

Lesson Two

God's Faithfulness to Noah and Abraham

Worship

Read responsively Psalm 36:5-10.

L: Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens,

G: your faithfulness to the skies.

L: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.

G: O LORD, you preserve both man and beast.

L: How priceless is your unfailing love!

G: Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings.

L: They feast on the abundance of your house;

G: you give them drink from your river of delights.

L: For with you is the fountain of life;

G: in your light we see light.

L: Continue your love to those who know you,

G: your righteousness to the upright in heart.

Introduction

In Lesson One, we saw God's love in action when he created a wonderful world. We also saw his great power at work in creation. Since God has such power, he not only makes promises but he also has the power to carry them out to completion. We have often failed our Lord. Often we have transgressed his will. But his unfailing love in Christ towers over and covers over all our unfaithfulness. We can rest assured that God always keeps his promises. He is ever faithful to his word. God's promises bring comfort, joy, and hope to believers but also bring judgment upon unbelievers.

Studying God's Word

We see God's faithfulness at work in the flood.

Read Genesis 6:1-22; 7:11-23.

1. What did God see when he looked out upon the world? How did God feel? Do you think he feels the same today? Discuss. (Genesis 6:5,6)
2. What was the spiritual condition of man's heart? (Genesis 6:5)
3. What "righteous" believer did God see? What did God see in his heart? (See Hebrews 11:7.) Note the expression in Genesis 6:9: "he walked with God."
4. God is just; he cannot and does not ignore evil. In his justice, what did God determine to do with the corrupt and violent world? (Genesis 6:7)
5. What "covenant," or promise, did God make to Noah? (Genesis 6:18,19)
6. What instructions did God give to Noah? To what extent did Noah carry them out? (Genesis 6:19-22)
7. How is the ark a symbol of God's faithfulness?
8. What happened to those outside the ark? (Genesis 7:22,23) How is that a symbol of the destruction of the Last Day?

Read Genesis 9:8-17.

The flood came as God promised. It covered the entire earth, including the highest mountains. Everything perished outside the ark just as God said it would. But Noah and his family were saved as God had promised. The ark was a symbol of God's grace. God was establishing his Word of truth for Noah and all generations.

9. What did God promise would never happen again? (Genesis 9:11,15)
10. What sign did God give the world? (Genesis 9:16)

11. What aspect of God's faithfulness are we reminded of every time we see a rainbow?

We see God's faithfulness in his repeated promises about the coming Savior.

Read Genesis 15:1-6 and Hebrews 11:8-12.

Another example of God's faithfulness is revealed for us in the life of Abraham.

12. What distressing problem troubled Abram? (Genesis 15:3)

13. What promise did God give to Abram? (Genesis 15:4,5)

14. By the Spirit's power, how did Abram respond to God's promise? (Genesis 15:6)

Read Genesis 21:1-7.

15. How was God faithful to his promise?

Read Genesis 22:15-18 and Romans 4:18-25.

16. What promise did God make regarding Abraham and his descendants?

Summary

The phrase "all nations on earth will be blessed" (Genesis 22:18) reminds us of God's great promise to send a Savior through whom all people would be saved from the terrible consequences of sin. God's faithfulness was evident in the lives of Noah and Abraham. God spared Noah and his family so that the human race would continue. God blessed Abraham by giving him a son and thus blessing the world through his descendants.

The Word to Remember

"The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made" (Psalm 145:13).

During the Week

Read the following verses.

- Genesis 26:1-6 (the promise to Isaac)
- Genesis 28:10-15 (the promise to Jacob)
- Joshua 1:1-9 and 6:1-5,20-25 (the promise to Joshua and of God's victory at Jericho)