

God's Covenant People

UNIT

2

LESSON 1

God's Promise of Salvation

Bible Reference: Genesis 3

God's Promise of Salvation

Although sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's willful disobedience of God's commandment, God did not desert his people. God, in his mercy and grace, promised in Genesis 3:15 that through his life, death, and resurrection Jesus would be victorious over sin and death and would destroy Satan's powers. Jesus' victory over death and his payment for his people's sins would enable all believers to become citizens of the kingdom of God.

God gave his promise of salvation in Genesis 3:15, and he worked out his plan of salvation through the covenants he made with Abraham, David, and the children of Israel. A covenant in the Bible is an agreement between God and human beings, in which God determines the terms and conditions and the individual or group chooses whether or not to comply. Covenants generally include conditions that are to be followed, with blessings spelled out for obedience and curses for disobedience.

LESSON 3

God's Covenant with Abraham

Bible References: Genesis 12:1–3; 22:1–19

Abraham, Hero of Faith

Narrator 1: Isaac was his father's pride and joy.

Narrator 2: When Isaac became a teenager, God called to Isaac's father, Abraham.

Narrator 3: Abraham heard God's voice.

Abraham: Here I am.

God's voice: Take your son Isaac to the region of Moriah. While you are there, you are to sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains.

Narrator 4: Abraham didn't question God. He trusted God and knew that God would still find a way to keep his promise to make Abraham's descendants into a great nation.

Narrator 5: Early the next morning Abraham woke Isaac up.

Abraham: We're going on a trip. Hurry and get ready.

Narrator 6: Abraham saddled his donkey and took two servants along to help carry supplies.

Narrator 1: Abraham also carried enough wood for the burnt offering.

Narrator 2: It took the men three days to reach the area of Moriah.

Abraham (to his servants): Stay behind with the donkey while Isaac and I go to the mountain to worship.

Narrator 3: Abraham loaded the wood on Isaac's back since Isaac was young and able to carry the load.

Narrator 4: Abraham carried the fire and the knife for the sacrifice.

Narrator 5: They weren't far up the mountain when Isaac thought of something.

Isaac: Where is the sacrifice for the burnt offering?

Narrator 6: Abraham didn't tell Isaac that he would be the sacrifice.

Abraham: God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering.

Narrator 1: Like his father, Isaac believed that God would provide what they needed.

Narrator 2: The two continued until they reached the place where God had told Abraham to make his sacrifice.

Narrator 3: Abraham built an altar on which to present the sacrifice to God.

Narrator 4: He carefully arranged the wood on the top.

Narrator 5: Now it was time for his most difficult task.

Narrator 6: He carefully bound ropes around Isaac and placed him on top of the wood.

Narrator 1: Abraham was prepared to obey God's command and offer his son as a sacrifice.

Narrator 2: Isaac was prepared to obey God and be offered as a sacrifice.

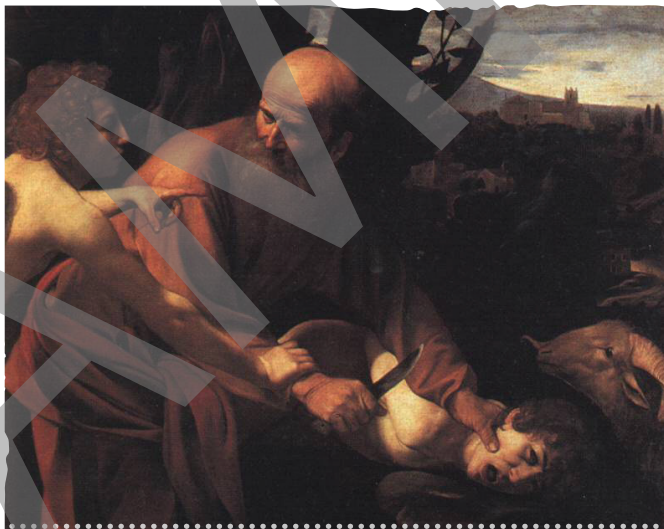
Narrator 3: An angel of the Lord came to Abraham just before he offered the sacrifice.

Angel: Don't lay a hand on Isaac. Don't do anything to him. God knows that you love him and will obey him in all things. He knows this because you were willing to offer your son as a sacrifice.

Narrator 4: As Abraham looked up, he saw a ram caught in a bush.

Narrator 5: Abraham sacrificed the ram to God in place of his son.

Narrator 6: The angel of the Lord had another message for Abraham.



The Sacrifice of Isaac by Caravaggio, 1605

Angel: Because you have obeyed God, you will be blessed. Your descendants will number as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. All nations on Earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me.

Narrator 1: Abraham, Isaac, and the servants left Moriah and set out for home.

Narrator 2: Years later God would fulfill his promise to Abraham.

Narrator 3: Jesus Christ would become the sacrifice for us all.

Narrator 4: He would take the place of all the animal sacrifices the people had offered.

Narrator 5: All people on Earth would be blessed through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Narrator 6: Jesus has saved all of us from our sins and promised us eternal life if we believe in him.

Narrators 1–6: We have all been blessed through Christ's sacrifice.

Mount Moriah

God told Abraham to go to the area of Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son Isaac. When Abraham got ready to sacrifice Isaac, he probably thought about God's promise to one day make of him a great nation. He didn't know that one day his descendants would include people such as David and Solomon.

Mount Moriah also became an important place for King David. During his reign David took a census of all of his fighting men. This was a sin because he was relying on the strength of his army instead of upon God. As a punishment, God sent a three-day plague to the people of Israel. David pleaded with God to save the people. God heard David's pleas, and as the angel of death approached a threshing floor in Jerusalem at Mount Moriah, God told the angel to withdraw his hand. David saw God's goodness and mercy and bought the threshing floor. He built an altar there and offered sacrifices to God, thanking God for hearing his cries and saving the people of Jerusalem.

David's son Solomon built the temple on Mount Moriah. Solomon placed the Altar of Burnt Offerings on the spot where David had offered sacrifices. The sacrifices of burnt offerings in the temple pointed

The Dome of the Rock, Jerusalem

