

Genesis

TEACHER'S NOTES by Angela Wisdom

(These notes go along with my material written for 3 -5 grades)

When one teaches God's word, part of the responsibility of the teacher is to give explanation and make application of the text. If not, the word will not make the necessary changes in the student's life (Neh. 8:8). Hopefully, the notes here will help the teacher's understanding as well as the student's. It is my desire that I have rightly divided the Word (II Tim. 2:15).

Below are notes for the teacher's use. They are things the teacher needs to understand. Some things are probably beyond the understanding of the 3rd - 5th grader -- others are not. You know your class and what you can present that they will understand. Sometimes you may want to just introduce a few thoughts on a subject that can be built on later. Again, know your material before you present it, then you'll be ready (I Pet. 3:15).

LESSON ONE

This is perhaps the hardest lesson to teach in Genesis because of the subject matter. **The Teacher** needs to understand the Godhead before teaching this lesson. The lesson text points out that : God is One; He is Holy; that all three persons, the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit are in the Godhead. They are from the beginning and they are ONE. Point out that God is ETERNAL -- no beginning and no end (this is a hard concept to understand for all of us).

Point out that the word GOD in Gen. 1:1 is plural (*Elohim*).

GOALS:

1. To create an unwavering faith in God and His word.
2. To help us to become more CHRISTLIKE.
3. To know who God is.

EXPECTATIONS for the student:

1. Study your lesson.
2. Memory work.
3. Come ready to learn.

WHY STUDY? If we believe God's account of creation, we have laid the foundation for everything else God has taught.

WHAT IS NOT OUR GOAL: We are not going to study Evolution. Our goal is to study God's word so that we can refute Evolution, as well as other errors that are being taught.

Moses, inspired by God, wrote the first 5 books of the Old Testament (Ex. 24:4; 34:27; Num. 33:2; Deut. 31:9; Josh. 8:32; Mk. 10: 4 -5; 12:19; John 1:45).

The first 5 books are called the **PENTATEUCH**.

Pente: five

Teuchos: book

The book of Genesis covers the first 4 periods of the Old Testament:

1. Before the Flood
2. The Flood

3. Scattering of the People
4. Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph) *Patriarch means: Father rule*

Genesis 1: 1 “IN THE BEGINNING”

NOT the beginning of Godô God has no beginning or end. He is from Eternity and Everlasting.

Psalm 90:2

2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.(KJV)

The **BEGINNING** refers to the **creation** of the world and of man. It is when there was no earth, no universe, no life, no time.

Genesis 1: 1 “IN THE BEGINNING GOD”

GOD was in the beginning. It is essential that we know who this God is:

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (KJV)

GOD created everything except HIMSELF.

WHY did God create everything?

Rev. 4: 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (KJV)

Genesis 1: 1 begins with GOD ó this refutes the **ATHEIST** who says God does not exist.

It refutes **POLYTHEISM** ó who believe in many different gods.

It refutes **MATERIALISM** ó those who believe that everything that exists is made from matter.

It refutes **NATURALISM** -- those who think everything came about by a natural process.

It refutes **PANTHEISM** ó those who believe nature and the environment are God.

WHO IS GOD?

The word GOD comes from the Hebrew word “*el*”. “*El*” is a singular word. The word in Genesis 1:1 is “*elohim*”. “*Elohim*” means: the gods. The word *Elohim* tells us that there is a plurality of beings.

There is **ONE God** ó but there are **3 persons** who make up GOD (or the GODHEADô Godhead refers to the 3 divine beings)

NOTICE Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

(KJV)

“*us*” and “*our*” is Plural.

GOD THE FATHER ó He planned that the Word (Jesus Christ) come to earth in the flesh and die for all of mankind.

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT -- He, by a miracle, brought about the conception and physical birth of the Word. He testified, by miraculous works, that the Word was the Christ, and He gave us inspired scripture to know the mind of Christ (revealed in the Bible).

GOD THE WORD (or Jesus Christ, Son of Man) ó He came to the earth in a fleshly body, as a servant, to die for all of mankind to save them from their sins.

There is ONE GOD ó **All three persons** that make up GOD are **ONE** because **they are united** in all that they do ó **in purpose, in righteousness, and in diety.**

(Example ó God says that when a man and woman marry, they are ONE flesh. If they are in obedience to God, then they are one, not only in the sexual relationship, but are one in their common goals and purpose in life. If we can understand this concept, then we can understand how there is one GOD.)

GOD is ONE in that all three persons in the Godhead are united in ALL that they do:

Read ó John 17: 11, 20, 21

Although GOD is united, each person in the Godhead is a separate and distinct.

Read: Eph. 4: 4 6 6 (One Spirit, One Lord, One God and Father of all)

In Luke 3:22 all three were at the baptism of Jesus.

All three are **HOLY**: READ Lev. 11: 44 -45 *notice that LORD is in all capital letters.*

All three are **SPIRIT** ó GOD John 4:24; **CHRIST** Rom. 8:9; **HOLY SPIRIT** Acts 10:38

GOD is OMNIPOTENT ó He has unlimited authority and influence. Rev. 19:6 (Job 42:2)

GOD is OMNIPRESENT ó He is present in all places at all times. Ps. 139: 7 ó 10 (Jer. 23: 23 ó 24)

YET ó although God is omnipresent, He can LIMIT His presence (Cain went out from the presence of God Gen. 4:16; Ex. 13:21 Pillar of cloud.)

And even though His presence is everywhere, **HIS BEING IS IN HEAVEN.** Acts 2:33; 7:55

GOD's omnipresence is in His church. Eph. 1: 22 ó 23

READ: Matt 18:20 *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (KJV)*

HIS omnipresence is with us as we partake of the Lord's Supper. *Matt. 26: 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom. (KJV)*

As we study Genesis, you will see that Adam and Eve could not escape His presence in the garden (Gen.3:8). His presence was with Paul and Silas as they prayed and sang in prison in Acts 16: 25.

This should make us think. His presence is with us when we do good, and it is also with us when we do evil. Every action we make is in His presence.

GOD is OMNISCIENT ó He has infinite awareness, understanding and insight.

Ps 33:13-15

13 The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

14 From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.

15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. (KJV)

As we study God's word, **remember** that GOD can do ANYTHING He wills to do:

Ps 115:3

3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

In Genesis, He will create the world, then destroy it with a flood. He will cause a 100 year old man and his 90 year old wife to have a child. He will take care of one of His servants, raising him up from slavery to becoming a great man in Egypt.

GOD can do what He wills with us too, if we let Him:

Isa 64:8

8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. (KJV)

Remember that He knows OUR hearts (Heb. 4:13). He knew the heart of Abraham and Sarah.

Remember that He will execute judgment and fulfill ALL of His promises. **II Pet. 3:9**

Here are some internet links to articles by Bro. Don Martin and Maurice Barnett to help in your understanding of this lesson:

<http://www.bibletruths.net/Subject%20Index/BTSIO15.htm>

<http://westsidechurchofchristphoenix.com/TheSpiritNatureofGod>

LESSON TWO

God had a plan for man in His mind from eternity:

Eph 3:10-11

10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

11 according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,(NKJ)

2 Tim 1:9

9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.(KJV)

Emphasize the many times the scripture says, "And God said . . ." God's word has power. He created the world by the word of His mouth. Ps 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. (KJV)

This demonstrates to us the great power of His word. Did you notice in John 1:1 that God is called the Word? His Word had power in creation, and it has power today too.

Emphasize that each day had an evening and a morning -- 24 hour days.

LESSON THREE

Gen. 2: 8 - 14 -- God put man in the garden of Eden. Every tree pleasant to look at and good for good was in the garden. Also there was the tree of life in the middle of the garden. (*This tree would be a blessing –would give them indefinite life*). Also was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (*This tree would test man's faith.*)

Gen. 2: 15 - 17 -- God put man in the garden to dress and keep it. (*So think—God has made man. He gave him a home, Food, water, necessities, and work to do. Work is something God intended man do from the beginning and He still does today – II Thess. 3:10*) They can eat of every tree but one so God is showing them that His favor is conditional and based on obedience.

Gen. 2: 23 - 24 -- God set forth His law for the marriage relationship in this verse. Marriage is ordained by GOD. Adam has no father or mother to leave. God is showing here that when man and woman marry there is a priority change.

öCleaveö means to adhere to, to stick to. Cleave to your husband like glue.

There is also a öone fleshö relationship. God gave us this eternal principle here in verse 24.

Gen. 3 -- The serpent said to the woman, ö You will NOT surely die. God knows that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God (*Elohim, the supreme God*) , knowing good and evil.ö

✓ V. 1 – *Satan questions whether it is a sin or no.*

✓ V. 4 – *Satan denies there is any danger in it.*

✓ V. 5 – *Satan suggests that there is much advantage in it; that she can escape the consequences.*

So the woman looked at the tree. She saw that it was good for food; that it was pleasant to the eyes; that it was desirable to make one wise. So she took of the fruit and she ate of it.

I Jn 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* (KJV)

1 Tim 2:13-14 *For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. (KJV)*

Eve rationalized her sin. She is more trusting than man.

(Notice: Adam and Eve are wearing fig leaves, yet they still consider themselves naked. The Hebrew word is "chagorah" meaning a garment covering the midsction -- or what most men wear in a public swimming pool. When God made them garments of skin the Hebrew word is "Kethoneth" -- a coat-like garment reaching from the neck to the knees. God wanted them clothed!)

Gen. 3:15 --*(SEED means: Child or offspring.) This is a prophecy of what would happen when Christ would come. Satan thought he won a great battle against God on this day he got the woman to sin. But God tells him that one day woman's seed (or offspring) would win the battle against Satan. Through the woman sin entered the world, but through a woman God would bring forth offspring, and that offspring would deal a death blow to Satan. It was woman's glory that her sex was chosen to be the mother of our Lord. Through childbearing the Saviour came into the world.*

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. (KJV)

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (KJV)

Enmity is hatred. God said He would put hatred between Satan and the woman, and between her offspring (or descendants). One of woman's offspring would be the Christ. Christ would bruise Satan's head (deal him a death blow). This would happen when Christ died and was resurrected. Satan would bruise Christ's heel. Although Satan will hurt the cause of Christ, Christ will overcome Satan when He overcomes death. (Satan brought death into the world by sin.)

Adam and Eve were the first people to learn that sin brings sorrow and hardship. Think of the happiness that must have been theirs before their sin. They were living in paradise. Every need was supplied. They had no worries, fear, or shame. After their sin they had fear, shame and guilt.

Both Adam and Eve blamed the other -- they did not take personal responsibility for their own sins.

LESSON 4

Cain --

Heb 11:4 *By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.(NIV)*

I Jn 3:11-12 *For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.(KJV)*

Where did Cain's wife come from? Gen. 3:20; Act 17:26

She had to have descended from Adam and Eve ó possibly a sister or niece.

v. 19 This verse gives an indication of the direction Cain's descendants went in. This descendant, Lamech had two wives.

v. 23 Lamech tells his wives about murdering other men. (His attitude was not penitent.)

v. 25 ó 26 These verses give us an indication of where the descendants of Seth (Adam's son) are headed.

Seth means to place, or compensation. In Seth's day men began to call on the name of the Lord.

LESSONS FROM CAIN:

John tells us that we are to love one another and not be as Cain:

I Jn 3:10-12 *In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. (KJV)*

Hatred is wrong, and a work of the flesh:

Gal 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (KJV)*

I Jn 2:11 *But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. (NKJ)*

I Jn 4:20-21 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. (KJV)*

Did God give Cain a choice after he sinned? Yes

Gen 4:7 *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. (KJV)*

God said, "Sin lies (or crouches) at the door. Sin can crouch at our door. I Pet. 5:8 pictures Satan as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Sin can take over and control our lives. Just as Cain had a choice, we do also.

We can let many sins control our lives if we are not careful:

Lying

Hatred

Disobedience to parents (Rom. 1:30 this is a sin that will cause us to lose our soul.)

Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Do we hang around with friends that disobey their parents? (Prov. 13:20; 1 Cor 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." (NIV)

Cheating on tests (use of cell phones to cheat)

Jealousy/envy

Selfishness

Drugs

Alcohol

Fornication

LESSON FIVE

NOTE: These were not primitive people living in caves.

- A. Abel was a shepherd. (4:2)
- B. Cain built a city and a tiller of the soil. (4:2, 17)
- C. Jabal lived in tents and had herds of cattle. (4:20)
- D. Jubal was a musician (4:21)
- E. Tubal-Cain was a metal worker. (4:22)
- F. Noah built the ark.
- G. Later they started building a tower (*that would reach to the heavens*)

Chapter 5 are the descendants of Adam and Seth.

Notice the length of time they lived:

Adam 930

Seth 912

Enos 905

Kenan 840

Mahalalel 830

Jared 962

Enoch 365

Methuselah 969 Methuselah was oldest living man recorded.

Died the year of the flood. 187 (*Lamech's birth*) +182 (*Noah's birth*) +600 (*flood*) =969

Lamech 777

Noah 950

Enoch – God mentions several things about this man who was a descendant of Seth. First, his life was considerably shorter than those who came before him. **Gen. 5:22** “He walked with God” His manner of life was such that he did God’s will. The idea carries with it strong persistence and determination. A life spent in fellowship with God.

5:24 “He was not, for God took him” in other words, he did not die. **Heb. 11:5** Before he was taken by God he had the testimony from God that God was pleased with him. **Heb. 11:6** Infers that he had faith.

Luke 3:37, 23 He was in the lineage of Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father.

Jude 14, 15 He prophesied for the Lord. He predicted the coming of the Lord in judgment, a coming that would convince the ungodly.

We don’t know why God took him, other than the fact that God was pleased with him, however, this would have been a lesson for his generation, and the generations after him. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. **Heb. 11:6.**

Noah -- Noah did everything that the Lord told him to do.

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

Noah was moved with godly fear to do what God said do. He became an heir of righteousness because of this.

While Noah built the ark he preached to the people for over 100 years:

2 Pet 2:5 *And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; (KJV)*

While Noah preached, the people lived out their lives, not changing in order to be saved:

Luke 17:26-27 *And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. (KJV)*

LESSONS FROM NOAH:

In a world full of evil, Noah was a righteous man and did God's commands. The world probably thought him odd,(did not fit in) and may have made fun of him, but he did things God's way in spite of what was done or said to him.

He preached for 120 years to people who would not listen.

People today would probably call Noah a failure ó he only saved himself and his family. But the point of Noah's story is that in the face of all these tremendous pressures and temptations he served God.

Can we apply this to today? Noah had to stand up to the whole world who was doing evil ó and sometimes we are afraid to stand up to just one friend who tries to get us to do wrong. His world was not unlike ours ó full of immorality (fornication, murder, drugs, immodesty, bad, filthy language, etc.).

Do we have enough faith to teach others what God says, just as Noah did?

Noah feared God. Do we fear God enough to do what He says?

Are we more concerned with people's opinion of us, or God's opinion?

Another lesson: Noah did things just as God planned. Gopher wood, one door, one window, two of each animal, 7 of each clean animal, etc.

God wants his law carried out to the letter without changing it. His pattern for doing things was important then, and is important NOW.

LESSON SIX

Gen 8:22 *"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." (NKJ) (What does this say to the environmentalists who say our earth is being destroyed by man and climate change? God promised that earth will continue to keep the seasons. Earth will not be destroyed by man, but by God at the Judgment --II Pet. 3: 10 -12)*

God blessed Noah and his sons and told them to be fruitful, to multiply and replenish the earth. Remember this-- Man will disobey this command in Genesis 11.

God set forth a law that He has set forth in every dispensation of time ó even our own. He said that man is not to eat blood, because life is in the blood. Gen 9:5-6 (Blood was required for man's redemption ó whose blood? CHRIST'S!)

If a man or beast shed man's blood (murder), their own blood would be required. The reason: Man is made in the image of God, and this would be the only penalty that would suffice for such an action. Life is in the blood.

The prohibition of eating blood is set forth in every dispensation of time: Lev. 17:12 - 14; Acts 15:29

óGod will enlarge the territory of Japheth, and Japheth will live in the tents with Shem, and Canaan will be his servant.ö -- this is a prophecy that is fulfilled in the New Testament.

This promise was fulfilled when Christ brought the gospel to the Gentiles and both Jews (descendants of Shem) and Gentiles (descendants of Japheth) are one and share blessings in Christ's church. Shem and Japheth both behaved honorably with their father, and they both received a blessing.

Eph 2:13-18 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and **preached peace to you which were afar off**, and to **them that were nigh**. For through him **we both have access** by one Spirit unto the Father.

(Those "afar off" is referring to the Gentiles -- "them that were nigh" is referring to the Jews. Both Jew and Gentile are in the Lord's church -- Japheth (Gentiles) will live in the tents with Shem (Jews).)

Point out the **Rainbow covenant** is a perpetual covenant -- a covenant for all time, even till today. When we see the rainbow it is to remind us of God's promise to Noah, and to us, that He will not destroy the earth with a universal flood ever again. God keeps His promises. The rainbow is a visual sign to us of this fact.

Internet links to help with your understanding:
<http://www.bibletruths.net/Archives/BTARO86.htm>

LESSON SEVEN

CANAAN: God allows Canaan to become rich and prosperous for a time. The land they settle in is called a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex. 3:8), and God allows them to live there for a time, until He gives it to His chosen people, the Israelites (descendants of Shem). These descendants of Ham receive a better land than Shem and Japheth—but Shem and Japheth will inherit something better – spiritual blessings.

CHAPTER 11

- They were all of one language.
- They all understood one another.
- They were more capable of helping one another, and did not want to separate from one another.
- They found a spacious plain that could accommodate all of them (Shinar).
- Instead of wanting to enlarge their territory and borders, they contrived to fortify themselves by building a city and tower. (Let us build a city – let us build a tower). This put them in a position of defense.
- They encouraged one another in this work – “Let us”.
- Instead of using stones to build with, they made brick.
- They wanted this tower to reach into heaven.
- They wanted to make a name for themselves – glory, honor.
- They did not want to disperse and scatter over the earth – this in disobedience to God's command to “replenish the earth” 9:1.
- God let these people carry on with building this city and tower for a time, giving them time to repent.
- God came down not merely to enquire into what they were doing, but to judge them and put a stop to it.
- They had to be scattered because of their oneness or unity.
- If they continued as one, much of the earth would be uninhabited.
- They were unanimous in opposing God's law.
- Wickedness would abound, and they would encourage one another in it.
- The people there who were following righteousness would not be influence for right.
- God's law is to keep order in the world, and if sin is not checked nothing would be restrained from men.

- *The people deserved death for their actions, but God showed them mercy in His penalty of confusing their language.*

There are some things we need to think about concerning God's actions at Babel:

- This was a miracle, and proof of God's power over the minds and tongues of men.
- This was a great judgment on the builders. God took vengeance on their presumptuous attempt to build a tower.
- To this day, we suffer the consequences of their sin. Diverse languages make it difficult for man to communicate with one another, and causes much misunderstanding between people.
- Man has no wisdom against the wisdom of God.
- The very thing that the men at Babel feared (being scattered) became their punishment.
- They wanted to leave behind a memorial to remember them by. They are remembered, but not in a good way. The very name given to them ó Babel ó leaves a memorial of reproach.

LESSON EIGHT

Point out that men are beginning to live shorter lives.

Joshua 24:2 tells us that Terah was an idol worshipper.

History tells us Ur was a powerful wealthy empire, and is located in the area we now call Iraq, between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf. It was a progressive city with higher learning in mathematics, art and writing.

Acts 7: 2 ó 4

- The three promises that God made to Abraham are repeated in Genesis 12:
- (v. 2) *"I will make of you a great nation."* Abraham is going to be God's instrument -- it will be through him that the great nation of Israel will descend.
- (v.3) *"in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."* It will be through Abraham that the Christ will come, blessing all people of the earth. This would be a spiritual blessing. It is realized in Christ's church. (v.2) *"you shall be a blessing"*. Abraham would be a blessing to others. The man who desires to be a blessing to others must be a man of faith, prayer and love. Abram was all of these ó we can be too!
- Gen 12:7 (It was here that the Lord gave Abram the third promise) *Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him (NKJ)*
- **THE REST OF THE BIBLE FULFILLS THESE THREE PROMISES -- be sure to point this fact out!**

(V.4) Abram departed -- simple words, but think about what they mean. He left everything and went to a land that God would show him. He did so then ó he did not delay. Heb 11:8 *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going* How many of us would like to pick up our belongings and go, now knowing where we were going, but trusting God to show us the way? Does this indicate to you the great faith that Abram had?

DISCUSS LYING -- How Abraham told a half-truth. His intent was to deceive--deceit is lying.

Rom 12:9; Eph. 5:11; 4:25

There is never a "good" reason to lie!

LESSON NINE

Discuss Lot:

Would you say Lot was generous, or selfish? Why?

Living in such a sinful city, could his capture have been a warning to him?

Lot chose his land based on his desires. He did not use sound judgment, and he put his family in a dangerous environment. Lot had worldly advantage to gain riches, but we'll see that it will come at a great cost to him and his family spiritually later on in the Bible story.

MELCHIZEDEK -- *the subject of Melchizedek as revealed in the Old and New Testament is a difficult subject, for children and adults alike. Again, you know your students. You might introduce some of this to older students. With younger children, you may not want to introduce this at all.*

Before the time of the Jews, God had priests. He has not revealed much about this to us.

Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:1 - 10, 14 - 17

We learn in the book of Hebrews that Melchizedek is a type of Christ.

A "type" is a person, place, or event that foreshadows another to come. Melchizedek foreshadows Christ (or is His type.)

An "antitype" is a person, place or event represented by an earlier type. Christ is represented by Melchizedek – Christ is the antitype.

Rom 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. (KJV)*

1 Cor 10:11 *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. (KJV)*

Some of the things in the Old Testament foreshadowed (represented beforehand) the things that would happen in the New Testament.

Melchizedek was a king, and a High Priest. His name means "King of Righteousness".

Christ is the King of Righteousness. He is also a High Priest because he goes into heaven to atone for our sins.

SEE EXCERPT FROM BRO. MAURICE BARNETT'S MATERIAL:

(This is an excerpt. Read the full article in Understanding Bible authority, by Maurice Barnett, pg. 30. It can be viewed and downloaded in electronic format at www.westsidechurchofchristphoenix.com/BibleAuthority)

"The account of Abraham meeting Melchizedek is very simply stated in Genesis. Yet, from the short meeting between them, we have some facts with far reaching consequences. In two ways, it shows the superiority of Melchizedek over Abraham, and likewise the superiority of Melchizedek over the Levitical priesthood, which in turn shows the superiority of the priesthood of Christ over Levi. This also shows that the Law had to change. The passage says that Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, but the lesser pays tithes only to the greater person. Melchizedek blessed Abraham, but it is the greater person that blesses the lesser one. Since this shows that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham, and the Jews recognized that Abraham was greater than the Levites, then it necessarily shows that Melchizedek was greater than the Levites and their priesthood. Seeing that God had said, Psalm 104:4, that Christ would be a Priest after the order of Melchizedek, that makes the priesthood of Christ greater than that

of the Levites, as well. The Priesthood was changed by prophecy. The consequences from that is stated in Heb. 7:12, since the priesthood was changed, there had to be a change in the Law also. "

Lesson 10

Sometime after the battle where Abraham saved Lot, the word of Jehovah (Yahweh) came to Abraham in a vision. He said, "Don't be afraid Abraham. I am your shield and your great reward."

- "Your shield" Man needs protection. God is telling Abraham "I am going to protect you as you go through life.
- "Your great reward" God rewards and sends blessing man's way when he is obedient to Him. God is saying to Abraham "I am going to reward you " send you blessings.

Abraham believed God, and God counted it to him for righteousness. *How? He did righteous deeds; he went to a strange land, not knowing where he was going, but he put his trust in God to lead him; he was generous with Lot by telling him to choose the land he wanted. His faith made him the friend of God (James 2:23).*

"Make a covenant" means to "cut a covenant"—referring to the cutting of the animals. The word COVENANT means to feed or eat.

Ancient covenants – terms decided, sacrifice offered, those making covenant passed between the cut pieces of animal and then shared a meal to ratify or make the covenant legal. (Examples of a covenant: Gen. 31:44 - 54; Ex. 24: 8 – 11; Jer. 34:18; Matt. 26:26 - 28)

Abraham did not stand on equal footing with God (no man does) – God extended a covenant with Abraham because of His grace toward him.

Below is an excerpt from Bro. Maurice Barnett's book, RECONCILIATION. His book is worth reading on this and many other subjects (if you can find it).

Covenant

"People generally think of a *covenant* as one where two parties make an agreement in which both contribute to the terms of the covenant on an equal basis; the covenant is then equally binding on both. Though that is one meaning of the English word *covenant*, it is not the only one. This is especially true when viewing covenants God has made with mankind. In those covenants, there is no equality between the parties; they are covenants between unequals. We view one party to the covenant, God, who is superior to the other and is the only one who can set the terms of the covenant. The second party, either one man, selected men or mankind in general, has only the choice of abiding by the terms or rejecting them.

The Hebrew word, *berith*, is thought to come from the Akkadian *biritu*, which means "fetter" or "bond." So, we may derive from that the meaning of something binding. However, the attempt to delve into etymology and derivations may be an interesting exercise but is little more than that and quite unnecessary.

Whatever the roots, *berith* covers a full range of what *covenant* means in the Old Testament, primarily, an *agreement* that binds the parties involved. It might refer to two parties who both contribute to the terms of the agreement and then are equally obligated to meet those terms.

This is called a *parity covenant*, one made with bilateral obligations on the part of both parties. Abraham and Abimelech made a covenant at Beersheba, terms

were set, oaths taken and ewe lambs presented as witnesses of the covenant, Genesis 21:22-32. Jacob and Laban made a covenant, Genesis 32:44ff. A pillar of stones was raised as a witness to the covenant, oaths sworn, a sacrifice was offered and a meal was shared; all of this was not uncommon practice in such covenants. Joshua made a *ōleagueō* with the Gibeonites, Joshua 9. Even though the Gibeonites lied about their origin and condition, Joshua honored the covenant he made with them because he had sworn an oath. Jehu and Jehonadab made a parity agreement and confirmed it by shaking hands, II Kings 10:15-16. David and Jonathan also made a parity covenant with each other, in which Jonathan gave gifts to David, I Samuel 18:3-4.

However, a *suzerainty covenant* is one wherein a superior individual, such as a king, made an agreement with one of his vassals; the king made all the terms. God has taken the initiative in making covenants with men, agreements proceeding from a superior person to a lesser one. God makes all the terms. Such covenants have been in the form of *promises* made by God, such as that to Noah, his seed and every creature on the earth that the earth would never again be destroyed by water, Genesis 9:9-16. There were no commands in this to obey; it was no more than a promise God made to man. The rainbow was given as a sign, the witness, to remind us of this promise. Previous to this, Genesis 6, God made a covenant with Noah that involved Noah's building the ark, stocking it as directed, taking in the animals, following all God's instructions exactly. If Noah would do this, he and his family would be saved from the coming flood. Noah had no say about the rules.

The same order is found in the covenant made with Abraham, Genesis 15:18. God promised He would give the land of Palestine to the seed of Abraham. The terms of the covenant were in the form of promises. Later, however, we find a mixture of promises and terms given by God in Genesis 17:10-14. That list involved the land promise to Abraham's seed and the sign of the covenant, circumcision. Also involved was the promise that Sarah would bear a son who was to be named Isaac. God made all of the terms and expected them to be followed." *pgs. 25, 26, Maurice Barnett, Reconciliation*

Sarai's faith was weakened by her intense desire to have a child – she tried to help God by taking matters into her own hands –but God does not need our help.

ōIshmael will be a wild donkey (or ass) man; his hand will be against everyone, and everyone against him. He shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. ö The Lord is telling what his character will be like here. Rude, bold, fearing no man. A turbulent, troubled life.

"He will be a wild donkey of a man, His hand will be against everyone, And everyone's hand will be against him; And he will live to the east of all his brothers."NASV

He will be as free and wild as an untamed donkey. He will fight with everyone, and everyone will fight with him. He will have conflicts with all his relatives." (*God's Word Translation*)

Gen 16:12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."(NIV) The Arabs, who descended from Ishmael still have this reputation today.

Gen 25:18 And they dwelt from Havilah unto Shur, that is before Egypt, as thou goest toward Assyria: and he died in the presence of all his brethren. He died as he had lived. (KJV)

Abraham took Ishmael that very same day, along with everyone in his house and they were all circumcised. Abraham was 99 and Ishmael 13. *Notice that Abraham did not delay to do God's will.*

Lesson Eleven

It seems that Abraham's laugh (see previous lesson) and Sarah's laugh upon learning that they would have a child are different. Abraham's laugh seems to be one of amazement. Sarah's laugh seems to be one of disbelief because she is rebuked for it.

Lot was sitting in the gate (*a place of prominence; the gate was a symbol of power and authority.*) Lot started out by "pitching his tent toward Sodom". He then began to live in Sodom. Now he seems to be in a position of authority in Sodom.

In this lesson we see God's reluctance and longsuffering regarding the punishment of these cities. We need to remember that it is not the presence of evil, but the absence of good that brings God's longsuffering to an end.

The men of Sodom wanted the angels brought out to them so that they could *know them* carnally (or have sex with them).

The hospitality and safety of Lot's guests seemed more important to Lot than the safety of his daughters. Rape did not seem as bad to him as this sin. In this story we see how the sin of this city affected the thinking of Lot and his daughters. Violence is indicative of the sin in Sodom.

As Lot is told to escape for his life and run the mountains, Lot still does not see the seriousness of his situation and requests that he be able to go to Zoar.

The looking back of Lot's wife seems to be a regretful looking back (Luke 17: 32). She was guilty of disobedience and an example to every person who wants to "look back" to returning to sin and all it holds.

Lot's daughters were very much affected by the sins in Sodom. They tried to justify their sin to preserve their family lineage. But, there is never a good reason to sin -- Satan wants us to justify our sins.

Lot's life is a warning to us of how worldliness can affect us and our families. Think of the impression that the destruction of these cities would have made upon Abraham, Lot and everyone who knew about it. The Dead Sea and area around it is a testament of God's fury because of this sin.

Lesson 12

Explain to the children what "weaning" a child means.

Look up the places on a map where Abraham traveled: Negeb -- between Kadesh and Shur, Gerar
(*Look up the places on your map where Abraham went in every lesson.*)

Lesson 14

Point out that although Isaac did not understand he was willing to obey and submit to Abraham.

Point out that the angel of the Lord repeats the Nation and Seed promise to Abraham.

Lesson 15

Lesson 16

The Land, Nation and Seed promise are repeated in this lesson -- point this out to your students.

Explain what a "birthright" was, and why it was important that Esau despised his. Usually a double portion of what a father would leave for a man to inherit would be given to the firstborn, and he would then become the head of the family. Esau despised this and had no great regard for it. Heb. 12:16 - 17 are New Testament references about Esau.

Point out the lie of Isaac to Abimelech and that there is never a "good" reason to lie.

Explain how Esau's choice of wives would have been a grief to his parents. He chose wives who were not of God's people.

Lesson 17

Read Gen. 25: 23 -- this is what the Lord told Rebekah when her sons were born. Although God planned for the older son to serve the younger, this did not give Rebekah the right to take matters into her own hands. However, God accomplishes His will even when men do wrong.

Jacob and Esau are 77 years old in this story.

Gen. 32:10 tells us that Jacob went to Padan-aram with "only his staff". Evidently he left hurriedly without possessions, even though he received the birthright and blessing from his father Isaac.

Lesson 18

Explain what "ascending" and "descending" mean.

Point out to your students the names of Jacob's children and their significance. In them we see the longing of Leah to be loved and accepted, and the longing of Rachel for a child.

Lesson 19

Point out how God blessed Jacob even though his Father-in-law did not try to help him.

Lesson 20

Notice that when Jacob met Esau he placed his wives and children in the order of his affection.

Point out that God answered Jacob's prayer concerning Esau.

Jacob hid their idolatrous gods and earrings under the tree at Shechem. Earrings were employed in that day in idolatrous worship (Hos. 2:13; Isa. 3:20). He wanted his family to put away all things that would prevent them from serving the One God, and had learned his responsibility for the spiritual state of others in his family.

Point out that God does not forget His promises made to man. Read Gen. 28:20 -- this is the vow Jacob made to God. God called to Jacob's remembrance his vow (35:1) -- God kept His part of the vow.

Point out the Ephrath is called Bethlehem in the New Testament.

Note: the last few lessons of this material (21 - 23) are a little long. The reason? I was nearly through writing this when the quarters were cut short by four classes where I attend. Therefore, I had to shorten my material and cram more into the last few lessons. One using this material may want to lengthen the material and teach the life of Joseph in more detail and a few more lessons.

Lesson 21

Point out that Jacob is called "Israel" now -- both names may be used interchangeably.

Find a picture of a Sheaf.

When Potipher's wife wanted to sin with Joseph he said, "How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God." Point out that ALL SIN is against God. This sin would have been adultery.

In this lesson Joseph makes Jehovah known to Pharaoh. He told him concerning his dreams, "God will give you an answer" (41:16); "God has revealed" (41:25); "God has shown" (41:28); "the thing is fixed by God", "God will shortly bring it about" (41:32). Point out that Joseph wanted Pharaoh to know that all this was being done by God.

Convinced that God revealed it, Pharaoh asked, "Can we find a man in whom is the Spirit of God?", and told Joseph, "Since God has shown you . . ." -- and he put Joseph in charge.

30 -- the age of Joseph when he entered Pharaoh's service 41:46

17 -- minus The age of Joseph when he came to Egypt 37:2

13 years have passed in Egypt

Lesson 22

Be sure to point out the providence of God in Joseph's life. Explain, "God sent me before you to save a remnant in the earth to save your lives."-- in God's providence He used these bad things Joseph's brothers did for good. His brother's lives were saved during the famine, as well as all of Egypt.

Lesson 23

Point out the promise that Joseph's brethren kept for over 400 years to carry his bones out of Egypt -- and the fact that it was kept. This means his family had to have repeated this promise over and over to each generation, and they obeyed.