

We first read about Saul in Acts 7:54-8:1. Saul watched the people kill Stephen. In Acts 8:3 we learn that Saul tried to destroy the church. He arrested Christians and threw them in jail. At this time, Saul did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son.

In chapter 9 of Acts we read that a wonderful thing happened to Saul. Saul was traveling to the city of Damascus. Suddenly there was a bright light, and Jesus spoke to Saul. Saul was blinded, so his friends led him into the city. A man named Ananias taught Saul about Jesus. Then Saul believed that Jesus was God’s Son. Saul was able to see again. He was baptized, and he started preaching about Jesus. Acts 13:9 tells us that people started calling Saul by his Greek name, Paul.

Can you imagine how the Christians felt about Paul? They knew that he had arrested Christians. Now Paul was preaching about Jesus! At first, many of the Christians were afraid of Paul.

God guided Paul to write 13 letters in the New Testament. Look in your Bible and find these 13 books — Romans through Philemon. Why did Paul write these letters to churches and to individuals? Paul wrote these letters: (1) to tell them how to live a good Christian life; (2) to comfort the Christians when other people were doing bad things to them; and (3) to correct churches and people when they were disobeying God.

Some of the things that Paul wrote about in these letters are:

- How to live like a Christian (Romans).
- How to take care of church problems — worshiping idols, disagreements, spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians).
- How to solve personal problems — accepting and forgiving a slave (Philemon).
- How to establish a church — qualifications for church leaders (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus).
- How to be more like Jesus (Philippians, Colossians, Galatians).
- How to be comforted and encouraged when facing problems (1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians).

UNDERSTANDING CHART #7

Chart #7 shows the 13 New Testament books that we will study in this lesson. All of these books are letters that Paul wrote. To help you understand chart #7, you will need to look at the “KEY” at the bottom of the page on the right side. In the key are five different symbols and an explanation of each symbol.

Look at the box for 1 Timothy. Do you see the symbol of the man? This means that 1 Timothy was written to one person.

Now look at the box for Romans. Notice the symbol with three people. This symbol means that Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome.

Look at the box for Ephesians. The symbol with a chain means that Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter.

In the box for 1 Corinthians, you will see a symbol with a wrench. Maybe you think it is strange to see a wrench in this lesson! We use a wrench to fix something that is broken or not working right. Here the wrench means that Paul wrote to the church to help them fix problems that were happening in that church. Some of the problems that Paul wrote about were worshipping idols, marriage problems and spiritual gifts.

Look again at the box for Romans. Do you see the symbol with two hands? This shows us that Paul wrote this letter to encourage the believers in the church in Rome. Paul wrote in Romans 1:8: "First I want to say that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. I thank him because people everywhere in the world are talking about your great faith." It was very important for Paul to encourage and strengthen the churches.

In the box for Philippians, we see the symbol for encouragement and the symbol that shows Paul was in prison. It is interesting that even though Paul was in prison, he was able to write words of encouragement.

LESSON

Now we will look more closely at the 13 books that Paul wrote. It is important that you read the Bible verses listed.

ROMANS

When we studied the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — we learned many facts about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. The book of Romans explains why these facts are important. Two important verses in the book of Romans are 1:16-17, "I am proud of the Good News, because it is the power God uses to save everyone who believes — to save the Jews first, and now to save those who are not Jews. The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself. God's way of making people right begins and ends with faith. As the Scriptures say, 'The one who is right with God by faith will live forever.'" Another important verse in this book is Romans 8:28. In this verse Paul said that no matter what happens to Christians, God will take care of them and make good things happen. Paul told the Roman people that he hoped to visit them someday (Romans 15:22-24).

1 CORINTHIANS, 2 CORINTHIANS

Paul wrote these two letters to the church in the city of Corinth. He wrote these letters while he was traveling on one of his mission trips. In these books Paul talked about problems that happened in the church. Paul taught about unity among Christians, marriage, spiritual gifts, avoiding sin in the world, and worshipping God.

Two important verses in these books are 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "You should know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit that you received from God and that lives in you. You don't own yourselves. God paid a very high price to make you his. So honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 gives encouragement to Christians. These verses tell us that God will always help us have strength to overcome temptation. Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians is called the "love chapter." In this chapter Paul explained what love is like. Verses 4 through 7 of this chapter tell us that love is patient, kind, not jealous, not proud, not selfish, not happy when others do wrong, and never gives up.

GALATIANS

Paul wrote this letter while he was traveling. He wrote it to the churches in the area of Galatia. Many false teachings came into the churches in this area. False teachers told the people that they had to obey the laws of Moses to be saved. Paul reminded these people that God's grace through Jesus saved them.

One important idea in the book of Galatians is justification. This is a word that means "being right with God." Paul taught that people are not right with God by obeying Moses' law. Instead, they are right with God because of their faith.

In chapters 1 and 2, Paul talked about his relationship with Jesus. Chapters 3 and 4 tell Christians that they are right with God because of their faith. Paul talked about Christian freedom and responsibility in chapters 5 and 6.

EPHESIANS

The purpose of the book of Ephesians was not to solve a problem. The purpose was to help people become strong Christians. Paul wrote this letter while he was a prisoner in Rome.

Paul emphasized unity many times in this book. He often used the words “in Christ,” “with Christ” and “through Christ.” In chapter 5, Paul compared Jesus and the church to a husband and wife. Paul said that a husband should love his wife like Jesus loved the church. Paul also reminded children to obey their parents.

PHILIPPIANS

Paul also wrote the book of Philippians while he was a prisoner in Rome. The church in the city of Philippi was the first church that he started in the area of Macedonia. In chapter 4, Paul told the people in the church that he loved them and that he was thankful for their help. He also reminded the Christians to remain strong and be happy in the Lord.

An important verse in Philippians is 4:12. In this verse Paul wrote, “I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation — when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing.” Philippians 4:13 is another important verse. In this verse, Paul reminds us that Jesus gives us the strength to face difficult situations in our lives.

COLOSSIANS

The book of Colossians is also a letter to a church. Colossians is another book that Paul wrote while he was a prisoner. In this book, Paul reminded the Christians in Colossae that Jesus is the head of the church and that Christians should make Him most important in their lives. Paul also warned the people not to follow false teachers. Colossians 3:1-2 are important verses in this book. “You were raised from death with Christ. So live for what is in heaven, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God. Think only about what is up there, not what is here on earth.”

1 THESSALONIANS, 2 THESSALONIANS

Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians while he was on a mission trip. Paul emphasized right living in these letters. He taught that Christians need to stay away from sin. Paul also taught about leaders in the church.

In these letters, Paul talked about being ready for the time when Jesus will come to earth again. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16 he said, “The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. And the people who have died and were in Christ will rise first.”

1 TIMOTHY, 2 TIMOTHY, TITUS

Some people call these three books “pastoral letters.” Paul wrote these letters to young pastors or preachers to encourage them. Timothy was a pastor in Ephesus, and Titus was in Crete. Paul instructed Titus how to correct problems in his church. Paul also said that it was important to have church leaders who know the Bible and preach the truth. Paul wrote 1 Timothy and Titus after he was freed from prison. He wrote 2 Timothy when he was put in prison again.

PHILEMON

This book is Paul’s shortest letter. He wrote it while he was a prisoner. In Philemon, Paul talks about a problem in the Roman world — slavery. Three people are mentioned in this book: Philemon, a man who owned slaves; Onesimus, a runaway slave; and Paul. The message of this short book is that Christians should show forgiveness and love.

STOP AND THINK

- Paul said in Colossians 1:9-11 that we should be filled with God’s knowledge. We can find that knowledge by reading and studying the Bible.
- If we read and study the Bible, we will be able to live like Jesus wants us to live.
- If we live like Jesus wants us to live, we will receive eternal life in heaven with God.

LESSON 7 - QUESTIONS

1. Who wrote the New Testament books that we call "Paul's letters"? _____
2. What was Saul's other name? _____
3. Mark "yes" or "no" for these statements about Paul.
 - a. Saul (Paul) was a tentmaker. _____ Yes _____ No
 - b. Saul (Paul) was taught by a man named Euclid. _____ Yes _____ No
 - c. Saul (Paul) watched while the people killed Stephen. _____ Yes _____ No
 - d. Saul (Paul) became blind on the way to Damascus. _____ Yes _____ No
 - e. Finally Saul (Paul) believed that Jesus is God's Son. _____ Yes _____ No
4. The 13 books that we call Paul's letters teach about many different things.
 - a. Which book explains why the facts about Jesus' life, death and resurrection are important? R _ _ _ _ _
 - b. Which two books talk about problems that had come into the church?
1st and 2nd C _ _ _ _ _
 - c. Which book talks about the problem of slavery? _ h _ l _ _ _ n
5. Choose the correct New Testament book and match it with its description.

Colossians	1 Thessalonians	Philippians
1 Timothy	Ephesians	Titus
2 Thessalonians	2 Timothy	1 Corinthians
Galatians	2 Corinthians	

- a. In these two books, Paul emphasized right living.
_____ and _____
 - b. An important theme of this book is justification. _____
 - c. Paul wrote these two letters to the church in the city of Corinth.
_____ and _____
 - d. These three books are called "pastoral letters."
_____, _____
and _____
 - e. In this book, Paul warned the people not to follow false teachers.

 - f. Paul emphasized unity many times in this book. _____
 - g. In this book, Paul reminded the Christians to remain strong and be happy in the Lord. _____
6. What chapter in 1 Corinthians is called the "love chapter"? _____

7. List some of the words that Paul uses in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, to describe love.

8. Which Bible book talks about husbands and wives?

- Malachi
- Ephesians
- Galatians

9. In which book did Paul remind children to obey their parents?

- Ephesians
- Romans
- Revelation

10. In what city did Paul start the first church in the area of Macedonia?

11. In Colossians Paul reminded the Christians that _____ is the head of the church.

12. How many books did Paul write to the Thessalonians?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

13. According to 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy and Titus, is it important to have church leaders who know the Bible and preach the truth?

- yes
- no

14. Which book is Paul's shortest letter? _____

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT · LESSON 8

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

HEBREWS, JAMES, 1 PETER, 2 PETER, 1 JOHN, 2 JOHN, 3 JOHN, JUDE

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #8

HEBREWS
 Author: ???
 Chapters: 13

JAMES
 Author: James
 Chapters: 5

1 PETER
 Author: Peter
 Chapters: 5

2 PETER
 Author: Peter
 Chapters: 3

1 JOHN
 Author: John
 Chapters: 5

2 JOHN
 Author: John
 Chapters: 1

3 JOHN
 Author: John
 Chapters: 1

JUDE
 Author: Jude
 Chapters: 1

KEY

- Letter written by one of the 12 apostles
- Letter written by one of Jesus' half-brothers
- Letter written to an individual person
- Letter written to a church or group of churches
- Letter written to warn against false teachers
- Letter written in response to problems in the church
- Letter written to encourage believers

GENERAL LETTERS

LESSON 8

LESSON BACKGROUND

The New Testament letters of Hebrews through Jude are also called “general letters.” Most of these letters were written to all Christians. The books of 2 John and 3 John were written to a specific person or church. When all of these general letters were written, there were false teachers who were telling lies about Jesus. Some of these false teachers were people who did not believe in Jesus. But some of these false teachers were even members of a church!

These general letters teach us that Christians should not accept people who try to change the truth about Jesus. These letters are very important to Christians. Why? Because they give warnings about false teachers. Also these letters teach us to carefully study and follow the Bible.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #7

The chart for Lesson #8 is very similar to the chart for Lesson #7. Look at the key at the bottom of the page. Four of the symbols are the same as the symbols in the key for Lesson #7. There are 3 new symbols.

Look at the box for 1 Peter. Notice the symbol that shows a man with a flame of fire over his head. This symbol means that this letter was written by one of Jesus’ 12 apostles. In Acts 2:1-4, we read how the Holy Spirit came on the apostles. Verse 3 says, “They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there.” God sent His Holy Spirit to help the apostles spread the Good News about Jesus.

Now look at the box for Jude. One of the symbols there shows two men. This symbol means that the letter was written by one of Jesus’ half-brothers. Remember that Jesus was born to Mary and Joseph. Mary was Jesus’ mother, but God was Jesus’ real father. Mary had other children, but Joseph was their father. That is why these men are called half-brothers.

The last new symbol could be called the “don’t” symbol. We sometimes see this symbol on traffic signs. This symbol means that the letter has a warning against false teachers. The writers of these letters told the people, “Don’t pay attention to false teachers. Don’t pay attention to people who say that Jesus isn’t God’s Son.” We see this symbol in the boxes for 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John and Jude.

LESSON

Now we will look more closely at the general letters.

HEBREWS

Facts about the Author

We do not know who wrote the book of Hebrews. Some people think that Paul wrote Hebrews. The writer of Hebrews helped the Jewish people to know that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. The writer also taught the Jews that they didn’t need to follow the old Jewish laws. And the author compared God’s old agreement with the new agreement that began when Jesus died.

Facts about the Book

This book was written to Jews who had become Christians. Some of these people started to forget Christianity and go back to following the old laws of Moses. The message of this book is that Jesus is much better than anyone or anything in the past. Jesus is better than the Old Testament prophets (chapter 1), better than angels (chapter 2), better than Moses (chapter 3), better than Joshua (chapter 4), better than the Jewish high priests (chapter 5), better than the Old Testament laws (chapter 8), and better than the Old Testament sacrifices (chapter 9).

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. These verses tell us that we need to have faith when we pray to God. Then God will give us His mercy, kindness and grace. Hebrews 12:1-2 tell us to “never stop looking to Jesus.” This means that we should pay attention to Jesus and not pay attention to things in the world. The entire

book of Hebrews reminds us that if we follow Jesus, we have the only true religion in the world.

Chapter 11 of Hebrews contains what some people call the “faith hall of fame.” This chapter lists many Old Testament people who had faith in God. These people believed that God would send His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Read through this chapter. Notice the names of these people (Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, etc.).

JAMES

Facts about the Author

This book was written by James, the half-brother of Jesus. Mark 6:3 shows us that Jesus had several brothers and sisters. “Isn’t he just the carpenter we know — Mary’s son, the brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon.” These people were only half-brothers and half-sisters of Jesus. Remember that God is the father of Jesus. Joseph was the father of all these other children. Mary was the mother of Jesus and his brothers and sisters.

When Jesus lived on earth, there was a time when His own brothers did not believe that Jesus was God’s Son. John 7:5 says that Jesus’ brothers “did not believe in him.” After Jesus died and rose again, He appeared to James and the other apostles (1 Corinthians 15:7). Later, James was an important leader in the church in Jerusalem.

Facts about the Book

In this book, James teaches us that if we have faith in Jesus, we will want to be kind to other people. James shows us some ways that we can please God — love all people (chapter 2), control our speech/signs (chapter 3), and stay away from bad things in the world (chapter 4).

One of the most important ideas in the letter that James wrote is that we need to show our faith in God by doing something. James 2:14-17 says, “My brothers and sisters, if a person claims to have faith but does nothing, that faith is worth nothing. Faith like that cannot save anyone. Suppose a brother or sister in Christ comes to you in need of clothes or something to eat. And you say to them, ‘God be with you! I hope you stay warm and get plenty to eat,’ but don’t give them the things they need. If you don’t help them, your words are worthless. It is the same with faith. If it is just faith and nothing more — if it doesn’t do anything — it is dead.” Faith means more than just reading the Bible. Faith means doing what God wants us to do.

1 PETER, 2 PETER

Facts about the Author

Peter was one of Jesus’ 12 special followers. He also wrote the books of 1 Peter and 2 Peter. One time Peter said that he was not a follower of Jesus (John 18:15-18). But later Peter repented, and Jesus forgave him (John 21:15-19). Peter made mistakes, but God still used him to become a great preacher.

The first 12 chapters of the book of Acts tell us about Peter and his ministry. Before the day of Pentecost, the day the church began, Peter was often afraid and undependable. But God filled Peter and the other followers with His Holy Spirit. Then Peter was bold and faithful. This shows us how the Holy Spirit can help a person be a strong follower of Jesus.

Facts about the Book (1 Peter)

Peter wrote this book before A.D. 65. Both 1 Peter and 2 Peter were written to Christians in general. In 1 Peter, Peter talked about how Christians should react to trials and suffering. At this time the Roman government persecuted Christians. This means that the Roman emperor made all kinds of bad things — beatings, imprisonment, death — happen to the Christians. The emperor persecuted Christians because they refused to worship the Roman false gods and do other sinful things. Read 1 Peter 1:6-9. Peter told these people to be happy. Why? Because God had given them a new life, and later He would give them eternal life in heaven. These Christians suffered, but these trials made them become stronger Christians. And God blessed them for their faithfulness.

1 Peter 2:2 talks about spiritual food and spiritual growth. Peter explained that a newborn baby is hungry for milk. In the same way, a new Christian should be “hungry” to learn God’s Word. These new

Christians will grow spiritually when they read and study the Bible.

Facts about the Book (2 Peter)

Peter wrote this book just before his death. He had already warned Christians about persecutions that they might face. In this book, he told Christians to beware of people in the church who were teaching false things. These false teachers tried to lead new Christians away from the truth. Peter reminded the people that when Jesus comes again, God will judge and destroy these false teachers. In 2 Peter 3:17-18, Peter says, "Dear friends, you already know about this. So be careful. Don't let these evil people lead you away by the wrong they do. Be careful that you do not fall from your strong faith. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory be to him, now and forever! Amen."

1 JOHN, 2 JOHN, 3 JOHN

Facts about the Author

John wrote the books of 1 John, 2 John and 3 John. This is the same man who wrote the Gospel book of John and the book of Revelation. John was a fisherman and one of Jesus' 12 special followers. When John wrote these two books, he was older. He called his readers "dear children," which probably means that he was writing to new Christians. When John wrote, he showed these Christians that he loved them. In John 13:23, John is called "the one Jesus loved very much."

Facts about the Book (1 John)

John wrote this book to help Christians know that they have eternal life through Jesus. John also had five other reasons for writing this book: 1) to encourage fellowship with God and Jesus (1:3); 2) to encourage Christians to be happy (1:4); 3) to help Christians avoid sin (2:1); 4) to stop false teaching (2:26); and 5) to give hope to Christians that we can overcome the world (5:5).

Two important verses from 1 John are 4:19-20. "We love because God first loved us. If we say we love God but hate any of our brothers or sisters in his family, we are liars. If we don't love someone we have seen, how can we love God? We have never even seen him."

Facts about the Book (2 John)

John wrote this book to "the lady chosen by God and to her children" (1:1). Probably this is a church and its members. John told these people that he was happy. Why? Because they were obeying God. John warned about false teachers who said that Jesus did not come to earth as a human being.

Facts about the Book (3 John)

This book was written to Gaius, who was probably John's good friend. John's helpers traveled to other churches to teach. Gaius helped these travelers, and John encouraged him to continue to help these people. John also warned Gaius about a man named Diotrephes, who was a liar.

JUDE

Facts about the Author

This short book was written by Jude, another half-brother of Jesus. James and Jude were brothers. Jude is probably one of Jesus' brothers mentioned in John 7:5 who did not believe that Jesus was God's Son until a later time.

Facts about the Book

Jude wrote this book to warn about false teachers who said that they were Christians. This letter is written to all Christians. Jude's main purpose in writing was to encourage Christians to stand strong and defend their faith in God. False teachers had come into the church, and Jude told the Christians that they should not follow the false teachers. Jude encouraged these Christians in verses 20-21. "But you, dear friends, use your most holy faith to build yourselves up even stronger. Pray with the help of the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves safe in God's love, as you wait for the Lord Jesus Christ in his mercy to give you eternal life."

The book of Jude ends with a beautiful benediction (closing prayer) in verses 24-25. "God is strong and can keep you from falling. He can bring you before his glory without any wrong in you and give you great joy. He is the only God, the one who saves us. To him be glory, greatness, power, and authority through Jesus Christ our Lord for all time past, now, and forever. Amen."

STOP AND THINK

- Remember that Jesus is greater than anyone else. If you have problems, you can pray and ask Him to help you.
- There are many people in the world who do not believe in Jesus. Some of these people will tell you that you should follow a false god. You can study the Bible to help you know if a person is teaching the truth about God and Jesus. Watch out for false teachers. Remember that anyone who tells lies about Jesus will be punished by God.

LESSON 8 - QUESTIONS

1. Write the names of the writers of the following New Testament books:
 - a. Who wrote the book of James? _____
 - b. Who wrote the books of 1 Peter and 2 Peter? _____
 - c. Who wrote the books of 1 John, 2 John and 3 John? _____
 - d. Who wrote the book of Jude? _____
 - e. Who do some people think wrote the book of Hebrews? _____

2. The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is better than anything or any person. Write four of these things/people on the lines.
Jesus is better than _____, _____,
_____, and _____.

3. Hebrews 12:1-2 tells us to “never stop looking to _____.”

4. What chapter in Hebrews contains the “faith hall of fame”? _____

5. Did Jesus’ half-brothers always believe that Jesus was God’s Son?
_____ yes
_____ no

6. According to the book of James, _____ means doing what God wants us to do.

7. Here are some facts about a man who wrote New Testament books:
 - He was one of Jesus’ 12 special followers.
 - One time he said that he was not a follower of Jesus.
 - He made mistakes, but God still used him to become a great preacher.
 - The first 12 chapters of the book of Acts tell about his ministry.
Who was this writer? _____

8. Did the Roman emperors persecute Christians?
_____ yes
_____ no

9. Why were the Christians persecuted? _____

10. In the book of 2 Peter, Peter warned Christians to beware of people in the church who were teaching _____.

11. List the five New Testament books that John wrote.

_____, _____,
_____, _____,
_____.

12. List three reasons why John wrote the book of 1 John.

_____,
_____,
_____.

13. Was Jude the half-brother of Jesus?

_____ yes
_____ no

14. The book of Jude was written to warn about false teachers who said that they were

_____.

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

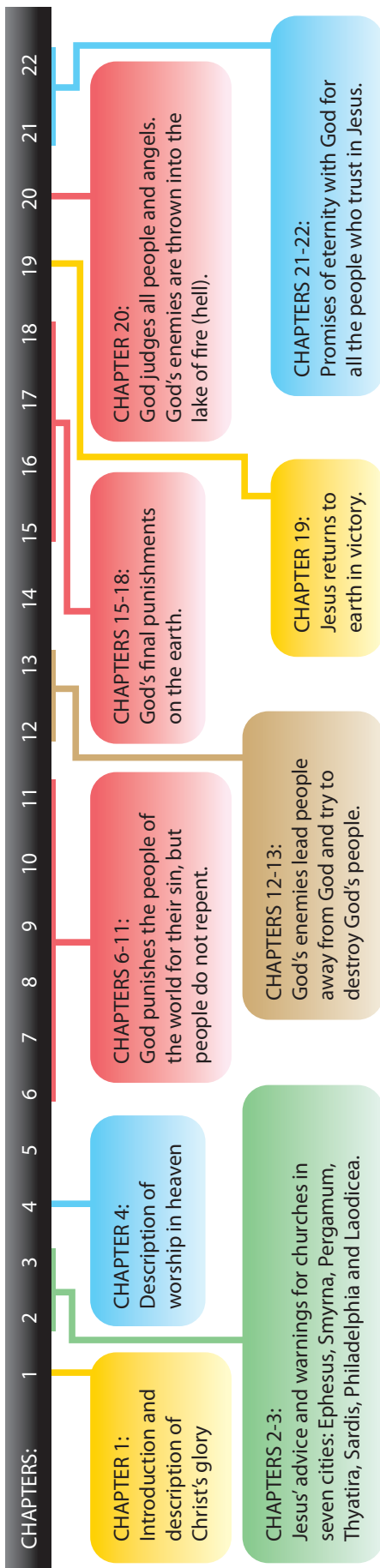
NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 9

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

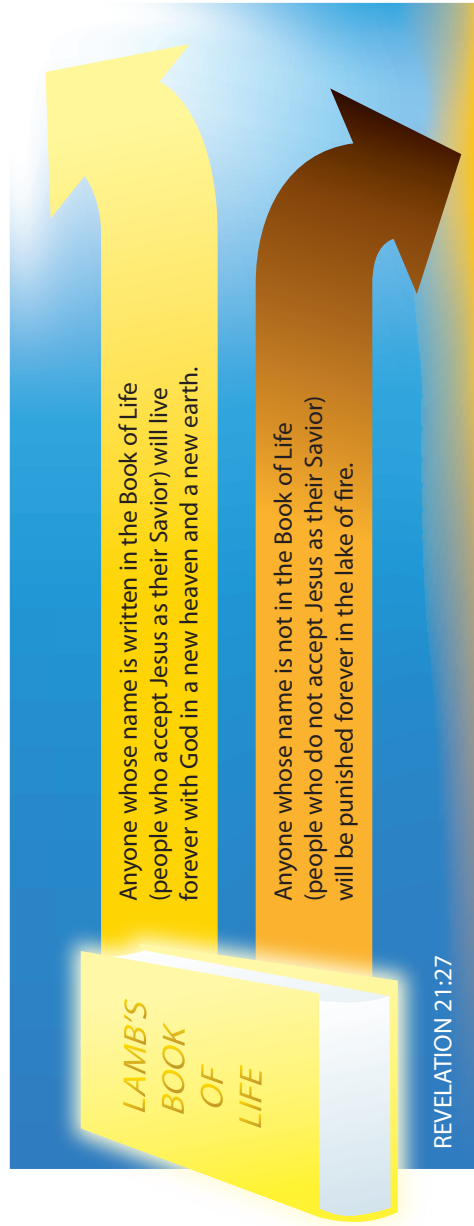
NEW TESTAMENT CHART #9

REVELATION

OVERVIEW OF REVELATION



GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT OF ALL PEOPLE (chapters 19-22)



REVELATION OVERVIEW AND MAP

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

LESSON 9

LESSON BACKGROUND

The book of Revelation was written at a time when much of the world was ruled by the Romans. The Roman emperor wanted everyone to worship him. Christians refused to worship the emperor. They worshiped only Jesus. Because the Christians refused to worship the emperor, the Romans persecuted them. Some Christians were crucified, or thrown into a pit of wild animals or burned to death. History books tell us that the Roman emperor, Nero, laughed when he heard the Christians screaming in pain. These terrible things were happening at the time the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation.

Revelation is a book of prophecy. It tells about things that will happen in the future. Many things in Revelation are symbols — things that stand for something else. You will find similar symbols in the Old Testament books of Ezekiel and Daniel.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #9

The book of Revelation gives us word pictures about the end of the world. Some words that could describe this book are exciting, mysterious or puzzling. Revelation tells us that Christians will spend eternity with Jesus. This book also tells us about things that will happen in the future. We can clearly understand some of the events mentioned in Revelation. But some of the events are hard to understand. It is okay if we don't understand everything in Revelation.

Find the numbers 1 through 22 at the top of the chart. These numbers represent the chapters in the book of Revelation. Follow the lines from the numbers to the colored boxes. In each box is a short summary of the chapters of Revelation.

On the left side of the bottom of the chart is a map of seven churches. These are the seven churches that Jesus spoke to in chapters 1 through 3.

Now look at the right side of the bottom of the chart. Read Revelation 21:27 in your Bible. We know that Jesus will defeat the devil. God will reward Jesus' faithful followers. Christians will live forever with God and Jesus in a new heaven and a new earth. But God will punish people who do not accept Jesus as their Savior.

It would be great if you can read all 22 chapters of Revelation. Revelation 1:3 says, "Great blessings belong to the person who reads the words of this message from God and to those who hear this message and do what is written in it. There is not much time left."

LESSON

Facts about the Author

The book of Revelation was written by John. He was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. Look back at Lesson 4 for more information about John.

Revelation was written about 96 A.D. The Romans wanted to punish John for preaching about Jesus. So the Romans sent John to live on the island of Patmos. While John was living on this island, Jesus spoke to him and gave him the message of the book of Revelation.

Facts about the Book

Revelation is the last book in the Bible. It is a book of prophecy. This means that it tells about things that will happen in the future. Jesus gave John the message and told him to write it down. The first part of Revelation includes letters to seven Christian churches. Jesus judged each church and told them what they were doing right and what they were doing wrong. Jesus also promised rewards to the churches who stayed faithful to Him.

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, tells about the creation of the world. Revelation, the last book, tells about the end of the world. Genesis tells us about the beautiful Garden of Eden and about Adam and Eve's sin. When they sinned, Adam and Eve were separated from God. Revelation tells us about a time when people will not be separated from God. Those people who believe in Jesus will be able to live with God in heaven forever. Heaven is a wonderful place that Jesus has prepared for people who follow and obey Him. (Read John 14:1-3 to learn what Jesus said about heaven.)

The Bible is a book of history. It tells us about God's people, the Jews, and about Jesus. In Genesis, God said that He would someday send His Son, Jesus, to earth. The rest of the Old Testament books tell us about God's plan to prepare the world for Jesus to be born. It was part of God's plan for Jesus to die and then rise to live again. The book of Revelation tells us about the end of God's plan — eternal life for people who follow Him.

Revelation talks about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But the main focus of the book is Jesus. Revelation 1:1 tells us that Jesus is the One who is speaking. This book tells us that Jesus is all-powerful and that He will defeat Satan. Because of that, Christians can live forever with Jesus.

Most of the book of Revelation is prophecy. Remember that God's prophecy is not like the prophecy we read about today. God's prophecy is true. When God says something will happen, it will happen. In the book of John, John tells about Jesus' life on earth. After Jesus died and rose again, He returned to heaven (Acts 1:9-11). In Revelation, John tells about when Jesus will come back to earth again. At that time, Jesus will take His followers (the church) to heaven to live with Him forever.

There are parts of Revelation that are easy to understand. Some parts are hard to understand. Why? Because some of Revelation is written with mystery and symbols (bowls, trumpets, lamps, etc.). Many people have written their ideas about what these symbols mean. We will not talk about these ideas in this lesson. But here are some important things that Revelation helps us remember: 1) Jesus came to earth and died on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven; 2) Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven; 3) Someday Jesus will come back to earth to take Christians to be with Him. We do not know when Jesus will return (see Mark 13:32), but we can know for sure that He will return.

Here are more things that we can learn from the book of Revelation:

- + Chapter 1 teaches us many things about Jesus. Jesus is the faithful witness and the ruler of the kings of the earth (verse 5). Jesus loves us and died for us (verse 5). Jesus made Christians to be His kingdom and priests who serve God (verse 6). Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega (verse 8). This means that Jesus has always been alive and will continue to live forever.
- + In chapters 2 and 3, Jesus gave advice and warnings to seven churches. These seven churches were in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.
- + Jesus' words in chapters 2 and 3 are important for us today, too. Jesus reminded the Christians in Ephesus to turn away from their sins and start serving God again (2:5). In 2:10b, Jesus told the Christians at Smyrna that if they continued to be faithful to God, He would give them eternal life. Jesus knows what every person does, and He keeps a "book of life." The names of the people who will receive eternal life are listed in this book (3:5).
- + Chapter 4 tells us about worship in heaven. Verse 11 says that God is "worthy to receive glory and honor and power."
- + Chapters 6-18 talk about a time of great suffering and persecution that will happen before Jesus comes again. Many people think that before this happens, Jesus will take Christians to live with Him in heaven.
- + We read in chapter 19 that Jesus will win the final victory over sin and Satan.
- + Chapter 20 reminds us that God will judge all people. The people who have followed and obeyed God will live forever with God and Jesus in heaven. Satan, his angels and all the people who follow Satan will be sent to hell, a place of awful punishment and eternal fire.
- + Be sure that you read chapter 21. These verses tell us how wonderful and beautiful heaven will be. Notice that heaven, also called the New Jerusalem, will be made of gold, precious stones and pearls.

The book of Revelation clearly shows the battle between good and evil. In the end, Satan will be destroyed. From the beginning of the Bible (Genesis) to the end of the Bible (Revelation), many years have passed. But all 66 books of the Bible show us that God is in control of the universe. God made a

way for people to live forever with Him. But God does not force people to choose Him. Every person must decide to follow God or not to follow God. We should be excited to think about the time when Jesus will come back to earth and take Christians to heaven.

Revelation ends with a warning and a promise. John warns us in 22:18-19, "I warn everyone who hears the words of prophecy in this book: If anyone adds anything to these, God will give that person the plagues written about in this book. And if anyone takes away from the words of this book of prophecy, God will take away that person's share of the tree of life and of the holy city, which are written about in this book." Jesus' promise is in verse 20, "Yes, I am coming soon."

If you want to be ready for Jesus to come again, you need to make sure that you are Jesus' friend. Then you should share the Good News about Jesus with your friends and family so that they will be ready for Jesus, too.

STOP AND THINK

- ✦ Jesus is coming back to earth soon. Jesus will gather together all the people who believe that He is God's Son and who have obeyed His rules. Jesus will take these people to heaven to live with Him forever. Jesus will defeat Satan and throw him into the lake of fire. In the lake of fire, Satan will be tormented (in pain and suffering) forever. Remember that people who do not follow God will be thrown into the lake of fire, too.
- ✦ Where will you be for eternity? Will you be in heaven with God or in the lake of fire with Satan? You must decide to follow God or to follow Satan.

LESSON 9 - QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the last book of the Bible (New Testament)?

2. Who wrote this book? _____
3. Why was John living on the island of Patmos?

4. List two ways that the Romans persecuted the Christians.

5. How many churches did Jesus give advice and strong warnings to? _____
Name four of those churches: _____, _____,
_____, and _____
6. Revelation is a book of prophecy. What does this mean?

7. In what New Testament book does John tell about Jesus' life on earth?

In what book does John tell us about when Jesus will come back to earth again?

8. Read Revelation 2:10b. Complete the verse: "If you continue to be faithful, I will give you the _____ of _____."
9. Who keeps the "book of life"? _____
10. Who will win the final victory over sin and Satan? _____
11. What is the name for the place of eternal punishment? _____
12. Will heaven be a beautiful place?
_____ yes
_____ no
13. Will Jesus come back to earth again?
_____ yes
_____ no

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 10

BASIC BIBLE STUDY

NEW TESTAMENT CHART #10

SIX QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU BELIEVE

 Do you believe the God of the Bible is the one and only true God?
DEUTERONOMY 4:35

 Do you believe Jesus is God's Son?
Do you believe your sins can be forgiven only through Jesus?
JOHN 14:6

 Do you believe that the Bible is God's message for you?
2 PETER 1:20-21

 Do you believe that God wants you to follow Him and be part of His family?
1 TIMOTHY 2:3-4

 Do you believe that you have sinned?
ROMANS 3:23

 "When people sin, they earn what sin pays – death. But God gives his people a free gift – eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Do you believe this?
ROMANS 6:23

HOW DOES THE BIBLE SAY WE SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

SPRINKLING?



POURING?



IMMERSION?



SOME BIBLE VERSES ABOUT BAPTISM

- MATTHEW 3:13-17
- MATTHEW 28:18-20
- MARK 16:15-16
- JOHN 3:23
- ACTS 2:38
- ACTS 8:35-39
- ACTS 22:16
- ROMANS 6:4

LESSON 10

Lesson 10 is called "Becoming a Christian." There are three ways this lesson can help you. 1) Maybe you have already accepted Jesus as your Savior, and you are a Christian. We praise God for your decision to follow Him! This lesson will help you remember God's plan of salvation. 2) Or maybe you realize now that you believe in God, but you do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. Then this lesson will help you understand how you can have a closer fellowship with Jesus. 3) Or maybe you still do not believe in God and Jesus. If you do not yet believe in God and Jesus, we hope this lesson will help you understand that God is the only true God and that Jesus is His only Son.

UNDERSTANDING CHART #10

Across the top of chart #10 are 6 green boxes. An important question is in each box. As you think about each question, be sure to read the Bible verses at the bottom of each box.

- ✦ Question #1 — In Deuteronomy, chapter 4, Moses told the Israelites that they should obey God's laws. Why? Because they had seen God's power in three ways. 1) They saw God's power over false gods (vs. 3). 2) The Israelites heard God speak when they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai, (also called "Mount Horeb") (vs. 10-12). 3) God rescued them from slavery in Egypt (vs. 34). In verse 35, Moses told the Israelites that God did all these things to prove that He is the one and only true God.
- ✦ Question #2 — We learn from John 14:6 that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We also learn that the only way to have a relationship with God is through Jesus. If we want to have eternal life with God, we must believe that Jesus can forgive our sins.
- ✦ Question #3 — Is the Bible really God's Word, message, to you? It is necessary that you believe the Bible is true. If you don't believe the Bible is true, you waste your time when you read it. The Bible is the only book that gives us information on how we can become God's friend. Paul reminded Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:15 that the Bible gave him wisdom. This wisdom led Timothy to salvation through faith in Jesus.
- ✦ Question #4 — God wants you to be part of His family. That's why He sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins.
- ✦ Question #5 — Romans 3:23 is a very simple and clear statement. All people have sinned. Our sin keeps us far from God. But Jesus died to accept the punishment for our sins.
- ✦ Question #6 — The punishment for our sins is death. But we can have eternal life with God if we accept God's Son, Jesus, as our Savior.

Another question that you should think about is: How can you become a member of God's family? Peter answered this question in Acts 2:38. Peter told the people that they needed to repent, turn away from their sins and be baptized. Look at the three pictures at the bottom of the chart. These pictures show three ways to baptize that churches use today.

Very carefully read all the Bible verses about baptism listed on the right side of the chart. After you have read and studied these verses, ask yourself this question: Which way to baptize does the Bible talk about? Sprinkling, pouring or immersion?

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

In this Bible study, you have learned many facts about God, Jesus and the church. We hope that these things have encouraged you to become a part of God's family. What does that mean? It means accepting God's free gift of salvation. It means becoming a Christian. It means following Jesus the rest of your life.

To help you decide if you want to become a Christian, here are some questions to think about.

- People in the world worship many gods. Do you believe the God of the Bible is the one and only true God? If you don't believe in God, then you will receive the punishment for your sins. This means that you will spend eternity in hell. Remember, you won't be saved and go to heaven if you don't believe in God.
- The one and only true God has one divine (holy) Son named Jesus. Do you believe Jesus is God's Son? If you don't believe that Jesus is God's Son, you won't have anyone to accept the punishment for your sins. Even if you believe in God, you must also believe in Jesus. Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."
- God inspired and helped special people write His book, the Bible. The Bible has a message for you. Do you believe that the Bible is God's message for you?
- God made a plan so that we can be His followers. Do you believe that God wants you to follow Him and be part of His family?
- God's plan is for people who have sinned (disobeyed God's laws). Romans 3:23 says, "All have sinned and are not good enough to share God's divine greatness." Do you believe that you have sinned?
- Romans 6:23 says, "When people sin, they earn what sin pays — death. But God gives his people a free gift — eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Do you believe this?

STOP AND THINK

- God chose the Israelites to be His special people. He wanted them to obey Him and to worship only Him. The Bible tells us many times that the Israelites forgot about God and started worshipping false gods. But God still loved the Israelites. He used people like Moses, the judges, the kings and the prophets to remind the Israelites to repent and serve Him again.
- Today we do not have judges and prophets like in the Old Testament. Instead we have the Bible. The Bible reminds us that we should love and serve God. When we read the Bible, we learn about God's rules and His plan for our lives. God loves all people. He wants everyone to love and obey Him.

If you are already a Christian, I hope that you answered "yes" to all six questions. If you answered "no" to some of the questions, you might want to carefully read and study the Bible verses again. If you answered "yes" to all six questions and you are not a Christian, then you need to receive God's free gift.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

The Bible is the only book that tells us how to become part of God's family. A person who wants to become a Christian should open his/her Bible and look in the New Testament. Why? Because the New Testament tells about Jesus, God's Son. Do you remember which New Testament book tells about the first church and how people can become part of God's family? It is the book of Acts.

In the second chapter of Acts, Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost about Jesus. Peter also told the people that they were guilty of crucifying Jesus. When the people heard this, they were sad. Acts 2:37-38 says, "When the people heard this, they felt very, very sorry. They asked Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" The people understood what Peter told them. The people knew that they had to repent and be baptized. Acts 2:41a says, "Then those who accepted what Peter said were baptized." To repent, we confess that we have sinned, say we are sorry and then try to do better. Let's look at some questions that will help us understand more about baptism.

HOW SHOULD A PERSON BE BAPTIZED?

Maybe you have noticed that churches use different ways to baptize people. Some churches pour water over the person. Some churches sprinkle water on the person. And other churches dip the person completely under water. Dipping the person completely under water is called "immersion."

To learn about how a person should be baptized, we need to go to the New Testament. You probably remember that the New Testament was originally written in the Greek language. The Greek language has three words to describe the use of water. The three words are:



1) *rantizo* — means to sprinkle



2) *cheo* — means to pour



3) *baptizo* — means to dip under the water

Now let's look at some New Testament verses about baptism and think about which pictures describe these verses.

John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Jesus walked to the Jordan River where John was baptizing people. You can read about this in Matthew 3:13-17. Matthew 3:16a says, "So Jesus was baptized. As soon as he came up out of the water..." The Greek word used here is *baptizo* (to dip under the water). Which picture shows this action?

Jesus gave His first command about baptism in Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus told His followers to tell all people about Him, to baptize them, and to teach them to obey God. You can also find Jesus' words in Mark 16:15-16. The Greek word used in these verses is *baptizo* (to dip under the water). Which picture shows this action?

Some New Testament verses that talk about baptism are Acts 2:38, Acts 8:35-39 and Acts 22:16. We encourage you to find these verses and read them. In all of these verses, the Greek word is *baptizo* (to dip under the water). Other verses that may help you understand more about baptism are John 3:23 ("plenty of water") and Acts 8:38 ("went down into the water"). John 3:5 compares baptism with a birth. Romans 6:4 talks about baptism being a burial. Which picture shows this action?

In all of these verses, the people had faith in God and Jesus. Then these people were baptized.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

This question can be answered by reading verses from the New Testament. Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16 tell us that repentance and baptism forgives (washes away) our sins. Galatians 3:27 says that baptism joins us to Jesus. And in Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus says that baptism makes us His disciples.

Romans 6:4a says, "So when we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and took part in his death." It is His blood that saves us, not the water.

It is important to understand that baptism alone does not save us. Faith, repentance and baptism together bring us in contact with Jesus' blood. 1 John 1:7b says, "...the blood sacrifice of Jesus, God's Son, washes away every sin and makes us clean." It is not "only faith" or "only repentance" or "only baptism" that saves us. Faith, repentance and baptism are parts of the process of becoming a Christian. After becoming a Christian you need to: 1) continue to learn about God and Jesus; 2) fellowship with other Christians; 3) remember Jesus' death by eating the Lord's Supper; and 4) pray. Acts 2:42 tells us that the early Christians in Jerusalem did all four of these things.

You have read this lesson about your relationship to God. We hope that you have decided to believe in Jesus and follow Him.



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