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GENESIS IN

CHRISTIAN

PERSPECTIVE

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Most of us would like to do a better job of loving. Perhaps we can help each other to find ways to express our love.

Love must be expressed. "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another." (John 13:35).

SUMMARY

1. The true test of love is being willing to put the interests of others before our own.
2. In Jesus Christ, we have the perfect example of sacrificial love. Most people of His day rejected that love.
3. If we have Christian love, it will show in what we do.
4. Love does not allow selfishness, racial prejudice, and tribal hatred. These feelings cannot exist with the love of God.
5. Selfishness, tribal hatred, and race prejudice lead to destruction. No good can come from these feelings.
6. We can change. At one time, Judah was willing to sell his brother as a slave. Later, he was willing to be a slave to spare his brother. The love of God can change the hatred in our hearts too.

Judah's plea (verses 18-34) is beautifully expressed. We feel Judah's deep emotion and sincere affection. Judah wanted to keep his promise to his father.

The first part (verses 18-29) is a story of the situation. The second part (verses 30-24) is what Judah wants to do about it.

In verse 20, Judah mentions Joseph as the dead son of the beloved Rachel. In verse 27-28, he repeats the words of Jacob as he speaks of Joseph. He also tells of the close ties between Jacob and Benjamin. Judah pleads that since Joseph is dead, the loss of Benjamin would kill his father.

In verses 30-34, Judah offers himself as a slave in the place of Benjamin. He tells Joseph how he became surety to his father for the youngest son. His closing appeal is: "How can I go back to my father if the lad is not with me?"

Joseph needed no further proof that his brothers were changed men. You will want to read chapter 45. It is a touching story of Joseph revealing himself to his brothers. In all the drama, Joseph's forgiveness stands out as a model of the way a man of God should be.

You will also want to learn the memory verse. Jesus spoke these words. We see that Judah had this love in his heart.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Love is the very foundation of our religion God loves His created mankind. He loved us enough to let Jesus die for us.

Only the presence of God in our lives can remove bitterness and put love in its place.

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also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring down my gray hairs in sorrow to Sheol.' 30Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, then, as his life is bound up in the lad's life, 31when he sees that the lad is not with us, he will die; and your servants will bring down the gray hairs of your servant our father with sorrow to Sheol. 32For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame in the sight of my father all my life.' 33Now therefore, let your servant, I pray you, remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord; and let the lad go back with his brothers. 34For how can I go back to my father if the lad is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would come upon my father." Genesis 44:18-34

Judah had promised his father that he would take care of Benjamin (Genesis 43:8-10). Joseph had told them not to return for grain without Benjamin. Judah had made this promise to his father. Jacob did not want Benjamin to go. Jacob grieved so much for Joseph. He was afraid that something might happen to Benjamin also.

Judah persuaded his father that they had no choice but to take Benjamin. They would all starve without grain from Egypt. And now that they have gone after the grain, Joseph has said that Benjamin must remain as his slave. Judah remembered his promise to his father and stepped forward to make his plea.

Judah was in a tense situation. He thought that he might be facing death because he still did not know that this great man was Joseph. If he had known that it was Joseph, he might have been even more frightened. Joseph had reason to feel deep anger toward his brothers.

It may seem to us that Joseph was being cruel. Actually (in truth), he was only testing them. In another lesson we said that testing brings out the goodness in people. It is good for us to be tested.

they were not spies. Joseph knew them. He knew that they were not spies. He wanted to see if they had changed since they sold him as a slave. Joseph also wanted very much to see his younger brother, Benjamin.

The sons of Jacob (Israel) returned. They brought Benjamin. Joseph played a trick on them. He put his own silver cup in Benjamin's sack of grain. Joseph sent his men and had the brothers brought back. This was because of the cup. Joseph said that Benjamin would have to stay in Egypt. He would be his slave because of this crime. Joseph was testing them. He wanted to see if they would help Benjamin.

Now, let's read what Benjamin's brother, Judah, offered to do.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Then Judah went up to him and said, "O my Lord, let your servant, I pray you, speak a word in my Lord's ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant; for you are like Pharaoh himself. 19 My Lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father, or a brother?' 20 And we said to my Lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a younger brother, the child of his old age; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children; and his father loves him.' 21 Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes upon him.' 22 We said to my Lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.' 23 Then you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.' 24 When we went back to your servant my father we told him the words of my Lord. 25 And when our father said, 'Go again, buy us a little food,' 26 we said, 'We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go down; for we cannot see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.' 27 Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons; 28 one left me, and I said, 'Surely he had been torn to pieces; and I have never seen him since. 29 If you take this one

CHAPTER 13

WHAT LOVE WILL DO

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 37-38, 44; John 15: 12-14.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 44:18-24

MEMORY VERSE: *Greater Love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*
John 15:13

In last week's lesson, we saw Jacob on his way to Egypt. He did not want to leave the land that God had promised his descendants, but there was a great famine. He felt that he had no choice but to go. In this time of doubt and uncertainty, he stopped and built an altar. He worshiped God. God spoke to him. God told him to go on to Egypt. God told him that Israel would be a great nation. God had changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Our lesson today is about one of Jacob's sons. His name was Judah. Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph and Benjamin were the youngest. They were the sons of Rachel, Jacob's beloved wife. Jacob showed favor to Joseph. This caused the other brothers to hate Joseph. They sold him to Midianite traders and told his father that he had likely been killed by a wild animal. This message brought great grief to Jacob.

God was with Joseph in a very special way. He became a great man in Egypt. He was next in power to King Pharaoh. The famine came in Canaan. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain. They bought the grain from Joseph. They did not recognize him.

Joseph told them that they must bring Benjamin. They were to bring him the next time they came to buy grain. This would prove that

CHAPTER 1

GENESIS IN CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 1:1-4; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-27

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17

MEMORY VERSE: *By Faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made of things which do not appear.*
Hebrews 11:3

No story is more exciting than the story of the creation. It is also a very humbling story. It reminds us that God is the sole owner of the world and all that is in it. Everything we know about has a beginning and an end. We do not understand the creation, but we know that God did it. We believe this because of our faith. Before anything there was God, and Jesus Christ (the Word) was there with Him. When we read about the creation, we know that *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.* (Psalms 24:1)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

John 1:1-3

15He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; 16for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominations or principalities or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. 17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-17

Genesis 1:1 - When God made the heavens and the earth, Jesus was there with Him. Jesus was with God. Even when there was nothing, Jesus was here. We do not know how this was done. We just know that it was done. The creation included the whole universe.

God not only made the world in which we live. He provided for our needs. Mankind needs food and shelter. He needs redemption too. God's first plans included a Saviour who would provide salvation.

In John 1:1-3, we read about the part that Jesus had in the creation. "Word" means Jesus Christ. Look at what these verses tell us.

- (1) Jesus has always existed (*in the beginning*). Jesus has always lived.
- (2) Jesus Christ was with God. And *the Word was with God.*
- (3) Jesus Christ is God. Jesus and God are one. (*And the Word was God*). In John 10:30, Jesus says: *I and my Father are one.*
- (4) Jesus Christ worked with God in the creation. In verse 3, we read that He made everything - that nothing was made without Him.

Paul wrote about Jesus' presence and work in the creation. Jesus Christ is the exact likeness of the God. This God we cannot see. Jesus was with God before the world was made.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

God can use imperfect people for His purposes. Jacob was a schemer and a cheat. He became a great man of God.

Jacob had grown spiritually when he stopped at Beer-sheba to worship. He was a "changed man".

God can see our potential. Man cannot.

It is easy to criticize people. It is more Christian to try to help them.

Jacob had to change before he could be used by God. Read the memory verse.

SUMMARY

1. Israel was chosen and blessed--not because of the goodness of Israel. It was because of the mercy of God.
2. We see God's wonderful grace when he promised Jacob; His divine protection and a safe return to the land he was leaving.
3. Jacob offered sacrifices at Beer-sheba. He was seeking God's leadership and protection.
4. God took Jacob, who was full of faults, and used him for his purposes. God can use us. He can help us to grow in the fruits of the Spirit. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

In Chapter 28 we read of Jacob leaving home. He was running away from Esau. He was also going to his mother's brother's house to find a wife.

Jacob stopped to sleep. He had a dream. He saw in his dream a ladder reaching from earth to heaven. Angels were going up and down the ladder. God stood above the ladder and spoke to Jacob in his dream.

God repeated the promise He had made to Abraham and to Isaac. He promised Jacob many descendants. He promised that He (God) would be with Jacob and return him again to the land he was leaving.

Jacob awakened. He knew that God had spoken to him in this dream. In the last verses (verses 18-22), Jacob set a marker at the place and called it Bethel. He promised God three things if God would take care of him and return him again to the land. He promised to (1) Make Jehovah his God, (2) that Bethel would be a place of worship, and (3) that he would give back to God one tenth of his income. Jacob knew that a tenth belonged to God just as we know it.

Many years passed. Jacob married and had a large family. The land of Canaan had a famine. Canaan was Jacob's home. It was a very bad famine. Jacob's family had to go somewhere else to get something to eat. Jacob was on his way to Egypt. Joseph, his son, was in Egypt. He was going there to buy grain for food.

In chapter 46:1-3, we read how God assured Jacob. He told Jacob that it was all right to go on to Egypt. God promised again that Jacob's descendants would be a great nation. Many years later, God brought Jacob's descendants out of Egypt. They became a great nation just as God had said.

All the things we see were made by Christ. Even some things we cannot see. It is Christ's power that holds things together.

God wanted all of Himself to be in His Son. Through this son, we can know God. Jesus brings us into the presence of God. We can come into His presence. We must believe in Jesus. He died for us. We must trust in Him. The Christ in our hearts is our only hope of glory.

Creative love and redemptive love go together. The God who made us, also died for us. We owe Him our best.

TO THINK ABOUT

When God finished making the world, He made man. God made everything man needs.

God wants to keep working in your life. Through Jesus Christ, God can keep on creating in you. You can become more than you ever could without Him.

God wants you to be your best. With His way in your life, you can be a great Christian.

SUMMARY

1. God has always existed. John's gospel tells us that Jesus Christ has always existed with God. He is God. He was with God before anything was made. He worked with God in the creating of everything. We were created by Him.

2. God cannot be seen. Jesus on earth showed us what God is like. Jesus Christ and God are one. It is the power of Jesus that keeps the universe in its right order. He keeps things in their proper place.

3. By faith, we believe the story in Genesis. By faith we know that a loving God created us. He also provided for our salvation. He came to earth and died on the cross for us.

God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation.
Genesis 46:1-3

Esau went on a hunt. This was what Isaac had asked him to do. Isaac liked venison and he liked the way Esau cooked it. He wanted a meal of this venison before he gave Esau the blessing. Rebekah prepared the goat meat to deceive Isaac. She also put some of the goat hair on Jacob's hands and arms so he would feel like Esau. Since Isaac was almost blind, Rebekah wanted Jacob to be like Esau when Isaac touched him.

With the meat and the disguise of the hair of the goat on his hands, Jacob enters his father's presence. Jacob told his father that he was Esau. Isaac was not sure. The voice did not sound like Esau's voice. Isaac also had some doubts about Esau being able to find the venison and prepare the meat so quickly, but Jacob continued to lie to his father. Isaac is finally convinced after he feels of the goat hair that Rebekah has put on Jacob's hands. Then Isaac ate the meat and gave Jacob the blessing. He thought all the time that he was giving the blessing to Esau.

In the remaining verses of chapter 27, we read how Esau comes in with the venison to receive the blessing. He found that Jacob had already received it. He sobbed bitterly. He wept because he had been cheated.

Esau was very angry. He planned to kill Jacob after Isaac's death. Rebekah heard this. She planned to send Jacob away. Jacob would then be safe.

Esau had married two Hittite women. Isaac and Rebekah did not approve of these marriages. They were worshipers of idols. They wanted Jacob to marry a relative of Rebekah's.

CHAPTER 2

CREATION, GOD'S HANDIWORK

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 1-2; Isaiah 40:12, 21-28.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 1:31, Genesis 2:4-9; Isaiah 40:12, 21-22.

MEMORY VERSE: *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and those who dwell therein.* Psalms 24:1

In the Genesis explanation of the earth, we learn that it was created. A miracle was performed. God made the world in an orderly manner. The Bible writer introduces God. He explains the earth. He also explains man.

In Genesis 1:1-30, you will find the names of the things God made. They are God's handiwork. Last week we learned that Jesus was with God when this miracle of creation was performed. God was and is the source of life.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day. Genesis 1:31

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up-for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground-7then the Lord God formed man of dust from

said to his father, "I am Esau your first-born. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, that you may bless me." 20But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" He answered, "Because the Lord your God granted me success." 21Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." 22So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." 23And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. 24He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." Genesis 27:18-24

And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. 12And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! 13And behold the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; 14and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. 15Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you."

16Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it." 17 And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." Genesis 28:11-17

So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beer-sheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." 3Then he said, "I am God, the

the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9And out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:4-9

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?

Isaiah 40:12

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

Isaiah 40:21-22

When God finished the creation, what did He think of His work? Genesis 1:31, tells us that it was very good. In Genesis 1, the author says "God saw that it was good" five times. When the six days work was over, the words "behold" and "very" are added. God made a world of beauty and harmony. God's work had no evil in it.

The first account of the creation in Genesis 1 tells us about God. We see more about man in Genesis 2. God caused the trees and plants to grow. He wanted them for beauty and for man to use. God watered without rain. Man was made of what God had already created. Mankind was made from the dust of the earth. "In the day" (verse 4) does not mean a day as we know it. It means "in the time", or "when."

CHAPTER 12

A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 27-28; 32; 46:1-3.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 27:18-24; 28:11-17; 46:1-3.

MEMORY VERSE: *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

John 3:3 (KJV)

Jacob is one of the most interesting characters in the Old Testament. Jacob was a favorite son of his mother, Rebekah. The father, Isaac loved Esau better. Their favoritism increased the bad feelings between the two brothers.

When Jacob traded food to Esau for his birthright, the feelings between the brothers must have been even more tense. They were very different in their desires, their work, and what they wanted out of life.

In Chapter 27:1-17, we read that Isaac was ready to give the blessing to Esau. Esau was the firstborn, and the blessing was another honor that belonged to him. When Rebekah heard of Isaac's plans, she began some plans of her own. She planned with Jacob to deceive Isaac. She wanted Jacob to be the one to get the blessing.

Rebekah prepared goat meat for the food that Isaac was expecting from Esau's hunt. Since Isaac was almost blind, the trick worked as Rebekah and Jacob planned.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

So he went in to his father, and said, "My father"; and he said, "Here I am; who are you, my son?" 19Jacob

let our physical desires control us, we give up our birthright as Esau did.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Every day we face the question of just what value we should put on material things and our physical desires. We must not let the world control our lives.

Physical desires can cause us to make the wrong choices. They keep us from putting God first. We become selfish.

God will help us to make the right choices when we stay close to Him.

SUMMARY

1. Esau was interested in things that could be seen--things that could be bought and sold. His descendants were merchants and robbers.

2. Jacob was interested in things that he could not see. He had a desire for a deeper knowledge of God. His descendants were a mixture of good and evil. They often rebelled against God, but they gave the world the prophets, the Psalms, and the Holy Scripture.

3. Esau's willingness to trade his birthright for food shows a weakness of character. He proved that he was not one to be trusted with a valuable birthright.

4. Are we guilty of thinking that we can make ourselves happy with worldly pleasures?

5. The writer of Hebrews, in exhorting his readers to faithfulness and godliness, remembered Esau as he warned against becoming careless about things of God. (see memory verse)

God's vital breath was used only for mankind. He did not use it for other animals. Man became "a living soul." This means that man is very honoured.

The word "Eden" means "joy" or "delight". This is what God wanted for man. He wanted a pleasant place. God planted a garden for man. Man could live and enjoy the fruits God made. There were trees, too, with edible fruit. Everything was there for man.

The prophet, Isaiah, tells us that God is in control. He controlled the beginning and he will control the ending. He created man. He planned man's redemption. He is the God of nature. He is the God of the universe. He is the maker of the earth. He is the maker of all that lives on earth.

TO THINK ABOUT

Think about the good gifts that God continues to give. Gifts are more than food, clothing, and houses. God has also given us minds to think with; we can honour God.

We have gifts of appetite, sex, desire for friendship. Other gifts include the ability to enjoy music and games. These gifts are given for our use and enjoyment. How can abuse and misuse result in sin? For each gift, God gives us a responsibility. How will we use our gifts?

SUMMARY

1. God's greatness and goodness are beyond our understanding.

2. We worship a God who is the Lord of the universe.

3. God not only provided for the needs of our bodies. He provided for the needs of our souls.

4. God's provision for our salvation is the "gift of God lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:9).

family when the father died. He would also inherit most of the father's things. This was the honor given the firstborn in the Hebrew family. It was called the birthright.

In verses 27-34, we read how Esau sold his birthright. Jacob and Esau did not look alike as most twins do. Esau was hairy. Jacob was not. Esau liked to spend time out in the pastures. He liked to hunt. Jacob stayed closer to home.

Their parents did not treat them alike. Isaac showed favor to Esau. Rebekah favored Jacob.

One day Esau came in from the fields, and he was very hungry. Jacob was cooking some food. It was probably a meat stew and some beans or peas. Esau asked for the food because he was so hungry. Jacob offered to trade him the food for his birthright. Jacob was probably hungry too, but he wanted the birthright more than he wanted food. Esau gave in to his physical appetite. He said something like, "What good is a birthright when I am starving to death!"

Jacob wanted to be sure that Esau remembered the trade. Jacob asked him to swear that he would trade his birthright. Esau placed value on the things that he could see and taste and feel. He did not respect and love the honor that was his as the firstborn son. So he swore to Jacob that he would trade his birthright for the food.

Jacob wanted the birthright. He was willing to give up the food that he had prepared to get it. Later, Esau was sorry but Jacob would not give up the birthright.

If we are Christians, we have a birthright. God is our Father, and He will direct us in the right way if we are willing to follow. When we

the younger."

Genesis 25:21-23

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. 28 Isaac loved Esau, because he ate of his game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

29 Once when Jacob was boiling pottage, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. 30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of the red pottage, for I am famished!" (Therefore his name was called Edom.) 31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." 32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 25:27-34

Before Rebekah's sons were born, she felt that there was something unusual about this pregnancy. The babies struggled in her womb. She asked God about this. God told her that her sons would be heads of two nations. God said that one nation would be stronger than the other. God also told her something else that was very strange. He said that the older brother would serve the younger. In the Hebrew family, the first born son had a position of special importance. This prophecy from God was unusual in another way. Twins are usually very good friends. God said that these twins would not be close friends--that they would be different.

Many years later, Esau's descendants were called Edomites. They did not obey God. They were selfish like Esau. They let physical desires control them. For a long time the Edomites served the Israelites (Jacob's descendants) just as God said they would.

Esau was the first to be born. He was to be the one to take the fathers place in the

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CHAPTER 3

MAN IN GOD'S DESIGN

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 1:26-2:25; Psalm 8; Matthew 10:29-31; Acts 17:26-28; I Corinthians 15:45-50.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:1-4; I Corinthians 15:45-50.

MEMORY VERSE: *God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:27

God had a plan for the man He created.

First, God made the universe. He made the sun, the moon, and the stars. He made the land and the water. He arranged the seasons of the year. Then he made growing plants, grass, herbs, and trees. He created the fish that live in the waters and the fowls that fly in the air. God created the animals of all kinds, small and large.

The last of God's creation was man. God did not intend that man be idle. God gave him work to do. God had a plan for the man that he created. We can learn something about that plan in this week's lesson.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping man that creeps upon the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and

fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Genesis 1:26-31

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. 3 So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation.

4 These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Genesis 2:1-4

Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual which is first but the physical, and then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. 50 I tell you this, brethren: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:45-50

In Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make man. . ." We learned in our last week's lesson that Jesus was with God. Jesus had a part in all of creation. The words "us" and "our" are used referring to the Father and the Son. Jesus

CHAPTER 11

THE PERIL OF SECULARISM

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 25:19 to 28:9; 36:1-8, Hebrews 12:15-17.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 25:21-23; 25:27-34.

MEMORY VERSE: See to it...that no one be immoral or irreligious like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

Hebrews 12:15-16

This week's lesson is about a man who was controlled by the things of the world. This is a danger that has been with men through the ages. We can avoid this danger by letting God control our lives. Our scripture tells about a man who chose what he wanted. He did not give any thought to what God wanted for him or what would be best for him. This man's name was Esau.

Jacob and Esau were twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah. These boys were born after Isaac had prayed to God for children in the home. Isaac and Rebekah had been married 20 years before they had any children.

Read about the birth of Jacob and Esau and some things that happened in the lives of these twin boys.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 22 The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is thus, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. 23 And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples, born of you, shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve

cheek" that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mountain.

6. Read James 4:1-4, and see why we have quarrels and fights and what the answer is.

was in the beginning. Man was made in the likeness of God. So man was made in the likeness of God and Jesus Christ.

Mankind was made like God. Man was made in God's image. This likeness is not in the way man looks. It is not a physical likeness. It is a spiritual likeness.

Man was to have dominion over the rest of God's creation. This includes the fowls, the fish, and the animals. Man was to be fruitful. God intended mankind to produce children. The children were to inhabit the world that he had made.

Man was the crowning glory of God's creation. He was never just a higher kind of animal. He was a special creation in the likeness of God. God planned for man to use and enjoy the things that he had created.

God worked for six days. He rested. He blessed the day and sanctified it. God gave us a special day set aside to use in a special way. God commanded his people to rest and worship on the seventh day. (Exodus 20:8-11). Jesus worshiped on the seventh day. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week. After Jesus went to Heaven, Christians started resting and worshiping on the first day. This day is now called Sunday.

What do the verses in the New Testament tell us about God? Adam became a living being. God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life. Jesus (the last Adam) was not like the first Adam. Jesus gives life. He gives life because he is God.

We have Adam's image which is "earthy". We can have God's image which is spiritual. Christ gives us this image when we accept Him. We must accept his death for us.

Our "earthy" bodies will decay and return to dust. When Jesus comes back to earth, he will give us new bodies. These bodies will never decay.

TO THINK ABOUT

God's ideal for a marriage and a home: Man and woman living together, enjoying fellowship with God. Man and woman busy with useful activity.

Man can respond to God. Man is responsible to God for the response he makes.

God's blessings include children and making the world productive.

God gave us everything we need. Only through faith and obedience can man find contentment in what God has given him.

SUMMARY

1. Man was created by God and was the crowning glory of His creation.
2. God had a plan for man. He gave him work to do and a world to subdue. God wanted man to look after and use what He had made. God provided for everything that man needed. God provided a day for rest and worship. God hallowed that day, and it is to be a special day for us. We can share in God's eternal kingdom.
3. God wants you to grow in your Christian life. God's likeness will show in your life when you keep on growing in His likeness.

friendly agreement. Isaac was a man of peace. He was not interested in trying to "get even."

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Sometimes people quarrel with us and try to make trouble. We can have peace by not fighting back.

It is easy to live with Christians who are trying to do God's will. We must also try to live peaceably with those who are not Christians.

Wherever there are people, there will be differences and quarrels. Even in our churches, we do not always agree. Try to think of ways that you can be a peacemaker when differences arise.

Think about what your actions should be to show that you belong to Christ.

Read carefully this week's memory verse.

SUMMARY

1. Although Isaac was not the great man of faith that his father Abraham was, he filled a useful and necessary place.
2. Isaac was deeply devoted to God. Jacob, Isaac's son, remembered his father as a man who had reverence for God. (Genesis 21:42) Isaac was also a man of prayer. (Genesis 24:63; 25:21).
3. The Philistines finally grew tired of trying to quarrel with a man who always gave in to them.
4. Isaac's attitude won out. The king came in person to ask for a peace agreement.
5. Isaac practiced "going the second mile" (Matthew 5:41) and "turning the other

(Matthew 5:9) From the story we read today, we know that Isaac was a peacemaker. After the Philistines filled up Isaac's wells, King Abimelech asked Isaac to leave the area. Isaac moved a little farther away, and his servants dug new wells. They also cleaned out some old wells that Abraham had dug, because the Philistines had filled them too.

Local shepherds came and claimed the new wells that Isaac had dug. Isaac did not argue. He just dug more wells. Again, there was a fight over the wells, and again, Isaac dug a well for water. This time they were left alone. Isaac was thankful that he had peace at last. He said, "Now the Lord has made room for us and we shall thrive." (verse 22b)

Isaac made a trip to Beer-sheba. At Beer-sheba, God appeared to Isaac. God repeated the promise that He had made to Abraham. God promised Isaac that he would have many descendants. God remembered Abraham and his great faith and obedience. Isaac built an altar and worshiped God. Isaac decided to live at Beer-sheba. (verse 25)

In verses 26-29, we read that King Abimelech made a visit to Isaac. Two of the king's high officials came with him. They were the ones who were jealous and asked Isaac to leave Gerar. Isaac asked them why they had come and reminded them that they had sent him away and had hated him.

The king and his men told Isaac that they could see how the Lord was blessing him. They denied that they had treated Isaac badly. Actually, they were afraid that God would punish them. They could see that God was with Isaac, and they wanted to be on good terms with him.

Isaac did not argue. He just prepared a great feast for them and celebrated their

CHAPTER 4

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 3; Luke 15:11-32;
Romans 1-3.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 3:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: *I am not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.*

Matthew 9:13

In our last lessons, we have been studying about God's creation. God made man as his last and crowning creation. He provided for man's needs. In this week's lesson, we study about man's first sin. Sin is disobeying God. Sin is man's choosing his own way instead of God's way.

What was God's will for the first man? As far as we know, it was simple. God gave man a beautiful garden with many fruits to eat. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat of everything in the garden except one. Read the scripture and think about the problem of sin.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6 So when the woman saw the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

8And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." 11He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" 12 The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" 14The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." 15The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 16And you shall put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:1-15

Look at verses 1-5. The Tempter came to Eve in the form of a serpent. We see that the Tempter was cunning. He asked the kind of questions that made her listen. The questions suggested that God was keeping something away from Adam and Eve. This something was desirable. Then the Tempter lied to Eve. He said she would not die if she ate of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He told her that she would be wise. He told her that she would be as wise as the gods.

In verses 6-7, we see how Eve was deceived. She believed the Tempter. She believed that she would be wise. All she had to do was eat of the fruit. She saw that the forbidden fruit was pleasant and good. She was not content to keep her sin to herself. She offered the fruit to Adam. Adam ate the fruit too. He disobeyed God as Eve had done. They felt guilty. They were ashamed and afraid.

14

had been dug by the servants of Abraham years before.

This week's lesson tells us how Isaac acted when the Philistines destroyed his source of water.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

So Isaac departed from there, and encamped in the valley of Gerar and dwelt there. 18And Isaac dug again the wells of water which had been dug in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham; and he gave them the names which his father had given them. 19But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of springing water, 20the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they contended with him. 21Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also; so he called its name Sitnah. 22And he moved from there and dug another well, and over that they did not quarrel; so he called its name Rehoboth, saying, "For now the Lord has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

23From there he went up to Beersheba. 24And the Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of Abraham your father; fear not, for I am with you and will bless you and multiply your descendants for my servant Abraham's sake." 25So he built an altar there and called upon the name of the Lord, and pitched his tent there. And there Isaac's servants dug a well.

26Then Abimelech went to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath his adviser and Phicol the commander of his army. 27Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, seeing that you hate me and have sent me away from you?" 28They said, "We see plainly that the Lord is with you; so we say, let there be an oath between you and us, and let us make a covenant with you, 29that you will do us no harm, just as we have not touched you and have done to you nothing but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the Lord." Genesis 26:11-29

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God."

CHAPTER 10

LIVING PEACEABLY WITH OTHERS

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 26; Matthew 5:9;
James 4:1-3.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis: 26:17-29.

MEMORY VERSE: *If possible, so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all.*
Romans 12:18

Last week we studied about Lot. Lot compromised with evil and found himself in bad trouble. God saved Lot and his two daughters from being burned to death when God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham, Lot's uncle, lived peaceably with the people around him. Isaac, Abraham's son, was also a man of peace. Isaac had cattle and sheep like his father, Abraham. Isaac, too, had to have plenty of water and grass for his livestock.

There was a famine where Isaac lived, and he moved to Gerar. Gerar was in the land of the Philistines. Abimelech was their king. When Isaac first arrived, he was treated well by King Abimelech.

In this time of change, God spoke to Isaac and renewed the promise He had made to Abraham. He promised to bless Isaac and Isaac's descendants.

Isaac made good crops and had great flocks of sheep and goats and herds of cattle. God blessed Isaac and prospered him. The Philistines had welcomed Isaac at first because of his wealth. Because they were jealous, they filled up the water wells that Isaac's herdsmen used for the flocks and herds. The wells

In verses 8-15, we read about God seeking his sinful people. God came to the garden to find them. They hid from God. They could not really hide from God. They tried to. God called out to them. God knew what they had done. Eve blamed the serpent for her sin. Adam blamed Eve. He went so far as to blame God, too. He said, "The woman Thou gavest me, she gave me the fruit..." (verse 12). Adam and Eve did not want to say, "I disobeyed you." We do not like to say, "I have sinned." They had both disobeyed God. To disobey God is to sin. We may blame others as Adam and Eve did. We are the ones who choose to do wrong.

Sin does not go unpunished. God punished the serpent. God punished Eve. He punished Adam. You will want to read the rest of Chapter 3 to see what the punishment was.

God also provided for mankind in his sin. He killed animals and used their skins as clothing for Adam and Eve. Is this a picture of God's provision for the sins of all mankind? Jesus shed his blood for all mankind that we might be...*dressed in His righteousness alone faultless to stand before the throne.*

Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins.

Hebrews 9:22b

TO THINK ABOUT

1. The Tempter (Satan) tempts all of us. He tries to make us disobey God. He wants to make sin look pleasant and good so we will forget God's laws. Satan never gives up. The more we try to live for God, the harder he tries to turn us away.
2. When we listen to Satan, we disobey God. This is sin. When we sin, we are punished.

3. We are sinful. We are born like Adam. God wants us in his own likeness. Jesus Christ can give us God's likeness if we trust him.

4. The part of us that is like Adam will die--our physical bodies. Through Jesus Christ, we can have new bodies. These bodies will live with Him forever.

TO THINK ABOUT

When we compromise with evil, we are really giving in to Satan and sin. We are not being obedient to God.

God expects His people to be different. Read the memory verse again.

We must admire the attitude of Abraham. In our words it might be: "Please. We simply must not quarrel. We are relatives. Take what you want and go in peace."

God has always punished wickedness. He has not changed.

God shows mercy to the faithful. God's angels led Lot and his family out of the city.

SUMMARY

1. Lot compromised with evil when he made a selfish choice for the best pasture land. This was a beginning to other compromises.

2. Even when destruction was at hand, Lot found it hard to leave Sodom.

3. We are reminded of the rainbow after the flood. An entire city is burning like a furnace, and one family is spared because of God's mercy.

4. Lot thought he was getting the best when he chose the land near Sodom. In the end he lost everything.

5. No choice is a good one when we compromise with evil.

CHAPTER 5

THE FRUIT OF HATE

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 4:1-24; I John 3: 11-15.

SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 4:1-15.

MEMORY VERSE: *Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*
I John 3:15

cities. They went where the cattle and sheep could feed. When the quarrels and fighting occurred between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot, it was Abraham who sought a peaceful settlement. Abraham did not want bitter feelings between relatives. Abraham asked Lot to take his choice of the land--to the east or to the west. Lot looked to the east and saw a beautiful country-side with lots of grass and plenty of water. It was a good pasture--but it was near Sodom. The men of Sodom were usually wicked.

Lot make a selfish choice. He knew that he was choosing the best from his uncle. He also chose to live near a city of wickedness. Later, he moved into the city.

In Genesis 18:20-22, we study again of God's concern with the evil deeds of men. God heard of the wickedness in Sodom and Gomorrah. God said that he would destroy the cities because of their great sin. In the rest of chapter 18 we see how Abraham begged God to spare Sodom. Abraham thought that there were good people in Sodom who would be destroyed with the wicked. God promised Abraham that he would not destroy Sodom if 10 godly men could be found there. But Sodom and Gomorrah did not have 10 godly men.

In Chapter 19:24-29, we see that God rained down fire and brimstone on the two cities. God sent messengers to warn Lot and his family. They told them to hurry and not to look back. Lot's family were not anxious to leave, but God's angels led them out. Lot's wife looked back, and God turned her into a pillar of salt. She had lived with sinners. She did not want to change. She did not want to leave her possessions. Only Lot and his two daughters escaped.

Last week, we studied about Adam and Eve disobeying God. The first man and woman sinned. This lesson is about the sons of Adam and Eve. Their names were Cain and Abel. This lesson tells what can happen when a person has hate in his heart. Anger in the heart is hate, or can lead to hate. Hate is a terrible sin. It can lead to destruction. As we read these verses, we can see the results of hate.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." 2And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. 3In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel, and his offerings, 5but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? 7If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."

8Cain said to Abel his brother, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. 9Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He

said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" 10And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. 11And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength; you shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." 13Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. 14Behold, thou hast driven me this day away from the ground; and from thy face I shall be hidden; and I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will slay me." 15 Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If any one slays Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who came upon him should kill him.

Cain and Abel were brothers. Abel was a shepherd. He raised sheep. Cain worked the soil and grew food. Both men brought an offering to the Lord. Cain brought some of his crops. We are not told what it was. We know Cain did not bring the offering in the right spirit. In verse 5 we read that God was not pleased with it. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." (Psalm 51:17).

God was pleased with Abel's offering. In verse 4 we read that Abel brought a choice animal. Abel brought the best animal he had.

When God accepted Abel's offering, Cain became very angry. His anger could be seen in his face. Have you seen anger in a person's face? Does your face show anger and jealousy? God saw this anger on Cain's face. God tried to warn Cain. God told Cain that he was in serious trouble. God was trying to save Cain from his own bad feelings. Cain rebelled against God.

One day Cain was alone with Abel in the field. Cain killed his brother, Abel. God asked Cain about Abel. Cain did not repent. He lied to God by saying that he did not know. He tried to shrug off all responsibility. He

lifted up his eyes, and saw that the Jordan valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar; this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. 11So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan valley, and Lot journeyed east; thus they separated from each other. 12Abraham dwelt in the land of Canaan, while Lot dwelt among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. 13Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

Genesis 13:8-13

Then the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, 211 I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me; and if not, I will know."

22So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

Genesis 18:20-22

Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven; 25and he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26But Lot's wife behind him looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. 27And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord; 28 and he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and beheld, and lo, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.

29So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in which Lot dwelt.

Genesis 19:24-29

Lot was Abraham's nephew. Lot's father died when he was young, and Abraham's father probably brought him up with his own family. When Abraham's father died, Abraham took on the responsibility.

Abraham and Lot travelled together after they left Haran. They did not go through the

CHAPTER 9

COMPROMISING WITH EVIL

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 13:8-13; Genesis 18 and 19; II Peter 2:6-9.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 13:8-13;
Genesis 18:20-22;
Genesis 19:24-29.

MEMORY VERSE: *Do not be conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God.*

Romans 12:2

To compromise means to give in. It means trying to do right and wrong at the same time. When we continue compromising, the time comes when we do not even try to do right.

God expects His people to be different. We are not to be like the world. The message to the church at Laodicea was "...you are neither hot nor cold...But since you are merely lukewarm, I will spew you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:15-16).

Abraham was a wealthy man. He had large flocks and herds. It was necessary for him to find plenty of grass and water for them. Lot had many flocks and herds too. This led to trouble between the herdsmen of the two relatives. Read the story from the Bible in Genesis 13.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen; for we are kinsmen. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." 10 And Lot

said: "Am I my brother's keeper?" God knew all about Cain's sin. God knows what we do. Cain could not hide his sin from God.

God punished Adam and Eve when they sinned. He punished Cain. Cain's crops would no longer be plentiful. He would be a wanderer going from place to place. Cain cried out to God in protest. He thought his punishment was too great. Cain, who killed his brother, feared that he would be killed.

God provides for sinners. He placed a mark on Cain for his protection. God provided his Son to save us. We cannot do enough good things to save ourselves. Only in Jesus can we be right with God.

TO THINK ABOUT

1. If we have a bad feeling in our heart, it can lead to anger. If anger remains with us, it leads to hate.
2. As Christians, we must control our bad feelings. Satan wants us to have bad feelings because they lead to bad deeds. They separate us from God. When we let our anger grow, we hurt other people. We may hurt ourselves worst of all.
3. God knows all our thoughts and all our deeds. He holds us responsible for the way we treat other people. With Christ's love in our hearts, we have concern for others.

SUMMARY

1. Cain lacked control. He did not have the resource to handle his anger. This resource comes from God. We must stay close to him if our responses are to be Christian.
2. Many times one sin leads to another. Cain did not bring his offering in the right

spirit. He was jealous of Abel when Abel's offering was accepted. Cain's jealousy led to anger. His anger led to hatred. His hate led to murder. To these sins he added lying when God asked him where Abel was. He sinned again by saying that he was not responsible.

3. God punishes us for our sins. "Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7b)

4. No sin is hidden from God. Cain got Abel out in a field where no one was watching, but God saw it all.

5. God shows mercy even when our sins are great. The mark on Cain was a sign of God's mercy. God is merciful toward us too. God loves us even when our sins are very bad.

passed the test that God gave him. God knew that he(God) was first in Abraham's life. And God did provide the animal for the sacrifice.

If we follow God's will, we must realize that obedience and faith are costly.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

God does not call us to an easy life. The knowledge that we are in God's will is the happiest life of all, even when it means hardships.

People with all sorts of imperfections can become strong in faith. All of us can have great faith by putting God first in our lives.

God knew what He was asking Abraham to do. Abraham's son was spared. God did not spare His son, Jesus Christ. He let Him bleed and die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins.

SUMMARY

1. God called Abraham to go to a new strange land. Abraham trusted God to lead him in starting a new nation.

2. God wanted a sacrifice of human spirit. He did not want a dead body. Abraham gave God his own yielded life.

3. Men are tested to bring out the goodness in them. God tested Abraham to see if he was willing to give God his best.

4. We cannot say too much about the greatness of this chapter. It should be studied with reverence.

5. God did not spare His only Son. Without this sacrifice, we would have no forgiveness of sins.

CHAPTER 6

JUDGMENT AND PROMISE

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 6-9; Matthew 24:37-39; II Peter 2:4-10a

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 6:5-8, 13, 14
Genesis 7:1, 4-9; Genesis 9:8-13.

MEMORY VERSE: *By faith, Noah, being warned of God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household.* Hebrews 11:7

read the words of God: "...and be thou a blessing." Abram was not only to receive blessings. God told him to be a blessing to others. Is this a lesson for us? As we receive God's blessings, we are to be a blessing to those around us.

Abram trusted God. He set out on the journey with his wife, Sarah, and his nephew, Lot. Abram travelled in Canaan. God promised to give this land to his descendants. Abram built an altar and worshiped God. He believed that God would lead him. Abram was obedient.

Our next scripture in chapter 22, is a continuation of the story of Abraham. Many years have passed. His name has been changed from Abram to Abraham. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby boy. Abraham was very old. The baby's name was Isaac. Isaac was to be the father of the nation. Isaac was loved very much by his parents.

God tested Abraham. God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, and offer him as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah. We can only guess at the thoughts of Abraham. He obeyed God.

Abraham responded to God again. He had already answered his call to leave the country. He did not question God. He got an early start on the long journey. They travelled three days. What was Abraham thinking during the journey? Isaac was probably enjoying the outing because he did not know what God had told his father to do. Abraham's heart must have been very heavy.

They neared Mount Moriah. Abraham left the donkey with the servants. He and Isaac made the last part of the journey alone. Isaac noticed that they had the fire and the wood. But no lamb to kill for the sacrifice. Abraham answered him simply that God would provide a lamb.

You will want to read the rest of the story in verses 9-14. Abraham obeyed God. Abraham

This week we study about the story of a great flood. We know that when men sin, God punishes them. We studied in our last lessons about God's punishment. We also studied about God's mercy. He provided clothing for Adam and Eve to hide their nakedness. He placed a mark on Cain for his protection. God sent the flood to destroy all living things on the earth. He spared Noah. To make us remember his mercy, he also gave us a sign. This sign means that God will never send such a flood again. This sign has been visible through hundreds of years. It reminds us of God's concern for us.

For the complete story, we should read Genesis 6-9. The Bible material in today's lesson is printed below.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the ground, man and beast and creeping things and birds of

the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." 8But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Genesis 6:5-8

And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them; behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch.

Genesis 6:13-14

Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before me in this generation.

Genesis 7:1

For in seven days I will send rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." 5And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

6Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth. 7And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark, to escape the waters of the flood. 8Of clean animals, and of animals that are not clean, and of birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9two and two, male and female, went into the ark with Noah, as God had commanded Noah.

Genesis 7:4-9

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13I set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Genesis 9:8-13

Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:7

After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." 2He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." 3So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you." 6And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. 7And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8Abraham said, "God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:1-8

When Abram was a young man, he lived in Ur of the Chaldees. The people in Ur worshipped false Gods. Later, Abram's family moved to Haran in Canaan.

After Abram's father died, God told him to leave his country and his people. He was told to go to a land that God would show him. Do you know someone who has left his country and his people to live in another land?

God expected Abram to live in another land. He wanted Abram to start a new nation. God promised to bless Abram. He promised to make a great nation of Abram's descendants. God promised to make Abram's name great. God added a condition to His promise. In verse 2b, we

CHAPTER 8

ADVENTURING IN FAITH

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 12:1-7; 21:1-34; 22:1-24; Romans 4; Hebrews 11:8-12.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 22:1-8.

MEMORY VERSE: *Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him for righteousness.*

Romans 4:3

To adventure means to take a risk or to take a chance. It refers to something that has never been done like climbing a high mountain or swimming a wide river. "Adventuring in Faith" means following God's will--in faith.

To follow God's will in faith is not taking a risk. We trust God to lead us. We know that He will lead us in the way that we should go.

The lesson this week is about Abram. Later, God changed his name to Abraham. Abraham is thought of by many as the "father of believers". He is thought of as a friend of God. Muslims, Jews, and Christians honor Abraham. He was a man of exceptional faith.

Let us read what God asked Abraham to do and what God promised him.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.

Genesis 12:1-3

When God finished the creation, He saw everything was very good. God made things perfect. Man soon marred that perfection by his sin. Men increased on earth. They kept on sinning. God saw his people were intent on going their own way and disobeying Him. He was sorry. God was even sorry that he had made men. People were so concerned with themselves. They had no time for God. They thought only bad thoughts and planned bad things. God was both sorry and grieved. God's heart ached. He loved his people so much. He wanted good for them. God wants good for us today. He wants us to be obedient.

God planned to destroy mankind. He said that he would also destroy all the beasts, fowls and insects.

Noah was a good man. Verse 8 says, "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." God is merciful to those who are obedient. God wanted to spare Noah when he destroyed the rest of the living things. God gave Noah the exact plans for building a big boat. How people must have laughed at Noah. No other family was making plans for a flood. Noah believed God. He made the ark big enough for his family. He made room for fowls and animals. He made it all just like God told him to.

Noah, his family and the animals entered the ark. God sent rain for 40 days and 40 nights. All the people and the animals outside the ark were drowned. Noah was safe. The ark floated on the water.

In Chapter 9 we read that the rain stopped. The ark came to rest on the ground. God promised never again to destroy all living things with a flood. God gave a sign as a reminder of His promise. The sign is the rainbow in the sky. We remember God's promise when we see the sign. Many times we see the rainbow after a

rain. This rainbow is a covenant between God and the earth.

TO THINK ABOUT

God has made another promise. He promised He would forgive us of our sins when we repent (or turn away) from our sins.

When we think evil thoughts and do evil deeds, we sin against God. We sin when we disobey God.

We hurt ourselves and we hurt others when we sin.

God is righteous. He does not let sin go unpunished.

In II Peter 2:4-10a, we see that the people who have no faith do not think about the return of Jesus Christ.

Jesus talked of Noah and the way the people were sinning against God.

Jesus spoke of the destruction of the wicked, and the deliverance of the faithful. (Matthew 24:37-39).

We may have to stand alone in our faith. Noah and his family had no friends who believed and behaved as they did.

SUMMARY

1. Sin is serious. God sent the flood because of man's wickedness. We may make a joke of sin. We may look lightly at drunkenness, lying, profanity, and sex sins. God does not look lightly on sin.

2. "Be sure your sins will find you out." (Numbers 32:23) "Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap." (Galatians 6:7). We

2. All the people spoke one language. They felt complete within themselves. Their plans were for their own glory.

3. God saw their selfishness. Because they forgot God in their plans, He gave them different languages and scattered them.

4. When men leave God out and work for their own gain and glory, they experience confusion and separation.

5. When we honor God and follow His will, we will have unity and harmony. We can work with others.

these things for them. They had to suffer many hardships. They did not remain true to God.

In Psalms 10:4, we read "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God." God is not in the thoughts of the wicked.

In Luke 12:15-21, Jesus tells the story of a rich man who forgot God and put his trust in his wealth. Jesus warns of the destruction that will come when people forget that it is God who gives.

Are you guilty of the sin of pride?

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

God and God alone gives us strength of body and mind. When we are able to do things, we should give Him the glory.

The sin of pride is a serious sin. Pride means that a person is placing his faith in himself.

Pride shows up in many ways. A person may be arrogant about his appearance. Another may be arrogant about his knowledge. Another may be arrogant about his possessions. Another may be arrogant about his race. All are sins against God.

Pride affects our relationship with God. Pride disrupts our relations with our fellows. It causes people to be suspicious and tense. It even leads to jealousy and hate.

God will not surrender His lordship or sovereignty to any man or group of men.

SUMMARY

1. After the flood, God told the people to scatter and replenish the earth. They disobeyed God when they settled in Shinar.

must accept God's loving mercy or face his judgment. Even God's judgment is an instrument for man's good.

3. In the story of the flood, God brings judgment. He also provides mercy for the faithful. Our hope is the God of the rainbow. He made salvation available to us through Christ.

THE RESULTS OF ARROGANCE

BIBLE BACKGROUND: Genesis 11:1-9; Deuteronomy 6:10-15; Psalm 10:4; Luke 12:13-21.

SCRIPTURE IN TODAY'S LESSON: Genesis 11:1-9

MEMORY VERSE: *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*
Proverbs 16:18

This week our lesson is about people who were arrogant. They were not humble. They did not feel a need for God. Arrogance is another word for pride. Our memory verse warns us of the danger of pride. Pride is a terrible sin that can lead to other sins. Paul wrote, "Let no man think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Romans 12:13). Pride is a sin of the spirit and God despises it.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Now the whole earth had one language and few words. 2And as men migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth." 5 And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the sons of men had built. 6And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7Come, let us go down, and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." 8So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9Therefore its name

was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.
Genesis 11:1-9

After the flood, God told Noah and his sons to be fruitful and multiply and to replenish all the earth. Many years later, people were living in one place. They all spoke one language. They could understand each other and work together. Before the flood, the people wandered around. They did not live in the same place. They all settled in Shinar. They wanted to build a city. They wanted to build a very tall tower. They wanted a name for themselves. They were arrogant. They wanted praise and glory for themselves. They were not willing to honor God.

God saw what they were doing. Their pride was in themselves. Their faith was in themselves. This kind of sin separates man from God. Man must realize his dependence on God. Man must know that he needs God's grace for salvation. The people of Shinar boasted. God gave them different languages. They could no longer talk to each other. They could no longer plan together for their city and their high tower. If they could not understand each other, they could not work and plan together. God also scattered them to different places.

God wanted people all over the earth. Now they were scattered as he wanted them to be. The people had forgotten that God gave them their abilities. They forgot that God gave them minds to think and plan. They forgot that God gave them strong bodies. Do we forget to thank God for our minds and bodies?

In Deuteronomy 6:10-15, we read God's promises to the Hebrews. God kept his promise to give them cities that they did not build and crops and vineyards that they did not plant. The Hebrews forgot that it was God who provided