

Knowing the Bible's Story

Trainee Workbook
for Use in Class



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Authors have added all emphasis in Scripture quotations.

Introduction

PURPOSE OF COURSE 2

This is the second of nine courses by Training Leaders International (TLI). It aims to help you see and appreciate the Christ-centered story that unfolds in Scripture, describe its stages, and articulate its big idea: *For his glory, God is reconciling the world to himself under King Jesus*. These skills will help you as you preach and teach, enabling you to explain how any passage and its book relate to God's plan and work. Thus, you will be better equipped for building up the body of Christ and spreading the knowledge of Christ everywhere.

STRUCTURE OF COURSE 2

Lesson 1 introduces God's plan to reign through humans over a world that is reconciled under King Jesus. It gives the big picture from Scripture: God *began to carry out his plan* in the beginning, *has continued* since then, and *will complete it* in the end.

Lessons 2–7 explore how God carried out his plan before King Jesus came. They focus on major sections of the Old Testament (OT): Genesis 1–11 (Lesson 2), Genesis 12–50 (Lesson 3), Exodus–Deuteronomy (Lesson 4), Joshua–Esther (Lesson 5), Job–Song of Songs (Lesson 6), and Isaiah–Malachi (Lesson 7). The OT *prepares for* and *points toward* Christ and his reconciling work.

Lessons 8–9 explore how God *began to fulfill* his plan when King Jesus first came and *will completely fulfill* his plan when he comes again. They focus on major sections of the New Testament (NT): Matthew–John and Acts (Lesson 8), Romans–Revelation (Lesson 9). The NT *describes* and *centers on* Christ and his reconciling work.

Lesson 10 has two parts. The first part focuses on Revelation 19–22 to investigate how God will complete his plan. The second

part describes the path forward—what must be done between Courses 2 and 3.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR COURSE 2

By the end of Course 2, you will be able to:

- 1 describe the main story and purpose of God’s plan and work;
- 2 explain how each major section of the Bible uniquely reveals God’s plan and work;
- 3 demonstrate how to situate an individual biblical book within God’s plan and work;
- 4 delight in God and his plan, work, and revelation.

1

Know God's Christ-Centered Plan as it Unfolds in Scripture

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 1?

For his glory, God is reconciling the world to himself under King Jesus, and God has revealed his plan and work from Genesis to Revelation.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 1, you will be able to:

- state the central message of the Bible;
- briefly say the Bible's main storyline;
- suggest how each major portion of the Bible contributes to our understanding of God's plan and work;
- delight in God because he will accomplish his plan for creation.

PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

EXCERPTS FROM PSALM 24, PSALM 93, AND REVELATION 4

*24 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;*

*² for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters....*

*⁷ Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.*

⁸ ... King of glory ...

⁹ ... King of glory ...

¹⁰ Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty—

he is the King of glory.

(Ps. 24:1–2, 7–10)

*93 The LORD reigns, he is robed in majesty;
the LORD is robed in majesty and armed with strength;
indeed, the world is established, firm and secure.*

*² Your throne was established long ago;
you are from all eternity.*

(Ps. 93:1–2)

*¹⁰ The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship
him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:*

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.”
(Rev. 4:10–11)

GENESIS 1:26–28

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” (Gen. 1:26–28)

MARK 1:14–15 AND MATTHEW 28:18

¹⁴ Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” (Mark 1:14–15)

¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (Matt. 28:18)*

COLOSSIANS 1:13–20

¹³ *For he [the Father] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Col. 1:13–20)*

DEFINITION OF RECONCILE

RECONCILE means _____

God does this in two important ways:

- 1 God _____ some enemies into friends and saves them.
- 2 God _____ other enemies so they can no longer fight him.

REVELATION 11:15 AND 19:11-16

¹⁵ The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever. (Rev. 11:15)

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter" [Ps. 2:9]. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:11-16)

2 TIMOTHY 2:8–12

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we'll also live with him; ¹² if we endure, we'll also reign with him. (2 Tim. 2:8–12)

REVELATION 2:26–27 AND 3:21

²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—²⁷ that one “will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery” [Ps. 2:9]—just as I have received authority from my Father. (Rev. 2:26–27)

²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.” (Rev. 3:21)

MATTHEW 25:31–34

³¹ *When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.*

³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” (Matt. 25:31–34)*

PICTURE STORYLINE OF THE BIBLE



ASSIGNMENT FOR COURSE 2

ANSWER THE QUESTION: How does your favorite book of the Bible contribute to the big idea of the whole Bible?

1 My favorite book of the Bible is mainly about ...

- 2 The Bible is mainly about ...
- 3 This is where my favorite book fits in the story of the Bible ...
- 4 This is how my favorite book contributes to the big idea of the Bible:...

I will present late in Lesson _____.

2

God Establishes His Kingdom; His People Reject Him (Genesis 1– 11)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 2?

In Genesis 1–11, God established his kingdom through humans. When they rejected him as King, God announced judgment and hope.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 2, you will be able to:

- describe how Genesis 1–11 contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of the many ways Genesis 1–11 prepares for Christ;
- delight in God as King while lamenting over human sin and corruption.



PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

GENESIS 2:15–17

¹⁵ *The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”* (Gen. 2:15–17)

GENESIS 3:1–6

3 *Now the serpent ... said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ...*

⁴ *“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman....*

⁶ *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. (Gen. 3:1–6)*

GENESIS 3:14–19

¹⁴ *So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,*

*Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!*

You will crawl on your belly

*and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.*

¹⁵ *And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”*

¹⁶ *To the woman he said,
“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”*

¹⁷ *To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from
the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’*

*“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.*

¹⁸ *It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.*

¹⁹ *By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”
(Gen. 3:14–19)*

EXCERPTS FROM GENESIS 5

5 This is the written account of Adam's family line. When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. ² He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them "Mankind" when they were created.

³ When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. ⁴ After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters. ⁵ Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.

... ⁸ Altogether, Seth lived a total of 912 years, and then he died.

... ¹¹ Altogether, Enosh lived a total of 905 years, and then he died.

... ¹⁴ Altogether, Kenan lived a total of 910 years, and then he died.

... ¹⁷ Altogether, Mahalalel lived a total of 895 years, and then he died.

... ²⁰ Altogether, Jared lived a total of 962 years, and then he died.

... ²⁴ Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

... ²⁷ Altogether, Methuselah lived a total of 969 years, and then he died.

... ²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he had a son. ²⁹ He named him Noah and said, "He will comfort us in the labor and painful toil of our hands caused by the ground the LORD has cursed." ... ³¹ Altogether, Lamech lived a total of 777 years, and then he died.

³² After Noah was 500 years old, he became the father of Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Gen. 5:1–5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 24, 27, 28–29, 31–32)

GENESIS 6:5 AND 6:11–13

⁵ The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time....

¹¹ *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence.* ¹² *God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways.* ¹³ *So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth."* (Gen. 6:5, 11–13)

GENESIS 11:4–9

⁴ *Then the people said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."*

⁵ *But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the people were building.* ⁶ *The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.* ⁷ *Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."*

⁸ *So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.* ⁹ *That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.* (Gen. 11:4–9)

GENESIS 3:14–15

See above.

3

God Re-Establishes His Kingdom through a Covenant with Abraham and His Descendants (Genesis 12–50)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 3?

In Genesis 12–50, God began to re-establish his kingdom by bringing sinners into a covenant relationship with him to bless the world.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 3, you will be able to:

- describe how Genesis 12–50 contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of the many ways Genesis 12–50 prepares for Christ;
- delight in God’s gracious covenant revealed in Genesis 12–50.



PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

GENESIS 12:1–4a

12 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

*² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”*

⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him ... (Gen. 12:1–4a)

GENESIS 15:1–6

15 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

*“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”*

² But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵ He took

him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness. (Gen. 15:1–6).

GENESIS 15:7–20

⁷ [God] also said to [Abram], “I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

⁸ But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

⁹ So the LORD said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

¹⁰ Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. ¹¹ Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. ¹³ Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. ¹⁴ But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. ¹⁵ You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. ¹⁶ In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

¹⁷ When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—¹⁹ the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, ²⁰ Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, ²¹ Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.” (Gen. 15:7–20).

DEFINITION OF COVENANT

A COVENANT IS _____

GENESIS 17:1-8

17 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. ² Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

³ Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. ⁵ No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. ⁶ I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. ⁸ The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." (Gen. 17:1-8)

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is Genesis, now is your opportunity to do your assignment. (For more information, see page 11.)

4

God Continues to Re-Establish His Kingdom through His Covenant with Israel (Exodus–Deuteronomy)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 4?

In Exodus–Deuteronomy, God continued re-establishing his kingdom by rescuing Israel from slavery to be a holy kingdom. He called them to a covenant life of love and gave them his blood-bought presence.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 4, you will be able to:

- describe how Exodus–Deuteronomy contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Exodus–Deuteronomy prepares for Christ;
- delight in God who mercifully provided his law and provided a way for Israel to be in his presence.



PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

EXODUS 1:1–7

1 These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; ³ Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. ⁵ The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt.

⁶ Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷ but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. (Exod. 1:1–7)

EXODUS 2:23–25

²³ During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. ²⁴ God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. ²⁵ So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them. (Exod. 2:23–25)

EXODUS 19:1–8

19 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. ⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, “We will do everything the LORD has said.” So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD. (Exod. 19:1–8)

EXODUS 20:1–17

20 And God spoke all these words:

² “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD

your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² *Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

¹³ *You shall not murder.*

¹⁴ *You shall not commit adultery.*

¹⁵ *You shall not steal.*

¹⁶ *You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.*

¹⁷ *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." (Exod. 20:1–17)*

EXCERPTS FROM LEVITICUS 9

⁶ *Then Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the LORD may appear to you."*

⁷ *Moses said to Aaron, "Come to the altar and sacrifice your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and the people; sacrifice the offering that is for the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."*

⁸ *So Aaron came to the altar and slaughtered the calf as a sin offering for himself....*

¹² *Then he slaughtered the burnt offering. His sons handed him the blood, and he splashed it against the sides of the altar....*

¹⁵ *Aaron then brought the offering that was for the people. He took the goat for the people's sin offering and slaughtered it and offered it for a sin offering as he did with the first one.*

¹⁶ He brought the burnt offering and offered it in the prescribed way. ¹⁷ He also brought the grain offering, took a handful of it and burned it on the altar in addition to the morning's burnt offering.

¹⁸ He slaughtered the ox and the ram as the fellowship offering for the people. His sons handed him the blood, and he splashed it against the sides of the altar....

²² Then Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin offering, the burnt offering and the fellowship offering, he stepped down.

²³ Moses and Aaron then went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.

²⁴ Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown. (Lev. 9:6–8, 12, 15–18, 22–24)

LEVITICUS 10:1–3

10 Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. ² So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Moses then said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke of when he said:

*'Among those who approach me
I will be proved holy;
in the sight of all the people
I will be honored.'*"

Aaron remained silent. (Lev. 10:1–3)

NUMBERS 14:21–23

²¹ Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, ²² not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—
²³ not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it (Num. 14:21–23).

DEUTERONOMY 6:4–5

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.
⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deut. 6:4–9)

DEUTERONOMY 29:4

⁴ But to this day the LORD has not given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear. (Deut. 29:4)

DEUTERONOMY 30:1–6

30 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, ² and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, ³ then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you. ⁴ Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. ⁵ He will bring you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will take possession of it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. ⁶ The LORD your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live. (Deut. 30:1–6)

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy, now is your opportunity to do your assignment. (For more information, see page 11.)

5

God Extends His Kingdom over a Little Land (Joshua–Esther)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 5?

In Joshua–Esther, God provided a visible kingdom, kings, and prophets for his covenant people. God remained faithful even when they went astray.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 5, you will be able to:

- describe how Joshua–Esther contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Joshua–Esther prepare for Christ;
- delight in the kingdom of God foretasted in Joshua–Esther;
- lament over the continued sinfulness and folly of Israel.







PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

JOSHUA 24:14–15

¹⁴ Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD! (Josh. 24:14–15)

JUDGES 2:11–19.

ENGAGE: Use Judges 2:11–19 to fill in the blanks:

Israel worshipped _____ (2:11–13).

So God gave Israel over to _____ (2:14–15).

So Israel became very _____ (2:15) and

_____ (2:18).

So God raised up _____ to deliver Israel (2:16–18).

But after the judge died, Israel again worshipped

_____ and became even more

2 SAMUEL 7:8–16

⁸ Now then, tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.”

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.” (1 Sam. 7:8–16)

NORTHERN KINGS (ISRAEL)	GOOD, BAD, OR MIXED RECORD?	REFERENCES IN 1–2 KINGS	GOOD, BAD, OR MIXED RECORD?	SOUTHERN KINGS (JUDAH)
Jeroboam 1		1 Kings 12:26–30; 14:7–10		
		1 Kings 14:21–22		Rehoboam
		1 Kings 15:1–3		Abijah
		1 Kings 15:9–14		Asa
Nadab		1 Kings 15:25–26		
Baasha		1 Kings 15:33–34		
Elah		1 Kings 16:12–13		
Zimri		1 Kings 16:18–19		
Tibni		1 Kings 16:21–22		
Omri		1 Kings 16:25–26		
Ahab		1 Kings 16:30–33		
		1 Kings 22:41–44		Jehoshaphat
Ahaziah		1 Kings 22:51–53		
Jehoram		2 Kings 3:1–3		
		2 Kings 8:16–18		Jehoram
		2 Kings 8:25–27		Ahaziah
Jehu		2 Kings 10:28–31		
		2 Kings 11:1–3, 13–20		Athaliah
		2 Kings 11:21–12:3		Joash (Jehoash)
Jehoahaz		2 Kings 13:1–2		
Jehoash (Joash)		2 Kings 13:10–11		
		2 Kings 14:1–4		Amaziah
Jeroboam 2		2 Kings 14:23–24		
		2 Kings 15:1–4		Azariah (Uzziah)
Zechariah		2 Kings 15:8–9		
Shallum		2 Kings 15:13		
Menahem		2 Kings 15:17–18		
Pekahiah		2 Kings 15:23–24		
Pekah		2 Kings 15:27–28		
		2 Kings 15:32–35		Jotham
		2 Kings 16:1–4		Ahaz
Hoshea		2 Kings 17:1–2		
		2 Kings 18:1–6		Hezekiah
		2 Kings 21:1–9		Manasseh
		2 Kings 21:19–22		Amon
		2 Kings 22:1–2		Josiah
		2 Kings 23:31–32		Jehoahaz
		2 Kings 23:36–37		Jehoiakim
		2 Kings 24:8–9		Jehoiachin
		2 Kings 24:18–20		Zedekiah

²¹ When [God] tore Israel away from the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of Nebat their king. Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit a great sin. ²² The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them ²³ until the LORD removed them from his presence, as he had warned through all his servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there. (2 Kgs. 17:21–23)

¹¹ Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. ¹² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the LORD. ¹³ He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him take an oath in God's name. He became stiff-necked and hardened his heart and would not turn to the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁴ Furthermore, all the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, following all the detestable practices of the nations and defiling the temple of the LORD, which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

¹⁵ The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. ¹⁷ He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and did not spare young men or young women, the elderly or the infirm. God gave them all into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁸ He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and his officials. ¹⁹ They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

²⁰ *He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his successors until the kingdom of Persia came to power.* ²¹ *The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah. (2 Chr. 36:11–21)*

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is between Joshua and Esther, now is your opportunity to do your assignment (For more information, see page 11.)

6

God Helps His People Contemplate Life and the Covenant through Wisdom and Psalms (Job– Song of Songs)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 6?

In Job–Song of Songs, God showed his people how to live wisely in any situation by contemplating their lives and covenant with him.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 6, you will be able to:

- describe how Job–Song of Songs contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Job–Song of Songs prepares for Christ;
- delight in God for guiding his people through all sorts of situations.









PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

PSALM 79

A psalm of Asaph.

¹ *O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;*

they have defiled your holy temple,

they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.

² *They have left the dead bodies of your servants*

as food for the birds of the sky,

the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.

³ *They have poured out blood like water all around Jerusalem,*

and there is no one to bury the dead.

⁴ *We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,*

of scorn and derision to those around us.

⁵ *How long, LORD? Will you be angry forever?*

How long will your jealousy burn like fire?

⁶ *Pour out your wrath on the nations*

that do not acknowledge you,

on the kingdoms

that do not call on your name;

⁷ *for they have devoured Jacob*

and devastated his homeland.

⁸ *Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;*

may your mercy come quickly to meet us,

for we are in desperate need.

⁹ *Help us, God our Savior,*

for the glory of your name;

deliver us and forgive our sins

for your name's sake.

¹⁰ *Why should the nations say,*

"Where is their God?"

*Before our eyes, make known among the nations
 that you avenge the outpoured blood of your servants.*
¹¹ *May the groans of the prisoners come before you;
 with your strong arm preserve those condemned to die.*
¹² *Pay back into the laps of our neighbors
 seven times the contempt they have hurled at you, Lord.*
¹³ *Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
 will praise you forever;
 from generation to generation
 we will proclaim your praise.*
 (Ps. 79)

PROVERBS 1:1–7

¹ *The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:*
² *for gaining wisdom and instruction;
 for understanding words of insight;*
³ *for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
 doing what is right and just and fair;*
⁴ *for giving prudence to those who are simple,
 knowledge and discretion to the young—*
⁵ *let the wise listen and add to their learning,
 and let the discerning get guidance—*
⁶ *for understanding proverbs and parables,
 the sayings and riddles of the wise.*
⁷ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
 but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*
 (Prov. 1:1–7)

PROVERBS 3:13–18

- ¹³ *Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,*
¹⁴ *for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.*
¹⁵ *She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.*
¹⁶ *Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.*
¹⁷ *Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.*
¹⁸ *She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.*
(Prov. 3:13–18)
-
-
-

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, or Song of Songs, now is your opportunity to do your assignment. (For more information, see page 11.)

7

God Helps His People Contemplate Life and the Covenant through Prophecy (Isaiah–Malachi)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 7?

In Isaiah–Malachi, God’s prophets helped his people contemplate their lives and covenant with him by announcing judgment for sin and hope for a reconciled global kingdom.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 7, you will be able to:

- describe how Isaiah–Malachi contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Isaiah–Malachi prepares for Christ;
- delight in God’s justice and hope of grace announced in Isaiah–Malachi and received in Christ.









PASSAGES AND EXERCISES

ISAIAH 1:1–4

1 The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

2 Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth!

For the LORD has spoken:

*“I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.*

*3 The ox knows its master,
the donkey its owner’s manger,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.”*

*4 Woe to the sinful nation,
a people whose guilt is great,
a brood of evildoers,
children given to corruption!
They have forsaken the LORD;
they have spurned the Holy One of Israel
and turned their backs on him.
(Isa. 1:1–4)*

ISAIAH 65:2–10

*2 “All day long I have held out my hands
to an obstinate people,
who walk in ways not good,
pursuing their own imaginations—*

3 a people who continually provoke me

*to my very face,
 offering sacrifices in gardens
 and burning incense on altars of brick;
 4 who sit among the graves
 and spend their nights keeping secret vigil;
 who eat the flesh of pigs,
 and whose pots hold broth of impure meat;
 5 who say, "Keep away; don't come near me,
 for I am too sacred for you."
 Such people are smoke in my nostrils,
 a fire that keeps burning all day."*

*6 "See, it stands written before me:
 I will not keep silent but will pay back in full;
 I will pay it back into their laps—
 7 both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,"
 says the LORD.
 "Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains
 and defied me on the hills,
 I will measure into their laps
 the full payment for their former deeds."*

*8 This is what the LORD says:
 "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes
 and people say, 'Don't destroy it,
 there is still a blessing in it,'
 so will I do in behalf of my servants;
 I will not destroy them all.
 9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
 and from Judah those who will possess my mountains;
 my chosen people will inherit them,
 and there will my servants live.*

¹⁰ *Sharon will become a pasture for flocks,
and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds,
for my people who seek me.”*
(Isa. 65:2–10)

EZEKIEL 36:22–32

²² *Therefore say to the Israelites, “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. ²³ I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.”*

²⁴ *“For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸ Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.*

²⁹ *“I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. ³⁰ I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. ³¹ Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. ³² I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!” (Ezek. 36:22–32)*

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is between Isaiah and Malachi, now is your opportunity to do your assignment. (For more information, see page 11.)

8

God Re-Establishes His Kingdom through the New Covenant and Extends His Kingdom over the Whole Earth (Matthew–Acts)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 8?

In Matthew–John, God secured for believers a new covenant relationship through the blood of King Jesus. In Acts, the enthroned Christ extended God’s kingdom by filling his disciples with the Holy Spirit and sending them to all the nations.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 8, you will be able to:

- describe how Matthew–Acts to God’s contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Matthew–Acts shows how Christ fulfills the Old Testament;

- delight in God who unveiled his predestined Son and brought believers into a covenant relationship through his blood.











¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor” [Isa. 61:1–2].

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

²³ Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’” ²⁴ Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.” ²⁵ I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶ Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon [1 Kgs. 17]. ²⁷ And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian [2 Kgs. 5].”

²⁸ All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. (Luke 4:14–30)

LUKE 18:9–14

⁹ *To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:* ¹⁰ *“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ”*

¹³ *“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ”*

¹⁴ *“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9–14)*

LUKE 22:14–22

¹⁴ *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”*

¹⁷ *After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

¹⁹ *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in*

my blood, which is poured out for you. ²¹ But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. ²² The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” ²³ They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵ Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶ But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:14–30)













¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,
 I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
 Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
 your young men will see visions,
 your old men will dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,
 I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
 and they will prophesy.
¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above
 and signs on the earth below,
 blood and fire and billows of smoke.
²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness
 and the moon to blood
 before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.
²¹ And everyone who calls
 on the name of the Lord will be saved’ [Joel 2:28–32].

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

“I saw the Lord always before me.
 Because he is at my right hand,
 I will not be shaken.

²⁶ Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;

my body also will rest in hope,
²⁷ *because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,*
you will not let your holy one see decay.
²⁸ *You have made known to me the paths of life;*
you will fill me with joy in your presence' [Ps. 16:8–11].

²⁹ *'Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said:*

“The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
³⁵ *until I make your enemies*
a footstool for your feet” ’ [Ps. 110:1].

³⁶ *Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah” (Acts 2:14–36).*

FIRST SET OF EXCERPTS FROM ACTS

¹⁶ *It is Jesus' name, and the faith that comes through him, that has completely healed him, as you can all see. (Acts 3:16)*

⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. (Acts 9:4–5)

³ So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. (Acts 14:3)

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. (Acts 16:6–7)

¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. (Acts 16:14)

⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. (Acts 18:9–11)

²¹ Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ” (Acts 22:17–21; compare 26:16–18)

SECOND SET OF EXCERPTS FROM ACTS

⁴ The two of them [Barnabas and Saul], sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. (Acts 13:4)

⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit,... said,...

¹¹ “Now the hand of the Lord is against you....” (Acts 13:9–11)

³³ “We tell you the good news: what God promised our ancestors ³³ he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus....”

³⁸ “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ³⁹ Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses....”

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas answered [the Jews] boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

*“ I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth’ [Isa. 49:6].*

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.... ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 13:32–33, 38–39, 46–48, 52)

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is a Gospel or Acts, now is your opportunity to do your assignment. (For more information, see page 11.)

9

God Helps His People Contemplate Life and the New Covenant (Romans– Revelation)

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 9?

In Romans–Revelation, God shows his people how to live wisely in any situation by contemplating their lives and new covenant with him in King Jesus by the Spirit.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end Lesson 9, you will be able to:

- describe how Romans–Revelation contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Romans–Revelation shows how Christ fulfills the Old Testament;
- delight in God who helps us live wisely in the new covenant.



HEBREWS 10:32–34

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.” (Heb. 10:32–34)

HEBREWS 12:1–2

12 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorned its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:1–2)

COLOSSIANS 1:1–8

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people—⁵ the faith and love that spring from the

hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. (Col. 1:1–8)

COLOSSIANS 1:9–14

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Col. 1:9–14)

COLOSSIANS 1:15–17

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and

invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Col. 1:15–17)

COLOSSIANS 1:18–20

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Col. 1:18–20)

COLOSSIANS 1:21–23

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. (Col. 1:21–23)

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. (Col. 1:24–29)

ASSIGNMENT

If your favorite book of the Bible is one of the New Testament Letters, now is your opportunity to do your assignment. (For more information, see page 11.)

10

God Completes His Kingdom; His People Enjoy and Glorify Him Forever (Revelation 19– 22)

✧ The Path Forward

WHAT ONE SENTENCE SUMS UP LESSON 10?

In Revelation 19–22, God will defeat evil and fully reconcile all things under King Jesus, and his people will enjoy and glorify him forever.

WHAT ARE THE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

By the end of Lesson 10, you will be able to:

- describe how Revelation 19–22 contributes to the story of God’s overarching plan and work;
- articulate one of many ways Revelation 19–22 shows how Christ fulfills the Old Testament;
- delight in God as he completes his work of reconciling the world to himself under Christ’s kingship for his glory.

















REVELATION 19:1-4

19 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

² for true and just are his judgments.

He has condemned the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ And again they shouted:

“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

⁴ The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

“Amen, Hallelujah!”

(Rev. 19:1-4)

REVELATION 19:5-8

⁵ Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

“Praise our God,

all you his servants,

you who fear him,

both great and small!”

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷ *Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!*

*For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.*

⁸ *Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”*

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.) (Rev. 19:5–8)

REVELATION 19:11–21

¹¹ *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.* ¹² *His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.* ¹³ *He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.* ¹⁴ *The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.* ¹⁵ *Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter” [Ps. 2:9]. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.* ¹⁶ *On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

¹⁷ *And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God,* ¹⁸ *so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.”*

¹⁹ *Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.* ²⁰ *But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the*

beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. (Rev. 19:11–21)

ENGAGE: Write down Christ's two titles.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____

REVELATION 20:8–10

⁸ [The dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan] will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev. 20:8–10)

REVELATION 20:11–15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.

Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11–15).

REVELATION 21:1–5a

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth” [Isa. 65:17], for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.⁴ “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death” [Isa. 25:8], or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!...” (Rev. 21:1–5a).

EXCERPTS FROM REVELATION 21

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new! Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

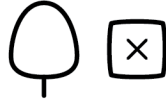
⁶ He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷ Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children....

... ¹¹ [The Holy City, Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God] shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal....

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. ²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. (Rev. 21:5b–7, 11a, 22–27)

REVELATION 22:1–5

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever. (Rev. 22:1–5)



GENESIS 1-11

God establishes his
kingdom; people
reject him



REVELATION 19-22

God completes his
kingdom; his people enjoy
and glorify him forever

WHAT DID YOU LEARN IN COURSE 2?

REFLECT: Can you say or write the big idea of the Bible in
one sentence?

REFLECT: Can you show the Bible's story in a chart with
pictures?

















[illegible]