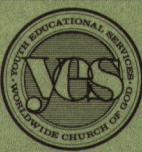


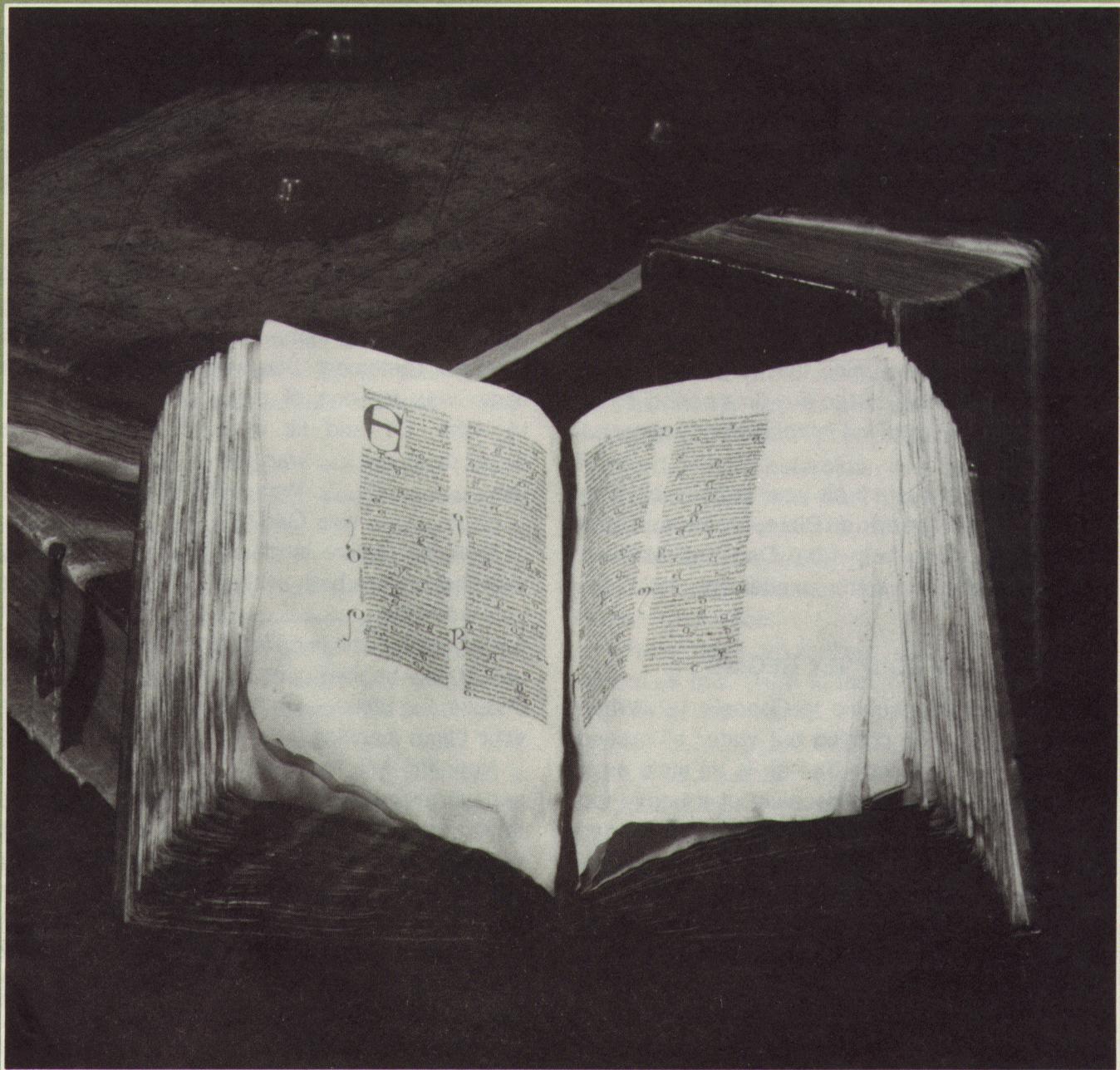
# YOUTH BIBLE LESSONS



LEVEL 7



LESSON 1



A Look Into Our Past

# A LOOK INTO OUR PAST

The lessons for this year will complete your study of the Old Testament. You will learn about men of God who were not afraid of savage, wild animals or evil rulers. There will be some scary experiences and even a mystery or two.

This month's lesson begins with a journey back in time. "But I can't do that," you might say.

Oh yes you can! There's a time machine sitting right in front of you! It's your Bible! You cannot actually get inside this time machine, but you can travel through time in your mind. This is possible because God has given you the ability to think and reason.

Did you know that your dog or cat cannot think or reason? They learn things by doing them over and over again and then getting a reward. But God has given you a mind that is a lot like His. You can go anywhere or to any time period if you simply read the Bible and *imagine* what happened long, long ago.

But before you start on your journey back in time, you will need a Bible, a pencil and occasionally some help from Dad and Mom. If you are ready for some excitement, let's get going!

## OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

Set your time machine to Genesis 1:2. When you arrive you find nothing but water all around you. It is cold and dark. The air is as stale as in an old cave, and damp because of a heavy fog covering everything. You can't see anything, and the only sound is the lapping of water against vast chunks of ice and debris floating about.

But wait a minute! You haven't gone back far enough, have you? Think about it! This can't be the beginning of everything! God doesn't make things that are dark and confused. In fact, the Bible says that "God is not the author of

confusion" (I Cor. 14:33). But you are in the middle of total confusion! Hop aboard your time machine again and go back a little further.

"Isn't Genesis 1:1 the beginning?" you ask. No. It is the beginning of the Bible, but not the beginning of time.

Travel back still further. Travel back perhaps millions or even billions of years ago. Now you find the earth is a beautiful place. There are giant creatures called dinosaurs and lush vegetation. How did this beautiful place later get all messed up and covered with water? Can this be the beginning? Of course not. The beginning is even further back in time.

Now you have finally arrived at your destination. But looking around you see nothing except two resplendent beings radiating blinding light! Their family name is "God." If you turn to the New Testament, you will see what the other name was for one of these superbeings. Turn to John 1:1 and fill in the blanks. "In the \_\_\_\_\_ was the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was with God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was God."

Now the picture is clear. These two dazzling superbeings are both of the God Family, just like you are of the \_\_\_\_\_ (your last name) family. One is called "the Word." Now you are at the beginning of everything we are told about in the Bible — as far back as you can go in your "time machine."

Now it's time to journey forward through time and unravel history. You see careful planning taking place, don't you? God does nothing without a plan. That's a valuable lesson that you should learn: think about and plan things before you do them.

The next thing seen on this journey is God creating angels. Some are different from others. One is a super archangel named Lucifer.

This journey through time and space shows

one of the original superbeings of the God Family creating a beautiful earth. Which one of them created the earth and the stars? To find out, continue in John 1, but this time keep reading through verses 2 and 3. "The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him [the Word]; and without him [the Word] was not anything made that was made." Which being made all things? Right — the Word! Sneak ahead a few million years and see who the Word later became.

Read John 1:14 and fill in the blanks. "And \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_

(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth." So the Word was the One who came to the earth and became Jesus Christ! After He died He then became the Son of God.

But that is getting ahead of the story. Let's get back to the creation. Everything is beautiful, just like it should be. God has asked one of the archangels, the one named Lucifer, to take care of the earth, because it needs to be pruned and groomed, just like the lawn around your house. God gave Lucifer a vast number of angels to help him.

You watch things happen, but still don't know how far back in time you are. Your time machine, the Bible, doesn't tell you. But before long a terrible thing happens (Gen. 1:2). The earth becomes ("was" is not the real word that God used) \_\_\_\_\_ form, and \_\_\_\_\_."

That archangel Lucifer got greedy. He looked around and saw that he and the angels were taking care of the earth. He saw how beautiful he was and how powerful he was. "You know," he told the angels, "we are down here, taking care of the earth, and God is up there on His throne, taking it easy. Who does God think He is? Let's fight against God and take over everything. There are more of us and we can win," he told the angels.

Lucifer knew that God was not a loafer. God was always thinking, planning and working. But Lucifer convinced the angels under him that he had a good idea. They followed him and went to



The earth became a wasteland as a result of Satan's rebellion.

war against God!

Imagine the great warfare that took place! A spiritual battle raged. We can hardly imagine what it was like. Even physical matter was involved. Giant asteroids were probably propelled across space; giant stars flung about like pebbles. Firestorms raged on earth and its beautiful surface was laid waste! A worldwide sea and total darkness were the end result of Lucifer's rebellion.

Where does your time machine, the Bible, record all this? Turn to Isaiah 14, verses 13-14, and fill in the blanks. "I [Lucifer] will \_\_\_\_\_ [go up] \_\_\_\_\_, I will exalt \_\_\_\_\_ throne above the stars of \_\_\_\_\_: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,

Lucifer tried to overthrow God, but God was more powerful. He conquered the archangel and his army of angels and told them that they had to stay on the earth (Rev. 12:7-9). God then

changed the rebellious archangel's name to Satan, and those angels with him became demons.

You are now back to that time in history when the earth is covered with water and there is thick darkness. Just zip past it and see what God (the Word) does next. God and the Word are making plans. They decide to rebuild the planet's surface and to add more members to their family. After the plans are laid, the project begins. Read Genesis 1:3-27 and write in your own words what happened each day.

First day: \_\_\_\_\_

Second day: \_\_\_\_\_

Third day: \_\_\_\_\_

Fourth day: \_\_\_\_\_

Fifth day: \_\_\_\_\_

Sixth day: \_\_\_\_\_

On the sixth day God made the most important part of His creation — man. God planned that if the man obeyed His laws, then he would also one day become a member of the God Family. God then rested on the seventh day, making it and every future seventh day of the week the Sabbath.

### GOD'S PLAN UNFOLDS

God called the first man Adam. Out of one of Adam's ribs God created a woman to be Adam's wife. Adam named her Eve. God then put them in the Garden of Eden. Your time machine stops for a few moments here in Eden. What a beautiful garden!

God has given Adam and Eve rules to live by. He has also told them that there are two special trees in the Garden. "One tree, the Tree of Life, is okay for you to eat fruit from," God told them. "I will give you my Holy Spirit and lead you to eternal life if you obey me and eat of this tree's fruit. But," He continued, "don't eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil! If you eat its fruit, you'll think you are smarter than I am and

you'll begin to decide for yourselves what is right and what is wrong. You won't want to listen to Me, and it will lead you to death."

During this short visit to the Garden you see Satan, that archangel turned bad, tell Eve that God is a liar. Eve believes him! And so both she and Adam eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Adam and Eve have made the wrong decision. You see them having to leave the Garden so they cannot eat of the Tree of Life. If they did, they would live forever in unhappiness. God does not want them to be unhappy. He was hoping that Adam and Eve would build character. He wanted them to say "no" when they were tempted, but they didn't.

Today Satan is trying, in whatever way he can, to tempt you and your parents to disobey God. Are you going to say "no" when those around you want you to drink or take drugs? When you are asked to play basketball on Friday night, will you say, "No, I won't play"? You have to make the *right* decisions in order to build



Adam and Eve in the beautiful Garden of Eden.

character. God will help you build character if you try your hardest to do what is right.

Your parents are also building character with God's help. If they continue to build godly character, they will become members of the God Family, just like the Word. That is God's plan. This life is like a test — if people pass, by building character, they will be allowed to live forever, never again having to be concerned about dying. They will then have bodies made of spirit. Imagine being able to zip through space to any place in the universe in an instant! Imagine being able to create as God can! Amazing and exciting opportunities — that's what the future holds for you!

But you have been at the Garden of Eden long enough. Now it's time to follow Adam and his descendants through history.

### THE WORLD BECOMES CORRUPT

As you skim through time you see the family of Adam and Eve growing. Before long the world is filled with people. You see that there are different races on the earth. God had made man so that there would be different races, each group or color of people having its own characteristics. Each has something that it does a little better than the others. God told the people that they were not to mix the races or they would weaken their special talents. But they did not listen. You see that they are dating anyone they want and are marrying anyone they choose.

They were also told to obey God's other laws. But everywhere there is only total disobedience. Man has forgotten and is ignoring God's laws. Turn to Genesis 6:5 and fill in the blanks. "And God saw that the \_\_\_\_\_ of man was \_\_\_\_\_ in the earth, and that \_\_\_\_\_ of the thoughts of his heart was \_\_\_\_\_ continually."

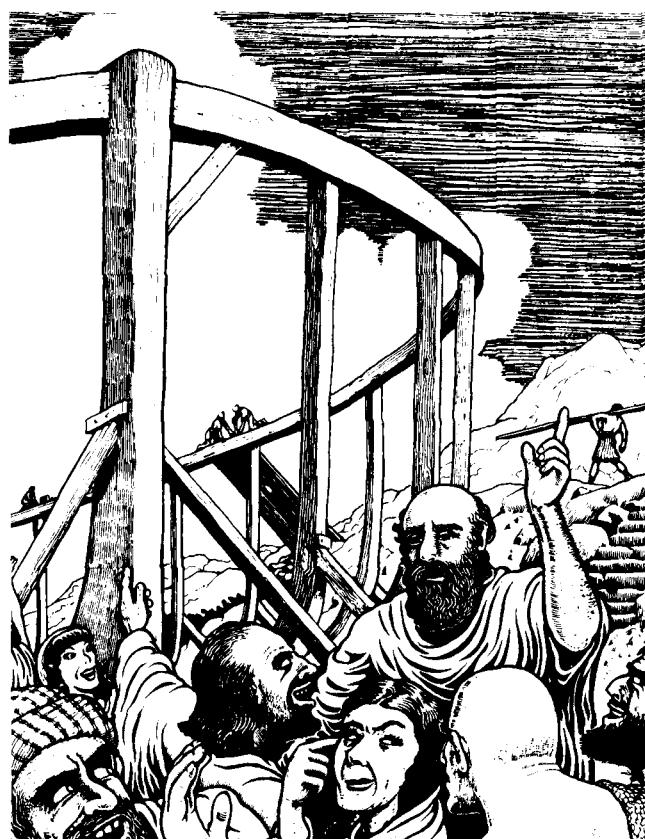
Stay awhile and see what happens next. All around there is disappointment, unhappiness, suffering and pain. God also sees the human misery and decides to put an end to this terrible state of affairs. "How will God do that?" you may ask.

The next scene that appears is God talking to Noah. God has decided to stop all of the

unhappiness by destroying all people. And He has decided to save Noah, the only man who is obeying Him. "I am going to bring a great flood on the earth, and everyone will die except you, your wife and family," God said.

Wait, God is telling Noah to build something! Look at Genesis 6, verses 12-14, and fill in the blanks. "And \_\_\_\_\_ looked upon the \_\_\_\_\_, and, behold, it was \_\_\_\_\_; for \_\_\_\_\_ flesh had \_\_\_\_\_ his [God's] way upon the \_\_\_\_\_. And God said unto \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is come before me; for the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ through them; and, behold, I will \_\_\_\_\_ them with the earth. Make thee an \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ wood."

"Yes, sir," Noah told God. "I'll do it!" The ark had to be large enough to hold his family, hundreds of animals, and the food needed for the people and the animals. The next thing you see as you travel is Noah's three sons helping build



The people laughed when Noah told them a huge flood was coming.

the giant boat. It was a tremendous project that took about 120 years to complete.

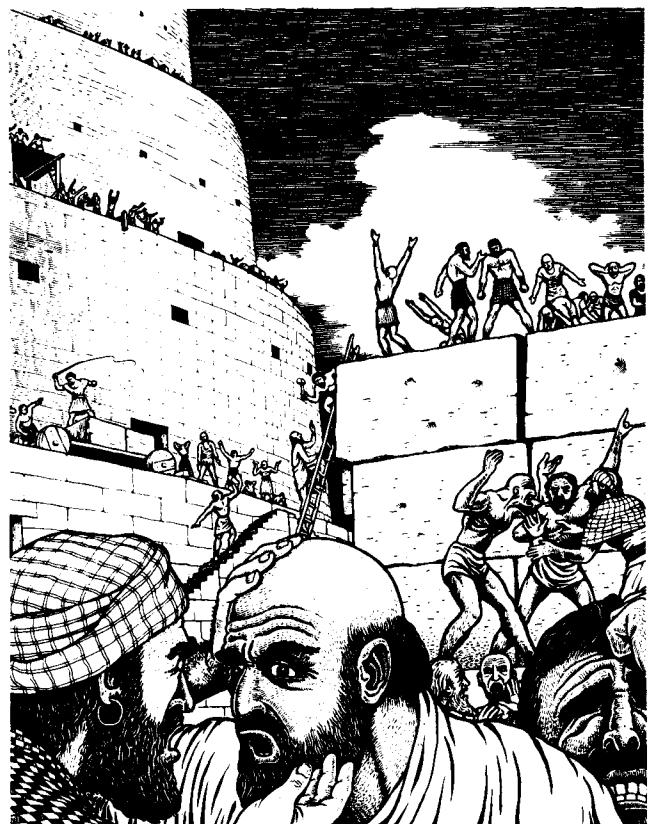
Men lived much longer in those days, and 120 years was not a lifetime. In fact, Noah lived 950 years. When the ark was complete, God caused seven pairs of all the clean animals and one pair of all the unclean animals to come to the ark. As soon as all the animals were in the ark, Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives entered the ark.

Move ahead in your time machine to Genesis 7 and you can see what happens. Picture Noah and his family in the ark as the sky begins to grow dark. The air has a musty aroma to it. Suddenly a gigantic lightning bolt flashes above, with crashing thunder breaking the silence. The earth starts to shake. The people who were making fun of Noah can be seen running in every direction. Their screams are barely heard over the roar of pouring rain and giant geysers gushing from below the earth (Gen. 7:11). Soon all life drowns in the swirling flood waters. For 40 days and 40 nights it rains. The mountains are all covered with water. Finally, the sky begins to clear up, but it's nearly eight months before the tops of the mountains are visible above the water. And it's another four months before God instructs Noah to leave the ark. Noah's three sons, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 5:32 has their names), are glad to be on dry land again.

The first thing Noah does is offer a sacrifice to God. You should always remember to thank God for the things that He gives you. Noah set a good example to follow.

### CONFUSION

In your time machine you can see Noah's family grow. Soon the population of the earth is large. Again the people are disobeying God and doing what seems right to them. In the center of one town, later named Babel, a large man is seen giving everyone orders. By looking in Genesis 10:9 you know that the leader of the people is \_\_\_\_\_. And they have a clever plan. Fill in the blanks from Genesis 11:4. "And they said, Go to, let us \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_, whose top



Suddenly no one could understand what his neighbor was saying at the Tower of Babel.

may \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_; and let us \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_, lest we be  
\_\_\_\_\_ upon the face of  
the whole earth."

The giant tower unified the people. God knew that they would be able to accomplish any evil plan that came into their minds. But God was much smarter! He simply divided the people into various groups by changing their one language into many languages. From your time capsule in Genesis 11:7, imagine the confusion that went through the town of Babel. No one could understand the person he was working next to! From that time on, God grouped the people of earth by languages.

### OBEDIENCE BRINGS A BLESSING

With the passage of time the memory of the Flood began to fade. As you look into history through your time machine, you see man going the ways of Satan once again. That is what

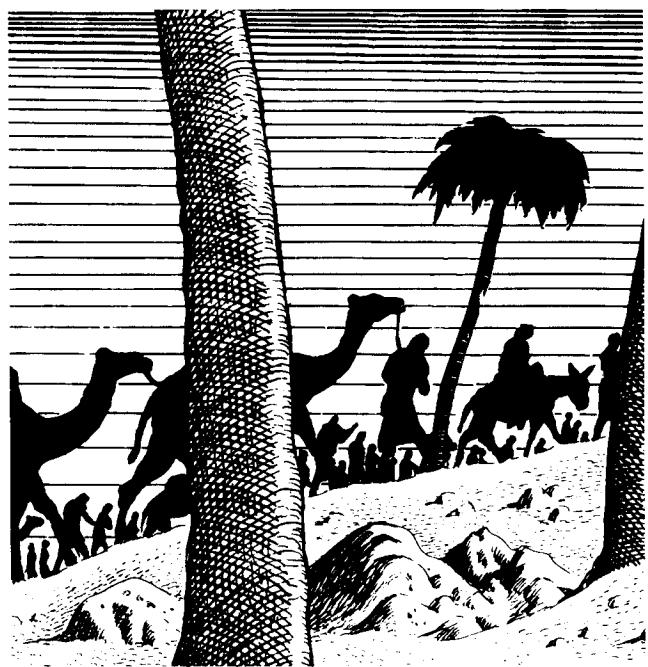
Satan wants. After all, since he has thrown away his chance to be a part of God's wonderful government, he wants to ruin everyone else's chances too. Even today you *must* do what is right, because Satan continually tries to influence and tempt you to do wrong. He *does not want you to become a part of the God Family*. Are you going to give in to him? You had better not! You have at least one parent who is in God's Church. Because of that, you can talk to God anytime you want to. He will help you if you really want to obey Him.

Now your time machine travels forward a short time from the Tower of Babel. This world was also evil. But God had promised Noah that He would never again destroy the world with a flood. God had another plan. He saw one person who was upright and honest in his ways. That person was a man named Abram. God liked what he saw in him. When Abram had to choose between doing wrong and doing right, he chose right. And every time he made a mistake, he repented.

God decided to test Abram to see how obedient he was. Your time machine is about to take you on a visit to Abram's time. Abram is 75 years old and God is beginning to work with him. The first time God tests Abram is recorded in Genesis 12:1-2. Read the account and finish the quote. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and from \_\_\_\_\_, and from \_\_\_\_\_, unto a land that I will show thee."

So Abram packs up and moves. It is not an easy thing for Abram to do. He is a wealthy man, with many servants who also have families. They have to pack and move, as well. The herds of cattle, sheep and goats have to be rounded up and moved too.

The other difficult part is that God has not even told Abram where he is to go! But look in Genesis 12:4. It says, "so Abram \_\_\_\_\_. " Yes, as you look into your time capsule (the Bible) you see the herds being rounded up, and the bread and other food being stored for the journey. You see families packing



Abram moved from his homeland at God's instruction.

and then loading their donkeys and wagons.

God was extremely pleased to see Abram obey Him without questioning, wasn't He? Can you think of anyone you must obey without questioning? When your parents say you cannot sit with your friends at church because they know you might not listen to the sermon, or you cannot go to a dance on Friday night, or you cannot go to the park and play on the Sabbath, you should just say, "Yes, sir" or "Yes, ma'am." Obedience seems hard sometimes, but it will pay off in a big way when you grow older.

How many times have you told your little brother or sister to be careful? You are just protecting them. Your parents want to do the same for you. God has put your parents over you, and you must obey them. And they must obey the ministers in the Church, because God has put the ministers in the Church over them (Heb. 13:7, 17). God's government is from the top down for everyone's good.

Abram was in charge of all his servants, and they obeyed him. They knew that they would be blessed with perhaps a better job or a better home if they obeyed. Because Abram obeyed God, his name was changed to Abraham, meaning "father of a multitude." God also made a promise to him and his wife, Sarah, which has

a direct connection with his name change. See what God promised in Genesis 13:15-16: "For all the land which thou seest, \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_, and to \_\_\_\_\_

for ever. And I will make thy seed as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_: so that if a man can number the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, then shall thy seed also be numbered."

God did bless Abraham and his descendants. If you zip forward in your time machine, you can see many of the descendants of Abraham today in Europe, Australia and North America. The nations in these areas are still reaping the benefits of Abraham's obedience.

It wasn't easy for Abraham or Sarah to believe God at first. They wondered how God would keep His promise. They didn't have even a child. Sarah was 90 years old and could not have children even if she wanted to. They asked themselves, "How is God going to give our descendants any blessings when we don't even have any children for Him to bless?"

You need come forward in time only a little bit to find the answer to Abraham and Sarah's dilemma. God said to Abraham (Gen. 17:19), "Sarah thy wife \_\_\_\_\_

indeed; and thou shalt call his name \_\_\_\_\_: and I will establish \_\_\_\_\_ with him."

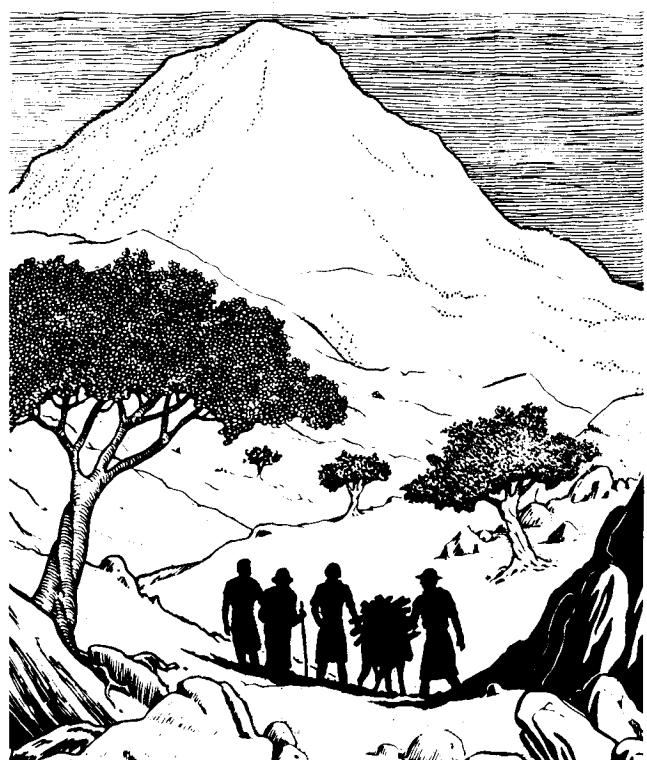
God was going to perform a great miracle. If you skim through time just a little, you can see Abraham and Sarah becoming the proud parents of a baby boy named Isaac. As he grows he is taught by his parents.

Abraham taught Isaac one thing above all else. What do you think that one thing was? \_\_\_\_\_ For the answer, read on.

By setting your time machine for Genesis 22:2 you will see the final great test God had for Abraham and giant test for Isaac as well. Let's take a peek. "Take now \_\_\_\_\_, thine \_\_\_\_\_, whom thou \_\_\_\_\_, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and \_\_\_\_\_ there for a \_\_\_\_\_ offering."

Abraham loved his son dearly, didn't he? But did Abraham question God and say, "Forget it, God"? No! Abraham obeyed God and went to the land of Moriah. What did Isaac do? Did he say, "Dad, it's okay; you go ahead this time without me"? No! Isaac did exactly what his father told him. He didn't complain or gripe or go ask his mother if he had to go. The answer to our question, "What did Abraham teach Isaac before anything else?", is — obedience. From the time that Isaac was a little baby, his parents taught him to obey them. It was no different this time. Isaac was going to obey his father, no matter what. Let's see what happens next.

While on Mt. Moriah Abraham builds an altar out of stones. Then on top of the altar he puts some kindling wood so he can burn Isaac after he has sacrificed him. Next, he places Isaac on the altar. It is hard for Abraham to see his son lying there. Tears come to his eyes, and he feels sick to his stomach as he raises the knife above his head. He will make the kill as quickly as possible. He does not want to do it, but God has said, "Sacrifice your son, Isaac," so he will obey. He knows that God can raise Isaac up to life again



Abraham obediently traveled to the mountain where he was to sacrifice Isaac.

(Heb. 11:18-19). The blade glistens in the bright sunlight, and his muscles tense as he grips the knife more tightly.

Suddenly, at that instant God stops Abraham. The knife drops to the rocky ground, and Abraham and Isaac hug each other and cry for joy.

God knew what Abraham would do next. Do you know? Here's a hint: What did Noah do after God saved him and his family? Write what you think Abraham and Isaac did. \_\_\_\_\_

God provided for them. They looked around and there, just a short distance away, was a beautiful ram (male goat) caught in a bush. If you wrote "offered a sacrifice to God," you were right. Abraham and his son offered a sacrifice to God to thank Him for saving the young man's life. God provided the ram, and because Abraham passed this supreme test, God made His promises to Abraham *unconditional*. God originally promised Abraham the blessings if he would obey. Now God knew that Abraham would obey, no matter what. He told Abraham (Gen. 22:16-17): "By myself \_\_\_\_\_, saith the Lord, for because thou hast \_\_\_\_\_, and hast \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_, thine \_\_\_\_\_: that in \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and in \_\_\_\_\_ I will \_\_\_\_\_ thy seed." God knew that Abraham would obey Him always because Abraham passed this most difficult test. Time went by, and as Isaac grew older, Abraham began to think about finding a wife for his son.

### THE BLESSINGS BEGIN

Abraham wanted to make sure that Isaac married someone of his own race. He sent to his hometown to find a wife for Isaac from among his relatives there. At that time it was the parents' job to find a bride for their son.

God was with the servant that Abraham sent, and soon he returned with a beautiful bride for Isaac. Her name was Rebekah. They were married, but it wasn't until 20 years later that

they had children.

When Rebekah finally had children, she had twin boys! The baby who was born first was named Esau. The other baby was born an instant later and was called Jacob.

As the boys grew, they developed different personalities. They didn't look alike, either, because they were fraternal twins. One of the boys, Esau, became a woodsman. He loved the smell of the fresh air and the thrill of hunting. The other brother, Jacob, was a shepherd. Whenever Esau went hunting, he made sure he killed a deer for his father. Isaac loved to eat the tender venison Esau would bring him. He made Esau his favorite son. But Rebekah loved Jacob the best.

Skim forward in your time machine to Genesis 25. It is evening now and Esau is returning home from a hunting trip. He has been gone a very long time, and by now is so hungry that his stomach hurts. As he rounds the final turn for home, he can smell the aroma of some delicious food that Jacob is cooking. The lentil soup smells so good that Esau just has to have some. After all, he was starving at the end of a long, hard day. Let's see what happens to the young hunter and the shepherd Jacob. Genesis 25:30: "Esau said to Jacob, \_\_\_\_\_, I pray thee, with \_\_\_\_\_; for I am faint." Then in verses 31-32: "And Jacob said, \_\_\_\_\_ thy \_\_\_\_\_. And Esau said, Behold, I am \_\_\_\_\_: and \_\_\_\_\_ shall this \_\_\_\_\_ do to me?"

Esau traded his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of soup! The birthright was important. It meant that the oldest son would get more of the inheritance when the father (Isaac) died. But Esau treated his birthright lightly.

God intended for Jacob to have the birthright. He had revealed this to Rebekah when she was still pregnant. But Jacob did not wait for God to give the birthright — he schemed to buy it from Esau instead. Later he and his mother tricked Isaac into giving him the blessing also. Hop



Esau traded his birthright for a bowl of soup.

aboard your time machine again, and let's see what happened.

Isaac was very old. His eyesight was gone, and he had to use his sense of touch to tell which son was which. Genesis 27 tells the story. Read the chapter and complete the following statements:

Isaac told Esau to go and kill a \_\_\_\_\_. He was going to die and wanted to taste \_\_\_\_\_ for the last time. \_\_\_\_\_

overheard Isaac and Esau talking. She wanted \_\_\_\_\_ to get the blessing. She told \_\_\_\_\_ to go and get two \_\_\_\_\_ and she would cook them the way that Isaac liked. Then she told him that he would take the meat to Isaac and get the blessing. \_\_\_\_\_ didn't like the idea. His arms had only a little hair on them, while his brother, Esau, was a \_\_\_\_\_ man. Also he wore different clothes than Esau. His mother, \_\_\_\_\_, told him not to worry. She would take care of the hair problem. When the meat was done she put the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ arms and neck. Isaac thought that it was Esau and gave \_\_\_\_\_ the blessings. A short time later \_\_\_\_\_ returned with his \_\_\_\_\_

for Isaac. It was too late; the blessings had already been given to \_\_\_\_\_.

Esau was so angry that he threatened to kill Jacob. Not only had Jacob taken his birthright, but he had now taken Esau's blessings as well. Jacob left immediately so he wouldn't be killed by his irate brother.

Even though Jacob and his mother had resorted to trickery, God still used him to carry on the promise of a great nation, which He had promised to Abraham, Jacob's grandfather. It was God's will that the promise go to Jacob. Had Jacob been patient and trusted God, he would have received the blessings a more honorable way.

If you slow your time machine down a bit, you can see Jacob running from his brother. He is fleeing to his Uncle Laban's house. He does not bother to pitch a tent, for that would take too long. So, he sleeps in the open, using a rock for a pillow. As he is sleeping God appears to him in a dream. Turn to Genesis 28:12-15 and write down what Jacob saw in his dream. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

God repeated His promise to Abraham's grandson, didn't He? He said, "I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest." God promised protection and blessings to young Jacob.

Before long, Jacob arrived at Laban's house. Not wanting to be a burden on his relatives, he asked if he could work in order to pay for his stay. Since Jacob was used to taking care of sheep, he took care of Laban's flocks. Speed up your time machine and see what happens next.

"Jacob," Laban said, "you have been doing a fine job. How am I going to pay you? You've been my best employee."

"Well, sir," Jacob answered, "I have grown to love your daughter Rachel, and I would like to marry her."

Laban saw a chance to get his best employee to work a little longer. They soon made a deal. If Jacob would work for seven years, he could marry Rachel. The time went by quickly. Soon

the wedding bells rang, but after the wedding Jacob got the shock of his life! The next morning he found that his new bride was Rachel's sister Leah! Was Jacob ever angry! He had married the wrong woman.

"Laban, you tricked me! I worked for you for seven years, and now I have married the wrong woman."

"We have a custom. The oldest daughter must marry first," was Laban's weak excuse. But Laban, not wanting to lose good help, probably then said, "But let's make a deal. If you'll work for seven more years, I'll give you Rachel."

Jacob did not really have any other choice. "Okay, I'll marry Rachel, also, then work for seven more years."

God saw what a hard worker Jacob was and decided to turn the tables on Laban. This time Jacob made the deal.

"Laban," Jacob said, "I have been working for you, and I don't have any cattle, sheep or goats. If it's okay with you, I'll go through the herds and pick out the spotted and speckled ones, and you can keep the pretty ones without any spots."

"Wow! What a deal!" Laban thought. "Okay, Jacob, you can have all of the spotted or speckled animals from now on," he said.

"Thank you, sir," Jacob replied.

Laban did not know about breeding animals. But Jacob was an expert husbandman. Jacob went into the herds and separated all of the spotted animals. Then he took the strongest of Laban's animals and bred them with his spotted animals. The result was a spotted baby animal that was strong like its parents. Before long Jacob had a huge herd of strong animals, and Laban's herd was weak and small.

God indeed blessed Jacob's hard work. The tables were turned on Laban. It's a good lesson. If you treat people unfairly, then someday you will be paid back accordingly. Always be fair and show respect and courtesy to everyone. Another good lesson to learn from all this is that whenever you are given a job to do, get in and work as hard as possible. God will bless you for it. Try it and see. Sometimes the blessings take a little time, but they will come if you are a hard

worker and pray to God about it. Jacob stayed close to God and his hard work paid off well, though the blessings didn't come all at once. When Jacob started being blessed, how do you suppose Laban felt? You are right! He was angry!

God told Jacob that he had better leave. So Jacob and his family left and went back to where he originally came from. Along the way a strange thing happened. Your time machine, the Bible, will take you there. Genesis 32:24-30 has the account.

It is nighttime and Jacob is alone. Suddenly a man comes at him from the darkness, and the two begin to wrestle. But this is no ordinary man — it is either an angel or possibly the God of the Old Testament who later became Jesus Christ! They wrestled all night. The man saw that Jacob would not give up, so He touched Jacob's thigh and put it out of joint. Then He said, "Let me go." Jacob's leg hurt pretty badly, but he had been taught to never give up. He wasn't a quitter, and he wasn't going to start being one now. He held on and told the man, "I'll not let go till you bless me!" Look at Genesis 32:28 and fill in the blanks. "Thy name shall be called no more \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_: for as a \_\_\_\_\_ hast thou \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and with men, and hast \_\_\_\_\_. Jacob's new name meant "prevailer." Jacob prevailed and would not let the man go.

God blessed Jacob with a large family. He had 12 sons who later became nations. Turn to Genesis 49 and list the 12 tribes (Jacob's sons) in order.

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The promises made to Abraham, by God are still being poured out today upon the children of Jacob (Israel). If you would like to learn more, you can read Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

**EDITOR IN CHIEF: Herbert W. Armstrong**

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**BIBLE MEMORY**

Books of the  
Old and New  
Testaments

**PEOPLE AND PLACES**

The words listed below can be found in the puzzle reading forward,  
backward, up, down or diagonally. How many can you find?

E	R	E	H	S	A	L	V	E	V	O	D	S	A	N	O	E	M	I	S	N
D	A	I	B	O	J	R	E	X	I	L	A	Y	M	N	T	I	Y	R	E	V
E	D	R	H	K	N	O	W	B	M	I	G	H	E	E	A	A	E	I	S	Y
O	A	N	Y	A	S	M	S	I	A	E	S	D	S	R	Z	U	S	Y	U	N
Y	M	S	N	I	R	A	F	E	T	B	E	W	H	I	B	A	H	E	R	Y
H	C	D	I	G	C	A	S	T	P	F	F	P	H	E	A	C	R	S	A	S
E	I	D	M	T	T	S	S	S	O	H	E	O	N	C	M	F	J	A	H	D
S	L	T	A	M	T	W	T	N	I	E	O	I	R	P	U	G	H	U	C	O
S	A	H	J	B	I	F	E	Y	E	V	E	V	R	E	A	L	V	H	A	R
A	T	A	N	O	A	D	N	T	N	I	C	E	D	O	W	B	D	T	S	M
N	H	D	E	C	R	T	A	S	M	F	L	L	J	T	M	O	E	T	S	I
A	P	U	B	A	W	O	B	U	M	A	H	A	R	B	A	N	T	W	I	N
M	A	J	G	J	P	H	A	P	H	N	N	U	L	U	B	E	Z	U	O	N
J	N	M	D	A	I	A	L	T	H	A	O	N	E	U	V	N	A	D	U	T

**WORD SEARCH**

Reuben	Abraham	Laban	Naphtali	Tower of Babel
Judah	Esau	Adam	Joseph	Garden of Eden
Asher	Levi	Isaac	Manasseh	
Issachar	Gad	Sarah	Ephraim	
Noah	Zebulun	Simeon	Jacob	
Nimrod	Benjamin	Dan	Eve	