

GENToREV

QUESTIONS FOR LESSONS 1-9

CLASS SCHEDULE AND INTRODUCTION

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROOM 233, 9:30-10:40 AM

DATES	2023-24 WEEKLY LESSONS	TEXT / GUIDE PAGE NO. rev 08/24/23 thebiblestudy.org
Sep 10	<i>Bible and Old and New Testament Introductions</i>	Various / p5
Eras 1 and 2: HARMONY AND REBELLION		
17	1. The Creator, Creation and Fall	Genesis 1-11 / p13
Era 3: GOD'S UNFOLDING REDEMPTION PLAN		
24	2. Covenant and Lineage	Genesis 12-50 / p21
Oct 1	3. Bondage, Freedom and Law	Exodus / p29
8	4. Sin, Sacrifice and Holiness	Leviticus / p37
15	5. Organization, Trials and Testing	Numbers / p45
22	—Missions Sunday, class meets—	—missionaries share—
29	6. Discipline and Obedience	Deuteronomy / p53
Nov 5	7. Conquering and Conquests	Joshua / p61
12	8. Justice and Deliverance	Judges, Ruth / p69
Era 4: THE FALLEN KINGDOMS		
19	9. Fallen Kingdoms	1, 2 Samuel, 1 Chron. / p77
26	10a. Fallen Israel	1, 2 Kings, 2 Chron. / p85
Dec 3	10b. Fallen Israel, Judah and Exiles	1, 2 Kings, 2 Chron. / p87
10	11. Return, Rebuild, Reform and Restore	Ezra, Neh., Esther, Job / p93
Jan 7	12. Worship, Wisdom, Preaching and Song	Psalms, Prov., Eccl., SS. / p101
14	13. Pointing Ahead to Christ, Judgment and Peace	Isaiah / p109
21	14. Pointing Ahead to Failure and Future	Jer., Lam., Ezk., Dan. / p117
28	15a. Pointing Ahead to Hope and Promise	Hosea – Malachi / p125

Era 5: THE KINGDOM OF GOD

<i>Feb 4</i>	15b. 400 Silent Years, New Testament Intro	Outlines
<i>10</i>	16. The Savior, the Son of God	Matthew / p133
<i>18</i>	17. The Savior, the Son of Man	Mark / p141
<i>25</i>	18. The Risen Lord is our Savior Redeemer	Luke / p149
<i>Mar 3</i>	19. Salvation is for Believers	John / p157

Era 6: THE CHURCH SHARES THE GOSPEL

<i>10</i>	20a. The Holy Spirit Empowers the Kingdom	Acts 1-9 / p165
<i>17</i>	20b. The Church Spreads the Gospel	Acts 10-28 / p167
<i>24</i>	21. Justification	Romans / p173
<i>31</i>	—Easter Sunday, no class—	—No class—
<i>Apr 7</i>	22. Christian Love	1, 2 Corinthians / p181
<i>14</i>	23. By Grace through Faith	Galatians, Ephesians / p189
<i>21</i>	24. Joy in Knowing Christ	Philippians, Colossians / p197
<i>28</i>	25. Waiting for Christ	1, 2 Thessalonians / p205
<i>May 5</i>	26. Gifts and Leadership	1, 2 Tim., Titus, Philm. / p213
<i>12</i>	27. Faith	Hebrews / p221
<i>19</i>	28. Sanctification and Good Works	James, 1, 2 Peter / p229
<i>26</i>	29. Discerning Truth	1, 2, 3 John, Jude / p237

Era 7: ETERNAL HARMONY WITH GOD

<i>Jun 2</i>	30. Glorification and Overcoming Evil	Revelation / p245
<i>9</i>	<i>Review, Sharing and Discussion</i>	<i>The Bible Story</i>

THE BIBLE HAS A NARRATIVE STORY TOLD IN SEVEN ERAS

The Bible is both one book and a whole library—with a single narrative story that we will study in seven “Eras.” God Himself narrates this 66-book story—telling our history and guiding our future with Him. His story is about our redemption, becoming our personal journey. Our “Triune” God of three persons first appeared as the Father in the Old Testament period. In four distinct “Eras” God the “first person” Father directly spoke to and through our forefathers and prophets. They were His inspired writers. The Hebrews writer said, “*Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,*” (Heb. 1:1).

In the New Testament Gospels—the fifth “Era”—God again appeared personally in His “second person.” Heb. 1:2 says, “*but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*” Christ the Son spoke directly and inspired the Gospel writers. Christ completed His redemptive work on the cross as He acclaimed and proved Himself the Son of God, Savior, Messiah, and Resurrected King of Kings.

In John 14-16 Christ promised God's "third person" and appeared in our sixth "Era" as the Holy Spirit—our Power, Counselor and Guide in developing and expanding Christ's church. The seventh and final "Era" follows Christ appearance in a Revelation, revealing the future of mankind and of us in everlasting Glory with our God.

Seven Eras of God's Plan for His People

1. **Harmony**—Genesis 1-2. In God's perfect creation, God the Father is in perfect harmony and relationship with man and woman. All mankind, created in His image, is assigned to be His overseers, in charge of all creation.
 2. **Rebellion**—Genesis 3-11. Tempted by Satan and evil, man, woman and all who succeed them fall into selfish temptation and sin against God and others. Perfect harmony with God, others and nature, is broken.
 3. **Redemption**—Genesis 12-Ruth. God makes a Covenant of Redemption with Abraham and all of Israel, to bless them. Through this covenant the whole world will be blessed.
 4. **Fallen Kingdoms**—1 Samuel-Malachi. God allows His chosen people of Israel to self-govern with kings like all the other sinful nations. They rise and fall dramatically, but through chosen leaders and prophets He gently calls them to Himself, to follow Him in faith waiting for a new Redeemer King.
 5. **The Kingdom of God**—Matthew-John. Christ comes as mankind's Servant and completes His redemptive work on the cross by His grace alone. He acclaims and proves Himself the Son of God, Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Resurrected King of Kings.
 6. **The Church Shares the Gospel**—Acts-Jude. God the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, and His Power counsels and guides Christians and His church in all truth throughout the world.
 7. **Eternal Harmony with God**—Revelation. In God's final story of redemption of His people, Christ gives John and us visions of Christ's return, of His final defeat of Satan and all evil, and then visions of all Glory in Heaven with perfect harmony for us.
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Grow in knowing structure, themes, writers and geography of the whole Bible.
- Grow further in understanding Bible and Gospel doctrines directly from the Bible text.
- Grow in trusting God's Word and plan through greater knowledge and understanding.
- Grow further in Christian fellowship through sharing, discussion and listening.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Deuteronomy 11:18-25—Learning God's Words

From the beginning of time God has guided us to follow His Word and learn His laws for all times. Moses had the responsibility of sharing God's Word with the people of Israel.

- a. What are some of the ways they learned His words?

- b. How in these times might you benefit from knowing His words?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 1:12-14—Understanding God's Words

Paul writes to the Corinthians that *"we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope that you will understand to the end."*

- a. How does earthly wisdom differ from wisdom that is by the grace of God? (See also Hebrews 13:7-9.)

- b. What is God's ultimate purpose in Paul's desire for them? What do you think "the day of our Lord Jesus" means?

3. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17—Continuing in God's Words

The value of knowing scripture, Paul told Timothy, is that as you learn you become convinced, receive wisdom, and are led to salvation.

- a. How do you think the Bible might make you “*wise for salvation*”?

- b. In what ways do you think knowing Scripture might be useful throughout your life? Why? (See verses 16 and 17.)

THE CREATOR, CREATION AND FALL OF MANKIND

LESSON 1—GENESIS 1 - 11

The first Era of the Bible, in the opening of Genesis, shows us how our great and powerful God over the universe began His relationship with man and woman. God made them His crown over creation, in His own image, and in perfect harmony with Himself and others.

But then, in the second Era, their selfish rebellion from Him led all of mankind into a desperate need for God's forgiveness and redemption.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

ERA 1: HARMONY BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

1. Read Gen. 1:1-4 and John 1:1-5, 14—God Is the Triune Creator

- a. Who created the heavens and the earth? (See 1:1-2.) Who besides the Spirit was with God then? (See John 1:1-5, 14.)

- b. What was the first thing created that the Creator told us was and is “good”? (See 1:3-4, Isaiah 45:5-8, and 1 Tim. 4:4.) What did Jesus call Himself in John 8:12? How do we receive goodness and redemption through Jesus?

2. Read Gen. 1:26-29—God Gave Man and Woman Relationship with Himself, Others and Earth

- a. Describe God's relationship with man and woman before and after the rebellion. (See 3:8-19 and 5:1-5, 22-23, 32.)

- b. Describe God's intended image and relationship for man, and with the earth and animals.

3. Read Gen. 2:1-8—Man and Woman Created

- a. How did God form man and woman, giving them life? (See also 2:18-23.)

- b. What three kinds of trees were in the Garden of Eden, cited in verse 9? What two specific trees are cited in verse 9? Which tree is everlasting? (See Rev. 22:1-2.)

- c. Which tree is prohibited? (See also 2:15-17.) What does God expect of man? Why? (See also 1:26-27.)

ERA 2: REBELLION OF MANKIND**4. Read Gen. 3:1-7 and 4:1-7—Man and Woman Fell into Sin, But Are Promised Redemption**

- a. What were the root causes of the temptation and fall? (See also 3:13, James 1:12-15 and Rev. 12:7-12.)

- b. Why did God “punish” them for disobedience? How might the curse of the serpent have led to the redemption offer for all mankind? (See John 8:44 and Rom. 16:19-20.)

- c. What did God offer woman and man as paths toward redemption? (See 3:14-19.) Who is “He” in verse 15?

- d. Compare God’s sacrificial expectations of Cain and Abel, and their responses (4:1-5). How does sin “crouch at the door?” (See also 1 Peter 5:6-11.)

- e. What guidance does God give Cain in verses 6-7? Why?

5. Read Gen. 6:5-22 and 8:20-22—God Saw the Faith of Noah and Gave Redemption

What two things did Noah build? (See 6:14-22 and 8:20-22.) Why did God protect and treat Noah differently than all the rest of mankind? (See Heb. 11:7.) Why and how did God treat his family?

6. Read Gen. 9:18-27, 10:6-20, 11:1-9—God Divided Nations and Languages

- a. What generational consequences do Shem, Ham, and Japheth illustrate? (See 9:18-27.) What did Ham do that displeased God? How did God respond? (See 10:6-20.) What was the future for Ham's descendants and lands of Canaan, Sodom, Gomorrah, Philistia and Gaza?

- b. At the Babel tower, how did men try to be like gods? What did man do before and at the tower? (See 11:4.) What two things did God do? (See also Prov. 18:10.)

COVENANT AND LINEAGE

LESSON 2—GENESIS 12 - 50

Genesis shows us how the God over the entire universe began His relationship with His created mankind. As men and women are constantly tempted in sin, they hear directly from their Creator-Redeemer. In this third Era of time, beginning with chapter 12, God covenants with men and women an offer of divine relationship of mercy and grace, and provides a protected lineage to enact and sustain that relationship leading to life in Christ the Redeemer.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Gen. 12:1-4—God Blessed Abram with a Covenant to be a Blessing to the Whole World

- a. What things did God promise all mankind through the covenant with Abram (12:1-3)? What special role did Abram receive? His family?

- b. Does God really care about His creation? All people? You?

- c. What was Abram’s response? (See 12:4) What is our role in this covenant?

2. Read Gen. 15:1-6, 18-20 and 16:1-4, 15—Sarai and Abram Disobeyed God

- a. Describe God’s plan for Sarai and Abram’s family. What did Sarai and Abram do outside of God’s plan? (See also 17:1-21, 18:9-14.)

- b. What is meant by “limited freedom”? Why does God give us limits? (See also Rom. 3:9-12, 19-26.)

- c. What names did God change and why? (17:5, 15) How did God use circumcision in His plan of redemption? What similar sign of faith does He use today? (See 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Col. 2:11-12.)

3. Read Gen. 18:17-26, 19:14-17, 23-29—God Separated His Righteous from the Wicked

- a. Why did God separate His lineage from others?

- b. What was Sodom’s wicked practice? How might that have hurt God’s plan for Abraham’s family to be a blessing?

4. Read Gen. 21:1-7 and 26:3-6—Abraham and Sarah Bore Isaac, Received God’s Blessing

- a. How did God’s plan with Isaac ultimately succeed over the family’s selfish human failings?

- b. What roles did Sarai (Sarah), Abram (Abraham), Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac play? (See 21:12-21, 26:1-5.)

5. Read Gen. 22:1-13—Abraham and Isaac were Faithfully Obedient

- a. How did God test Abraham's faith?

- b. How did God use Isaac to confirm His covenant promises to Abraham and Sarah? (See also Heb. 11:17-20.)

- c. Compare 22:1-13 with Matt. 27:43-50. In each passage, who is the father, the only son, the sacrifice, and the Lamb of God?

6. Read Gen. 30:1-7 and 35:9-12, 22-29—Jacob and the 12 Tribes Were God's Lineage for Blessings

- a. How did God's plan unfold for Israel as a nation?

- b. How would he use these 12 brothers and their families to advance the covenant? (Read Stephen's summary in Acts 7:1-16.)

- c. How did Joseph forgive his brothers? (See 45:4-5.) How did God achieve confession for forgiveness? (See 45:13.)

- d. What role might God give you today in sharing His blessings with all the families of the earth? (See Acts 3:24-26.)

BONDAGE, FREEDOM AND LAW

LESSON 3—EXODUS

God, in a rescue act complete with drama and thrill, in Exodus leads His people out of sinful captivity—bondage—toward a promised place of freedom, justice and protection. After 400 years of bondage in Egypt, Israel was ready to leave the chains of slavery and seek its covenant-promised homeland as a new, holy nation of God.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Ex. 1:1-14 and 2:23-3:12—Israel Was Strong but Cried Out Under Egypt’s Bondage

- a. How did Israel’s bondage and cries to God make them stronger? (See 1:11-14 and 2:23.)

- b. Read 2:1-14. As God protected His lineage in Egypt, how did God use the evil king’s daughter for good? Why Moses? (See 3:1-12.)

2. Read Ex. 4:1-12—Moses Gave Excuses While God Persisted and Equipped Him for the Exodus

- a. What were Moses’ excuses? (See 4:1, 10.)

- b. What were God's three miracles, or "signs," for Moses to use to convince his detractors? (See 4:2-9.)

3. Read Ex. 6:1-13, 7:1-6—God Promised Deliverance and Cursed Egypt with Ten Plagues

- a. God cursed Egypt with plagues even as He blessed Israel (Scan 7-11). How do these events fulfill the covenant with Abraham? (Read Gen. 12:3 and compare Ex. 12:12-13.)

- b. As Moses pleaded to Pharaoh, "*Let my people go*," Pharaoh was warned and briefly repented for Egypt before God (9:27-35). Do you think God hardens people's hearts? If so, how?

- c. How did God "pass over" and save His chosen followers? (See 12:12-13, 29-30 and 13:17-14:4.)

4. Read Ex. 12:1-7 and 16:1-7—Freedom Was Given for Israel and Passover Commemorated

- a. Compare the Passover in Egypt to God's sacrifice and memorial for our salvation in Christ's death. (Compare 12:26-28, 43-50 with 1 Cor. 11:23-26.)

- b. When God fought off Israel's enemies and they were devoured by the Red Sea, what was Israel's response in 14:31 and 15:1-18? What is your favorite line in the song?

- c. How did future generations remember God's protection and deliverance at the Red Sea? (See Josh. 4:19-24.)

5. Read Ex. 15:22-27, 16:4-8—The People Complain

- a. How many days into "freedom" did the people complain of thirst? What did God provide and what were His "tests"?

- b. In 16:4-8, what did God provide the people for their hunger and how did they respond? What lessons were they learning from God? (See also Psalm 65:9-13.)

6. Read Ex. 18:8-23; 19:5-8; 20:1-20—Judges and Laws were Instituted for Justice and Order

- a. When Moses told Jethro about God's provisions, the peoples' disputes, and their interests in God, what was Jethro's reaction to God's faithfulness? (See 18:12.)

- b. What was Jethro's advice for statutes, laws, justice and peace? (See 18:19-23.)

- c. Compare the first nine Commandments (20:1-16) to the tenth (20:17). What is different about the tenth that makes it less visible and less accountable to others, and thus harder?

- d. What three purposes does Moses tell the people about God's laws? (See 20:20.) Compare Christ's purposes for today (See 1 Tim. 1:8-11 and Rom. 3:19-20.)

SIN, SACRIFICE AND HOLINESS

LESSON 4—LEVITICUS

In Genesis and Exodus, God created His people in His image, taught them about sin and selfishness, cursed evil when they were tempted, gave them a covenant of redemption, freed them from bondage, and gave to them laws and justice. In Leviticus we see how God, as part of this covenant redemption, sets apart His people to know and follow Him through sacrificial selflessness and a new, sanctified walk.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Lev. 1:1-4 and 7:37-38—God Taught Sacrifice as a Way to be Holy

- a. What kind of offering were the Israelites to bring? (See 1:3.) What is the purpose of God accepting the offering? (See 1:4.) Using a dictionary, define atonement.

- b. What are the main types of sacrificial offerings? (See 7:37-38.) When and where did God command these offerings?

2. Read Lev. 4:1-3, 20-26, 31-35 and Heb. 7:22-28—Priests Made Atonement in Sin Offerings

- a. What were priests’ roles in Israel’s sin offerings? (4:1-3, 20.)

- b. Compare Jesus' role in being your "permanent high priest." (See Heb. 7:22-28.) When did His sacrifice occur? (See 7:27.)

3. Read Lev. 11:1-8, 44-47—God Protected Health by Designating Healthy Foods and Practices

- a. How did God protect Israel in diet? (See 11:44-47.) From contagious disease? (See 13:45-46.)

- b. What things do you think nomadic Israel gained from God's dietary and health restrictions? (See 11:44.)

- c. How today can we be holy? What are our sacrifices? (See Rom. 12:1-2.)

4. Read Lev. 16:6-10, 30-34—Aaron Offered a Bull and Two Goats as Sacrifices and Scapegoat

- a. What was the Atonement Day and what was its purpose? (See 16:30-34.)

- b. For what purposes were the bull and first goat sacrificed? (See 16:16.)

- c. What is the purpose of the live scapegoat? (See 16:21-22.) How is Christ our “live scapegoat”? (See Luke 24:45-48.)

- d. How is Christ our high priest and sacrifice? (See Heb. 9:11-22.) Our eternal redeemer and mediator of a new covenant?

5. Read Lev. 17:1-5—Israel to Make Tent Offerings

Why do you think God made the public tent the place for sacrifice and forgiveness?

6. Read Lev. 17:10-12, Heb. 13:20 and 1 John 1:7— Only Blood for Sacrifice; Life Is in the Blood

- a. How was blood the symbol of Israel's sacrifice? (See 17:11.)

- b. What is the eternal covenant? (See Heb. 13:20.)

- c. What does it mean to “walk in the light in fellowship with Jesus”? (See 1 John 1:7.)

7. Read Lev. 25:1-12—Sabbatical and Jubilee Years

- a. What explicitly did the people do in the 6 years and not do in the 7th year? What purposes do these “Sabbath rests” have?

- b. What do they do and not do in the 50th year? (See 25:8-22.)

ORGANIZATION, TRIALS AND TESTING

LESSON 5—NUMBERS

In Numbers God equips, leads, and teaches His people to trust and follow Him. From Mt. Sinai to the border of Canaan, they faced trials in a new, sanctified, stronger walk. Blessed to be a blessing to the world, Israel must become the holy nation that God promised.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Num. 1:1-4 and 2:1-2, 17, 32-34—God Ordered a Census and Organized Camp

- a. Why did God order the numbering of His people? (See also 26:1-4, 51-56.)

- b. How was the camping to be organized by each tribe? (See 2:1-2.) What and who would be at the center? Why? (See 2:17, 32-34.)

- c. What were roles and responsibilities of the Levites? (See 3:5-10.) What is our “priesthood” role today? (See 1 Pet. 2:5, 9.)

2. Read Num. 5:5-7, 6:1-5, 13-15 and 30:1-4—Confession and Vows Instituted

- a. What constituted sin and confession? (See 5:5-7). What constituted restitution?

- b. Why do you think God instituted vows? (See 6:1-5, 13-15 and 30:1-4.) Why the specific vows for the Nazirites? (See also Judges 16:13-18.) What are some of our symbols of vows today?

3. Read Num. 11:1-9, 16-18— God Provided Help for His Grumbling People

- a. In what physical ways does God provide for His people? (See 11:1-9 and 14:7.)

- b. What organization and leadership did God provide? (See 11:16-18 and 13:1-3.) What is the Spirit's role? (See 11:17.)

4. Read Num. 14:1-9 and 14:20-24—God Gave Joshua and Caleb a Different Spirit

- a. What did Joshua and Caleb say about the land of Canaan where God was leading them? (See 14:6-9.)

b. What was different about Caleb's spirit? (See 14:6-9, 24.)

c. What happened to the "naysayers"? (See 14:36-38.)

d. What roles did Joshua and Caleb play? (26:63-65, 27:15-20 and Josh. 1:1-3.)

5. Read Num. 20:2-12—God Said "*Tell the Rock*," but Moses Struck the Rock Instead

a. What were Moses and the people quarreling about? (See 20:2-5.)

b. What did God ask Moses to say or do? (See 20:8-9.) How did Moses respond? (See 20:10-11.)

c. How did God respond to Moses' lack of faith? (See 20:12.)
When later did Moses appear in the promised land? (See Matt. 17:1-5.)

6. Read Num. 25:1-18, 10:6-20, 11:1-9—God Exercised Vengeance through War Against Sin

- a. How did God use war as an instrument of His vengeance against the sins of the Midianites? What were Israel's sins? (See 25:1-5.)

- b. Is God just in avenging sin among His people? (See 25:8, 12-13.) Does God stage war against sin today? How?

7. Read Num. 33:50-56—God Promised Land Grants as Faithful Reminder of Covenant

- a. What two things specifically did God want removed as they entered and received land? (See 33:52.) Why? (See 33:55.)

- b. How does this relate to God's covenant promise to Israel? (See Gen. 17:6-8.)

DISCIPLINE AND OBEDIENCE

LESSON 6—DEUTERONOMY

Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers together narrate Israel’s 40 years of wandering and distrust of God’s plan and provisions, after God sent His people to complete their covenant mission—to be a blessing for the world. In Deuteronomy—which means “second telling of the law”—Moses reviewed in three sermons God’s plan for His people and gave guidance, passionately reminding them of their covenant mission.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Deut. 1:1-8 and Num. 33:50-56—Moses Reminded Israel of God’s Laws and Plan

- a. How long had they traveled compared to the actual distance? (See 1:2-3.) What instructions did Moses give on November 1 of the 40th year after the Exodus? Where were they to go and why? (See 1:6-8 and Num. 33:50-56.)

- b. How had Israel grown since going into Egypt as 70 people of Jacob’s family? (See Deut. 1:8-11 and Gen. 15:5-6.)

2. Read Deut. 3:18-22—God Provided a Military Plan and Family Protections

- a. Describe God’s plan for military “valor” and troops to claim the promised land. (See 3:18.)

- b. How did God's plan protect the families and possessions? (See 3:19-20.)

3. Read Deut. 4:1-14 and 11:18-25—Israel Forgot and Ignored its Laws and Statutes

- a. How many of the laws were the people to know and obey? (See 4:1-2.) Compare 4:2 with Rev. 22:18-19.

- b. What benefits would the laws and statutes give Israel? (See 4:6-8.)

- c. How would future generations teach and receive the laws? (See 4:9-14, 6:6-9 and 11:18-25.)

4. Read Deut. 4:15-19—God Commanded Against Idols, Nature Worship and Astrology

Describe the kinds of idolatry with which the world and Satan might tempt God's people.

5. Read Deut. 9:1-6—God Drove out Wickedness in His War Against Sin and Evil

Why did God's covenant plan need to remove the native inhabitants of Canaan? What is the moral warning God gave His people and why? (See 9:4-6.)

6. Read Deut. 14:22-29—God's People were Taught to Tithe Offerings to Their Provider

- a. Who chose the place God's people would tithe? (See 14:23.)

- b. For what four reasons connected to God were they to tithe? (See 14:23, 29.) How might these apply today?

7. Read Deut. 24:1-5—God Gave Laws for Marriage and Honeymoons

How do you think healthy marriages strengthened Israel's communities, families and nation? Why were the certificates and reasons necessary?

8. Read Deut. 28:1-24—God Distinguished Obedience from Disobedience

- a. What were God's blessings of obedience? (See 28:1-14.)

b. What were some of God's curses of disobedience? (See 28:15-24.)

9. Read Deut. 30:15-20 and 32:44-47—Moses Urged the People to “Choose Life”

How do we choose life and good over death and evil? What were Moses' final words to Israel?

CONQUERING AND CONQUESTS

LESSON 7—JOSHUA

In the book of Joshua God leads His people from the banks of the Jordan River into Canaan—personally and collectively—in a war against sin. Together, they are striving toward the covenant plan of being blessed by God and becoming a blessing for the whole world.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Josh. 1:1-9 and Gen. 12:1-4—Joshua Assumed Leadership for the Covenant Passage

- a. How does God’s call of Joshua to lead His people compare to that of Abraham?

- b. Compare Abraham’s response (Gen. 12:4), Joshua’s response (Josh. 1:10-11), and Israel’s response (1:16-18).

- c. Compare also Moses’ call (Ex. 3:4-10) and responses (Ex. 3:11, 13, 4:1, 10 and 13.) Consider also Deut. 34:4.

2. Read Josh. 2:1-14—God Used Rahab’s Position and Testimony to Take Jericho

- a. Describe Rahab’s occupation, reputation and connection to the king. (See 2:1-3.)

- b. Describe Rahab's belief and faith in Israel's God. (See 2:8-13 and 6:15-17, 22-25.) Describe her salvation. (See also Matt. 1:5.)

- c. Do you think Rahab's falsehoods and cover ups were sins or faithfulness? (See 2:3-7.) Why? How did God use her?

3. Read Josh. 3:5-11 and 4:4-7—The Ark of the Covenant and Memorial Stones Were Symbols

- a. How did God use the Ark of the Covenant and Moses' Laws to strengthen and remind His people through this Jordan River passage? (See 3:3-11, 16-17.)

- b. How were the Memorial Stones used for signs of each tribe? For teaching future generations? How do the Red Sea and Jordan River crossings compare? (See 4:19-24.)

4. Read Josh. 5:1, 13-15—God Melted Spirits of Local Kings, and Commander of Army Appears

- a. How did God prepare for Israel to take control of the Promised Land?

- b. Were the people prepared to win control on their own? (See also Deut. 3:18-22.)

- c. Who do you think is the "Commander of the Lord's Army"? Compare with Ex. 3:5.

5. Read Josh. 6:18-19 and 8:20-22—Faith was Broken and Israel Defeated at Ai

- a. What was God's instruction for the spoils of Jericho? (See 6:18-19, 24.)

- b. What did Achan do, and what was God's reaction? (See 7:1, 10-13.) Read Joshua's reaction and Achan's confession. (See 7:19-21.)

- c. Do you think God hates sinful people or sin itself? In Jericho and Ai, was God at war with people or at war against sin?

6. Read Josh. 8:24-28, and 12:7-24—Israel Defeated Ai, All of South and North Canaan

- a. Read also 8:30-35. How did Joshua strengthen God's people for the war against sinful Canaan?

- b. Read also 11:6-8. How did God counsel Joshua and weaken Israel's enemies?

7. Read Josh. 13:1-7, Scan 13:8-22:34—Joshua Allotted Land; Philistines Remained a Threat

- a. How did the allotment of land fulfill God's covenant with Abraham? (Compare Josh. 1:1-11 with Gen. 12:1-4.)

- b. In what way were the Philistine and Gaza areas still a threat? (See 13:1-7, Judges 3:1-6 and 1 Sam. 4:1-11.)

- c. Read Joshua's farewell in 24:14-15. What were his fears for the peoples' faith? What is their response (See 24:16-19.)

- d. Read 24:19. How today does Jesus make us able to serve a Holy God and bring us forgiveness of transgressions?

JUSTICE AND DELIVERANCE

LESSON 8—JUDGES AND RUTH

The book of Judges is a rotation of leaders called “judges” who deliver a falling Israel from sinful oppression and their own sinful hearts. God raised judges over all Israel calling them to return to His holy nation of worship, where they could accept priestly, sacrificial forgiveness. (See Appendix III, page 254.) God judged His people based upon whom they chose to serve. As it is now, when His people sought and served Him, God delivered them from evil.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read Jud. 1:27-32 and 2:1-4, 11-15—Israel Disobeyed God, Mixing with Sinful Nations

- a. How did Canaan’s locals become threats to Israel in their new land? (See 1:27-32 and 3:1-6.)

- b. What are five consecutive things the people did in a “downward spiral”? (See 2:11-12.)

- c. What was God’s response in 2:14? Was this fair? Describe God’s justice, mercy and grace. (See 2:16-18.)

2. Scan Jud. 3:7-31—God Raised Up Othniel, Ehud and Shamgar as His Judges

- a. Who was Othniel and what was his relationship with God? (See 3:9-11.) How many years did Othniel serve as judge, and how did Israel respond? Why? (See 3:10-11.)

- b. Who was Ehud and what was his relationship with God? (See 3:15, 28-30.) How did Ehud bring God's judgment on the enemies? How many years did Ehud judge?

- c. Who was Shamgar and what did he accomplish? (See 3:31.)

3. Read Jud. 4:1-8—God Called Deborah and Barak

- a. What was the state of Israel under King Jabin of Canaan? What was Deborah's occupation when God called her?

- b. What roles did Deborah and Barak take on in serving God? (See 4:6-10.) What was the outcome? (See 4:15-16, 23-24.)

4. Scan Jud. 6-8—Gideon Defeated the Midianites

- a. What were causes and results of Israel's broken relationship with God? (See 6:1-6.)

- b. Compare the prophet God sent to Israel (6:7-10) with the angel God sent to Gideon (6:11-18). What was the angel's true identity, and Gideon's reaction? (See 6:19-24.)

- c. Why did Gideon take only 300 men to defeat the Midianites rather than 32,000? (See 7:1-3, 15-25.)

- d. What was their reaction after the defeat, and Gideon's response? (See 8:22-23.) What happened after Gideon died? (See 8:33-35.)

5. Read Jud. 9:1-6, 22-25—The People Debated God's Rule Versus a King's Rule

- a. Compare 8:22-23 with 9:1-6? How did Abimelech conspire to become a king like other nations have?

- b. Was Israel seeking God's holy laws or a king's human might?

6. Read Jud. 11:1-15 and 12:7-13:7—God Called Jephthah and Samson to Rescue Israel

- a. What were Jephthah's background and qualifications to rule over Israel? (See 11:7-15.)

- b. What was the state of Israel when Samson was born? (See 13:1.) Why do you think God picked these Nazirites to bear Samson? (See 13:21-25.)

- c. After a colorful life, God allowed Samson to bring down the Philistines. (See 16:28-31.) Describe his faith in God.

- d. After Samson's death, no judges upheld God's laws. (See 21:25.) Who did the people follow without God's judges?

7. Read Ruth 1:1-6 and 2:1-4—Ruth and Naomi

- a. Who were the three widows and why were they in the fields? (See 1:1-6.) Describe the faith of Ruth. (See 1:15-18.)

- b. How did God lead and bless these women? How did Boaz greet them? (See 1:22-2:4.)

- c. Connect Ruth's roles in 4:11-21 and Matt.1:5-6, 17.

GOVERNMENTS OF GOD AND MAN

LESSON 9—1, 2 SAMUEL, 1 CHRONICLES

In the fourth Era of our study, the two books of Samuel and 1 Chronicles cover a period of great transition in the history of the nation of Israel. It is from the “theocratic” judges of God, such as Samson, Eli and Samuel, to the “autocratic” kings of men, like Saul and his many successors. (See Appendices III and IV, pages 254-255.) It is in these peoples’ transition away from God that we see His plans for their rebellious self-governments and for those leaders whom He calls.

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Read 1 Sam. 1:1-20—Hannah Was Blessed with Son Samuel to Succeed Judge Eli

- a. How did God use Hannah’s emptiness to birth a devoted leader of God? (See 1:9-11.) What was Hannah’s response? (See 1:21-28.) Scan her prayer in 2:1-11.

- b. Since Eli was a judge over Israel, what were the prospects of his sons succeeding him as judges? (See 2:12-17, 22-25.)

- c. Who called Samuel to succeed Eli, and what was Eli’s response? (See 3:9-21.)

2. Read 1 Sam. 4:1-11—The Ark of the Covenant Became Israel’s Coveted Idol

- a. In what way(s) did the Ark of the Covenant become Israel’s idol? (See 4:3-11.) Who guarded the Ark? (See 4:4.)

- b. What happened to Judge Eli? (See 4:15-18.) What happened to the Philistines in Ashdod, Gath and Ekron? (See 5:6-12.) Describe the idolatry and repentance when the Ark was returned. (See 6:13-21.)

3. Read 1 Sam. 7:1-4, 12-17, 8:1-9—Samuel and Sons Judged Israel; But Israel Cried for a King

- a. How did Judge Samuel address Israel? (See 7:1-4.) How did Samuel's sons judge Israel? (See 8:3.)

- b. For what did the elders ask Samuel? (See 8:4-5.) What was Samuel's reaction? (See 8:6.) And God's? (See 8:9, 19-22.)

4. Read 1 Sam. 9:15-17, 10:9-27—Saul Became the First King of Israel

- a. What roles did the people, God, Samuel and Saul have in appointing the first King? (See 9:15-19 and 10:22-27.)

- b. What warnings about a king did God give the people through Samuel? (See 8:10-18 and 10:17-18.)

- c. Read 12:11-25. Summarize Samuel's farewell address and advice for the new monarchy.

- d. Read the summary of Saul's reign in 14:47-52. Then read God's summary in 15:10-11 and 22-23. Compare and contrast sacrifice and obedience.

5. Read 1 Sam. 16:1, 10-14 and 2 Sam. 5:1-5—Young David Anointed the Next King for Israel

- a. Describe Samuel's role in the transition. (See 1 Sam. 16:1, 10-14.) Why do you think God used Samuel for the transition?

- b. Why was Israel divided? (See 2 Sam. 3:1.) How old was David when he was made king? How long did he reign over united Israel and Judah? (See 2 Sam. 5:1-5.)

6. Read 1 Chron. 10:1-14 and 17:16-27—Saul Died, David became King and Prayed for Israel

- a. Summarize Saul's reign. (See 10:13-14.) Why was David anointed king by God?

- b. How would you describe David's heart for God? (See 17:16-27.)

- c. Describe David's monarchy. (See 18:14-17 and 2 Sam. 8:15-18.)

7. Read 2 Sam. 5:1-10 and 1 Chron. 15:1-5—David United Israel at Jerusalem; Sinned Against God

- a. Describe God's plan for David to unite Israel and Judah at Jerusalem. (See 2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10.)

- b. Describe God's plan for the Ark and the Temple, as the Prophet Nathan conveyed. (See 1 Chron. 15:1-15.)

- c. Describe David's sin in the Prophet Nathan's rebuke. (See 2 Sam. 12:7-9, 13.)

8. 1 Chron. 28:1-8, 20-21—David Pledged to Build the Temple, Charged Role to King Solomon

Why did God assign Solomon to build the Temple. (See 28:1-10.) What condition did God place on building the Temple? (See 28:7-10.) What relationship did God require of him?
