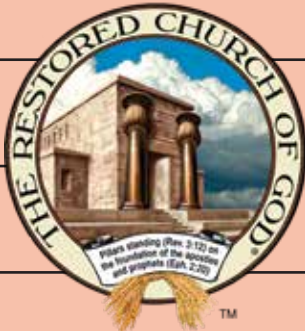


THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD®

CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



“A Nation Is Born”



LEVEL 6 LESSON 1

“A Nation Is Born”

In this Level, we are going to complete our study of the Old Testament. We will look at the prophets (people whom God used to record history before it happened) who lived in Old Testament times, and learn what they had to say about our times today.

We will also take a close look at other people who lived in Old Testament times—and we will see what lessons we can learn from them.

God Creates Angels

To begin, we will go even further back in history than the creation of man. Before man existed, there were angels—millions of angels. But God did not create angels for the purpose of simply wandering around. The Bible reveals that angels are “ministering spirits” (Hebrews 1:14). Their purpose is to serve God in whatever way He sees fit.

God also put His government over the angels. Government is formed when there is a “chain of command.” Each person in the chain takes instruction from the person above him, and gives instruction to the person below him. In God’s government, God is the Head of the chain, and the instructions are based on love and concern for those below.

Just as God’s Church has human leaders who are below God in the chain, so too do the angels have angelic leaders who are under the authority of God. They take their directions from God, and carry out the tasks that He gives. God placed three archangels—Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer—over all other angels. When the universe was created millions of years ago, God put Lucifer in charge of the entire Earth. He also

assigned many of the angels to help Lucifer make the Earth beautiful.

Genesis 1:1

At the very beginning of the Bible, we read, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This occurred millions of years ago, when the universe was first created. However, between verses 1 and 2, possibly millions of years passed. During this time, Lucifer was in charge of beautifying the Earth.

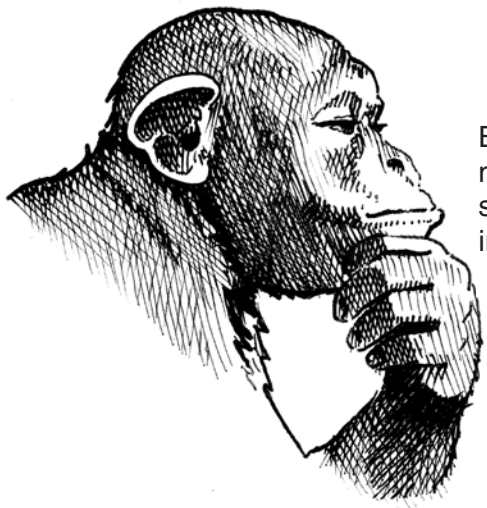
You see, when God created the Earth, He made it perfect—but not yet complete! It was Lucifer’s job to complete the creation by caring for it and making it beautiful.

This can be compared to baking a cake. When the cake first comes out of the oven, if it was made properly, it would be a perfect cake—there is nothing wrong with it. However, it is not yet complete! The icing still needs to be added to the cake in order to complete it.

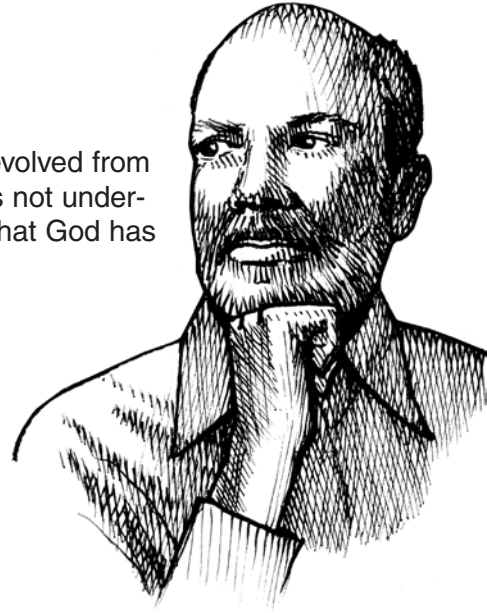
Did Lucifer do a good job of adding the icing to the cake? Turn to Genesis 1:2 and fill in the blanks to see how God viewed the Earth after millions of years of Lucifer’s rule: “The earth [became] without _____, and _____; and _____ was upon the face of the deep.” Where there is darkness, there is confusion.

How did this happen? How did Lucifer bring God’s great creation into darkness and confusion? The answer is fascinating.

Turn to Isaiah 14:13, and fill in the blanks: “For you [Lucifer] have said in your heart, I will _____ into _____, I will exalt [raise up] my _____ the stars of _____.” Continuing in verse 14: “I will _____ above



Believing that man has evolved from monkeys, the world does not understand the true potential that God has in store for us.



the heights of the clouds, I will be _____.” Lucifer thought that he could become greater than God. He rebelled against God, and set out to do the opposite of what God wants—all because he wanted to be better and more powerful than God.

Perhaps you see this at school, when someone wants to show that they are better than someone else. They compete with others in everything. The Bible—God’s Word—shows that this is wrong.

After Lucifer rebelled, God changed his name to Satan, which means “adversary.” This shows how God views Satan.

Man Created From Dust

Satan’s rebellion brought the Earth into a miserable condition. But God loved His creation. So about 6,000 years ago, He spent six days renewing the Earth. On the sixth day, God created the first man—Adam. When God created man, He created him as a soul—a physical life.

Turn to Genesis 2:7: “And the LORD God _____ man of the _____ of the ground, and

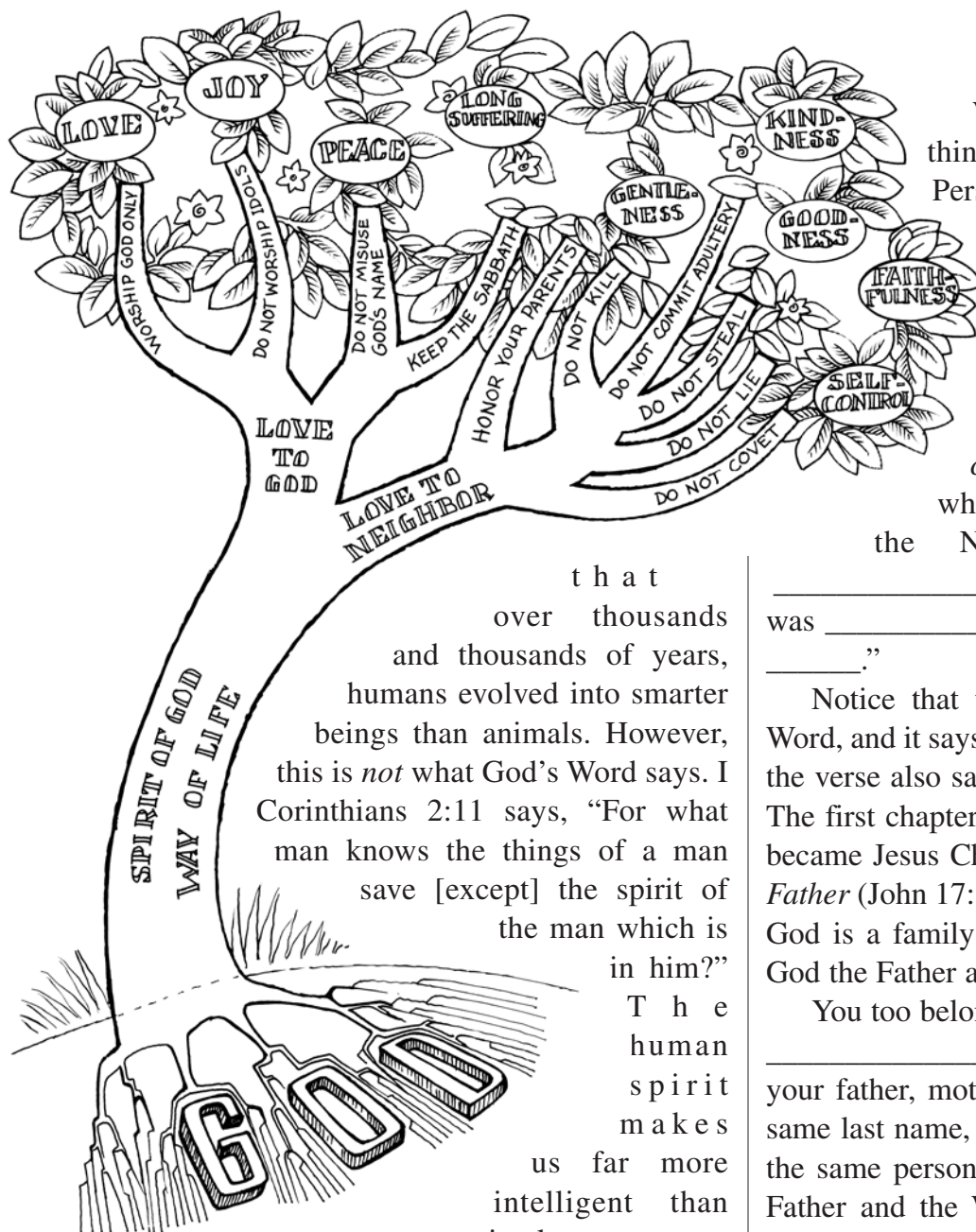
breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a _____.”

At the end of one’s life, the body once again becomes the dust of the earth. Therefore, the soul can *and does* die. It is not immortal! This is why God told Adam that he could *die* (Genesis 2:17).

In this way, a human is much like an animal. They both are made of flesh; both can die and go back to being dust. However, there is a very important difference between man and animal. God gave humans the “spirit in man” (Job 32:8). The human spirit is *not* physical! You cannot see it or touch it. But it is what makes us different from animals. The human spirit gives us the ability to have complex conversations, to do math, to consider which way is right and which way is wrong.

Can you imagine your cat or dog doing your math homework? It is not possible. Even though they have brains much like the human brain, they cannot use it to *think* like humans do. They are missing the human spirit. This is important understanding that your teachers do not have.

If you ask your teachers why humans can do things that animals cannot, most will tell you



We must also understand something else. God is not just one Person. God is a Family.

The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew language. In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*, which is a uniplural word like *team*, *family* or *church*. To better understand what this means, turn to John 1:1 in

the New Testament: "In the

_____ was the Word, and the Word was _____, and the Word _____."

Notice that this verse is talking about the Word, and it says that the Word *is* God. However, the verse also says that the Word was *with* God. The first chapter of John explains that the Word became Jesus Christ. Christ often prayed to His *Father* (John 17:1). This other Being is also God. God is a family name. This Family consists of God the Father and the Word.

You too belong to a family. Your last name is _____. However, just because you, your father, mother, brother and sister have the same last name, this does not mean that you are the same person. This is also the case with the Father and the Word. Think of the Father and Christ as having the same last name—God. But they are not the same person.

Both the Father and Christ have holy, righteous character. This is one of the qualifications for being God. Anyone who is in the God Family must be perfect and righteous, and would remain this way always.

Holy, righteous character is so precious, so special and unique, that it cannot be created all at once, in an instant. Just as it takes much time, patience and learning to be able to paint a beautiful masterpiece, godly character must be developed and grown over a long period. It is impossible for God to instantly create a being (whether

that
over thousands
and thousands of years,
humans evolved into smarter
beings than animals. However,
this is *not* what God's Word says. I
Corinthians 2:11 says, "For what
man knows the things of a man
save [except] the spirit of
the man which is
in him?"

The
human
spirit
makes
us far more
intelligent than
any animal.

So remember, human beings
are created with a soul, which is our physical
life—and the human spirit, which gives us the
power to think and make choices.

God Is a Family

After God created Adam, He created a wife for him. Her name was Eve. God created mankind for a purpose—to reproduce *Himself*! Consider for a moment: God is perfect. He cannot lie or do what is wrong. Everything that God does is right! This is why God is *righteous*.

angel or human) that has His character. Instead, it must be developed over a lifetime of experiences.

So this is why God created humans! Adam and Eve and every human being after them have the awesome potential of joining the God Family!

To test what you have learned so far, write the names of the two Beings who now make up the God Family: _____

Each human being has the potential to add his name to this list and live for eternity with God, and as God—as a son of God the Father!

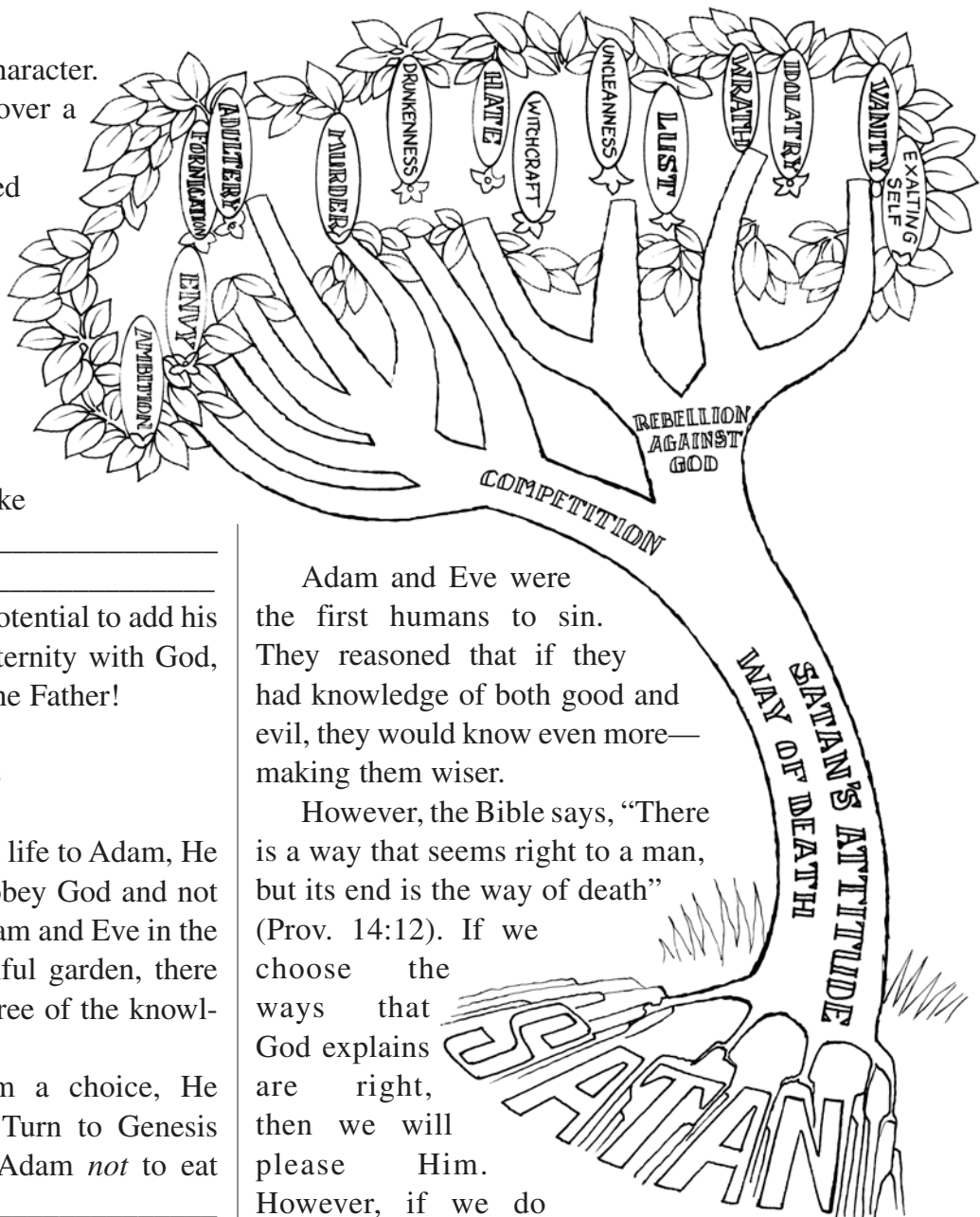
The Two Trees

Before God would grant eternal life to Adam, He tested him to see if he would obey God and not rely on himself. God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In this beautiful garden, there were the Tree of Life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Although God gave Adam a choice, He explained how to obey Him. Turn to Genesis 2:17. What tree did God tell Adam *not* to eat from? _____

What did God say would happen if he did eat from this tree? _____

Adam could have obeyed God and eaten from the Tree of Life. If he had done this, and obeyed God all through his physical life, then God would have made Adam part of His Family. However, Satan influenced Eve, and Eve convinced Adam to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam disobeyed God! When people disobey God, they SIN (I John 3:4).



Adam and Eve were the first humans to sin. They reasoned that if they had knowledge of both good and evil, they would know even more—making them wiser.

However, the Bible says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Prov. 14:12). If we choose the ways that God explains are right, then we will please Him. However, if we do what *we* think is right, regardless of what God thinks, then we do not please God.

So what made Adam disobey God? The reason is very important to understand!

The beginning of Genesis 3 shows a conversation between Eve and Satan. In verses 2-3, Eve shows that she understands God’s command: “And the woman [Eve] said to the serpent [Satan], ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden [the tree of the knowledge of good and evil], God has said,

“You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest [or else] you die.””

Eve clearly understood what would happen if she ate of this tree. However, Satan’s response is recorded in verses 4 and 5: “And the serpent said unto the woman, You _____; For _____ knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like _____, knowing _____ and _____.”

Satan lied to Eve, telling her that it was good to eat of the tree of knowledge. He convinced Eve that God was withholding “special knowledge” from her. Eve desired to get this knowledge. Satan deceived her into believing that God was unfair in keeping this from her. Adam agreed with Eve’s faulty reasoning, and verse 6 shows that both Adam and Eve ate fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Adam and Eve allowed Satan’s nature (his attitude and way of life) to enter into them. They disqualified themselves from eating of the Tree of Life. They were cut off from receiving the Holy Spirit to guide and help them to obey God. God banished them from the Garden of Eden. All they were left with was the knowledge of good and evil.

Recall that even though Satan disobeyed God, he still has authority over the Earth. This is why II Corinthians 4:4 calls Satan the “god of this world.”

Do you sometimes find it hard to obey God? Do you find that you *want* to do something with your school friends on the Sabbath, or that you *want* to eat that piece of pepperoni pizza? This is because human nature (Satan’s nature) affects all people.

The purpose of human life is to resist human nature and to build godly character. God’s Holy Spirit helps your parents to do this, and God will also help you, if you ask Him and work hard at doing what is right. Just as He tested Adam and Eve, God tests us to see if we will obey Him—to see if He can trust us to do what is right.

This is the test that Adam failed. In fact, within about 2,000 years after God created Adam, there was so much disobedience that God decided to end the current generation of people, except for a man named Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives.

Noah obeyed God, and God rewarded him by not taking his life. He told Noah to build a huge ark because there was going to be a massive flood. For 120 years, Noah told people that God was sending a huge flood because of their disobedience. But no one believed him.

When the ark was finished and Noah’s family, two of each unclean animal, and seven of each of the clean animals had entered the ark, God closed the door and sealed it. It began to rain seven days later. The rain lasted forty days and forty nights. The water got so high that the only survivors were those in the ark!

Once the water had gone away, Noah and his family were back on dry land. The animals were released back into the wild. God then told Noah’s sons to start their own families so that the population of the Earth would begin to increase again.

One of Noah’s sons was Ham, who had a son named Cush. Cush had a son named Nimrod. Nimrod grew up to be a very strong man, and a fierce hunter. Many people felt safe around Nimrod because he was able to protect them, and his hunting skills brought in much food.

Under Nimrod, the people began to build a large tower that was supposed to reach the heavens. They reasoned that this would protect them from any future floods. In doing this, they did not obey God, and He did not want them to be unified.

God changed their languages so that they could not all speak the same language. This made it impossible for them to communicate with each other. As a result, they all departed in different directions, depending on the language they spoke, and were no longer unified under Nimrod.

God called their city “Babel.” Perhaps you have heard the expression that someone is “babbling on” if they are saying something you cannot understand. After God changed their languages, it sounded as though everyone was “babbling on.”

The Law of Cause and Effect

As time passed, the Earth’s population increased. Many of the people did not obey God, or put their trust in Him. They did not fear the consequences of disobeying God.

One of the greatest laws that God set in motion is the law of CAUSE and EFFECT. There are physical laws that everybody understands. If you drop something, it will fall to the ground. This is a physical law known as the law of gravity.

God has a great spiritual law (unseen to the human eye) that says that for every effect, there is a cause. To say this more simply, every time something happens, there is a reason why it happened.

For example, you might have noticed that there are a lot of unhappy people in the world. The unhappiness is the *effect*. But what is the *cause*?

The cause is that today’s world does not obey God. They do not know the delight of God’s Sabbath, or the blessings that come from paying tithes (10% of your money) to support God’s Work. They do not know the happiness of keeping the Holy Days! Most importantly, they do not know of their awesome potential to become a member of the God Family.

The effect of this is that most people go through life unsure of what will happen to them when they die. Their lives lack purpose, and this makes them unhappy.

However, do you notice something different when you attend Sabbath services? Do you see unhappy people there? No! Those in God’s

Church know what their potential is, and they obey God because they want to be a part of the God Family. They are learning that God’s Way works.

So here, the effect is happiness. And the cause is obedience to God. This is a wonderful law to know about, and it will help you throughout your life.

God Calls Abram

After the Flood, as the population grew, so did the world’s misery. Why? The world was disobedient to God. However, there was one person who did understand the law of cause and effect, and obeyed God. His name was Abram. He was a wealthy man who lived in a land called Ur.

God made a great promise to Abram. Turn to Genesis 12. In verse 1, God told Abram to leave Ur, and to go to a land that He would show him. Verse 2 shows what would happen if Abram obeyed God’s instruction: “I will _____ you a _____.”

Abram’s descendants became the nation of Israel. (We will study a lot about this great nation in future lessons.) God told Abram to leave the city where he lived, and where he had much wealth. He told Abram to leave all of this behind and go to a land where he had never been!

What did Abram do? Did he reason with God, and perhaps ask how he would know where to go? Did he remind God that all his possessions were in Ur, and that maybe it would be better for him to stay there?

In the blanks below, write the first three words of Genesis 12:4: “_____.”

How simple! Abram believed God! He trusted that God would cause everything to work out *if* he obeyed Him. Abram believed the law of cause and effect. He knew that if he believed and obeyed God, everything would work out.

God promised that Abram's family would grow into a great nation. But how could this happen, since he and Sarah did not yet have children, and she was beyond the age that a woman can have a child?

Abram believed God! He knew that God would work it out. He knew that God cannot lie, and so if God promised that Abram's family would grow into a great nation, then surely, God would make it happen. Turn to Genesis 15:6 and write how God viewed Abram since he believed what God said: _____

Shortly after this, God changed Abram's name to Abraham, because he was going to be the father of God's nation—Israel.

Despite Sarah's age, God allowed Abraham and Sarah to have a son, whose name was Isaac. Abraham loved Isaac very much. However, when Isaac got older, God decided to test Abraham's

obedience once more. He told Abraham to take Isaac to the top of a mountain, and to offer him as a sacrifice.

How did Abraham react? Did he question God? Did he ask God if He had forgotten that Isaac was his only son, whom a great nation was going to come from? No! Just as Abraham had done years before when God told him to leave Ur, he simply believed and obeyed God. Abraham brought Isaac to the top of the mountain and prepared the firewood. He then tied Isaac up.

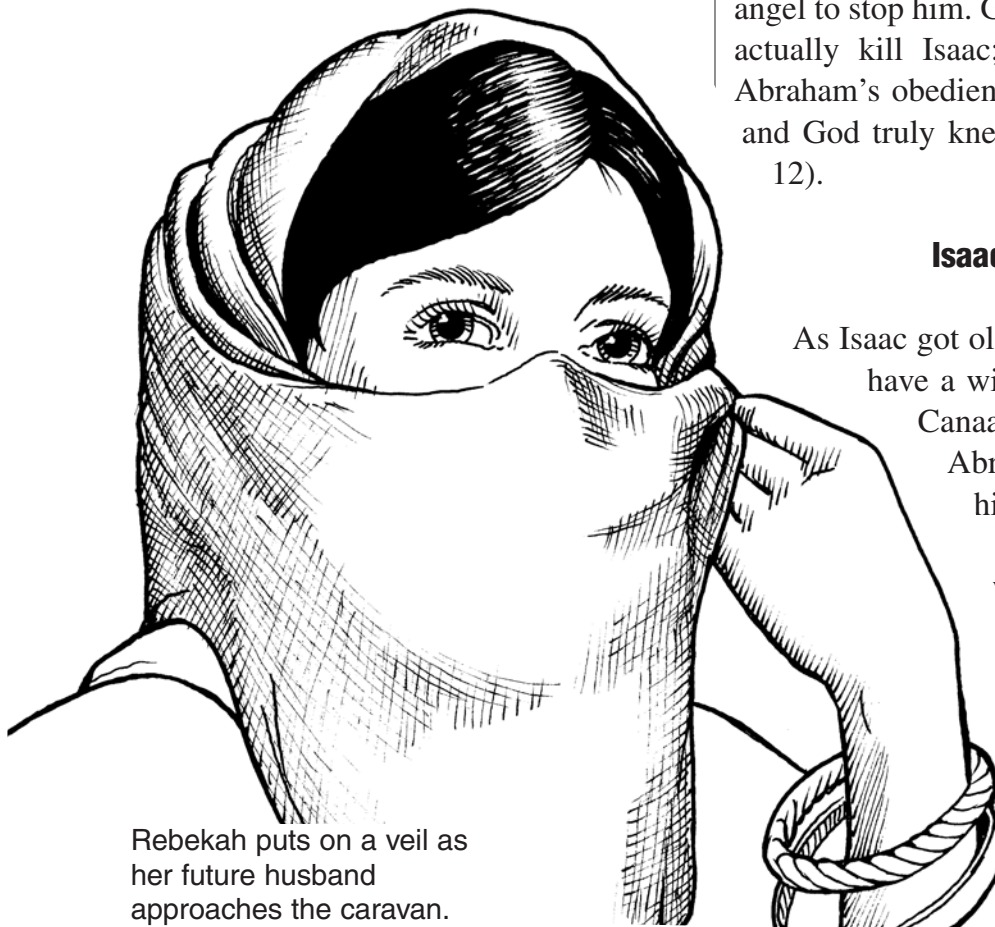
Can you imagine how hard this was for Abraham? But he was able to see past the "here and now," knowing that God had a purpose in doing this. We can learn from Abraham's example. Whenever something seems very difficult to do, especially when it involves obeying God, we can trust that God will work it out.

Turn to Genesis 22 to see what happened in Abraham's case. Verses 10 to 12 show that just as Abraham was about to kill Isaac, God sent an angel to stop him. God never wanted Abraham to actually kill Isaac; rather, He wanted to test Abraham's obedience. Abraham passed the test, and God truly knew that he feared Him (verse 12).

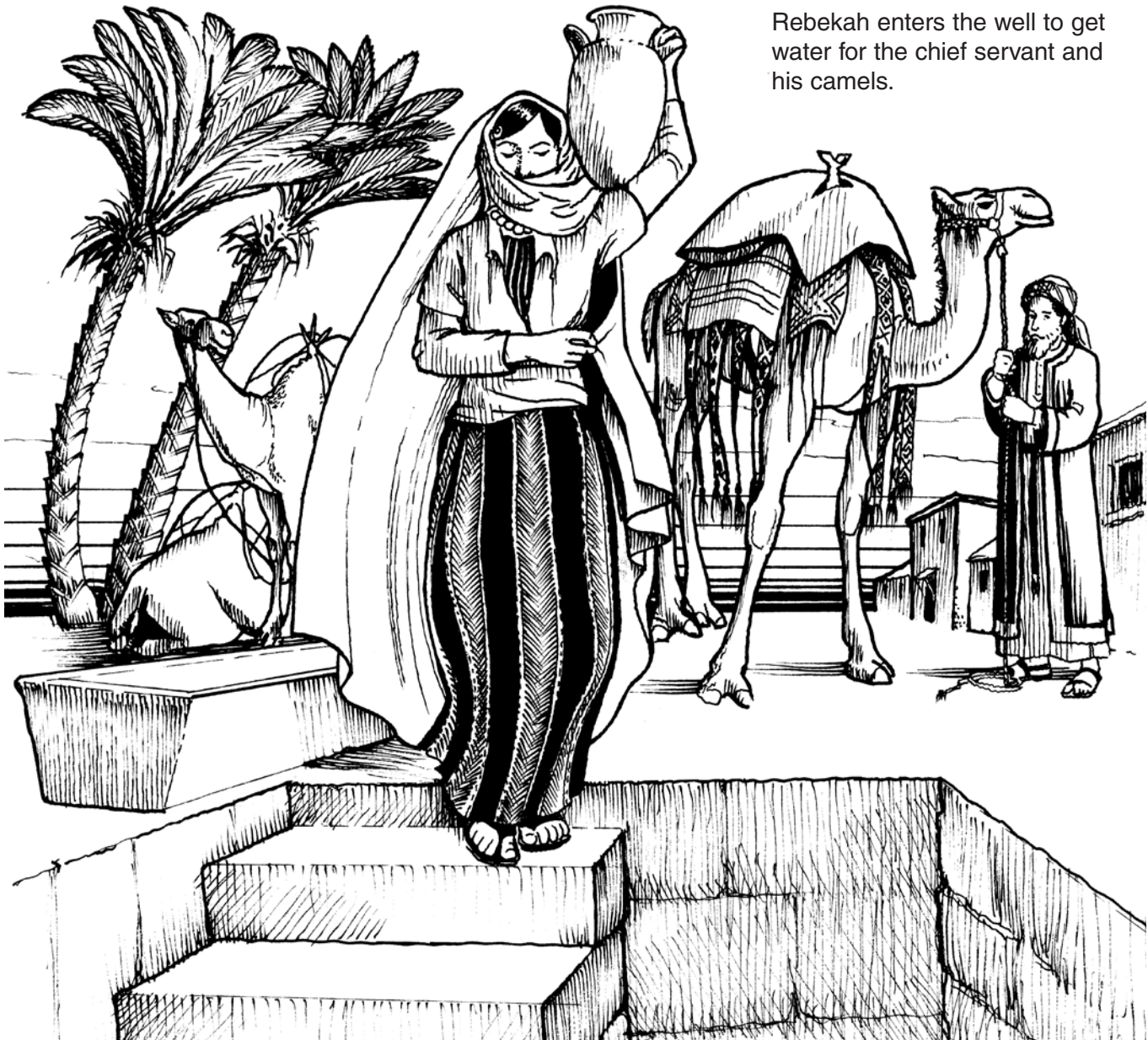
Isaac Marries Rebekah

As Isaac got older, the time came for him to have a wife. Isaac lived in the land of Canaan, the same land God brought Abraham to when he first called him.

However, since the land was inhabited by Canaanites, Abraham sent one of his servants back to his homeland to find a wife for Isaac. The servant found a young woman named Rebekah, and explained to her father why he was there.



Rebekah puts on a veil as her future husband approaches the caravan.



Rebekah enters the well to get water for the chief servant and his camels.

Rebekah's father allowed her to go back with the servant, and to be Isaac's wife.

Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah. However, it was another twenty years before they had children.

The Birthright Goes to Jacob

When Isaac and Rebekah had children, they had twin boys! The firstborn son was named Esau, and the second son was named Jacob.

As the boys grew up, they each discovered their own interests. Esau enjoyed hunting, while Jacob was a shepherd.

In those days, the firstborn son received what was called the birthright. When a father died, the holder of the birthright would receive his father's possessions. For Abraham's descendants, this also meant the promise made to Abraham for a great physical nation. In this case, the birthright belonged to Esau because he was born first.

However, a strange thing happened before Esau and Jacob was born. While Rebekah was pregnant, God told her, "the older [Esau] shall serve the younger [Jacob]" (Genesis 25:23). This shows that it was God's purpose, even before they were born, for Jacob to ultimately receive the birthright.

But how was the birthright transferred from Esau to Jacob? After all, by *right*, it belonged to Esau.

One day, after Esau had been out hunting, he came back home very hungry. Jacob had just finished making some soup. Esau asked Jacob if he could have some, since he was so hungry and weak. Turn to Genesis 25:29-31, and, in your own words, describe what Jacob said Esau would have to do in order to get some soup: _____.

Esau agreed, and the birthright then belonged to Jacob. However, the birthright was usually transferred to the oldest child by the father's blessing. Jacob needed to be blessed by Isaac in order to receive the birthright blessings.

One day, when Isaac was old, he felt that he might not live much longer, so he asked Esau to hunt some meat and, when he returned, he would bless him.

Jacob knew it was time to act. So did his mother Rebekah, who loved Jacob more than Esau, and wanted Jacob to receive the blessing. Isaac's eyesight was very poor, so Rebekah and Jacob planned to pretend that Jacob was Esau.

While Esau was hunting, Jacob prepared to go to his father. However, Jacob and Esau both felt different to the touch, because Esau was hairy and Jacob was smooth-skinned. Rebekah put goat hair on Jacob's arms and neck so that if Isaac felt him, he would think that Jacob was Esau.

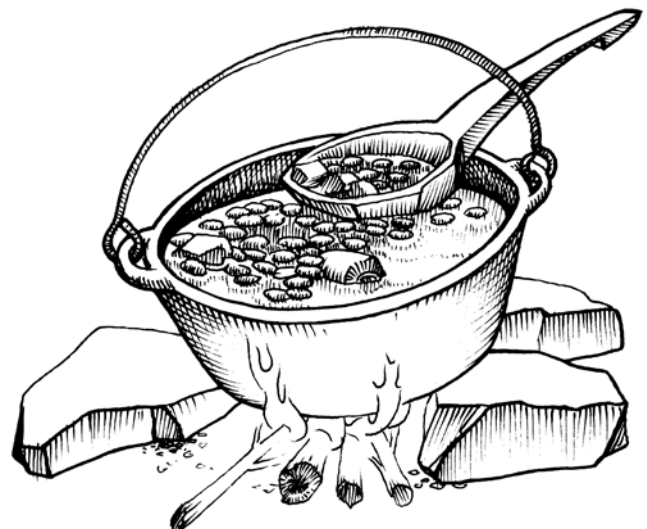
Genesis 27:21-23 explains that Isaac felt Jacob's hands, and thought that it was Esau because they were hairy. And so, Isaac blessed Jacob. Just after this happened, Esau returned from hunting. He quickly learned that Jacob had received the blessing instead. Esau pleaded with his father Isaac to bless him also, but the blessing remained with Jacob only.

Did you notice one important difference between the actions of Jacob and those of his grandfather Abraham? Jacob knew that he would

end up with the birthright. However, he did not rely on God to give it to him. Rather, he relied on deceit. Recall how Abraham believed what God promised, and knew that obedience would make those promises come true. If Jacob had handled this situation the way Abraham would have, then he would have received the blessings without dishonoring himself. Besides, it was God's will that the birthright go to Jacob. Despite Jacob's deceit, he still received it.

Esau was very angry with his brother—so angry that he wanted to kill him! Rebekah knew this, and told Jacob to leave home and go to his Uncle Laban's house, where he would be safe from Esau. On the way there, Jacob rested. While resting, he had a dream in which God spoke to him.

Turn to Genesis 28:13-14: "And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: 'I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will _____ to you and your _____. Also your descendants shall be as the _____ of the _____; you shall spread abroad to the _____ and the _____, to the _____ and the _____; and in you and in your seed _____ the _____ of the earth shall be _____.'"



Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob for a bowl of soup.

This is the same promise that God made to Abraham, Jacob’s grandfather. Isaac also received the promise, since he was the firstborn son of Abraham. And even though Jacob was not the firstborn, the birthright was transferred to him, and so the same promise made to Abraham now applied to Jacob.

Jacob Flees

Jacob woke up from his dream, and continued to his uncle’s house. One of the first people he saw there was his Uncle Laban’s daughter, Rachel. Jacob then met Laban, who was happy to see him. Jacob served in Laban’s fields.

Since Jacob was family, Laban did not want him to work for free. He asked Jacob what he wanted for his labor. Jacob said that if he could marry Rachel, he would work for Laban for seven years. Laban agreed. To Jacob, the seven years of work only seemed like a few days, because he was in love with her.

However, at the end of the seven years, when the time came for the wedding, Laban tricked Jacob by disguising his other daughter, Leah, as Rachel. Instead of marrying Rachel, Jacob married Leah!

Why did Laban do this? Jacob was a very good worker, and he did not want to lose him. Laban knew how much Jacob loved Rachel, and that if Jacob married Rachel, he would no longer work for him. This was very greedy of Laban, and it was wrong in God’s eyes.

However, Laban’s plan worked. Jacob was willing to work for another seven years, in exchange for being given Rachel as his wife. Altogether, Jacob labored for 14 years for the opportunity to marry Rachel. Jacob eventually went back to the land of Canaan.

Jacob had a large family. Read Genesis 49, and record the names of his 12 sons:

_____	_____
_____	_____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

After Jacob left Laban, he got into a wrestling match with a man—only this was not really a human being. It was the Word, who would later become Jesus Christ. Jacob continued to wrestle all night, and said that he would not stop until He blessed him. Jacob would not quit. He was determined. So God touched Jacob’s thigh and dislocated it. This was a test of Jacob’s character. Jacob still would not give up until he had been blessed.

Turn to Genesis 32:28. God changed Jacob’s name to _____, which means “prevailer.” Jacob prevailed because he would not let go until he was blessed.

Jacob Returns Home

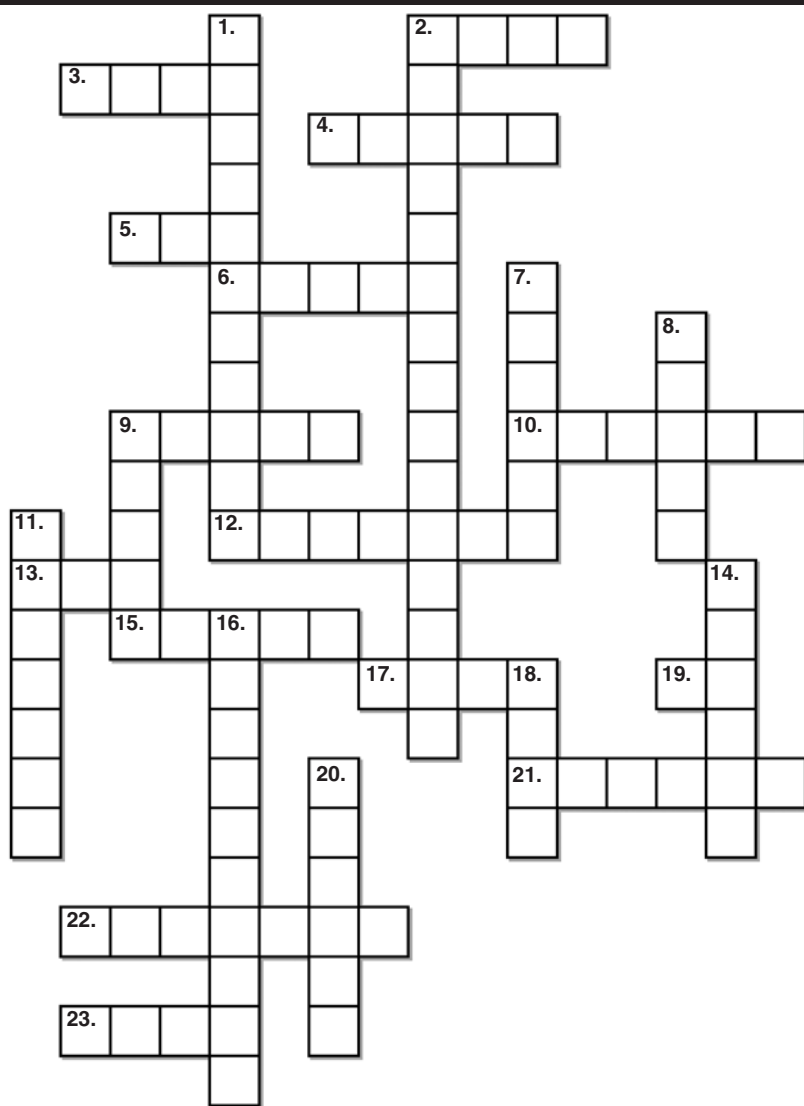
Jacob—now Israel—and his twelve sons returned to the land where Jacob grew up. Upon arriving, one of the first people he saw was his brother Esau. Remember that the last time Esau and Jacob saw each other was right after Jacob stole Esau’s birthright. Esau had been very angry and wanted to kill Jacob. Yet 20 years later, Esau had forgiven him.

Genesis 33:4 says, “Esau ran to meet him [Jacob], and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him; and they wept.” With his feelings of anger gone, Esau was able to forgive Jacob.

Jacob lived in the land of Canaan, in the city of Shechem, the same city where Abraham had lived. In the next lesson, we will look at what became of Israel’s twelve sons, and some more history of his family, which God promised to make into a great nation. That nation is still on Earth today, and the next lesson will show where they are and how they got there!

BIBLE MEMORY: Books of the Old and New Testaments

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. The tree of the knowledge of _____ and evil.
3. The brother of Jacob.
4. The number of pairs of each clean animal on the ark.
5. What someone commits when they break God's law.
6. His name means "adversary."
9. Abraham's name before he was called by God.
10. Jacob's oldest son.
12. One of the God-beings. (Hint: Became Jesus Christ)
13. First human deceived by Satan.
15. Jacob worked for him for 20 years.
17. Adam became a living _____.
19. Where Abraham was originally from.
21. One of the God-beings. (Hint: God the _____)
22. Wanted to be more powerful than God. (Recall Isaiah 14.)
23. Chosen by God to build the ark.

DOWN

1. The part of every human being that *is not* physical.
2. A "chain of command" based on love.
7. A mighty hunter.
8. The tower of _____.
9. Michael and Gabriel are both this type of spirit being.
11. Isaac's wife.
14. A name that means "prevailer."
16. What Esau sold to Jacob for a bowl of soup.
18. The Tree of _____.
20. The law of cause and _____.