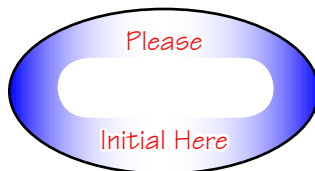


COLORING PAGE



The people of Israel rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem after returning from Babylon.

Parent's Initials:



PK1

The Bible

- Lesson Four -

The Bible

The Composition of the Bible (2)

I. Overview.

Last week we began to look at the composition of the Bible. We saw that the Bible is composed of the Old Testament of thirty-nine books and the New Testament of twenty-seven books.



In the last lesson we focused in particular on the Old Testament. We saw how the Old Testament contains the story of creation and the fall of man. We also saw that the Old Testament contains the stories of Noah and the great flood and of God's calling of Abraham and promising him that he would become a great nation.

In this week's lesson we will continue to look at the Old Testament. We will see how God used Abraham's descendents, the nation of Israel, to bring in the Savior of mankind, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The whole Bible is focused on Jesus Christ.

II. Memory Verse.

“And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

(Luke 24:27)

III. Lesson.

Last week we saw from the Old Testament that God called Abraham to Himself. Because of Abraham's faith and obedience, God was able to gain a people for Himself. This special people were the children of Abraham's grandson. His grandson's name was Jacob but God changed his name to Israel. Thus the nation that God promised to Abraham was formed with all the children of Israel.

Israel Inherits the "Good Land"

When God promised Abraham that his seed would become a great nation, He also told him about the land that they would possess. At that time the land was called Canaan. God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham as an inheritance for the people who would become the nation of Israel.

The Old Testament tells us the story of how the nation of Israel became captive as slaves in Egypt for over four hundred years. Because they were God's people, they cried out to God, and God sent them a marvelous man named Moses to deliver them out of Egypt. Eventually after spending a long time in the wilderness between Egypt and the land of Canaan, the children of Israel entered into the "good land" of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua. Joshua helped them settle the land and it became their inheritance.



Israel's Fall from the Good Land

The children of Israel were not always faithful to God, so as God had warned them, they lost the land of their inheritance. They again became captives. This time their captivity was in Babylon. They remained in Babylon for seventy years.

God promised Abraham the land of Canaan for the nation of Israel.

Recovery and the Bringing In of Jesus Christ

Because of the faithful prayer of a man named Daniel, God was able to recover Israel back to the land and to Jerusalem where they had built God's temple. Israel rebuilt the city of Jerusalem and the temple, both of which had been destroyed. This allowed God to have a place for His Son, Jesus Christ to be born. Jesus Christ is actually the focus of the Old Testament and the answer to the many promises and prophecies that are contained in the Old Testament. With the story of the birth of Jesus Christ we come to the New Testament, which we will look at in more detail beginning in the next lesson.

--- QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION ---

1. How was Abraham related to Israel (Jacob)?

2. What was the name of the land that God promised to give to Abraham's descendents?

3. In what two places was Israel held captive?"

4. With what story do we come to the New Testament?

