



It would be hard to cross a river without getting wet. There would also be a chance of drowning. But if the river were paved with large stones that rose above the waters, it would make the attempt a little easier. Step by step, what was once a difficult journey is now possible. Like a fast moving river, the path to the heavenly kingdom is not an easy one to tread. It is paved with many obstacles, curves and steep hills. But God is like the large stones. As we walk, we can see God's hand reaching out to help us along the way. And if we grab hold onto His hand, we will slowly but surely make it to the end of the road. But in order to see His guiding hand, we need to take time to reflect on our relationship with the Lord. What do your reflections tell you about where you stand with God?

Lesson 13

Review

Lesson Aim

- 1) To identify the main teachings found in the Pentateuch
- 2) To understand the spiritual significance behind the laws, offerings and feasts found in the Pentateuch
- 3) To be determined to lead a sanctified life and to demonstrate our faith through our speech and actions

R E V I E W

The book of Genesis covers many "beginnings," from the creation of light, to the first animals, to early human history. Most important is the beginning of faith in God. We come to learn about Israel and God's chosen people as well as their place in His master plan of salvation.

The main theme in the book of Exodus is freedom from bondage and obtaining salvation in God. In this book, we learn how the Israelites are freed from slavery and begin an extraordinary journey of faith. It is in this long journey that the people of God come to an important realization, that being truly free means the freedom to obey God and do His will.

In the books of Leviticus and Numbers, there are many laws and regulations, from how to prepare a burnt offering to specific rules about personal hygiene. The purpose of all these laws was not to burden the people of Israel, but to allow them to understand that they needed to serve in complete holiness, as they were set apart as a holy nation.

In the last book of the Pentateuch, Moses spends much of the time repeating the laws, hoping to ingrain them in the hearts of all of God's people, to help them learn from the past and continue to walk on the pathway to the heavenly kingdom.

1. What are the five books of the Pentateuch? Write down briefly what each book is about.

Genesis—Beginning of all creation and the beginning of Israel; Points out Israel’s place in God’s master plan of salvation

Exodus—Israel receives deliverance; Announces Israel’s transformation into God’s holy nation

Leviticus—Israel must serve in holiness; Declares the standards for a holy nation

Numbers—The failures of the Israelites; Chronicles the Israelites’ failures in entering Canaan

Deuteronomy—Decrees to Israel; Pronounces the commands of God that the Israelites must abide by prior to entering Canaan

2. Pick one of the following characters of the Bible and highlight three aspects of this person’s faith: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (three or more answers are provided below). Write down one thing you learned from this character that you can apply in your life (students’ own answers).

Abraham:

✓ He acted on his faith:

When Abram was 75 years old, he listened to God’s calling and left his homeland, tribe and father’s house to go to the land of Canaan. Although God had promised him three important things (his descendants would become a great nation, Canaan would be an inheritance for his children, all nations would be blessed through him), they weren’t promises he could experience during his lifetime. It took a lot of courage and trust to pack up and go to a foreign land, but he was blessed by God throughout his life because of his faith.

✓ He lied to get out of trouble:

Abram and his family had to leave Canaan and travel to Egypt because of a famine in the land, but when he was in Egypt, he lied and said that Sarai was his sister so that the Egyptians would not kill him for his wife. But his problems were compounded even more because of his lie (she was taken to the Pharaoh later on). Although God had made him many promises, he lost sight of that during times of need. In fact, he used this exact deceit later on when facing King Abimelech (Gen 20).

✓ He tried to fulfill the will of God using his own ways:

When he was 86 years old, Abram listened to his wife, Sarai, and allowed her maidservant, Hagar, to bear him a son, Ishmael. Although it was common practice

during that time for a wife to give her maidservant to her husband to produce heirs (if she were barren), Abram should have known better. In addition, God had promised him a son (Gen 15), but he lost trust in God’s word and tried to fulfill the will of God through his own means. Because of his lack of faith, his family would suffer later on (Ishmael and Hagar were sent away by Sarah).

✓ He put God above all else:

By the time Isaac was born, Abraham was 100 years old and his faith had also matured. When Isaac had grown up a bit, Abraham obeyed God by going up to Mount Moriah to offer his one and only son. But this time, his faith taught him that God would keep His promise of giving him a son. Although he didn’t know how it would happen if Isaac really were to die, he trusted that God would act according to His will.

Isaac

✓ He was submissive to his father:

Isaac demonstrated the beginnings of his faith through obedience to Abraham. Isaac was the one who carried the wood up to Mount Moriah. He did not resist when his father bound and placed him on the altar (Gen 22). Later on, he did not object when his father arranged his marriage for him. These acts of submission were a great source of blessing for Isaac later on in life.

✓ He prayed to God:

It is recorded in Genesis 25:21 that Isaac prayed for his wife because she was barren. This is the first time that we see Isaac personally commune with God. Because God heard his prayer and gave him two sons, Esau and Jacob, we can be certain his prayer was sincere and effective.

✓ He lied to get out of trouble:

Interestingly, Isaac used the same trick his father did years ago by lying to King Abimelech (a different king with the same name) and saying that his wife was his sister (Gen 26:1-11). Although he knew to pray to God when he couldn’t do anything about his wife’s barrenness, he did not know to turn to God in this situation.

✓ He was patient:

As he resided in Gerar, he became more and more wealthy. The Philistines envied him and quarreled with his servants over the wells they had dug, claiming the water belonged to them (Gen 26:12-33). Twice, Isaac just left, choosing to remain at peace with his neighbors rather than start fights. As a result, God blessed him even more and even turned his enemies into his friends (Prov 16:7). Patience is one of the characteristics of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Jacob

✓ He was deceitful:

After he was born, he longed for his older brother’s birthright. In addition to tricking Esau into giving up his inheritance, he also deceived his father into blessing

him. Because of his brother's great anger, he fled for his life and ended up at his uncle's. Because of his deceit, he suffered many hardships later on in life and was not able to see his mother again.

✓ God appeared to him:

Jacob had already made two huge mistakes in his young life, and God did not want to see him sink deeper into that hole. By appearing to him in a dream (Gen 28:10), God strengthened him so that he could endure some of his most difficult years at Laban's house.

✓ He was patient:

Jacob had a taste of his own medicine when his uncle tricked him into marrying Leah instead of Rachel. Yet, because he wanted to marry Rachel, he agreed to work for another seven years in return. Even as Laban blatantly cheated him out of his pay, he continued to do his work and was blessed by God in the end. These long 20 years spent at his uncle's were trying and frustrating times, but they helped to build his character and faith. Jacob was even able to make up with his brother later on. Although suffering for any amount of time seems difficult, the trials we go through can ultimately help us draw closer to God.

Joseph

✓ He was proud and immature:

When Joseph was still a child, God revealed two dreams to him, both pointing to how he would be in positions of command over his brothers (Gen 37:1-11). It is possible that he meant no harm in telling his brothers about them but because of his pride and immaturity, his brothers became jealous of him.

✓ He didn't fight or argue:

After being sold as a slave to Potiphar's house, he was soon framed by his master's wife and thrown into jail. But he didn't fight back. Rather, he accepted whatever was dealt to him and continued to trust in God's guidance. Later on, he found mercy in the eyes of the prison warden and was given the opportunity to interpret the Pharaoh's dreams.

✓ He was forgiving:

When Joseph's brothers came to buy grain, instead of using his power and influence to punish them, he forgave them. He also showed great filial piety by bringing his father to live with him. In contrast to his father Jacob, much of what Joseph had to endure was not by his own doing. He could very well have given up on God since God did not seem to be in his life each time he was wrongfully accused. However, his experiences teach us that God is in control of our lives. What doesn't make sense to us now will make sense in the future. We just need to believe that God knows what is best for us; any suffering we are going through is a way to refine us.

3. Write about three prefigurations of Jesus Christ found in the book of Genesis (more than three are provided).

- a. God created light, which is symbolic of Jesus Christ (Jn 8:12, 1:5).
- b. God created Eve out of Adam's rib. This prefigures that Jesus Christ's side would be pierced and blood would be shed to establish the church (Gen 2:21-23; Jn 19:34-36).
- c. God clothed Adam and Eve with garments of skin. Likewise, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God, died and shed His blood so that we could put on the robe of righteousness. For us, this means we put on Jesus Christ and become justified (Gen 3:21; Gal 3:27).
- d. Melchizedek, the king of Salem (which means peace), brought out bread and wine to serve Abraham. Although not much is known about him, he is seen as representing the Lord Jesus as the King of Peace. Just as he gave bread and wine to Abraham, we can also receive grace and truth from God (Gen 14:18-20; Heb 7:2-3).
- e. Isaac's life has many parallels to that of our Lord Jesus. Although Abraham had many sons, Isaac was the only promised one. He carried the wood for his father and submitted to being sacrificed on the altar. Yet later his life was spared and he was able to marry Rebekah. This prefigures how Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would carry the cross and would be willing to be crucified. Later, He resurrected and in the end time, He will return to marry His bride, the true church.
- f. The heavenly ladder in Jacob's dream symbolizes Jesus Christ, through whom believers can gain entrance into heaven (Jn 1:51, 14:6; Heb 10:19-20; Acts 4:12).
- g. Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob. He suffered a lot in the early part of his life. First he was betrayed by his own brothers and then sold to Egypt. Later, he was wrongfully sent to prison. But in the end, he was exalted to a high position. His life foreshadowed how Jesus Christ was rejected, betrayed and killed by His own people. Just like Joseph, our Lord Jesus was innocent but was cruelly punished. Ultimately, Jesus Christ was exalted and is sitting at the right hand of God.

4. List two reasons why God made the Israelites travel a longer route into the wilderness instead of guiding them directly across the desert into Canaan.

Although it would have been much faster to directly cut across the desert from Egypt to Canaan, God had a different plan (Ex 13:17-18). Why did He make them travel around the desert and move toward the south to Mount Sinai instead of heading right for Canaan? For one thing, the Philistines lived right next door to Canaan.

Meeting them head on so early in their journey would likely have changed the Israelites' minds about leaving Egypt since they had no combat experience. Secondly, God needed to reveal His commands and laws to His people. By traveling to Mount Sinai, it gave the Israelites time to know God and also toughened their spirit.

5. What were the six items found in the tabernacle? Write about the spiritual significance of three of those items (six answers provided).

a. The Altar of Burnt Offering (Ex 27:1-8)

This was placed in the outer courtyard and was designated for sacrificing animals and the sprinkling of blood. Only after the animals were slaughtered could they be offered to God. Spiritually, it symbolizes the cross where Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself and shed His precious blood for us. After a believer is baptized in the blood of the Lord Jesus, his body becomes sanctified and is permitted to enter the gate of salvation (Heb 13:10-13).

b. The Bronze Laver (Ex 30:18-21)

After presenting the sacrifice, the priests needed to clean their hands and feet at this washbasin to wash away any dirt and filth. Spiritually, this act of cleansing symbolizes how a believer needs to constantly clean himself through the spirit and the truth so that he may become sanctified and be able to see God (Acts 1:5; Jn 3:5; Eph 5:26).

c. The Showbread (Ex 25:23-30)

The table for the showbread was located in the inner courtyard. Twelve loaves (12 represents perfection) of bread were to be set on this table before God, to be eaten by the priests (Lev 24:5-9). This bread symbolizes how Jesus Christ offered His life, serving as spiritual food for believers today.

d. The Gold Lampstand (Ex 25:31-37)

The lampstand was also kept in the inner courtyard and had seven stands which were kept burning with olive oil (Lev 24:2). Spiritually, it symbolizes how believers should shine their light before men (Mt 5:16). The lampstand was hammered out of a single piece of pure gold. This symbolizes that the believers should be as one body.

e. The Altar of Incense (Ex 30:1-8)

The altar was placed in the inner courtyard. It was here that incense was burned to God. Symbolically, it represents the prayer of the saints (Rev 5:8, 8:3-4).

f. The Ark of the Testimony (Ex 25:10-16)

The ark was the only item placed in the Most Holy Place. It was sacred, for it was above the mercy seat that God came to meet His people. Three important objects were placed in it. First were the two tablets that contained the Ten

Commandments. Second was the jar of manna. Third was the budded staff belonging to Aaron. Each of these objects holds spiritual significance for us today. Just as the tablets were stored in the ark, we should also store God's truth and laws within our hearts. The jar of manna represents the spiritual food we need in order to sustain ourselves. The budding of the staff is evidence of God's choosing. Today, only those spiritually reborn will belong to God.

6. What were the five major sacrificial offerings? List one spiritual application to our lives from each (more than one answer is provided).

Burnt Offering

- a.** To use an animal without defect points to our Lord Jesus as faultless and without sin. We should also pursue perfection so that we may find favor with God (2 Cor 5:21; 1 Pet 1:19; Mt 5:48; Phil 2:15).
- b.** The sprinkling of blood around the altar represents Jesus Christ's shedding of blood on the cross to save us. We should learn from His willingness to sacrifice (1 Jn 2:2, 3:16; Ps 107:1-3; Rom 9:2-3).
- c.** The skinning of the burnt offering reminds us that the Lord Jesus did not seek His own glory and did not place emphasis on His outward appearance. We, too, should not place emphasis on outer appearance or the vanity of the world (Jn 7:24; Jas 2:1-7).
- d.** Cutting the sacrifice into pieces means that we need to deny ourselves and take away our self-centeredness (Mt 6:1-5, 26:39; 1 Sam 15:24, 25, 30).
- e.** The washing of the inner parts and the limbs refers to the cleansing of our hearts, exercising self-control and walking on the holy path (Jer 17:9; Mk 7:20-23; Prov 4:26-27).
- f.** Complete burning of the offering is equivalent to our complete sacrifice, without holding anything back (Rom 14:7-8).

Grain Offering

- a.** The pouring of the oil is in reference to the Holy Spirit. Believers also need the downpouring of the Holy Spirit to become sanctified (Lk 4:18; Heb 9:14; Rom 15:16; 2 Thess 2:13).
- b.** Adding incense to the offering represents the fragrant aroma from our Lord Jesus. Similarly, believers should also give off a sweet spiritual scent.
- c.** The mixing of the salt reminds us that we need to demonstrate the characteristics of salt, which can preserve and season (Mk 9:50; Mt 5:13, 11:29).
- d.** The absence of yeast signifies that Jesus Christ was sinless and without blame. We also need to rid ourselves of any malice, hypocrisy and sin (1

Cor 5:6-8; Eph 4:31).

Peace Offering

- a. Burning the fatty portions of the sacrifice is symbolic of repaying the grace of God with the best of the sacrifice. We should also offer our best to God as we humbly serve Him (1 Pet 5:5-6; Lk 17:9-10).
- b. This was the only offering where the person presenting it could eat the sacrifice. This tells us such offerings please God and by partaking of it, it can bring about peace, joy and blessings to the family (Heb 13:15-16; 2 Cor 9:7-8).

Sin Offering

- a. For this offering, the higher a person's status, the higher the value of the animal used for the sacrifice. It implies that people with greater responsibility are held more accountable than others (Lk 12:47-48). We should always remember our role and importance as members of the church.
- b. Sprinkling and smearing of blood implies that it is by the Lord Jesus' blood that we are able to come before Him and confess our sins. By the blood of Jesus Christ, we can humbly pray and confess our sins to God and ask Him for forgiveness (Heb 10:20; Rev 8:3-4; Heb 4:15-16; Ps 51:17).
- c. The burning of the fatty portions refers to the dedication of our talents and abilities to God. The burning of the rest of the animal outside the camp represents the complete removal of our sinful nature (i.e. pride, self-righteousness, passion, lust, Rom 8:6; Jas 1:21; Deut 23:9-14).

Guilt Offering

See Sin Offering

7. What are the spiritual significance of split hoofs and regurgitated food?

- a. To have split hooves represents how we need to be set apart as holy and pleasing to God (2 Cor 6:14-18; Jn 17:19).
- b. To regurgitate the food means we need to constantly reflect on the words of God and obey them (Jer 15:16; Ps 1:1-2, 119:97; Lk 1:29).

8. What were the seven annual feasts celebrated by the Israelites? Briefly list the purpose of each celebration.

The Passover

During the feast, the people ate meat roasted over a fire, along with bitter herbs and bread made without yeast. Each of these items represents something in our salvation today. The roasting of the lamb represents the body of Jesus Christ and how He suffered greatly for us. The bitter herbs reminded the Israelites of their past sufferings in Egypt. Likewise, we should remember how much the Lord Jesus

suffered for our sake and be determined to obey Him.

The Unleavened Bread

The unleavened bread was made without yeast because yeast represents sin. God specifically told the Israelites to remove all yeast from their homes on the first day of the feast (Ex 12:15-20). The bread is symbolic of how the body of Jesus Christ is sinless and holy. Since we are a part of His body, we should also remain pure and refrain from committing sins (1 Cor 5:6-8).

The Feast of First Fruits

This event took place on the 16th of the first month, the day after Sabbath. This date falls somewhere in March or April today. By presenting their first harvests, the Israelites remembered to thank God for His grace. Believers today should also give their best to God and bear good fruit as an offering pleasing to Him (Col 2:12).

The Feast of Weeks

This celebration began on the sixth day of third month, the day after Sabbath, and it was to last for 50 days. In the New Testament, it was called Pentecost and today, it is celebrated in either May or June (since calendar year fluctuates from year to year). It was such a long feast because its purpose was to give thanks to God for sending autumn and spring rain to provide for a bountiful harvest. We know that rain represents the downpouring of the Holy Spirit. The autumn and spring rains correspond to the two periods of the downpouring of the Holy Spirit in establishing the church (early and latter rain; Jas 5:7).

The Feast of Trumpets

This took place on the first day of the seventh month (September or October today). For this feast, the people assembled for the sacred gathering where trumpets were blown. This reminded them that God was calling them into a land of their own. Today, as God's followers, we have the commission to preach the gospel to other people so that they may enter the heavenly kingdom (Mk 16:15; Acts 26:18; Rev 14:6-7).

The Day of Atonement

This was a solemn day in the calendar year for the Israelites. It took place on the 10th of the seventh month (September or October today). On this day, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place and made atonement for his sins and also that of the people so that everyone would be sanctified before the Lord. Jesus Christ is our high priest and our atoning sacrifice today (Heb 9:11-14). Because of Him, we are freed from the bondage of sin. As the Israelites were cleansed from their sins, we should live a godly life as we wait for Jesus Christ's return (Rom 8:23; Eph 4:30; 2 Pet 3:11-13).

The Feast of Tabernacles

Between the 15th and 22nd of the seventh month (September or October today),

the people had to live in booths made of tree branches. This reminded the Israelites of the time they wandered in the wilderness and lived in tents, their temporary homes until they reached the promised land. We should also remember that we are only travelers passing through the world. Our hope lies in the heavenly kingdom (2 Cor 5:1; Rev 21:3-5).

9. Why was Joshua chosen as Moses' successor? What kind of qualities did he have that made him a good choice?

God chose Joshua (Num 27:18) because he was a man who was filled with God's spirit. From the spies' reports, we learn that he was courageous, someone who spoke the truth and did not just go with the crowd. He trusted God with all his heart. We learn from his farewell speech (Josh 24:15) that he was devoted to serving God his entire life.

10. Moses spent a lot of time repeating the laws and commands of God before his death. Why? What does it mean to keep the spirit of the law?

By repeating God's commandments, Moses stressed how the obedient would be blessed and the disobedient cursed. One reason why Moses did this was that he knew he was not going to enter Canaan and wanted the Israelites to remember God and His power. Also, these people were those who had grown up in the desert and had not known or experienced God first hand. Moses hoped to strengthen the people and build up their faith. Moses wanted the Israelites to fear, love and submit to God so that they could be established as a holy nation.

GOING FAR BEYOND

THE CALL OF DUTY,

DOING MORE THAN

OTHER EXPECTS...IS

WHAT EXCELLENCE IS

ALL ABOUT. IT COMES

FROM STRIVING,

MAINTAINING THE

HIGHEST

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EXCELLENCE MEANS

DOING YOUR VERY

BEST. IN EVERYTHING.

IN EVERYTHING WAY.

*"Whatever your task,
work heartily as serving
the Lord and not men."*

(Col 3:23)

*"Be an example...of good deeds of
every kind. Let everything you do
reflect your love of the truth."*

(Titus 2:7)