

BOOK
1

Light from the
OLD
TESTAMENT



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Book

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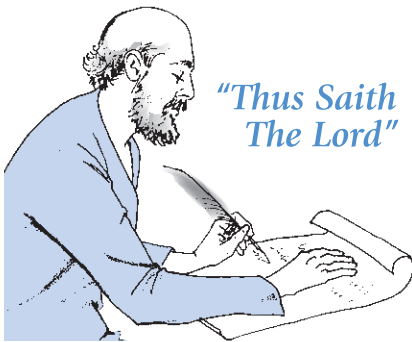
What is the Bible?

The Bible is God's holy Word. It is God's message to us, and it is the most important book in all the world.

Who wrote the Bible? God Himself is the true Author of the Bible, but He used many men to write it. God told these men what to write, and even the words to use. Long, long ago, God told a man named Jeremiah to write a portion of the Bible. God said to Jeremiah, "Write all the words that I have spoken unto you in a book" (JEREMIAH 30:2).

Jeremiah obeyed God and wrote the Book of Jeremiah. God's Holy Spirit told Jeremiah exactly what to write. This is what we mean when we say that the Bible is "inspired of God." Every book in the Bible was written in this way. The Bible says,

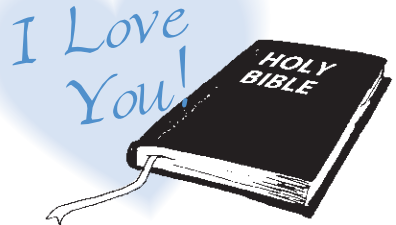
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...." 2 TIMOTHY 3:16



Was any other book written in this way? No, the Bible is the only book which was inspired of God.

The Bible warns against adding to the Word of God or taking from it.

What is the Bible about? The Bible is the story of man's complete ruin in sin and God's perfect salvation in Christ. The Bible is God's love letter to us, telling us that, even though we have turned away from God and broken His commandments, God still loves us with all His heart and He wants us to come back to Him.



The Bible is God's love letter to us.

The most precious truth in all the Bible is that the Son of God loved us so much that He left heaven and became a man so that He could die on the cross for our sins. We are not saved by what we do for God, but by what God has done for us in the person of His Son. The Bible says,

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved...." ACTS 16:31

How Can I Understand the Bible?

The Bible is the most important book in the world because it tells us how to be saved. God gave us this wonderful book that we might know the truth about ourselves, about sin, about Satan, about God, and about salvation.

The first part of the Bible is called the Old Testament. It consists of 39 books and was written *before* Christ came to the earth.

The second part of the Bible is called the New Testament. It consists of 27 books and it was written after Christ came to earth and went back to heaven.

From beginning to end, the Bible has one great theme—the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The books of the Bible fall into five main groups:

The Old Testament gives us the history of Abraham and his descendants who became the nation of Israel. The great theme of the Old Testament is a promised Savior. Isaiah wrote,

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

ISAIAH 9:6

The Old Testament can be compared to a great picture gallery in which Christ is seen in all the glories of His person and His work. There

are countless “pictures” or “types” of Christ in the Old Testament. All of these “pictures” or “types” point to Christ.

The Gospels tell us that the promised Savior has come. They tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ and what He said and did.

The Acts tell about the coming of the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the Church, and the preaching of the gospel—the “good news” that Christ died for our sins and rose again to be our living Savior.

The Epistles explain the gospel and tell us how we can be saved and how to live the Christian life.

The Revelation, the last book in the Bible, tells us how all things will end.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had someone who knew all about God to teach us His wonderful book? Well, there is Someone like that. He is the Holy Spirit. The moment we take Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. He lives in every believer, and He teaches us the things of God.



The Holy Spirit teaches us about God.

The First Man

The Bible describes the creation of the heavens and the earth in one sentence: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

God created the plant life, fish, birds, and animals, all in preparation for His greatest creation, man. Man did not come up from lower forms of life. He was created by God. The Bible says,

“The LORD GOD formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul [a living person].”

GENESIS 2:7

Man is not only a living person, but he has a spirit, which was breathed into him by God Himself. By his spirit man can know God and receive His life.

Man is a created being. Man is not God, nor is he a part of God. But man is the highest of all God’s creatures because he was created in the image of God. The Bible says,

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.”

GENESIS 1:27

God gave man dominion over all the earth. God’s thought was to have a glorious head over all His creation. God wanted a man who would rule over all things for His pleasure.

God did not create millions of people to inhabit the earth. He created only one man, Adam, and He created a wife for Adam. From

the first man and woman came the whole human race.

The first man, Adam, is a type of Christ. The Bible says that Adam is “the figure of Him [Christ] that was to come.”¹ God put every created thing on earth under Adam’s control, and in God’s time, every created being in the universe will be made subject to Christ.

As formed by the hand of God, Adam was perfect. But there was one thing Adam lacked. He lacked a companion suited to him. God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone.”² God purposed to make a companion for Adam, one perfectly suitable to him.

God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and while he slept, God took one of his ribs and closed up the wound in his side. From the rib taken from Adam, God formed Eve, the first woman. The word “woman” means “from man,” because Eve was taken out of Adam.

This is a beautiful picture of how Christ will, one day, have a bride, a companion perfectly suited to Him. Eve is a type of the Church as the bride of Christ. The Church is composed of all believers from the time of Christ’s death until He comes again.

At the very beginning of the Bible we see God’s great purpose in creation. He wants His Son to have a bride, a companion perfectly suited to Him.

1. Romans 5:14

2. Genesis 2:18

Satan

The Bible tells us that, before the creation of Adam and Eve, there was in God's universe an angelic being who had rebelled against his Creator. This being is called Satan or the devil. Satan is not just an influence for evil. He is a very real being.

There are two main passages in the Bible which tell us of the original position of Satan and how he became the enemy of God. These passages are Isaiah, chapter 14, and Ezekiel, chapter 28.

From the Bible we learn that Satan was originally created as an angel named Lucifer. The Bible describes Lucifer in this manner: "You seal up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty" (EZEKIEL 28:12).

Since he was "perfect in beauty," Lucifer was as beautiful as it was possible for a creature to be. Since he was "full of wisdom," Lucifer was as wise as a creature of God could be.

Lucifer apparently held a position of great authority. He was perhaps over all the angels in heaven. But a time came when this mighty angel sinned against God. The Bible says,

"You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, till iniquity [sin] was found in you."

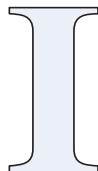
EZEKIEL 28:15

Where did sin begin in the universe? It began in Lucifer's heart.

What was Lucifer's sin? His sin was pride, which led to rebellion. Lucifer decided that there was none so great, none so beautiful, none

so wise as himself; therefore he decided that he should be God. He set his will against the will of God. Five times Lucifer said, "I will..." It is a terrible thing for a creature to set his will against God's will.

Lucifer's BIG "I"



*"I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars
of God:
I will sit also upon the mount of the
congregation...
I will ascend above the heights of the
clouds;
I will be like the most High."*

ISAIAH 14:13, 14

A great change took place in Lucifer's heart when he sinned. He no longer loved God or wanted to do God's will. He now loved himself and wanted to do his own will. He was no longer content to be the highest archangel under God. He now wanted to be God!

Lucifer was cast down from his exalted position. His name was changed to Satan, which means "adversary." Thus Satan began his career of opposing God, and he has been opposing God ever since. One-third of the angels in heaven followed Satan in his opposition to God. These angels are called "fallen angels," while those who remained true to God are called the "holy angels."

Satan, along with these fallen angels, set up a kingdom opposed to God and His kingdom. Ever since the time of Satan's rebellion, there have been these two kingdoms in the universe—the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.

God Provides a Covering for Man

Soon after God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, Satan came to destroy God's handiwork. He did not boldly approach Adam to try to get him to disobey his Creator. Instead, he chose to deceive Eve. He told Eve that she would not die if she ate the forbidden fruit, but that she and Adam would be "as gods." Satan suggested that God was keeping back something good from them.

Adam was not deceived. He chose to disobey God. Since Adam was the responsible head of the first family, the Bible lays on him the blame for sin entering the world. God's Word says, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world...."¹

God had told Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed Him, they would surely die. The immediate result of Adam's disobedience was death! What kind of death was it? It was spiritual death. We know that Adam did not die physically at once. He lived for hundreds of years after his act of disobedience. But he died spiritually.

In the Bible, death always means separation. We know what physical death is. It is the separation of the spirit from the body.

What is spiritual death? Spiritual death is the separation of man's spirit from God's Spirit. To

be cut off from the life of God is to be dead spiritually.

The first thing Adam and Eve noticed after they had sinned was that they were naked. They were conscious that they were in a state utterly unsuited to God. They sewed fig leaves together to make aprons for themselves.

Adam and Eve's "fig leaves" are a type of man trying to make himself pleasing to God by his good works. But this was not acceptable to God.

God Himself made provision for Adam and Eve to be properly clothed for His presence. He clothed them with skins. Two innocent animals had to die to make a covering for two people who had sinned.



Those slain animals were a type of Christ who died for our sins. The animals' blood was shed for man's sin. The Bible says, "Without shedding of blood is no remission [forgiveness of sins]."²

Before sending Adam and Eve out of the Garden, God made coats of skins for them. This is a beautiful picture of how God "clothes" the sinner who trusts Christ as his Savior. God not only forgives us of our sins, but He clothes us with the righteousness of Christ. This makes us acceptable to Him.

1. Romans 5:12

2. Hebrews 9:22

The Promised Savior

Sin always has terrible consequences. A holy and righteous God could not overlook the rebellion and disobedience of Adam and Eve. He could not pretend that nothing had happened.

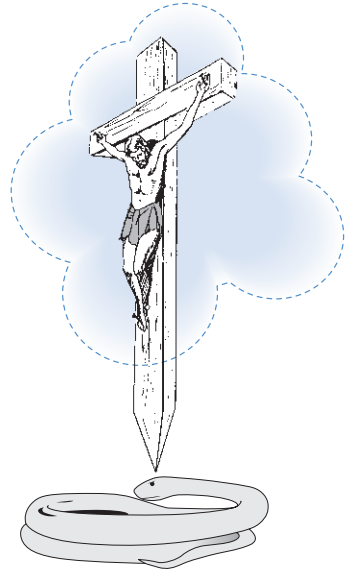
That same day, in the cool of the evening, God came seeking Adam and Eve. They were not seeking God, but God was seeking them. Throughout the Bible, it is not the sinner who is seeking God, but God seeking poor, lost sinners, that He might bring them to Himself.

God loved Adam and Eve, but now sin had come between Himself and them. God pronounced His judgment upon them. They would have to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. Hereafter, man would have to work hard to get his food from the ground. Eve would be subject to her husband and would bear children in sorrow and pain. The ground itself would be cursed because of their sin.



Adam and Eve are driven from the garden.

To the serpent who had been used by Satan to deceive Eve, God said, “Upon your belly shall you go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.” To Satan himself, God said, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.”¹



God's judgment upon Satan

Then God gave the first promise concerning the coming Savior. God said, “It [“the seed of the woman”—Christ] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” God was saying to Satan, “You will wound the coming Savior, but He will deliver a death-blow to you.” This is the first promise in the Bible of the coming of the Lord Jesus, who would defeat Satan.

1. Genesis 3:14, 15

The Beginning of False Worship

The first children born to Adam and Eve were two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain farmed the land while Abel took care of the sheep. Cain and Abel had been taught the true way in which to worship God. They were to offer a lamb as a sacrifice for their sins.

The lamb was slain; its blood was poured out. The lamb's body was burned as a burnt offering to God. The lamb was a type or picture of Jesus Christ, the Savior, who would one day come to die for the sins of all men. From the very beginning God taught men that without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sins.

In the course of time, both Cain and Abel brought their offerings to God. Cain was a farmer and he brought the fruit of the ground for his offering. No doubt he brought beautiful vegetables and fruit, but God rejected his offering.

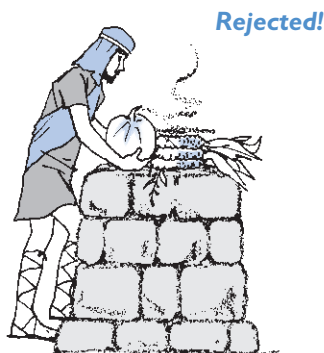
Abel tended sheep and he brought a lamb as his offering. God accepted Abel's offering. The Bible says,

“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...”
HEBREWS 11:4

The reason God accepted Abel's offering was that he offered a lamb, a type of Christ as the Lamb of God. Abel was confessing that he was a sinner. By faith Abel was looking forward to the coming of God's Son, the Lamb of God, who would die for the sins of the world.

God did not accept Cain's offering because he was coming to God in his own way instead of God's way.

Since the time of Cain and Abel, there have always been these two kinds of worshippers: (1) true worshippers, like Abel, who come to God, trusting in the Lord Jesus and His blood which was shed for them and (2) false worshippers, like Cain, who try to come to God in their own way. But God has never accepted anyone outside of Christ, and He never will.



Cain offering fruit of the ground



Abel offering a lamb

QUESTION PAGES

Light FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

BOOK I

1. **Answer** questions after you finish reading through the booklet.
2. **Detach** from the center of the book after you have studied the booklet and have completed the Question Pages. (Please do NOT tear pages apart.)
3. **Fold** for mailing.
Postage—add a First Class stamp in the upper right-hand corner.
Tape outside top edge in two places, one inch from either end of the mail piece.
4. **Return address**—fill in your name and address before mailing!

Please send in your Question Pages only!

FOLD HERE

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QUESTIONS: **BOOK I**

Write the letter of the better answer (a) or (b) in the square provided.

1. Who wrote the Bible?

- (a) Many men.
(b) God is the true Author but He used many men.

2. The Bible is the story of

- (a) man's complete ruin in sin and God's perfect salvation in Christ.
(b) man's development and how he has progressed through the ages.

3. Satan, or the devil, is

- (a) not a real being but just an influence for evil.
(b) a very real being who was originally created as an angel.

4. The immediate result of Adam's disobedience was

- (a) physical death.
(b) spiritual death.

5. Spiritual death is

- (a) the separation of the spirit from the body.
(b) the separation of man's spirit from God's Spirit.

6. From the very beginning, God taught men that

- (a) without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness of sins.
(b) they could make up for their sins by doing good works and being religious.

7. God did not accept Cain's offering because

- (a) it was not a very pretty offering.
(b) Cain was coming to God in his own way instead of God's way.

8. God accepted Abel's offering because

- (a) He liked Abel better than Cain.
(b) Abel offered a lamb, a type of Christ as the Lamb of God.

9. As in Noah's time, this world is very wicked and under the judgment of God, but God has given us an "ark of safety," which is

- (a) Christ.
(b) the church we go to.

10. God saves us by His grace,

- (a) but we have to "hold on," or we will be lost.
(b) and He puts us *in Christ* so that we are saved forever.

11. Abraham turned his back on the city which men were building for their glory

- (a) because God had told him about a city which God was building for His glory.
- (b) because he thought he could build a better city than what the people were building.

12. God's new world will come into being

- (a) when Christ comes.
- (b) when men learn to love one another.

13. God's covenant with Abraham contained three mighty promises:

- (a) a great nation, a promised land, and a promised Savior.
- (b) a long life, good health, and great riches.

14. The greatest honor which God bestowed on Abraham was

- (a) making him fabulously rich.
- (b) choosing Abraham and his descendants as the family through which the promised Savior would come.

15. What we learn from Lot is: If we choose for ourselves,

- (a) we will have a happy and successful life.
- (b) we will end up with a disastrous life.

16. The principle that marked Abraham's life was

- (a) hard work.
- (b) faith.

17. The fact that Jesus is "the Lamb of God" teaches us that

- (a) Jesus is the only way to God.
- (b) Jesus is a way to God, but there are other ways as well.

18. If I have trusted Christ as "my Lamb," I get peace about my sins by

- (a) realizing that God is perfectly satisfied with the Sacrifice which He Himself provided.
- (b) just not thinking any more about them.

19. Abraham's servant going to a far country to seek a bride for Abraham's son is

- (a) just an interesting story with no particular meaning.
- (b) a beautiful picture of God's sending the Holy Spirit into the world to secure a bride for His Son.

20. We are saved

- (a) by what we do for God.
- (b) by what God has done for us in the Person of His Son.

What are the most important things you have learned in this booklet?

PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL IN YOUR NAME HERE.

Name _____ Age _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

DO NOT DETACH UNTIL THE QUESTION PAGES ARE COMPLETED.

Noah

As men began to multiply on the earth, they became more and more wicked. In the days of Noah, things had reached a state where they could not be remedied. The Bible says that every imagination of man's heart was only evil continually. Man was a grief to God constantly.

Could God go on with a race of people who were a constant grief to His heart? No, He could not. God determined to destroy the human race by a great flood. But there was one man who was upright in his ways—Noah. The Bible says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”¹

God told Noah of His plan to destroy the earth by water. He instructed Noah to build an ark, a great ship. It took Noah and his three sons 120 years to build the ark as God had instructed them. For 120 years Noah warned the people that God's judgment was coming on the earth, but they laughed at him.

When the ark was completed, God told Noah to bring pairs of all the animals and birds into the ark. Regarding certain “clean” animals, he was to take seven pairs. Then God told Noah to take his wife, their three sons and their wives into the ark. God did not say, “Go into the ark.” He said, “Come, you and all your house into the ark.” This meant that God was inside the ark.

There was only one door into the ark. For seven days that door

remained open, while Noah pleaded with the people to come inside. Then God shut the door. The Bible says, “The LORD shut him in.”

It began to rain and the fountains of the deep were broken up. It rained constantly for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters covered the hills and the highest mountains. Every person and all air-breathing creatures outside the ark died.

The ark is a type or picture of Christ. He is our Ark of safety. This world in which we live is very wicked. It is under the judgment of God. But God has given us an “ark of safety.” Christ is our Ark.

The moment we take Christ as our Savior, God puts us *in Christ*. We are *in Christ* just as Noah and his family were in the ark. When God's wrath falls on this evil world in which we live, we shall be saved because we are *in Christ*.

Many of God's people do not have full assurance of their salvation. They are fearful that they might lose their salvation. God wants all believers to know that they are saved forever. Noah and his family were not outside the ark, trying to hold on. They were inside the ark, perfectly safe.

When God saves us, He puts us *in Christ*. We are not outside of Christ, trying to hold on to Him; we are *in Christ*. The Bible says,

“But of Him [God] are you *in Christ* Jesus...” 1 CORINTHIANS 1:30

1. Genesis 6:8

The Tower of Babel

Following the great flood, the children of Noah multiplied. The Bible says, “The whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.” They turned from God and began to seek their own glory. They found a place where they could make bricks, using slime for mortar. They said, “Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name....”¹

They began to build the city of Babylon and the tower of Babel. When they said, “Let us make us a name,” they were seeking their own glory, not God’s glory.

The LORD came down to see the city and the tower which they were building. The LORD said, “Behold, the people are one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do...Let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”²

The LORD caused the people to speak many different languages, so that they could not understand each other or work together. The Bible says that the LORD scattered them abroad upon the face of all the earth. Thus, today, we have the different nations and the different languages throughout the earth.

From the days of the tower of Babel, this world has been the scene of man’s seeking his own glory. But from those days God has presented

another “world” to those who have faith in Him. The Bible calls it “the world to come.”³

God called a man named Abraham to leave his country and his people. God told Abraham that he would be the father of a multitude of nations, and that kings would come out of him.⁴

No doubt Abraham had seen the building of the tower and the city for man’s glory, but God appeared to him and told him about a city for God’s glory—a city whose builder and maker is God. The Bible says,

“By faith Abraham, when he was called... obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went....

“For he looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.”
HEBREWS 11:8, 10

Abraham turned his back on the glory of man and the things of man. He obeyed God and went out, not knowing where he was going. From the days of Abraham, believers have looked for God’s coming world.

When God’s new world comes into being, it will not be a world of pride, selfishness, lust and man’s vain glory, like the present world. Instead, it will be a world in which the knowledge of the LORD will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. God’s new world will be seen when Christ comes again. It will be filled with God’s glory.

1. Genesis 11:4

2. Genesis 11:6,7

3. Hebrews 2:5

4. Genesis 17:5, 6

The Call of God

Abram, whose name God later changed to Abraham, occupies a unique place of prominence in Scripture which no other person has. The Bible says that he is “the father of all them that believe.”¹

Abram lived at a time when men were worshipping idols. Abram was no different from the people among whom he lived. He, too, worshipped idols, but the call of God changed his life forever. The Bible says that “the God of glory” appeared to Abram and said to him,

“Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father’s house, unto a land that I will show you:

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing:

“And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.” GENESIS 12:1-3

Abram is the first example of a man chosen and called by God. The call of God is a wonderful thing. The mighty and powerful voice of God from the unseen spiritual world reaches our heart. It awakes us to the consciousness that God is calling us to live for Him and to do a work for Him.

Like Abram, we too have heard the mighty voice of God from the unseen world. Like Abram, God calls us to be “strangers and pilgrims” in this world.²

God made a covenant (a solemn, binding agreement) with Abram which contained three mighty promises:

- **A great nation.** God promised to make of Abram a great nation. God said, “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great.” The great nation which came from Abram is Israel, God’s special, chosen people here on earth.

- **A promised land.** This is the first mention of “the land.” God had a special land for His chosen people, the land of Canaan. This land was so fertile that it is described in the Bible as “a land flowing with milk and honey.” It was God’s purpose that His people should possess this wonderful land and enjoy its riches.

- **A promised Savior.** God said to Abram, “In you shall all families of the earth be blessed.” Later, God appeared to him and said, “In your seed [one person, Christ] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.”³

This was the greatest honor of all—that from Abraham’s family, his descendants, would come the promised Savior.

God’s great plan of redemption began with Abraham. When we open our New Testament, the first words we read are these:

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” MATTHEW 1:1

1. Romans 4:11

3. Genesis 22:18

2. 1 Peter 2:11

The Man Who Made the Wrong Choice

Abraham was 75 years old when he left his home in Haran to go to the land of Canaan. Abraham took Sarah, his wife, his servants, and his flocks and herds of livestock. His brother's son, Lot, also went with him.

In time, Abraham became very wealthy in cattle, silver and gold. His nephew, Lot, also had flocks and herds and servants. Soon they had so much livestock that the land could not support them. There was fighting between the servants of Abraham and the servants of Lot.

Abraham realized that they needed to separate, and he took Lot to a high place and showed him all the land. Some of the land was rocky and mountainous and some was fertile, flat land near the river Jordan. Though he was much older than his nephew, he gave Lot first choice of the land.

Lot chose the plain of Jordan which was well watered. It was also the place where very wicked people lived in nearby cities. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. The Bible says, "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly" (GENESIS 13:13).

Soon Lot and his family were living in Sodom. Lot became one of the rulers of Sodom, but the people were very wicked. The Bible says that Lot was "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked."

In time Sodom and a nearby city, Gomorrah, became so wicked that God told Abraham that He was going to destroy them. God had to send two angels to bring Lot, his wife and their two daughters out of Sodom. Then the cities were destroyed. The Bible says,

"Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven." GENESIS 19:24

We would not know that Lot was a believer except that we are told in the New Testament that Lot was "a righteous man."

Satan cannot keep a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ from going to heaven, but he will do all he can to make him a worldly believer like Lot. This world is not our home. God has given heaven to us, and He tells us that we are to be "strangers and pilgrims" in this world.

There are times when Satan puts something before us to get us out of the path of faith. It may be a better job or more money, but it may put us in a place or situation which is not of God. It may look like something that God had ordered; yet it may be just our own choice.

Lot chose for himself, and he ended up with a disastrous life. Abraham let God choose for him, and he became "the father of all them that believe."

We, too, will be tested by circumstances. Will we choose for ourselves or will we let things be God's choice? The psalmist said, "He shall choose our inheritance for us..."

The Principle of Faith

God had promised Abram that He would make of him a great nation. Abram had become wealthy, but he and Sarah had no children. Sarah was barren. She could not bear children.

Since Abram and Sarah had no son, Abram asked God if his servant, Eliezer, was to be his heir. The Lord said to him, “This shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own bowels [body] shall be your heir.”¹

The Lord brought Abram out of his tent and said, “Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then God said, “So shall your seed be.”²

Abram’s circumstances told him that this was impossible. He was 85 years old at this time and his wife was barren. What was Abram going to do? Would he believe in his circumstances or would he believe God? Abram chose to believe God. The Bible says,

“He believed in the LORD; and He [God] counted it to him for righteousness.”
GENESIS 15:6

Here we see the great principle on which we can be perfectly righteous before God—the principle of faith. When we believe God, He counts to us a perfect righteousness.

Abram simply believed the faithful God who cannot lie, and God counted it to him for righteousness. Being declared righteous by God on the principle of faith may seem like

a foolish principle to men, but it is God’s principle. We are saved by grace through faith and faith alone.

After a time, when Sarah had not conceived, she thought it would be good if she gave her maid, Hagar, to Abram, that he might have a son by her. Unfortunately, Abram went along with Sarah’s idea. Hagar bore a son by Abram, and he was named Ishmael. But Ishmael was not the son which God had promised Abram.

When Abram was 99 years old, God appeared to him and said, “I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be perfect.”³ God made a covenant with Abram, renewing His promises to him. As a token of the covenant, God commanded that every male child of Abram and his descendants should be circumcised.

God changed Abram’s name to Abraham which means “father of a multitude.” God told Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son one year from that time.

Sarah had not only been barren, but she was now long past the age of childbearing. She laughed at the thought of having a child. Abraham himself wondered how this could ever happen. But he believed God.

The principle that marked Abraham was faith. The Bible says that Abraham was “strong in faith, giving glory to God.”⁴ This is the one simple principle that has always marked the true people of God.

1. Genesis 15:4

2. Genesis 15:5

3. Genesis 17:1

4. Romans 4:20

Isaac, the Miracle Child

God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and Sarah. The Bible says, “The LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as He had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.”¹

Abraham named his son Isaac, as God had directed him. Isaac was especially loved by his father, but as Isaac grew older, a time came when God tested Abraham’s faith. God said to him, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac [God did not count Ishmael], whom you love, and get into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell you of.”²

This meant that God was telling Abraham to kill his son Isaac and to burn his body as an offering to the LORD. How this must have shocked Abraham! He could not understand God’s telling him to do such a thing. Nevertheless, he rose up early in the morning to obey God.

On the long trip to Mount Moriah, Abraham pondered the matter. God had promised him that his descendants would be as the stars of the skies. Isaac had to live in order for this promise to be fulfilled. Abraham came to the conclusion that, though he killed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead.

When Abraham reached the place

that God had appointed, he built an altar, placed wood on it, bound his son Isaac, and placed him on the altar in obedience to God. As he raised his knife to kill Isaac, the Angel of the LORD called out to him and said, “Lay not your hand upon the lad, neither do any thing unto him: for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.”³

When Abraham took Isaac off the altar and held him in his arms, it was like receiving him from the dead.

Abraham looked and there was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son.

Isaac is one of the clearest types of Christ in the Old Testament. He was a miracle child. He was always obedient to his father, being willing to die to do his father’s will. He was, in type, raised up from the dead.

1. Genesis 21:1, 2

3. Genesis 22:12

2. Genesis 22:2



**God spared Abraham’s son,
but He did not spare His own Son.**

The Lamb Which God Provided

When Abraham and Isaac reached the mountain where Abraham was to offer his son as a sacrifice, Abraham told his servants to stay with the donkey while he and Isaac went up to worship God. The Bible says,

“And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.” GENESIS 22:6

As they walked up the mountain, Isaac said to his father, “Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?” Abraham said, “My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt-offering.”

This brings before us the greatest of all scenes—God’s Son dying on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. God spared Abraham’s son, but He did not spare His own Son. The Bible says that He “spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all.”

For thousands of years, God’s people offered lambs as sacrifices for their sins. But then one day God’s Son appeared, and John the Baptist said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world” (JOHN 1:29).

The fact that Jesus Christ is “the Lamb of God” means that He is the perfect Sacrifice which God Himself provided for our sins. There are two great facts that come out of this:

① **Jesus is the only Way to God.** Since Jesus is “the Lamb of God” who died for our sins, there is no other way anyone can be saved. The Bible says,

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” ACTS 4:12

② **God is perfectly satisfied with the Sacrifice which He Himself provided.** This gives me peace about my sins.

What am I to do? I am to put my trust in the One who has perfectly satisfied God with respect to my sins. The Bible says,

“...through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

“And by Him all that believe are justified [declared righteous] from ALL THINGS, from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

ACTS 13:38, 39

“To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believes in Him shall receive remission [forgiveness] of sins.” ACTS 10:43

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” ROMANS 5:1

We are not saved by what we do for God but by what God has done for us in the Person of His Son. The Bible says,

“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

“Not of works, lest any man should boast.” EPHESIANS 2:8, 9

A Bride for Isaac

God confirmed His covenant with Abraham and said to him, “In your seed [Christ, the promised Savior] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed My voice” (GENESIS 22:18).

In time Sarah died. Abraham was very old, and he had much wealth, but his son Isaac did not have a wife. Abraham and Isaac were living among the Canaanites, but Abraham did not want his son to marry a Canaanite woman.

Abraham told his eldest servant to go back to the land of his people to seek a bride for Isaac from his kindred. The servant took ten camels and much goods and made the long journey to the city of Nahor where Abraham’s kindred lived.

On the way the servant prayed that God would show him the one who was to be Isaac’s wife. He asked that God would give him a special sign—that the woman would give him water to drink and also offer to water his camels.

At evening time, the servant came to a well of water outside the city. A young woman had just drawn a pitcher of water, and the servant ran to her and asked if he might drink a little water from her pitcher. The woman gave him drink and said, “I will draw water also for your camels.”

The young woman was named Rebekah and she was very beau-

tiful. When the servant found that she was the granddaughter of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, he bowed his head and worshipped God, saying, “Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham. . . I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master’s brethren” (GENESIS 24:27).

Rebekah took the servant to her house where he was well received by her family. When the servant told her father and her brother of his mission, they agreed that Rebekah could go with him to marry Isaac. On the long journey back, we may be sure that the servant was anxious to tell her all about Isaac and that she was as anxious to hear about Isaac as he was to tell her.

This is a beautiful picture of what God is doing now. Isaac is a type of Christ. Just as Abraham received Isaac “back from the dead” when he took him off the altar, so God the Father received His Son back from the dead. Just as Abraham sent his servant into a far country to get a bride for his son, so God is getting a bride for His Son.

The servant is a type of the Holy Spirit whom God has sent into the world to secure a bride for His Son. All believers will one day be united to the Lord Jesus in heaven as His bride for all eternity.

Before his death Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. God has given all that He has to His Son. As His bride, we will share in all that He is and all that He has forever.

The Genealogy of *Christ*



Abraham



Ishmael



Isaac



Esau



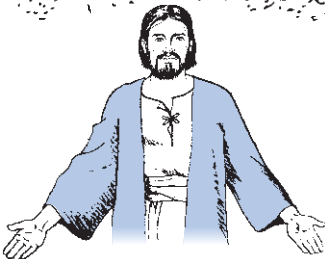
Jacob

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Reuben Simeon Levi Judah Dan Naphtali Gad Asher Issachar Zebulun Joseph Benjamin



Israel



**Jesus Christ,
the Son of God**

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