



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#45 - The Sons of Israel Review

PICTURES NEEDED

- 45-1 The Calling of Abraham
- 45-2 Abraham Obeys God
- 45-3 Descendants of Abraham Chart

REVIEW (Before Teaching Lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt? What did Joseph say to them when they were afraid of him because of what they had done? What convinced Jacob to go to Egypt?
- **The Big Question Review:** Why can we wait patiently on the Lord?
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Psalm 33:10-11 We know God's plans will come to pass.

The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But (the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.)

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

This lesson wraps up the book of Genesis. What does the word "Genesis" mean? Genesis means beginning. What beginnings have we studied in the book of Genesis? (List them on the board as the students say them.)

- The beginning of creation and life
- The beginning of man
- The beginning of sin
- The beginning of civilization and history
- The beginning of the people of Israel.

With God's calling of Abraham the history of the people of Israel began. **(picture 45-1)** What did God call Abraham to do? God called Abraham to leave his home and go to another land. At that time he was 75 years old and had no children.

Genesis 12:1-3 *¹The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

What were the seven promises God made to Abraham when he called him? (List them on the board as the students say them.)

1. Make him into a great nation. (God would give him a heritage. The Jews are all descendants of Abraham as are the Arabs.)
2. Bless him. (God provided for him what was needed and more.)
3. Make his name great. (Abraham is the father of the Jews, God's chosen people Israel, the descendants of Abraham.)
4. Make him a blessing to others. (God's revelation of truth has come through the Jews/Israel.)
5. Bless those who blessed him. (God blesses those who are good to Israel.)
6. Curse those who cursed him. (God is against those who are against Israel.)
7. Bless all people on earth through him. (Salvation from Jesus came through the line of Abraham. There is no greater blessing to all the earth than what Jesus has given man kind.)

Why did it take faith for Abraham to believe those promises? Abraham and Sarah were old. Sarah was past childbearing; she was really too old to have children.

What did Abraham do when God called him? **(picture 45-2)** Abraham obeyed God. He took his wife, his nephew and their possessions and set out for the land God said.

Genesis 12:6-7 relates the story, *⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD*

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

What did God promise to give Abraham's offspring? The land of Canaan
Still nothing happened with the promise. Then God appeared to Abraham again. (Genesis 15:5-6) ⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."
⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

What did God promise to do for Abraham? Make his offspring as numerous as the stars.

Why was that an unlikely promise? Abraham and Sarah were very old and had no children.

Still Sarah remained childless. Romans 4:18-22 says, ¹⁸Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²²This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."

What finally happened? When Abraham was 100 years old he had a son who was the son of the promise.

How long had Abraham waited for the promise to come to pass? 25 years.

To remember how the promise was fulfilled and who everyone is and their relationships we will go over the chart of Abraham's descendants. (Draw it on the board as you go through it.) (picture 45-3)

Who were Abraham's two sons?

Ishmael and Isaac

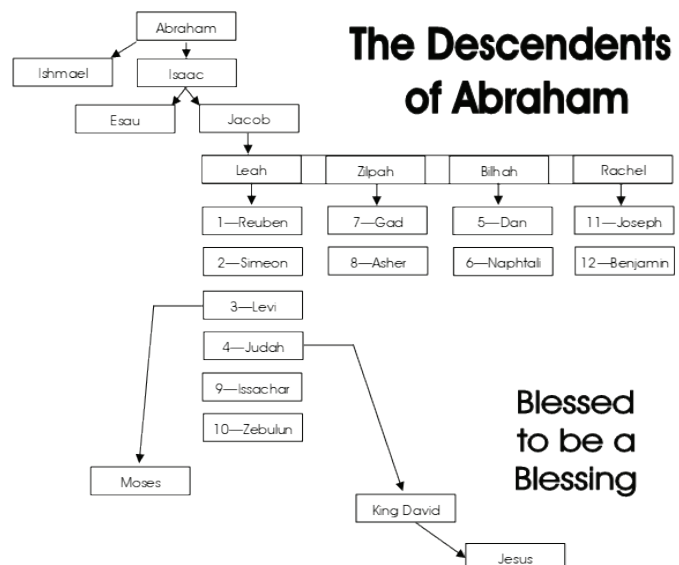
Who was the son of the promise given to Abraham? Isaac

Who was Ishmael? He was the son of Sarah's maidservant Hagar, who Sarah gave to Abraham to be his wife. The Arabs are descended from Ishmael.

Who were Isaac's sons? Jacob and Esau

Which one of them should the promise have passed through? Esau Why? He was the first-born who had the birthright.

Why didn't it pass through Esau? Jacob was chosen by God to be the son of the promise.



Why did God change Jacob's name? God said it was because he had struggled with God and man and overcome.

How many wives did Jacob have and who were they? Four: Leah, Rachel and the two maid servants, Zilpah (Leah) and Bilhah (Rachel)

Jacob's sons became the patriarchs (fathers) of the twelve tribes of Israel. Who were they?

Leah's sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun

Zilpah's sons: Gad, Asher

Bilhah's sons: Dan, Naphtali

Rachel's sons: Joseph, Benjamin

What did God promise to Abraham? To make him a blessing and give him the land.

None of the people we have read about in Genesis received the promise God had given to Abraham. Hebrews 11:13 says, ¹³ *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.*

God said something would happen to Abraham's descendants before they would get possession of the land. What did God say would happen? (Genesis 15:13-21) ¹³ *Then the LORD said to him, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure."*

How did the children of Israel end up in Egypt? There was a great famine in the land and they had to go to Egypt to get food. God had prepared the way for them by sending Joseph there first.

The next book in the Bible is Exodus. What does Exodus mean? Exodus means leaving. Our word exit comes from the same root word. The book of Exodus tells the story of how God brought the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt and into the land he had promised Abraham. We will study their history when we work through the Gnosis study, God's People and Promises.

Our next study will be from the New Testament. It will examine the life of the one who completely fulfilled God's promise to Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him. Who is that referring to? Jesus is the one who completely fulfilled God's promise to Abraham to bless the whole world through him. There is no greater blessing than knowing Jesus as through Jesus we can come into a right relationship with God.

Before we begin the study of the life and teaching of Jesus, we will finish off the study of Genesis by reviewing the importance of studying and learning from the Bible.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What were the seven promises God made to Abraham when he called him? Who was the son of the promise given to Abraham? Who were Isaac's sons? Which one of them did the promise pass through? Why? How many wives and sons did Jacob have?
- **Thought Questions:** What have you learned from the life of Abraham and his family? How can you apply what you have learned? What will be the outcome if you don't apply what you have learned?
- **Prayer:** Thank God for all that he teaches you through his word and the examples of people who have lived before you. Pray that you would really want to learn from him and avoid the mistakes of going your own way. Thank him for his patience and love for you.
- **The Big Question: How are we to view God's promises?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:13**
We live by faith and keep God's promises in view.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

Questions: What does it mean to live by faith? Why is it important to live by faith?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: God's call of Abraham marked the beginning of the history of his people Israel.

1. God called Abraham to go to a foreign land where he would bless him and make his descendants into a great nation.
2. Since Abraham had no children, God's promise would have been hard for him to believe but Abraham believed God and waited for the promise to be fulfilled.
3. In his old age, Abraham had a son with Sarah. It was through Isaac and his descendants that the promise was passed.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.

★ **Activity Page:** Word Search

Instructions: Find the names of Jacob’s sons in the word search puzzle: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, Dan, Naphtali, Joseph, Benjamin

<pre> +++++++I++ ZEBULUNRN+++L++ +++++++IE+++A++ +++++++M++H++T++ +++++A++++S+H++ +++++J++I+++DAP++ +++N+JSV+A++A++ +RE+O+IEG+++N++ +BES++MLDAN++++ ++EU++E+++++++ +P++B+O+++++++ H++++EN+++++++ HADUJ+N+++++++ +++++++ +++++++ </pre>	<pre> (Over,Down,Direction) ASHER(12,6,NW) BENJAMIN(2,9,NE) DAN(9,9,E) GAD(9,8,NE) JOSEPH(6,7,SW) JUDAH(5,13,W) LEVI(8,9,N) NAPHTALI(13,8,N) REUBEN(2,8,SE) SIMEON(7,7,S) ZEBULUN(1,2,E) </pre>
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★ **Further Understanding:** Bible Study Skills

Instructions:

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Hebrews 11:8-16

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

JOURNAL

The journal is passed out at the end of class for the students to complete at home. It has six readings that answer a digging deeper question. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Digging Deeper: Journal Focus – Genesis 49 – Israel’s Blessing of his Sons

Reading 1: Genesis 49:1-7 Leah’s sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi
Describe what Jacob said would happen to Reuben, Simeon and Levi.

Reading 2: Genesis 49:8-12 Leah’s son: Judah (Tribe of Jesus)
Describe what Jacob said would happen to Judah.

Reading 3: Genesis 49:13-15 Leah’s sons: Zebulum, Issachar
Describe what Jacob said would happen to Zebulum and Issachar.

Reading 4: Genesis 49:16-21 The Maid Servants’ Sons: Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali
Describe what Jacob said would happen to Dan, Gad, Asher and Naphtali.

Reading 5: Genesis 49:22-28 Rachel’s Sons: Joseph and Benjamin
Describe what Jacob said would happen to Joseph and Benjamin.

Reading 6: Psalm 78:32-39 The people of Israel
In spite of all God has done for people, what to they continue to do? Why is that? What causes people to turn back to God? Why is that? What shows God’s mercy?