



In the Beginning...

A study of the “Seed Book of the Bible” for
personal use and in small groups

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In the Beginning

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Introduction (for Teachers)

These lessons are created to introduce someone to the good news of Jesus Christ. We believe that if we have the opportunity, we should start from the beginning and explain completely about God's wonderful plan of salvation. Our goal is to lead someone to true repentance and for them to surrender their life to Jesus Christ. We believe this goal can be fulfilled by slowly teaching them the truth from the beginning.

In these lessons, we want the people who study with us to know:

- 1. About the Bible.** We want them to know that the Bible is the Word of the one true God. We want them to know where the Bible came from. We want them to know the different parts of the Bible and how to find chapters and verses. Therefore, in lesson #1, we teach them about the Bible. The Bible is our authority. We do not teach our own ideas, but God's Word. Therefore, we can teach with authority. Because we want them to know the Bible, we read together from the Bible when we study. If we tell them one truth, we want to show them the verse in the Bible which tells us that truth. We want them to read it for themselves. If we tell them about a story in the Bible, we want them to read that story for themselves. Therefore, we open the Bible and ask them to read it with us. For new Christians or people who are not yet Christians, we want to tell them chapter, verse, and page in the Bible so they can find it easily. We wait for them to find that verse, then we start to read.
- 2. About God.** Most people do not understand clearly about the one true God. No one has ever taught them. When we speak about God, many people have a different idea in their mind. Therefore, we want to explain that there is only one true God and we want to explain about his character. This is very important. We want them to understand clearly about God's righteousness, justice, love, and power. Therefore, Lesson #2 explains about God. In every lesson, we want to ask, "What can we learn about God's character from this lesson?" In every lesson we want to exalt God, because when people understand that God is wonderful and has the ability to do anything, they will trust him with their life and follow him with all their heart. Therefore, we always want to exalt God in each lesson.
- 3. About Satan.** We want people to know about spirits and Satan. We want them to know where evil spirits came from and what they want to do. We want them to know that Satan is filled with evil and wants to destroy God's plan and his people. After we explain

about how the first man and woman sinned, we want to explain that now every person is born a slave of Satan, but when we repent God sets us free from Satan's power and gives us power to rule over him. We also want them to know that Satan does not have all power and all knowledge like God and will someday be judged in the Lake of Fire. Therefore, we always want to remind them that the sinful people in these stories follow Satan, and when people follow their own ideas, they're actually following Satan, God's enemy, and are therefore an enemy of God, too.

4. **About People.** We want the people who study with us to understand about the nature of people. We want them to understand that in the beginning, God created the first two people. People did not come from monkeys. We want them to know that the first two people had no sin. We want them to understand about God's love and goodness toward the first two people. We also want them to understand that the first two people, and all of their descendants rebelled against God and rejected his love. We want to explain clearly that every person commits sin because we have sin from birth. They must understand that people, including them, are born separated from God and are slaves to Satan. We must help them understand that man's nature is filled with sin and he cannot do one thing to cause God to accept him. Therefore, in every lesson and in the many stories we will study we will show them that man is full of sin and always rebels against God. We want them to know that they are a sinner, too, just like the people in these true stories. In these stories, we want to compare God's goodness and grace to man's sinfulness.
5. **About Sin.** In these lessons we want them to know that each person commits sin. Some sins are small, and some are big, but only one sin proves that we are a sinner. God will judge us for even one small sin. We also want to explain that all people have sin from birth. Therefore, we are separated from God from birth. From birth we have no hope. We want them to know and believe that even religious people have sin and will be judged because of their sin. We also want to explain that when we sin, we sin against people and God. We want to explain that sin is very evil, and no one has power to rule over their sinful nature. We want to explain that sin grows. Every person has the potential to commit very bad sins. We want the people who study with us to agree that they are a sinner and separated from God. We want them to agree with God that their sin is very evil and they will never enter God's presence or live with him because they have sin. We want them to clearly understand that no person has hope of a relationship with God because of their sin. Therefore, in every lesson we want to show that sinful actions always brings a bad result and separated people. In every story we want people to see that sin is bad.
6. **About Judgment.** We want the people who study with us to know that God will judge every sin and every sinful action. We want them to know that the result of sin is death: First our body dies and our spirit goes to Hades. Then we will all stand before the throne of God to be judged for the actions we committed in our body. After that, our spirit will be put into the Lake of Fire. We want people to know that God is just and will judge us according to his justice. God always does what is right. We know that God always fulfills his word, therefore, he will judge people according to his promise to do so.

7. **About God's Promise.** We want people to know that even though God hates sin, he loves sinners and God provides one way to escape the punishment for sin. God promised that if the sinner will offer the sacrifice of a sheep, the sheep will receive the sinner's judgment. This was God's only plan for forgiveness: We receive life because someone dies. When blood flows, God will give forgiveness. But we want people to know that God had another plan: To eventually become a man and enter this world and become the final sacrifice for sins. We call this person the Savior. If the person doesn't already know about Jesus Christ, we don't call the Savior Jesus, we only call him "Savior." Eventually, we'll explain who the savior is and that he has already come into the world. We want people to clearly understand that this is God's only way to receive forgiveness: Blood must flow. Therefore, in every lesson we talk about the savior and God's only plan for salvation. We also show in the stories that people always try to create their own ways to God, but God does not accept their ways. We always tell them that there is only one way to God: Trust in the savior and the blood that flows. We want to show them in these stories that God gave many promises about the savior before he was born. He told the prophets about the life, actions, death, and resurrection to show what person really is the only savior sent by God.

8. **About God's Plan.** In the beginning God revealed his plan to the first man and woman. God continued to reveal his plan to people who were born. God's plan at that time is still plan for today:
 - A. **Relationship.** God's plan is for all people to have a relationship with him and good relationships with other people.

 - B. **Represent.** God wants the people of the earth to represent him. He wants them to live a righteous life and be his ambassadors on this earth. This means we live according to his Word.

 - C. **Rule.** God's plan is for people to rule over their nature, rather than their nature rule of them. He also wants people to rule over this earth and over Satan and evil spirits. God gives his people the power to rule.

 - D. **Reproduce.** After we hear about the one true God, repent and follow him, God wants us to tell other people about his good news and help them to follow him, too.

Therefore, we always remind people about God's plan and tell them this is why God created people and this is why they are alive: To help God fulfill his plan. If we want to have a relationship with God we must repent. We must believe the good news about the one true God and the savior, and trust him to save us.

9. **About Faith.** We want them to know that every person receives forgiveness by faith, not by their good works. All the people in these stories were saved by faith. They believed

the word of God and they trusted in the blood of the sacrifice. We want to explain that if we really believe, then we will change our actions because we want to show our love to God. Therefore, in every lesson we want to show the people that these people who repented were saved by their faith and because they trusted God, not their own actions or ability.

10. **About Repentance.** We must always show that if a person wants relationship with God - if they want to be cleansed from their sin, they must repent. They must change how they think about God, themselves and this life. When we change our thinking, we will change our actions. This is repentance: Changing our thinking about God, ourselves, and this life and then changing our action. Therefore, we show from these stories that the people who had a relationship with God repented from their sin from birth and sinful actions. They turned away from everything that God calls sin and followed God 100%.
11. **About Jesus Christ.** When we start teaching about Jesus Christ, we want to show them that Jesus Christ is different from all people. We want to show them that Jesus Christ is the one true God who came to live as a man. Therefore, he is the only person who does not have sin. We want to explain clearly about the death of Jesus and that his death created the only bridge to God. We want to explain that Jesus' death is the final sacrifice for sins, and not it's not necessary to offer sacrifices any more. We want them to love Jesus because of his what he has done and surrender all of their life to him.

These are the goals of these lessons. When we teach, we want to include these things in the lesson. When we prepare for these lessons, we want to ask ourselves:

What does this story teach about:

1. God
2. Satan
3. People
4. Sin
5. Judgment
6. God's Promise
7. God's Plan
8. Faith
9. Repentance
10. Jesus Christ

Introducing the Bible

There is one book in the world which is more popular than any other book. More of these books have been sold than any other book in history. This book has been read by kings, president, religious leaders, teachers, and poor people for many years. It has been translated into many different languages. This book has changed the future of nations and the lives of many people. The book that I'm talking about is the Bible.

The Bible is the One, True Book of God's Word

The Bible is a book about history. It tells us about the history of the world. But it tells us about how the one true God has revealed himself to people. The Bible reveals God's plan for this world. It also reveals God's plan for your life. This is what the Bible says about itself:

You have known the words of the Bible since you were a child. The words of the Bible can make you wise, and that wisdom leads you to salvation through Jesus Christ. All of the words of the Bible have been given to us by God and are useful for teaching and showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting sinful actions and teaching them how to live right. If you read, believe, and obey the words of the Bible you will be a servant of God who will be ready and will have everything you need to do everything God commands you to do.

2 Timothy 3:15-17

God Spoke to the People of the Earth

In the beginning God spoke to the people of the earth. He wanted the people of the earth to know him and to know about his plan, so God revealed himself to men called prophets.

You must understand this: No prophecy in the Bible is ever the idea of the prophet. No prophecy in the Bible is man's idea. The prophets wrote and spoke what God told them to write and speak.

2 Peter 1:20-21

Sometimes the prophets would hear God's voice come from the sky. Sometimes God

spoke to them through dreams. Sometimes he would send an angel to speak to them. Sometimes he would put a thought in their minds (Matthew 3:16-17; Acts 2:17, 37; Luke 1:26-35). When God spoke to them they wrote down exactly what God told them to write down. No other book has ever been written like this - with God telling men exactly what to say.

These men came from the country of Israel. They were Jews. They spoke and wrote the Hebrew and Greek language. God revealed his plan for the world to the people of Israel. He wanted them to tell the people of the world about himself and his plan. Forty different men wrote the words of the Bible. The Bible was not written at one time. It took 1,600 years for these men to write the words of God. As God continued to reveal his plan to mankind the prophets would write it down.

Some Jewish men left their country and began telling the people of different countries about the one true God and his plan for the world. Eventually, people translated the Bible into their own language. Many people who have heard God's good news have left their city and country to tell other people in the world about the one true God and his wonderful plan.

The Bible is One Book With Many Small Books Inside It

The Bible is one big book, but it has two parts. The first part is called **The Old Testament**. The Old Testament tells us about the creation of this earth, the first people who lived on earth, where evil spirits came from and where sin came from. It tells us about God's wonderful promise for the people of this earth. The Old Testament is about the history of the people of Israel. God wants us to know about their history. We can learn about God, his character, and how to obey him when we read the stories from the Old Testament. (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:6) The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. There are 39 smaller books in the Old Testament. Each book has a name and has chapters and verses so we can find things easier.

The second part of the Bible is called **The New Testament**. The New Testament is about the birth and life of the Savior sent by God. It also tells about the lives of his disciples. The disciples of Jesus wrote many letters to other disciples to tell them more about God's wonderful plan. Those letters are in the New Testament. The New Testament has 27 smaller books. Like the Old Testament, the books in the New Testament have names and chapters and verses.

When a teacher wants you to read in the Bible with him, he will say something like, "Turn to John 3:16." This means turn to the book called "John", chapter three, verse sixteen.

The Bible is the Message of the One True God to You

God loves you very much. He has a wonderful plan for your life. He wants you to know about him and have a relationship with him. No other book in the world can tell you about God and how to have a relationship with him. The Bible is God's letter to you. In the next few lessons we're going to study about God's wonderful plan in the Bible.

Some Questions:

1. God chose men to write down his words. What are these men called?
2. How many years passed before all of God's word was written down?
3. How many men did God use to write down his words?
4. What nationality were these men?
5. Did they write God's word in English?
6. Who is the author of the Bible?
7. Why should a person read and study the Bible?

What the Bible Says About Itself:

Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119:11; Psalm 119:105

Understanding About God

There is one true God. There are not many gods. Some people have created gods in their own mind but they are not real. They have created idols to worship, but their idols are not alive.¹ The one true God wants us to know about him and to know him. God has revealed himself in the Bible. No other book can tell us about God. In this lesson we're going to learn about God's character. The Bible tells us about God's character.

God is Eternal

In the beginning the one true God created the sky and the earth. Genesis 1:1

These are the very first words in the Bible. God gave us these words so that we would know there was a beginning of all things. Everything we can see with our eyes and everything we know about but cannot see with our eyes had a beginning. Everything had a beginning except God.

Before the beginning there was no sun, moon, or stars. There was no earth, angels, spirits. Before the beginning there was no trees, animals, mountains or rivers. Before the beginning there were no people. All of these things had a beginning. God had no beginning and he will have no end. God lived before the beginning, he lives now, and he will live forever.

Before the mountains were created; before you created the earth and the people, you were God. You have always lived and you always will live. Psalm 90:2

God was never born and he will never die. People have a birth. They have a beginning. People die. God is not like people. God is very different from people.

God

God had no beginning
God will have no end

People

People are born
People will die

¹ Psalm 115:2-8; Isaiah 40:18; Isaiah 42:8; Isaiah 43:10-11; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 46:18

God Has Revealed Himself as Three Persons

There is only one true God, but God has revealed himself as three persons:

And God said, "Let us make people like us." Genesis 1:26

God and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:10

There are some things in life which are difficult to understand. Even though we don't understand them we believe in them. God is very different from people. There are some things about God which we don't understand. Even though we don't understand everything about God, we still believe in him. The Bible teaches us that there is one true God, but he has revealed himself as three persons.

God Doesn't Need Anything or Anyone

Because God lived before all things we know that he didn't need anything. God doesn't need the sun to make him warm or help him see. He doesn't need air, food or water. God doesn't need anyone to teach him.

God has life in himself. Therefore, he has allowed the Son to give life, too. John 5:26

Our Lord is great and very powerful. God's understanding and knowledge does not have and end. Psalm 147:5

People are not like God. Small children need parents. We need someone to teach us. Our bodies need food, water, and rest. We need someone to protect us. But God is very different from people. God doesn't need anything or anyone.

God

God had no beginning

God will have no end

God is three persons

God doesn't need anything

God knows everything

People

People are born

People will die

People are one person

People need food, water, air, rest, light and protection

People need a teacher

God is Spirit

God is a person. He thinks, has emotions, makes decisions, can create a plan and fulfill it, but he does not have a body. The Bible teaches that God is spirit.² No man has ever seen God, but from time to time he has chosen to reveal himself. At times God creates a body for himself and appears as a person to communicate with people.³ **Genesis 18:1; 26:2; 35:9.** God does not have hands, feet, eyes or mouth, but the Bible speaks about the hand of God, the eyes of God, and the mouth of God. God speaks like this to help us understand him more clearly. He speaks to us in a way in which we can understand. When people create images of God they create images according to their own thinking, but no one knows what God looks like, because he is spirit.

God is in Every Place at the Same Time

Because God is spirit he is not limited to one place. **Psalm 139:7-12.** God can be in every place at one time. God's presence fills the universe, but he can also reveal himself in one place. Although God is not light, he is similar to light. Light fills the sky. The characteristics of light are the same if it is high in the sky or near the earth. Light can also be magnified by using a glass. It appears in concentrated form as a bright spot. While it is a bright spot on the earth it still fills the sky. The light doesn't disappear from the sky and become the bright spot, it is in both places at once. It has the same characteristics when it fills the sky as when it is the bright, concentrated spot on the earth. From time to time in the past God has revealed himself as a person. His presence fills a human body at the same time continues to fill the universe.

Because God is in all places at the same time, that means he is with you every place you go. It means that he can hear your prayers at any time of the day and in any place you go. That's why he says he will never leave you or forsake you.

Even though God fills the universe, He has chosen to call heaven His home.⁴

God Knows Everything

God does not need a teacher. He doesn't need to study at a school. He knows everything about everything. He knows everything you think and everything you do. He knows what happened to you before and what will happen to you in the future. God is different from people. People know some, but God knows everything.

² John 1:18; 4:24; 1 Timothy 6:16

³ John 1:18; Colossians 1:15

⁴ 1 Kings 8:30; Luke 11:2; Acts 7:79

Remember this and don't forget it. Think about these things you people who reject God. Remember what happened many years before. I am God and there is no other God. I am God and there is no one like me. From the beginning I told you what would happen in the end. Many years before I told you what would happen in the future. I do the things I want to do.

Isaiah 46:8-10

God is Holy

God is separate from and high above everything He created, evil, and sin. God can never do evil. His nature is good. He can never do wrong. God has no sin and He cannot have a relationship with anybody who has sin.

There is no one holy like You. There is no other God lie You. 1 Samuel 2:2

Although some people have some good actions, they also have sinful actions. People are not like God. God doesn't have any sinful actions, He is holy.⁵

God is Full of Love

When you love someone you want to have good actions toward them and care for them. God wants to bless and care for the people the earth because He is full of love.⁶

God is the Highest Ruler

Because God is the Creator of all things He is greater than all things. Because He is the Creator He is the highest ruler. Everything must obey the words of God. The sun, the stars, the wind, and the rain all obey the word of God. All people - rulers on the earth and poor people, too, must obey the word of God.

Because God is the Creator and He knows everything, He makes all the laws. God makes good laws. God makes laws to help the people of the earth because He loves them. All people must obey God's good laws.

God is Just

God always does the right thing. Sometimes we don't understand God's actions. That's

⁵ Exodus 15:11; 1 Samuel 6:20; Psalm 99:9; Revelation 15:4

⁶ John 3:16; 1 John 5:8

because we're different from God. God will always choose the right action. He never makes a mistake.

God is just. If someone disobeys His laws he will punish them. This is justice.

He is like a rock. All of His actions are perfect and all of His ways are just. God is faithful and will not do wrong. He is right and just. Deuteronomy 32:4

Sometimes people do not make the right decision. Sometimes they are corrupt. Sometimes they allow evil people to continue to do evil and they don't punish them. But God is just. God will punish those who disobey His law.

God is much different from people. He is much greater than people. Let's compare God and people:

God

God had no beginning.

God will have no end.

God is three persons.

God doesn't need anything.

God knows everything.

God is spirit.

God is in all places at the same time.

God is holy.

God is full of love.

God is the ruler.

God is just.

People

People are born.

People will die.

People are one person.

People need food, water, air, rest, light, and protection.

People need a teacher.

People have a body.

People can only be in one place.

People have sinful actions.

People hurt one another and hate.

People must obey God.

People are corrupt.

Some Questions:

1. Was there ever a time when God was not living?
2. What does God need to exist?
3. Does God have a body?
4. In what three ways has God revealed Himself?
5. Is there some place where God cannot go?
6. Does God ever sin?
7. Is there someone whom God does not love?
8. Will God allow people who disobey His law to continue to disobey Him?
9. Why must people obey God?

Understanding About Spirits

In the beginning God created all of the spirits. Before the beginning no spirit was alive - only God was before the beginning. God gave them life. God is greater than all spirits.

All things were made by God. Nothing was made without Him.

John 1:3

Through His power all things have been made - things in heaven and things on earth. Things which we can see and things we cannot see.

Colossians 1:16

God did not give the spirit bodies when he created them. Because they don't have bodies they can go where they want to go, but the spirits cannot be in every place at one time. The spirits can only be in one place at one time. Even though the spirits don't have bodies, sometimes they show themselves to people.¹

An angel from the Lord stood in front of them...the angel said to them...

Luke 2:9-12

In the beginning all spirits were angels. Because God created them they belonged to Him. They were His servants and did what He wanted them to do.

Praise the Lord, all you angels. You are mighty! You do what God wants and obey His word.

Psalms 103:20

All angels are spirits who serve God.

Hebrews 1:14

God created all the spirits perfect. They were all good and had no sin. Everything God creates is perfect, good and holy. The spirits have great wisdom and strength. Angels are stronger than people and they can do wonderful things, but they do not have all power like God.

¹ Genesis 3:24; 19:1

Only God has all power. God is stronger and wiser than angels.

The spirits are innumerable.² In the beginning all the spirits lived in heaven with God. God created one angel to lead the other angels. His name was Satan. At that time Satan was perfect and without sin. He was very clever and beautiful.

Satan wanted to rule in heaven. He wanted to rule over God. He rebelled against God.³ Satan was the first one to commit sin. He choose to follow his own plan rather than God's plan. Many of God's angels choose to follow Satan. They rebelled against God, too.⁴

The nature of these angels changed. They became evil. They hated God and tried to stop God's plan on the earth. God commanded Satan and the evil spirits to leave heaven because God cannot live with sin. He cannot live with people who commit sin or have sinful natures. God commanded them to live on the earth.⁵ God prepared the Lake of Fire to punish Satan and his followers.⁶ God always punishes people who commit sin. One day in the future God will put Satan and the evil spirits in the Lake of Fire to be punished forever.

God has said that you will be punished. Go into the fire that burns forever. That fire was prepared for Satan and his evil spirits.

Matthew 25:41

What the Bible Teaches About Satan and Evil Spirits

1. Satan is the enemy of all people.....1 Peter 5:8
2. Satan wants to kill, steal, and destroy John 10:10
3. Satan is a liar and wants to deceive people..... John 8:44
4. Satan accuses the people of God.....Revelation 12:10
5. Satan and evil spirits tempt people to sin..... Luke 4:1-13
6. Satan and evil spirits want to fill people's hearts and livesActs 5:3

² Revelation 5:1

³ Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19

⁴ Matthew 25:41; Luke 8:30; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:4

⁵ Job 1:7; 2:2

⁶ Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10

7. Evil spirits want to control people and live in their body Matthew 8:28-34
8. Evil spirits can cause people to become deaf..... Matthew 9:32-33
9. Evil spirits can cause people to become blindMatthew 12:22
10. Satan and evil spirits can cause people to become sickLuke 13:11
11. Satan is called the Prince of this World John 12:31
12. Satan is called the Prince of Evil SpiritsMatthew 12:24
13. Some day in the future Satan will be put into the Lake of Fire.....Revelation 20:10
14. Satan and evil spirits will be judged Matthew 25:41; Jude 1:6
15. Evil spirits are not the spirits of ancestors or people who have diedHebrews 9:27

Some Questions:

1. Who is the only one who lived before the beginning?
2. Where did the spirits come from?
3. Do the spirits have bodies?
4. Did God create all the spirits good, or did he create some evil?
5. Why did God create the spirits?
6. In the beginning where did the spirits live?
7. Who is the leader of the spirits?
8. How did Satan sin?
9. What did God do after Satan and the other spirits sinned?
10. What place did God prepare to punish Satan and the evil spirits?
11. Does Satan love God?
12. Does Satan love people?
13. What do Satan and evil spirits want to do to God's plan?
14. What do Satan and evil spirits want to do to people?
15. Are evil spirits the spirits of people who have died?

The Creation of All Things

Have you ever wondered where everything came from? Where did the earth come from? Where did the stars come from? The sun and the moon? Where did the plants and animals come from? Where did people come from? God wants us to know about these things, therefore, in the Bible He tells us about the creation of all things.

God Created Everything

The Bible says:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

God created everything in the beginning. Before the beginning there was no one or nothing except God. God created everything from nothing.

By faith we understand that the universe was created by God's command, so that what we see was made from what we don't see.
Hebrews 11:3

God is greater than anyone and everything. Nothing is too difficult for Him. Because He is the Creator of all things, He is greater than all things, the ruler of all things, and more powerful than all things. Angels are not stronger than God. Satan is not stronger than God. Evil spirits are not stronger than God. No one is stronger than God. Only God has all power.

God Knows Everything

People have to learn how to do what we want to do. We are not born with knowledge or understanding. We must go to school to learn. Some people study all their life, but there are still many things they don't know. God knows everything. People need a teacher, but God doesn't need a teacher. Only God knows and completely understands everything.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and His paths are beyond tracing out!

Romans 11:33

God Created the Earth

In the beginning the earth had no shape and it was completely empty. It was covered by darkness and water. At that time there was no dry land, no trees, no fish, no animals and no people. At that time there was no sun, moon, or stars.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Genesis 1:2

God is the source of all life. The Spirit of God created the energy to create everything. Everything in the universe was created through the power of God's Holy Spirit. No one gave God the power. He had the power in Himself.¹

The First Day of Creation

The Bible says that God created all that there is in six days. First, God created light.² God did not create the sun, but He allowed the light of His glory to fill the universe. God spoke and created the light. God said the light was good. Everything God created was good because God is good. Everything God created was perfect because God is perfect. God is holy. God divided the light from the darkness and called the light "day" and the darkness "night." This was the first day of this world.

The Second Day of Creation

On the second day of creation God created the sky around the earth.³ Below the sky was the earth covered by water and above the sky was water vapor. The water vapor would protect the earth and make it comfortable. God wanted the earth to be comfortable because He was going to create people, and God wanted the people to be comfortable. God created air to breathe.

¹ Isaiah 40:12-14

² Genesis 1:3-5

³ Genesis 1:6-8

God doesn't need a comfortable place to live and He doesn't need air to breathe. God was preparing the earth for people.

The Third Day of Creation

On the third day of creation God created the dry land, the oceans, and all the plants.⁴ God created the plants with the ability to produce seeds which would produce more plants just like the first ones. A banana tree produces more bananas. It doesn't produce water melons. A coconut tree produces more coconut trees, it doesn't produce bananas. In the beginning God made the plants according to their kinds.

There are many different kinds of flowers, fruits, vegetables, and other plants. They are very beautiful. Why did God create so many different kinds of plants? Did God need them? No. God doesn't need anything. God made the plants and trees for mankind, which He was going to create. God gave us the plants for food, to give oxygen to breathe, to provide wood for burning and building homes and to help us live comfortably on this earth. God gives us the plants to show His love for people. God made the earth beautiful because He wanted to show His love for people. At that time God created everything perfect. There was no bad plants, no sickness in the plants, and no poison.

The Fourth Day of Creation

The same God who created the tiny seed also created the huge universe.⁵ God spoke and the sun, moon, and stars were created. It's difficult for us to think about how big the universe is. At night, look at the stars and think about how far away they are. God created them all. God's presence is far away, with those stars, and here with us, too. Scientists study God's creation, but they cannot explain it. They cannot tell us where the stars come from. They think they know, but this is only their idea. God tells us where all things come from - He created them all in the beginning! God is good. He is holy. He is perfect. He knows everything. Nothing is too difficult for Him!

The Fifth Day of Creation

On the fifth day of creation God created the animals in the sea and the birds.⁶ Think about

⁴ Genesis 1:9-13; Psalm 95:5

⁵ Genesis 1:14-19

⁶ Genesis 1:20-23; Psalm 104:24-30

all the different kinds of animals on the earth. God made them all. They are different shapes, different sizes, and different colors. God did not make them for Himself. He created them for people. People cannot create anything, but God created everything by His power.

The Sixth Day of Creation

On the sixth day of creation God created all the animals which live on dry land.⁷ God created animals with the ability to produce more animals just like themselves. Monkeys have baby monkeys. Horses have baby horses. Fish have baby fish. Monkeys do not have fish. Fish do not have mosquitos. Some scientists tell us that people came from monkeys, monkeys came from fish, and fish came from some small thing which we cannot see. We have to have a lot of faith to believe that, because each person knows that people do not come from monkeys and monkeys do not come from fish. This is the idea which comes from people who do not believe in the one true God. They believe in their own ideas. They cannot prove their ideas. But God tells us the truth. In the beginning God created monkeys to have more monkeys, fish to have more fish, and mosquitos to have more mosquitos.

God created all the animals for people. He gave them to us so we can have a comfortable life on this earth. God loves you very much. He wants you to have a good life. God is good. He is perfect. Every day we see the wonderful things God has created for us.

Some Questions:

1. In the beginning, who created the sky and the earth?
2. Who taught God how to create everything?
3. Is there any person or angel which knows everything like God?
4. Can any person or angel create anything?
5. How did God create everything?
6. How many days did it take for God to create everything?
7. Why did God create everything on this earth?
8. In the beginning was there any sickness or bad plants or animals on the earth?
9. What do some scientists tell us about where people come from? Is this true?
10. When we look at everything God has created, what can we know about God?

⁷ Genesis 1:24-25

The Creation of People

God is the Creator of everything. He created the earth, water, wind, food, but He doesn't need the earth, water the wind or food. God prepared the earth for people. He created everything because he loves people. God created the earth perfect for the people that He planned to create.

God Created People to Represent Him

We will create people as our representative and with our character.

Genesis 1:26

What does it mean when God tells us that He created people as His representative? We know that God doesn't have a body and because He doesn't have a body He is spirit. God created people as soul and spirit. As our body, it's the house for our soul and spirit. Our soul and spirit is like God - it can think, have emotions and has the ability to make a plan, too.

- 1. People have the ability to think and they have a brain.** God has given us the ability to think to understand and speak to God. All animals are different from people. They have brains but they cannot have a relationship with God. God created only people to understand and speak with Him. God gave people wisdom and the ability to be clever. But even though people have much wisdom, they do not have knowledge like God. They do not understand everything.
- 2. People have emotions.** They can be happy, sad, and be afraid. God gave us emotions. He has emotions, too. He loves, hates, is sad when he sees people commit sins and He is angry with evil actions. He gave people emotions to love each other and have joy in this life.
- 3. People can create a plan like God.** People can chose, prepare a plan from day to day. They can choose what they want to eat, the place they want to go and do what they want to do. God created us with the ability to do what we want to do. He wants people to choose to love and obey Him.

God created people to be His representative on this earth. He gave us the ability to have knowledge, emotions and make a plan for our life, so we can fulfill His plan on this earth according to how He wants them to fulfill that plan.

God Created the First Person

*God created people as His representative. He created them to have a character like Him.
God created people as men and women.*

Genesis 1:27

God took the earth and created a body, and He breathed the breath of life into the nostrils and the body had life.

Genesis 2:7

God gave the first man the name “Adam” which means “Man.” But after God created the body of the man he didn’t have life yet. The one true God which gives life, gave life to Adam when he breathed into his nose His breath. God breathed the soul and spirit of life into Adam and Adam became a living being. Only God can give life. He has given life to everything that has life. When Adam received life he was holy, he had no sin, no sickness, would not die and did not suffer. At that time everything was perfect.

God created the man from the dirt. As for every person that is born from their mother and father, Adam is their ancestor. He is the ancestor of every person in every country, nationality, language and every color of skin. Adam is my ancestor and you ancestor, too. Every person came from this man.

God Gave Adam All Authority Over the Earth

Adam was the representative of God on this earth. God wanted Adam to care for this earth. God has all power and He gave power and authority to Adam over everything that had life on this earth. Everything on the earth was to obey Adam. Angels receive power from God. Every evil spirit receives power from Satan. But God has all power and He gave this authority to Adam.

God is the person who created everything. He is the Lord of everything. Everything must obey Him. God can give His authority to everyone He wants to give authority to. God gave honor to Adam and every person. People have a rank higher than animals. People are created like God and are His representatives on this earth.

God is more wonderful than everything. He has all power. He is the only one who created everything. This is why He is Lord over everything. He created the first person from dirt. He created Adam like Himself. He can think and know God; he can have emotions and love for God; He can create a plan for his life and can choose to obey God. Adam is the first man and is the ancestor of all people. God gave Adam authority and power over everything and wanted him to care for the earth.

Some Questions:

1. Who did God prepare the earth for?

2. How are people and animals different?
3. What does it mean when we say that people are created like God?
4. In the beginning, how many men did God create?
5. Who is your first ancestor?
6. How did God create Adam?
7. What did God give Adam authority to rule over?
8. Did Adam have sin from the beginning?
9. When did Adam receive life?

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:4-7

The Creation of People

God's Purpose of People

God created people to become is representative on the earth. This is God's purpose: For people to represent him.

- A. **On this earth God wants us to represent his character.** He wants all people to have a character like him. We will never become perfect and we will never become God, but God has given us the ability through his Holy Spirit to live a righteous life. When we live a righteous life we represent God on this earth.
Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 2 Peter 1:4
- B. **God wants us to do on this earth what he would do if he were here.** By his Holy Spirit, he wants to live his life through us.
John 14:12; 20:21; Acts 1:8
- C. **God wants us to represent him in every word and every action.** This is God's plan for every person, not just special people. God wants us to live according to his Word. This is why we read the Bible, so we know what God wants us to do and how he wants us to live on this earth.

God's purpose is also for us to have power and rule (Genesis 1:26). God wants us to rule over this earth, rule over Satan, and rule over our own sinful nature (Romans 5:17). We need God's help to rule in this life and to rule over Satan and our own sinful nature. God gives us strength as we fellowship with him every day (Ephesians 6:10). We fellowship with God when we pray, when we read the Bible, and when we think about God. When we do these things he gives us power to reign in this life.

- A. **We have power over Satan when we obey God.** Satan will tempt us to live according to our own ideas or the ideas of people. When we choose to live according to God's Word, we have power over Satan. Also, God gives's Christians authority to command Satan and evil spirits to stop their sinful actions.
- B. **We have power over our sinful nature** when we choose to obey God, when we think about the truth and speak the truth.

God also wants us to fill the earth with people who love and obey God (Genesis 1:28). How do we do this?

- A. **God wants us to teach our children** about him and help them have a relationship with him.
- B. **God wants us to tell other people about the Good News** so they can repent and follow God. Then they can become God's representatives on this earth, too.

God also wants us to have a relationship with him (1 John 1:1-4). He wants to become our Father who cares for us and teaches us the right way. He created the first man and woman with a nature like his so he can fellowship with them.

This is God's plan for the people of the earth

- A. Have a relationship with him.
- B. Become his representative on this earth.
- C. Rule over the earth, Satan and their nature.
- D. Fill the earth with people who know and obey God.

This was God's plan for the first man and woman and for all people in every country and every nationality. God wants us to live on this earth every day and grow in our relationship with him; represent his character in every word and every action; rule over Satan and our nature by obeying God; teach our children and other people about the one true God and help them repent and turn to God.

God Created People With Spirit, Soul, and Body

When God created Adam, Adam didn't have sin. He loved God and obeyed God. God created the first man from the dust and God gave him his life. When Adam's body received God's life, he began to live. (Genesis 2:4-7)

God created Adam with a spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:13). The body cannot live without the spirit. When our spirit leaves our body, our body dies. This is death: When our spirit leaves our body. The spirit and soul of a person are similar.

- A. **People have a body.** Our body needs food, water, air, and rest. Our spirit doesn't need food, water, air, and rest. We can see our body, but we cannot see our spirit. Our body is the house of our spirit (2 Corinthians 5:1). When this house dies (our body) God will give Christians a new body. Our new body will be different from our old body. God wants our body to obey our spirit. Sometimes our body is tired, but our spirit wants our body to read the Bible. Sometimes our body is hungry, but our spirit chooses to fast and pray. Most people live according to the desires of their body. For most people, their

body rules over their spirit, but God wants our spirit to rule over our body.

- B. People have a soul.** The soul is similar to our spirit. With our soul we can think, we can choose, and we can make a plan. With our soul we have feelings. When we are sad, it's our soul which is sad. When we are angry, it's our soul that is angry. When we want to commit sin, it's our soul that wants to commit sin. God wants our spirit to rule over our soul and body.
- C. People have a spirit.** Our spirit is the life we receive from God. When God created Adam his spirit was pure. His spirit ruled over his body and soul. Adam's spirit, soul, and body had fellowship with God. Our spirit knows clearly about God. Our spirit knows clearly about God's Law. Our spirit needs food, but not like our body needs food. Our spirit needs spiritual food. If our body doesn't receive food, it will die. If our spirit doesn't receive food it will become weak and eventually die. Our spirit received spiritual food when we pray, when we read the Bible, when we have fellowship with God. If we don't do these things our spirit will become weak and our body and soul will rule over our spirit. God speaks to our spirit by his Holy Spirit. Our spirit hears God's voice and wants to obey him, but our soul and body must obey our spirit.

When God first created Adam, he created him with a spirit, soul, and body. His spirit had fellowship with God and his soul and body obeyed the desires of his spirit to love and worship God.

In the beginning God created Adam perfect. Adam loved and obeyed God. But now people are different. Most people don't love and obey the one true God. No person is holy and without sin. In a few lessons more, we will study from the Bible why people are different now.

The Garden in Eden

God is greater than everything and more important than everything. He is the highest authority. God is faithful. He always does what he says he will do. He never changes.

In the beginning God created the sky and the earth in six days. God finished what he planned to do (Genesis 2:1). Sometimes people change their minds and their plans, but God never changes his mind about anything he wants to do. Nothing and no one can stop God from doing what he wants to do. No human can stop God. Satan cannot stop God. God is greater than all people and all spirits. He always does what he plans to do. Therefore, when God promises to do something we can trust him to fulfill his promise.

The Garden in Eden

When God first created everything he did not create rain yet. Instead, he gave water to the earth by rivers, lakes, seas, and mist that came up from the earth (Genesis 2:4-6). God planted a garden in place called Eden (Genesis 2:7-8). He created a beautiful garden for Adam because he loved him. In the garden Adam had everything he needed to be strong, healthy, and happy. There was no sin in the garden. There was no sickness in the garden. Every thing was beautiful and good.

God put Adam in the garden. God didn't ask Adam to live there, he told him to live there. Why could God do this? Because God created Adam, therefore he had authority to command Adam and tell him what to do. God created people to fulfill his purpose on the earth, not fulfill their purpose. God is the owner of people. He gives them life. Therefore, God can tell people what to do. God told Adam to take care of the garden (Genesis 2:15), but Adam didn't need to work hard because everything was perfect. There were not weeds and bad plants. Animals did not kill people or other animals. There was no disease. Everything was beautiful and perfect.

The Trees in the Midst of the Garden

God planted two very important trees in the midst of the garden: the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:9). The Tree of Life gave Adam eternal life. The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil gave Adam a knowledge of sin. Adam was created perfect - without sin, but he depended on God. God wanted to teach Adam about sin, but he did

not want Adam to commit sin. God told Adam what was good and righteous and what was sinful and evil. God taught Adam about his life. He did not want Adam to decide what was right and wrong. God wanted to teach Adam what was right and wrong and he wanted Adam to live according to his word. God told Adam he could eat the fruit from the Tree of Life, but he must not eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:16-17).

There were many kinds of trees in the garden. Adam could eat many different kinds of fruit. He had everything he wanted. God only gave him this one command: “Don’t eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.” This was easy. Adam only had to obey one command. God wanted to give Adam a good life. He had everything he needed in the garden.

Adam Could Choose to Obey or Disobey God

God knew what was best for Adam. Adam didn’t know the right way. He needed God to show him the right way. God loved Adam and had a wonderful plan for his life on this earth, but Adam had to choose to obey or disobey God. If he chose to obey God he could eat from the Tree of Life and live forever in righteousness. But if Adam disobeyed God and ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil he would commit sin. If Adam ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, he would choose to live independent from God. He would choose to follow his own plan rather than God’s plan. This is sin: When people choose to follow their own plan rather than God’s plan.

The Result of Sin

God warned Adam: “If you eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil you will die, immediately.” (Genesis 2:17) What is death?

- 1. Death is when we are separated from God.** Our relationship with God is broken. Our spirit cannot fellowship with God because of sin. This is spiritual death. (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15)
- 2. Death is when our spirit is separated from our body.** Someday our body will die, but our spirit will continue to live in heaven with God or in the Lake of Fire with Satan. When our body dies, our spirit leaves our body and waits to be judged by God. (James 2:26)

When God said Adam would die if he ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil meant that he would be separated from God. He meant that his spirit would be filled with sin and his soul and body would rule over his spirit. He meant that his spiritual relationship with God would die and eventually he body would die, too.

Conclusion

God is greater than all and more important than all. God has more knowledge than any

person. He knows what is right and what is wrong. God knows how people will be happy. He knows the right way for them to go and what is best for them. God wants people to obey him so they can have a good life. Adam belongs to God. All people belong to God because he gives them life. God has given us the Bible so we can know him and obey him.

Some Questions:

1. Does God ever begin something and not finish it?
2. Does God ever change?
3. In the beginning how did the earth receive water?
4. Why did God plant a garden in Eden?
5. Why is it right for God to put Adam in the garden even though God didn't ask him if he wanted to live there?
6. To whom does all things, spirits, and people belong?
7. What one command did God give Adam?
8. What were the two trees in the midst of the garden?
9. What did God say would happen if Adam ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil?
10. What is death?
11. If we want to live a good and happy life, what must we do?

Sin Enters the World

We have seen that in the beginning God created a perfect world. God created the first man and woman perfect. They didn't have sin and they loved and obeyed the one true god. God put Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. In the garden they had everything they needed. God only gave them one command - don't eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil which is in the middle of the garden. As long as they obeyed God they would have a good life and a good future. God created the first man and woman - in fact he created all people to love, obey and serve him and work together with him to fulfill his plan on this earth.

Adam and Eve had an easy life. They wanted to help God fulfill his plan on this earth. But Satan had a plan, too. Satan is God's enemy and he is man's enemy, too.

Satan Speaks Through the Snake

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Genesis 3:1

This wasn't an ordinary snake that spoke to Eve. Satan is a spirit, and he entered the body of the snake. He disguised himself as a snake to deceive Eve. Satan is a liar and a deceiver (John 8:44). Eve did not know it was Satan speaking through the snake. Satan wants to deceive people because he wants people to suffer in the Lake of Fire with him. The Bible says Satan can appear as an "angel of light". This means that Satan can appear as something good.

Satan still tries to deceive people. Satan doesn't speak through a snake, but he speaks through people. He deceives people through other people so they believe what is not true or they reject the news about the one true God. Satan deceives people by putting lies into their minds. Satan doesn't want anyone to know or believe in the one true god. He doesn't want people to believe the Words of the Bible. Sometimes he speaks through teachers at school, religious leaders, political leaders, friends, and even parents.

Satan wants us to think that he has a good future for us. Satan wants us to think that our good actions can draw us near to God. He wants us to think that there are many roads to God. He wants us to think that we can sin and not receive punishment. Satan wants us to trust our own idea rather than God's idea.

Satan Tempted and Deceived Eve

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

Genesis 3:1

Why did Satan ask Eve this question? Satan knew that God forbid Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan didn't care about what God said. He was testing Eve to know if she would live according to her own idea or God's word. Satan wanted Eve to not believe on God's Word.

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" Genesis 3:2-3

Satan had confused Eve. Her answer was not exactly what God had said. God did not say they should not touch the fruit, he said they must not eat the fruit (Genesis 2:17). This is why we must read God's Word every day and put it into our heart - so we can clearly know about God's laws and how he wants us to live on this earth.

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4-5

Now Satan calls God a liar. He told Eve that God would not punish them if they disobey God. Satan rebelled against God and followed his own plan. Satan does not want people of this earth to follow God's plan either. Satan wanted Eve to rebel against God, too. Satan wanted to be like God. He wanted to have power and authority. He wanted people to follow him. He wanted to be ruler over his life and follow his own plan. He told Eve that she could become like God, too and follow her own plan. Satan wanted Eve to think that she didn't need God to tell her what is right and wrong. This is what most people believe: "I don't need God. I can follow my own plan. God will not punish me because of my sin." This is Satan's lie. This is what he wanted Eve to believe and this is what he wants all people to believe. But this is the truth: God did not create people to live according to their own ideas and thoughts. He created people to live according to his Word. God did not create people to follow their own plan. He created people to help him fulfill his plan for this earth.

Adam and Eve Disobey God

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:6

Satan deceived Eve. She believed that Satan was telling her the truth. She believed that she would become like God. She chose to follow her own way rather than God's way. She chose to live independently from God. Adam didn't want God to rule over him anymore. He wanted to rule over himself. This is sin: When we choose to follow our own plan rather than God's plan. When we choose to live independently from God rather than allow him to rule over us. The result of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Our body will die and our spirit will be separated from God forever in the Lake of Fire.

Some Questions:

1. In the beginning what was the world like?
2. Where did God put Adam and Eve?
3. What was their life like in the garden?
4. What one command did God give Adam and Eve? What would happen if they disobeyed him?
5. Why did God create people?
6. Who is God's enemy?
7. Satan entered into what animal?
8. Why did Satan enter into the snake?
9. How does Satan deceive people?
10. Does Satan want us to love and follow God? What does Satan want us to do?
11. What did Satan tell Eve?
12. Why should we read God's Word every day and think about God's Word?
13. What do most people think about this life? What is the truth from God's Word?
14. What did Adam and Eve do?
15. Explain sin. What is the result of sin?

The Result of Sin

Genesis 3:1-6

Adam and Eve choose to disobey God. This is sin: Disobedience to God. When we sin, we will always receive the result of our sin. What is the result of Adam and Eve's sin?

- 1. They now experienced evil rather than learning about it from God.** God does not want people to sin. He wants them to live a righteous life. God wanted to teach Adam and Eve about sin rather than them experience sin. God wanted to teach them about what is right and what is wrong. He wanted to explain about sin so Adam and Eve would not sin. God tells us about sin so we will turn away from sin, rather than commit sin. But when Adam and Eve choose to eat the fruit from the tree that gives a knowledge of good and evil, they committed sin. At that time they experienced sin.
- 2. They were ashamed of their nakedness and made clothes from leaves for themselves.** Genesis 3:7. God created Adam and Eve without sin, so they were not ashamed of their nakedness. They did not have evil thoughts. But after they sinned, their thoughts changed. Their mind was filled with sin. Adam and Eve knew that they had sinned. They knew that they were naked. Therefore, they made clothes for themselves. Adam and Eve knew that they would meet God again, so they prepared themselves to meet him. They dressed themselves according to their own idea. This is man's way: Prepare yourself to meet God according to their own idea. But we must worship and serve God according to his idea, not our idea. Adam and Eve thought that if they would dress appropriately God would receive them. God does not receive us because of what we do. Some people commit good actions, or go to the vat, burn incense, give money to monks, go to church meetings or read their Bible because they think when they commit these actions, God will receive them. God will not receive people because of what they do. All of our actions are sinful. Our good actions will not bring us near to God.
- 3. They were afraid and hid from God.** Genesis 3:8-11. Our spirit has a conscience, and our conscience tells us what is right and wrong. Adam and Eve knew they had committed sin and they were afraid. When a small child does wrong he hides from his parents. His conscience tells him he has done wrong. When our conscience tells us we have done wrong God wants us to confess our sins to him and ask him to forgive us, but most people don't do this. They continue to sin, or they try to hide their sin. Sin always causes fear. Sin always causes problems. Sin always causes pain and suffering. Adam

and Eve should be afraid, because they knew that God would punish them because they committed sin. God will do what he says. He will punish people when they sin, so they should be afraid.

4. **Their nature changed.** Before they sinned Adam and Eve loved God and wanted to obey him. They were righteous. After they sinned their nature was filled with sin. They didn't love God. They didn't want to obey God. God was not number one in their life, they were number one in their life. They didn't want to follow God's plan, but they wanted to follow their plan. Adam and Eve did not have the power to rule over sin. They became slaves to sin and slaves to Satan.
5. **Their spirit no longer ruled over their soul and body.** When Adam and Eve sinned, they allowed their body and soul to rule over their spirit. Their body was hungry, so they gave it food. Their mind choose to disobey God, so they followed their own ideas rather than God's Word. God wants us to obey his word, even if our body and mind do not agree with God's Word. But Adam and Eve allowed their soul and body to rule over their spirit. Therefore, their spirit became a slave to their body and soul.
6. **They did not have a relationship with God.** Sin separated them from God. Remember that God cannot have a relationship with a sinner. Even though God loves the sinner, he must punish them because he is just, and he cannot have a relationship with them because they are filled with sin and he is holy. They are unrighteous and he is righteous. Therefore, Adam and Eve did not have a relationship with God after they sinned. Sin always separates people from God. Even though they try to commit good actions, they are still separated from God because of their sin.
7. **They began to die.** After Adam and Eve sinned, they did not die immediately. Their spirit was separated from God immediately, but they began to die. If Adam and Eve had obeyed God, they would continue to live, but because they sinned and rebelled against God, they began to die, and eventually they died (Genesis 5:3-5). The result of sin is death (Romans 6:23). God wants to give people life, but because they are separated from God because of their sin, they will die and be punished forever in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:15-20).
8. **God cursed them.** Genesis 3:10-19. Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had a good life in the Garden. God wanted them to have a good life. But after they sinned, life became difficult for them. God cursed the ground. The ground produced thorns and thistles and it was difficult for Adam to care for (Genesis 3:17-19). Giving birth became difficult for Eve (Genesis 3:16) and God commanded her to submit to her husband. Because of sin, life is difficult. Because people choose to follow their own way rather than God's way, people have problems.
9. **God made them leave the Garden in Eden.** Genesis 3:22-24. Because Adam and Eve sinned God made them leave the garden. He made them leave their easy life. He made them leave the Tree of Life. God's presence was in the Garden in Eden. Sinful people

cannot live in God's presence. He cannot have eternal life with God. Sinful man must leave God's presence. Sinful man is separated from God because of his sin.

Sin always causes problems. God has a good life for people, but because they choose to follow their own way rather than God's way. God had a wonderful plan for Adam and Eve. He wanted Adam and Eve to have a good relationship with him and help him fulfill his plan for this earth. But Satan - God's enemy - deceived Eve, and Adam and Eve choose to live according to their own ideas rather than God's plan. Therefore, their life had many problems. Their life was filled with pain and sadness.

We are Adam and Eve's descendants. They are our ancestors. We have the same nature as they. Like Adam and Eve, we choose to follow our own ideas rather than God's. Like Adam and Eve, we are deceived by Satan. Like Adam and Eve our hearts and minds are filled with sin. Like Adam and Eve we are separated from God and will receive punishment which is just.

In our next lesson we will study more about sin, then we will study about God's wonderful promise for all people.

Some Questions:

1. What is sin?
2. How did God want Adam and Eve to learn about sin? What happened when they ate from the tree that gives the knowledge of good and evil?
3. Why did Adam and Eve make clothes for themselves? Will God receive people because of their good actions?
4. Why did God give our spirit a conscience? When our conscience tells us we have sinned, what does God want us to do? Should sinners be afraid when they commit sin?
5. How did Adam and Eve's nature change after they sinned? Was God number one in their life after they had sinned? Who was number one in their life?
6. Adam and Eve became slaves to who, after they sinned?
7. When people sin, do they still have a relationship with God? Does God still love the sinner? Why must God punish the sinner?
8. Did Adam and Eve die immediately after they committed sin? What happened to their spirit? What happened to their soul? What happened to their body?
9. How did God curse Adam? How did he curse Eve?
10. Why did God make Adam and Eve leave the Garden in Eden?
11. Who deceived Adam and Eve?
12. Does sinful actions bring a good life or a sad life?
13. Because we are the descendants of Adam and Eve, we are like them. How are we like them?

God's Wonderful Promise

We know that after Adam and Eve sinned, God continued to love them. He wanted to continue to have a relationship with them. But they were separated from God because of their sin. Therefore, God told them to take a sheep and kill the sheep. The sheep would become the sacrifice for their sin. When they killed the sheep, that sheep would receive punishment rather than them. This was God's plan for people to receive forgiveness for their sins. People could not receive forgiveness from any other way. This is the plan of the one true God. We cannot make our own plan about how to receive forgiveness.

But God had one more plan. He told Adam and Eve that someday he would send someone into the world. This person - the Savior - would become the final sacrifice for the sins of all people. After Adam and Eve sinned, he cursed, them, but he also gave them a wonderful promise:

I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. Her child will crush your head and you will bite his heel.

Genesis 3:15

God spoke these words to the snake. Remember that Satan entered the body of the snake to deceive Eve. Therefore, when God spoke these words, he was actually speaking to Satan. He said that the descendants of Satan and the descendants of the woman would be enemies. The descendants of Satan - the people who do not serve the one true God - would "bruise the heel" of the descendant of the woman. This speaks about a descendant of the woman who would enter the world, and the sinners would hurt him, but not kill him permanently, but the descendant of the woman would "crush the head" of the descendants of the serpent. This means that the sinners would fight against the one who would come from God, but the one who would come from God would utterly defeat the power of Satan. This is God's first promise about the Savior: He would come as a descendant of the woman - a human being. The sinners who are separated from God and deceived by Satan would fight against him and hurt him, but he would recover and destroy the power of Satan and the power of sin.

More Promises About the Savior

Throughout history God gave more promises about the Savior who would come to this world. He wants all people to know about this wonderful Savior so they would believe on him

and receive complete forgiveness. God told prophets from the nation of Israel about the Savior. He told them about the Savior many years before he would enter the world. These are some of the promises and prophecies about the Savior:

1. **All of the people of the earth would be blessed through the descendants of Abraham.** Genesis 18:18. The Savior would be a descendant of a man named Abraham. We can read about the life of Abraham and his descendants in the Book of Genesis. Abraham's descendants are the people of Israel.
2. **The Savior would come from the family of Judah.** Genesis 49:10. Judah was a descendant of Abraham. God said the Savior would come from the family of Judah in Israel.
3. **The Savior would be born in the village of Bethlehem in Israel.** Micah 5:2. God told the prophet Micah the village in which the Savior would be born 800 years before he was born. God wanted the people of the earth to know exactly about the Savior so they would know he really came from God.
4. **The Savior would be born from a virgin and they would call him "Immanuel" which means "God is with us.** Micah 5:1-2. The birth of the Savior would be different from the birth of every other person. He would be born from a virgin. God would put his life in the virgin so the baby would be without sin. Every other person born on the earth has sin from birth, but the Savior would be different from all other people. He would be born through a virgin and would be without sin. Only God can do this miracle! The Savior would be the one true God would come to this earth as a man.
5. **The Savior would live in the District of Galilee in the country of Israel.** Isaiah 9:1-2. Before the Savior is born, the people living in this district lived in the darkness of sin, but after the Savior is born, he would bring the light of righteousness to them and to all people. God tells us about the District where the Savior would live so we will know the Savior really comes from God.
6. **The Savior will be a prophet.** Deuteronomy 18:15. There are true prophets and false prophets in this world. The true prophets speak according to the words of the one true God. The false prophets speak according to Satan. The Savior would be a true prophet sent by God to declare God's word to all the people of the earth. He would speak the truth.
7. **The people of Israel would reject him.** Isaiah 53:3. Even though the Savior would bring good news for all people, the people of Israel would not believe his words and they would reject and kill him.
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12. **His hands and his feet would be pierced.** Psalm 22:6. How would they kill the Savior? Would they shoot him? Would they hang him? Would they beat him? No. The prophets tell us that his hands and feet would be pierced. This is the way of crucifixion. The Savior would be crucified. This is how they would kill him.
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Sin Enters the Life of Adam and Eve's Children

Is sin very bad? Does one person's sin affect another person? Can we do something ourselves to wash us clean from sin? Can people choose their own way to come to God? Do all people have sin? In this lesson we will read about the children of Adam and Eve. We will see that Adam and Eve's children received the sinful nature of their parents. They were born with sin. Sin always causes pain. We will see the pain which sin brought into the world.

Adam and Eve Have Children

Genesis 4:1-2

Adam and Eve were very happy when they had children. First, they had a son named Cain. Their second son was named Abel. Adam and Eve probably had wonderful plans for their children, like all parents do. Adam and Eve probably wanted their house to be filled with love, peace, and joy. When their children grew to become adults, Cain became a farmer and Abel took care of sheep.

Adam and Eve Taught Their Children About the Ways of God

Parents always teach their children about what is right and wrong. I'm sure that Adam and Eve told Cain and Abel about how God created all things. They taught them about the Garden in Eden, the tree that gives life, the tree that gives knowledge of good and evil and about God's command to not eat from that tree. They told their children about how Satan entered the snake and deceived Eve and that they sinned against God. They also told Cain and Abel about God's curse and wonderful promise of the Savior who would come into the world.

Adam and Eve also told their children about the sacrifice for sin. They explained that their sins must be covered by the blood of the sheep. They explained that each person must bring an offering of the sheep to receive forgiveness and have a relationship with the one true God. They told their children that they cannot be washed from their sin by any good actions of their own, but only by faith. They must believe that the sheep died instead of them and the blood of the sheep covers their sin. (Hebrews 9:22)

About Cain and Abel

In other places in the Bible God tells us about the character of Cain and Abel. The Bible says that Abel was a righteous man (Matthew 23:35). It also tells us that Abel had faith (Hebrews 11:4). Abel believed in the one true God and he obeyed his commands. Therefore, because he believed and obeyed he was righteous and God received him and washed him clean from his sins. On the other hand, Cain followed the ways of Satan. He allowed his sinful nature to rule over him. He followed his own ways and ideas rather than God's (1 John 3:12a).

Cain and Abel Bring Sacrifices to God

Genesis 4:3-5

Adam and Eve taught their children that they should bring a sacrifice to God. They taught them that they worship God according to God's plan and idea, rather than their own. Cain brought fruit and Abel brought a sheep which he had killed. The Lord received Abel's offering, but rejected Cain's. Why?

What kind of offering did Cain bring? Did Cain bring the sheep which God commanded him to bring? No. Cain refused to kill the sheep. He chose to bring fruit. God did not command him to bring fruit. Cain came to God according to his own ideas. He created his own way to come to God. We cannot create our own way to come to God. We must come to God according to God's plan. God must see the blood. Someone must die for us to be cleansed from sin. Cain did not believe in the sacrifice of the sheep. He did not trust God for his salvation, he trusted in his own ability. He did not trust believe in the savior who would come. Therefore God could not receive his offering.

On the other hand, Abel killed the sheep. He humbled himself and confessed his sin to God. He agreed with God that he was a sinner and needed someone to die instead of him. He had faith that when the animal died, he would receive forgiveness. He didn't trust in his own ability, but he trusted in the death of the sacrifice. He came to God according to God's plan. Therefore, God received him and his sacrifice.

Cain was angry because God did not receive his sacrifice. He was angry with God and angry with his brother, because his brother was righteous and he wasn't.

God Gave Cain an Opportunity to Repent

Genesis 4:6-7

God told Cain that if he did good - if he obeyed God's word and came to God according to God's plan, he would be received. He also told Cain that if he continued to follow his own ways, which actually were the ways of Satan, sin would rule over him. God wanted to give Cain power to rule over his sinful actions.

God wanted Cain to repent and agree with God about his sin. He wanted him to humble himself. He wanted him to confess his sin to God (1 John 1:9). If we say do not have sin, we are a liar and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sin to God, he will forgive us our sin and make us righteous (1 John 1:8-9). When we realize we have sin, God wants us to confess our sin to him by prayer. He wants us to agree with God about our sin and turn and follow God's ways. God wanted to forgive Cain and have a relationship with him and bless him, but Cain did not repent.

The Result of Sin

Genesis 4:8-12

Because Cain refused to repent and follow God, sin ruled over him. He went into the field and killed his brother. Why did he kill his brother? Because his brother was righteous and Cain was unrighteous. He killed his brother because when he rejected God's way, he actually choose Satan's way. Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10a). When we continue to sin we follow Satan's ways and become God's enemy (1 John 3:12).

God gave Cain another opportunity to repent. He asked him, "Where is your brother?" God wanted Cain to tell him the truth. He wanted Cain to repent and confess his sin. But, again, Cain refused to repent. He knew the right way, but choose to follow his own way. Because Cain refused to repent, God must judge him. God sent Cain away from his presence.

The Descendants of the Snake and the Descendants of the Woman

You remember that God said their would be hostility between the descendants of the snake and the descendants of the woman. The spiritual descendants of the snake are the people who don't believe in the one true God and who don't follow him. They follow their own ways. The descendants of the woman are the people who believe in the one true God and follow him. The descendants of the snake - sinners - will always hate the true followers of God. They will persecute them like Cain persecuted Abel.

What Can We Learn From This Story?

1. We must come to God according to his way, not according to our way. We cannot create our own religion and follow God.
2. We can only receive forgiveness of sins by someone dying for us. Blood must flow. A death must occur.
3. We receive forgiveness by faith, not by our own actions. We believe the word of God, the promises of God and we believe in the sacrifice which covers our sin. If we really believe, then we will have good actions to honor God, but we do not commit good actions to receive forgiveness. Forgiveness comes by faith, not good actions (Ephesians 2:8-9).

4. We must confess our sins. We must agree with God through prayer that we are sinners and ask him to forgive us. We must repent and turn away from sinful actions and thoughts.
5. If we repent, God will give us power to rule over sin, but if we continue to sin and follow our own ways, sin will rule over us.
6. Sin brings pain, sadness, and punishment. God does not want us to follow the ways of sin. He wants to bring love, peace and joy into our lives.
7. When we follow our own ways we actually follow the ways of Satan. We become slaves to Satan and sin.
8. When Adam and Eve committed sin, their nature changed. They were no longer holy, they became sinners. Their nature was filled with sin. Their children received their sin from birth. They were sinners from birth. In our next lesson we will see that all people are sinners from birth.

The Descendants of Adam Follow Their Own Ways and Create Their Own Religions

The Descendants of Cain Only Cared For the Things of This World

Genesis 4:17-24

Cain's descendants followed his example: They lived without thinking about God. They filled their lives with their work and their possessions. They filled their lives with the things they wanted to have. They didn't care about following the one true God or working together with him to fulfill his plan on earth. They built villages and cities, they cared for their cows and made tools and musical instruments. There is nothing wrong with these things, but they filled their lives with them and did not care about God. They filled their minds and time with things they wanted to do. They did not care about God or the things he wanted them to do. These people followed their own ways - the ways of Satan.

See the result of sin? Because Adam and Eve sinned, all of their descendants were born with sin, separated from God and did not care to follow or obey God. Their first son, Cain, killed their second son, Abel. Cain turned away from the one true God and would not repent and receive God's mercy. He choose to follow his own ways and try to follow God according to his own ideas, but God did not receive his worship. As a result, Cain's children and their children followed their own way rather than God's way. Children will follow the ways of their parents. They did not know God and they did not seek him and his truth. They were guided by Satan and his lies.

God Gave Seth to Replace Abel

Genesis 4:25-26

God gave Adam and Eve another child. In the Garden in Eden, God had promised that he would send a savior who would overcome Satan. The savior would be a descendant of Abel, who trusted God, but Satan killed Abel through Cain. Satan tries to stop God's plan from being fulfilled. But Satan cannot cause God's plan from being fulfilled! God gave Seth to Adam and Eve. Seth was born separated from God, just like Abel, but he trusted in God, just like Abel did. Therefore, the savior would be a descendant of Seth. The descendants of Seth called on the name of the one true God. They believed in him, offered the sacrifice, and we saved from judgment because of their faith.

The People of the Earth Became Very Evil

Genesis 6:1-7

Many years passed and Adam and Eve died. Many, many people were on the earth. The descendants of Cain continued to follow their own ideas and did not obey God. The descendants of Seth followed the one true God and worshiped him according to his word. Eventually, even the descendants of Seth stopped worshiping the one true God. They married the descendants of Cain. They all created their own religions. Sometimes they would create their own religion, but combine it with the worship of the one true God. God rejects any religion made by man.

God saw and hated the sin of these people, but he loved them and wanted them to repent. He wanted them to change their minds and agree with him that they are sinners separated from God because of their sin. He wanted them to believe in him and the savior who would come, and turn away from their sinful actions and their false religions. God told them he would give them 120 years to repent, then he would punish them, but they did not believe his word (Genesis 6:3). These people loved their sin and refused to agree with God and follow him. God spoke to these people through prophets, but they still refused to repent. They rebelled against God. They only thought about the things of this life. They were proud and wanted more and more. They fought together and killed each other. Therefore, God decided to destroy the earth and everything in it (Genesis 6:7).

Noah Was a Righteous Man

Genesis 6:8-10

Every person on the earth was filled with evil and followed their own ways, except one man and his family. This man's name is Noah. The Bible says that Noah was a righteous man. Why was Noah righteous? Because he committed good works? Because he was born without sin? No. Noah was born with sin like every other person. But he was righteous because of his faith. He believed in the one true God and repented of his sins. He believed in the savior who would come and offered the sacrifice for his sins - the innocent sheep. That is why he is a righteous man.

Noah had three children: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Noah's sons were young men. He taught them about the one true God since they were a child. They followed God with all their heart, too.

Sin always brings problems. If people do not control their sin from birth, their sin will control them. People steal, kill, and lie because they have sin from birth. They is why we have wars and people hurt one another. All people are guilty. People love their sin. They love to follow their own ways. Most people don't want God to rule over them. They want to rule over their own life. Therefore, God must punish the sinner. God gives us opportunities to repent, but if we don't he will eventually punish us - in this life or after we die. People do not become righteous by their good works. They become righteous by their faith. We must believe in the one true God and the savior.

Some Questions:

1. Did the descendants of Cain follow the one true God?
2. What did they fill their lives with?
3. Is it sinful to build a house? Is it sinful to build a city? Is it sinful to have more than one wife? Is it sinful to kill a person? Is it sinful to lie?
4. God wanted the savior to be a descendant of who? Since Cain killed his first brother, the savior will be a descendant of what other brother?
5. Did Seth teach his children about the one true God? Why is it important for parents to teach their children about the one true God?
6. Why did God want to destroy the people of the earth? Who was the only person who followed after the one true God with all his heart?
7. How did Noah become righteous?
8. What does God want us to learn from this story?

God Destroys the Earth by a Flood

The people of the earth were filled with evil. They turned away from God's grace and love and filled their life with the things they wanted. They created their own religions and committed every kind of sin. Therefore, God was sad that he created the people of the earth and he choose to destroy it. But there was one man who followed God with all his heart - Noah and his family. Because God's heart is full of love, grace, and mercy, he decided to save Noah and his family from the flood. God saved Noah because of his faith, not because of his good actions. Therefore, he told Noah to build a very large boat.

God Gave Instructions to Noah

Genesis 6:13-21

God told Noah that he was going to send a flood which would cover the whole earth. God also told Noah to build a very large boat so that all those who trusted in God could be saved. This boat had to be built exactly as God wanted it to be built. Noah had to follow God's instructions. The boat had to be build according to God's plan, not according to Noah's plan. God told Noah to put only one door in the boat. There was only one way to enter the boat. There was only one way to receive God's salvation and protection from judgment. There was only one way to receive God's grace and mercy - enter the door to the boat.

This boat was very big. It was about 140 meters long, 23 meters wide, and 13.5 meters tall. God told Noah to put a pair of every animal in the boat. God commanded the animals to come to Noah. Noah put a male and a female of every kind of animal in the boat. He also put food for the animals in the boat. Is this too difficult for God? God created all the animals, therefore God has the power to command the animals to obey him. God commanded the animals to go to the boat and enter it. During this time, Noah preached about God's love and mercy, but the people laughed and rejected the good news about God.

Noah and His Family Enters the Boat

Genesis 6:22; 7:1-5

Noah believed God's word. Even though he did not see rain or a flood, he entered the boat with his family. He waited in the boat for seven days. There was still no rain. Perhaps the unbelievers were standing outside laughing at him and saying he was crazy. Perhaps they cried out, "We don't see your God! We don't see a flood! We don't see rain! You're a foolish man,

Noah!” But they didn’t persuade Noah from continuing to follow God. Noah and his family waited for God to fulfill his promise. Their faith, hope, and strength were in God.

God Fulfills His Promise

Genesis 7:11-12, 17-24

After waiting for seven days God sent a strong flood. It rained for forty days and nights. There were strong earthquakes and the water under the earth came up. The earthquakes destroyed many things and changed the appearance of the earth. All the animals of the earth and all the people died, except the animals and the people who were safe in the boat.

Eventually, the flood waters went down and Noah and his family left the boat. The boat rested on top of the Mountains of Ararat. **Genesis 8:1-5, 15-19.** All of this happened about 1,500 years after God created Adam and Eve.

The World Before the Flood

The stories we have read are true. They are the history of the world. They tell us about the one true God and how he created everything. God created everything because he has a purpose. He is the creator of everything, the owner of everything, and he gives life to everything. We just that God destroyed everything that lived on the earth by sending a flood. Before the flood came the world was very different than after the flood.

Before the flood the climate was very good. God created the earth, the sky, and the outer space. Between the sky and the outer space was water. **Genesis 1:6-7.** It wasn’t water which we drink, but it was water vapor. The water vapor protected the earth. It allowed the earth to have a good climate. Because of the good climate people lived many years. (Genesis 7:6). Before the flood there was no rain. Dew came up from the ground and watered the earth (Genesis 2:5-6). So when Noah told the people it was going to rain and flood the earth, they didn’t believe him, because they had never seen rain before. Before the flood came people did not eat meat. Only after the flood did people begin to eat meat (Genesis 9:3).

When God sent the flood on the earth it destroyed everything. All the mountains, valleys, the fields, and the rivers were all changed, because the waters of a flood changes the land. When much water covers an area and flows very fast - like the flood did - it changes the appearance of the land. When God caused the rain to fall, all the water vapor between the sky and outer space fell very hard. Also the water from under the earth came up because of the strong earthquakes (Genesis 7:11).

Therefore, things were very different before the flood. The climate was different than now, the land looked different than now, and people lived much longer. Many animals which lived before the flood are not alive now, such as dinosaurs. The dinosaurs were on the boat with Noah, but because the climate was different after the flood, they died.

God Made a Covenant With Noah

Genesis 6:18; 9:7-17

God has relationships with people by covenants. A covenant is an agreement between two or more people or groups. Each person or group agrees to fulfill his promises to the other person or group. If you want to have a relationship with God, you must make a covenant with him according to his plan. We do not create the covenant. God creates the covenant to have a relationship with us and we must agree with that covenant.

Why does God make a covenant with people? Because a covenant makes a relationship stronger than before. A covenant is like a foundation. A covenant brings the strength of two people together. A covenant tells people their responsibilities. Marriage is an example of a covenant between two people or families.

God always begins the covenant. The covenant is God's idea and plan, not man's. In each covenant God makes blood flow. The blood reminds us that life comes from God. Each covenant has a symbol to represent it. The symbol reminds us of God's covenant, his promise and his grace and mercy. We have studied about three covenants which God made.

- 1. God made a covenant with Adam and Eve before they sinned.** Blood flowed from Adam's side when God created Eve from his rib. The symbol of the covenant was the Tree that Gives Life. God revealed his plan and purpose for all people in the covenant he made with Adam and Eve before they sinned.
- 2. God made a covenant with Adam and Eve after they sinned.** Blood flowed from the sheep which Adam and Eve killed to cover their sin. The skin of the animal which they wore as clothes was the symbol of the covenant. This covenant brings Adam and Eve back to God after they sinned and promises that all people can come to God through the sacrifice which God commands.
- 3. God made a covenant with Noah.** Blood flowed from the sheep which Noah sacrificed to God. The rainbow is the symbol of the covenant. This covenant reminds us of God's plan for all people, again, and promises that he will never destroy the earth by a flood again.

When we choose to enter God's covenant we receive mercy when we sin. We receive salvation when God will judge all people. We become God's family and his special people. God will fulfill his promises to us.

We enter God's covenant by faith. We agree with God about our sin and repent and believe upon the Savior. We follow God with all our heart and mind and obey his word.

Some Questions:

1. Why was God sad that he created people?
2. What did God tell Noah to do?
3. Tell me what you know about this boat.
4. Did God give the people of Noah's generation an opportunity to repent? How? Did they repent?
5. How many days did Noah wait in the boat for God to fulfill his promise?
6. Where did the water from the flood come from?
7. How did the animals know to go into the boat?
8. What was the earth like before the flood?
9. What is a covenant? Tell me about God's covenant with Adam and Eve before they sinned. Tell me about his covenant with them after they sinned. When God makes a covenant, what must flow?
10. Why does God make covenants with people? What must we do to enter a covenant with God? Why should we enter a covenant with God?
11. What can we learn about God from this story about the flood? What can we learn about people?

The Tower at Babel

In our last lesson we saw that many, many years ago God destroyed everything on the earth by a flood. The only people alive after the flood was Noah, his wife, and their three sons and their wives. From these people God filled the earth with people again.

Many years passed since God saved Noah, his wife and their three sons and their wives from the great flood. Once again, many people lived on the earth. Most of the descendants of Noah forgot about God's judgment on the earth by the flood. They choose to forget about it. They didn't not think about God's plan or his mercy. Like the people before the flood, they did not want to believe on the one true God, like Abel, Seth, and Noah and his family. They were under Satan's control, and their thinking was like Satan's. They wanted to be great and important.

Genesis 11:1-4

Remember that Noah's boat rested on top of Mount Ararat. God wanted the ancestors of Noah to fill their earth with righteous people who knew about and worshiped the one true God. The descendants of Noah journeyed south to a place called Shinar. They build a city there and they built a tower to worship, but they did not worship the one true God. Even though these people knew about God, they did not give honor to him as their God. They would not thank him for their life, health, sunshine, rain, and food. They choose to turn away from the truth and therefore, their minds were filled with the darkness of sin. They made images of people and worshiped them. They worshiped birds and animals, snakes and the things of this earth. These people were our ancestors. They were following the way of Satan. Satan leads people to worship false gods.

God's plan is for people to have a relationship with him, to represent his nature, to rule over this earth, their own nature, and Satan. God made a covenant with Adam and Eve, and also with Noah. He wanted them and their descendants to fulfill this plan on the earth. But these people did not think about God's plan. They thought about themselves. They wanted to have a popular name. They only thought about their businesses, their plans, their family, and their future. God created people to fulfill his will, not their own. When people follow the one true God with all their heart, he will bless them and take care of them on this earth. But most people do not want to follow the one true God and fulfill his plan. They want to fulfill their own plans.

Genesis 11:5-9

God saw these people. He knew about their sin. He knew about their rebellion. God knows everything about us. He knows our thoughts and all of our actions. We cannot hide from God. Someday every person will be judged by him because of their sinful actions. We see in this passage that God eventually judged them.

At this time all the people of the earth spoke one language. It was easy for them to work together because they all spoke the same language. But God caused the people to speak different languages. God did not want them to work together to build a tower to worship false gods. He did not want them to stay in one place. He wanted them to fill every continent of the earth. Therefore, God separated their languages. All the people who spoke the same language met one another and stayed together. Eventually, they journeyed from that place to different continents. Some people journeyed to Africa. Some people journeyed to Europe. Some people journeyed to Asia. When they journeyed to these places they brought their false religions with them. They brought their idols and created their own customs and they filled that land with the teaching of their false gods. They taught their children and descendants about their false gods. But we can see that their religions were not the truth. They were the religions of man, not the truth about the one true God. Some of these people journeyed to India. Some journeyed to China. Some journeyed to Cambodia. They brought their religion. These people are our ancestors. They did not follow the ways of the one true God. They did not worship, serve, and obey him.

Conclusion

This is the history of the world. God wants us to know about where sin came from, where our languages came from, where our ancestors came from, and where all religions came from. God wants us to know that he has a wonderful plan for the people of the earth. God created people to serve him and be his children. But most people rebel against God. Because they have sin from birth they turn away from the truth and create their own religions and follow their own plans rather than the plan of the one true God.

But God knows about everything. He loves each person. He knows about everything that happens. God will judge sin and he will call people to follow him. Each person must choose if they will turn away from their sinful ways and follow God, or continue to rebel against him.

Some Questions:

1. What is God's plan for the people of the earth?
2. Did the generation after the flood know about God's plan? Did they follow God's plan? What did they do?
3. What did the people do when they journeyed to the area of Shinar? Why was it easy for them to work together?
4. What did God do to make it difficult for them to work together?

5. After the people's language was separated, what did they do? When they arrived at their new countries what did they do?
6. Where do most religions come from?
7. What can we learn about the one true God from this story?
8. What can we learn about people from this story?
9. What does God want us to do?

God Choose, Called, and Guided Abraham

How many of you here know the name of your great grandfather? How many know the name of your great-great grandfather? Not many of us know the names of our ancestors, but today we're going to study about a man who lived 4,000 ago and today his ancestors still remember his name. Why do they remember him? He is remembered because of the promises God gave him. He is remembered because he believed God.

You know that Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. One of the descendants of Shem was named Abram.

Genesis 11:27-30.

Abraham lived many years after God separated the languages at Babel. Abram lived in a city named Ur. This city was south of Babel. In Ur the people worshiped false gods. They did not believe in or follow the one true God. They bowed down to idols. But one day God revealed himself to Abram. God called Abram to leave his country and to a place which God would show him. Abram believed the word of God and changed his plans and his future to follow the word of the one true God.

Genesis 12:1

What would you do if God told you to leave your family, your homeland, your friends, and change your plans? When God commands us to do one thing, even if it's very difficult for us, he always has a better plan for us. When we believe and obey God, God will give us grace to do what he calls us to do. God will also give us everything we need to do what he wants us to do. Abram is a good example for us because he trusted God 100%. Even though he didn't understand clearly about his future and everything God wanted him to do, Abram trusted God and obeyed him.

Genesis 12:2-5

God gave Abram some promises. God had a plan for Abram's life. God told Abram that:

1. **"I will make you a great nation."** As we shall see as we continue to study, the descendants of Abram actually did become a great nation - the nation of Israel. God choose Abraham to become the father of a great nation.

2. **“I will bless you.”** Why did God want to bless Abram? Was it because he was good? Was it because he didn't have no? No. Abram had sin from birth just like every other person. God choose Abram and decided to bless him because of his grace and goodness. Sometimes God blesses a person, even if they do not believe in him. He does this to show his love, power, and grace, and to draw that person to himself. **Romans 2:4.** When God bless us, he wants us to respond to that blessing by giving him honor, repenting of our sins, and following him with all of our heart and mind. God really did bless Abram. He became wealthy with many sheep, cows, and servants.
3. **“I will make your name great.”** Do you remember the people at Babel? Why did they build the tower? They built the tower to have a great name. Some people want to have a great name. They want to receive honor from other people. Some people build a great name for themselves, but eventually their reputation withers like the flower. When we allow God to build a great name for us, our righteous reputation will endure. Most people want to exalt themselves rather than trust God to exalt them.
4. **“You will become a person that blesses others.”** Because of Abram, many other people would be blessed. His nephew, Lot, was blessed because he traveled with him. All of Abram's servants were blessed because they worked with him. God would bless Abram and Abram would bless other people. This is God's way: Receive his blessing and then bless other people. Most people receive God's blessing and keep it for themselves! God really did fulfill his promise to Abram and blessed him greatly.
5. **“All the people of the earth will be blessed because of you.”** How could Abram bless all the people of the earth? It was God's plan for the savior of all the world to be a descendant of Abram. God would send the savior into the world to bless all people with salvation - forgiveness of sins. He would send the savior into the world to receive the punishment for the sins of all people. This is how all the people of the earth would be blessed because of Abram. This is why God choose Abram - to be the father of a nation of people which would bring the savior into the world.

As we continue to study these lessons, we will see that God is faithful and he fulfilled each promise to Abram.

Questions:

1. Did God abandon his plan for people because Noah's descendants rebelled against him?
2. What did God do to make sure the Savior would come into the world?
3. What did God tell Abram to do?
4. How many children did Abram and his wife have when God told them to go into a different country?
5. What did God promise Abram?
6. Did God choose Abram because he wasn't a sinner?
7. What did Abram do when God gave him these promise?

Abraham Followed God

In our last lesson we understood that God choose Abram to follow him. Abram believed God's word. He repented from his sins and followed the one true God with all his heart. Abram lived a life like a usual person, but he obeyed and trusted God in all of his affairs. He worked with his animals and cared for his gardens and lived as usual, but he lived as a believer in the one true God and the savior who would come. He made his decisions according to God's word. He was a representative of God on this earth and told other people about the one true God.

God called Abram to go to a land which he would show him. This land is called Canaan. Abram, his wife, Sarai, his nephew, Lot, and their servants, traveled throughout the land of Canaan living in tents. **Genesis 12:4-9.**

Abram Journeys to Egypt

Even though Abram trust God as his savior and tried to follow him with all his heart, Abram wasn't perfect. He still had sin from birth and sometimes still committed sin. One time there was a famine in the land which God promised Abram. Even though God said he would take care of Abram, Abram's faith became weak. He traveled to Egypt where he heard they had food. When he arrived, he told his wife to lie and say she was his brother. He did this to protect himself. **Genesis 12:10-13.** This was wrong. This was sin. Abram didn't trust God at this time, but trusted his own ideas. We will see what happens when we trust our own ideas rather than God's ideas.

When they arrived, the king of Egypt saw Sarai and loved her. He took her into his palace, but he didn't have sex with her. God sent terrible diseases upon the king and his family and they had many problems. The king understood that Sarai was Abram's wife and sent her away. Then, Abram and Sarai left Egypt and returned to Canaan. **Genesis 12:14-20.** This is an example of what happens when we trust our own plan and live according to our own ideas rather than God's word. At first, Abram had a good harvest because of his idea (Genesis 12:16), but eventually Abram's sin was discovered. Sometimes when we follow our own idea we receive a good harvest at first, but eventually, we will have problems. God wants us to trust him and live according to his word at all times.

God Makes a Covenant With Abram

We've already studied about God's covenants. God made two covenants with Adam and Eve: one before they sinned and one after they sinned. God makes a covenant because he wants to enter a relationship with people. He wants them to have confidence in him and his promises. He wants to be their father and bless them. He also made a covenant with Noah. Now we see that God made a covenant with Abram.

Genesis 15:1-21.

God promised Abram five things:

1. **I will protect you and give you a great reward.** Genesis 15:1.
2. **You will have a son who will inherit what you have.** Genesis 15:4.
3. **Your descendants will be as many as the stars of the sky and sand of the sea.** Genesis 15:5.
4. **I will give you and your descendants this land.** Genesis 15:7, 18.
5. **Your descendants will be slaves in a foreign land for 400 years. After that, I will bring them back to this land.** Genesis 15:13.

Abram believed God's word. Because he believed God's word, God said he was righteous. He did not become righteous because of his good actions, but because he believed God's word. We can read more about Abram's faith in Romans, chapter 4:

Romans 4:1-8

God entered into a relationship with Abram because of his faith. Abram believed that the one true God really existed and that when he believed in the sacrifice of the sheep and the savior who would come, he would receive forgiveness of sins and enter into a relationship with God. People cannot do any good works to make themselves righteous. They must believe in what God has done through the sacrifice.

Romans 4:18-25

When God promised Abram that he would have a child, he was very old. It was impossible for Abram and Sarai to have a child. But Abram believed God's word and considered God's word rather than the circumstances. God honored Abram's faith, and as we shall see, he really did have a son. Abram's faith is an example to us. Even though we cannot see God, we can trust him. He really will fulfill his promises to us, just like he fulfilled his promises to Abram.

Questions:

1. After Abram repented and believed in the one true God, he lived his life like a normal person. Explain to me how he lived his life as a believer in God.
2. To what land did God call Abram to journey to?
3. When Abram journeyed to Egypt, how did he sin?
4. In Egypt, how did Abram's good harvest become his problem? What does this mean for us in this life?
5. Why does God make a covenant with people? How did God make a covenant with Abram?
6. According to Genesis 15, what five things did God promise Abram?
7. How did Abram become righteous?
8. How is Abram's faith an example to us?

Abraham's Faith is Tested

In our last lesson we saw that God promised Abram a son. When God promises something he will always finish that promise, but he will finish it according to his plan and according to his time. God knows everything about the future. He knows everything about our life and God will arrange circumstances to finish his plan in our life, but sometimes we have to wait for God's time. Often we want God to finish his plan immediately, but sometimes we must wait. God knows the best time to do what he needs to do in our life. While we wait for God to fulfill his promise, he wants us to continue to trust him and live according to God's word.

In our last lesson we saw that one time Abram's faith was weak and he did not trust God. The result was that he had problems. Sometimes we sin, and our sinful actions brings problems into our life. When we sin, what does God want us to do? **1 John 1:8-10**. When we sin, we must confess sins to God - tell him that we have sinned. Agree with him about our sin, and trust him to wash us clean from our sin.

Sometimes God tests our faith. He wants to see if we really believe and love him. When God tests our faith he will always give us the grace and power to obey him. Sometimes God waits to answer our prayers. This is a test. Sometimes he allows a problem to enter our life so we can trust him and our faith will grow stronger. This is what happened to Abram. God tested his faith. One time Abram sinned and failed the test. The other time he passed the test.

Ishmael is Born

Sarai and Abram believed God's promise about the son which would be born, but Sarai was impatient. They waited ten years, and finally Sarai told Abram to have a child by her servant - Hagar. Abram did what Sarai told him to do and Hagar became pregnant. After Hagar became pregnant she became proud and despised Sarai. They did not have a good relationship and Sarai blamed Abram. Afterwards, Hagar ran away. **Genesis 16:1-6**.

In the desert, God spoke to Hagar and told her to return. He told her he would bless her son and he would become a great nation, but he would not inherit the promises of Abram. Hagar returned to Abram and Sarai and had a baby. They named the baby Ishmael. **Genesis 16:7-16**. Do

you know who the descendants of Ishmael are? Today they are the people called Arabs. They live in the countries around Israel. The people of Israel are the descendants of Abram and Sarai and the Arabs are the descendants of Abram and Hagar. Both of these groups of people want to live in the land of Canaan - the land God promised to Abram. They have fought together for many years and they still have problems today. This is the result of Sarai and Abram not obeying God and waiting for him to fulfill his promise. When we try to live according to our own idea rather than God's word, we will eventually have problems. God wants to bless us and lead us in this life, but we must trust him every day and live according to his word every day.

God Gives Abram a Symbol of His Covenant

When Abram was 99 years old, God gave him a symbol of his covenant. **Genesis 17:1-14.** When we enter a covenant with God we must agree to his terms, even if we don't fully understand them. God changed Abram's name to Abraham to remind him of his covenant, and he also commanded Abram and all of his family and servant to be circumcised. This became a symbol to remind them that God is faithful to fulfill his promises and the descendants of Abraham would become a special people to God - God's people.

Abraham and Sarai Have a Son

God also changed the name of Abraham's wife to Sarah. Twenty-five years after God promised Abraham that he would have a son, a son was born. Abraham gave him the name "Isaac." Isaac means "laughter." **Genesis 21:1-7.**

As Ishmael and Isaac grew together, Ishmael persecuted Isaac. Eventually, Hagar and Ishmael left to find their own place to live. **Genesis 21:8-13.**

When Isaac was about 17 years old, God tested Abraham's faith. Sometimes God tests our faith because when the test is finished, our faith is stronger, we know God better than before, and we have the ability to help other people. This is what God said to Abraham:

Genesis 22:1-10.

This was very difficult for Abraham! Isaac was his only son. Isaac was the son whom God had promised to give him. But Abraham immediately obeyed God. Even though he did not understand why God wanted him to do this, he obeyed. God will probably never ask us to do something like this, but many times he commands us to do things which we do not understand. He wants us to trust him. He will show his power in our life. Both Abraham and Isaac trusted God. When God saw that Abraham's faith was pure and strong, he stopped him from killing his son. **Genesis 22:11-14.** Sometimes we cannot see with our eyes or understand with our mind how God

will help us with our problems, but remember: Nothing is too difficult for God. If we trust him, he will finish his promises to us!

God Honored Abraham Because of His Faith

God honors our faith. When we have faith and trust God, God will do wonderful things in our life. Read what else the Bible says about Abraham's faith:

Hebrews 11:8-19

Questions:

1. When God called Abraham to leave his home country, did Abraham know where he was going?
2. What are some of the promises God gave Abraham?
3. How did Abraham disobey God? What does God want us to do when we sin?
4. Did Abraham consider this earth his home or some other place? (Hebrews 11:13-16)
5. How did God test Abraham's faith? Why does God test our faith?
6. What can we understand about God from these stories about Abraham?
7. What can we understand about people from these stories?
8. These stories are an example for us. How does God want us to live in this life? What does God want us to do?

The Life of Joseph, Part 1

We've studied about Abraham, and that Abraham was a man who didn't believe in the one true God. He didn't know about God's wonderful plan. Then one day God revealed himself to Abraham. Abraham believed in God and changed his life. He repented of his sins and lived according to God's Word. God gave Abraham many promises and fulfilled each one. God told Abraham that one day the Savior of the world would be one of his descendants.

Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac had a son named Jacob. Sometimes they called him Israel. Israel had twelve sons. One of his sons was named Joseph. All this happened about 1,700 years before Jesus Christ was born, and about 2,500 years after God created Adam.

Now we're going to study about the life of Joseph. This is a true story about Joseph. God put this story in the Bible for a reason. We can learn about life from this story. We can learn about God's ways from this story (Romans 15:4). All of the Bible comes from God. God wants us to know about these stories and laws so we can follow his plan for the people of this earth. The life of Joseph is an example for us to live today. What can we learn from the life of Joseph?

Genesis 37:1-4

1. God wants people to teach their children the ways of God.

- A. Joseph believed in the one true God. He didn't worship idols or false gods. He believed in God and knew about him because his father and mother taught him about God. They didn't have a church meeting at that time. Joseph's father and mother taught him about God and God's ways in their home.
- B. Therefore, from this story, we can learn that God wants mothers and fathers to teach their children about God. He wants us to teach them about the stories in the Bible. He wants us to read the Bible to them. Parents should teach their children about God's laws and make them obey God's laws and live according to God's Word.

Proverbs 3:1-2; 4:1-4,10; 22:6; Ephesians 6:4

2. God wants mankind to have good relationships with one another.

- A. Joseph's brothers hated him. They spoke evil words against him. Joseph spoke evil words about his brothers, too. They did not have a good relationship with one another.
- B. We will always have problems with one another. Eventually, I will do something to offend you. Another person will do something to offend you. It will happen! What will you do at that time?
 - 1. The Bible says we must always show love:
1 Corinthians 13:1-8a
 - 2. We must love people who love us and our enemies.
Matthew 5:43-47
 - 3. Our love must be impartial.
James 2:1-4
 - 4. We are to be unselfish.
Matthew 22:39
 - 5. We must have good actions toward other people.
 - 6. We should speak kind words to one another.
James 3:2-10; Proverbs 10:11a, 19; 13:3; 1 Peter 3:10-12

God commands us to obey him. When we do not teach our children his ways or love other people we commit sin. Sin is when we don't do something God tells us to do. Sin is also when we *do not do* what God tells us to do. The Bible tells us how to honor him with our life. Until we repent we will not have the power to love. We will not have the wisdom to teach our children the right way. But when we repent, God sends his Holy Spirit to live in our bodies. When we obey him, he will give us power to obey him. God wants us to teach our children about his ways and he wants us to have a good relationship with one another.

Some Questions:

- 1. Who was Abraham's son?
- 2. Who was Abraham's grandson? God changed his name to what?
- 3. How many sons did Israel have?
- 4. What was the problem between Joseph and his brothers?
- 5. Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other sons?
- 6. What does God command parents to do?

7. What should parents teach their children? How can parents teach their children?
8. What does the Bible teach us about our relationship with one another?
9. What does the Bible teach us about love?
10. Are people filled with love from birth? Why? How do we receive love from God?
11. Are people filled with wisdom from birth? Why? How do we receive wisdom to teach our children?

The Result of a Bitter Heart

Has anyone ever hurt you? Has anyone ever committed sin against you when you did nothing to cause them to hurt you? One person used to have a person work for him. He worked for one year. He ate with his family, played with his children, swam together and did many things together. He loaned him money and tried to help him improve himself. Last year the boss returned to the abroad for two months. When he returned, this man whom he loved stole from him. When he was gone from his house he broke the doors to the house, stole a lot of money, computers and everything that had value. He hurt his boss. What did his boss do? One time he spoke to him in anger. The worker did not forgive his boss and he was angry with him. He had a bitter heart. Perhaps he was jealous of the things the owner had, I don't know. Sometimes these things happen to us. Today we will study more about the life of Joseph and what his brothers did to him because they had a bitter heart.

Genesis 37:5-11

Genesis 37:12-36

1. What Happened?

- A. Joseph's brothers were taking care of their father's sheep in a far away place. Jacob sent Joseph to visit them. Joseph's brothers saw him coming and planned to kill him. One brother, Reuben, said they shouldn't do like that, but they should put him in a well. He had a plan to help Joseph later.
- B. When he arrived they took his beautiful coat and put him in the well which had not water and they sat down to eat the food. A little later they saw a group of sellers coming from a far away place journeying to Egypt, more than 300 kilometers from their home. They sold their brother for 30 pieces of silver and the travelers took Joseph to Egypt. The travelers sold Joseph as a slave to an official of the king of Egypt.

2. About Joseph.

- A. Joseph was a young man of 17 years old. What did he do to his brothers? Did he steal from his brothers? Did he speak evil against them? No.

- B. Joseph dreamed a dream. His dream came from God. God told Joseph about his future. Joseph told his brothers and parents. Perhaps Joseph didn't use wisdom when he told his brothers. Perhaps he was proud - we don't know. But God spoke to Joseph, he told his brothers what God said, and they hated him and had a plan to kill him.
- C. Sometimes this happens: People who do not do wrong are hurt by evil people. Sometimes it happens like this in life. Evil people hurt good people.

3. About Joseph's Brothers.

- A. Why did Joseph's brothers do like this to Joseph? Why did they hate him? I want you to think about Joseph's brothers: They were men like you and me. They were normal men. Yes, they were born with sin, just like all people. Just like you and me. Why did they plan to kill their own brother?
- B. Joseph's brothers were sad because their father loved their brother more than them. They were angry with Joseph. They allowed their anger to become a heart filled with bitterness.
- C. When people are angry or filled with bitterness, they hurt other people. They speak evil against them. They meet together with other people and speak evil about the person they hate. They hit them. They shoot them. They wound their spirit, soul, and body. Joseph's brothers allowed their anger to rule over them. They wanted to have revenge. They didn't trust God to take care of them. God wanted to fill their hearts with love, peace, and forgiveness, but they choose to follow the desires of sin.

4. About the Result of a Heart of Bitterness.

- A. The result of hurt is anger. The result of anger is a bitter heart. The result of a bitter heart is to have revenge. The result of revenge is hurting other people. People are hurt because of lies. Joseph's brothers lied about why he didn't return to his father's house.
- B. A bitter heart causes people to be separated. Joseph was separated from his family. His family was separated from him. A bitter heart will cause you to become separated from the people you love, the people you need, the people God wants in your life.
- C. A bitter heart causes sadness. Joseph's father was sad because he thought his son was dead. A bitter heart always hurts other people.

People will hurt you. They will lie to you. They will speak evil about you. You will become angry with them. What will you do? Will you hurt them back? Will you speak evil against them? Will you become an evil person like them?

You all know about Pol Pot. When he was a child, Pol Pot was a normal child. When he studied at the University in France he was a normal student - like you. He looked like a normal student. He lived like a normal student. When he was young he didn't want to kill people. When he was young he didn't want to kill his good friend. He wanted to have knowledge. He wanted to help his country. But what happened? Now Pol Pot is a very evil man. Just last week he killed his good friend, Son Sen. He killed many of his own countrymen. How did he become an evil man like this? Like everyone else, Pol Pot had sin from birth. He lived live as usual, but he allowed his sinful nature to rule his life. He did not have any power to rule over his sinful nature. He followed his own ways - the ways of Satan.

Brothers and sisters, be careful. Don't think you can rule over your sinful nature without God's power. Don't think you can have success in this life without a relationship with God. Joseph's brothers were angry. They were hurt. They had a bitter heart. Because they had a bitter heart they hated their brother and hurt him and sent him far away from his family.

God wants to fill your life with love, joy, and peace. You must repent from your sin and follow him every day with all of your heart. God will fill you with his love, his joy, and his peace.

Some Questions:

1. Tell me about Joseph's two dreams.
2. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?
3. What did they do to him?
4. Why do people have bitter hearts?
5. What is the result of a bitter heart?
6. What does God want to fill our heart with? What must we do?
7. When people hurt us, what should we do?

God Fulfills His Promises

When Joseph was a young man God gave him a promise by a dream. God said that someday you will become a leader and your brothers and parents will come give you honor. Joseph had many problems in his life. Many people committed sin against him and he suffered much. He lived in Egypt as a servant of a leader and as a slave. He never did anything wrong, but he suffered much. God was faithful and always gave Joseph grace. Thirteen years after God gave him the promise, God fulfilled that promise. Joseph became prime minister in Egypt. (**Genesis 41:37-57**)

When God makes a promise, he will always fulfill that promise, but sometimes we must wait. Sometimes we must suffer. But when we suffer, God will care for us and give us grace and strength to win over those problems. When we have problems we learn to trust in God, not our own strength of somebody else. When we have problems and we see God's power our faith becomes stronger. Sometimes God allows problems to enter our life, like Joseph, but we can see in the life of Joseph that when we continue to trust in God, eventually God will fulfill his promises and exalt us.

1. Joseph's Brothers Visit Egypt

There was a famine in Joseph's home country and in Egypt. But God told Joseph how to prepare for that famine. (**Genesis 41:25-36**) Therefore, Egypt had food to sell to foreign countries. Joseph's father - Jacob - sent his sons to Egypt to buy food. He sent all Joseph's brothers except his youngest brother. When they arrived they met with Joseph, but they didn't recognize him. But Joseph recognized them. Joseph was angry with his brothers because they used to persecute him and sold him as a slave. He accused them of stealing from the people of Egypt and put one brother in prison. He told them to return to their home country and bring their youngest brother back. Joseph's brothers bowed to him and said this would be very difficult because their father loved their youngest brother very much because they used to have one other brother, named Joseph, and their father was very sad because Joseph was gone. Joseph commanded them to return to their home country and bring their youngest brother back because he wanted to meet him and speak with him.

2. Joseph's Brothers Return to Their Home Country

Joseph's brothers left Egypt with their food and one brother in prison. They told this story to their father and their father said he would not let his youngest son go, because he used to have Joseph, but Joseph was dead (this is the story Joseph's brothers told their father), and this youngest son - Benjamin - replaces Joseph. Nevertheless, when they were short of food again, Jacob allowed them to return to Egypt with Benjamin.

3. Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt

When Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt they were very afraid. They met Joseph, but they still didn't recognize him. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, he ran away and cried. When he returned he revealed himself to them. He said, "I'm your brother Joseph! God has fulfilled his promise to me. Now I'm prime minister of Egypt. Now I have the power to care for you in this famine. Even though I suffered God prepared all my circumstances to exalt me and fulfill his plan for our family. Now, return to our home land and bring my father and we will all live here."

Genesis 50:19-21

4. Joseph's Family Lives in Egypt

Joseph's brothers returned to their home land and brought their father, their servants, and all their possessions back to Egypt. They lived there in peace for many years.

What Can We Learn From This Story?

Genesis 50:19-21

1. God has many promises for us. He wants to bless us and become our father.
2. Sometimes we must wait for God to fulfill his promises. Joseph waited thirteen years for God to fulfill his promise.
3. While we wait for God to fulfill his promise we continue to be faithful. We live our life according to God's Word. We trust him in all our affairs.
4. Sometimes while we wait for God to fulfill his promises we suffer a little. In this world we will suffer. But if we continue to trust God in all our affairs, God will give us grace and everything we need to win over those problems.
5. Nothing is too difficult for God. He knows about our future and he has the power to

prepare all the circumstances in our life to fulfill his plan for us.

6. God can cause bad circumstances to become a good harvest for us. Romans 8:28.