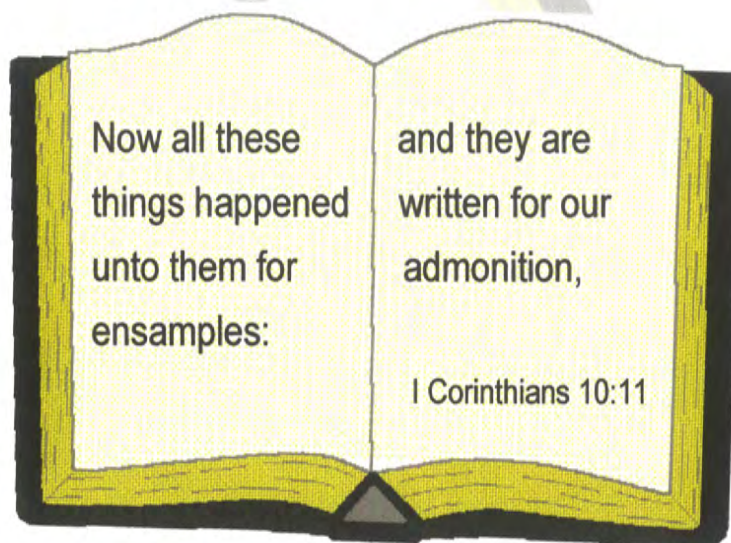


We Learn From the History Of Israel

Vacation

Bible

School



A series of lessons for **Teen-age**
Grades 7 — 12

We Learn From the History Of Israel

A series of five lessons
designed for

Vacation Bible School

for

Teens
Grades 7 — 12

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We Learn From the History Of Israel

VBS Series 5 — for Teens (grades 9 - 12)

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OVERVIEW:

It is strongly suggested that all teachers read Psalm 105 which speaks of all the things God did for the nation of Israel, and Psalm 106 which reveals their disobedience and rebellion and the resulting punishment of God upon them as a nation.

God created Adam perfect, and Adam brought the sin nature upon the human race by his disobedience. For about twenty-five hundred years there were none of the nations of the earth who worshiped and served God. God established the nation of Israel to have an institution of worship and witness on the earth. In order to understand the New Testament, Jesus' life on earth, and the establishment and work of the church, we must understand the history and purpose of the nation of Israel.

God raised them up for a two-fold purpose: He wanted a nation of people who would obey His commands so that He could have a close relationship with them as His creation, and He would be their God. They would be a nation through which He would send His Son into the world to be accepted as their Savior. They would understand the birth of Jesus, and would accept Him as the Messiah, the Son of God. Instead, they rejected Him.

Where are they today? God formed them into a nation during their 400 years in Egypt, then led them to the land of Canaan which He promised to give to them to be their land forever. Because of their disobedience, and because they worshiped idols like the nations around them, they lived in the land of Canaan for less than 750 years before God allowed them to be dispersed over all the earth.

About 517 years after they left Egypt the nation was divided into two kingdoms. Approximately 224 years later the northern ten tribes (Kingdom of Israel) were captured by the Assyrians, and after another 135 years the southern two tribes (Kingdom of Judah) were carried away captive by the Babylonians. Some Jews remained in Canaan at the time Jesus was born, but they were under the rule of the Roman Empire. It was over twenty-five hundred years before they regathered in Jerusalem and raised their flag as the nation of Israel. This was in 1948. They still have not been able to reclaim all of the land God gave to them.

What happened to Egypt? They were one of the earliest civilizations, a wealthy, prominent, and highly educated people. The Egyptians remained a nation. They were not dispersed nor destroyed, but they did not prosper. God promised Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3, *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."* God did not bless the Egyptians because of the way they treated His people, the Israelites. They are now a poor and troubled nation.

Lesson 1 — Moses Recorded the History Of Israel

MEMORY VERSE: Genesis 12:2-3

“I will make of thee a great nation, - - - and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

Moses wrote the history of the nation of Israel in the first 5 books of the Bible. God chose Moses to lead them out of Egypt as a nation and take them to a land where He would deal with them as His chosen people. God used Moses to institute the Judaic system of worship. He told them exactly how to worship. They were to make different sacrifices for different reasons. These sacrifices were to teach them the truths that He wanted them to practice. God instituted the priesthood and Tabernacle worship. Everything in Judaism pointed to the fulfillment of God’s promise to send His Son into the world to die and pay the price for sin. Judaic worship continued until Jesus was crucified on the cross, thus fulfilling the law and the purpose of sacrifices. Judaism has no purpose today except for history.

Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

MEMORY VERSE: Deuteronomy 31:18

“And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.”

or: Joshua 23:16

“When ye - - - have gone and served other gods, - - - then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which He hath given unto you.”

Before Moses died he repeated the history of the Israelites and the law to the new generation of people. When Moses died, God gave charge of Israel to Joshua to lead them into the land of Canaan to possess it as God had promised to their forefathers. For 400 years they were ruled by many judges and one king (Saul) until David became the greatest king in the history of Israel. He conquered many nations and claimed nearly all of the land that God promised to them from Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea all the way to the Euphrates River. The next king, Solomon, was unfaithful to God and God allowed the kingdom to be divided during the reign of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam. They were captured by the Assyrians about 700 years before Jesus was born. When He came, the Jews did not accept Him as the Messiah , but crucified him, which ended the Judaic system of worship and Christianity began.

The Jews who were in Palestine when Jesus was born should have recognized Him as the promised Son of God because of their history as His chosen people, but they did not because they had been a rebellious people and had turned from the worship of God to idols. They did not continue to teach each new generation of people what their purpose was as the chosen of God.

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Peter confirmed the purpose of the Jewish nation: for God to have a witness on earth and a nation of people through whom He could send His Son into the world. By faith they would understand about Jesus and recognize Him when He came. Peter was one of the first followers of Jesus and one of the apostles. On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit empowered the church to speak in languages they had not before known so they could communicate with all nations, Peter preached a powerful sermon and many Jews realized their error in rejecting Him and repented, accepting Jesus as the Son of God.

Lesson 4 — Stephen Defended His Belief In Jesus

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 7:56

“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”

Stephen defended what he believed before the Jewish council, and condemned the Jews for rejecting Jesus. Because he had turned from the Judaic system of worship and believed in the teachings of Jesus, and became a member of the church, he was hated by the rulers of the Jews. They set out to stop the spread of the belief that Jesus of Nazareth was the Son of God, and that God raised Him from the dead after they had crucified Him. His death, burial, and resurrection fulfilled the purpose of the law and sacrifices, and the Jews were not willing to accept Jesus and the change in their way of worship. For this Stephen was put to death. As they dragged him outside the city to stone him, he witnessed one last time that God raised Jesus from the dead. He looked up into heaven and stated firmly that he saw Jesus, whom they rejected and crucified, alive and sitting on the right hand of God.

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 13:46

“ - - - It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you:”

The Apostle Paul said he was the apostle to the Gentiles. He reinforced the history and purpose of the Jews on many occasions. Everywhere he went he entered the synagogues and preached to the Jews first; when they rejected his message he turned to the Gentiles with the message of repentance. When he preached in the synagogue at Antioch he told the Jews that God chose their forefathers and made of them a great nation so He could send His Son into the world, but they fulfilled the prophecies that they read every Sabbath when they rejected Him as the Messiah. Paul tried to reinforce the history of the Jews to their own people so they would

understand that He did not come to become King only, but came to fulfill the law and the prophecies of His death and offer them salvation.

Read I Corinthians 10:1-11. Verse 11, *“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”*

“ensamples” = “types”

“admonition” = “a putting unto the mind” — “instruction”

It is necessary for us to understand the history and purpose of the nation of Israel in order to understand the teachings in the New Testament. We must understand the history of Israel to understand the events that are happening in that part of the world today. Israel continues to fight for her land. This will not end until Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom on earth. Not until then will the Jews accept Him as the Savior, the Son of God.

Lesson 1 — Moses Recorded the History Of Israel

Introduction:

God made Adam and Eve perfect beings and placed them in a perfect place on the earth to love and worship Him. (Genesis 1:17-29) They would bear perfect children who would also love and worship God. There would be a world filled with perfect people, and perfect companionship would exist between God and man. But they chose to sin and became separated from God. (Genesis 3:6) There was only one way for Him to reclaim them from their sinful condition. He promised to send His Son into the world as a perfect human to live a perfect life and give His life to pay the price for their sins. (Genesis 3:15)

Background material:

Adam taught his sons to offer blood sacrifices to show their faith in the coming Savior who would shed His blood as payment for their sins. (Genesis 3:6) After generations passed there were very few who worshiped God. (Genesis 6:5-8) God could not destroy them all and create another perfect man because He had promised Adam He would send His Son to die for his sins. God started over with **Noah** to raise up another generation that would worship Him. After several generations (about 100 years) mankind was once again wicked and sinful. He could not destroy them all because He made a promise to Noah not to do so. To limit man's ability to accomplish anything man set his mind to do, and live his life totally without God, He caused them to speak different languages and scattered them over the earth to become different nations. (Genesis 11:4-8) There was not one nation among all of them who worshiped and served God. So God chose **Abraham** to begin a new nation. (Genesis 12:1-3). God called him to leave his home in Ur and took him to the land of Canaan. He promised to give this land to Abraham's descendants to be their's forever. God promised to make of him a great nation, (Genesis 22:17), and through them all the world would be blessed by the coming of Jesus to die and pay the price for the sins of all mankind.

Lesson Material:

Beginning and Purpose of Israel: Genesis 12:1-3

The history of the nation of Israel began with **Abraham** who left Ur and went to Canaan, and God promised him, "*Unto thy seed will I give this land.*" God chose Abraham's son, **Isaac**, and Isaac's son, **Jacob**, to whom He renewed the promise, (Genesis 17:19, and 28:12-14). He promised Jacob that his descendants would become innumerable (Genesis 28:14) and through them all families of the earth would be blessed. It was from the twelve sons of Jacob that the nation of Israel, called Hebrews, developed. Jacob went to Haran and while there his first eleven sons were born. After twenty years in Haran God told him it was time to return to Canaan and begin to possess the land. (Genesis 31:3). However they only stayed in Canaan a few years when a famine struck the land and they went into Egypt to live. Because of intense jealousy on the part of his ten older brothers because their father seemed to love **Joseph** more than he loved them, when he was seventeen years old they sold him as a slave to a merchant caravan going to Egypt, thinking they would never see him again. (Genesis 37:20-28)

The Hebrews in Egypt:

Gen. 41:39-43 — Through the direction of God, Joseph was made ruler in Egypt under Pharaoh. He controlled the storing of grain during seven years of plenty, so that there was food for the people during the seven years of drought and famine that followed. The famine also struck the land of Canaan and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food. When they encountered Joseph he instructed them to bring their father and all of their family to Egypt to live until the famine was over. God told Jacob not to fear going down into Egypt, *“for there I will make of thee a great nation: I will go down with thee into Egypt; and I will also surely bring thee up again”*, (Gen. 46:3-4). Before Joseph died he reaffirmed the promise (Gen. 50:24).

The history of Israel as a nation began when Joseph became the first Israelite to go and live in the land of Egypt. This is when God began to make of the descendants of Abraham, the sons and grandsons of Jacob, a nation so numerous that they could not be counted. There were 70 people who were direct descendants of Jacob who went into Egypt, (Genesis 46:27). After the famine they liked it in Egypt and stayed. It was there in **Egypt** that God kept His promise and **made of them a great nation**. (Exodus 1:7), *“And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.”* Eventually the Egyptians became afraid of the strength and power of the Hebrews and made them their slaves for four hundred years. *“Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. - - - But the more they afflicted them, **the more they grew**. - - - And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage,”* (Exodus 1:9-14)

Moses, the Deliverer:

God raised up **Moses**, who was hidden by his mother for three months because of the word of Pharaoh that all the Hebrew baby boys should be killed so they could not grow up to be soldiers and possibly conquer Egypt in case of war, (Exodus 1:10, 16). She placed him in a basket to float in the river where the princess came daily to bathe. The princess found the Hebrew baby and adopted him as her own son so the Pharaoh would not have him killed, (Exodus 2:9-10). Moses was raised in the palace as an Egyptian prince, but knew all of the time that he was really one of the Hebrews, God’s chosen people.

When he was forty years old he killed an Egyptian because he was brutally beating one of the Hebrew slaves, Moses’ own people. He ran away to the land of Midian to protect his life until God appeared to him in the burning bush and instructed him to return to Egypt and lead His people out of their bondage. (Exodus 3:7-10). The first forty years of his life prepared him with military knowledge to be the leader of this vast number of people as they traveled out of Egypt to the land that God gave them. During the next forty years God prepared him as a shepherd in the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula where he wandered with the sheep of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He learned the layout of the land, all the mountains, rivers and streams. He came to Mount Horeb and God spoke to him from a burning bush, and told him He was the God of Moses’ forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and had seen the affliction of His people in Egypt and had come down to deliver them from their bondage. As a sign that He had sent him to lead the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt, He promised to bring them back to this same place to worship Him, Exodus 3:12.

History of the Hebrews:

The Book of **Exodus** tells the history of the Hebrew people from the time they left Egypt as a great nation. God performed miraculous actions to convince the Egyptians to allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt, Exodus 6:1. His punishment upon the Egyptians was because of their idolatry and their mistreatment of His people. Moses led them to the Red Sea, and God provided a path through which they could cross safely and escape from the Egyptian army that was drowned when the waters returned to the Sea. God provided food and water for them in the wilderness as they traveled, and brought them to Mount Sinai (as He had promised Moses) where He gave them laws to live by and instructions for worship. The reason He formed this nation was to have people who would worship and serve Him. They were His special people, chosen for a special purpose — **through this nation He would send His Son to live on the earth** and die for their sins, along with the sins of all people.

God taught Adam how to offer animal sacrifices that pictured the sacrifice Jesus would make for sin. When the animal was killed and its blood shed, it pictured the death of Jesus and His blood that would be shed on the cross for the remission of sin. The blood of the animal did not forgive sin, but represented faith in the blood of Jesus to pay the price for sin. God wanted the people to make the animal sacrifices to show their faith in Him, but instead the whole world served idol gods and made sacrifices to statues and images. God raised up the nation of Israel as a separate people, and desired this nation to serve Him in a way that all the world would see His power and come to a knowledge of Him. Jesus would be born through this nation, so they would understand who He was and why He came into the world. Jesus would buy back what Adam lost when he chose to disobey God and brought the sin nature upon the human race.

Forty Years In the Wilderness:

God led the people where He wanted them to go with a cloud in the daytime and a glowing pillar of fire at night. He brought them back to Mt. Sinai where Moses saw the burning bush. God took Moses up on Mount Sinai and gave him the laws that He wanted His people to live by. He instituted a system of worship that we call Judaism. He gave the instructions for the Tabernacle where God would come down and dwell among men. The nation of Israel stayed at Mount Sinai about a year learning the commands of God and building the Tabernacle. They left Mt. Sinai and traveled to Kadesh-barnea which was on the border of the land of Canaan. All they had to do was go in and take the land from the Canaanites. God promised to fight their battles for them, drive out the inhabitants of the land and give it to His people, with houses furnished ready to live in, crops ready to harvest so food was available, and herds and flocks of animals in the fields.

What should have been about an eleven day journey from Mt. Sinai to the land of Canaan took forty years. Deuteronomy 1:21-22. When they got to Kadesh-barnea, because of a lack of faith, the people refused to go in and possess the land. They were afraid. After all of the ways God had demonstrated His power, they were trusting in their own strength and power to conquer the enemies, and forgot to trust God. They decided they would send twelve spies, one from each tribe, to see what the land looked like, how great and well fortified their cities were, what kind of people lived there, and do what the spies told them. They found the land to

be rich with fertile soil and well watered crops that grew abundantly. But the spies were afraid (1:28). "The people are greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and we have seen the sons of the giants who live there." They became angry at God and said, (1:27), "It is because God hated us that He brought us out of Egypt, and is turning us over to the Amorites so they can kill us."

Caleb and Joshua were the only two spies who said they could conquer the land because God would do it for them. Moses told them God would go before them and fight for them just like he did in Egypt, but they refused to trust Him. As a result of their rebellion and lack of faith God caused all of the people over the age of twenty who had made the decision not to go in and possess the land, to wander in the wilderness with no home for forty years until they had all died and only Caleb and Joshua and a new generation of people who had been born were left to go in and live in the promised land. After forty years, God told the new generation it was time to quit wandering and go around below the Dead Sea and northward to cross over the Jordan River into the land instead of going up from Kadesh into the area where the giants were.

In spite of their rebellion, during their forty years in the wilderness God provided food and water for them. He left His cloud during the day and the pillar of fire at night to assure them of His constant presence. He protected them from the enemies around them. The people of the land had heard of the plagues that God sent on the Egyptians, and were afraid. They knew they were a group who believed in and worshiped a God in heaven who did miraculous things for them; a God more powerful than the idols they worshiped.

The Law:

The most important thing to the Israelites as a nation was the giving of the law. God told them how He wanted them to worship. He took Moses up on Mount Sinai and gave him the two tablets of stone on which He had written ten commandments for the people to live by. The first four commandments dealt with the attitude of the people toward God. They were to have no other gods but God, not make any graven images, nor bow down to them, nor worship them, not use God's name in any way other than reverence and respect, and were to honor the Sabbath as a holy day of rest and worship. The other six commands were the moral laws and how to treat other people: honor their parents, not kill, not commit adultery, not steal, not bear false witness against their neighbors, and not covet what others possessed.

God also gave civil laws, criminal laws, and health laws, but the most important were the religious laws. God instituted the order of the priesthood. Aaron was the first High Priest, representing Jesus, our High Priest. Aaron's sons were the priests who offered the sacrifices for the people. He instituted holy days and holy seasons. Every aspect of their religious life was dictated by laws from God. This was the very purpose of their existence. God wanted a nation that would worship, love, and serve Him. God wanted them to know how to recognize His Son when He came into the world. Through the instructions of God, Moses taught the Israelites how to worship. All of their worship pointed to the coming Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God who would be born through this nation.

Their religion was called Judaism, from which we get the term or designation, Jews. They were the ones God chose to teach the rest of the world about Him. This religion and system of worship continued until Jesus died on the cross, fulfilling the law and the purpose of sacrifices. Jesus organized the church while He was on earth, and when He was crucified the Judaic worship at the temple ceased. There was no need of an earthly High Priest because Jesus is our High Priest. He is our intercessor, or mediator, between God and man.

Moses' Warning:

Moses warned them to be careful and not forget the commandments that God gave when He spoke from the fire and the thick cloud that covered Mt. Sinai. Moses said, "You didn't see God, you just heard His voice. You didn't see God, you just saw His miracles." Trusting God comes by faith not seeing. Deuteronomy 4:25-27, Moses told them to be careful and not decide to make an image or a likeness of something they could see, and worship it; because if they did they would be destroyed from off the land that God had given them and scattered to other nations." V. 39, "know therefore and consider in your hearts that the Lord is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath; there is none else." If they kept the laws and commandments of God it would go well with them, (verse 40) and they would prolong their days upon the earth in the land that God had given them.

Deuteronomy 31:16-18, God told Moses that after he died the people would turn to idol gods and He would hide His face from them. Before Moses died he told the people that they had rebelled against God while he was living, and after he died it would be much worse, Deuteronomy 31:29. They would make idol gods and worship them, and God would be angry and punish them, and this happened. About seven hundred years after Moses died the Kingdom of Israel was captured by the Assyrians, and thus began the scattering among other nations.

Moses also warned them that when they were scattered to other nations, there they would worship and serve gods that were made of wood and stone by men's hands; idols that could neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell. (Deuteronomy 4:25-31) But when they did, if they repented and turned back to God, He would not forsake them, nor destroy them, nor forget the promise He made to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When they did sin, if they truly repented, God would forgive them and restore their land.

Question for discussion: Why did God raise up the nation of Israel?

(See Overview — third paragraph)

MEMORY VERSE: Genesis 12:2-3

"I will make of thee a great nation, - - - and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

If you prefer:

"I will make of you a great nation, - - - and I will bless them that bless you, and curse them that curse you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed."

Circle the correct answer to each question.

1. Who is called the father of the Israelites?

Noah Abraham Moses

2. Who told Abraham to leave his home, go to a new land, and He would make of his descendants a new nation?

Moses Isaiah God

3. Which land did God give to the Israelites to be their's forever?

Mesopotamia Egypt Canaan

4. Who was Abraham's son?

Cain Isaac Jacob

5. Which grandson of Abraham had 12 sons?

Jacob Ishmael Esau

6. What did God change Jacob's name to?

Canaan Israel Nehemiah

7. Who was the first descendant of Abraham to go to Egypt to live?

Jacob Esau Joseph

8. Which of Jacob's sons became ruler of Egypt?

Reuben Joseph Benjamin

9. Who did God choose to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

Aaron Moses Joshua

Circle the correct answer to each question.

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Joseph

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Joseph

Benjamin

9. Who did God choose to bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

Aaron

Moses

Joshua

Use the code to name the sons of Jacob.



Leah's sons



Rachel's sons



Bilhah's sons



Zilpah's sons



Use the code to name the sons of Jacob.















 A B C D E F G H I J K L M




























 N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Leah's sons

R E U B E N S I M E O N L E V I



















J U D A H I S S A C H A R Z E B U L U N

Rachel's sons












J O S E P H B E N J A M I N

Bilhah's sons














D A N N A P H T A L I

Zilpah's sons














G A D A S H E R

God told Moses He would send an angel to lead them into the promised land.
Use the code to find out what God said about obeying the angel.

□ ◇ — | C S ⊙ ◇ ∩ ▢ ▣ ▤
A B C D E F G H I J K L M

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◇ C ▢ ⊗ C ⊗ C ⊖ ◇ ⊗ ◇ ⊙ ◇ ◇ ∩ ⊗ C

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◇ ⊗ ◇ ⊙ ◇ ◇ ∩ ⊗ C ▢ | ◇ C < ▢ ▣ < ∩ C ▢ .

God told Moses He would send an angel to lead them into the promised land.
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□ ◇ — | C S O ◇ ∩ ▢ ▣ ▤
A B C D E F G H I J K L M

⊠ ⊙ ✦ ➤ ➤ ◻ ◇ ◆ ◇ ◇ ⊖ ⊕ ⊗
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

◇ ◆ ◇ ∩ S ◇ ◇ ⊙ ◆ ◻ ◇ ◻ ▣ ◇ ∩ ⊠ | C C |
But if thou shalt indeed

⊙ ◇ C ⊖ ◇ ∩ ◻ ◇ ⊙ ∩ — C ◻ ⊠ | | ⊙ ◻ ▣ ▣
obey his voice and do all
◇ ◇ ◻ ◇ ∩ ◻ ✦ C ◻ ▢ ; ◇ ◇ C ⊠ ∩ ◇ ∩ ◻ ▣
that I speak; then I will

◇ C ◻ ⊠ C ⊠ C ◻ ⊖ ◆ ⊠ ◇ ⊙ ◇ ◇ ∩ ⊠ C
be an enemy unto thine

C ⊠ C ◻ ∩ C ◻ , ◻ ⊠ | ◻ ⊠ ◻ | ◇ C < ◻ ◻ < ⊖
enemies, and an adversary

◆ ⊠ ◇ ⊙ ◇ ◇ ∩ ⊠ C ◻ | ◇ C < ◻ ◻ < ∩ C ◻ .
unto thine adversaries.

God chose the nation of Israel as His special people.
Use the symbols to decode the message and find out what
their response was when Moses told them what God said:

⌒	⌐	⌑	⌒	⌓	⌔	⌕	⌖	⌗	⌘	⌙	⌚	⌛	⌜	⌝	⌞	⌟
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⌒ ⌚ ⌑ ⌒ ⌕ ⌑ ⌓ ⌔ ⌕ ⌓ ⌕ ⌓ ⌒ ⌓ ⌕ ⌓ ⌕

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God chose the nation of Israel as His special people.
Use the symbols to decode the message and find out what
their response was when Moses told them what God said:

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A	C	D	E	H	I	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	V	W

h z s h k k y x s x a s k x

A n d a l l t h e p e o p l e

h z h x x z x s x l y x a z x c a l p x

a n s w e r e d w i t h o n e v o i c e .

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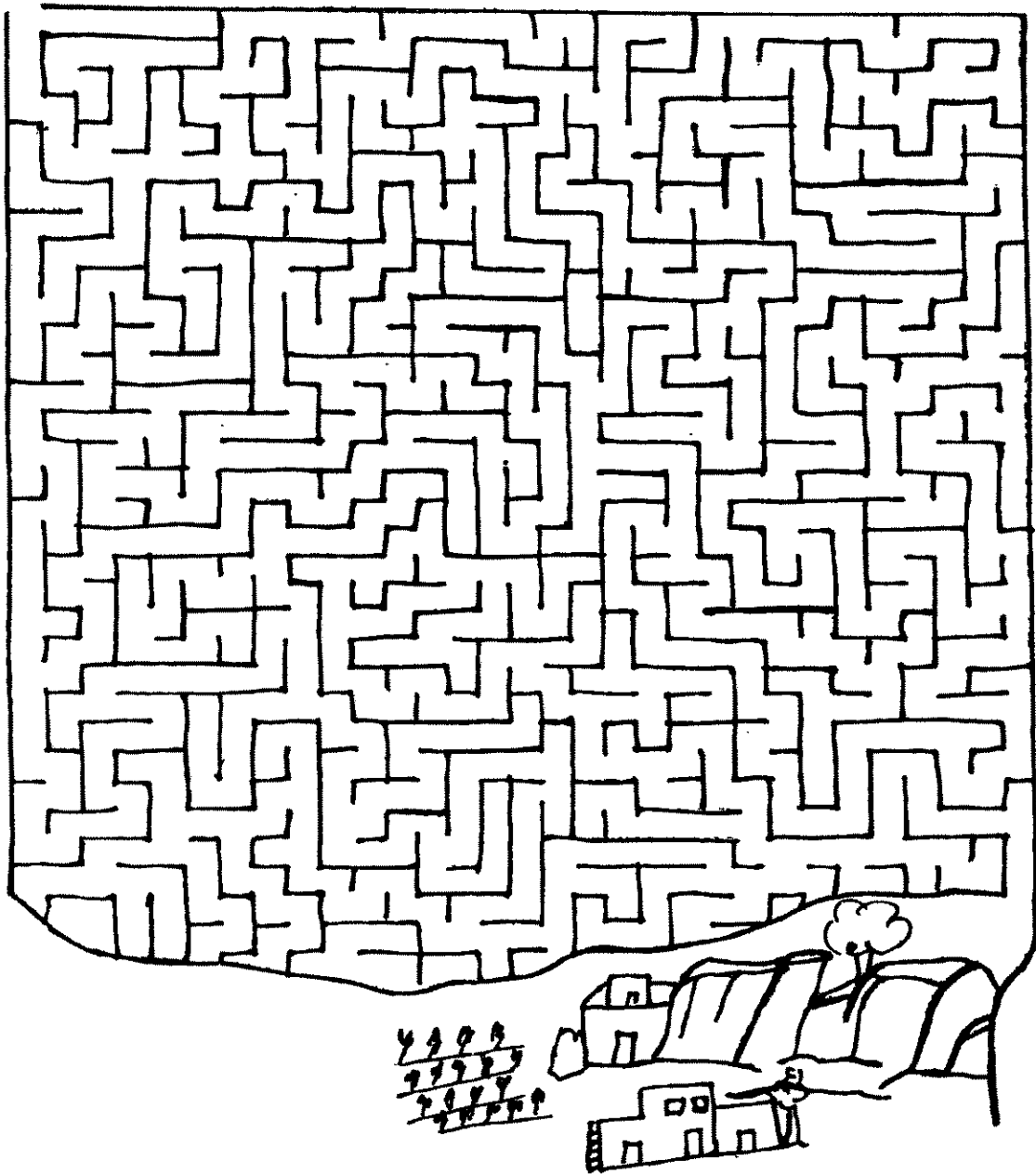
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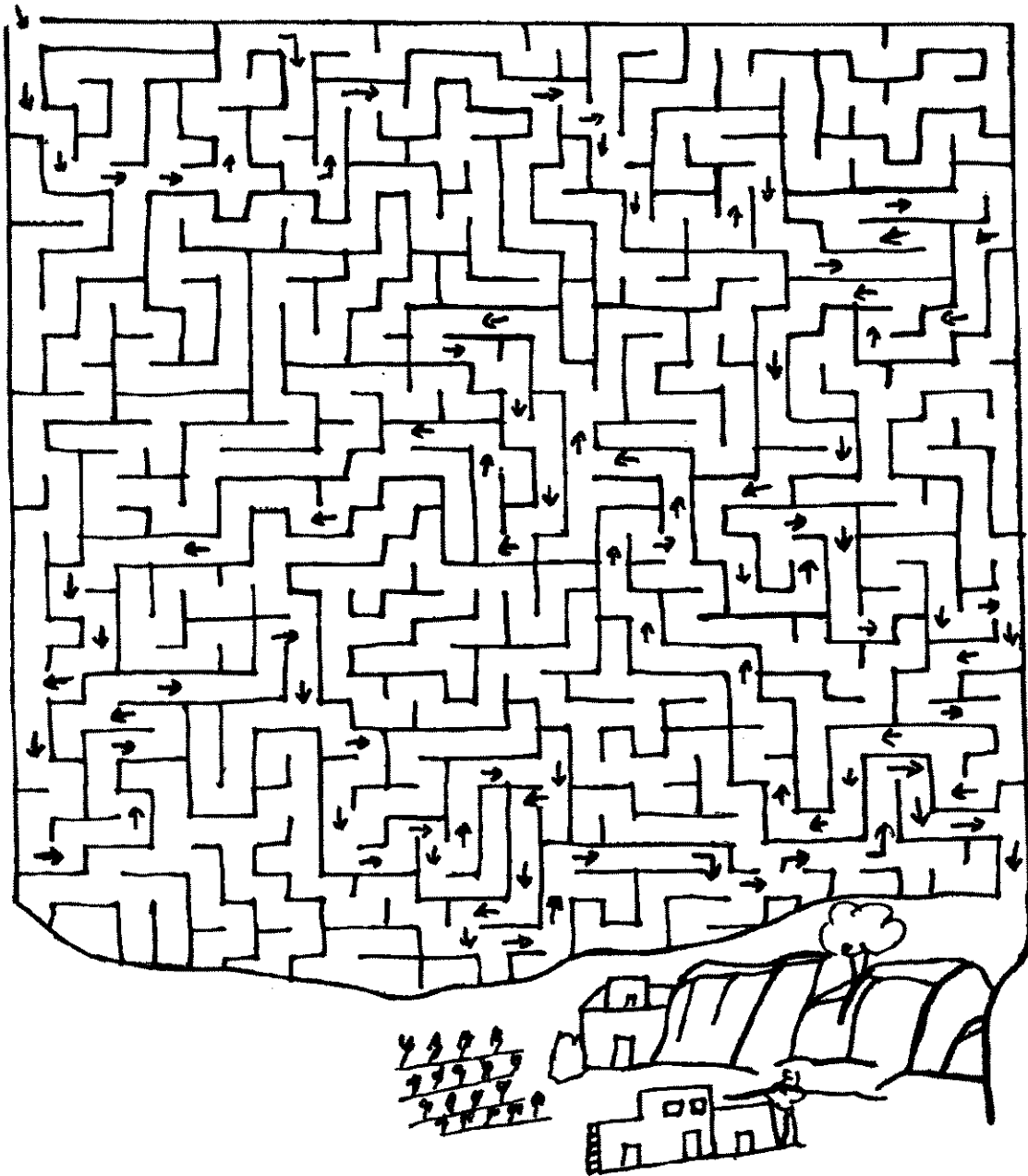
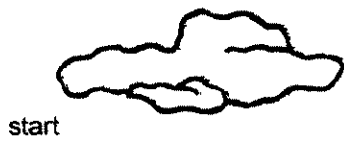
s a i d w i l l w e d o .

Help the Israelites follow the cloud to the Promised Land.

start



Help the Israelites follow the cloud to the Promised Land.



DISCUSSION:

1. When did God begin teaching people to offer sacrifices?
2. Why did God choose a separate nation of people?
3. What was the purpose of the nation of Israel?
4. Why did God allow them to be strangers or wanderers in a land they did not own for 400 years?
5. What was the significance of the plagues?
6. Why did God lead them to the Red Sea instead of an overland route?
7. Why did they wander in the wilderness for 40 years?
8. Why did Moses not get to go into the promised land?
9. What warning did God give to the Israelites?

Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

Deuteronomy 3:28, 31:23 Joshua 1:1-6, 23:2-5, 24:1-24

Introduction:

Who was Joshua? He was a young man born in Egypt, of the tribe of Ephraim. He knew what it was to be in slavery to another nation. He witnessed God's miracles when He released them from Egyptian bondage. He saw the Red Sea open for them to cross on dry land. He saw God provide food and water for them in the wilderness. Joshua became the leader of Israel after Moses died and led the people into battle with the inhabitants of the land, destroying them and conquering the land as a possession of the Israelites. Joshua, as an experienced army captain and with the help of God won victory after victory against the Canaanites, the idol worshipping heathens that lived in the land that God chose for His people. It was Joshua who allotted the divisions of the land to the individual tribes of Israel. After Moses had instructed this new generation of people who were born in the wilderness of the commands of God, Joshua reminded them repeatedly of their purpose and of their obligation to God. The Jews who remained in Palestine when Jesus was born should have recognized Him as the promised Son of God because of their history as His chosen people, but they did not because they had been a rebellious people and had turned from the worship of God to idols. They did not continue to teach each new generation of people what their purpose was as the chosen of God.

Background material:

The Israelites left Mount Sinai and camped at Kadesh-Barnea, an oasis in the desert at the edge of the land where God was taking them. God told them He would fight their battles for them and drive out the enemies from the land. All Israel had to do was go in and take it. Because they were afraid to trust God, they spent forty years in the wilderness. All of the generation that had been in Egypt died, and the younger generation grew up. All of the generation that had seen God open the Red Sea for them to cross on dry land, died. All of the generation that had been at Mt. Sinai and heard the voice of God as He spoke the Ten Commandments from the fire, the smoke and the cloud that covered the mountain, died. The new generation that was left had not seen the miracles of God in Egypt or at the Red Sea, and had not heard His voice as He spoke to them. They had not witnessed the giving of the Law and the building of the Tabernacle. All that was left of the older generation were Moses, Caleb, and Joshua. This was the group that Joshua led into the land God promised to Israel.

Lesson Material:

Death of Moses:

Everything God did was to teach the Israelites about His love and power, and about the purpose for Jesus coming into the world. Moses disobeyed God on one occasion when he was angry at the Israelites because they were thirsty and accused him of bringing them out into the wilderness to die for lack of water, and God told him to speak to the rock and water would flow forth. Instead he struck the rock the second time. Striking the rock the first time and the water gushing out to quench their thirst physically represented the crucifixion of Jesus to supply

the water of life spiritually to all who would accept it, and striking it again distorted the picture God was presenting. So He punished Moses by not allowing him to go in and enjoy the goodness of the promised land. Deuteronomy 3:25-28. He took him up on Mount Pisgah and let him look across and see the land before he died on the mountain.

Joshua Became Their Leader:

God instructed Moses to turn the nation of Israel over to Joshua to lead them into the land. Deuteronomy 31:7-8, 23; 34:9. God was the one who chose Joshua to succeed Moses as the leader of Israel, and Moses laid his hands on him symbolically transferring his power with God to Joshua. Joshua was filled with “the spirit of wisdom”. He became their leader. Moses repeated the law and their history as a nation to this new generation and told them Joshua was the one who would lead them in to possess the land where God wanted them.

When the Israelites were traveling through the wilderness on their way to Mount Sinai they camped at Rephidim and a Bedouin tribe of Amalekites attacked the outermost edges of the camp. Moses appointed Joshua military commander and instructed him to lead the Israelites into battle with Amalek. With the help of God he defeated the Amalekites and brought fear to the nations around them. Exodus 17:8, 13; Deuteronomy 25:17-18.

Joshua 1:1-5, God spoke to Joshua and said, “Moses is dead. It is time for you to get up and go across the Jordan River and conquer the land that I promised to your forefathers. Everywhere you walk, I will give you the land. No one will be able to stand in your way because I will be with you just like I was with Moses. I will not fail you nor forsake you.” God told Joshua to be strong and not get discouraged because He would be with him. Joshua spoke to the people and said, “Get up and get ready, prepare food for a journey, because in three day we’re going across the river and live in the land that God gave us.”

One of the first signs that God was with Joshua was when the water of the Jordan River receded and allowed the people to pass over on dry land. Joshua’s first great victory was conquering the city of Jericho when God caused the protective walls around the city to fall flat allowing the people entrance into the city. Conquering Jericho reassured the people that God was with them, but it also instilled in them a false confidence that they could not lose no matter what happened. Then they encountered Ai, Joshua chapters 7 & 8, and it was a much smaller city so they didn’t think they needed the whole army. They could take it easily. They conquered a large group at Jericho, but were defeated by the small city of Ai. They were discouraged and even Joshua questioned God, “Why did you bring us across the river to this area? Was it so the Amorites could destroy us?” Then he said he wished they had been content to stay on the other side of Jordan in the little area there that they had conquered, and just forget about the rest of the land. But God wanted them to have all of the land from the wilderness and Lebanon all the way to the Euphrates River, and west of the Jordan River all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

God told him why He had allowed them to be defeated. When they conquered Jericho He told them not to keep anything for themselves. They should take the gold, silver, iron and brass and put it in the treasury of the house of God and destroy everything else. One man, Achan, deliberately disobeyed God and took a wedge of gold and a beautiful Babylonish

Achan, deliberately disobeyed God and took a wedge of gold, 200 shekels of silver, and a beautiful Babylonish garment and hid it in his tent thinking no one would know he took it. But God knew, and He allowed them to be defeated in their next battle to show them that they must obey every command that He gave in order for Him to bless them and protect them and give them all of the land. Because of one man, they lost the battle. Because one man was greedy and deliberately disobeyed God, they lost the battle. God raised up the nation of Israel so He would have a nation of people that would obey Him so that He could have a close relationship with them as His creation, and He as their God. They would be a nation through which He would send His Son into the world to be accepted as their Savior. They would understand the birth of Jesus, and would accept Him as the Messiah, the Son of God. God could not use a nation to be an example to the rest of the world if they did not obey Him. After Achan was punished by being put to death for his sin, God gave them victory over Ai. The people learned that they must obey God if they were to receive His protection.

Joshua led the nation of Israel into many more battles and conquered city after city until much of the land that God promised to them had been taken, *"for the Lord fought for Israel."* In one battle God caused hailstones to fall from heaven and killed more of the enemy than the Israelites killed with the sword, Joshua 10:11. Then God caused the sun to stand still for about a whole day giving them more daylight hours to defeat their enemies, Joshua 10:12-14.

Joshua's Warning To Israel:

In Joshua 23 and 24, Joshua was getting to be an old man and knew he no longer had the strength to lead the nation in battle. Before he died he called all the elders and leaders together and gave God the credit for their victories. "You have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all of these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is the one who has fought for you." He said they were not finished with wars because all of the land had not been conquered. They were to continue to drive out the inhabitants who remained. (23:5) *"And the Lord your God, He shall expel them from before you, and drive them from out of your sight; and ye shall possess their land, as the Lord your God hath promised unto you."*

Joshua warned the people in Joshua 23:11-16 that God had brought them to the land, but God would allow them to be run off of the land if they did not continue to worship and serve Him. If they made friends with the people of the heathen nations, intermarried with them, and worshiped their gods, they could be assured God would not drive these people out of the land, and it would result in the nation of Israel being driven off the land that God had given them. God told Moses in Numbers 33:55-56, *"But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be pricks in your eyes, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell. Moreover it shall come to pass, that I shall do unto you, as I thought to do unto them."* Joshua repeated the warning in Joshua 23:13. *"They shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the Lord your God hath given you."*

Joshua said, (v.14) “I am going to die, and you know in your hearts that God did everything for you that He promised to do.” Just as God had kept His promises and good things had come to the people, so would evil come when they disobeyed Him, until they were destroyed from off the land. Joshua did not say “if” they turned away from God, but he said “when”. God told Moses they would sin and worship idol gods and God told Joshua they would sin and worship idol gods. Joshua knew God would destroy them just as He had destroyed the heathen nations, and would take away the good land He had given them. He tried one last time to warn them of the wrath of God. (v. 16) “[When] you have transgressed the covenant God made with you, [when] you have gone and served other gods, [when] you have bowed down to them, then shall the anger of God be kindled against you, and you shall perish.

Their History Repeated:

Through Joshua, God repeated the history of the nation of Israel to this generation that Joshua had led into the promised land, chapter 24. He reminded them how their forefathers had lived in unbelief and perished in the flood and He raised up Abraham to lead him to a new land and to begin a new nation. He promised Abraham, and renewed the promise to Isaac and Jacob, that through this nation He would send His Son into the world. He wanted a witness on earth to His power, a nation who would understand about Jesus and recognize Him when He came, and accept Him as the Son of God. God told them how Abraham’s grandson, Jacob, and his descendants were in Egypt for many years until He chose Moses and Aaron to lead them out of bondage and into freedom in their own land. He reminded them of the plagues that He sent on the Egyptians, and how He opened the Red Sea and allowed them to escape and then destroyed the Egyptian army that followed them. After a long time in the wilderness, He gave them the land of the Amorites and refused to allow Balaam to curse them, but turned his curse into a blessing.

God told them, “I brought you across Jordan, and the men of Jericho and then seven nations of people, the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites fought against you and I delivered them into your hand. (24:12) I sent the hornet before you which drove them out. It was not with your sword, and it was not with your bow.” God said, “I have given you a land for which you did not labor, cities to live in that you did not build, and you eat from vineyards and oliveyards which you did not plant.” Because of all that God had done for them, Joshua commanded the people, (24:14) “*Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.*” God wanted them to recognize His power, and that they were His special people.

Joshua did not know what the people would do, so he told them, (v. 15) “*And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*” Joshua would no longer be there to lead the people to serve God. They had to make their own choice. Would they serve idols and be popular with those around them? Or, would they serve God? “Do you want these people who live in the heathen nations around you to like you and be your friends, or do you want God to approve and bless you?” The people assured Joshua they would serve

God, (v.16) *"God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods."* They acknowledged that the Lord was the one who brought them and their fathers up out of the land of Egypt, and preserved them in the wilderness, and the one who drove out the heathen nations and gave them the land. They said, (v.18) *"Therefore will we also serve the Lord; for He is our God."* But they didn't.

God used prophets to tell the people what He wanted them to know and do. He sent judges to settle their problems. Before long they were not happy with God leading them and wanted a king like the nations around them. Their second king, David, was the greatest king in the history of Israel. He did not lead them to worship idols. Under later kings the people fell into idolatry to such an extent that God did destroy them from off the good land that He had given them. They lost their land and became scattered among many nations.

About 500 years after they left Egypt the nation was divided into two kingdoms, the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah, and they continually fought one another for about 224 years and the Assyrian army captured the northern kingdom, the Kingdom of Israel, and took them away as slaves to people beyond the Euphrates River. The southern kingdom, the Kingdom of Judah, existed for another 135 years and King Nebuchadnezzar and the army of Babylon captured them and took them away captives.

Where Is Israel Today?

The Jews remained scattered among all the nations of the earth for hundreds of years. It was not until 1948 that some of them returned to Jerusalem and raised their flag as a nation once more. They still have not reclaimed all of the land that God gave them. They live on a small portion and are at war constantly with the other people in the land over what they consider theirs because God promised it to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They do not own the city of Jerusalem. They do not have a king who sits on the throne of David in Jerusalem. Their temple was destroyed many years ago. Someday when Jesus returns, He will sit on the throne in Jerusalem as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and rule over all the earth. Someday every knee shall bow and every tongue confess before God. Until that day the Jews remain scattered.

MEMORY VERSE: Deuteronomy 31:18

"And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods."

Alternate Memory Verse: Joshua 23:16

"When ye - - - have gone and served other gods, - - - then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which He hath given unto you."

Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

Worksheet 1

1. Who was the "father of Israel"? _____
2. What was the covenant that God made with Abraham? _____

3. Who were the founders of Israel as a nation? _____
4. When did God keep His promise and make of them a great nation? _____

5. Who was the first leader of Israel? _____
6. Who chose the next leader and what was his name? _____
7. What were 3 things God did at Mt. Sinai? _____
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
8. Why did God keep them at Mt. Sinai for a whole year? _____

9. Who led them in to conquer the promised land? _____
10. What was the first sign God gave to Joshua to show He was leading them?

11. Joshua 10:14 & 42 tell why they were able to conquer the land: _____

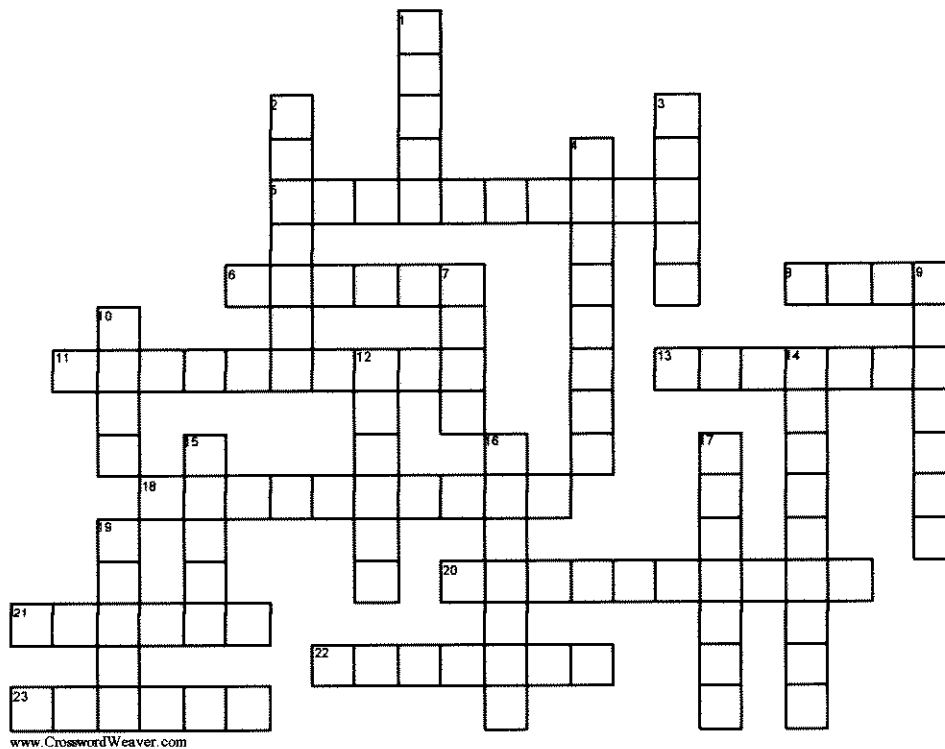
12. What warning did Joshua give to the people? _____

Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned IsraelWorksheet 1
Answer page

1. Who was the "father of Israel"? Abraham
2. What was the covenant that God made with Abraham? He would make of his descendants a great nation, and through them all the families of the earth would be blessed. (He would send Jesus into the world.)
3. Who were the founders of Israel as a nation? the 12 sons of Jacob
4. When did God keep His promise and make of them a great nation? while they were in Egyptian bondage
5. Who was the first leader of Israel? Moses
6. Who chose the next leader and what was his name? God chose Joshua
7. What were 3 things God did at Mt. Sinai?
 1. He gave them the laws He wanted them to live by.
 2. He told them how to build the Tabernacle.
 3. He set up the priesthood as a way of worship.
8. Why did God keep them at Mt. Sinai for a whole year? They needed time to build the Tabernacle and to learn how to live as an independent nation.
9. Who led them in to conquer the promised land? Joshua
10. What was the first sign God gave to Joshua to show He was leading them? The waters of the Jordan River parted to give them access.
11. Joshua 10:14 & 42 tell why they were able to conquer the land: "for the Lord fought for Israel"
12. What warning did Joshua give to the people? Joshua told them if they did not obey God's commands, and if they worshiped idols like the nations around them, He would destroy them from off the land that He had given them.

Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

Worksheet 2



ACROSS

- 5 God instituted the _____ as a way of worship.
- 6 Joshua _____ the people not to disobey God.
- 8 God gave His _____ at Mount Sinai.
- 11 God told them exactly how to build the _____.
- 13 The Israelites said, "God forbid that we should _____ the Lord, to serve other gods.
- 18 The people who went into the promised land were a new _____.
- 20 The _____ did not keep their land.
- 21 Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom you will serve."
- 22 God wanted Israel to recognize Jesus as the _____.
- 23 the second leader of Israel

DOWN

- 1 God promised to _____ the Canaanites out of the land.
- 2 Joshua was an experienced army _____.
- 3 The Babylonians captured the Kingdom of _____.
- 4 The Assyrian army captured the _____ kingdom.
- 7 The generation that left Egypt _____ in the wilderness.
- 9 God chose Israel to be His _____ people.
- 10 Joshua told them if they worshiped idols God would take away their _____.
- 12 God promised them the land of _____.
- 14 Today the Jews are _____ over all the earth.
- 15 God taught His people about _____.
- 16 God promised to give them the land if they would continue to _____ Him.
- 17 About 500 years after they left Egypt the nation was _____.
- 19 The inhabitants of Canaan worshiped _____.

Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

Worksheet 2
Answer page

Fit the following words into the puzzle:

Deuteronomy 31:17 — “Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them,”

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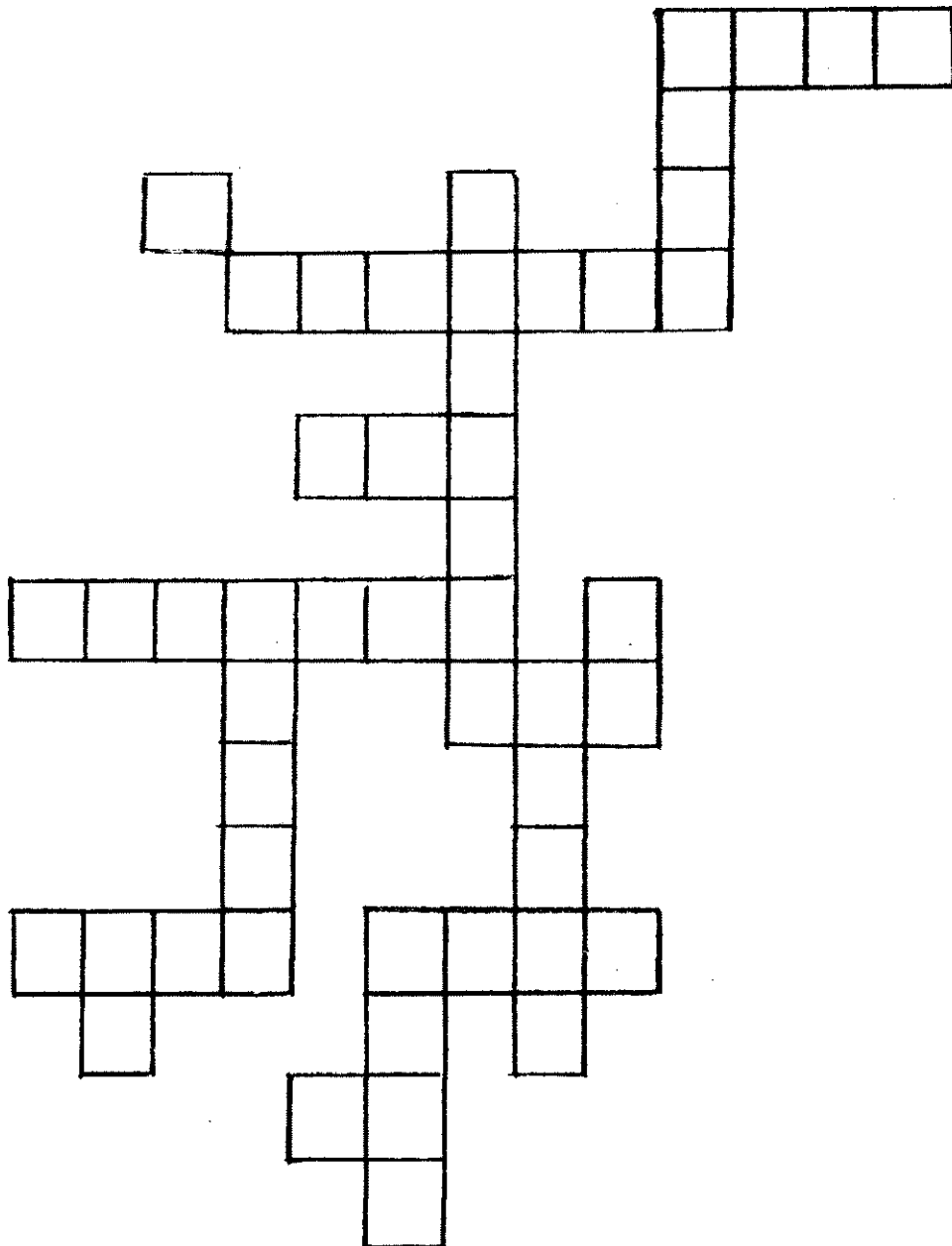
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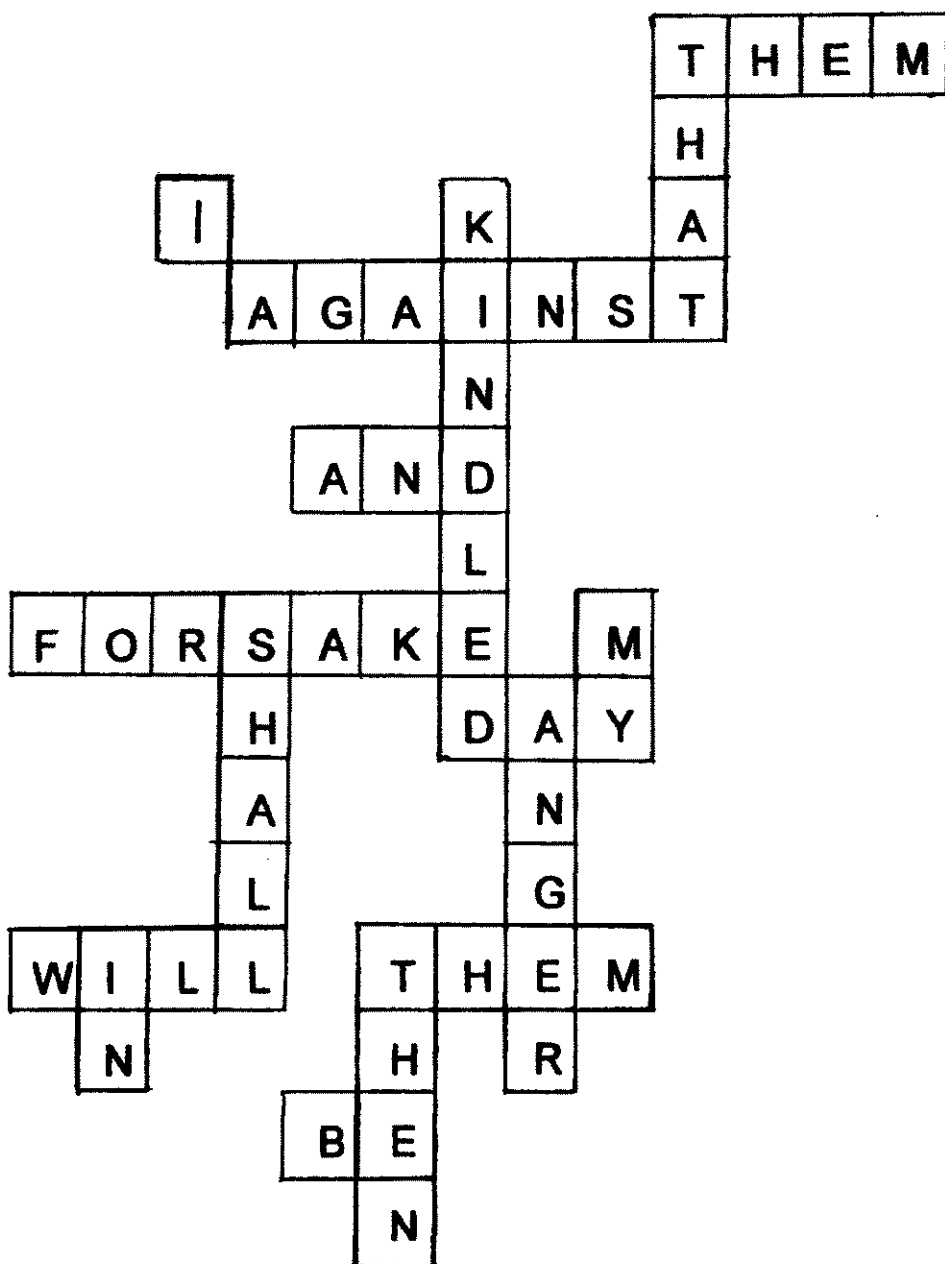


Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

Worksheet 3
Answer page

Fit the following words into the puzzle:

Deuteronomy 31:17 — “Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them,”

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Lesson 2 — Joshua Warned Israel

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Who was Joshua?
2. Who chose Joshua to lead Israel into the land of Canaan?
3. Why did they not go in 40 years earlier?
4. What was the first command God gave Israel to not do?
5. Did Israel drive out all of the inhabitants of the land?
6. What was the result of question 5?
7. What specific warning did Moses give to Israel?
8. What warning did Joshua give to Israel?
9. What happened to the kingdom of Israel after Solomon's reign?
10. Why did Israel not keep their land?
11. Where are they today?

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

Acts 1:3-4, 6-9, 12-15; 2:1-11, 22-23, 32, 37-38, 41, 46-47

Introduction:

God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people so He would have a witness for Him on earth, and He would have a group of people who would recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah, the Son of God. God intended for them to learn from the sacrifices they made that it took sinless blood to pay the price for sin. He wanted them to understand who Jesus was and why He came so they would be a witness of the saving power of Christ to the rest of the world. But they did not understand. Instead, they rejected Him as only a good man, a prophet, but not the Son of God, because they were looking for a king to free them from the Roman tyranny, not a Savior to free them from sin. They misapplied the law and trusted in keeping it to make them good in the eyes of God. Instead of the law showing them that they were sinful, they believed that if they did not break the law they were not guilty and did not need to repent. If they had been faithful to God in keeping His commands they would still be on their land in Israel, instead of being scattered among all the nations of the earth.

Background Material:

Thousands of Jews from all over the known world, Acts 2:9-11, were in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks, or Pentecost, which occurred fifty days after the Feast of the Passover. This was one of the three feasts that God had commanded them to observe every year. Even though they were scattered abroad many returned at this time of year to thank God for His blessings at the time of the ingathering of the first fruits of the yearly crops. The first of the grain harvested was used to bake bread for an offering to God. The Jews who were in Jerusalem on this occasion had been born in captivity, raised in a land other than their own, and spoke the language of the nation in which they were born.

Lesson Material:

The Jews and the New Testament:

God established His covenant, or testament, with Abraham when He promised to make of his descendants a great nation and through them He would send His Son into the world. He would be their God and they would be His people. He renewed this covenant with Isaac, and with Jacob, the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. He gave the laws to Israel that they were to live by, and established the Judaic system of worship. The Israelites worshiped under the old covenant by the High Priest offering the blood of bulls and goats as a sign of their repentance for their sins. When Jesus came the old covenant worship was to cease and the new covenant would be in force. The Jews were supposed to understand that Jesus instituted a new system of worship because His death, burial and resurrection fulfilled the old covenant of Israel. The church worships under the new covenant. Jesus, our High Priest, offered His blood to God as payment for our sins. The Jews as a nation did not understand the purpose of the law. They

believed that they had to keep the law in order to be saved. They believed that God would send His Son to be their king and sit on the throne of David and rule from Jerusalem.

The beginning of the church:

John the Baptist came to prepare the hearts of the Jewish people for the change in their way of worship that Jesus would institute after He was crucified. He preached, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Those who showed by their actions that they had repented were baptized to show they had faith in the coming One. Peter was a Jew and had accepted Jesus as the Messiah. He was one of the first to be baptized and follow Jesus. Jesus called him along with Andrew, James, and John to leave their occupation as fishermen and follow Him. They later became apostles. Peter remained with Jesus for three years and heard His teachings and saw His miracles. He was convinced without a doubt that Jesus was the Christ that the Jews had been expecting to come for centuries. When Jesus came, the Jews as a nation did not accept Him. They were still looking for a king. Only a few accepted Him and were willing to accept the change in their method of worship.

Jesus established His church while He was on the earth with those who believed that He was the Son of God and were baptized by John the Baptist. Jesus traveled with the church, made up of the disciples who followed Him, from place to place for three years teaching and attempting to convince the Jews that He was the promised Messiah. Each year they came to Jerusalem three times to observe the feast days according to the Law of Moses. The Passover Feast commemorated their freedom from Egypt, and seven weeks, or fifty days later, they came to observe the Feast of Weeks, or the ingathering of the first of their crops for the year. They returned for the Feast of Tabernacles when all of the crops were harvested and stored as provisions for the coming year.

The Jews in Jerusalem:

Before they came to Jerusalem as they had done for the past two years for Jesus to eat the Passover Feast with them, He told them this would be the last time before He would be taken by the authorities and crucified, but He would rise again the third day, Matthew 16:21. Jesus knew that He would ascend back to heaven. He would not be among them to teach them personally. During the time that He had been with them He taught them the things they should know to carry on His work, this new method of worship, when He was gone. While they were in Jerusalem this time Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified. In three days He arose from the grave. He appeared to people many times during the next forty days so they would see Him and know He was alive, Acts 1:3.

Forty days after His resurrection He appeared in a room where the eleven apostles were assembled. Luke 24:44-48, He explained to them that His death on the cross was the reason He came into the world, so He could provide salvation to all people. The apostles knew the history of Israel. They attributed Abraham with being the father of their nation. They knew David was the greatest king in their history. They knew God had given them the land where they now lived and they had lost it by their sinfulness, unbelief, and idolatry. They believed God when He said if they repented He would forgive their sins and bring them back to this land. The law given to

the Jews taught them of Jesus' coming. The prophets spoke of His coming and said He would sit on the throne of His father, David, and rule from Jerusalem. They had one important question to ask Him: "Is now the time?" Acts 1:6, " - - They asked of Him, saying, Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Was that why He had come? Now that He had been crucified and was alive again, was it time for Him to rule from Jerusalem as king? They were looking for and longing for the time that Jesus would be their king so they would have their land back and no longer be under the rule of the Roman Empire, or be captives in other nations. "Is it time now for you to be king and give us all of the things promised to our father Abraham?"

Jesus told them that they didn't need to know when He would return as king, only God knows. What they needed to do was preach the gospel to all the world until His return. Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, He told them not to leave Jerusalem until He had sent the Holy Spirit to be in their midst to guide them and help them make the decisions that were necessary to function as a true New Testament Church and maintain a true witness for Him on the earth. " - - *but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.* " (1:8), "*Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:* " He wanted them to be witnesses unto Him in Jerusalem, (where they lived), in Judea, (the surrounding area), in Samaria, (to those whom they did not accept as Jews), and unto the uttermost parts of the earth, (all the gentile nations, not just the Jews). Salvation is for all, but He came first to convince the Jews so they could teach the other nations. Jesus was taken up into heaven and disappeared from sight. He would not be among them to lead them and teach them personally. He left them on earth to carry on His work while He was gone. They obeyed His command and returned to Jerusalem where they remained for ten more days until the Holy Spirit descended on the church on the Day of Pentecost and gave them power to witness to all the world by speaking languages other than their own.

Peter confirms what their history taught them about Jesus:

This was the situation in Jerusalem when Peter preached a great sermon on the Day of Pentecost. There had been quite a stir in the city for the past seven weeks. The man named Jesus from Nazareth whom a lot of Jews claimed was the Messiah had finally been put to death so the insanity of this new system of worship that He advocated would come to an end. But His followers claimed that He had risen from the dead, and now many people were believing their claim. It had been fifty days since the Feast of the Passover and Jesus was crucified. It was now time for the Feast of Weeks, and there were devout Jews from all the nations that were assembled in Jerusalem for this feast. Acts 2:1-12, The church, of about 120 people, had obeyed Jesus and were gathered in a house in Jerusalem. Suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon them as the sound of a mighty rushing wind. A glowing brightness shone over each one as tongues of fire. Acts 2:4, "*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* " The church members were given the power to speak languages they had not studied or spoken before, as the necessity demanded.

(v.5) There were devout Jews from all the nations where they had been scattered, and who spoke many different languages. When they heard men speaking in their own language, they thronged to the area to see what was happening. They were amazed and said, "These men

are Galileans, so how can we hear each man in our own language?" Peter explained that it was the power of God that had come upon them and enabled them to communicate with all nationalities. He took the opportunity to witness to them about the saving power of Jesus Christ. Acts 2:14, *"But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:"* V. 21, *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (vs. 22-24) Peter testified that Jesus of Nazareth had done miracles and wonders in their sight to prove He was the Son of God, they took Him, delivered Him to the authorities and had Him crucified, but God raised Him from the dead.

They saw Jesus do the miracles to prove He was the Son of God. Some Jews believed because they said He could not do these miracles unless God was with Him, but as a nation they rejected Him and had Him crucified. Peter told them that God raised Him from the dead and He is sitting on the right hand of God in glory until God brings judgment on all those who rejected Him. *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."* When they heard Peter's words they were convicted of their wrong doing and convinced that Jesus was indeed the Christ, and asked Peter and the other apostles, *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* They had been wrong. He had come, and they had rejected Him. What could they do now?

Peter told them to repent of their sins and be baptized to show their faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Salvation was promised to them and their children if you would only accept it. He preached and taught them many things, telling them how to save themselves from the consequences of this twisted, perverse, ungodly generation of Jews. There were many who listened and accepted what Peter preached. They were baptized, and about 3,000 were added to the church that day. They remained in Jerusalem to be a part of the church and learn from the teachings of Peter and the other apostles. They continued daily in one accord, *"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*

Acts chapter 3 gives the account of Peter and John going to the temple to pray and encountering a man crippled from his birth. All of the Jews in Jerusalem knew the man and knew he had never been able to walk. Peter and John healed him in the name of Jesus, v.6. He walked into the temple leaping for joy and caused quite a stir among the people. Peter asked why they were surprised and why they looked at them as if they had done this by their own power. He gave God the glory. (4:10), *"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by Him doth this man stand here before you whole."* They crucified Him, Peter and John witnessed God raising Him back to life, and it was through their faith in Him that made this man well. (3:25-26), Peter said they were the descendants of Abraham with whom God made the covenant that He would send His Son, *"Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."*

Peter told them he knew it was because of their ignorance (or not knowing) that they crucified Jesus. Why were they ignorant? Why did they not know the history of their people, the Israelites, and God's dealings with them? It was because they were not taught. They did not know the reason God raised up the nation of Israel, which was to be a witness that Jesus was

the Christ when the time came for God to send Him into the world. They knew at some time in the past God had given laws for them to live by, but they did not know and understand about Jesus because they had not been taught. They believed that God would send His Son, but when He came He would be their king, not their Savior. Jesus didn't immediately set up His throne in Jerusalem and become king, so they rejected Him. During the time the Israelites were living in the land of Canaan, each generation failed to teach the next generation to worship and serve the only true God in heaven. They lapsed into idolatry and God punished them so severely they would repent, He would forgive them and restore their blessings, and then another generation would grow up and commit the same sins of idolatry because their fathers did not teach them.

The Sadducees were a group of Jews who did not believe in the resurrection. When Peter preached that Jesus was resurrected they had him and John thrown in prison. However, about 5,000 men who heard what they preached and saw the man who was healed, believed their testimony. When the rulers brought them out for questioning they considered them to be simple uneducated fishermen, but when they heard their testimony they marveled and admitted that they must have been with Jesus because they preached with such boldness and they also saw the man standing there and could not deny he was healed. They commanded them not to preach any more in the name of Jesus. Peter and John said, "You be the judge whether it is right for us to obey God, or obey you. (4:20), *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."* They just threatened them and let them go because they could not decide how to punish them without angering the large crowd who had accepted Jesus as the Christ because of what they saw and heard.

We are not under the Law of Moses and the commands God gave to Israel, but we must know the history of the nation of Israel in order to understand about Jesus, and understand the teachings of the New Testament. It is important that each generation be taught who the Israelites were and what happened to them because they did not worship God as He commanded them. Salvation is for all, but Jesus came first to Israel because they were supposed to know who He was and understand the importance of His coming and His purpose. They were more concerned with their fleshly interests than in serving God. Because of it God took away what He had given them and they have experienced war over their land ever since. If we are to understand the wars going on in that part of the world, we must know the history of Israel.

MEMORY VERSE : Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Peter said he was speaking to all of Israel, letting them know without a doubt (telling them for sure) that this same man, Jesus of Nazareth, whom they crucified, God had made Him Lord and Christ.

Finish the sentence:

1. God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people so He would _____
_____.
2. God wanted a group of people who would recognize _____
_____.
3. God wanted them to learn from the sacrifices that it took sinless blood to
_____.
4. The Israelites misunderstood and rejected Jesus because _____
_____.
5. Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, happened in Jerusalem fifty days after
_____.
6. The Jews did not all live in the land of Canaan, but were _____
_____.
7. John the Baptist came to prepare the hearts of the Israelites _____
_____.
8. Peter preached that Jesus, whom they crucified, was _____.
9. While Jesus was on earth, the Judaic system of worship _____ and
_____.
10. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus _____.
11. Pentecost happened _____ days _____.
12. The apostles thought that Jesus came to _____
_____.

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the MessiahWorksheet 1
Answer pageFinish the sentence:

1. God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people so He would have
a witness for Himself on earth.
2. God wanted a group of people who would recognize Jesus as the
Messiah, the Son of God.
3. God wanted them to learn from the sacrifices that it took sinless blood to
pay the price for sin.
4. The Israelites misunderstood and rejected Jesus because they were
looking for a king to free them from Roman tyranny.
5. Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks, happened in Jerusalem fifty days after the
Feast of the Passover.
6. The Jews did not all live in the land of Canaan, but were scattered
among all nations, over all the earth.
7. John the Baptist came to prepare the hearts of the Israelites to change
their way of worship.
8. Peter preached that Jesus, whom they crucified, was resurrected.
9. While Jesus was on earth, the Judaic system of worship ended and
the church began.
10. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended back to heaven.
11. Pentecost happened fifty days after Jesus was resurrected.
12. The apostles thought that Jesus came to restore the kingdom to Israel
and rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

Match the two columns:

cloven tongues were	were in the church
tongues meant	a time to celebrate the first harvest
Pentecost was	as of fire
120 people	languages
power of God	10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven
Passover was a feast	Holy Spirit
Day of Pentecost came	the Jews observed once a year

Fill in the blanks:

Acts 2:2 "And suddenly there came a _____ from _____ as of a _____ mighty _____, and it _____ all the _____ where they were sitting."

Acts 2:4 "And they were all _____ with the _____, and began to _____ with other _____, as the _____ gave them utterance."

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly _____ his word were _____: and the same day there were _____ unto them about three _____ souls."

Acts 2:47 "----- And the Lord _____ to the _____ daily such as should be saved."

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

Worksheet 2
Answer page

Match the two columns:

cloven tongues were	were in the church
tongues meant	a time to celebrate the first harvest
Pentecost was	as of fire
120 people	languages
power of God	10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven
Passover was a feast	Holy Spirit
Day of Pentecost came	the Jews observed once a year

Fill in the blanks:

Acts 2:2 "And suddenly there came a _____ from _____ as of a _____ mighty _____, and it _____ all the _____ where they were sitting."

Acts 2:4 "And they were all _____ with the _____, and began to _____ with other _____, as the _____ gave them utterance."

Acts 2:41 "Then they that gladly _____ his word were _____: and the same day there were _____ unto them about three _____ souls."

Acts 2:47 "----- And the Lord _____ to the _____ daily such as should be saved."

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

Worksheet 3

Substitutes for the vowels:

U = A H = E S = I K = O M = U

X B H Q H Y K Q H E H X U E E X B H

B K M A H K Y S A Q U H E C T K I

U A A M Q H N E V X B U X P K N

B U X B L U N H X B U X A U L H

W H A M A I B K L V H B U G H

F Q M F S Y S H N D K X B E K Q N

U T N F B Q S A X

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

Worksheet 3
Answer page

Substitutes for the vowels:

U=A H=E S=I K=O M=U

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

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

Worksheet 4

Find the words in the puzzle. When you are done, the unused letters in the puzzle will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

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

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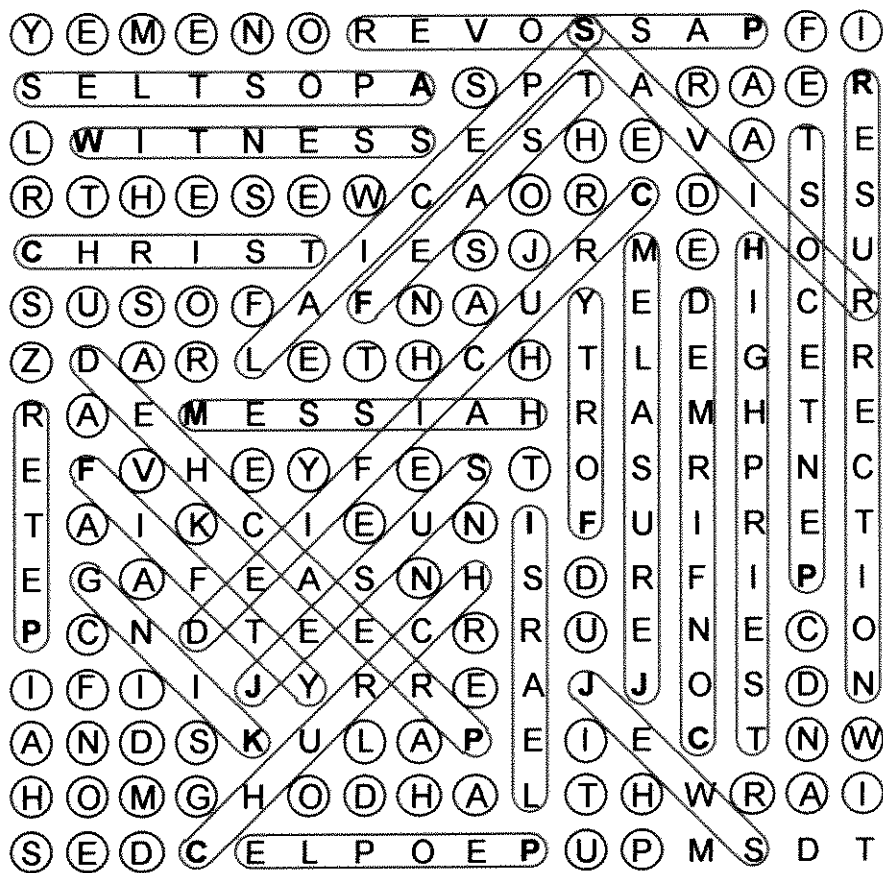
APOSTLES	FIFTY	JEWS	PETER
CHRIST	FORTY	KING	PREACHED
CHURCH	HIGHPRIEST	MESSIAH	RESURRECTION
CONFIRMED	ISRAEL	PASSOVER	SAVOR
CRUCIFIED	JERUSALEM	PENTECOST	SPECIAL
FEAST	JESUS	PEOPLE	WITNESS

Hidden message: _____

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah

Worksheet 4
Answer page

Find the words in the puzzle. When you are done, the unused letters in the puzzle will spell out a hidden message. Pick them out from left to right, top line to bottom line. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.



Hidden message: YE MEN OF ISRAEL HEAR THESE WORDS JESUS

OF NAZARETH HAVE YE TAKEN AND CRUCIFIED AND SLAIN WHOM

GOD HATH RAISED UP

Lesson 3 — Peter Confirmed Jesus Was the Messiah**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Who was Peter? What nationality? What occupation?
2. When did Peter become acquainted with Jesus?
3. How did he become one of Jesus' followers?
4. Name the three feasts the Jews observed every year.
5. Why were so many Jews in Jerusalem at this particular time?
6. Why were they not living in Jerusalem?
7. What happened on the Day of Pentecost?
8. What was the significance of the Holy Spirit coming on the church?
9. What was the attitude of the Jews toward Jesus?
10. What did their history teach them about Jesus?
11. To whom did Jesus first come?
12. Why was He rejected by the Jews?

Lesson 4 — Stephen Defended His Belief In Jesus

Acts chapters 6 & 7

Introduction:

Stephen was the first deacon of the church at Jerusalem. He preached a great sermon in defense of Jesus and His claim of being the Son of God. For this he was stoned to death because the Jews considered it blasphemy against Moses and the law. Stephen defended what he believed, and defended the purpose of the law in pointing the Israelites to Jesus.

Background material:

Many of the Jewish people were in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast at the time of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Having witnessed the events that happened, they changed their minds about Him and accepted Him as the Messiah who came to forgive their sins by His death. Fifty days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came down to dwell in the church and guide them in their actions to help them be a true witness on earth. The church members spoke in languages they had not studied to enable them to witness to all of the Jews from other nations who spoke other languages. Peter preached a great sermon that Jesus was the Christ, the Jews crucified Him, but God raised Him from the dead, and about three thousand believed, were baptized, and were added to the church, Acts 2:41. The church continued to witness and others were added to the church daily as they were saved and submitted to baptism, Acts 2:47. When Peter and John healed the crippled man at the temple in the name of Jesus and were arrested, many heard their testimony and about five thousand more believed, Acts 4:4.

They were not all Palestinian Jews. Many of them were Grecians, also called Hellenists, apparently foreign born Hebrews, or Jews, who spoke the Greek language, and adopted many of the customs and the culture of the Greeks. The Greek language had become the language of the educated people throughout the known world, particularly in the area of commerce. Some Grecians were Greeks who had converted to Judaism, the religion of the Jews.

Stephen, the first deacon:

Many of the foreign born Jews came to Jerusalem for the feast, heard the gospel preached and accepted Jesus as the promised Son of God. They left their homes and stayed in Jerusalem to be a part of the church and continue to learn from the apostles. Thus they needed to be provided for. There were many widows among the members who needed food and monetary assistance. The needs of the people increased with their numbers. Many Grecian widows were now in the church. There were also Hebrew widows who were born in Palestine (the Old Testament land of Canaan). The Grecians began to complain that their widows were not treated as fairly as the Hebrew widows when the food was distributed. The apostles were Palestinian Jews, so the Grecians accused them of showing partiality to their own and neglecting the Grecian widows. The apostles were so busy they did not have time for prayer and preaching. They told the church to look among themselves and choose seven good men

who were honest, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and appoint them to the task of caring for the physical needs of the congregation. Acts 6:4, *"But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."* The more they preached, the more people were added to the church. Even many of the priests believed in Jesus as the Son of God, forsook the old Judaic way of worship, and became obedient to the teachings of Jesus, Acts 6:7.

A man named Stephen was the first chosen to be a deacon. Acts 6:8, *"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people."* We don't know where Stephen was born, or if he lived in Jerusalem or just came for the feast, but he was evidently born outside Jerusalem and was a Hellenist (a Greek speaking Jew). He was a godly man and a devout Christian. He was not an apostle, but was a great speaker. He was one of the most respected men in the church. Stephen taught the people the things of God, and he possessed the power to do miracles in the name of Jesus. Stephen soon joined the ranks of those who were persecuted by the Jews for what they believed and preached.

The only temple was in Jerusalem, but there were many synagogues. Any town where at least ten Jewish men dwelt could have a synagogue. It was their place of worship and learning on the Sabbath, where they went to pray and chant the psalms, take down the scrolls, read from the prophecies, and have someone explain the scriptures. Jerusalem had many synagogues. Acts 6:9 lists the synagogue of the Libertines: probably Jews who were made captive by the Romans but later freed, or liberated, and although they lived in Rome they had a synagogue where they worshiped in Jerusalem. Also the Cyrenians: Cyrene was a prominent city in Africa, established by the Greeks but had many Jewish inhabitants. They are mentioned in Acts 2:10 as being in Jerusalem at this time to observe Pentecost, or the feast of the first fruits. Jews made up about one third of the population of the city of Alexandria in Egypt, but maintained a synagogue in Jerusalem. Also Jews from Cilicia in Asia Minor had their synagogue. The Jews from these synagogues had not converted to Christianity, and they strongly disagreed with what Stephen preached. They believed in God, and in keeping the laws of the Old Testament, but did not believe in Jesus. They said He was a good man and a prophet, but not the Messiah.

They were taught the traditions and law of Moses and continued to worship according to Judaism. They did not like this new religion that Stephen was spreading in Jerusalem. Jesus and the apostles taught in the synagogues, and Stephen possibly did also. He preached that Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to the Jews. They argued with him, but were no match for his wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke. Since they disagreed that Jesus came and fulfilled the law, they hired men to make false accusations that he spoke words of blasphemy against Moses and God. They stirred up the people against him, and the elders and the scribes, the rulers of the Jews, arrested him and brought him before the council for trial. They suborned (secretly bribed) men to testify in court against him that they heard him speak blasphemy against God and Moses, (v.14) *"For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us."*

Moses taught the Israelites to observe the law and the Ten Commandments, and to bring an animal to the priests, confess their sins, and offer the animal as a sacrifice. Stephen attempted to change the customs that Moses had taught the people. He wanted them to understand that

Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the law and sacrifices, and they must now obey the teachings of Jesus. When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai, his face shone with such brilliance that the people could not look upon him because he had been in the presence of God. When Stephen stood before the lawyers on the council, they did not see a man who was a troublemaker, but saw him as a man who stood in the presence of God. His face shone as if it were the face of an angel.

Stephen's sermon:

The High Priest asked Stephen if these accusations were true. He began a long explanation of what he believed by beginning with Abraham, whom all the Jews claimed as their "father". Stephen called them "his brethren" and reminded them how God called "our father Abraham" while he was in Ur of the Chaldees, and told him to leave his country and his family and go to a land that God would show him. He went to Haran, and after his father died he came into the land where they were now living. He did not give the land to Abraham, but promised it to his descendants even though he had no children. God told him his descendants would travel to a strange land where they would be treated with evil for four hundred years. God would judge the nation that put them into bondage, and bring them out of that nation to worship Him in the place where they now live. God blessed Abraham with a son, Isaac, and Isaac had a son, Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons, the twelve patriarchs. Out of envy the patriarchs sold their brother Joseph into Egypt, but God was with him and gave him wisdom and favor with Pharaoh, who made him governor over Egypt and all of Pharaoh's house.

A drought came in the land of Egypt and also in Canaan. Stephen said, "our fathers" had no food. When Jacob heard there was food in Egypt, he sent "our fathers" to buy corn. The second time they went they learned the ruler with whom they dealt was their brother, Joseph. He made their presence known to Pharaoh and sent for their father and all of his family. There were seventy-five Israelites living in the land of Egypt. Jacob died in Egypt and was brought back to Canaan and buried in the sepulchre with his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. Joseph and all of their fathers (the twelve sons) died in Egypt. Another Pharaoh came to power who did not know Joseph and his importance in Egyptian history. During this time God caused the Israelites to become great in number and strength. The new Pharaoh treated them cruelly and ordered that all their male children be cast into the river in an attempt to annihilate this nation of people.

Stephen continued by telling them this was when Moses was born. He was a healthy, beautiful child and his parents hid him for three months, then placed him out where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and raised him as her own son. He was taught all of the wisdom of the Egyptians, and grew to be mighty in words and in deeds. When he was forty years old and knew in his heart that he was an Israelite, he went out to see the situation that existed with his brethren, the Israelite slaves. He saw one being beaten by an Egyptian and killed the Egyptian, thinking the Israelites would understand that God had sent him to deliver them from their bondage. But they did not understand. The next day he went out and saw two Israelites fighting and said, "You are brothers, why do you fight one another?" One of them shoved him away and said, "Who made you a ruler and a judge over us? Will you kill us as you did the Egyptian?" Moses knew his deed was known and ran away to the land of Midian.

After forty years, he was in the wilderness of Mt. Sinai and an angel of the Lord appeared in a flame of fire in a bush. Moses went to investigate and God spoke to him, and said, *"I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* Moses trembled with fear, and God said, "Take off your shoes, for you are on holy ground." Moses removed his shoes and realized he was standing in the presence of God. God told Moses, "I have seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, have heard their cries for help, and have come down to deliver them. Come now, I will send you back to Egypt." This Moses that they refused, saying, "Who made you a ruler and a judge?", God sent back to be a ruler and a deliverer with the help of the angel which appeared to him in the bush. Stephen continued to tell the council that God brought them out of Egypt after He showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red Sea, and in the wilderness for forty years. This man, Moses, told the children of Israel that he was the prophet God had chosen from among them, and they should hear him. He was the one to whom God gave the laws for them to obey, but their fathers would not listen to Moses. They thrust him out and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. While Moses was on the mountain receiving the law they demanded that Aaron make gods to lead them back to Egypt, because they said, "As for Moses, we don't know what has happened to him." They made a golden calf and offered sacrifices to it and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Stephen told them this was why they were scattered into all nations and were subject to the rule of other kings. *"Our fathers had the Tabernacle in the wilderness."* It was a witness of God's presence with them. They took it into the land of the Gentiles (Canaan) and then turned to the temple of Moloch, and the god of the stars, Remphan, and idols they made with their own hands, and worshiped them. David wanted to build a temple, and God allowed Solomon to build it, but reminded them, "God does not live in temples made with hands. Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will you build me? or in what place will I rest? *Hath not my hand made all these things?*" Then Stephen said, "You are a stiffnecked and rebellious people. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who told of the coming of the 'Just One' (Jesus); the one whom you have now betrayed and murdered: you, who have received the law of God, and have not kept it." *"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth."* This made the people so angry they ran to him and literally bit him.

Stephen defended his faith in Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise God made to Israel, so he remained calm. *"He, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God."* Because of Stephen's faith God allowed him to see into the glory of heaven, and he saw Jesus. Stephen witnessed to his enemies that he saw Jesus, whom they had crucified, and He was alive and was in heaven on the right hand of God the Father. They were so enraged they yelled loudly and stopped up their ears so they could not hear him. They dragged him out of the city, cast him to the ground and stoned him until he died. While they were stoning him he called out to God, *"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."* Then he kneeled down and prayed for those who stoned him, loud enough for them to hear what he was saying, *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge."* Then he fell asleep. Before he died he asked God to forgive them for persecuting him. Stephen died because he defended what he knew was true.

The Jews down through the centuries killed the prophets, then they killed the Son of God when He came. They rejected those who preached the gospel to them. They hear the gospel preached today and continue to reject it. It will not be until the return of Christ when He sets up His kingdom on earth that the Jews will accept Him as the Son of God who died for their sins. Not until then will they have peace in their land.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 7:56, *“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”*

1. The book of Matthew tells us about Stephen.

True or False? _____

2. Stephen was the first deacon in the church.

True or False? _____

3. Stephen was a preacher.

True or False? _____

4. Stephen was not a Jew.

True or False? _____

5. Many Jewish people were in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast when Jesus was crucified.

True or False? _____

6. The Day of Pentecost was forty days after Jesus was resurrected.

True or False? _____

7. Hellenists were foreign born Jews.

True or False? _____

8. Stephen was a Hellenist.

True or False? _____

9. Jews could not speak the Greek language.

True or False? _____

10. The church was started when Jesus was on the earth.

True or False? _____

11. The church was started with mostly Jews.

True or False? _____

12. On the Day of Pentecost about three thousand people were added to the church.

True or False? _____

**13. The scribes and Pharisees wanted to stop the growth of this new religion.
True or False? _____**

**14. Stephen preached that Jesus was the Messiah and had been resurrected.
True or False? _____**

**15. Judaism was the practice of the priesthood and keeping the law of Moses.
True or False? _____**

**16. Jesus said after He was crucified they still had to keep the law of Moses and offer sacrifices.
True or False? _____**

**17. The Pharisees accused Stephen of changing the customs that Moses taught and blaspheming God.
True or False? _____**

**18. Stephen was stoned to death because he preached about the resurrection.
True or False? _____**

**19. Stephen said he would quit preaching if they would not stone him.
True or False? _____**

**20. The heavens opened and Stephen saw Jesus on the right hand of God.
True or False? _____**

**21. Stephen told them the reason the Jews were scattered to all nations was because they worshiped idols.
True or False? _____**

**22. All of the Jews live in Palestine today.
True or False? _____**

**23. Stephen prayed for God to persecute those who stoned him.
True or False? _____**

**24. Stephen's face shone as the face of an angel.
True or False? _____**

**25. It is important for us to know the history of the Jews in order to understand the New Testament.
True or False? _____**

1. The book of Matthew tells us about Stephen.

False

2. Stephen was the first deacon in the church.

True

3. Stephen was a preacher.

True

4. Stephen was not a Jew.

False

5. Many Jewish people were in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast when Jesus was crucified.

True

6. The Day of Pentecost was forty days after Jesus was resurrected.

False

7. Hellenists were foreign born Jews.

True

8. Stephen was a Hellenist.

True

9. Jews could not speak the Greek language.

False

10. The church was started when Jesus was on the earth.

True

11. The church was started with mostly Jews.

True

12. On the Day of Pentecost about three thousand people were added to the church.

True

Lesson 4 — Stephen Defended His Belief In Jesus

Worksheet 1
Answer Page 2

13. The scribes and Pharisees wanted to stop the growth of this new religion.
True

14. Stephen preached that Jesus was the Messiah and had been resurrected.
True

15. Judaism was the practice of the priesthood and keeping the law of Moses.
True

16. Jesus said after He was crucified they still had to keep the law of Moses and offer sacrifices.
False

17. The Pharisees accused Stephen of changing the customs that Moses taught and blaspheming God.
True

18. Stephen was stoned to death because he preached about the resurrection.
True

19. Stephen said he would quit preaching if they would not stone him.
False

20. The heavens opened and Stephen saw Jesus on the right hand of God.
True

21. Stephen told them the reason the Jews were scattered to all nations was because they worshiped idols.
True

22. All of the Jews live in Palestine today.
False

23. Stephen prayed for God to persecute those who stoned him.
False

24. Stephen's face shone as the face of an angel.
True

25. It is important for us to know the history of the Jews in order to understand the New Testament.
True

Lesson 4 — Stephen Defended His Belief In Jesus

Worksheet 2

Use the code to find the two scriptures:

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

6 15 18	23 5	8 1 22 5	8 5 1 18 4	8 9 13	19 1 25
20 8 1 20	20 8 9 19	10 5 19 21 19	15 6	14 1 26 1 18 5 20 8	
19 8 1 12 12	4 5 19 20 18 15 25	20 8 9 19	16 12 1 3 5	1 14 4	
19 8 1 12 12	3 8 1 14 7 5	20 8 5	3 21 19 20 15 13 19		
23 8 9 3 8	13 15 19 5 19	4 5 12 9 22 5 18 5 4	21 19		
8 5	2 5 9 14 7	6 21 12 12	15 6	20 8 5	8 15 12 25
7 8 15 19 20	12 15 15 11 5 4	19 20 5 4 6 1 19 20 12 25	9 14 20 15		
8 5 1 22 5 14	1 14 4	19 1 23	20 8 5	7 12 15 18 25	15 6
7 15 4	1 14 4	10 5 19 21 19	19 20 1 14 4 9 14 7	15 14	
20 8 5	18 9 7 8 20	8 1 14 4	15 6	7 15 4	

Lesson 4 — Stephen Defended His Belief In Jesus

Worksheet 2
Answer page

Use the code to find the two scriptures:

CODE:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

FO R	WE	HAVE	HEARD	HIM	SAY
6 15 18	23 5	8 1 22 5	8 5 1 18 4	8 9 13	19 1 25

TH AT	TH IS	J ES US	OF	NAZARETH
20 8 1 20	20 8 9 19	10 5 19 21 19	15 6	14 1 26 1 18 5 20 8

SH AL L	DE ST RO Y	TH IS	PL ACE	AND
19 8 1 12 12	4 5 19 20 18 15 25	20 8 9 19	16 12 1 3 5	1 14 4

SH AL L	CH AN GE	TH E	C US T OM S
19 8 1 12 12	3 8 1 14 7 5	20 8 5	3 21 19 20 15 13 19

WH ICH	MO SES	DE LI VER ED	US
23 8 9 3 8	13 15 19 5 19	4 5 12 9 22 5 18 5 4	21 19

HE	BEING	FU LL	OF	TH E	HO LY
8 5	2 5 9 14 7	6 21 12 12	15 6	20 8 5	8 15 12 25

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7 8 15 19 20	12 15 15 11 5 4	19 20 5 4 6 1 19 20 12 25	9 14 20 15

HE AVEN	AND	SA W	TH E	GL OR Y	OF
8 5 1 22 5 14	1 14 4	19 1 23	20 8 5	7 12 15 18 25	15 6

GOD	AND	J ES US	ST AN DING	ON
7 15 4	1 14 4	10 5 19 21 19	19 20 1 14 4 9 14 7	15 14

TH E	RI GH T	HA ND	OF	GO D
20 8 5	18 9 7 8 20	8 1 14 4	15 6	7 15 4

Lesson 4 — Stephen Defended His Belief In Jesus

Worksheet 3

Look up the scriptures and complete the verse:

Acts 6:8 — And Stephen, full of faith and power, _____

Acts 7:6 — And God spake on this wise, that His seed should sojourn in a strange land;

Acts 7:25 — For he supposed his brethren would have understood _____

Acts 7:35 — This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? _____

Acts 7:52 — Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; _____

Acts 7:55 — But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, ____

Acts 7:59 — And they stoned Stephen, _____

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles

Acts 7:58, 8:1-4, 13:14-50

Introduction:

The Apostle Paul, who was born Saul of Tarsus and later became known as Paul, was of pure Jewish descent, of the tribe of Benjamin. He was born in Tarsus, the capital city of Cilicia in Asia Minor. The Cilicians had a synagogue in Jerusalem. He was a Hebrew, but also a Roman citizen, the son of a Pharisee, and became a Pharisee himself, Acts 23:6. The Pharisees were very strict in keeping the laws and customs of the Jews. They did not accept Jesus as the Son of God, but believed that by keeping the law they did nothing wrong so they had nothing to repent of. They gloried in the history of the Jewish nation and considered themselves special because they were God's chosen, and thought themselves better than all other men. They were good in their own eyes and bragged about their righteousness. Paul, as Saul, was taught the Hebrew laws and adhered strictly to the Jewish customs.

Background material:

Paul had a Jewish name, Saul, which was changed to Paul when he converted to Christianity. He was born and lived in Tarsus until he was about thirteen years old, at which time he came to Jerusalem and studied under the most distinguished teacher of the law, Gamaliel. He became a great lawyer and sat on the Sanhedrid, the Jewish Supreme Court. He became a Pharisee in his strict outward observance of the law. Saul lived in Jerusalem at the time of Jesus and had personal knowledge of His claim to being the Son of God, but did not accept Him as such. He probably gloried in His death as did the other Jews, thinking now that He was dead this new religion would diminish and die as well and Judaism would continue to flourish. He sat on the council that tried Stephen for blasphemy because he claimed Jesus rose from the dead and advocated change from the Judaic system of worship to the teachings of Jesus.

Lesson Material:

The Jews were still God's chosen race of people, but they rejected His Son, so God turned to the Gentiles to make up His church. Saul was present when Stephen was stoned for preaching that Jesus was the Christ, was crucified by the Jews, but on the third day God raised Him from the dead. Acts 7:58, "*- - and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.*" He heard Stephen's testimony that Jesus was alive, and he saw him sitting on the right hand of God in heaven. Acts 8:1, When Stephen died, "*Saul was consenting unto his death.*" There was great persecution against the church at Jerusalem, and Saul was one of the strongest in opposition to the church. The church members had to leave Jerusalem to protect their lives. They were scattered throughout regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles, who remained in Jerusalem. V. 3, "*As for Saul, he made havoc of the church.*" He went into the homes and arrested the church members and put them in prison simply because they were in this new cult that followed the teachings of Jesus. Everywhere the church members went they continued to preach and teach about Jesus.

As more and more Jews were converted, Saul began going to these other areas looking for followers of Christ and placing them in prison. He heard of a group at Damascus and was headed there to arrest them when he was stricken down with a bright light from heaven and heard the voice of Jesus asking him why he was persecuting Him. He realized that he had been wrong, that Jesus really was who He claimed to be. The Jews did not understand what God was teaching them by the law and the sacrifices, and did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God who came to take away the sins of the world, and fulfill the purpose of the law. Saul knew the law, and now he understood. Saul went on to Damascus but didn't arrest the church; instead he was baptized and became one of them. He became known as Paul. Now the scribes and elders of the Jews began to hate him.

The apostle to the Gentiles:

Because the Jews rejected Jesus God turned to the Gentiles to make up His church. Matthew 10:5-7, Jesus sent the apostles out two by two to witness for Him. He told them not to go to the Gentiles, and not to go to the Samaritans; to go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and preach that the kingdom of heaven had come. The Jews were like sheep without a shepherd, and Jesus wanted them to know the shepherd had come. The apostles were to preach only to the Jews to convince them that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised to send to their nation to bring them salvation.

Acts 13:14-50, On one occasion Paul went to the synagogue at Antioch on the Sabbath when the Jews had gathered to worship. As was the custom, they read from the law and the prophets and the rulers of the synagogue asked if anyone had any explanation of the scriptures. Paul stood up and addressed them as "men of Israel and ye that fear God" and asked them to listen to what he had to say. Paul started with the history of Israel as a nation, and this is what he had to say to reinforced their history and purpose:

Paul's sermon:

The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers (the sons of Jacob) and exalted them while they were strangers in Egypt, and forcefully brought them out. He put up with their ways for forty years in the wilderness. He destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan and gave the land to them according to their tribes. He gave them judges to rule over them for about four hundred and fifty years. He sent Samuel as a prophet. The people wanted a king, so God gave them Saul from the tribe of Benjamin for forty years. He removed him and raised up David to be their king. God said, "I have found David, a man after my own heart, who will fulfill all my will." Of David's descendants, according to the promise of God, He sent to Israel a Savior, Jesus. Before He came, John the Baptist had already preached repentance, (repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand) and baptism, (to show their faith in His coming). When John had finished his work he asked those who questioned him, (v.25), "Who do you think I am? I am not He (Jesus). There is One coming after me whose shoes I am not even worthy to untie."

Again Paul addressed them as "*Men and brethren*, (including himself as one of them), *children of the stock of Abraham*, and *whosoever among you feareth God*, (he included any of

the Gentiles who were present) *to you is the word of this salvation sent.*” Paul said the Jews who lived at Jerusalem and their rulers (or leaders), because they did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah and did not understand the words of the prophets that were read to them every Sabbath, fulfilled the prophecies by condemning Him. When they could find no cause to put Him to death they asked Pilate, the Roman governor, to execute Him. When they had fulfilled all the prophecies about the death of Jesus and crucified Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a sepulchre. V. 30, *“But God raised Him from the dead.”* After He was resurrected He was seen for many days by people all the way from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they witnessed to all people that He was alive.

Paul continued by telling them that God made the promise to their fathers, but fulfilled the promise to them, their children, in that He raised Jesus from the dead to complete the plan of salvation by faith in His shed blood and resurrection. Paul quoted from the second Psalm, *“Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”* Concerning the resurrection, he quoted another Psalm, *“Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.”* He used the example of David: he served the Israelites according to the will of God, but he died, was buried, and he saw corruption, his body decayed in the grave. *“But He, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.”* His body did not decay, it was raised to life and will never be subject to death again. He emphasized that anyone who believed could, through Jesus, have forgiveness of sins which they could not receive by the law of Moses. Paul concluded his sermon by telling them to beware lest they perish because they did not believe the wonderful work that God worked in their presence and was declared unto them.

After the Jews left the synagogue, the Gentiles came to him and asked him to return the next Sabbath and preach to them some more about Jesus. When all of the congregation was gone, many of the Jews and religious proselytes (Greeks who had accepted the worship of the Jews) followed him and persuaded him to continue preaching the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost all of the entire city came to the synagogue to hear Paul. When the Jews saw such a great crowd they were jealous of Paul’s popularity and began to contradict him.

First to the Jews:

When the Jews confronted him, it made Paul even more bold, or determined, to continue. He told them it was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to them, but after they refused it and would not accept this everlasting life, he turned to the Gentiles, because God said, “I have set you to be a light of the Gentiles, that you should preach salvation unto all the earth.” When the Gentiles heard this they were happy. The word of God flourished in Antioch until the Jews stirred up the leading citizens so that they ran him out of town, refusing to let him preach in their town. The same thing happened in many places where he went. He made lengthy journeys and preached from town to town. In every town he went first to the synagogues and offered his message to the Jews. When they refused, he preached to the Gentiles. In some places many Jews accepted his message, but in many they became angry that he condemned their self-righteousness and ran him out of town. Paul, who at one time arrested the Christians when he thought they were in the wrong, was now being arrested by the Jews for preaching that Jesus, whom they rejected, was the Christ. Paul was arrested, whipped publicly, beaten severely, stoned and left for dead — all of this by the Jews who rejected Jesus.

What happened to the Jews?

The Jews remain scattered throughout all the earth. They are a hated race of people. During World War II the Germans attempted to annihilate the Jews by killing all those in that part of the world. America did not oppress the Jews who lived in our country, and has been a friend to the nation of Israel. We have been blessed by being free of tyranny by other nations, and have prospered in the near two hundred fifty years that we have been a free nation. God promised Abraham and the patriarchs that He would bless those who blessed Israel, and curse those who cursed Israel.

What about the Egyptians? When the Israelites entered Egypt it was the most powerful nation and the richest people on earth. They far surpassed all others in knowledge and science. They had a powerful army that had marched all over the known world at that time. They oppressed and persecuted the Jews and they remain a poor country today. God has not blessed and prospered them because of the way they treated His people. Over thirty-five hundred years later they remain a land of death, tombs, mummies, and deserted temples in testimony to what God can do to a defiant nation who does not worship God. The oil-rich nations are filled with oppressed people and violence. They are engaged in war continually.

In 70 A.D., about forty years after Jesus lived on the earth, the temple at Jerusalem was destroyed. It has yet to be rebuilt. A small percentage of the Jews from around the world regathered in the land of Palestine in 1948 and raised their Israeli flag as a nation again. They do not possess all of the land that God gave to them. They are at war constantly over the land they try to claim. A Muslim temple stands on the temple mount, the hill where Solomon's temple once stood. As a nation they continue to reject Jesus as the Messiah and are still looking for their king to come. Some day Jesus will return to set up His kingdom and rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem and the church will reign as co-regent with Him. Only then will the Jews accept Him as the Son of God.

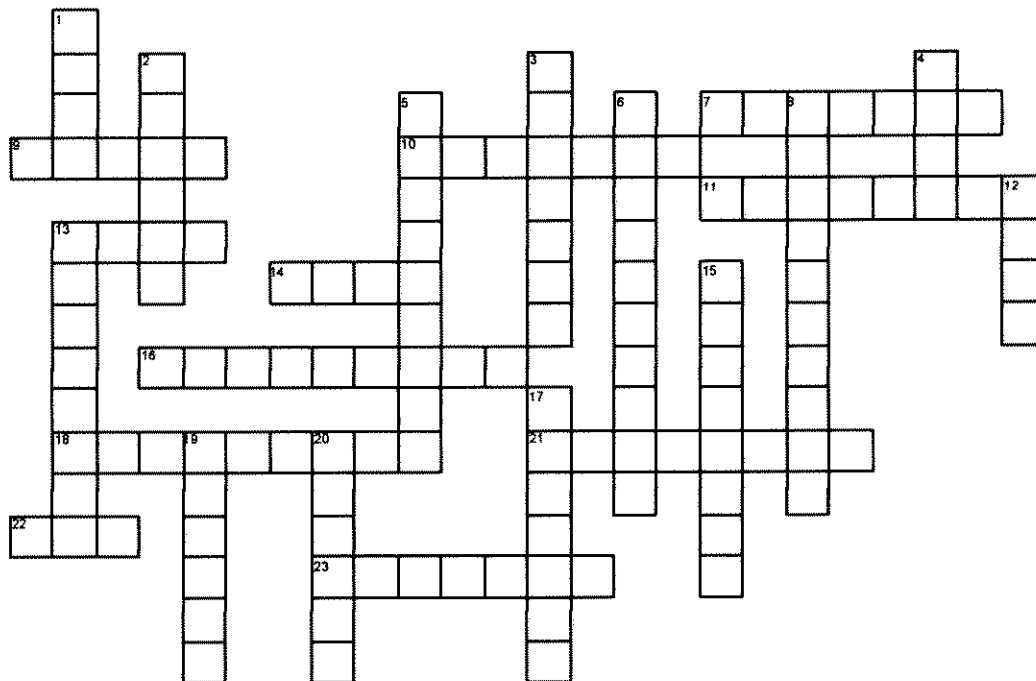
We must learn the history of Israel and God's dealings with them in order to understand about Jesus and the teachings of the New Testament. It is important for us to know their history in order to understand what is happening in the world today.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 13:46

" - - - It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing you put it from you, - - - we turn to the Gentiles."

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles

Worksheet 1



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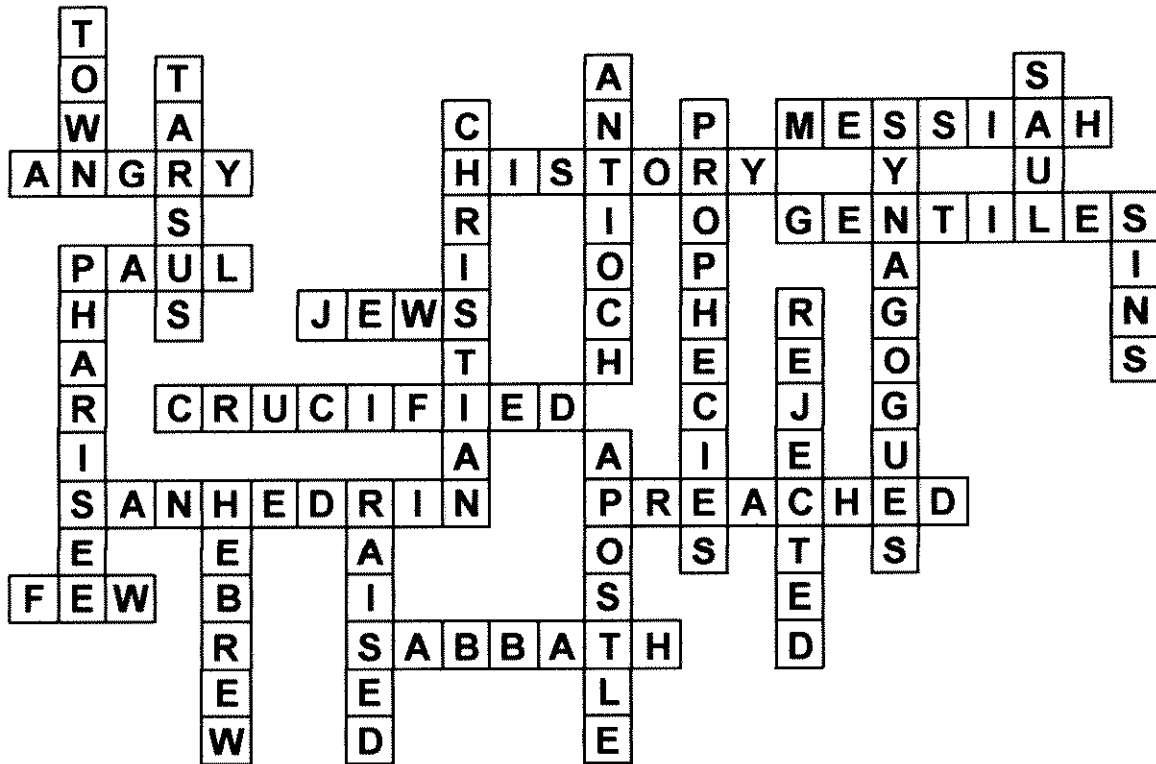
ACROSS

- 7 Paul accepted Jesus as the _____.
- 9 The Jews were _____ because people listened to Paul.
- 10 In his sermon at Antioch, Paul related the _____ of the Israelites.
- 11 When the Jews rejected his message, Paul turned to the _____.
- 13 When he became a follower of Jesus his name was changed to _____.
- 14 Paul preached first to the _____.
- 16 Paul said the Jews _____ Jesus and buried Him.
- 18 Paul sat on the _____, the highest court in the land.
- 21 Paul _____ first to the Jews.
- 22 Only a _____ Jews accepted Paul's message.
- 23 When the Jews left the synagogue, the Gentiles asked him to return the next _____.

DOWN

- 1 The Jews ran Paul out of _____.
- 2 Paul was known as Saul of _____.
- 3 Paul preached in the synagogue at _____.
- 4 the apostle Paul's name was _____.
- 5 Paul forsook Judaism and became a _____.
- 6 Paul said the Jews fulfilled the _____ concerning the death of Jesus.
- 8 Paul preached to the Jews in the _____.
- 12 Paul believed Jesus was crucified for his _____.
- 13 Saul of Tarsus was a _____.
- 15 The Jews _____ Paul's message.
- 17 Paul became an _____.
- 19 Paul was well trained in the _____ laws.
- 20 Paul told them God _____ Jesus from the dead.

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles

Worksheet 1
Answer page

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles

Worksheet 2

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle forward, backward, up and down or diagonally. When you have finished, find the hidden message by using all of the letters that are left starting at top left and go across each line. Write the message at the bottom.

```

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

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www.WordSearchMaker.com

ANGRY

GENTILES

LAWS

SABBATH

ANTIOCH

HEBREWS

MESSIAH

SANHEDRIN

BARNABAS

HISTORY

PAUL

SAUL

CRUCIFIED

JESUS

PREACHED

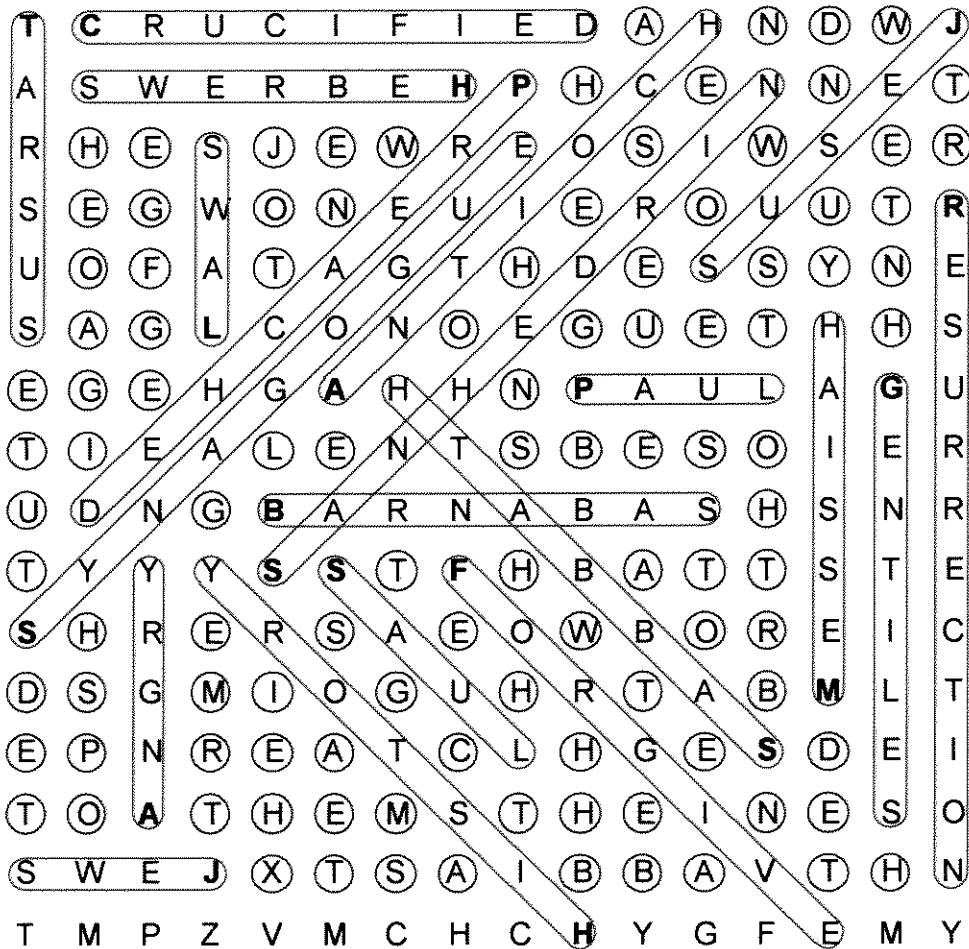
SYNAGOGUE

FORGIVE

JEWS

RESURRECTION

TARSUS

WORD SEARCH

Hidden Message: And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles**Worksheet 3**Match the columns:

The apostle Paul	to the Jews
Paul's name was changed	history of the Jewish nation
Paul preached first	was Saul of Tarsus
Paul preached in	Jerusalem
Paul recalled the	when he became a christian
Paul lived in	the ones who fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus' death
Paul was a member of	the synagogues
Paul said the Jews were	received his message
As a pharisee, Paul did not	the gentiles asked him to come back
Paul preached to the	the Sanhedrin
The gentiles	to make up His church
After the Jews left the synagogue	ran him out of town
The Jewish rulers	believe Jesus was the Messiah
We must know the history of Israel	gentiles at Antioch
The Jews as a nation	scattered into all nations
God turned to the gentiles	rejected Jesus
The Jews today	to understand the New Testament
The Jewish people were	who mistreat Israel
The Jews will not reclaim their land	are at war over their land
God punishes those nations	until Jesus returns

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles

Worksheet 3
Answer PageMatch the columns:

The apostle Paul	to the Jews
Paul's name was changed	history of the Jewish nation
Paul preached first	was Saul of Tarsus
Paul preached in	Jerusalem
Paul recalled the	when he became a christian
Paul lived in	the ones who fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus' death
Paul was a member of	the synagogues
Paul said the Jews were	received his message
As a pharisee, Paul did not	the gentiles asked him to come back
Paul preached to the	the Sanhedrin
The gentiles	to make up His church
After the Jews left the synagogue	ran him out of town
The Jewish rulers	believe Jesus was the Messiah
We must know the history of Israel	gentiles at Antioch
The Jews as a nation	scattered into all nations
God turned to the gentiles	rejected Jesus
The Jews today	to understand the New Testament
The Jewish people were	who mistreat Israel
The Jews will not reclaim their land	are at war over their land
God punishes those nations	until Jesus returns

Lesson 5 — Paul Preached To the Gentiles**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Who was Saul of Tarsus?
2. Why was his name changed?
3. What happened to him on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians?
4. How did Paul change?
5. How did the Jews accept Paul's conversion?
6. What happened at Antioch?
7. What happened at Lystra?
8. Name some of the ways Paul was persecuted by the Jews.