



OBEDIENT FAITH

INTO THE WORD

LESSON 4

- WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON:
 - God requires a blood sacrifice for remission of sin
 - The Biblical account of the Flood
 - The relationship between faith and obedience
- BIBLICAL THEMES:
 - Blood Sacrifice
 - Obedient Faith
 - Water Baptism
- SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:
 - Genesis chapters 4-8
 - Revelation 13:8 - Lamb slain from the foundation
 - Leviticus 17:11 - I have given it to you
 - John 1:29 - Behold the Lamb of God
 - Hebrews 9:22 - Without the shedding of blood...no remission
 - Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14 - Redeemed
 - Ephesians 2:13 - Made near to God
 - Hebrew 11:4 - Able's sacrifice made him righteous
 - Romans 5:9; 6:23, Colossians 1:20, Revelation 7:14
 - Genesis 4:10 - The voice of blood (Hebrews 12:24)
 - Baptism – 1 Peter 3:21, Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:8-12
- FOR FURTHER STUDY:
 - Faith and Obedience –
 - Isaiah 1:19, 1 Samuel 15:21-23, Hebrews 11:1, John 14:15, Acts 5:29, Romans 1:5, 16:26 – Saving Faith includes obedience

INTO THE WORD

LESSON 4

OBEDIENT FAITH

Introduction:

Since the conscience of man has been awakened to good and evil, we enter into the time of conscience. This time period lasts from the fall, to the flood, to the time of Abraham.

Adam and Eve began their life outside the Garden of Eden. The consequences of their disobedience had opened the door for evil to enter into the world. Mankind became continually more wicked until God sent the flood to destroy the earth and slow the spread of evil. Sin is like a small bit of yeast, it continues to grow larger until it consumes and ultimately destroys.

In this time of conscience, God began speaking with men and women as individuals. God instituted worship and sacrifices as a means to cover sin. Since the time when God covered Adam and Eve with coats of skin, blood sacrifices were required to cover sin. These animal sacrifices all pointed to Jesus Christ, who was the only sacrifice (sinless blood) that could truly remit our sins forever. Every animal sacrifice pointed to the spotless lamb of God.

Into the Word:

From the Fall to the Flood

- Life outside the garden - Adam provided by the sweat of his brow and Eve experienced sorrow as she brought her first son into the world.
 - Genesis 4:1-2 (NLT)
¹Now Adam had sexual relations with his wife, Eve, and she became pregnant. When she gave birth to Cain, she said, "With the LORD's help, I have produced a man!"² Later she gave birth to his brother and named him Abel.

Worship Taught

- Genesis 4:3-7 (NLT)
³When it was time for the harvest, Cain presented some of his crops as a gift to the LORD. ⁴Abel also brought a gift—the best of the firstborn lambs from his flock. The LORD accepted Abel and his gift, ⁵but he did not accept Cain and his gift. This made Cain very angry, and he looked dejected.
⁶"Why are you so angry?" the LORD asked Cain. "Why do you look so dejected?"⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Both Cain and Abel came to worship. What was the difference between Abel's sacrifice and Cain's? Why didn't God accept Cain's sacrifice?

- Able brought a blood sacrifice. God had to slay animals to provide skins to cover the nakedness of man – it takes shedding of blood to cover man's sin.
- Cain teaches us that doing what we think is right is not enough.
- Do we "accept God" or does God accept us (verse 17)

Many times people say, "God knows my heart". Many people's hearts may be sincere, but through ignorance of the scripture they are in disobedience. When we are presented truth, we must repent and obey.

Blood Sacrifices and True Worship Restores our Relationship with God

- All sacrifices point to Jesus Christ
 - Revelation 13:8 - Lamb slain from the foundation
 - Leviticus 17:11 - I have given it to you
 - John 1:29 - Behold the Lamb of God
 - Hebrews 9:22 - Without the shedding of blood...no remission
 - Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14 - Redeemed
 - Ephesians 2:13 - Made nigh
 - Hebrew 11:4 - Able's sacrifice made him righteous
 - Romans 5:9; 6:23, Colossians 1:20, Revelation 7:14
 - Genesis 4:10 - The voice of blood (Hebrews 12:24)

- Genesis 4:6-16 (NLT)

⁶“Why are you so angry?” the LORD asked Cain. “Why do you look so dejected?”⁷You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.”⁸ One day Cain suggested to his brother, “Let’s go out into the fields.” And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother, Abel, and killed him.

⁹Afterward the LORD asked Cain, “Where is your brother? Where is Abel?” “I don’t know,” Cain responded. “Am I my brother’s guardian?”¹⁰ But the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground!”¹¹ Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother’s blood. ¹²No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work! From now on you will be a homeless wanderer on the earth.”¹³ Cain replied to the LORD, “My punishment is too great for me to bear!”¹⁴ You have banished me from the land and from your presence; you have made me a homeless wanderer. Anyone who finds me will kill me!”

¹⁵The LORD replied, “No, for I will give a sevenfold punishment to anyone who kills you.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain to warn anyone who might try to kill him.¹⁶ So Cain left the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- What do we learn about the character of God in this scene?

- God gives second chances – Forgiveness (Verses 6-7)
Cain did not accept God's offer to try again.
- Specific way to worship
- He expects us to do well and conquer sin
- The Punishment of Disobedience – Genesis 4: 11-12
- Judgment and Promise – Genesis 4: 13-15
- Sin Separates – Genesis 4:16

God pronounced judgment upon Cain. He was driven out from the presence of God. However, God gave him a promise, a mark, that when people saw it, they would know that God would avenge anyone who killed Cain. Cain lived a life outside of God's presence, his descendants invested their passions into creating musical instruments and the industry of brass and iron work.

God gave Adam and Eve another son and they called him Seth, and Seth had a son named Enos. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

Men Who Walked with God

- Seth – Genesis 4:26
- Enoch – Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5
- Noah – Genesis 6:7; Hebrews 11:7

Noah's Ark - The Righteous Family Preserved

About 5000 years ago, the human population on Earth had reached a large number. God had given man a free will to choose between good and evil. Man was totally evil in both thought and action. People had become so wicked that the LORD regretted ever creating them and grieved to see what his greatest creation had become.

- Genesis 6:3-8 (NLT)
³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years." ⁴In those days, and for some time after, giant Nephilites lived on the earth, for whenever the sons of God had intercourse with women, they gave birth to children who became the heroes and famous warriors of ancient times. ⁵The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil. ⁶So the LORD was sorry he had ever made them and put them on the earth. It broke his heart. ⁷And the LORD said, "I will wipe this human race I have created from the face of the earth. Yes, and I will destroy every living thing—all the people, the large animals, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and even the birds of the sky. I am sorry I ever made them." ⁸But Noah found favor with the LORD.

God told Noah that He would send rain to flood the entire Earth. Noah had never seen rain before because it didn't exist yet. Water flowed up from the ground to nourish the Earth...it had never fallen from the sky. Noah probably had a hard time believing in something so farfetched as flood waters falling from the sky. Noah warned others, but they refused to believe...only Noah's family believed. Noah acted out of pure faith and obedience to God. He didn't challenge God or question the plan. Had Noah altered God's plan he too would have perished, but Noah had great faith, he trusted and obeyed. In doing so he escaped God's judgment. That is a lesson for all of us today. It's not important that we understand the details of God's plan for our lives. It's important that we remain faithful and trust and obey.

The rain was tumultuous, it not only rained for 40 days and nights non-stop, but also the fountains of the deep were opened up and water came up from inside the earth. Even the mountains were under water. The floodwaters continued to cover the mountains for 110 more days. After a total of 150 days, the ark came to rest somewhere on Mt. Ararat...about 500 miles from its origin. Two and a half months later, the mountaintops became visible. Most creation scientists believe that the oceans we see today were filled and expanded by the flood waters. The entire topography of the earth was changed.

- Genesis 7:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹When Noah was 600 years old, on the seventeenth day of the second month, all the underground waters erupted from the earth, and the rain fell in mighty torrents from the sky. ¹²The rain continued to fall for forty days and forty nights.

Noah entered the ark in the 600th year of his life, on the 17th day of the 2nd month (Genesis 7:11-13). Noah left the ark on the 27th day of the 2nd month of the following year (Genesis 8:14-15). Therefore, assuming a lunar calendar of 360 days, Noah was on the ark for approximately 370 days.

- Genesis 7:10, 7:24, 8:3, 8:6, 8:10, 8:12

After a little over a year in the ark, God told Noah to take his family and the animals and leave the ark. One of the first things Noah did was build an altar. God told Noah and his family to multiply and fill the Earth.

- God brought judgment against the world because of sin and wickedness. There was only one way to escape, by entering into the ark. When the trumpet sounds we must find ourselves "IN CHRIST".
- The Lord used water to destroy sin, but save Noah. The Bible says that Noah and his family were saved by water.

- 1 Peter 3:20-21 (NLT)
 - ²⁰ Those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. ²¹ And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- The water destroyed the wickedness around Noah, it separated him from the evil the surrounded him. Noah “found grace” with God. God “saved” Noah by separating him from the sin and destroying the sin that would have eventually destroyed and corrupted Noah. God’s grace was at work by taking away the sin of the world and saving Noah by water.
- The Bible compares this with baptism, illustrating how our sins are destroyed in water baptism.
- 1 Peter 3:21 (NKJV)
 - ²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
- Mark 16:16 (NKJV)
 - ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:8-12



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- How is the ark like Jesus Christ?

- How could the water save Noah?

- Are we saved by baptism? How is this possible?

God promised never to destroy the Earth again with water. Here again, we see a judgment and a promise. God uses the rainbow as a sign of the covenant he makes with Noah.

- Genesis 9:9-16

⁹“And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants^[a] after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that *is* with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth. ¹¹Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

¹² And God said: “This *is* the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that *is* with you, for perpetual generations: ¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. ¹⁴It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; ¹⁵and I will remember My covenant which *is* between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth.”



Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- What did Abel, Seth, Enoch, and Noah all have in common?

Obedient Faith

- What is the relationship between faith and obedience?
- Isaiah 1:19 – obey eat the good of the land
- 1 Samuel 15:21-23 – obey is better
- Hebrews 11:1 – Obedience to the gospel is necessary for salvation:
- John 14:15 – If you love me, keep my commandments
- Acts 5:29 – Obey God rather than man
- Romans 1:5, 16:26 – Saving Faith includes obedience
 - If we truly believe God we will believe His word
 - If we truly believe His word we will act upon it
 - Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes
 - Faith is only real in the act of obedience

- Romans 6:17
But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.
- Hebrew 5:9
And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8; 1 Peter 4:17
Those that do not obey the gospel receive eternal judgment.

- Mankind Judged
 - As in the day of Noah... Matthew 24:37-44
- There will be a future Judgment - 2 Peter 3:6-7

Judgment is coming upon the wicked and ungodly. And though the agent God uses will not be water, it will be just as devastating on those who have refused to obey God.

- Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-6; Colossians 2:8-12