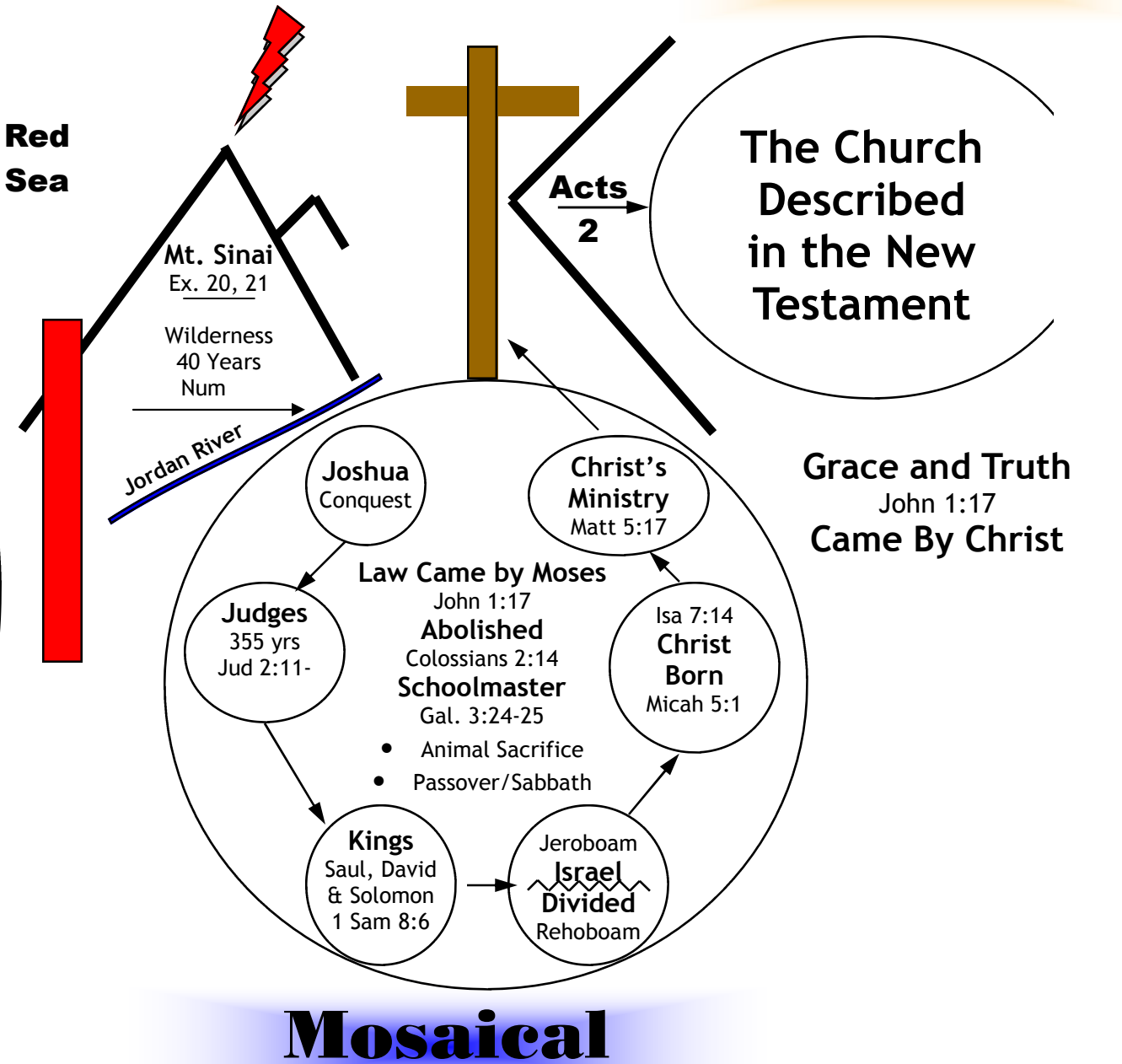
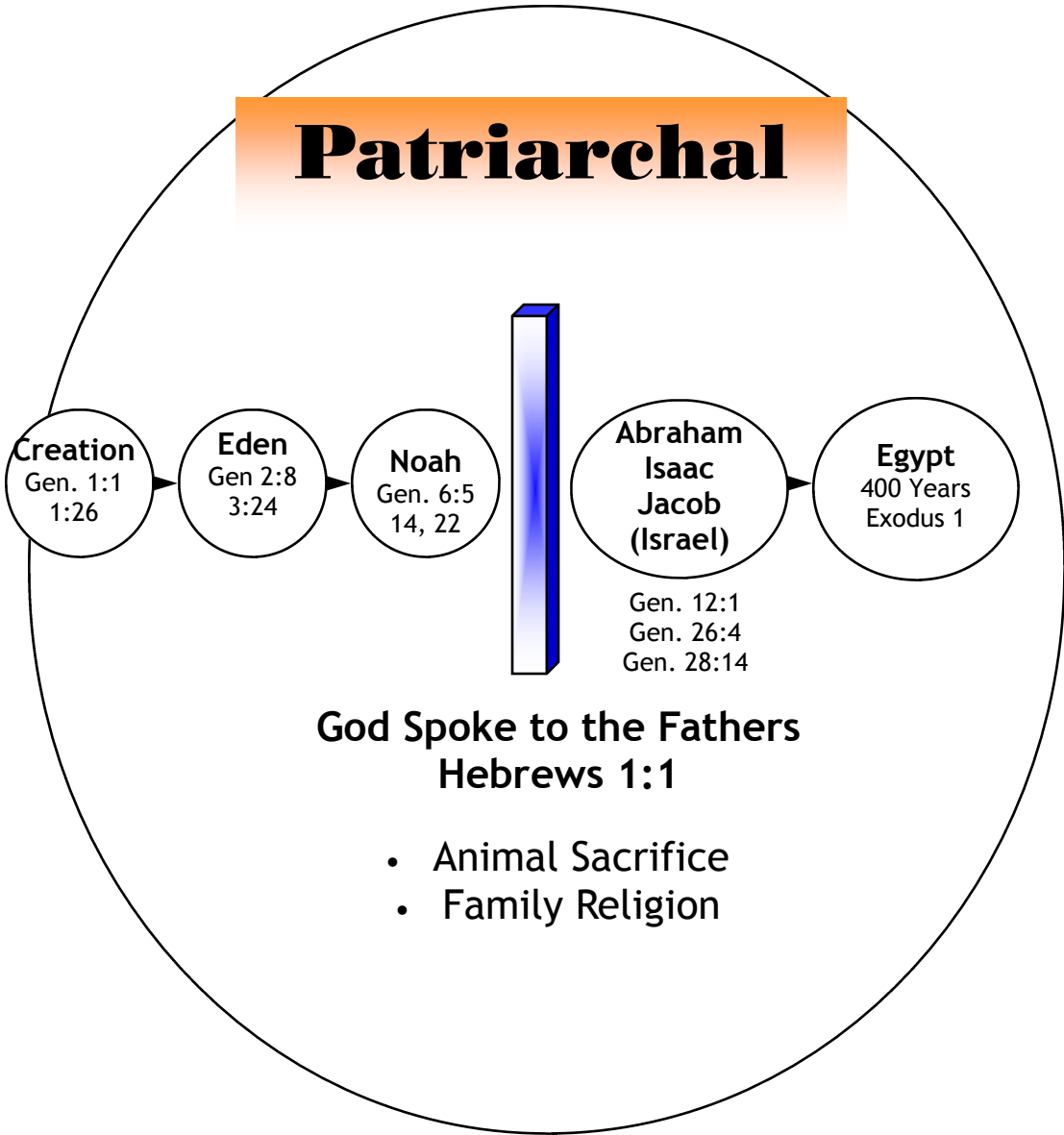
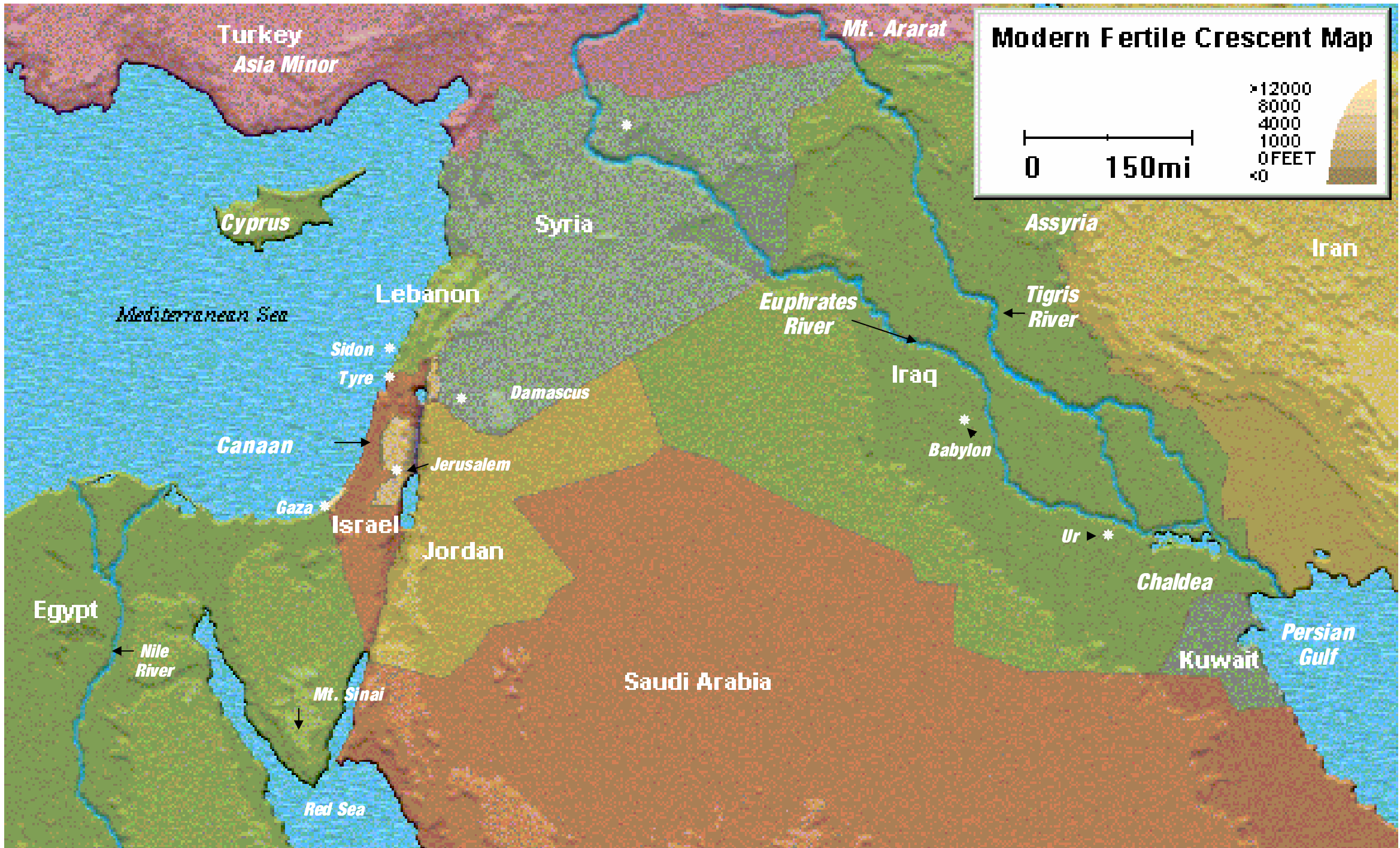


Bible Timeline





LESSON 1 PATRIARCHAL PERIOD

INTRODUCTION:

THIS OUTLINE IS MERELY A SUGGESTION OF THE LESSON. IF YOU NEED TO CLEAR UP THE STORY IN YOUR MIND, YOU CAN CHECK THE DETAILS BETWEEN GENESIS 1:1 AND EXODUS 19.

- I. The Bible (Key your memory to this first object you hold in your hand.)
 - A. The Bible is:
 1. Composed of 66 books which have been translated into about 1200 different languages and dialects.
 2. A book with 40 different authors, who range in occupation from shepherds to kings.
 3. A book written over a 1500-year period; therefore, many of the authors never even saw one another.
 4. An amazing book, because its message is unified in spite of its great number of authors and length of years used in composing it -- how else can we explain its existence if it is not inspired by God?
 - B. The Bible answers three questions (that no other book does):
 1. Where did I come from?
 2. Why am I here?
 3. Where am I going?
- II. The Chart (This is the second object to which you may key your memory.)
 - A. This chart is not inspired; only the Bible is inspired.
 - B. The chart is a visual aid to help us follow the progress of Bible events.
 - C. Let's look over the whole chart generally. (You might as well do this now, or they will wonder about it the rest of the lesson.)
 1. This chart represents 3 periods of Bible history or 3 laws of the Bible.
 2. Note that the first two are complete (indicating that they are laws of the past), but the third is incomplete (meaning that we still live during this period before Christ has returned to the earth to close it).
 3. Tonight we will consider only:
 - a. Patriarchal (meaning "father-rule")
 - b. Hebrews 1:1 (at the bottom) says that "God spoke to the fathers. . .," and hence this was a very special kind of law and period.

TRANSITION: Let us look at this first period in detail.

Lesson 1, Page 2

LESSON:

I. Creation (Key memory to first scripture.)

A. No better place to begin than the beginning, is there?

B. Theories about creation:

1. One theory of the earth's origin is that it spun off the sun.
2. One theory of life says that it came from the sea millions of years ago, and has, by a process of evolution, reached its present state.
3. Notice that none of these theories explain real origins; that is, they all begin with something already in existence.

C. Genesis 1:1 answers our curiosity about creation. (Read it with them.)

1. "In the beginning" - does not say exactly when.
2. "God" - the beginning force of all things.
3. "God created" - This is how our world got here and all its life.

D. Genesis 1:26 tells the story of man's creation in the image of God. (Read this with them.)

II. The Garden of Eden

A. We read that God put man in the garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8ff).

1. We don't know where this spot was in our world.
2. Archaeologists have found in the area close to the Persian Gulf some of the oldest remains of civilization known to man. (Show on the map.)
3. This could have been the original spot for the garden of Eden; certainly the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are there as described in Genesis 2:14. (Actually it doesn't make any difference perhaps, but it is interesting to think about such possibilities.)

B. The fall (Gen. 3:1ff)

1. You remember the story of how man was to dress and keep this garden and was forbidden to eat only from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
2. But when Satan came in the form of a serpent and tempted Eve, she ate of the fruit, and Adam did too.
3. For this sin, God cast them out of the garden.

Lesson 1, Page 3

QUESTIONS:

- a. "I don't see anything so wrong with eating a piece of fruit, do you?" (Wait for them to answer - don't get in a hurry to do it for them.) "No," they say.
- b. "Well, what then made the eating of this fruit so bad?" (Their answer should be something like, "because God said not to eat it.")
- c. "So God punished them for their deliberate disobedience, didn't He?" (Yes)

C. The punishment

1. First, God placed a curse on man (Gen. 3:14ff).
2. Second, God cast man out of the Garden (Gen. 3:24).

III. Wickedness

- A. This describes to us the wicked state into which mankind sank after the sin in the garden of Eden.
- B. In Genesis 4 we read the familiar story of Cain murdering his brother, Abel.
- C. Then in Genesis 6:5 we read how wicked mankind became with the passing of years.

1. Read this passage with them.
2. Ask question, "It's pretty bad when the human race not only does evil, but thinks nothing but evil thoughts, isn't it?"

(Keep them involved with you in the lesson by asking questions; otherwise, the lesson becomes a monologue.)

IV. Noah

- A. Things got so bad that God determined to destroy every living thing on earth; he seemed to want to wipe the slate clean and start over again.
- B. But God picked out a man named Noah to be saved.
 1. The command was given to Noah to build an ark of gopher wood (Genesis 6:14).
 2. We read that Noah did all that God commanded him. (Genesis 6:22)

Questions: (to bring out the idea of obedience)

1. I'd like to stimulate your thinking just here by asking you a question or two.
2. God told Noah to make an ark 300 cubits long, didn't he? (Wait for the "yes".)
3. And Noah did it all just like God said, didn't he? (According to Gen. 6:22 - wait for the yes answer.)

Lesson 1, Page 4

4. Now if Noah had decided to make the ark only 280 cubits long . . . (Important Point) *****"WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN OBEYING GOD?" ***** (Use these exact words in quotes.)
Wait for answer - "No, it wouldn't have been."

That's right. Doesn't this show us the difference between Noah and Eve? One did exactly as God said, and the other didn't. We are going to see obedience rewarded and disobedience punished again and again as we study through the Bible.

V. The Flood

- A. Beginning in the 7th chapter of Genesis we read of the flood.
 1. At least one pair of every animal was taken into the ark.
 2. Only 8 people went in (Noah, his wife, their three sons and their wives).
 3. It rained 40 days and nights, and the fountains of the deep were broken up.
 4. Water covered the highest mountains, and all flesh died outside the ark.
 5. They remained inside the ark for about a year before they came down on the mountains of Ararat. (Locate this on map.)
- B. God established a new covenant with a rainbow (Genesis 9:8ff).
- C. The sons of Noah repopulated the earth (Genesis 10).

VI. The Patriarchs

- A. Abraham (Genesis 12:1)
 1. If you will turn to this passage, we will find God selecting a special person to fulfill that promise that God made when He cast Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden.
 2. Abraham lived down in Ur of the Chaldees. (Locate this on the map.)
 3. Abraham left home and went to Haran, a journey of about a thousand miles, in response to God's call. (Acts 7:1-4 gives this part of the story not covered in Genesis 12.)
- B. Isaac
 1. When Abraham and Sarah were very old they finally had the son of promise and they called his name "Isaac" (meaning "laughter").
 2. To Isaac, God repeated this promise of his being the father of the Redeemer (Genesis 26:4).

Lesson 1, Page 5

C. Jacob

1. Isaac had twin sons. Esau as first born should have had the birthright and blessing.
2. But Jacob bought the birthright from Esau, and then stole the blessing!
3. To Jacob, God repeated the promise (Gen. 28:14) and changed his name to "Israel."
4. Jacob had 12 sons.
 - a. Their families become the 12 tribes of Israel.
 - b. Judah will be the one to carry the promise, but we drop this point in order to follow the story of Joseph.
 - c. Joseph, the favorite son, is sold by some of his jealous brothers into slavery.
 - d. They make Jacob (Israel) think Joseph is dead by bringing Joseph's coat covered with animal blood.

D. Joseph

1. Joseph is sold into Potiphar's house as a slave in Egypt, where he does well until Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him of immorality and has him cast into prison.
2. In prison
 - a. Joseph again rises to a position of responsibility.
 - b. A butler and a baker from Pharaoh's palace are thrown into prison with him, and he interprets their dreams.
 - c. He asks the butler to remember him when he gets his old job back, but the butler forgets for two years until Pharaoh needs a dream interpreted.
 - d. Joseph is sent for and correctly interprets that Egypt will have seven years of plenty and then seven years of famine.
 - e. Joseph advises a grain storage program, and Pharaoh puts him in charge of it.
3. After seven years of plenty, the famine comes.
 - a. Joseph's own brothers are sent to buy grain.
 - b. Joseph reveals himself to them.
4. The whole family is brought down to live in Goshen in the land of Egypt.

VII. Egypt

A. Bondage (Exodus I)

1. About 400 years pass.

Lesson 1, Page 6

2. Another Pharaoh comes to the throne who does not appreciate Joseph's work.
3. Pharaoh makes slaves of the Israelites.

B. A deliverer

1. Moses is born and taken into Pharaoh's palace to be raised as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.
2. When Moses is 40 years old he tries to deliver his people but has to flee to Midian when he murders an Egyptian taskmaster.
3. He keeps sheep for 40 years until God calls him back by a vision at the burning bush to deliver the people.

C. The deliverance

1. Pharaoh resists until the tenth plague convinces him.
2. He tries to pursue Israel through the Red Sea and the army is drowned.

D. The desert

1. They turn southward toward Mt. Sinai. (Locate on map.)
2. There, as they circle the mountain the lighting flashes and thunder rolls while Moses goes up to the top of the mountain to receive a NEW LAW from God.

(AND THAT IS WHERE OUR LESSON WILL BEGIN NEXT TIME.)

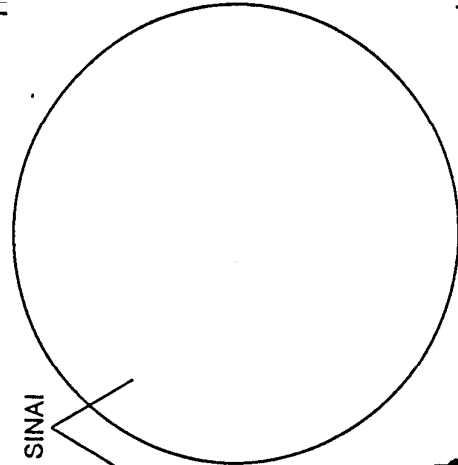
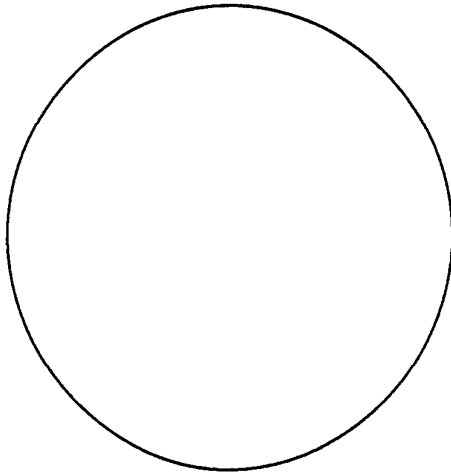
REVIEW: Let us review a little right here. We have learned how God created a family religion by speaking through the fathers in the Patriarchal period of Bible history. During this time they had animal sacrifice and a family type altar.

The next law which we study will be quite different from this one. It is a truly exciting story in itself, and I know you won't want to miss it.

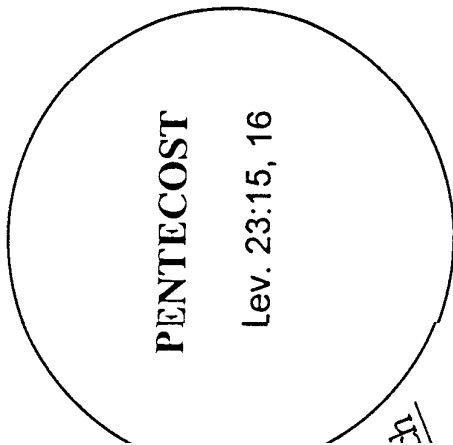
PATRIARCHAL

MOSAICAL

CHRISTIAN



MT. SINAI



7

Beginning of

Daniel 2:44 - KINGDOM

Isaiah 2:2,3 - HOUSE

Jeremiah 31:31 - NEW COVENANT

Joel 2:28 - HOLY SPIRIT

Matthew 3:1,2 - AT HAND

Matthew 16:18 - WILL BUILD

Mark 9:1 - APOSTLES

ACTS

2

Revelation 1:4 - ASIA

I CORINTHIANS 1:2 - CORINTH

cts 11:15 - BEGINNING

:1 - JERUSALEM

- CHURCH

LESSON II THE MOSAICAL PERIOD

REVIEW:

You remember that last time we learned how God created the world and all life. God also established a simple form of religion in which He spoke to the fathers (Heb. 1:1) as the heads of a family type religion.

We followed God's people, the Israelites, down to Mt. Sinai where they received a new law. This law will be our study this time.

(Note to the Teacher: This is a long lesson, so make your details brief.)

INTRODUCTION:

- I. Our lesson this time will trace the law of Moses.
- II. On our chart this is the 2nd part.

LESSON:

- I. Mt. Sinai (Key your memory to the mountain and begin there. Also locate this for them on the map.)
 - A. A religious law (Read Exodus 20. This scripture is on the chart.)
 1. Verses 1-19 show us some religious provisions of this law.
 2. These are commonly called "The Ten Commandments."
 - B. Civil law (Exodus 21)
 1. Many people don't realize that the Mosaic law had civil provisions in it also because it had to serve as a complete guide for a whole nation of people.
 2. Just to give a little flavor of this law, you might read:
 - a. Exodus 21:1-6 (the law's treatment of slaves)
 - b. Exodus 21:28,29 (personal liability law)
 (These readings shake the student loose from the idea that the Mosaic law was just a religious law.)
 - C. A negative law, mainly
 1. 613 commandments in all.
 2. 245 were positive and 368 were negative.

Lesson 2, Page 2

II. The Wilderness

A. Northward (Turn to map.)

1. Israel left Sinai after receiving its new law.
2. Went to Kadesh-Barnea just outside of Canaan.
3. 12 spies sent out (one per tribe)
4. Gone 40 days.

B. Their report (Numbers 13:27 - Read it.)

1. Returned telling of wonderful land.
2. Ten of spies said, "We can't conquer it."
3. Two faithful spies (Caleb & Joshua) urged that they could.

C. Punishment

1. The people listened to the ten spies and disobeyed God's command to enter the Promised Land.
2. They were condemned, therefore, to wander 40 years in the wilderness.
(One year for each day the spies were gone.)
--- NUMBERS 13 & 14 TELLS THIS STORY. ---

III. Joshua (His name on the chart reminds us of the following.)

- A. Moses led Israel for 40 years while that rebellious generation died one by one.
- B. At the end of 40 years Moses led them back around to the plains of Moab on the east of the Jordan River, and there he delivered a series of sermons to them. In our Old Testament these are known as the Book of Deuteronomy.
- C. Then God took Moses up to a high mountain and let him see the Promised Land before he died.
- D. At Moses' death, Joshua took the leadership and led Israel in conquering the land of Canaan in about 55 years of warfare.
--- THE BOOK OF JOSHUA TELLS THIS STORY. ---

IV. Judges

- A. This period followed the conquest and lasted 355 years.
- B. The tribes were rather loosely organized at this time, and the judges were great leaders who arose from time to time to deliver them from periods of crisis.
- C. Read Judges 2:11-16 to get the cycle which was repeated over and over again.

Lesson 2, Page 3

1. The people sinned and their enemies oppressed them.
2. They cried to God and were delivered.
3. Then they forgot God and fell again.

V. Kings

A. Tired of judges (I Samuel 8:6 -- Read it.)

1. Israel wanted to be ruled by a king like the other nations.
2. The rest of Chapter 8, however, gives God's warning through Samuel as to what will happen to them if they disobey God's wishes.

B. United Kingdom (Lasted 120 years in all)

1. Saul (I Samuel 15:22 - read)

- a. Told to destroy the Amalekites.
- b. Almost did but fell a little short.
- c. Samuel warns him that even this little deviation from God's will, spells serious disobedience. (Read vs. 23 also.)
- d. So Saul was rejected as king of Israel by God.

2. David

- a. Was at first a man after God's own heart.
- b. But David sinned, too, and disobeyed God in the matter of Bathsheba (II Samuel 11:1-4).

3. Solomon

- a. Even Solomon (a wise king) disobeyed God when he allowed his many wives to turn his heart away from God.
- b. But God inspired this same man to write the wise and meaningful words of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon -- for example: "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." Eccl. 12:13

VI. Divided Kingdom

A. Solomon dies in 931 B.C.

B. Rehoboam

1. Solomon's son and heir to the throne.
2. But he refuses to lighten the nation's load, and a revolt leaves him with only two tribes which he forms into a tiny kingdom in the south known from now on as Judah.

Lesson 2, Page 4

C. Jeroboam

1. Leads the ten tribes off in a revolt against Rehoboam.
2. Establishes golden calves at Dan and Bethel for his people to worship.
3. His kingdom in the north known henceforth as Israel.

FORMERLY ALL 12 TRIBES WERE KNOWN AS ISRAEL, BUT NOW ONLY THE 10 TRIBES OF THE NORTHERN KINGDOM CARRY THAT NAME; whereas THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM TAKES THE NAME OF JUDAH (which used to be the name of just one tribe.)

D. Captivity

1. The northern kingdom of ISRAEL is carried away by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.
2. The southern kingdom of JUDAH lasts until 606 B.C. when it is carried away to Babylon, and Jerusalem and the temple are finally destroyed in 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar.

E. Return

1. Israel was lost as a kingdom and survives only as a race called the SAMARITANS (a mixture of Israelite and Assyrian blood).
2. Judah
 - a. Stayed in captivity for 70 years.
 - b. Then returns from Babylon (which by now is under the rule of Persia).
 - (1) The temple is restored.
 - (2) Jerusalem's walls are repaired.
3. Malachi closes the Old Testament about 400 years before Christ, but the Jews continue to live under the law of Moses.

VII. Messianic Prophecies

- A. Through the Old Testament, the prophets kept saying, "I see someone coming to redeem us."
 1. They called him a Messiah, which in Hebrew means "the anointed one," the one designated by God to rule men's lives.
 2. So we follow these predictions about someone like a thread woven throughout the Old Covenant.

Lesson 2, Page 5

- B. The prophets drew a picture of this Messiah so all could recognize him when he came. (This includes us today!) The prophets described someone who would:

1. Be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:22,23)
2. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1,; Matt. 2:4-6)
3. Die on a cross (Psalm 22; John 19:17-36)

(Other fulfillments are listed on a handout in the extra P.E.T. materials.)

VIII. Christ is born

- A. He fulfilled these prophecies and many, many others perfectly.
- B. He lived a life without sin (I Peter 2:21, 22). IMAGINE THAT!
 1. He never got angry at the wrong time.
 2. He never lusted, hated, or even said the wrong thing at the wrong time.
- C. He was resurrected (Psalm 16:8ff; Acts 2:25-33).
- D. No wonder the world has never agreed on how to classify Jesus. With the kind of life he lived, and the claims he made, he is either:
 1. A liar! (Did he deliberately make false claims about himself?)
 2. A lunatic! (Was he insane and just thought he was God's son?)
 3. Or the Lord! (Was he really what he claimed to be?)

(Peter's conclusion was that he was the Son of God - Matt. 16:16)

IX. Christ's Ministry

- A. Now let's fit Jesus' ministry into God's master plan as revealed on this chart.
 1. Jesus lived out his ministry as a faithful Jew, abiding under the law of Moses.
 2. Although Jesus lived under the law and kept it, he made one thing clear; namely, THOUGH HE DID NOT COME TO DESTROY THE LAW, HE DID COME TO FULFILL IT. (Matt. 5:17, 18)
- B. Now we must look for Christ fulfilling the law of Moses.

X. The Ending of the Mosaic Law (Use the verses in the middle of the Mosaical Circle.)

- A. The law came by Moses. (Read John 1:17.)
- B. Yet Paul says law was "abolished." (Read Colossians 2:14.)

NOW DON'T GET IN A HURRY HERE! THIS PART IS PERHAPS THE MAIN REASON WHY YOU HAVE TAUGHT THIS WHOLE LESSON.

(You must help them to see that the law of Moses no longer directly applies to them.)

Lesson 2, Page 6

C. You ask, "Why would God give a law if He was going to take it out of the way?" That's a good question, and Paul gives the answer in Galatians 3:24, 25 - READ IT.

1. Verse 24 - The law was what?
(Let them tell you the law was a Schoolmaster.
Don't get nervous and answer for them. This is important in helping them to see that the law of Moses has been abolished.)
2. Verse 25 - This verse says we are no longer under what?
(Schoolmaster, they say.)
Now what is the schoolmaster according to Verse 24?
(It's the law of Moses.)
3. So is Paul saying, "We are no longer under the law of Moses"?
(Pause to be sure they understand. Let them answer, "Yes.")

D. Understanding what the passing of the Mosaic Law means

(NOW YOU HAVE LED THEM TO SEE THAT THE LAW OF MOSES HAS BEEN ABOLISHED. YOUR JOB IS NOT DONE YET, SINCE THEY STILL MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS!!! THIS SECTION IS GOING TO HELP THEM APPLY THIS NEW FACT THEY HAVE JUST LEARNED TO THEIR LIVES.)
(This, too, is important.)

1. Animal sacrifice
 - a. You don't know of any church in Christianity today that offers animal sacrifice, do you? (No)
 - b. Do you know why they don't?
 - c. Because we aren't under the provisions of the law of Moses!
2. Passover (Take this word next.)
 - a. Do you know of any church which celebrates the Passover Feast? (No)
 - b. Why don't we?
 - c. Because we don't live under the law of Moses!
(Let them answer this.)
3. Sabbath
 - a. Which day is the Sabbath? (Read Exodus 20:9,10) (7th day)
 - b. Which day is the 7th day in our week? (Saturday)
 - c. What day is Sunday? (1st day)
 - d. Why not keep the Sabbath today?
WE DON'T LIVE UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES!
(It was nailed to the cross -- Col. 2:14.)
 - e. Does this mean we don't have to keep the ten commandments?
(1) It simply means we are under a better law than this in the Christian age.
(2) Nine out of the ten commandments are repeated and deepened in Christ's law, and only one is left out.

Lesson 2, Page 7

WHICH ONE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IS LEFT OUT?

- (a) We are not told to "Remember the Sabbath."
- (b) In fact, Colossians 2:16 (which comes just under the verse we read just a moment ago - Col. 2:14) says we are to let no man "judge us in respect of the Sabbath days." (Read it.)

REVIEW:

1. We have learned tonight how God picked out the Jewish nation as His chosen people to bring the promised Saviour to the world.
2. To accomplish this, God gave to the Jews (and only to the Jews) the Mosaic law.
3. This law, like a schoolmaster, brought them to Christ.
4. When they were brought to Christ, the Mosaic law was nailed to the cross, and a new law came into effect.

NEXT TIME, we will be studying this new law.

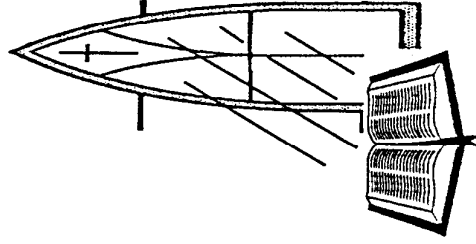
THE CHURCH DESCRIBED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

GUIDE BOOK

Luke 8:11
II Timothy 3:16, 17

Descriptions of Church

Church of God-Acts 20:28
Body of Christ-Eph. 1:22,23
Churches of Christ-Rom. 16:16
Bride of Christ-Rom. 7:4



Warning

Gal. 1:6-8
Rev. 22:18, 19

Descriptions of Members

Disciples-Acts 11:26
Saints-Phil. 1:1
Brethren-Gal. 6:1
Children- I John 3:1
Christians-Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; I Pet. 4:16

Organization

Elders-Titus 1:5,7; Acts 20:17,28; I Pet. 5:1-3
Deacons-Acts 6; I Tim. 3:8-13
Members-I Cor. 12:27
Preachers-Rom. 10:14; I Cor. 3:5; Eph. 4:11;
II Tim. 4:5; Matt. 23:9

Worship

Teach-Acts 5:42
Pray-I Cor. 14:15
Give- I Cor. 16:1,2; II Cor. 9:7
Sing-I Cor. 14:15; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19
Commune-I Cor. 11:20; Acts 20:7

LESSON III

REVIEW VERY BRIEFLY THE FIRST TWO LESSONS before beginning the third. Pause at the end of the second lesson to read Hebrews 9: 15-17 written at the top of the cross on Chart 1.

(This scripture was not used in Lesson Two so that you might have an excuse to remind them again that the Mosaic law is not binding on us today. Point out in this text that a will does not come into effect until after the one who made it is dead; therefore, Christ's new law did not come into effect until after the cross. This will help explain many questions later on down the line, such as the "thief on the cross." Do not fail to make this point clear!)

(TURN TO THE NEXT CHART.)

A NEW CHART

You will note that this new chart is designed along the same lines as the first one we looked at. These first two represent the Patriarchal law and the Mosaic law. The third part represents the Christian law. This is the third period of Bible history, and the last law that God's people will be under.

50 DAYS

Now we are going to have a "change of pace" right here. Up to this point we have been talking in terms of centuries of time, and each lesson has covered at least one thousand years or more. In this third lesson we are going to continue to move forward in time, but now it will only be a matter of 50 days!

We want to study the events of only one day, and that day was named "Pentecost." (According to Lev. 23:15,16 and II Chron. 8:12, 13 this day came 50 days after the Passover Feast.) We read in Acts 1:3 of Jesus showing himself alive for a period of "40 days" after His resurrection from the dead. The 50th day after the Passover is our lesson for this time. On this first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection something very important happened. This day and its events will be our subject now.

LOOKING FORWARD TO PENTECOST

First, let us notice some verses which point forward to this day. There are a lot of things in each of these passages, but for now let's just decide which direction they point: (Note the arrows pointing forward in each case.)

OLD TESTAMENT

1. Daniel 2:44 - speaks of a future kingdom.
2. Isaiah 2:2,3 - tells of the house of the Lord being established and the word of the Lord going forth from Jerusalem.
3. Jeremiah 31:31 - predicts a completely new covenant somewhere down the stream of time.
4. Joel 2:28 - said that the Holy Spirit would come on some notable future day.

Lesson 3, Page 2

Yet, when we open the pages of the New Testament, this event still has not come to pass.

NEW TESTAMENT

1. Matthew 3:1,2 - shows John saying the kingdom is still "at hand."
2. Matthew 16:18- depicts Jesus as saying He "will build" His church at some future date. (So it still had not come.)
3. Mark 9:1- The Lord told His disciples that some of them would still be alive when the kingdom came with power.
4. Acts 1:4- Jesus returns to heaven with the command for them to "wait for the promise."

LOOKING BACK TO PENTECOST

When we come to the other side of the day of Pentecost, we see the scriptures pointing backward to a great event: (Note the arrows pointing backward.)

1. Revelation 1:4 - speaks of seven congregations of the church already in existence in Asia.
2. I Corinthians 1:2 - makes it clear that a church is in existence in the city of Corinth at that time.
3. Acts 11:15 - Peter looks back to an event and calls it "the beginning."
4. Acts 8:1 - speaks of "the church which was in Jerusalem."
5. Acts 5:11 - speaks simply of "the whole church."

PENTECOST ITSELF

The event to which all these verses point is in Acts 2. At this point all lines converge. We want to read this chapter with you and see if we can discover what happened on this day in history.

*****READ ACTS 2 AND EXPLAIN IT*****

When you are finished, go back and note these points which fulfill the prophecy:

1. Daniel's kingdom
(Daniel 2:44) - Jesus speaks in Matt. 16: 18,19 of the church and the kingdom in the same breath.
2. Isaiah's house - Begun at Jerusalem as Isaiah predicted.
(Isaiah 2:2,3) (Acts 1:4; 2:5) Church is called "house of God."
(I Timothy 3:15)
3. Jeremiah's new covenant - Acts 2:38 commands repentance and baptism in the name of Christ. This is the first time God required exactly this, so must be new.
(Jeremiah 31:31)

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4. Joel's Holy Spirit given - Peter said, "This is that spoken by Joel." Acts 2:16)
(Joel 2:28)
5. Was at hand as John said- Came 3 years later after close of Jesus' ministry.
(Matt. 3:2)
6. Jesus predicted "some" - All apostles except Judas were alive. (Acts 1:15-26)
would be alive when
kingdom came. (Mark 9:1)

CONCLUSIONS

In this lesson we have learned that the Lord's church was begun on the first Pentecost after His resurrection. In Acts 2:47 is made the first mention in all the Bible where anyone was "added" to the existing church.

This all happened just 50 days after the point where we closed our last lesson. Thus, we realize that this was a real religious movement begun at a definite point in history.

Next time we will study about this church as it is described in the New Testament. We think you will find this an interesting study. It will be different from what you have studied before about the church. We will try to study this church as we would study any other historical movement.

PERSONAL WORK TIPS

1. Ask questions to get commitments and to involve the student in the lesson.
2. Do not allow the student to get you ahead of the lesson by his questions -- postpone the answers until he has the background in the Bible to understand your answers.
3. Restate their objections before you try to answer them:
 - A. This shows that you appreciate their thinking and are not just trying to get them to listen while you do all the talking.
 - B. Also, it makes sure that you understand their objection, and you will not waste time on the wrong point.
4. Answer all their questions by referring to the scriptures and using such statements as:
 - A. "Instead of giving my opinion, let's read what the Bible says about that."
 - B. "You told me before that we ought to obey God, and God's book says . . ." (Then read it.)
 - C. "Let's read the Bible, and I'll let you be the judge of what God wants you to do."
5. In answering "hard" questions such as, "Do you think I'm going to hell?", use something resembling the following four steps:
(OUR ATTITUDE IS IMPORTANT!)
 - A. You don't think I'll be your judge at the judgment, do you? (No) I agree with you. God told me to "teach", not "judge".
 - B. God will judge us, won't He? (Yes)
 - C. You believe the Bible is God's word, don't you? (Yes)
Good, I do too.
 - D. I'd like to study the Bible with you this week. I think I can help you find the answers to some of your questions.
6. Be a friend, not a teacher nor a salesman!
7. Above all, NEVER ARGUE!!!!
---- LET'S WIN SOULS, NOT ARGUMENTS ----



LESSON IV

REVIEW BRIEFLY

In our last three lessons we have learned that God has changed His law three times:

- (1) From creation down to Mt. Sinai, man was under the Patriarchal law in which God "spoke to the fathers."
- (2) But the Jews alone received a new law at Mt. Sinai called the law of Moses.
- (3) Following the cross, the new law of Christ was given to all the world.

In our last lesson we learned that the church was begun on the First Pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. And you recall that Pentecost was a Jewish feast day which came 50 days after the Passover.

THE CHURCH

1. (Key your memory to this word in the title.)
2. Not Catholic or Protestant

We want to pause at this point to study and see what this church really was. We know it was established on Pentecost, but what kind of church was it?

We must remember that this was before such terms as "Catholic" and "Protestant." Those are modern terms, and the people in this first church would not have understood you if you had used such terms.

DESCRIBED

1. Key your memory to this next word in the title.
2. New Testament Description

Instead, we are going to let the New Testament describe this church for us. You will notice on the chart that we have selected some verses which describe this church.

We are going to search for this church in the pages of the New Testament just as you might search for my car on a parking lot. You couldn't find my car on a huge parking lot if I didn't describe it for you. But if I describe my car, you could find it.

(Use your own car here.) My car is:

1. A Dodge
2. Green outside and inside
3. It has automatic transmission.
4. Just to be sure, I could give you my license number.

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Now, you could find it, couldn't you? There is no other car exactly like mine on any lot, is there?

Well, let's look for the church which is described in the New Testament.

HOW DESCRIBED

1. Guidebook

This church described in the New Testament had no written creedbooks, disciplines, or catechisms as modern churches do. That's a fact no one disputes. What guidebook did they use?

Luke 8:11 - Says the seed is the word of God. This is Jesus' interpretation, not mine. The only seed this church had to plant was the word of God.

II Timothy 3:16,17 - Paul (in his day) said the scripture could completely furnish a man. This is why this church needed no other guide.

2. Warnings

This church was cautioned not to go beyond its authority.

Galatians 1:6-8 - The Galatians were warned not to believe even if an angel brought a different gospel. (What right do men have to change the gospel if angels can't?)

Revelation 22:18,19- We are warned not to add to nor to take from the word of God.

(If they object that this is merely talking about the book of Revelation, point out that if we can't add or subtract from this inspired book, by what right can we add or subtract from any other inspired book of the Bible?)

3. Descriptions of the Church

You will note on the chart that we used the term "descriptions" instead of "names" of the church. Actually this church seemed to have no name except "the church," and that is what it is called most of the time. Certainly this church had no one name which must be used all the time.

Some names are not descriptive. For instance, we might call a tall man "Shorty." We have given him a name, but it is not a description, is it?

The following terms are descriptions of the church, but they are not necessarily exclusive names which must be used every time we speak of the church described in the New Testament.

Acts 20:28 - This church is described as belonging to God or being "of God."

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- Ephesians 1:22,23 - Here the church is described in another relationship as being the body of Christ.
- Romans 16:16 - The different congregations of the church all belong to Christ, and this description brings out that relationship. (This name over the door of a church building should be a description, not just a name.)
- Romans 7:4 - Here we are reminded that, as a group of saved people, they were married to Christ, hence, they were the "bride of Christ."

(Can't you imagine someone asking you what church you were a member of, and your answering, "The Bride of Christ Church"? There would be nothing wrong with it. It expresses a New Testament description of the church.)

4. Descriptions of the Members

Again we find no one name applied to members of this church, but we do find a lot of different descriptive titles for them. Let us note that each descriptive term brings out a different angle of what they were to be.

- Acts 11:26 - The meaning of "disciples" is that they were students of learners about Christ.
- Philippians 1:1 - "Saint" brings out the idea that they were to live pure and holy lives.
- Galatians 6:1 - They were called "brethren" since they were all in the same family of God and hence related to one another.
- I John 3:1 - Teaches that they were children or "sons" of God. This verse brings out the relationship that they had to their common Father, God.

Christians

- | | |
|--|---|
| Acts 11:26
Acts 26:28
I Peter 4:16 | - These verses bring out the fact that they belonged to Christ, or that they followed Christ. |
|--|---|

NEXT TIME

What Kind of Christians?

In these three verses we have read all the places in the Bible where the description "Christian" is used. Just at this spot I want to ask you a question to stimulate your thinking. I could just tell you this fact, but I think you will appreciate it more if you answer it for yourself.

You realize that these people we are talking about lived before there was any such thing as "Catholics" or "Protestants," don't you? For instance, if you had asked Paul what kind of Christian he was, he probably wouldn't have understood what you meant.

Today if someone says they are a Christian, the next question is, "What kind of Christian?" Since these people lived before such modern titles, what kind of Christian do you suppose they were?

Answer should be something like this:

"Just Christians" or "Just plain Christians"

That's exactly right - they were just Christians. That is the way it was in this church described in the New Testament.

We'll stop right there for now.

Next time we will complete our study of the church described in the New Testament.

LESSON V

Last Time

You will remember that in Lesson IV, we studied some of the descriptions applied to the church in the New Testament. At the same time, we discovered that several different descriptions were applied to the individual members of that church. Do you remember that you told me then that these people were just Christians -- nothing more and nothing less?

This Time

In our lesson this time we want to continue drawing a picture of the church described in the New Testament. By reading these scriptures listed at the bottom of our chart, we will be able to complete the picture of this first century church.

ORGANIZATION

Everything which exists has some kind of organization or order. This church described in the New Testament is no exception.

Elders

(Read Titus 1:5,7.) You will note here that Paul is talking about ordaining someone in Verse 5. Who was that? (Elders) But we notice in Verse 7 that when certain qualifications are named, Paul refers to this office as what? (Bishops) So we see that in the church described in the New Testament, elders and bishops referred to the same office, don't we?

(Read Acts 20:17,28.) Paul called whom down to Ephesus? (Vs. 17-Ephesian elders) When he addressed them later, he said they had been made what? (Vs. 28 - overseers) So we see that elders and overseers referred to the same office in the church described in the New Testament, don't we?

(Read I Peter 5:1-3.) In this passage (Vs. 1) elders are again mentioned. In Verse 2 their job is to do what? (Answer: "feed the flock.") From this we can see that elders were also thought of as spiritual shepherds, caring for a flock.

Thus, we can see that the men called "elders" had the duty of overseeing the church. They were sometimes called by other terms, but each term merely described them.

- ❖ They were called "elders" because they were to be older men.

- ❖ They were called "bishops" because they were to "oversee" the church.

- ❖ They were called "shepherds" because it was their job to "pastor" the church like a shepherd pastors his flock.

Elders, then, were the spiritual leaders of each congregation.

Deacons

(Read Acts 6:1-4.) In Verses 2 & 4 we see that the early church had two obligations: That is, "serving tables" and "ministering the word." Both were important, so a set of men were placed over each.

We are not surprised to find someone in this church assigned the physical tasks of the church. Qualifications are given in I Timothy 3:8 for an office called "deacon." The word deacon means "servant," and that is what they were -- official servants of the church.

Members

(Read I Corinthians 12:27.) This shows that all Christians in the church described in the New Testament were "members."

Preachers

You may wonder what kind of preachers they had in this church of the New Testament, and what they called them.

In Romans 10:14 Paul calls those who preach "preachers." (This title describes their work.)

In I Corinthians 3:5 such men were called "ministers." (Again, this describes their work.)

Let's read Ephesians 4:11. You will notice that this church had an office called "pastor" and another one called "evangelist." Now I wonder which one of these referred to the preacher?

Well, let's turn over to II Timothy 4:5 and see what God's Word says Timothy did. It says here that Timothy was to do the "work of an evangelist," doesn't it? Also, he was to make full proof of his "ministry." So this church of the first century spoke of their preachers as "evangelists" with a "ministry." So far as the Bible reveals it, they did not call their preachers "pastor." (Remember, Ephesians 4:11 listed the two as separate offices.) You will recall from our previous study that the "elders" were the shepherds and pastors of the flock.

Also, let us read Matthew 23:9 to find out what Jesus said about calling religious teachers by titles. Here he forbids us to call any man "father" as a term of religious honor. In Verse 8 Jesus said "Rabbi" came under the same prohibition. "Reverend" is a modern title which men have applied to preachers, but it was never used to refer to preachers in the church described in the New Testament.

WORSHIP

Next, we would like to look at the worship of the church described in the New Testament.

- | | |
|-------|---|
| Teach | - In Acts 5:42 we discover that the early church taught when they assembled. |
| Pray | - It is also quite plain that this church (according to I Timothy 2:8) prayed in their worship. (If teaching Catholics, you might want to read I Timothy 2:5 to show that Christ is our <u>only</u> mediator today, excluding even Mary.) |
| Give | - We find the giving of this church to be different from the tithe (or 10 percent) required under Moses' law. Instead, I Corinthians 16:1,2 shows their giving was done on the first day of the week and "as they were prospered." II Corinthians 9:7 adds two other points; that our giving be "purposed" and "cheerfully" done. |
| Sing | - (Read I Corinthians 14:15, Colossians 3:16, and Ephesians 5:19.) We know from these verses that the church described in the New Testament <u>sang</u> in its worship to God. <u>All</u> the New Testament references establish this point. It is interesting that not one mention is made of any kind of instrumental music. So, all the New Testament <u>authorizes</u> us to say about this church is that they sang in worship. (Pause here to let them object or disagree. Ask them if they had ever realized that this church didn't have instruments. Likely they will say they don't see that it makes any difference.) Your reply: Review the first chart with its cases of exact obedience as commanded, such as Noah, etc. Show that by this standard only singing is authorized by God. The only way we can be <u>sure</u> we are obeying God is by doing <u>exactly</u> what He has authorized. |

EXTRA POINTS IF NEEDED

1. We don't know everything that God had in mind for our worship, but he does tell us a few points in Colossians 3:16. He wants us to teach and admonish each other as we sing. Certainly, we teach by singing in a way that we cannot do with any instrument. Also, scripture reveals the instrument by which we are to "make melody" to be the heart." (Ephesians 5:19)
2. There are a few other facts that make one wonder:
 - a. Instrumental music was used in Jewish worship. The church sprang out of a Jewish background. The early church had instrumental music all around it, yet it used none of it. It is certainly a strange omission. The natural thing would have been to have it, but the New Testament does not command it. (It makes you wonder why.)

- b. It is also odd that it took 600 years before church history reveals instrumental music being used to any extent. Even a corrupted Christianity stayed away from instruments for 600 years. (That is three times as long as our country's entire history!) Why this strange reluctance unless inspiration left some special guard against it? In point of fact, it was 1,000 years before this departure became general.
- c. The Greek Orthodox church of the East still speaks Greek, the language in which the New Testament was written originally. Today after all these years, they still do not use instrumental music in their worship. (The New Schaff Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge, IV, pg. 51.)

Commune

- 1. What day did they meet? (First day)
You remember that the Corinthian church met on the first day of the week (Sunday), didn't they? We read that in I Corinthians 16:1,2. (This reference is already on your chart under "Give.")
- 2. What did they do? (Had communion.)
Read I Corinthians 11:20 in the King James Version and then some other translation too. The American Standard says "When therefore ye assemble yourselves together, it is not possible to eat the Lord's supper."

This shows that one of the reasons for which they came together each time was to eat the "Lord's Supper." But a reading of this context will show that they had so acted that they had ruined the very purpose of their coming together. So this verse establishes that they came together on their day of worship for the express purpose of keeping the Lord's Supper.

- 3. We have a concrete example of this at Troas.
When we read Acts 20:7 we find the church at Troas doing exactly the same thing.
- 4. Conclusion

So we can see that the church described in the New Testament met on each Sunday to commune in the Lord's Supper.

This completes our picture of the church described in the New Testament. Isn't it a beautiful picture? (Pause for their agreement.)

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everybody today just went back to the New Testament picture of this church and did exactly like they did? Certainly nothing could be wrong with going back to the New Testament and "restoring" the pattern which we find here. This is what I personally am trying to do today as a Christian.

THE APPEAL

Introduction

Now, John or Susie, I promised to share the story of the Bible with you when we began this study.

I have shown you the beautiful picture of the church described by God in the New Testament. That church is the climax of all the good things God has done for us.

The only thing we haven't discussed is how people in that day got into that church. If we're going to "restore" that church to this 20th century, then we'll have to also find out how those folks became Christians in the first century.

Would you like to complete that part of the study, too?

(Pause for their answer.)

OBEDIENCE

Obedience is the key word we should use here. It is the very thing we have found repeated throughout the Bible, haven't we?

1. MOST THINGS ARE FAMILIAR TO US.

In fact, most people agree on the things which men ought to do even today. For instance:

- a. Hebrews 11:6 says we must believe, and I don't know of anyone who denies that, do you?
- b. Acts 17:30 teaches we must repent, and everybody agrees on that.
- c. Certainly everybody agrees we ought to confess Jesus.
(Note Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32; 1 Timothy 6:12; Acts 8:37)

2. ONLY BAPTISM SEEMS TO CAUSE ANYONE TROUBLE.

- a. We need to look back into New Testament times and see how they understood this subject. That ought to give us a clue for how we should feel about it.
- b. The first question we ought to ask is, WHAT IS BAPTISM?
(Let's read some verses to find out.)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) John 3:23 | - Shows it took "much water." |
| (2) Acts 8:36 | - Came to the water. |
| (3) Acts 8:38 | - Went down into the water. |
| (4) Acts 8:39 | - Came up out of the water. |
| (5) Romans 6:4;
Colossians 2:12 | - It was like a burial. |

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Ask person: "WHICH FORM OF BAPTISM FULFILLS ALL THOSE CONDITIONS - SPRINKLING, POURING, OR IMMERSION?"

c. The second question is - BAPTISM IS FOR WHOM?

- (1) Mark 16:16 - Those who can believe.
- (2) Acts 2:38 - Those who can repent.

ASK: CAN INFANTS BELIEVE AND REPENT? CAN ADULTS?

d. The third question is - WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?

- (1) First, do you mind if I ask you what you have been taught is the purpose of baptism? (Here are some sample questions to ask before you study the point!)

- (a) WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM?
- (b) WHAT DOES IT DO FOR YOU?
- (c) CAN YOU BE SAVED WITHOUT IT?
- (d) IS BAPTISM ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY?

(Tell them you are trying to get their thinking clear on what they believe first.)

(Use one or any combination of these questions to bring out their understanding of baptism. If you do not do this before the study, they will assume after your study that they believed what you taught all along! Only by committing them in advance can you avoid that problem.) It is best that (with their permission) you write down what they say they believe.

(2) Now, let's see what the scriptures suggest about the purpose of baptism:

- (a) Mark 16:16? - Salvation before or after baptism in this verse?
- (b) Acts 2:38? - Remission of sins before or after baptism?
- (c) Acts 22:16? - Sins washed away before or after baptism?
- (d) Romans 6:4? - Newness of life before or after baptism?
- (e) I Peter 3:21? - Saved before or after baptism?

3. Now, ask them -- HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED AS THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES? (Wait for an answer.)

- a. If they say, "Yes," and you know they have not, go back and review the scriptures on that point.
- b. If they say, "No," ask them - WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE BAPTIZED AS THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES? If they say, "No," then say:

- (1) I came to share with you my understanding of the word of God. The decision is up to you. I don't plan to pressure you into doing anything against your will. Being a Christian is a free will obedience.
- (2) I'd love to help you:
 - (a) If you have questions, we could study some more.
 - (b) If you want to think about it, I'll visit with you later.
 - (c) If you know this is right, but don't want to do it, then I guess we could re-examine that decision from time to time when you think you're ready.

**THE DECISION IS YOURS.
I'M JUST A FRIEND TRYING TO HELP.**