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# **Old Testament Saints**

## **Our Examples**

**Adult and Young People's Quarterly**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bible, as we have it today, is separated into two main divisions, the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament includes all the “books” from Genesis through Malachi.

The Old Testament scriptures were first written primarily in Hebrew. From the writing of the first book, Genesis, to the writing of the last, Malachi, we cover a span of a thousand years or more, yet there is perfect harmony in the precious truths presented.

In this quarter of lessons we will be looking into the lives, labors, and character of some of the most outstanding men of the Old Testament. It is not our desire to present these lessons as mere history; we desire that these men, their experiences, and their examples will be a help to each student to grow in grace and in the knowledge of true Christian living.

The Bible is the greatest “book” ever written! It has done more to change the course of history, by changing men’s lives, than any book ever printed. It is the standard for moral conduct. It will improve and change any life that will follow its teachings.

We commit these lessons to the student with the prayer that you study them, not just to increase your knowledge of the Bible, but to increase your standing with the God of the Bible.

**THE WAY OF TRUTH**

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# LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR JANUARY 5

## ABRAHAM, AN EXAMPLE IN FAITH

**Scriptures:** Hebrews 11:8-10, 17-19; Romans 4:3, 19-21; Galatians 3:6-9.

**Hebrews 11:8** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

**9** By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

**10** For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

**17** By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

**18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

**19** Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

**Romans 4:3** For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was

counted unto him for righteousness.

**19** And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

**20** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

**21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

**Galatians 3:6** Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

**7** Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

**8** And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

**9** So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**Memory Verse:** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.—Hebrews 11:6.

**Aim:** To show through Abraham's example the importance of faith in the life of a Christian.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Hebrews 11  
**Tuesday** Romans 4  
**Wednesday** Genesis 15

**Thursday** Genesis 26  
**Friday** Genesis 12  
**Saturday** Galatians 3

### INTRODUCTION

When we think of faith, we think of faithful Abraham! Some of the most outstanding promises ever made to man by God were made to Abraham. However, the promises were not always fulfilled immediately. The promise of a son by Sarah was not fulfilled until years after it was first given. The promise that his seed would inherit the land of Canaan was not realized in his lifetime. Yet, Abraham believed God! And that is what faith is, believing when you do not see.

Abraham believed God and it was imputed to him for righteousness' sake. No one can really be a true Christian without having a living

faith in God, for God honors faith and faith honors God. Have faith in God!

## MEDITATIONS

**ABRAHAM CALLED—Hebrews 11:8-10—By faith—**Isaiah informs us that the “willing and obedient” shall eat the good of the land (Isaiah 1:19). As we study the Scriptures, we are made to realize that real living faith is evidenced by obedience. One who really believes in his heart that God is, that His Word is true, will set about to do what the Word teaches. Abraham was first called while living in Ur of the Chaldees, an idol worshiping people. He, his father, and others traveled to Haran. Here his father died. This was not the land God had in mind and so Abraham was called to leave this place and travel on to Canaan. He went out, not knowing where he was going, but he went because he had faith in the One who was leading.

**TESTS ALONG THE WAY—Hebrews 11:17-19—When he was tried—**Everyone who walks by faith will have that faith tested. For years God had promised Abraham a son; finally, when he was almost a hundred years old, the son was born. Only a few years later God commanded Abraham to give him back. The account of this is recorded in Genesis 22, and there we are told, after God told Abraham to offer up his son, “Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up and went unto the place of which God had told him” (verse 3). We see Abraham so willing to obey God; however it was a test, but Abraham’s faith was so strong that he believed even if he did slay his son, God would raise him to life again and still fulfill His promise of blessing all nations through Isaac. Lord, help us to follow Abraham’s example of being true in the time of testing.

**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD—Romans 4:3, 19-21—Being not weak—**To live a life pleasing unto God one must have faith in God and in His promises. Abraham was given the promise of a son through his wife Sarah. She lived through her younger years without having a child; she was barren and was approaching ninety years of age; still God said she would have a child and Abraham believed God! He staggered not at the promises of God. Why? Because he was fully persuaded. Faith and doubts do not go well together. “He that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed ... let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”—James 1:6, 7.

**ABRAHAM OUR FATHER—Galatians 3:6-9—All nations shall be blessed—**Abraham was called before he was circumcised. He believed God and thus his faith was reckoned to him for justification. The Old Testament law was not yet given to Moses, so the law was not necessary to salvation. Abraham had the gospel preached unto him; we have the gospel today. The Savior was promised through the seed

of Abraham. Abraham believed God; if we will believe God, then we shall be blessed as Abraham was. There was a period of time when God dealt especially with the literal Hebrew nation, but God's plan was and is, that all nations of the earth be blessed with the soul-saving gospel of Jesus Christ. The literal Jew today has no more favor with God than anyone else does. God's "chosen people" are those who believe in and serve the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."—Galatians 4:29.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—Hebrews 11:6—Without faith—**The writer of Hebrews informs us that we must believe that God is! As we look at the world in which we live, as we look into the starry heavens, how can we help but believe there is an Almighty God? "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork" (Psalm 19:1). But we must not only believe that God is, we must believe He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. We cannot be passive, half-hearted, "lukewarm," about the things of God. We must be earnest, fervent, diligent. Our Memory Verse also tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. I feel sure every true child of God desires to please the heavenly Father, therefore we must have faith in Him. It takes faith to be saved, it takes faith to be sanctified, it takes faith to be healed, it takes faith to live the Christian life, and it takes faith to get our prayers answered.

## CONCLUSION

Abraham's seed was to be as the stars of heaven, as the sand along the seashore. All nations were to be blessed through his seed, yet he was nearly a hundred years old before Sarah gave birth to their only son. Everywhere in the land of promise, where he set the soles of his feet was to belong to him and to his seed, yet he owned only a small plot of that land where he and Sarah were buried in a cave. Out of his loins were to come kings and rulers, yet he ruled over no land, not even a city. Did God keep His promises to Abraham? Every one! Abraham knew He would. He believed God. We cannot stress too much the need of our having faith in God. Faith is necessary for salvation, for holy living, for divine healing, and for making heaven our home. Let us follow Abraham's example.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How do you think Abraham obtained such great faith?
2. Discuss some of the ways Abraham is an example to us.
3. In what way was Abraham a type of God and Isaac a type of Jesus?
4. In what manner are Christians today the children of Abraham?
5. Why is it necessary to diligently seek God?
6. What is the promise given for diligently seeking God?

LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR JANUARY 12  
**NOAH, AN EXAMPLE IN OBEDIENCE**

**Scriptures:** Genesis 6:9, 12-16, 22; 7:1, 5, 16, 18, 23, 24; 8:1, 4, 15, 16; 9:1.

**Genesis 6:9** These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

**12** And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

**13** And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

**14** Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

**15** And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

**16** A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

**22** Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

**Genesis 7:1** And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

**5** And Noah did according unto all that

the Lord commanded him.

**16** And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the Lord shut him in.

**18** And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

**23** And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth; and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

**24** And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

**Genesis 8:1** And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged;

**4** And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat.

**15** And God spake unto Noah, saying,

**16** Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

**Genesis 9:1** And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

**Memory Verse:** Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.—Genesis 6:22.

**Aim:** To show through Noah's example the necessity of obedience to God and His Word.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday**      **Genesis 6**  
**Tuesday**    **Genesis 7**  
**Wednesday** **Genesis 8**

**Thursday**    **Genesis 9**  
**Friday**        **II Peter 2**  
**Saturday**     **Matthew 24**

**INTRODUCTION**

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured

with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it” (Isaiah 1:19, 20).

Samuel told Saul, “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king” (I Samuel 15:22, 23).

Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden because of disobedience. The Israelites suffered many things, including captivity, because of disobedience. Disobedience to the known commands of God is sin, and the wages of sin is death. It is very important to every one of us that we obey the Word of God.

## MEDITATIONS

**NOAH A RIGHTEOUS MAN—Genesis 6:9—Noah walked with God**—Noah was the great grandson of Enoch, the one who walked with God and “was not; for God took him”; Noah walked with God, too. You must obey God to be able to walk with Him. **Verses 12-16—God looked upon the earth**—Even though Noah was a just man, that was not the state of the people in general; to the contrary, their ways were corrupt. God never looked favorably upon sin, for sin is disobedience to His commands. At this time the earth was full of violence, the wickedness of man was great, and every imagination of the thoughts of their heart was evil continually. So God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh is come before me.” But Noah was righteous, so God told him to make an ark, and He told him what to make it of, how large to make it and how to fix it so it would be waterproof. The Lord also told him to put a window and a door in it. **Verse 22—Thus did Noah**—Now the purpose for building this houseboat was explained to Noah. God was going to “bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh” except those who went into the ark. Noah believed God, and because he believed God he did “according to all that God commanded him.” Here again we are made to see how faith and obedience go together. Had Noah not believed what God told him, he certainly would not have worked for around one hundred years, or more, building the ark. The reason the people perished in the flood was because they did not believe, nor obey, the preaching of Noah.

**NOAH ENTERS THE ARK—Genesis 7:1, 5—It is not certain just how long it took to build the ark—some say as much as 110 years**—but finally it was finished and the Lord told Noah to take of the various animals, fowls, etc., “to keep seed” of what had been created, so that after the flood there could be a new start made. In this, too, Noah did according to all the Lord commanded him.

**GOD SHUT THE DOOR—Genesis 7:16, 18, 23, 24**—After Noah was safe inside the ark, “the Lord shut him in.” More could have gone

in if they had obeyed! But once the door was shut it was too late. As the rain began to fall, doubtless, some tried to get in, but the waters prevailed and the ark was lifted up and began to sail on the water. The waters remained on the earth until every living substance was destroyed, both man and cattle. Why? Because of disobedience.

**GOD WATCHED OVER NOAH—Genesis 8:1—God remembered Noah**—God was determined to destroy man because of his gross wickedness, but Noah obeyed God and God took care of him. After the flood had prevailed, God caused a wind to blow over the earth to help dry up the water. **Verse 4—The ark rested**—As the waters went down, the ark came to rest on the mountain in the area known as Ararat.

**INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN—Genesis 8:15, 16—God spake**—After the ark came to rest on the mountain, Noah remained in the ark until God spoke to him and told him to leave the ark. Many disbelieve the story of the flood, but if we believe the Word of God to be inspired by God then we believe the facts concerning the flood. Jesus Christ Himself speaks of it, as recorded in the New Testament.

**STARTING ANEW—Genesis 9:1—God blessed Noah**—After the flood waters were gone and the land was dry again, God told Noah and his family to leave the ark and start life anew. Noah had been faithful, he had obeyed God, and God blessed him and his family and told them to replenish the earth.

## CONCLUSION

Obedience to the Word of God is absolutely necessary for anyone to live a Christian life. It may not always be easy. Doubtless, Noah was made fun of many times during the hundred or more years the ark was being built, and even after he entered the ark he was in there for seven days before any rain fell, and, possibly, during those days he was mocked. However, God had spoken to him with instructions as to what to do, and he had a mind, a heart, a spirit to obey God and he was not going to let anyone or anything turn him aside. What a wonderful example for us. Faith and obedience go together. Let us believe God and act accordingly; if we will, God will be with us, even as He was with Noah.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was Noah so different from the other people of his day?
2. Why did not more people enter the ark?
3. Why is obedience to the Word of God so necessary?
4. What is the import of the statement that God shut Noah in the ark?
5. Does God approve of sin today?



## LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR JANUARY 19

# JOSEPH, AN EXAMPLE IN LOVE

**Scriptures:** Genesis 37:2-4, 13, 14, 23, 24, 28; 39:1, 3, 6-9; 45:4, 7, 9-11, 15; 47:12.

**Genesis 37:2** These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

**3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.

**4** And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

**13** And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

**14** And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren; and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

**23** And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colors that was on him;

**24** And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

**28** Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

**Genesis 39:1** And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

**3** And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

**6** And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored.

**7** And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

**8** But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

**9** There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

**Genesis 45:4** And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

**7** And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

**9** Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

**10** And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

**11** And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

**15** Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him.

**Genesis 47:12** And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.

**Memory Verse:** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.—I Corinthians 13:13.

**Aim:** To show through Joseph's example that the Bible standard of love can be maintained in the life of a Christian.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**      **Genesis 37**  
**Tuesday**     **Genesis 39**  
**Wednesday** **Genesis 45**

**Thursday**    **Genesis 47**  
**Friday**       **Genesis 50**  
**Saturday**    **I Corinthians 13**

## INTRODUCTION

Love is greatly needed in the world today! But how few people really know what love is? and fewer yet know how to manifest it.

The Bible reveals that God in His very nature is love. God not only loves; He is love. God does not love sin, but He does love everyone in the world, including the sinner. That is why He GAVE His Son. Giving is an act of love. A spirit of getting is a manifestation of selfishness.

All true love in the human family, whether directed toward God, or mankind, has its origin in God. True love enables a person to give himself in service to his fellowman, and true love for God will enable a person to live in obedience to the Word of God. Love is first in the test of true discipleship.

Joseph presents a beautiful picture of holy character, gentleness, faithfulness, a forgiving spirit, and love; it is no wonder that some regard him as an Old Testament type of Jesus Christ.

## MEDITATIONS

**THE YOUNG MAN JOSEPH—Genesis 37:2-4—The generations of Jacob—**Joseph was the eleventh of Jacob's sons, but the first by Rachel. He was born in Padanaram when Jacob was 90 years old and the Scriptures inform us he was his father's favorite child, doubtless, because of Jacob's great love for Rachel and also because of the fine conduct of the child himself. This did not go well with the ten older brothers, so they hated him.

**LOVE PRODUCES OBEDIENCE—Genesis 37:13, 14—Go, I pray thee—**Joseph was now 17 years of age. He had vital contact with God, for God had already given him revelations through dreams. He was an obedient child and though Hebron was some miles south of Jerusalem and we understand Shechem to have been several miles north, yet Joseph traveled this distance alone to carry out the instructions of his father. **Verses 23, 24—When Joseph came—**Joseph did not find his brothers at Shechem; however, he journeyed on until he found them. Before he arrived—as the brothers saw him coming—they plotted to kill him, but the eldest, Reuben, suggested they put him in a pit so that they would not have his blood on their hands and so that he could later release him. **Verse 28—Sold Joseph—**Reuben had duties to take care of elsewhere and so, while he was gone, the other brothers sold Joseph to merchantmen who were going down to

Egypt. Can you imagine the hurt that filled the bosom of Joseph as he looked upon his brothers and realized that they would do such a thing to him? Love had to rule his heart or else bitterness would have!

**JOSEPH ARRIVES IN EGYPT—Genesis 39:1, 3—Brought him**—Joseph’s brothers sold him to the Ishmeelites, who were descendants of Ishmael, Abraham’s first son by Hagar, an Egyptian. The Ishmeelites paid twenty pieces of silver for Joseph, and brought him into the land of Egypt, a country in the northeast corner of Africa. There they sold him to a man by the name of Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. We are not told what Potiphar paid for him, but we do know the Lord was with Joseph. Potiphar was a prosperous man, and Joseph served him well. He still had the love of God in his heart, and he did not have bitterness in his heart against his brothers, or against Potiphar. Joseph went about his duties, doing what he was told to do. Verse three tells us that Potiphar saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that Joseph did to prosper, so we know that Joseph lived a godly life, keeping the love of God in his heart.

**SORELY TESTED—Genesis 39:6-9—It came to pass**—Potiphar turned all his business affairs over to Joseph and in carrying out his duties it was necessary, from time to time, for Joseph to enter Potiphar’s home. In the due course of time, Potiphar’s wife began to lust after Joseph and suggested a very wicked thing. This is a point where many today do not seem to know the difference between love and lust. All desires do not spring from love. Joseph knew what love was and he knew this suggestion was not the product of love, so he refused, saying in effect, “I cannot do this great evil, for it would be a sin against my master and against God.” True love kept him in the time of temptation. Due to Potiphar’s wife’s lies Joseph was thrown into prison, but even there God was with him and brought him out.

**JOSEPH INFORMS HIS BROTHERS—Genesis 45:4, 7—God sent me**—We do not know for sure just how long Joseph was in prison, but we do know God brought him out and gave him favor with Pharaoh after God enabled Joseph to tell the king the meaning of his dream. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of planning, and carrying out the plan, to save grain during the seven years of plenty. Joseph’s older brothers came into Egypt to buy grain. They bowed before Joseph (42:5) just as God had showed him in his dream they would. He tested them, saying they were spies, but they denied it, and let Joseph know, in effect, that his father and younger brother were still alive. He did not let them know who he was, but demanded that they bring Benjamin with them if they ever came again. Jacob did not want to consent to that, but as their food was running out and the famine was still in the land of Canaan, as well as Egypt, he consented. Joseph was now around the age of 39. There had been seven years of plenty and two years of famine, and his brothers were now making their second visit to buy grain. They brought Benjamin with them, and, in their

sight, Joseph did some strange things, and they became fearful. Joseph had trouble controlling his emotions, but he still did not reveal to them who he was. He had another test to put them through—Chapter 44. After he was convinced they had really changed, it was time to let them know who he was! True love shines through as he tells them, “I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved nor angry with yourselves, ... for God did send me before you to preserve life.”

**JOSEPH TO SEE HIS FATHER—Genesis 45:9-11, 15—Go up—**Joseph longed to see his aged father whom he had not seen for around 22 years, and he desired to bestow his love on him and all his family by taking care of them, as there was to be five more years of famine. So he instructed his brothers to go tell his father he was alive in Egypt, and that he must come down. Joseph embraced and kissed each one of them before sending them away. What love!

**THE FAMILY REUNITED—Genesis 47:12—Joseph nourished—**Can you imagine the feeling that passed from Joseph to his father, and the father to his son, as they met! It is said of Joseph, “And he fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while (46:29). Joseph’s mother had died at the birth of her second child, Benjamin, while Joseph was still a boy at home, but the rest of the family came into the land of Egypt and Joseph was able to be with them the remainder of his life. The brothers were afraid that he would treat them evil after the death of their father but not so. Love ruled Joseph’s life unto the end. Joseph did make one request of his people, “And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.” Genesis 50:24, 25. There is a tomb near Jacob’s well where Joseph’s remains are believed to be buried.

## CONCLUSION

Where do you find a greater example of love in the Old Testament or the New Testament, except, of course, God and His Son? If a man ever had a right to be bitter, if a man ever had a right to “get even,” it was Joseph. He could have become bitter; he had the power and he had the opportunity, but it was not in his heart to do so. What a wonderful example of love!

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was Joseph so different from his older brothers?
2. Was Joseph wrong in telling his brothers his dreams?
3. How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers sold him into slavery?
4. Does God expect us to show such love today?
5. Do you think you could?

## LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR JANUARY 26

# MOSES, AN EXAMPLE IN LEADERSHIP

**Scriptures:** Exodus 3:2-4, 7, 8, 10; 7:1, 2; 14:13, 14; 18:8; Numbers 14:11-13, 19, 20; Deuteronomy 34:1, 2, 5.

**Exodus 3:2** And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

**3** And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

**4** And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

**7** And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

**8** And I am come down to deliver them out of the land of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and Hivites, and the Jebusites.

**10** Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

**Exodus 7:1** And the Lord said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

**2** Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

**Exodus 14:13** And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians

whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

**14** The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

**Exodus 18:8** And Moses told his father in law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the Lord delivered them.

**Numbers 14:11** And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

**12** I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

**13** And Moses said unto the Lord, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

**19** Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

**20** And the Lord said, I have pardoned according to thy word.

**Deuteronomy 34:1** And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho, And the Lord shewed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

**2** And all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea.

**5** So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.—Hebrews 13:17.

**Aim:** To show through the life of Moses (1) that God calls men to lead His people, (2) the duties, place, and qualities of a God-called leader, (3) that God's leaders are to be respected and obeyed.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**      **Exodus 3**  
**Tuesday**     **Exodus 14**  
**Wednesday**   **Exodus 17**

**Thursday**    **Exodus 18**  
**Friday**       **Exodus 32**  
**Saturday**    **Numbers 12**

### INTRODUCTION

Joseph had died; and the Pharaohs that were favorable to him, and to the children of Israel, had also died. In the due course of time they were made slaves and their taskmasters were very cruel to them. As they continued to multiply, a decree was signed that all Hebrew male babies were to be slain as soon as they were born. It was during this time that the one we know as Moses was born. His parents, not fearing the king's command, hid the child for three months and then he was placed in a little ark, where the king's daughter found him one day. Through the favor of God he was given back to his mother for a period of time—we understand it to have possibly been seven years—then he was taken to the royal court where he lived until he was 40. At this time, according to Hebrews 11:24-26, he made a choice that led to his leaving the land of Egypt. Forty more years passed, during which time Moses lived as a shepherd, was married and became the father of two sons. During those forty years he, doubtless, became familiar with the land that he would later bring the children of Israel into. Moses learned much, but regardless of how much a person may learn he still needs God's help to accomplish God's purpose in life. For a man to be a good leader he must first learn to be a good follower!

### MEDITATIONS

**A STRANGE SIGHT—Exodus 3:2-4—A flame of fire—**One day Moses led his father-in-law's flock to the back side of Horeb and there he saw a strange sight, so he turned aside to see—a bush burning and yet not consumed. As he drew near he heard a voice calling his name. He was told to remove his shoes, as he was on holy ground, and he was told that the one speaking was God. **Verses 7, 8, 10—Moses called—**God informed Moses that He had heard the cry of His people back in Egypt and He had come down to deliver them. I feel sure Moses was glad to hear that, for he had tried to help them 40 years earlier, but he was not so happy to hear the voice say that he was to go to Pharaoh to bring this to pass. God gave him a precious promise, "I will be with thee" (verse 12). Even so, Moses held back for awhile, but God had called and Moses answered the call.

**A LEADER UNDER GOD—Exodus 7:1, 2—**God knew the task He was calling Moses to would not be an easy one, but He told Moses to speak whatever He told him to. The Lord also agreed to let Aaron (an older brother) help Moses in this great task.

**TIME TO LEAVE—Exodus 14:13, 14—And Moses said—**When Moses returned to the land of Egypt he first had to convince his own people that the time had come for them to leave, then he went to see the king, but Pharaoh was of no mind to give up all that slave labor. God had already told Moses what would happen, i.e., Pharaoh would harden his heart. But after God brought ten plagues on the land, the last being the death of the firstborn of man and cattle, the Egyptians insisted that their king let the Hebrews go. However, God did not lead them by the nearest or the easiest route; He had other plans! There were 600,000 men besides women and children—quite a congregation for one man to lead. While camped near the sea, the children of Israel saw the Egyptians coming after them and fear gripped their hearts, so they turned on their leader, saying, “Didn’t we tell you back in Egypt to let us alone?” But Moses knew God and he knew what God had promised! “Fear not ... the Lord will fight for you.”

**ON THE OTHER SIDE—Exodus 18:8—Moses told—**God opened the sea and brought every Israelite safely out of the land of Egypt. Safe on the other side Jethro brought his daughter, Moses’ wife, and the two sons to where Moses was and there Moses rehearsed what the Lord had done to Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel’s sake. Moses, being the true leader that he was, gave the credit to the Lord, to whom it rightfully belonged.

**NOT HOME YET—Numbers 14:11-13—How long—**The wilderness was not the land God had promised Abraham and his seed; Canaan was to be home. While in the wilderness on the way to Canaan, Moses had many problems to deal with. Finally, at God’s instructions, Moses sent twelve men to spy out the land. They were gone for 40 days. When they returned, ten said, “We are not able to take the land”; two said, “We are.” The congregation believed the ten and then turned on Moses, “Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt!” This provoked the Lord and He was ready to “disinherit” them and take Moses to raise up a new and a greater nation, but the pastoral heart of Moses went out to the people. **Verses 19, 20—Pardon—**Moses reasoned with the Lord, “If You kill all this people, the nations will say You were not able to do what You said You would,” and there he pled with the Lord to pardon their iniquity according to His great mercy and God heard his cry and spared the people. However, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until all above 20 years of age died off, except Joshua and Caleb who had believed.

**ON THE BORDER AGAIN—Deuteronomy 34:1, 2—Moses went up—**After the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness God again brought them to the border of the promised land. Moses, the great leader, had made a serious “mistake” and was not to be permitted to enter the land, but the Lord told him he would be able to see it. From atop Pisgah Moses saw the land. **Verse 5—Moses the servant of the Lord—**Moses, who was then 120 years old, had given the last



40 years of his life leading the children of Israel. Joshua was to lead the children into the land, and so Moses died in the land of Moab.

## CONCLUSION

Someone has said, "Moses' commission at the burning bush was the greatest task any human leader ever undertook." Possibly so. It might be well to consider the fact that Moses was "given" one old dry stick to use to deliver a nation of people out of the country of Egypt, a country with a standing army. Moses was a faithful leader, and with God's help he accomplished the task, but it could have been made easier if the people would have been more willing to follow God's leader.

May we all benefit from the example of this godly leader.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How important is a leader?
2. Does God have leaders in His work today?
3. What qualifies a man to be a leader?
4. How highly should a leader be respected?
5. How fully should a leader be followed?

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## LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR FEBRUARY 2 DAVID, AN EXAMPLE IN WORSHIP

**Scriptures:** Psalms 4:5; 5:11, 12; 9:1, 2; 34:1-3; 65:1; 66:1, 2; 103:1-5.

**Psalm 4:5** Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.

**Psalm 5:11** But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

**12** For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

**Psalm 9:1** I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works.

**2** I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.

**Psalm 34:1** I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

**2** My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

**3** O magnify the Lord with me, and let us

exalt his name together.

**Psalm 65:1** Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion: and unto thee shall the vow be performed.

**Psalm 66:1** Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands:

**2** Sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious.

**Psalm 103:1** Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

**2** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

**3** Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

**4** Who redeemeth thy life from destruction: who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

**5** Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**Memory Verse:** I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.—Psalm 34:1.



**Aim:** To show through David's example that praising God is part of a Christian's life.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Psalms 4, 5</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalms 34</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Psalms 9</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Psalms 65, 66</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Psalms 27</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 103, 138</b>

## INTRODUCTION

It appears from the Scriptures that David learned early in his life to worship the true and living God. Later in life David became a great warrior, a military genius, and a statesman. He is considered one of ancient Israel's greatest kings, if not the greatest king, but in this lesson we wish to limit ourselves to the subject of worship. The word *worship* means, "the performance of devotional acts in honor of God or a deity; especially, the act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being; the reverence and homage paid to Him in religious exercise, consisting in adoration, confession, prayer, thanksgiving, and the like." The word *adoration* means, "the act of paying honors to a divine being; the worship paid to God. Adoration consists in external homage, accompanied by the highest reverence." A further definition of *worship* is, "submissive respect; unbounded admiration; loving or admiring devotion." *Admiration* means, "wonder mingled with pleasing emotions, approval, esteem, love or veneration." Also, "to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission."

It really means something to worship God! Notice "to honor with **extravagant love**"! That is not ordinary love. We are told to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. There is no one else worthy of such love, devotion, admiration, esteem, homage, adoration, and service.

## MEDITATIONS

**MUST START RIGHT—Psalm 4:5—Righteousness**—According to Jesus, as He spoke to the woman at the well in Samaria, just any worship will not be accepted by God. David said to offer the sacrifices of righteousness. Those who are living righteous lives can worship God in "spirit and in truth."

**TRUST IN GOD—Psalm 5:11, 12—Rejoice**—Those who trust in God will be defended by His almighty power and will know that He does only what is best. This is indeed cause for rejoicing and shouting for joy.

**GOD IS WORTHY—Psalm 9:1, 2—My whole heart**—David declared, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart." If God is worthy of anything, He is worthy of our best. *Praise* is to "express approval of; to laud the glory of." This can be done in song and in testimony.

**FROM OUR HEART—Psalm 34:1-3—My soul**—Millions go through a form of worship and express words of praise, but David

understood and knew, as we must understand today, that to really worship God and to praise Him in a manner that would please Him it must come from a pure heart. God is worthy of praise at all times, not just when things seem to be going right. Faith looks through the trial and knows all will be well; therefore, “let us exalt his name together.”

**IN SERVICES—Psalm 65:1—In Zion—**Old Testament Zion was a type of the church and it is only the redeemed that can actually worship God as He is to be worshiped. Why then should the congregation sit in a service as statues and never open their mouths? I do not speak of noise. I speak of true praise.

**EVERYONE TO WORSHIP—Psalm 66:1, 2—A joyful noise—**David has instructed us all, not just the preacher, or the choir, to “make a joyful noise unto God.” A joyful “noise” would not be just noise, but to “sing forth the honor of his name” and to make “his praise glorious.”

**WHY WE ARE TO WORSHIP—Psalm 103:1-5—Bless the Lord—**God is worthy of praise because He is God, but in these scriptures we see a more personal reason why we should bless the Lord, why we should worship Him, why we should love Him with all our heart: (1) For “all his benefits”; (2) for His forgiving us of all our sins; (3) for His healing power; (4) for redeeming our life from destruction; (5) for His loving-kindness and tender mercies; (6) for the food we eat, in fact for all blessings of life, both temporal and spiritual. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

## CONCLUSION

When we think of Old Testament men, David stands alongside the great leader Moses. When we think of the kings of Israel, he, doubtless, stands at the top. In some respects he was a type of Christ, and the Lord today is reigning on the “throne of David,” over spiritual Israel.

David is recognized as the author of at least 73 of the 150 Psalms in our Bible. Many of them were sung in worship services. The Psalms, as a whole, cover more than just the thought of worship—they express history, personal experiences, some speak of the coming Messiah, but many of them speak of praise to the true and living God, and David, who wrote so many of the Psalms, is an example in praise.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What does it really mean to worship God?
2. Do all religious people worship God?
3. Is our worship limited to a certain building or a certain time of day?
4. Can we worship God in prayer?
5. Why are we to worship no other “god”?

LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR FEBRUARY 9  
**JOB, AN EXAMPLE IN SUFFERING**

**Scriptures:** Job 1:8, 9, 11, 12, 14-22; 2:3, 5-10; 13:15; 42:12, 13.

**Job 1:8** And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

**9** Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

**11** But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

**12** And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

**14** And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

**15** And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

**16** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

**17** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

**18** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

**19** And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

**20** Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon

the ground, and worshiped,

**21** And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

**22** In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

**Job 2:3** And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

**5** But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

**6** And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

**7** So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

**8** And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

**9** Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

**10** But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

**Job 13:15** Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

**Job 42:12** So the Lord blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

**13** He had also seven sons and three daughters.

**Memory Verse:** But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.—Job 23:10.

**Aim:** To show through Job's suffering the Christian attitude of submission to and trust in God in the midst of the most severe suffering.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Job 1</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Job 19</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Job 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Job 23</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Job 13</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Job 42</b>

### INTRODUCTION

Job is a very outstanding Bible figure, though we cannot say for certain just at what period of time he lived, we cannot say for certain what nationality he was, and we cannot say just how much he may have known of the Hebrews or their laws, yet God said he was a perfect and an upright man. This alone makes him an outstanding Bible figure, but when we consider his wealth and how he did not have his heart set on riches, when we consider his faith in God, when we consider his kind attitude toward others, when we consider his love and interest in his children, then we begin to see why God made such a statement.

In this lesson we desire to note especially the sufferings of Job and his attitude during this period of his life.

### MEDITATIONS

**AN UNUSUAL MAN—Job 1:8, 9, 11, 12—The Lord said—**We are told there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also. He, doubtless, still comes among the saints to hinder in whatever way he can. On this occasion, the Lord said to Satan, "Hast thou considered my servant Job?" Satan was well aware of Job, he knew Job was upright, he knew Job was not serving him! Satan showed his lying ways when he told the Lord that if He would put forth His hand and touch all Job had, that he would curse the Lord. The Lord would not do this, but He did give Satan permission to do so.

**SATAN'S DIRTY WORK—Job 1:14-22—And there came—**In the first part of this chapter, detail is given in regard to Job's wealth. After Satan left the presence of the Lord, he started doing his dirty work in an effort to turn Job away from the true and living God. First, he was informed about his oxen and asses, then he was informed about the sheep being burned, then that the camels were stolen, and finally was told the sad news that his seven sons and three daughters had been killed when a great wind had destroyed his eldest son's home where they were all gathered at the time. Now Satan had said if these things would happen to Job he would curse God, saying in effect that Job was pretending to serve God because of the blessings God was giving him, but what happened? Job arose, rent his mantle and shaved his head, which were signs of mourning, then fell upon the ground and

worshiped! Yes, he worshiped God. Further, he acknowledged that God had given him all his blessings and he knew some day they would all have to be left behind and so he said, "Blessed be the name of the Lord." "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly."

**A SECOND ENCOUNTER—Job 2:3, 5-10—An upright man—**Satan, having failed to turn Job against God, was asked the second time, "Hast thou considered my servant Job?" Satan said a man will give anything to save his own life. Just put forth your hand and touch his bone and flesh and he will curse you. Again, the Lord refused to touch Job but gave Satan permission to do so. Satan is not going around doing as he pleases! God puts limits on him, especially when it comes to the children of God. Satan again went forth and this time he attacked Job in body, from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head, with what the Bible calls "sore boils." How long he had suffered, we know not, but in the due course of time, his wife allowed herself to become a tool in the devil's hand and she asked her husband if he still retained his integrity after what had happened, implying that God had been unjust. Are we to serve God only when things are going well? Job told her she spake foolishly. "In all this Job sinned not."

**FAITHFUL IN THE FACE OF DEATH—Job 13:15—Though he slay me—**Three of Job's friends came to "comfort him" (2:11). They tried to convince him that he had done some great evil, or else this would not have come upon him. This was the common thinking of that time, it would seem, but Job had not sinned, and he knew that in this they were not speaking for the Lord. Though he had suffered for some time and it may have appeared to him that his life on earth was drawing to a close, yet he declared his determination to trust God even unto death. What a wonderful example.

**AN END TO THE TEST—Job 42:12, 13—The latter end—**Someone has expressed the thought that Job suffered for at least a year. The Bible does not tell us how long it was, but the Lord was with him and brought him through. His three friends were made to see their wrong and were told to have Job pray for them. His brethren and sisters came, along with his acquaintances, and rejoiced with him, for the Lord gave him twice as much as he had previously had in a material way and the Lord also gave him seven more sons and three daughters, and they were the fairest women in the land.

## CONCLUSION

Our Memory Verse declares, "When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Surely that is what happened in the life of Job.

God chose Job to show what the love of God in a man's heart could enable him to endure. Though Job knew not of the talk between the Lord and Satan, yet he maintained his faith in the justice of God. It does appear that he spoke out of turn, when under pressure, yet he asked the Lord to forgive him and sinned not.

Satan's evil character is exposed in this book and what is seen is not desirable at all.

Job is certainly an example in suffering.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What impresses you most about Job?
2. Why should Christians have to suffer?
3. Why did Job's wife suggest that he curse God?
4. Why did Job's friends misunderstand him?
5. Is all physical suffering the direct result of sin?

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### LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR FEBRUARY 16

## ELISHA, AN EXAMPLE IN DEMONSTRATING GOD'S POWER

**Scriptures:** II Kings 2:14; 4:32-37; 6:8-12, 15-18; 7:1, 2, 16, 17.

**II Kings 2:14** And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the Lord God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

**II Kings 4:32** And when Elisha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

**33** He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

**34** And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

**35** Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up and stretched himself upon him and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

**36** And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

**37** Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

**II Kings 6:8** Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such

a place shall be my camp.

**9** And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.

**10** And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.

**11** Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?

**12** And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

**15** And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

**16** And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

**17** And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

II Kings 7:1 Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

2 Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in

heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, and shalt not eat thereof.

16 And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the Lord.

17 And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

**Memory Verse:** And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.—II Kings 6:16.

**Aim:** To encourage the student to follow Elisha's example and have God's power demonstrated through his life.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday II Kings 2  
Tuesday II Kings 3  
Wednesday II Kings 4

Thursday II Kings 5  
Friday II Kings 6  
Saturday II Kings 7

### INTRODUCTION

Elijah was a wonderful man of God, he had been used of the Lord in various ways for a number of years, but he was growing older and the time was approaching when the Lord would call him home. Thus Elijah was instructed to "anoint" Elisha to carry on after he was gone.

Elisha was plowing when Elijah found him. As Elijah passed by he "cast his mantle upon him."

Elisha took time to slay a yoke of oxen and eat them with his family and friends and then he left to follow Elijah.

It appears that God let various ones know that the time of Elijah's departure was near at hand. Elisha was staying right with Elijah. Finally, Elijah said, "Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee." Elisha answered, "I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." Quite a request to make, nevertheless, Elijah told him it would be so, "if thou see me when I am taken from thee"; if he didn't see him, then his request would not be granted.

You may be sure Elisha stayed with the older prophet until the fiery chariot "parted them asunder."

### MEDITATIONS

**ELISHA BEGINS HIS WORK—II Kings 2:14—He took the mantle—**As Elijah was taken up his mantle fell from him; this Elisha took and returned to the Jordan River where Elijah had parted it a short time before. As he stood there he suddenly took the mantle and smote the waters, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" The



God of Elijah was now with Elisha and the waters of the Jordan divided for him even as they had for Elijah. After crossing back he tarried at Jericho and “healed” the waters for the people (verses 19-22).

**ELISHA HELPS A FAMILY—II Kings 4:32-35—And he went up**—In the earlier part of this chapter we find that “a great woman” took an interest in helping the prophet of God. As a result he desired to help her and sent his servant, Gehazi, to ask her “what is to be done for thee?” She, having no children, desired one; this desire was granted. However, one day, while the child was with his father in the field it fell sick. Having been taken to the house, the child died in his mother’s arms. The mother went to look for Elisha, and after finding him she declared she would not leave him (verse 30), so he went to the house and found the child dead on his bed (in the room that had been prepared especially for Elisha). He then shut the door with just the two of them in the room and “prayed unto the Lord.” In the due course of time, God brought life back into the child.

**GOOD NEWS FOR THE MOTHER—II Kings 4:36, 37—Call this Shunammite**—After Elisha had prevailed with God to restore the child to life, he called his servant Gehazi to go and call for the mother to come to his room. The mother, not knowing what had happened, responded to the request. When she arrived in Elisha’s room, he instructed her, “Take up thy son.” Oh, what joy must have filled her heart! She showed her deep respect to Elisha, took up her son, and went out. What a mighty God!

**REVELATIONS GIVEN ELISHA—II Kings 6:8-10—And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel**—Elijah and Elisha were prophets in Israel after the dividing of the tribes into two kingdoms. The northern kingdom, Israel, was quite wicked, especially her kings. Even so, Elisha had a love and concern for his people. In verse eight we find the king of Syria making his plans as to just where his army should attack Israel. He was in Damascus when he held this counsel. Even so, Elisha, the man of God, was shown by God what the king’s plans were, and he sends word to the king of Israel telling him not to send his troops to that place, because the army of Syria was waiting for them there. Israel was spared certain defeat.

**WHO IS A SPY?—II Kings 6:11-12—Which of us is for the king of Israel?**—The king of Syria was “sore troubled” when he was unable to pull this surprise attack on the army of Israel, and he felt someone in his own group of counselors was sending messages to the king of Israel. He demanded to know who it was. One of his servants assured him that none of them was being disloyal, it was Elisha who was helping the king of Israel. “Elisha knows the very words you speak in your bedchamber.” Elisha, of himself, had no such power. It was the almighty God, who knows not only our words but the very thoughts of the heart, that was informing His servant of the plans of Syria. We all need to be aware that God still knows all and sees all.



**ONE MAN AGAINST AN ARMY—II Kings 6:15-18—And he answered, Fear not**—The king of Syria, after hearing of what Elisha had done, gave orders for them to find out where Elisha was. He was told the prophet was in Dothan and so he sent “a great host” by night to encircle the city. Early the next morning Gehazi saw the host and asked his master, “How shall we do?” Elisha, the man of God, answered, “Fear not”; there is more with us than be with them! As far as Gehazi could see there were only two of them—he and the prophet—and there was a “host” of the Syrians. So Elisha prayed the Lord to open his eyes—then Gehazi saw the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire. Elisha then smote the entire army with blindness and led them to Samaria, the capital of Israel.

**ELISHA FORETELLS THE FUTURE—II Kings 7:1, 2—Thus saith the Lord**—The Syrians had come up against Israel, Samaria was shut up, food was running out and people had started eating their own children (6:28-30). Then Elisha said, “Tomorrow about this time food will be so plentiful that you will be able to buy a measure of fine flour for a shekel!” Before this “the fourth part of a cab of dove’s dung” was sold for five pieces of silver. One of the “lords” of Israel doubted the word of the prophet, but that did not change it. **Verses 16, 17—The people went out**—The army of Syria fled during the night! Why? Because God had caused them to hear the sound of chariots and horses! and they left in such haste that they left their tents, food, and all behind. So the starving people of Samaria had all the food they needed, and the doubter died at the gate just as Elisha had said.

## CONCLUSION

Elisha had a long ministry during the reign of four kings. I don’t suppose all his work is recorded, but he saved a poor widow from financial ruin, he helped a family who desired a child and later raised it to life, he saved a school of prophets from death after they had eaten poisonous food, a small amount of food was made to supply 100 men, Naaman the leper was healed, he gave advance warning to the king and saved them from defeats, he smote an army with blindness, and in various other ways Elisha demonstrated God’s power. Finally his bones revived a man who was being buried. Elisha’s ministry was filled with miracles.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. In your opinion, why did God give one man such power?
2. Do you think it is possible to see such power manifested in our day? If so, why is it not?
3. Why did Elisha forbid the king of Israel to kill the army of Syria when they were there in Samaria?
4. Can you tell the class, for the glory of God, an experience you have had in demonstrating God’s power in your life?
5. Are you praying for greater power with God?

## DANIEL, AN EXAMPLE IN INTEGRITY

**Scriptures:** Daniel 1:8, 20; 5:11-17; 6:3-5, 7, 10, 16, 22.

**Daniel 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

**20** And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

**Daniel 5:11** There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

**12** Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.

**13** Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?

**14** I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

**15** And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they should read this writing, and make known unto me the interpretation thereof: but they could not shew the interpretation of the thing:

**16** And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet,

and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

**17** Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

**Daniel 6:3** Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

**4** Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

**5** Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

**7** All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal stature, and to make a firm decree that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

**10** Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

**16** Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

**22** My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

**Memory Verse:** The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.—Proverbs 20:7.

**Aim:** To show that God is able to give a Christian grace to enable him to maintain his integrity before God in the face of the most severe trials.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Daniel 1</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Daniel 5</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Daniel 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Daniel 6</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Daniel 4</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Daniel 9</b>

### INTRODUCTION

Daniel is one of the great prophets of the Old Testament, yet much of his adult life was spent in government service. He was born into Judean nobility and taken to Babylon while still in his youth. For three years he was trained in the schools of the Chaldeans. His integrity (and the word *integrity* means, in part, “uprightness, honesty, and sincerity”) began to show forth almost immediately when he refused to defile himself by eating that which he feared had been offered first to idols, or prepared in a manner contrary to the laws of God.

His contact with the true and living God was made manifest when Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, could not remember it, and yet demanded the “wise men” of his kingdom to tell the dream and then to explain its meaning. When they could not do this the king said they were to be slain! Daniel and his friends were to be killed along with the rest, although they had not been asked about the dream. God revealed to Daniel the dream and the meaning.

Integrity is something that is greatly needed today in the religious world, in government, in business, in our everyday lives. Integrity is something you WILL SEE in the life of a true Christian.

### MEDITATIONS

**GOD’S LAW COMES FIRST—Daniel 1:8—In his heart—**Daniel was a young man and he was a captive in a heathen land, yet he purposed in his heart that he would not disobey the law of God concerning clean and unclean meats and not eating that which had been offered to idols. God gave him favor and he was allowed to eat as he requested. **Verse 20—In all matters—**The king’s servant, “the prince of the eunuchs,” was fearful of letting Daniel and his friends eat as they desired. He was afraid the king would see them palefaced, weak, possibly sickly, and he would be blamed for it. Nevertheless, he instructed Melzar, whom he set over these men, to “prove” them for ten days. After the ten days were up, their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king’s meat. Thus Melzar allowed them to continue with their manner of eating. Because Daniel and his friends feared God

and sought His help in all things, He gave them great wisdom and the king found them “ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” Truly, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7a). Nebuchadnezzar’s reign was from 604-562 B.C. And all during these 42 years Daniel served with great integrity and was true to the king in all things.

**ANOTHER KING ON THE THRONE—Daniel 5:11—A man—**Belshazzar was king. He made a great feast, and after the feast got underway he commanded the vessels from the temple in Jerusalem be brought to him. These vessels had been dedicated to the holy service of the true God but were now being kept in one of the idol’s temples, and when they were brought to the king he drank out of them. This displeased God, so part of a man’s hand appeared on the wall writing a message. This greatly troubled the king. He ordered all the astrologers, the Chaldeans, the soothsayers, to be brought before him. Then he said to them, “Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.” Even though such a great reward was offered, “they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.” Then he was informed that there was a man in his kingdom who had the Spirit of God. **Verse 12—The same Daniel—**We understand Belshazzar was the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, and Daniel had served him very faithfully, and had been used of God to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of the great image that had four parts—Chapter 2—and the meaning of the tree that was cut down, and the stump that was left—Chapter 4—among other things. The queen, or queen mother, reminds the king of this man and suggests that he call for Daniel. **Verses 13-17—Let thy gifts be to thyself—**As Daniel was brought in before the king, the king let Daniel know that he had heard of him and explained that his own “wise men” could not tell him the meaning of the writing on the wall. Then he offered Daniel a reward if he would interpret the writing for him. Again we can see the integrity of the man Daniel as he told the king, “Let thy gifts be to thyself.” Oh, that America and the world had men that could be trusted to preach the whole counsel of God, men who would run the government in all honesty, men who would deal with their fellowman as the Word teaches. Thank God for this example!

**DARIUS RULES BABYLON—Daniel 6:3-5—Daniel was preferred—**After Belshazzar was slain, the kingdom of Babylon was taken by the Medes and Persians. Darius, a Mede, became king over Babylon. Just how much Darius knew of Daniel we are not able to say, but the scripture tells us that of the 120 princes and the three presidents, Daniel was preferred over all the rest. These princes and presidents did not have what Daniel had! They became jealous of him, they checked all his records and could not find one thing out of order,

he did not accept “kick-backs,” or “money under the table” as it is expressed in our day; in other words, he was honest, so they concluded if they were to find anything wrong, or get anything on him, it would have to be concerning him and his God. **Verse 7—All the presidents**—The presidents and princes gathered together and came up with a plan, with Satan’s help, and then they went to King Darius, saying the presidents, governors, princes, counsellors, and the captains have consulted together to establish a royal statute. This was a lie, of course, for Daniel had nothing to do with it. Their plan called for no one to ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, except the king. If they did, they were to be thrown in the den of lions. Darius established the decree.

**DANIEL WAS FAITHFUL—Daniel 6:10—When Daniel**—When Daniel heard of the ban against praying, he went right ahead with his usual custom of praying. He went in his house. His windows being opened in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he did not close them, he did not pray silently; he kneeled upon his knees and prayed just as he had before. The others expected him to and he did not disappoint them, even though a den of lions was waiting. God is able to give the Christian grace to maintain his integrity, just as our aim says, and Daniel proved it. **Verse 16—Then the king**—The king desired to find some way to keep from putting Daniel in the lions’ den, but was unable to do so, and so he walked with Daniel to the den. **Verse 22—My God**—The king fasted all night and early the next morning returned to the den, or pit, where Daniel was and heard the glad news that God had sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and Daniel tells why, “Forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”

## CONCLUSION

“Daniel remained in governmental service through the reigns of the kings of Babylon and into the reign of Cyrus of Persia after the Persians became the dominant world power.” It appears he was never permitted to return to his homeland, not even for a visit.

Daniel was a man of integrity. He was faithful in prayer; he was faithful to God in every way. He was shown some of the greatest revelations recorded in the Old Testament. He was possibly 16 to 18 years of age when taken to Babylon and died there in his mid-eighties and was faithful unto the end. Thank God!

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What does integrity mean to you?
2. Can people be honest in business and in government today?
3. How do you account for Daniel’s favor with so many different rulers?
4. Consider Daniel’s burden and concern for his people as revealed in chapter nine.

**LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR MARCH 2**  
**ISAIAH, AN EXAMPLE IN ANSWERING**  
**GOD'S CALL**

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 6:1-8; 38:1-8; 58:1; 62:1.

**Isaiah 6:1** In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

**2** Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

**3** And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

**4** And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

**5** Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

**6** Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

**7** And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

**8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

**Isaiah 38:1** In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not

live.

**2** Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord,

**3** And said, Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

**4** Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying,

**5** Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

**6** And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.

**7** And this shall be a sign unto thee from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that he hath spoken;

**8** Behold, I will bring again the shadow of the degrees, which is gone down in the sun dial of Ahaz, ten degrees backward. So the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down.

**Isaiah 58:1** Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

**Isaiah 62:1** For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.

**Memory Verse:** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

—Isaiah 6:8.

**Aim:** To show that God prepares and calls individuals to His work and then works through those that answer His call.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday**     **Isaiah 1**  
**Tuesday**   **Isaiah 6**  
**Wednesday** **Isaiah 31**

**Thursday**   **Isaiah 38**  
**Friday**     **Isaiah 58**  
**Saturday**   **Isaiah 62**

## INTRODUCTION

Isaiah is called by some the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. We know little or nothing of his childhood. He informs us that he was the son of Amoz and some think Amoz may have been a person of prominence, as the prophet is called the “son of Amoz” 13 times.

The name Isaiah means “salvation of Jehovah.” He was married to a prophetess and had two children (Isaiah 8); the name of the first son meant “a remnant shall return” and the second son’s name meant “the spoil speeds, the prey hastes.”

Isaiah’s ministry spanned the turbulent period from King Uzziah’s death to the end of Sennacherib’s siege of Jerusalem or later. During this time much wickedness was in the land as we see from reading the first chapter of this book, “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers ...” Surely there was a great need to answer the call of God to warn the people and to show them the end of such evil. If that was true in Isaiah’s day, how about our day?

## MEDITATIONS

**A VISION OF GOD—Isaiah 6:1-4—I saw also the Lord—**The clearer our vision of God, of His mighty power, of His holiness, doubtless, the more willing we will be to respond to His call. In this vision Isaiah also saw seraphims, one of which cried unto another, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.” As this cry rang out, the posts of the door moved and the house was filled with smoke. What a sight to behold! And what a contrast this was to the sinful deeds of the people Isaiah was living among.

**BE YE CLEAN, THAT BEAR THE VESSELS OF THE LORD—Isaiah 6:5-8—Thine iniquity is taken away—**All the events in this book may not be recorded in the order of their happening, but here we see, as a result of this vision Isaiah crying out, “Woe is me! ... for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” When a person will acknowledge his condition and seek God’s help, he will find Him ready to listen. One of the seraphims told Isaiah, “Thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.” God has a work for all His servants! It is not the same for all, but there is a place and there is a work for every child of God in the family, and so Isaiah hears the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Quickly came Isaiah’s reply, “Here am I; send me.”

**OBEYING THE CALL—Isaiah 38:1-3—Thus saith the Lord—**A man called and sent by God will bear God’s message! One of the reasons the world is in such a sad state today, religiously, is because so many who claim to be God-called ministers are not bearing His message. Whether to the people in general, or to the king, Isaiah was true to God, to His message and to the souls of men. Not all messages are



pleasant ones, but when the Lord says go, it is time to obey. Hezekiah was sick. He would rather have been told he would get well, but he was told he was going to die! Possibly this caused him to become more earnest, for he turned his face to the wall and prayed. **Verses 4-8—Go, and say**—Hezekiah reminded the Lord how he had walked before Him, and as a result Isaiah received another message from the Lord. This one was more pleasant to bear—“I will add unto thy days fifteen years.” But this was not all! The Lord went on to say He would deliver the king and the city of Jerusalem “out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.”

**SOUND AN ALARM—Isaiah 58:1—Cry aloud**—How many people through the ages have said, “Prophecy unto us smooth things” (Isaiah 30:10), when the real need was to cry aloud and spare not? Not many ministers today are blowing the trumpet of warning. America and the world are on a sliding board, headed for eternal woe! Sin is on every hand, for, as Isaiah said, “This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord” (30:9). It will take a clear presentation of the pure gospel to awaken souls today.

**GOD’S CHURCH HAS A JOB—Isaiah 62:1—For Zion’s sake**—To keep a work clean and in a position to do the work of the Lord it is necessary for God’s watchmen to be determined and faithful in the preaching of the gospel. “I will not rest,” Isaiah said, “until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth.” The church needs to be in divine order to be able to bear God’s message to a lost and dying world, for the church is God’s instrument in the earth to accomplish this work.

## CONCLUSION

From the fall of our forefathers in the Garden of Eden until the present, men have followed the path of sin, and what a terrible record sin has made. Few have been the men who were willing to bear God’s true message to the people. Isaiah was one, and a very faithful one. We can surely hold him up as an example and suggest to one and all that you follow his wonderful example in answering God’s call—whatever He might call you to do.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Can an unregenerated man bear God’s message?
2. What should a messenger of the Lord do if some of the people do not want to hear the truth?
3. What is your vision of God?
4. Why was a woe pronounced on those that went down to Egypt for help? (Isaiah 31)
5. Consider the binding power of sin in light of the fact that Isaiah said Israel did not know as much as the old dumb ox. (Isaiah 1)



## LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR MARCH 9

# JEREMIAH, AN EXAMPLE IN SOUL BURDEN

**Scriptures:** Jeremiah 1:8, 9; 2:1-5; 7:1-3; 9:1; 10:1-4; 23:1, 2.

**Jeremiah 1:8** Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

**9** Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

**Jeremiah 2:1** Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying,

**2** Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the Lord; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

**3** Israel was holiness unto the Lord, and the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the Lord.

**4** Hear ye the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:

**5** Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

**Jeremiah 7:1** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,

**2** Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all ye of Judah,

that enter in at these gates to worship the Lord.

**3** Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

**Jeremiah 9:1** Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

**Jeremiah 10:1** Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

**2** Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

**3** For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

**4** They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

**Jeremiah 23:1** Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord.

**2** Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!—Jeremiah 9:1.

**Aim:** To show through Jeremiah's example the soul burden God would have His people to carry.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Jeremiah 1  
**Tuesday** Jeremiah 2  
**Wednesday** Jeremiah 7

**Thursday** Jeremiah 9  
**Friday** Jeremiah 23  
**Saturday** Jeremiah 26

### INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah is regarded by many as one of the greatest Old Testament prophets—second, possibly, only to Isaiah. He is known as “The Weep-

ing Prophet” because of his great concern for his people. Jeremiah was born into a priestly family of Anathoth, a Benjamite town two or three miles from Jerusalem. He was called at a tender age. Josiah was king in Judah at the time of his call. Five years earlier there had, seemingly, been a real revival among the people (II Kings 23) and some may have felt that God would spare them because of this, but Jeremiah knew there was much sin in the land and was able to see, by divine revelation, that destruction was to come upon the land. The Assyrian empire was losing ground and there was a revival of the kingdom of Babylon. The rulers in Judah flirted with the idea of joining with Egypt to fight Babylon. Jeremiah knew this would not avail and he tried to persuade the people to submit to Babylon and thus spare the city. Because of this he was considered a traitor. At one point in his life, he was left in a dungeon, or an old cistern to die, but was rescued by a friendly Ethiopian. His ministry was of forty or more years’ duration and he was always true to his God and to his people.

## MEDITATIONS

**JEREMIAH’S CALL—Jeremiah 1:8, 9—I am with thee—**Jeremiah was a special chosen vessel and the Lord let him know this in his youth. It appears that Jeremiah may have tried to use this, at first, not to obey the call, but the Lord assured him, “I am with thee,” and that he should go, “and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.” Oh, for such God-called men today!

**A TRUE PEOPLE—Jeremiah 2:1-5—Thus saith the Lord—**Jeremiah was instructed to remind the people of how God had called their foreparents out of Egypt, how He had given them the law, how He had brought them into the land of promise, and how the people had served Him. At that time they were “holiness unto the Lord,” He watched over them, but now they had turned from His holy way and He instructed Jeremiah to ask them, “What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me?” This is a question that is fitting for our day! Why not serve the Lord?

**A FORM OF GODLINESS WILL NOT DO—Jeremiah 7:1-3—Stand in the gate—**The people of Judah were still going to the temple to worship, but what kind of lives were they living? “Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods?” and then come and “stand before me in this house” and expect God to accept their vain worship? No! Jeremiah, because of his love and concern for his people, called their attention to the fact that God would not accept such a form and, Dear Reader, God will not accept it today. To serve God in an acceptable manner one must depart a life of sin.

**A TRUE CONCERN—Jeremiah 9:1—A fountain of tears—**Jeremiah was able to see the literal destruction coming upon Jerusalem and he was greatly concerned. Though the people would

not give heed to his warning, yet he desired to weep day and night for them. There is a loss that goes far beyond the temporal and that is the loss of a soul. Today people seem to be so unconcerned. Where are the Jeremiahs that are willing to weep for the lost?

**VAIN WORSHIP—Jeremiah 10:1-4—The custom of the people**—Jeremiah was a man. He was a prophet of God, but he makes it clear that what he was saying was not his words; they were the words of the Lord. “Hear ye the word which the Lord speaketh unto you, ... Thus saith the Lord.” How many times the Word of God has been set aside by the traditions of men, the mere custom of some religious sect. God strongly condemned Judah for their idol worship and He is no less against it today. How many in our day follow astrology just as the ancient Chaldeans and Egyptians? Hear ye the Word of the Lord; learn not the way of the heathen.

**THE NEED OF TRUE PASTORS—Jeremiah 23:1, 2—Woe**—Everyone must make his own decision, yet how important it is for those who say they are ministers to be true to God and to the people. The apostle Paul told Timothy, “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure [accept] sound doctrine, but after their lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth and be turned unto [or turn to] fables” (II Timothy 4:2-4). If the blind lead the blind both shall fall in the ditch.

## CONCLUSION

Thank God for such a faithful man of God as was Jeremiah. He loved his people, he loved his country, and though he was evilly treated and some even sought to kill him, yet he was true to their souls. Babylon did come and take Jerusalem. Many were carried away as slaves. Jeremiah, because he had tried to get his people to submit, was permitted to remain in Jerusalem. Some years later, he was forced by some of his own nation to accompany them to Egypt, which he did not want to do, and there, as far as we know, he died.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been carried away by the Assyrians. Why did not Judah take warning and repent of evil?
2. Will a form of godliness satisfy God?
3. Jeremiah preached to the people, “Amend your ways.” What does that really mean?
4. Why do people worship idols?
5. Are there ministers today who are misleading the people?
6. Does the church have as great a burden for souls as it should have?

LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR MARCH 16  
**NEHEMIAH, AN EXAMPLE IN ZEAL**

**Scriptures:** Nehemiah 2:5, 9, 17-20; 4:6-9, 17, 22, 23; 7:1, 2; 13:10, 11.

**Nehemiah 2:5** And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

**9** Then I came to the governors beyond the river, and gave them the king's letters. Now the king had sent captains of the army and horsemen with me.

**17** Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

**18** Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

**19** But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?

**20** Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

**Nehemiah 4:6** So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

**7** But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up,

and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,

**8** And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

**9** Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

**17** They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

**22** Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

**23** So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing.

**Nehemiah 7:1** Now it came to pass, when the wall was built, and I had set up the doors, and the porters and the singers and the Levites were appointed,

**2** That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

**Nehemiah 13:10** And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field.

**11** Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place.

**Memory Verse:** Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build.—Nehemiah 2:20a.

**Aim:** To show through Nehemiah's example that God wants a zealous people.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**

**Nehemiah 1**

**Thursday**

**Nehemiah 6**

**Tuesday**

**Nehemiah 2**

**Friday**

**Nehemiah 7**

**Wednesday**

**Nehemiah 4**

**Saturday**

**Nehemiah 13**

## INTRODUCTION

The prophecies of Jeremiah had come to pass, many in Judah had been carried away to Babylon in captivity, the temple had been destroyed, the walls of the city torn down. Jerusalem, and the poor Jews left in the land, were in a very desolate and demoralized state. God had said the time of the captivity would be seventy years. When Cyrus, king of Persia, who had overrun the decayed kingdom of Babylon, made a decree that the enslaved peoples of the various nations could return to their homeland, thousands came back to Jerusalem, but not a great deal had been accomplished in restoring the city.

Nehemiah was the great patriot who tirelessly pushed the group of dispirited Jews to rebuild the walls.

Nehemiah was still in captivity, or at least still serving in the king's court at Shushan, when he heard through Hanani and others about the terrible state of Jerusalem, and his love and concern for his beloved homeland drove him to his knees. God heard his prayer, and our lesson text starts as we see God bringing about the answers.

## MEDITATIONS

**A BURDENED HEART—Nehemiah 2:5, 9—I said unto the king—**Nehemiah held a more important position than the name cup-bearer may imply. He was a friend, and possibly an advisor, to the king. He had never appeared before the king with a sad countenance, but after he had received the report from Hanani about the poor state of Jerusalem, he was sad and burdened. The king took note of this and asked him why. After explaining why he was sad, Nehemiah then made his request—that he be permitted to go to Jerusalem, and further, that letters and other help be given to him so that he would not be hampered and hindered as Ezra had been. The king granted his request and he set forth.

**A GREAT TASK—Nehemiah 2:17, 18—Ye see the distress—**When Nehemiah first arrived in Jerusalem he did not tell the people what God had put in his heart. He first looked over the land and then he called their attention to the distress they were in, but he did not stop at that. He said, "Come, and let us build up the wall." Not everyone has a vision, not everyone has leadership ability, and not everyone has a real burden for the work. That is not said to hurt anyone, but to point out a fact. This man had a burden and a zeal to see the reproach taken away. You see, Jerusalem was not just the capital of the little province of Judah, it was the place where the eternal God had chosen to put His name, it was the place where the beautiful temple of

Solomon had stood and where the temple Zerubbabel had helped rebuild was located. Not everyone is called into full-time spiritual work. There are many temporal duties to be performed in any nation, and these duties are important, but it is safe to say, God's work is the most important of all. Nehemiah was a man who saw the distress they were in and was determined to do something about it. Men of like zeal are needed to build the work of God today! **Verses 19, 20—They laughed us to scorn**—Some say Sanballat was the ruler of Samaria. Regardless of whether he was or not, they did not want to see God's work prosper and they did all they could to hinder. There are many Saballats today, but with faith, as Nehemiah of old, let us go forth with the assurance "The God of heaven, he will prosper us: therefore we his servants will arise and build."

**A GREAT LEADER—Nehemiah 4:6-9—So built we the walls**—We do not have space here to go into detail, but Nehemiah found the Jews divided, priests who had married women of other nations (some of the wealthier ones oppressing their own fellowmen), so it was not a small accomplishment to unite these people into an enthusiastic, dedicated work force. By the help of God, however, he did, and the walls were built in the short space of 52 days. Even then there was threat of war against Jerusalem, but Nehemiah says they made their prayer unto God and set a watch—day and night. The Church of God has many enemies today and we need to watch and pray.

**MORE DETAILS—Nehemiah 4:17, 22, 23—They that bare burdens**—The literal wall could not be built around Jerusalem without labor, sacrifice, and cooperation. Nehemiah suggested that those who lived out from Jerusalem remain in the city so they could help guard at night and work in the day. This was done and the work moved along. For the work of God to prosper today there will be, and is, the need of consecrated workers who will give their all. Oh, for the zeal of Nehemiah!

**WORKERS TOGETHER—Nehemiah 7:1, 2—I gave my brother**—Hanani was the one who had told Nehemiah the state of Jerusalem back in the palace at Shushan. Now we see that he had come along to Jerusalem to help in the work. Nehemiah had been accused of trying to build up something for himself and to set himself up as a ruler, but such was not the case; his zeal was for the cause of God. No man can prosper in the work of the Lord if he has a selfish motive in mind. Neither is there place in the Church of God for jealousy! Let every man fill the place God would have him fill and do the work God would have him do. Thank God for every "faithful man."

**SPIRITUAL SIDE—Nehemiah 13:10, 11—I perceived**—Ezra was a true man of God. He had returned to Jerusalem ahead of Nehemiah and had brought about much reform in the spiritual life of the Jews. Nehemiah had returned to his post in Babylon, but the spiritual work in Jerusalem was still not what it should be, so he returned

to help Ezra carry out these reforms. Those who were called to spiritual work had to leave it and go out in the fields to support themselves. Nehemiah brought the Levites back to the temple and told the rest of the people to support them as God had ordained so the spiritual part could be properly cared for. There is a great need in this same area today. God's ministers and full-time gospel workers need to be supported so they can give themselves to the work God has called them to. It will do little good to build up the literal wall if the spiritual wall is neglected.

## **CONCLUSION**

In our lesson today we have dealt mostly with the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem, but Nehemiah was also zealous for the spiritual part of God's work as well. He severed from the people all the mixed multitude, the Ammonites, and the Moabites. He cast out Tobiah from the chamber in the temple which Eliashib had assigned him and restored it. After its cleansing, the vessels, meat offerings, and frankincense were restored to their proper place and use. He caused them to close the gates of the city on the Sabbath and stop their trading and drove away the merchants outside the walls. His last recorded act was his effort to remove the curse of the intermarriages with the heathen.

Truly, Nehemiah is a man that can be held up as an example of zeal for the cause of God, an example that needs to be followed today.

It would do well for the church today to remember why the people of Judah had been carried away to Babylon. After Solomon died the kingdom was divided. The northern kingdom, Israel, under Jeroboam, started to carry on a mixed form of worship, with a golden calf at Bethel and another at Dan. God allowed the Assyrians to carry many of them away into captivity. The little kingdom of Judah later fell under the power and influence of false religion, worshiping the gods of Baal. And about 150 years after Israel was carried into captivity, many of Judah were carried away into Babylon.

False religion always leads to captivity! If we want to remain "free," let us be faithful to God. For many years saints were held in Babylonian captivity, spiritually, but God has brought the saints out in the Evening Light. Let us be true to Him.

## **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

1. How do you account for the zeal of Nehemiah?
2. Why was Judah carried away into captivity?
3. Why did not the Jews, who returned ahead of Nehemiah, rebuild the wall?
4. Why had the Levites gone to the fields to work instead of taking care of their duties at the temple?
5. If God's work is as important as we say it is, why are not more people zealous for His cause?
6. Does God have first place in your life?



LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR MARCH 23  
**JOSHUA, AN EXAMPLE IN COURAGE**

**Scriptures:** Joshua 3:5, 6, 15-17; 5:13-15; 6:16; 10:12-14; 23:5, 6; 24:14, 15.

**Joshua 3:5** And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.

**6** And Joshua spake unto the priests, saying, Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass over before the people. And they took up the ark of the covenant, and went before the people.

**15** And as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,)

**16** That the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho.

**17** And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.

**Joshua 5:13** And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

**14** And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

**15** And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

**Joshua 6:16** And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.

**Joshua 10:12** Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.

**13** And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

**14** And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel.

**Joshua 23:5** And the Lord your God, he shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the Lord your God hath promised unto you.

**6** Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left.

**Joshua 24:14** Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.

**15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left.—Joshua 23:6.



**Aim:** To encourage the student, through Joshua's example, to be courageous for the Lord.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Joshua 3</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Joshua 10</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Joshua 5</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Joshua 23</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Joshua 8</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Joshua 24</b>

### INTRODUCTION

Some people are brazen and think they are being courageous, but there is a vast difference in the two. *Brazen* means, "shameless; harsh and piercing; to make impudent or shameless." *Courage* means, "the quality of being fearless or brave; valor." *Courageous* means, "having or showing courage; brave."

Joshua was a courageous man!

Joshua was born in Egypt and was first called *Oshea*, meaning "salvation." Two months after they left Egypt Moses appointed him commander of the forces that successfully defended Israel against an attack by the Amalekites.

Joshua attended Moses on Sinai and was with him in the tabernacle (Exodus 24 and 33).

When twelve men were chosen to spy out the promised land, Joshua was chosen to represent his tribe. Of the twelve only he and Caleb brought back a "good report," for they declared we are well able to take the land while the ten said they could not. For their good report they were nearly stoned!

Forty years later, shortly before the children of Israel were to cross Jordan, God designated Joshua as Moses' successor. Moses charged him to faithfulness. The Lord buried Moses and prepared Joshua for the invasion of Canaan.

### MEDITATIONS

**FULFILLING A PROMISE—Joshua 3:5, 6—Sanctify yourselves**—Hundreds of years earlier God had promised Abraham his seed should dwell in the land that he had been led to. Many things had happened—the years in Egypt, being made slaves, the marvelous deliverance, the wandering in the wilderness, but at this time the people were told to prepare for the great event. Joshua told the people to, "Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." We are not told just what all was involved in their sanctifying themselves, but it, doubtless, included washing their clothes and their bodies in a ceremonial cleansing. By this they were to get their minds and hearts set on God and be prepared to do whatever He commanded. The priests were the spiritual leaders of the people and as such were to lead the way. They were to take up the ark in which the two tables of stone, Aaron's rod that budded, and the pot of manna was placed. Joshua called it "the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth" and he assured the people this Lord would pass over before them.

**FORWARD—Joshua 3:15-17—The feet of the priests—**Jordan was overflowing its banks at this time of the year, and God did not open up the water ahead of time as He had at the sea. This time the waters were to divide only when the soles of the priests touched the water! Believing God, they went forward. The Jordan River flows into and out of the Sea of Galilee and on to the Salt Sea (Dead Sea). It was just a short distance north of the Salt Sea that the children of Israel crossed. Twelve stones were taken from the bed of the river and carried over for a sign to following generations of what God had done for them at that time.

**JOSHUA TAKES A WALK—Joshua 5:13-15—And it came to pass—**The children of Israel had been in Canaan for some days and Joshua went to take a look at Jericho, as it was to be the first city to be taken. As he approached he saw a “man,” and here again we see the courage of this man, for, though the “man” had a sword in his hand, Joshua walked up to him and asked, “Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?” The answer, “As captain of the host of the Lord am I now come.” Joshua fell on his face and worshiped. He also asked what instructions he had for him. The first part of chapter six gives us the answer to this question.

**OBEDIENCE BRINGS VICTORY—Joshua 6:16—Shout—**Jericho was to be the first town in the “promised land” that the children of Israel were to capture. However, God had His own plan for them to follow to bring this about. The men of war were to march around the city one time each day for six days, seven priests were to go before the ark with seven trumpets, then on the seventh day they were to march around seven times. When a long blast was sounded then the people were to shout; when they did God gave them the city.

**THE INVASION CONTINUES—Joshua 10:12-14—The Amorites—**Seven tribes, or small nations, are referred to as possessing the promised land (3:10); the Amorites were one of the seven. One writer has referred to Joshua as “the military genius whose lightning campaigns carved out living space in Canaan for the Israelites.” Without desiring to take anything away from this courageous man, we must say God worked some mighty miracles in his behalf. During the fight against the Amorites, while Joshua was in the valley of Ajalon, the battle—one of the greatest of all—was going good and Israel was winning, but the sun would soon go down and Joshua figured the enemy might get away, so he called out, “Sun, stand thou still!” What happened? “The sun stood still” until the battle was won. This was the day “the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man.” Glory to God!

**A MASS MEETING CALLED—Joshua 23:5, 6—The Lord your God—**After many battles had been fought and won, covering a span of six years, Joshua divided up the land between the tribes, and though all enemies had not been completely subdued, he in effect turned the task of completing the job over to others. He requested and

was given a mountain area where he built the city of Timnathserah, “and dwelt therein.” When he was getting old, he called the people together and reminded them of what great things the Lord had done for them and exhorted them to be faithful, giving them the assurance that if they would be, the Lord would continue to be with them. It was not only necessary for Israel to obey God, (“turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left”); for the Lord to be with them, but it is necessary for the saints of God today.

**FAITHFUL TO THE END—Joshua 24:14, 15—As for me—** Strange as it may seem, some of the people still had idols and were giving some attention to such things, but Joshua knew there was only one true and living God and to worship Him one must do it in sincerity and in truth. He also knew it was a choice one has to make for himself. In his old age Joshua exhorted the people to “put away the gods which your fathers served,” with the purpose in mind of serving the true God. He left them with no doubt that was his choice: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Dear Reader, what is your choice? Does it seem evil in your sight to serve the Lord?

## CONCLUSION

As Joshua was born in Egypt, he went through the events of the ten plagues, took part in the first Passover, and was with Moses in the Exodus with all the Hebrews as they escaped from the slavery of that land. He spent forty years in the wilderness, always showing courage and being a faithful helper to Moses. You must first learn to be a good follower before you can be a good leader. Joshua was both!

Becoming leader just before they invaded the land of Canaan, the Lord said to Joshua, “Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. ... Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, ... Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest” (Joshua 1:2-7).

Joshua died at the age of 110 and was buried at Timnathserah. He carried out his declaration, as recorded in Joshua 24:15, to “serve the Lord” to the very end.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What gave Joshua his great courage?
2. Consider the fact that Joshua was a good follower before he became a good leader.
3. How do you explain the great miracle of the sun “standing still”?
4. Why did not Joshua exhibit fear when he saw the “man” near Jericho?
5. Can one who is brazen be a good leader?

LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR MARCH 30  
**SAMUEL, AN EXAMPLE IN  
FAITHFULNESS**

**Scriptures:** I Samuel 1:28; 2:18, 26; 3:10; 12:1-5; 15:22, 23; 16:4, 5.

**I Samuel 1:28** Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

**I Samuel 2:18** But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

**26** And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the Lord, and also with men.

**I Samuel 3:10** And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

**I Samuel 12:1** And Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

**2** And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grayheaded; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

**3** Behold, here I am: witness against me before the Lord, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes

therewith? and I will restore it you.

**4** And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand.

**5** And he said unto them, The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

**I Samuel 15:22** And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

**23** For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

**I Samuel 16:4** And Samuel did that which the Lord spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

**5** And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the Lord: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

**Memory Verse:** And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.—Matthew 10:22.

**Aim:** To encourage the student, through Samuel's example, to be faithful.

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>I Samuel 1</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>I Samuel 12</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>I Samuel 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>I Samuel 15</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>I Samuel 3</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>I Samuel 16</b>

**INTRODUCTION**

The birth of Samuel came as a result of answered prayer. Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, was barren, but prayed earnestly to God for a son and she promised the Lord if He would give her one she would lend Him back to the Lord as long as he lived.

Samuel is often called the last of the judges and the first of the prophets since he was ruling the tribes when they decided they wanted a king.

Some have referred to Samuel as a very stern man, but he knew God was not pleased with the loose living of the children of Israel. Spiritually and morally, the times were bad. Eli was not a strong religious leader and his sons were wicked, though they served in the priesthood. They were greedy and also engaged in immoral acts with the women who served at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

Under such conditions there was a great need for a man of God who would be faithful to God, to His message, and to the people.

## MEDITATIONS

**HANNAH KEEPS HER PROMISE—I Samuel 1:28—I have lent him to the Lord**—Shiloh was one of the religious centers at that time and Hannah had gone with her husband to worship. While praying and weeping before the Lord, Eli thought she was drunk and rebuked her, but she assured him, “I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.” There she was given the assurance her desire would be granted. In the due course of time Samuel was born. Hannah did not return to Shiloh until Samuel was weaned, and then she took him “unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh” and left him with Eli, fulfilling her promise to the Lord.

**SAMUEL WAS FAITHFUL IN HIS YOUTH—I Samuel 2:18—But Samuel ministered before the Lord**—As the children of Israel brought their offerings to the house of God at Shiloh, they were met by the sons of Eli who were greedy and sinful in their actions. As a result, they saw the priests had no piety and began to despise the service of God, but not so with the child Samuel; he ministered before the Lord faithfully. **Verse 26—Was in favor**—His father and mother continued to come to Shiloh each year and his mother brought him clothes to wear. Samuel continued to grow, and in all things he was honest and faithful, and the people saw and knew he was different from the sons of Eli, so he grew in favor with them and also with the Lord.

**A SPECIAL CALL—I Samuel 3:10—The Lord came**—It was not enough for Samuel to be faithful in helping around the house of God. For him to be a judge or a prophet in Israel he needed a special call from God. Having been faithful in his tasks up to this time, he was ready to answer the call when it came. His first message was not an easy one to deliver but he faithfully told Eli what the Lord had told him. Every faithful man of God will deliver God’s message to the best of his ability.

**SAMUEL GROWS OLD—I Samuel 12:1-5—Samuel said unto all Israel**—Samuel faithfully judged the people and they held him in high esteem, but his sons did not walk as he did (chapter 8), so they came to him asking for a king. Samuel knew it would not be for the

best, but because the people kept asking God told him to “hearken unto their voice” (8:22). The man Saul was made king and led Israel to victory over the Ammonites. It seems that only a few people were present when Saul was made king. Then Samuel suggested that they “go up to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there.” So the people of Israel gathered at Gilgal. While there Samuel asked them the questions recorded in the scriptures we have before us now—“I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day ... witness against me before the Lord ... whose ox have I taken? ...” The people answered, “Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man’s hand.” A wonderful testimony indeed!

**SAMUEL RIGHT AGAIN—I Samuel 15:22, 23—And Samuel said**—Samuel had told Israel what would happen if they chose a king to rule over them, and though Saul did right for awhile, in due time he began to disregard the commands of the Lord. On the mission to Amalek, Saul did not do all the Lord said; he, and the people spared King Agag, “and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good.” On his return he lied to Samuel when he said he had. Samuel was not fooled, for the word of the Lord came to him saying, “It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king; for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments.” Samuel rose early and went out to meet Saul, and he asked Saul some very searching questions. When Saul said he had done the bidding of the Lord, Samuel asked him, “What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?” Saul tried to put the blame on the people, and added “that they spared them to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God.” Why didn’t he say “his God”? Samuel told Saul, “You stay and I will tell you what the Lord had to say to me last night.” Saul responded, “Say on.” Samuel told him that the Lord anointed him king over Israel when he was humble in his own sight. But now he had come to the place he did not seem to feel the need of obeying the Lord. Saul insisted he had obeyed the Lord, but it was “the people” that spared Agag and the cattle. Samuel pointed out the fact that obedience was more important than sacrifices, for “rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.” Because of this, God rejected Saul as king of Israel.

**ANOTHER KING CHOSEN—I Samuel 16:4, 5—Samuel did that which the Lord spoke**—God rejected Saul from ruling over Israel. Not only did He reject Saul, but He rejected his sons as well. Samuel was now instructed to go to Bethlehem, where another king, of another family and another tribe, would be chosen and anointed. We see the esteem and respect Samuel was given as the people “trembled at his coming” and asked, “Comest thou peaceably?” They were very glad to hear him say, “Peaceably.”

Samuel died while Saul was still ruling, but he was faithful to the end. Many people came to pay their respects and to weep over the passing of this godly man (I Samuel 25).

## CONCLUSION

Samuel was taken to Shiloh after he was “weaned,” and left there with Eli, as his mother had promised the Lord. Eli taught him the various duties of the priesthood. At a young age he heard the voice of the Lord calling him to special service as a priest and prophet.

Samuel lived in a very critical period in the life of Israel. The people were still being influenced by the religions of the heathen. Idols were still being kept by some. Samuel loved God and he pled with the people to leave off such practices and serve the true and living God.

“In the early part of his ministry, Samuel served as a traveling judge. With his home in Ramah, he made a yearly circuit to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah.” Some judges in Israel had served as military leaders, especially in times of national crises, but Samuel had more of a spiritual office, even though he did serve as “judge.”

When the people asked for a king, like the nations around them, Samuel tried to persuade them otherwise, but they insisted. The Lord told him to let them have their way, even though it seemed that it was not for the best. The Lord told Samuel, “They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them” (I Samuel 8:7).

When King Saul disobeyed the Lord and spared King Agag, along with the finest of the cattle, supposedly to offer to the Lord, Samuel said to him, “Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry” (I Samuel 15:22, 23a).

In his old age, Samuel challenged the people to “witness against” him before the Lord as to whose ox he had taken, or whose ass, or who he had defrauded, or oppressed, or from whom he had accepted a bribe. Their answer: “Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man’s hand” (I Samuel 12:3, 4).

He was indeed a faithful servant of the Lord. Let every Christian take the example of Samuel and be faithful in his service to God.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What part do you think Hannah had in the life of this faithful man?
2. What is the place of young people in the church today?
3. Will everyone receive a call to special service?
4. If a man speaks for God, should his words be heeded?
5. What does God say rebellion is?
6. Is it your desire to be faithful to the Lord?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

## *Old Testament Saints: Our Examples*

ADULT & YOUNG PEOPLE

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