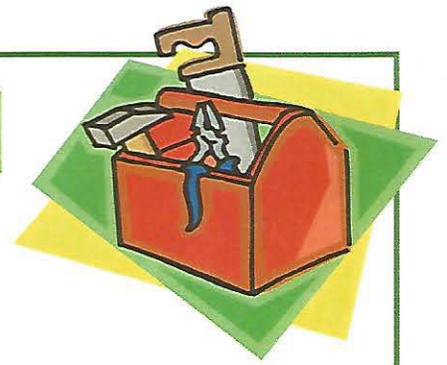


# Building Your Life for God



Lesson 13

## Look at What We've Learned!

**Theme:** Hope—For Jesus to come

### Memory Verses

“Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people...and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord the great God. And all the people answered ‘Amen, Amen!’ while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.”  
Nehemiah 8:5-6

### Thinking About the Old Testament

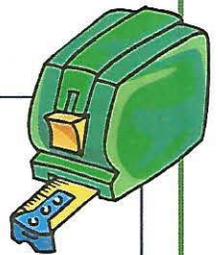
God made all things new when He created the world. After a while, Adam and Eve sinned and ruined God’s perfect world. God loved the people He created in His image and made a way for them to be forgiven. To do this, God promised to bless Abraham, and through Abraham He would bless the world. God made Abraham’s family a nation called Israel, and gave the nation a land called Canaan. He was helping them be His people!

Abraham’s family moved to Egypt because of a famine, and after about 400 years became slaves to the Egyptians. God saw their hard life, and with a mighty hand delivered them from slavery. God was taking His people back to the land He had promised to Abraham! He gave them a Law to guide their lives.

He wanted them to take time to be holy, so He gave them directions to follow and sacrifices to make. God was patient and caring, though His people were stubborn and often disobeyed.

After punishing His people in the wilderness, God brought them to the Promised Land. He asked people of Israel to be in the Lord’s army and fight to take the land as their own. God divided the land among the tribes of Israel. He gave them leaders who were to guide them in the right way. God wanted each person to have a loving heart and working hands. Sometimes they did, but often they did not.

In *Thinking About the Old Testament*, circle all the themes you have studied, such as “All Things Made New” and “God’s Mighty Hand.”





The theme of the whole Bible is Jesus is coming — Jesus is here — Jesus is coming again.

What part of this theme is in the *Old* Testament?

By blessing Abraham, whom did God plan to bless?

- only Abraham's family
- all people
- most people

Because of Solomon's sins, God divided the nation into Israel and Judah. Each nation had its kings. God wanted the kings to lead people in His way. King David did this, but many kings did not. When the kings were measured by God's rule, most were found to be evil. Finally, God punished His people with captivity. In 722 BC, the Assyrian army took over the nation of Israel. About 150 years later, in 586 BC, the Babylonian army attacked Judah. God's people were taken captive to foreign lands.

After seventy years of captivity, God worked to bring His people back to Jerusalem. God wanted His people to rebuild the temple and their cities, but most importantly to build their lives for God. As in the past, some people did and some did not. God sent prophets to teach and warn His people, but many did not listen. God kept telling His people He would act in a great way to help and forgive them. God took His people from nothing and gave them everything, but most people did not understand or appreciate all God had done.<sup>1</sup>

### Thinking About the New Testament

The last book of the Old Testament was written about 400 years before Jesus was born. This means that the time between the close of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament was about 400 years. During this time, God prepared the world for the coming of His Son. Three different powers controlled the world during these years. They were first the Persians (539-331 BC), then the Greeks (331-146 BC), and finally the Romans (beginning around 63 BC).

The theme of the whole Bible is Jesus is coming — Jesus is here — Jesus is coming again.

What parts of this theme are in the *New* Testament?



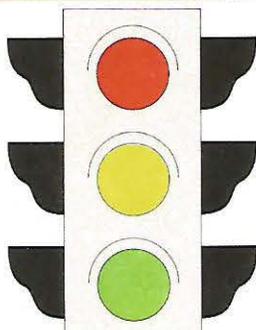
The Roman Empire ruled the world during Jesus' life on earth and when the gospel was first preached. Jews, who were God's Old Testament people, lived in Canaan and many other places. Wherever they lived, the Jews were looking for the Coming One. God had told them about Him through His prophets. When the time was just right, God would send His own Son Jesus into the world to save people from sin!

Finally, Jesus came. The New Testament is all about Him. The first four books, known as the Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — tell how Jesus was born, how He lived in the world, and how He died on the cross and was raised from the dead. In the Gospels, we read Jesus' powerful words and learn of His mighty works.

We learn that Jesus was put to death on a cross, and that God used His death to help the world with sin. God then sent the message of salvation into the world through Jesus' apostles and the chosen men. This message is the gospel — the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The New Testament book called Acts tells how the gospel was taken to the whole world. The rest of the New Testament books — Romans through Jude — are letters teaching Christians and churches how to follow Jesus. God wanted His people to keep building their lives for Him! He still wants this from us today.

I plan to live my  
whole life for God.



Put an X in the light that  
best describes you.

**Red** — some of the time

**Yellow** — most of the time

**Green** — always

# Think About It ...



What part of the Old Testament is your favorite part?  
Why is it your favorite part, and what did you learn from studying it?

My favorite part is...

It is my favorite because...

From it I learned...



## Nail Down the Bible Facts

Using numbers, put the major stages of Bible history in the proper order:

- \_\_\_ Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Babylonian Captivity
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Mount Sinai
- \_\_\_ Wilderness
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt

What is the theme of the Bible? Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

Look at a map inside the back cover to locate the United Kingdom and fill in the blanks with the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

- |        |             |           |
|--------|-------------|-----------|
| 1)     | 5) Manasseh | 9)        |
| 2)     | 6)          | 10) Asher |
| 3) Dan | 7)          | 11)       |
| 4)     | 8)          | 12)       |

