



unfoldingWord® Open Bible Stories Study Questions

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Open Bible Stories Study Questions

A Guide to Using the Stories in the OBS

The Reason for the Stories

The stories in the OBS tell about things that happened in the Bible. However, the stories are shorter than the Bible accounts, and the language is often easier to understand. The stories can help people learn about who God is and about what he has done. Also, each paragraph of a story has an image that can help people understand what happened in Bible times when clothing, houses, and culture were very different than they are today.

The Parts of the Stories

The Stories in the OBS can be used by individuals or groups of people who want to learn about God. The OBS includes several things to help people use the stories:

- The text of the stories
- The images in the stories
- The study notes in the stories
- The questions for the stories

How to Use the Stories

We suggest you use the stories in the following way:

1. **Choose a story to read.** The stories will be easier to understand if you read the stories in order, beginning with the first story.
2. **Read the story.** In a group, one person may read the story aloud, or the people may take turns reading portions.
3. **Look at the images.** Use the images to help you understand what happened in the time of the story. Try to identify the people in the images.
4. **Refer to the Notes.** Read the study notes whenever there is a word or something else that you do not understand in the story.
5. **Discuss the Questions.** Read each question and think about the answer. The first set of questions help you see what the story says. The next set of questions help you think about what the story means to you. If you are in a group, allow different people to offer answers to the questions. Look at the answer to each question and see how it is the same as your answer, or different from it.
6. **Read the Summary.** Read the story summary at the end of the questions. Think about what you have learned about God in the story. If you are in a group, ask the group what they have learned from the story.

01. The Creation

A Bible story from: Genesis 1-2

01:01

This is how God made everything in the beginning. He created the universe and everything in it in six days. After God created the earth it was dark and empty because he had not yet formed anything in it. But God's Spirit was there over the water.

01:02

Then God said, "Let there be light!" And there was light. God saw that the light was good and called it "day." He separated it from the darkness, which he called "night." God created the light on the first day of creation.

01:03

On the second day of creation, God said, "Let there be an expanse above the waters." And there was an expanse. God called this expanse "sky."

01:04

On the third day, God said, "Let the water come together in one place and the dry land appear." He called the dry land "earth," and he called the water "seas." God saw that what he had created was good.

01:05

Then God said, "Let the earth produce all kinds of trees and plants." And that is what happened. God saw that what he had created was good.

01:06

On the fourth day of creation, God said, "Let there be lights in the sky." And the sun, the moon, and the stars appeared. God made them to give light to the earth and to mark day and night, seasons and years. God saw that what he had created was good.

01:07

On the fifth day, God said, "Let living things fill the waters, and birds fly in the sky." This is how he made everything that swims in the water and all the birds. God saw that it was good, and he blessed them.

01:08

On the sixth day of creation, God said, "Let there be all kinds of land animals!" And it happened just like God said. Some were farm animals, some crawled on the ground, and some were wild. And God saw that it was good.

01:09

Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image to be like us. They will rule over the earth and all the animals."

01:10

So God took some soil, formed it into a man, and breathed life into him. This man's name was Adam. God planted a large garden where Adam could live, and put him there to care for it.

01:11

In the middle of the garden, God planted two special trees—the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he ate from this tree, he would die.

01:12

Then God said, "It is not good for man to be alone." But none of the animals could be Adam's helper.

01:13

So God made Adam fall into a deep sleep. Then God took one of Adam's ribs and made it into a woman and brought her to him.

01:14

When Adam saw her, he said, "At last! This one is like me! Let her be called 'Woman,' for she was made from Man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and becomes one with his wife.

01:15

God made man and woman in his own image. He blessed them and told them, "Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth!" And God saw that everything he had made was very good, and he was very pleased with all of it. This all happened on the sixth day of creation.

01:16

When the seventh day came, God had finished all the work that he had been doing. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on this day he stopped creating things. This is how God created the universe and everything in it.

What the Story Says

1. What all did God create?

God made the universe and everything in it. He made light. He made the sun, moon, and stars. He made the earth with its sea and dry land. He made all the plants, birds, and animals. And he made the first man and woman, and a made a garden where they could live.

2. What did God do in order to create everything except the first people?

God only spoke, and the universe and everything in it appeared. In that way, he showed his great power.

3. In what way did God decide to make people to be different than the animals?

God decided to make people in God's image and to be like him. He also decided to give them power over all of the earth and over the animals (See: [01:09](#)).

4. What two special trees did God plant in the garden?

God planted many trees in the garden, but he also planted two special trees. He planted the tree of life in the garden and told Adam that he could eat its fruit. He also planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil there and told Adam he would die if he ate fruit from that tree (See: [01:11](#)).

5. What did God do so that the man would not be alone?

God wanted Adam to have a helper who would be like Adam. But none of the animals were like Adam, so they could not be his helper. Therefore, God took one of Adam's ribs and made the woman from it to be a helper for Adam (See: [01:12](#), [01:13](#)).

6. What did God do after he finished making everything?

After God finished making everything in six days, he rested on the seventh day. God was not tired, but he had finished his work of making everything. He blessed the seventh day and made it a special day (See: [01:16](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think God made the man and the woman in a different way than he made the universe and the other things in the earth?

God creates people in a more personal way than he created everything else. He formed the man from dust and breathed life into him. Then God formed the woman from one of the man's ribs. In this way, he showed that people were very important to him, and that they have a special purpose in creation (See: [01:10](#), [01:13](#)).

2. In what way are people like God and made in his image? How are they different than God?

God made people to be like God, but not the same as God. That is, people have some of the characteristics of God that the animals do not have. However, people are not equal to God. They are in God's image because they are like God in some ways (See: [01:09](#)).

3. Why do you think God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden when he did not want Adam to eat its fruit?

God wanted Adam to be able to choose whether or not to obey God. Therefore, God planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden where Adam was. However, he warned Adam clearly that he would die if he ate fruit from that tree. And God allowed Adam to eat fruit from every other tree, so there was no reason for Adam to disobey God (See: [01:11](#)).

4. Why do you think God made the woman from the man rather than from the soil?

God wanted the man and the woman to become one. Therefore, he did not make the woman separately from Adam. Instead, God took part of Adam and made her from that. When Adam saw her, he understood that she was very much like Adam, and that God had made her especially for him (See: [01:13](#)).

5. How do you think a man becomes one with his wife?

God wants a man and his wife to have a special bond that is closer than their connection to any other person. It is even closer than the bond with their parents. As they grow to know each other more, they begin to think in similar ways and value the same things. People who have been married a long time often seem to know what each other is thinking without even speaking (See: [01:14](#)).

6. Why did God say that everything he had made was very good?

God created everything so that everything would work together to accomplish what he wanted to happen (See: [01:15](#)).

7. What did God want people to do on the seventh day?

God made the seventh day a special day. On that day, he wanted people to stop doing their normal work. Instead, they should remember that God created them and everything around them. Because they would not work on the seventh day, they would have more time to honor God and think about him than they did on the other days of the week (See: [01:16](#)).

Summary

God created everything that exists. He simply spoke, and the entire universe appeared out of nothing. However, God formed the first man and woman in a more personal way. He breathed life into the man, and then formed the woman from the man. God wanted people to be like him in ways that animals are not. God finished his work in six days, and set the seventh day apart as a time for people to remember how he had made everything.

02. Sin Enters the World

A Bible story from: Genesis 3

02:01

Adam and his wife were very happy living in the beautiful garden God had made for them. Neither of them wore clothes, but this did not cause them to feel any shame because there was no sin in the world. They often walked in the garden and talked with God.

02:02

But there was a snake in the garden. He was very crafty. He asked the woman, "Did God really tell you not to eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"

02:03

The woman answered, "God told us we could eat the fruit of any tree except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God told us, 'If you eat that fruit or even touch it, you will die.'"

02:04

The snake responded to the woman, "That is not true! You will not die. God just knows that as soon as you eat it, you will be like God and will understand good and evil like he does."

02:05

The woman saw that the fruit was beautiful and looked delicious. She also wanted to be wise, so she picked some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it too.

02:06

Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked. They tried to cover their bodies by sewing leaves together to make clothes.

02:07

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of God walking through the garden. They both hid from God. Then God called to the man, "Where are you?" Adam replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid."

02:08

Then God asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?" The man answered, "You gave me this woman, and she gave me the fruit." Then God asked the woman, "What have you done?" The woman replied, "The snake tricked me."

02:09

God said to the snake, "You are cursed! You will slide on your belly and eat soil. You and the woman will hate each other, and your children and her children will hate each other too. The woman's descendant will crush your head, and you will wound his heel."

02:10

God then said to the woman, "I will make childbirth very painful for you. You will desire your husband, and he will rule over you."

02:11

God said to the man, "You listened to your wife and disobeyed me. Now the ground is cursed, and you will need to work hard to grow food. Then you will die, and your body will return to soil." The man named his wife Eve, which means "life-giver," because she would become the mother of all people. And God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins.

02:12

Then God said, "Now that the human beings have become like us by knowing good and evil, they must not be allowed to eat the fruit of the tree of life and live forever." So God sent Adam and Eve away from the garden. God placed powerful angels at the entrance to the garden to keep anyone from eating the fruit of the tree of life.

What the Story Says

1. What did Adam and Eve need that they did not have in the garden?

Adam and Eve had everything they needed in the garden. There was no sin or shame, and they were able to walk with God and speak directly to him (See: [02:01](#)).

2. How did the snake convince the woman to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?

The snake first questioned what God said (See: [02:02](#)). He next called God a liar (See: [02:04](#)). Finally, he told the woman that she could be like God (See: [02:04](#)).

3. Why did the woman eat the fruit?

Eve thought the fruit looked good, and she wanted to be wise like God. Therefore, she decided to disobey God and to eat the fruit.

4. What did Adam and Eve do after they ate the fruit?

They were both ashamed, and tried to cover themselves with leaves. Then they tried to hide from God (See: [02:06](#), [02:07](#)).

5. What answer did Adam give when God asked if he had eaten the fruit?

Adam did not admit that he had sinned. Instead, he blamed his wife.

6. What answer did Eve give when God asked her what she had done?

Eve did not admit that she had sinned. Instead, she blamed the snake.

7. What would the snake do to Eve's descendant, and what would he do to the snake?

Eve's descendant would kill the snake by crushing its head. The snake would wound Eve's descendant by biting him on the heel of his foot.

8. What did God use to cover Adam and Eve?

God covered them with animal skins. Most scholars think this was the first animal sacrifice. God killed the animals and took their skins to cover Adam and Eve.

9. What did God want to say when he said that Adam's body would return to the soil?

God made Adam from the soil (See: [01:10](#)). When he died, he would become soil once again.

10. Why did God send Adam and Eve out of the garden?

God did not want them to eat from the tree of life in the garden and live forever as sinners.

What the Story Means to Us

1. How did the snake convince Eve to eat the fruit?

The snake did not begin by telling Eve to disobey God. Instead, he asked questions that caused Eve to think about the one fruit that God had told her not to eat. Then the snake convinced her that God did not do the right thing when he told her not to eat the fruit.

2. Why do you think Eve forgot about all the things God had given her, and only focused on the one fruit that God told her not to eat?

People often do not like someone telling them not to do something. They want to do whatever they want to do. Eve did not care that it was God who told her not to eat the fruit, or that God told her not to eat it in order to protect her.

3. Why do you think Adam and Eve tried to cover their shame and hid from God?

When they disobeyed God by eating the fruit, they became sinners. They were so ashamed that they did not want God to see them.

4. How did Adam and Eve answer God when he asked them what they had done?

Adam and Eve both blamed someone else for what they had done. Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake. Neither of them was willing to tell God the truth about what they did.

5. How did the curses match the way that Adam, Eve, and the snake disobeyed God?

Adam ate the fruit, so God made it difficult for him to grow food. Eve caused Adam to sin, so God gave Adam power over Eve. The snake spoke as if he were wiser than God, so God made him crawl on his belly.

6. Why was it bad for Adam and Eve to know good and evil?

Their knowledge of good and evil was knowledge gained by personal experience. That experience of making an evil choice caused them to be separated from God. Their fellowship with him was broken (See: [02:12](#)).

Summary

God provided everything Adam and Eve needed in the garden. The fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was the only thing they could not have. The snake convinced Eve that God did not want them to be wise, and that was why God told them not to eat the fruit. So Adam and Eve disobeyed God and sinned by eating the fruit. They immediately were ashamed and hid from God. God cursed Adam, Eve, and the snake because of what they had done. Then God drove them out of the garden so they would not eat the fruit of the tree of life and live forever as sinners. But God also promised him that a descendant of the woman would later come and kill the snake.

03. The Flood

A Bible story from: Genesis 6-8

03:01

After a long time, many people were living in the world. They had become very wicked and violent. It became so bad that God decided to destroy the whole world with a huge flood.

03:02

But God was pleased with Noah. He was a righteous man living among wicked people. God told Noah that he was going to make a big flood. Therefore, he told Noah to build a huge boat.

03:03

God told Noah to make the boat about 140 meters long, 23 meters wide, and 13.5 meters high. Noah was to build it with wood and to make three levels, many rooms, a roof, and a window. The boat would keep Noah, his family, and every kind of land animal safe during the flood.

03:04

Noah obeyed God. He and his three sons built the boat just the way God had told them. It took many years to build the boat because it was so big. Noah warned the people about the flood that was coming and told them to turn to God, but they did not believe him.

03:05

God also commanded Noah and his family to gather enough food for themselves and the animals. When everything was ready, God told Noah it was time for him, his wife, his three sons, and their wives to get into the boat—eight people in all.

03:06

God sent a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird to Noah so they could go into the boat and be kept safe during the flood. God sent seven males and seven females of every kind of animal that could be used for sacrifices. When they were all in the boat, God himself closed the door.

03:07

Then it began to rain, and rain, and rain. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights without stopping! Water also came gushing up out of the earth. Everything in the whole world was covered with water, even the highest mountains.

03:08

Everything that lived on the dry land died except the people and animals that were in the boat. The boat floated on the water and kept everything inside the boat safe from drowning.

03:09

After the rains stopped, the boat floated on the water for five months, and during this time the water started going down. Then, one day, the boat rested on the top of a mountain, but the world was still covered with water. After three more months, the tops of the mountains were visible.

03:10

After 40 more days, Noah sent out a bird called a raven to see if the water had dried up. The raven flew back and forth looking for dry land, but it could not find any.

03:11

Later Noah sent out a bird called a dove. But it also could not find any dry land, so it came back to Noah. A week later he sent the dove out again, and it came back with an olive branch in its beak! The water was going down, and the plants were growing again!

03:12

Noah waited another week and sent out the dove a third time. This time, it found a place to rest and did not come back. The water was drying up!

03:13

Two months later, God said to Noah, "You and your family and all the animals may leave the boat now. Have many children and grandchildren and fill the earth." So Noah and his family came out of the boat.

03:14

After Noah got off the boat, he built an altar and sacrificed some of each kind of animal that could be used for a sacrifice. God was happy with the sacrifice and blessed Noah and his family.

03:15

God said, "I promise I will never again curse the ground because of the evil things that people do, or destroy the world by causing a flood, even though people are sinful from the time they are children."

03:16

God then made the first rainbow as a sign of his promise. Every time the rainbow appeared in the sky, God would remember what he promised and so would his people.

What the Story Says

1. What did God decide to do about the wicked and violent people on the earth?

He decided to destroy them with a huge flood (See: [03:01](#)).

2. How was Noah different than the other people?

Noah was a righteous man even though he lived among wicked people (See: [03:02](#)).

3. What was the purpose of the boat that God told Noah to build?

The boat would keep Noah and his family safe during the flood (See: [03:03](#)).

4. How many people entered into the boat?

Eight people entered into the boat—Noah and his wife, and his three sons and their wives. No one else believed the flood would happen (See: [03:04](#), [03:05](#)).

5. Why did the animals come to the boat?

God sent some of each kind of the animals to the boat (See: [03:06](#)).

6. How long did the rain last?

The rain continued for 40 days and 40 nights (See: [03:07](#)).

7. What happened to all the people and animals during the flood?

Noah's family and the animals that were inside the boat were safe. Every person and animal that was outside the boat died (See: [03:08](#)).

8. How long did the flood continue on the earth?

The boat floated on the water for five months, it took three more months for the mountains to be visible (See: [03:09](#)). It was several more months before the land was dry enough for Noah and his family to come out of the boat ([03:10](#) to [03:13](#)).

9. What was the first thing Noah that did when he came out of the boat?

Noah built an altar and sacrificed some of the animals to God (See: [03:14](#)).

10. What promise did God make to Noah after the flood?

God promised that he would not destroy the earth with a flood again. He put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of this promise (See: [03:15](#), [03:16](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did God decide to destroy the world?

God created people to be with him. But God is good and cannot accept things that are evil. Because almost all the people became wicked and disobeyed him, he decided to destroy all those evil people (See: [03:01](#)).

2. Why did God save Noah and his family?

God did not want to destroy all that he had made. Therefore, he chose to save Noah and his family because Noah was a righteous person who honored God. God would allow Noah's descendants to fill the earth after the wicked people died.

3. Why was no one else besides Noah's family ready when the flood came?

The boat was very large, and it took Noah and his sons a very long time to build it. Many other people would have seen Noah building the boat and would have asked him about it. But none of them believed God would destroy them, so none of them were ready when the flood came (See: [03:04](#)).

4. Why did other people not come into the boat when the rain began?

God himself closed the door of the boat before the rain began. After God did that, it was too late for people to enter into the boat and be saved from the flood (See: [03:06](#)).

5. Why did Noah build an altar and offer a sacrifice to God?

Noah was a righteous man who honored God both before and after the flood. He knew that God had saved him and his family. Therefore, the first thing he did when he left the boat was to honor God with a sacrifice (See: [03:14](#)).

6. Why is the rainbow important?

The rainbow that appears after a rain reminds God and people of God's promise. He said he will never destroy the earth again with a flood.

Summary

The story of the flood shows that God must punish people who sin against him. But he also wants to save people who honor him. Noah lived in a time when almost everyone was wicked. In spite of that, Noah honored God, and taught his family to honor him as well. Therefore, God made a way for Noah and his family to escape God's punishment. Noah obeyed God. He built the boat and took his family into it. God then closed the door and protected them from the flood. After the flood, God told them to fill the earth again. Noah continued to honor God, and God promised never to destroy the earth with a flood again.

04. God's Covenant with Abraham

A Bible story from: Genesis 11-15

04:01

Many years after the flood, there were again many people in the world, and they still sinned against God and each other. Because they all spoke the same language, they gathered together and built a city instead of spreading out over the earth as God had commanded.

04:02

They were very proud, and they did not want to obey God's commands about how they should live. They even began building a tall tower that would reach heaven. God saw that, if they all kept working together to do evil, they could do many more sinful things.

04:03

So God changed their language into many different languages and spread the people out all over the world. The city they had begun to build was called Babel, which means "confused."

04:04

Hundreds of years later, God spoke to a man named Abram. God told him, "Leave your country and family and go to the land I will show you. I will bless you and make you a great nation. I will make your name great. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All families on earth will be blessed because of you."

04:05

So Abram obeyed God. He took his wife, Sarai, together with all of his servants and everything he owned and went to the land God showed him, the land of Canaan.

04:06

When Abram arrived in Canaan, God said, "Look all around you. I will give to you all this land, and your descendants will always possess it." Then Abram settled in the land.

04:07

There was a man named Melchizedek who was a priest of God Most High. One day, after Abram had been in a battle, he and Abram met. Melchizedek blessed Abram and said, "May God Most High who owns heaven and earth bless Abram." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had won in the battle.

04:08

Many years went by, but Abram and Sarai still did not have a son. God spoke to Abram and promised again that he would have a son and as many descendants as the stars in the sky. Abram believed God's promise. God declared that Abram was righteous because he believed in God's promise.

04:09

Then God made a covenant with Abram. Normally, a covenant is an agreement between two parties to do things for each other. But in this case, God made a promise to Abram while Abram was in a deep sleep, but he could still hear God. God said, "I will give you a son from your own body. I give the land of Canaan to your descendants." But Abram still did not have a son.

What the Story Says

1. Why was it wrong for the people to gather together in one city?

God had commanded Noah and his descendants to fill the earth again after the flood (See: [03:13](#)).

2. What was the purpose of the tower the people built in the city?

They built the tower to be tall enough to reach heaven (See: [04:02](#)). Some scholars think they wanted to be able to go up to heaven. Other scholars think they wanted the gods to be able to come down from heaven.

3. Why did God change their language?

God changed their one language into many languages so they could not understand each other (See: [04:03](#)). As a result, they could not work together to continue building the tower or living together well. So they spread out over the earth in different language groups.

4. Who did God say he would bless through Abram?

God would bless all the people groups on earth through Abram and his descendants (See: [04:04](#)).

5. What land did God give to Abram?

God gave the land of Canaan to Abram and his descendants (See: [04:05](#), [04:06](#)). He said they would always possess it. This is the land of Israel today.

6. Why did Abram give a tenth of his possessions to Melchizedek?

Melchizedek was a priest of God (See: [04:07](#)). That is, he spoke for God and helped people worship God. Abram gave a tenth of his possessions to Melchizedek as an offering to God. In this way, Abram honored God.

7. Why might it have been difficult for Abram to believe that he would have many descendants?

Abram and Sarai did not yet have a son (See: [04:08](#)). Without a son, he could not have many descendants.

8. Why did God declare that Abram was righteous?

God said Abram was righteous because Abram believed God (See: [04:08](#)). Abram believed he would have many descendants even though he did not yet have a son.

What the Story Means to Us

1. Noah was a righteous man. Why did his descendants begin to sin?

God destroyed all the wicked people in the flood (See: [03:08](#)). So only the family of Noah survived to fill the earth. Although Noah obeyed God, he was not perfect. He received wicked desires from his ancestors, Adam and Eve. And he passed these on to his descendants.

2. Why did the people want to live in one city?

The descendants of Noah became proud and wanted other people to honor and remember them. Therefore, they decided they did not want to obey God. Instead, they settled in one place where they could honor each other (See: [04:01](#), [04:02](#)).

3. Why do people today speak different languages?

People today speak different languages because God gave them different languages at Babel (See: [04:03](#)). He wanted each language group to spread out across the earth and learn to honor him.

4. Why did God send Abram to Canaan?

Abram already honored God where he lived. But, God told him to go to Canaan, the land that God would give to him. God wanted Abram's descendants to have a land where they could honor God. In this way, all the families of the earth could learn through them how to honor God.

5. Why did Abram give his tenth to Melchizedek instead of directly to God?

Melchizedek was the first priest of God. Before that, Noah and other righteous people offered their sacrifices directly to God. But now God was providing a priest to help people honor God and to speak to them for him.

6. Why was God's promise to Abram so surprising?

God promised that Abram would have more descendants than the stars in the sky. No one is able to count all the stars! But Abram and Sarai did not yet have a son. It would not have seemed possible that they could have so many descendants.

Summary

Many descendants were soon born to Noah. But, even though Noah was a righteous man, his descendants did not obey God. They refused to fill the earth. Instead, they built a city and a tower to honor themselves. Therefore, God confused their language so they would separate into groups. Later, God chose Abram and promised to bless every language group through his descendants. Abram believed God would do this, even though he did not have a son. Therefore, God was pleased with Abram and declared him righteous.

05. The Son of Promise

A Bible story from: Genesis 16-22

05:01

Ten years after Abram and Sarai arrived in Canaan, they still did not have a child. So Abram's wife, Sarai, said to him, "Since God has not allowed me to have children, and now I am too old to have children, here is my servant, Hagar. Marry her also so she can have a child for me."

05:02

So Abram married Hagar. Hagar had a baby boy, and Abram named him Ishmael. But Sarai became jealous of Hagar. When Ishmael was thirteen years old, God again spoke to Abram.

05:03

God said, "I am God Almighty. I will make a covenant with you." Then Abram bowed to the ground. God also told Abram, "You will be the father of many nations. I will give you and your descendants the land of Canaan as their possession, and I will be their God forever. You must circumcise every male in your family."

05:04

"Your wife, Sarai, will have a son—he will be the son of promise. Name him Isaac. I will make my covenant with him, and he will become a great nation. I will make Ishmael a great nation, too, but my covenant will be with Isaac." Then God changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of many." God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah, which means "princess."

05:05

That day Abraham circumcised all the males in his household. About a year later, when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90, Sarah gave birth to Abraham's son. They named him Isaac, as God had told them to do.

05:06

When Isaac was a young man, God tested Abraham's faith by saying, "Take Isaac, your only son, and kill him as a sacrifice to me." Again, Abraham obeyed God. He prepared to sacrifice his son.

05:07

As Abraham and Isaac walked to the place of sacrifice, Isaac asked, "Father, we have wood for the sacrifice, but where is the lamb?" Abraham replied, "God will provide the lamb for the sacrifice, my son."

05:08

When they reached the place of sacrifice, Abraham tied up his son Isaac and laid him on an altar. He was about to kill his son when God said, "Stop! Do not hurt the boy! Now I know that you fear me because you did not keep your only son from me."

05:09

Nearby, Abraham saw a ram that was stuck in a bush. God had provided the ram to be the sacrifice instead of Isaac. Abraham happily offered the ram as a sacrifice.

05:10

Then God said to Abraham, "Because you were willing to give me everything, even your only son, I promise to bless you. Your descendants will be more than the stars in the sky. Because you have obeyed me, I will bless all the families of the world through your family."

What the Story Says

1. Why did Sarai tell Abram to have a child with Hagar?

Sarai was now too old to have children (See: [05:01](#)). The custom of that time allowed a woman to have a child through their servant.

2. What was the name of the son born to Abram through Hagar?

Abram named the son that Hagar bore him Ishmael (See: [05:02](#)).

3. What did God tell Abram to do to show his covenant with God?

As a sign of the covenant God made with Abram, God told Abram to circumcise every male in his family (See: [05:03](#)).

4. Who would be the **son of promise**?

Sarai would bear a son for Abram. His name would be Isaac. He would be the **son of promise** (See: [05:04](#)).

5. What were the meanings of the new names that God gave to Abram and Sarai?

Abraham means 'father of many' and Sarah means 'princess' (See: [05:04](#)).

6. How old were Abraham and Sarah when Isaac was born?

Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old (See: [05:05](#)).

7. What did God tell Abraham to do to his son Isaac?

God told Abraham to kill Isaac as a sacrifice to God (See: [05:06](#)).

8. Where did Abraham tell Isaac that they would get the lamb for the sacrifice?

Abraham told Isaac that God would provide the lamb for the sacrifice (See: [05:07](#)).

9. Did God want Abraham to actually kill Isaac as a sacrifice?

No, God told Abraham not to kill Isaac. God was only testing Abraham to see if he would obey God. God provided a ram for the sacrifice instead of Isaac (See: [05:08](#), [05:09](#)).

10. Why did God say that he would bless Abraham?

God said he would bless Abraham because Abraham was willing to give God everything, even his only son ([05:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Should Sarai have told Abram to have a son with her servant Hagar?

The custom of the day allowed Sarai to have a son through her servant. But perhaps Sarai did this because she did not believe God could give Abram a son in their old age.

2. Why was Isaac called the **son of promise**?

Isaac was the **son of promise** because God would fulfil his promise to bless all nations through him. Even though Ishmael was also Abram's son, God had chosen to bless Abraham's descendants through Isaac instead of through Ishmael (See: [05:04](#)).

3. Why did God give new names to Abram and Sarai?

In the Old Testament, people were often named according what kind of people they were, or what they would do. God gave Abram and Sarai new names to show that they would have many descendants and would be honored by them.

4. Why did God test Abraham by asking him to kill Isaac?

God tested Abraham to show that Abraham would obey God no matter what God asked him to do. He would even sacrifice Isaac, his son of promise.

5. Was Abraham willing to kill Isaac as God asked?

Yes, Abraham was willing to obey everything God told him to do. He was ready to kill Isaac when God told him to stop (See: [05:08](#)).

6. Why did God provide a ram for the sacrifice?

Abraham told Isaac that God would provide a lamb for the sacrifice. But at that time, God provided a ram instead (See: [05:09](#)). Abraham was speaking about a sacrifice in the future when God would provide a perfect lamb.

7. Why did God say that Isaac was Abraham's only son?

Ishmael was also the son of Abraham. But Isaac was the son of promise that God had chosen to bless. Isaac was the only son through whom God would keep his covenant.

Summary

When Abram and Sarai were old, they still did not have a son as God had promised. Therefore, Sarai told Abram to have a son through her servant. Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram, but God had not chosen to keep his covenant with Abram through Ishmael. Instead, God allowed Sarai to give birth to Isaac in their old age. He was the son of promise. God tested Abraham to see if he would obey God and kill Isaac. When Abraham showed he was ready to do that, God stopped him and provided a ram for the sacrifice. God promised to bless the world through Abraham's family because Abraham obeyed him.

06. God Provides for Isaac

A Bible story from: Genesis 24:1-25:26

06:01

When Abraham was very old, his son Isaac had grown to be a man. So Abraham sent one of his servants back to the land where his relatives lived to bring back a wife for his son, Isaac.

06:02

After a very long journey to the land where Abraham's relatives lived, God led the servant to Rebekah. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother.

06:03

Rebekah agreed to leave her family and go back with the servant to Isaac's home. Isaac married her as soon as she arrived.

06:04

After a long time, Abraham died. God then blessed Abraham's son Isaac because of the covenant he had made with Abraham. One of God's promises in that covenant was that Abraham would have countless descendants. But Isaac's wife, Rebekah, could not have children.

06:05

Isaac prayed for Rebekah, and God allowed her to get pregnant with twins. The two babies struggled with each other while they were still in Rebekah's womb, so Rebekah asked God what was happening.

06:06

God told Rebekah, "You will give birth to two sons. Their descendants will become two different nations. They will struggle with each other. But the nation coming from your older son will have to obey the nation coming from your younger son."

06:07

When Rebekah's babies were born, the older son came out red and hairy, and they named him Esau. Then the younger son came out holding on to Esau's heel, and they named him Jacob.

What the Story Says

1. What did Abraham send his servant to do?

Abraham sent him to get a wife for his son Isaac from among Abraham's relatives (See: [06:01](#)).

2. How did Abraham's servant choose Rebekah as a wife for Isaac?

God led him to Rebekah (See: [06:02](#)).

3. Why did it seem as if Abraham would not have many descendants?

Isaac's wife, Rebekah, could not have children (See: [06:04](#)).

4. What did Isaac do when Rebekah could not have children?

Isaac prayed to God, and God allowed her to get pregnant (See: [06:05](#)).

5. What did God tell Rebekah would happen to her two sons?

God told her that her sons would become two nations who would struggle with each other. The nation from the older son would obey the nation from the younger son (See: [06:06](#)).

6. Who was Rebekah's older son?

Rebekah's older son was Esau.

7. Who was Rebekah's younger son?

Rebekah's younger son was Jacob.

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did Abraham send his servant so far away to find a wife for Isaac?

Abraham wanted Isaac to marry a woman who obeyed God. He did not want him to marry a woman from the tribes in Canaan who worshiped idols.

2. Why did Rebekah agree to leave her family and marry Isaac, whom she did not know?

Perhaps Rebekah believed that God had led Abraham's servant to her. She trusted God to provide the right husband for her.

3. Why could Rebekah not have children?

We do not know why Rebekah could not have children. She had obeyed God to leave her family and marry Isaac. Perhaps God wanted Isaac to pray for Rebekah, so that they would understand that God enabled her to become pregnant.

4. Why were the babies struggling with each other while they were still in Rebekah's womb?

While the babies were in Rebekah's womb, God had already caused them to be the kind of people that he wanted them to be. They would continue to struggle with each other throughout their lives. Also, God had already decided that they would be large nations, and that the nation from the older brother would obey the nation from the younger brother. God decided this before they were born.

5. Why was Jacob holding on to Esau's heel?

Later on, Jacob would take Esau's place by receiving the honor and possessions that should belong to the firstborn son. Perhaps Jacob was holding on to Esau's heel as a sign that he was already trying to hold Esau back and to take his place.

Summary

Abraham wanted to make sure that his son Isaac married a woman who believed in God, and not a woman who served idols. Therefore, he sent his servant far away to the land of his relatives to find the right wife for Isaac. God directed Abraham's servant to Rebekah, who trusted God. After Isaac married Rebekah, they could not have children. But God answered Isaac's prayer and she became pregnant with twin boys. Even while they were in her womb, God told Rebekah that they would become two nations, and that the nation from the older son would obey the nation from the younger son. In this way, God chose to keep his covenant with Abraham through Isaac's younger son, Jacob.

07. God Blesses Jacob

A Bible story from: Genesis 25:27-35:29

07:01

As the boys grew up, Jacob loved to stay at home, but Esau loved to hunt animals. Rebekah loved Jacob, but Isaac loved Esau.

07:02

One day when Esau came back from hunting, he was very hungry. Esau said to Jacob, "Give me some of the food you have made." Jacob responded, "First, promise me that everything you should receive because you were born first, you will give it all to me." So Esau promised to give to Jacob all those things. Then Jacob gave him some food.

07:03

Isaac wanted to give his blessing to Esau. But before he did, Rebekah and Jacob tricked him by having Jacob pretend to be Esau. Isaac was old and could no longer see. So Jacob put on Esau's clothes and put goatskins on his neck and hands.

07:04

Jacob came to Isaac and said, "I am Esau. I have come so that you can bless me." When Isaac felt the goat hair and smelled the clothes, he thought it was Esau and blessed him.

07:05

Esau hated Jacob because Jacob had stolen his rights as oldest son and also his blessing. So he planned to kill Jacob after their father died.

07:06

But Rebekah heard of Esau's plan. So she and Isaac sent Jacob far away to live with her relatives.

07:07

Jacob lived with Rebekah's relatives for many years. During that time he married and had 12 sons and a daughter. God made him very wealthy.

07:08

After 20 years away from his home in Canaan, Jacob returned there with his family, his servants, and all his flocks and herds of animals.

07:09

Jacob was very afraid because he thought Esau still wanted to kill him. So he sent many of his animals to Esau as a gift. The servants who brought the animals said to Esau, "Your servant, Jacob, is giving you these animals. He is coming soon."

07:10

But Esau no longer wanted to harm Jacob. Instead, he was very happy to see him again, so the brothers lived peacefully in Canaan. Then Isaac died, and Jacob and Esau buried him. The covenant promises God had made to Abraham now passed on from Isaac to Jacob.

What the Story Says

1. How did Isaac and Rebekah treat their sons differently?

Isaac loved Esau more than he loved Jacob. Rebekah loved Jacob more than she loved Esau (See: [07:01](#)).

2. What did Esau give to Jacob in exchange for some food?

Esau was the firstborn. As the firstborn, he deserved to receive more of his father's possessions than Jacob, and to be honored more than Jacob. However, Esau traded all those things to Jacob in exchange for some food (See: [07:02](#)).

3. Why did Rebekah and Jacob deceive Isaac by having Jacob pretend to be Esau?

Rebekah and Jacob wanted Isaac to bless Jacob instead of blessing Esau (See: [07:03](#), [07:04](#)).

4. Why did Jacob put goatskins on his neck and hands?

Jacob wanted his hands and neck to be hairy like his brother Esau's hands and neck. In that way, Isaac would feel the goat hair and think he was Esau (See: [07:03](#), [07:04](#)).

5. What did Esau plan to do to Jacob after Jacob stole his blessing?

Esau planned to wait until Isaac died, and then to kill Jacob (See: [07:05](#)).

6. What did Rebekah do to prevent Esau from killing Jacob?

Rebekah and Isaac sent Jacob far away to her relatives so Esau would not kill him (See: [07:06](#)).

7. How long did Jacob stay away from home?

Jacob stayed with Rebekah's relatives for twenty years. Then he returned home with the family God had given him while he was away (See: [07:08](#)).

8. How did Jacob try to convince Esau not to kill him?

He sent many herds of animals to Esau as a gift so that Esau would not still want to kill him (See: [07:09](#)).

9. Did Esau still want to kill Jacob?

Esau was no longer angry with Jacob, and did not want to kill him. Esau and Jacob both lived in Canaan, and even buried their father together (See: [07:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did Rebekah love Jacob more than she loved Esau?

Jacob stayed around the home where Rebekah lived. Furthermore, God had told Rebekah that her older son would serve the younger.

2. Why did Isaac love Esau more than he loved Jacob?

Esau loved to hunt. Perhaps Isaac also loved to hunt, and to eat the wild animals that they killed. This may be the reason he loved Esau more than he loved Jacob.

3. What problems happened because Isaac and Rebekah each loved a different son?

Jacob and Esau would have known that their parents did not love them equally. Perhaps this is why Jacob and Esau continually struggled with each other. They both tried to get what the other brother had.

4. Why was Esau willing to trade what was his as the firstborn for some food?

Esau did not care about the promises God made to Abraham. He was only interested in his food for that day. Later, he wanted to receive his father's inheritance. But he was not interested in receiving anything from God.

5. Jacob deceived Isaac to get his blessing. What does this tell us about Jacob?

It was good that Jacob wanted to have his father's blessing. But he was wrong to deceive his father in order to receive it. Because he did that, he had to flee from his brother and spend twenty years in another country.

6. Was Jacob a good person?

Jacob sometimes obeyed God, and he wanted God's blessing. At the same time, Jacob had many faults. He often tried to trick people to get what he wanted. Nevertheless, God blessed Jacob because he had promised to Abraham that he would bless his descendants.

Summary

God chose to bless Jacob even before he was born, and he was faithful to do that. However, Jacob did not always act in a way that was right. He often deceived other people in order to get what he wanted. Nevertheless, God knew that Jacob wanted to worship God. Also, God promised Abraham that he would bless his descendants. Therefore, God blessed Jacob even when he fled from his brother. He brought Jacob back to Canaan again, and blessed his family. Jacob was not always right, but he believed God.

08. God Saves Joseph and His Family

A Bible story from: Genesis 37-50

08:01

Many years later, when Jacob was an old man, he sent his favorite son, Joseph, to check on his brothers who were taking care of the flocks.

08:02

Joseph's brothers hated him because their father loved him most, and because Joseph had dreamed that he would be their ruler. When Joseph came to his brothers, they took him captive and sold him to some slave traders.

08:03

Before Joseph's brothers returned home, they tore Joseph's robe and dipped it in goat's blood. Then they showed the robe to their father so he would think that a wild animal had killed Joseph. Jacob was very sad.

08:04

The slave traders took Joseph to Egypt. Egypt was a large, powerful country located along the Nile River. The slave traders sold Joseph as a slave to a wealthy government official. Joseph served his master well, and God blessed Joseph.

08:05

His master's wife tried to sleep with Joseph, but Joseph refused to sin against God in this way. She became angry and falsely accused Joseph so that he was arrested and sent to prison. Even in prison, Joseph remained faithful to God, and God blessed him.

08:06

After two years, Joseph was still in prison even though he was innocent. One night the Pharaoh, which is what the Egyptians called their kings, had two dreams that disturbed him greatly. None of his advisors could tell him the meaning of the dreams.

08:07

God had given Joseph the ability to interpret dreams, so Pharaoh had Joseph brought to him from the prison. Joseph interpreted the dreams for him and said, "God is going to send seven years of plentiful harvests followed by seven years of famine."

08:08

Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph that he appointed him to be the second most powerful man in all of Egypt!

08:09

Joseph told the people to store up large amounts of food during the seven years of good harvests. When the seven years of famine came, Joseph sold the food to the people so they would have enough to eat.

08:10

The famine was severe not only in Egypt, but also in Canaan where Jacob and his family lived.

08:11

So, Jacob sent his older sons to Egypt to buy food. The brothers did not recognize Joseph when they stood before him to buy food. But Joseph recognized them.

08:12

After testing his brothers to see if they had changed, Joseph said to them, "I am your brother, Joseph! Do not be afraid. You tried to do evil when you sold me as a slave, but God used the evil for good! Come and live in Egypt so I can provide for you and your families."

08:13

When Joseph's brothers returned home and told their father, Jacob, that Joseph was still alive, he was very happy.

08:14

Even though Jacob was an old man, he moved to Egypt with all of his family, and they all lived there. Before Jacob died, he blessed each of his sons.

08:15

The covenant promises that God gave to Abraham were passed on to Isaac, then to Jacob, and then to Jacob's 12 sons and their families. The descendants of the 12 sons became the 12 tribes of Israel.

What the Story Says

1. How did Jacob feel about his son Joseph?

Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved his other 11 sons (See: [08:01](#)).

2. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?

They hated Joseph because Jacob loved Joseph more than he loved his other sons, and because Joseph dreamed he would rule over his brothers (See: [08:02](#)).

3. What did Joseph's brothers do to get rid of Joseph?

Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave (See: [08:02](#)). Then they deceived their father into thinking that an animal had killed Joseph (See: [08:03](#)).

4. Why did the Egyptians put Joseph in prison?

The wife of Joseph's Egyptian master lied and said Joseph tried to sleep with her. Her husband believed her and sent Joseph to prison (See: [08:05](#)).

5. What did God do for Joseph while he was in prison?

Joseph remained faithful to God, so God blessed him even in the prison (See: [08:05](#)).

6. How did Joseph get out of prison?

Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret (See: [08:06](#)). When Joseph told him the meaning of the dream, Pharaoh made Joseph the second most powerful person in Egypt (See: [08:07](#), [08:08](#)).

7. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt?

There was a great famine and there was no food for them in Canaan (See: [08:10](#)). They came to Egypt to buy food (See: [08:11](#)).

8. How did Joseph treat his brothers when they came to him in Egypt?

Joseph first tested them to see if they had changed. Then he told them who he was and promised to take care of them all in Egypt (See: [08:12](#)).

9. Who became the 12 tribes of Israel?

God changed Jacob's name to Israel. The descendants of each of his 12 sons then became the tribes of Israel (See: [08:15](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. What mistake did Jacob make in the way he treated his sons?

Jacob loved one of his sons more than he loved his other sons. This was the same mistake that his father Isaac made. As a result, Jacob's sons hated Joseph and sold him as a slave.

2. Why was God with Joseph even as a slave and as a prisoner?

Joseph was always faithful to God, even when he suffered for doing the right thing. Therefore, God blessed Joseph and eventually restored him to his family.

3. How did God make it possible for Joseph to go from prison to the palace in Egypt?

God caused Pharaoh to have a dream that no one could interpret. He then revealed the meaning of the dream to Joseph. In that way, God provided a way for Joseph to be released from prison and to begin to rule over Egypt.

4. Why did Joseph not punish his brothers?

Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave. He could have been very angry with them. But Joseph saw that God was the one who sent Joseph to Egypt through his brothers' evil actions. God did this to save Joseph's entire family. Therefore, Joseph forgave his brothers and took care of them.

5. Why did Jacob move his family to Egypt?

God caused the famine so that Jacob would have to move his family to Egypt. God wanted them to grow into a large nation there.

Summary

God sometimes allows bad things to happen and people to do evil things. But God is always in control. He is doing the things that will fulfil his plan. He allowed Joseph's brothers to sell him as a slave so that Joseph would be in Egypt. He even allowed Joseph to be in prison. But he blessed Joseph even there. Next, God caused Pharaoh to have a dream for Joseph to interpret. This made Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. Finally, God sent a famine throughout the land so that Jacob and his family would have to come to Egypt for food. But God had already placed Joseph in Egypt to care for them during the famine. God was always working in Joseph's life, and Joseph was always faithful to him.

09. God Calls Moses

A Bible story from: Exodus 1-4

09:01

After Joseph died, all of his relatives stayed in Egypt. They and their descendants continued to live there for many years and had many children. They were called the Israelites.

09:02

After hundreds of years, the number of Israelites had become very large. The Egyptians were no longer grateful that Joseph had done so much to help them. They became afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. So the Pharaoh who was ruling Egypt at that time made the Israelites slaves to the Egyptians.

09:03

The Egyptians forced the Israelites to build many buildings and even whole cities. The hard work made their lives miserable, but God blessed them, and they had even more children.

09:04

Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were having many babies, so he ordered his people to kill all Israelite baby boys by throwing them into the Nile River.

09:05

A certain Israelite woman gave birth to a baby boy. She hid the baby for as long as she could.

09:06

When the boy's mother could no longer hide him, she put him in a floating basket among the reeds along the edge of the Nile River in order to save him from being killed. His older sister watched to see what would happen to him.

09:07

A daughter of Pharaoh saw the basket and looked inside. When she saw the baby, she took him as her own son. She hired an Israelite woman to nurse him without realizing the woman was the baby's own mother. When the child was old enough that he no longer needed his mother's milk, his mother returned him to Pharaoh's daughter, who named him Moses.

09:08

One day, when Moses had grown up, he saw an Egyptian beating an Israelite slave. Moses tried to save his fellow Israelite.

09:09

When Moses thought nobody would see, he killed the Egyptian and buried his body. But someone saw what Moses had done.

09:10

Pharaoh learned what Moses had done. He tried to kill him, but Moses fled from Egypt into the wilderness. Pharaoh's soldiers could not find him there.

09:11

Moses became a shepherd in the wilderness far away from Egypt. He married a woman from that place and had two sons.

09:12

Moses was taking care of his father-in-law's flock of sheep. One day he saw a bush on fire, burning without being destroyed. He went close to the bush to look at it. When he was very close, God spoke to him and said, "Moses, take off your shoes. You are standing on holy ground."

09:13

Then God said, "I have seen the suffering of my people. I will send you to Pharaoh so that you can bring the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt. I will give them the land of Canaan, the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

09:14

Moses asked, "What if the people want to know who sent me, what should I say?" God said, "I AM WHO I AM. Tell them, 'I AM has sent me to you.' Also tell them, 'I am Yahweh, the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' This is my name forever."

09:15

Moses was afraid and did not want to go to Pharaoh because he thought he could not speak well, so God sent Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him.

What the Story Says

1. Why did the Egyptians make the Israelites slaves?

They were afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them (See: [09:02](#)).

2. What did God do for the Israelites while they were slaves in Egypt?

God blessed them so they had even more children (See: [09:03](#)).

3. How did Pharaoh try to stop the Israelites from having larger families?

Pharaoh ordered his people to kill all the Israelite baby boys (See: [09:04](#)).

4. Why did the Israelite woman put her baby boy in a basket in the river?

She did not want him to be killed. Perhaps she hoped someone would find him floating in the basket and rescue him (See: [09:06](#)).

5. Who did Pharaoh's daughter hire to nurse the baby boy?

Pharaoh's daughter hired the baby's own mother to nurse him, although she did not know that she was his mother (See: [09:07](#)).

6. Why did Moses kill the Egyptian?

He was trying to save the Israelite whom the Egyptian was beating (See: [09:08](#), [09:09](#)).

7. How did God appear to Moses?

God appeared to Moses in a bush that was on fire, but which did not burn up (See: [09:12](#)).

8. Why did God send Moses to the Israelites?

God told Moses to bring the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and to lead them to the land of Canaan (See: [09:13](#)).

9. What did God say that his name was?

God told Moses that his name was **I AM WHO I AM** or **I AM** (See: [09:14](#)).

10. Why did God send Aaron to help Moses?

Moses said he did not speak well, so God sent his brother Aaron to help him (See: [09:15](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. God led the Israelites to Egypt. Why did they suffer there?

God sent the Israelites to Egypt to protect them during the famine (See: [08:12](#)). However, the Egyptians later began to treat them badly and made them slaves. They suffered even though they had obeyed God. But God blessed them even while they suffered in Egypt.

2. Why did Moses' mother defy Pharaoh's order to kill all the Israelite baby boys?

She knew that it was wrong to kill her son. Therefore, she did not obey Pharaoh. She hid Moses as long as she could, and then placed him in a basket in the river so that someone might rescue him. By doing so, She made it possible for Moses to later rescue Israel from Egypt.

3. How was Moses' mother able to care for Moses?

God caused Pharaoh's daughter to find Moses and want to keep him as her son. Then God caused her to hire Moses' own mother to nurse him. In this way, God blessed Moses' mother for refusing to obey Pharaoh and for doing what was right.

4. What happened to Moses when he tried to rescue his fellow Israelite?

Moses killed the Egyptian in order to save an Israelite. But then he had to flee from Egypt so Pharaoh would not kill him. It was not yet time for Moses to help the Israelites. And God did not want Moses to save them by his own power. Instead, God sent Moses into the wilderness until God was ready to send him to deliver the Israelites.

5. What did God tell Moses his name was?

God said he was **Yahweh**, which means 'I AM WHO I AM.' That means God always exists and does not depend on anyone else. He also said he was **the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**. That means he is the same God that they worshiped hundreds of years before Moses. And he is the same God who made a lasting covenant with them.

6. How did Moses respond when God told him to go to Pharaoh?

Moses was afraid and did not want to go. Even though he was raised as part of the royal family of Egypt, he was not sure he could do what God told him to do. But God was kind to him and sent Aaron to help him.

Summary

Even while the Israelites suffered as slaves in Egypt, God was blessing them. He was also preparing Moses to rescue them, even while Moses was only a baby. He guided what happened to Moses so that he could meet Moses in the wilderness and send him to rescue the Israelites. He told Moses that he was Yahweh, their God and the God who had promised their ancestors that he would continue to bless them and give them the land of Canaan.

10. The Ten Plagues

A Bible story from: Exodus 5-10

10:01

God warned Moses and Aaron that Pharaoh would be stubborn. When they went to Pharaoh, they said, "This is what the God of Israel says, 'Let my people go!'" But Pharaoh did not listen to them. Instead of letting the Israelites go free, he forced them to work even harder!

10:02

Pharaoh kept refusing to let the people go, so God sent ten terrible plagues on Egypt. Through these plagues, God showed Pharaoh that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all of Egypt's gods.

10:03

God turned the Nile River into blood, but Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go.

10:04

God sent frogs all over Egypt. Pharaoh begged Moses to take away the frogs. But after all the frogs died, Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the Israelites leave Egypt.

10:05

So God sent a plague of gnats. Then he sent a plague of flies. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them that if they stopped the plague, the Israelites could leave Egypt. When Moses prayed, God removed all the flies from Egypt. But Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let the people go free.

10:06

Next, God caused all the farm animals that belonged to the Egyptians to get sick and die. But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not let the Israelites go.

10:07

Then God told Moses to throw ashes into the air in front of Pharaoh. When he did, painful skin sores appeared on the Egyptians, but not on the Israelites. God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go free.

10:08

After that, God sent hail that destroyed most of the crops in Egypt and killed anybody who went outside. Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and told them, "I have sinned. You may go." So Moses prayed, and the hail stopped falling from the sky.

10:09

But Pharaoh sinned again and hardened his heart. He would not let the Israelites go free.

10:10

So God caused swarms of locusts to come over Egypt. These locusts ate all the crops that the hail had not destroyed.

10:11

Then God sent darkness that lasted for three days. It was so dark that the Egyptians could not leave their houses. But there was light where the Israelites lived.

10:12

Even after these nine plagues, Pharaoh still refused to let the Israelites go free. Since Pharaoh would not listen, God planned to send one last plague. This would change Pharaoh's mind.

What the Story Says

1. How did Pharaoh respond when Moses told him that God wanted him to let the Israelites go?

Pharaoh not only refused to let the Israelites go, he also made work harder than before (See: [10:01](#)).

2. What did God do to Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let the Israelites go?

God sent ten terrible plagues that caused the people of Egypt to suffer greatly and to even die (See: [10:02](#)).

3. How did Pharaoh respond to Moses when the frogs covered Egypt?

Pharaoh begged Moses to take away the frogs. However, he still did not let the Israelites go (See: [10:04](#)).

4. How did Pharaoh act deceitfully about the plague of the flies?

Pharaoh promised Moses that the Israelites could leave Egypt if Moses stopped the plague. But when Moses did that, Pharaoh changed his mind and did not let them go (See: [10:05](#)).

5. How did God treat the Egyptians differently than the Israelites during the plague of the skin sores?

God caused the sores on the Egyptians, but not on the Israelites (See: [10:07](#)).

6. How did Pharaoh again act deceitfully about the plague of the hail?

Pharaoh again promised Moses that the Israelites could leave Egypt if Moses stopped the plague of the hail (See: [10:08](#)). But after the hail stopped, Pharaoh again changed his mind and would not let them go (See: [10:09](#)).

7. How did God again treat the Egyptians differently than the Israelites during the plague of the darkness?

God caused the darkness on the Egyptians, but there was light where the Israelites lived (See: [10:11](#)).

8. What did God decide to do to the Egyptians since Pharaoh refused to obey God after the first nine plagues?

God decided to send a final plague that would be worse than the other nine plagues. This one would cause Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt (See: [10:12](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Did God know that Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go when Moses asked him?

God already knew that Pharaoh would be stubborn and would not agree to let the Israelites go at first. However, he expected Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh what God had said and to wait for God to change Pharaoh's mind.

2. Why did God send the ten plagues on Egypt?

God wanted to show Pharaoh and all the people in Egypt that Yahweh is more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of Egypt. Even the other nations would hear about how God had forced Pharaoh to obey him and let the people go.

3. What kinds of things did God cause to be plagues on the Egyptians?

God used the normal things of Egypt to punish them. He turned the Nile River, animals, insects, and even the sun into plagues that caused them to suffer. The Egyptians used to worship all of these things as gods before the plagues happened.

4. Why did God cause some of the plagues to happen only to the Egyptians, and not to the Israelites?

Through the plagues, God was showing the Egyptians and the Israelites that the Israelites belonged to him as his people. He protected the Israelites from many of the plagues so everyone would know that he was their God.

5. Why did God send ten plagues instead of sending only the last plague?

God knew that the first nine plagues would not convince Pharaoh to obey him. However, those plagues showed all the people how powerful God was. When God had done that, he was ready to send the final plague to force Pharaoh to let the people go.

Summary

God knew that Pharaoh would be stubborn and would not easily let the Israelites leave Egypt. But God wanted to show that he was more powerful than Pharaoh or the gods of Egypt. Therefore, God sent nine plagues that punished the Egyptians for not obeying God. Each plague was more severe and caused the Egyptians to suffer more. During the plagues, God also protected the Israelites to show them that he was their God and that they were his people. Pharaoh continually refused to let the people go even as the Egyptians suffered from the plagues. However, God planned to send a final plague to force Pharaoh to obey him.

11. The Passover

A Bible story from: Exodus 11:1-12:32

11:01

God sent Moses and Aaron to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. They warned him that, if he did not let them go, God would kill all the firstborn males of Egypt's people and animals. When Pharaoh heard this, he still refused to believe and obey God.

11:02

God provided a way to save the firstborn son of anyone who believed in him. Each family had to choose a perfect lamb and kill it.

11:03

God told the Israelites to put the blood of this lamb around the door of their houses. They should roast the meat. Then they should quickly eat it, along with unleavened bread. He also told them to be ready to leave Egypt immediately after they ate this meal.

11:04

The Israelites did everything just as God had commanded them to do. In the middle of the night, God went throughout Egypt killing every firstborn son.

11:05

All the houses of the Israelites had blood around the doors, so God passed over those houses. Everybody inside them was safe. They were saved because of the lamb's blood.

11:06

But the Egyptians did not believe God or obey his commands. So God did not pass over their houses. God killed every one of the Egyptians' firstborn sons.

11:07

Every Egyptian firstborn male died, from the firstborn of the prisoner in jail to the firstborn of Pharaoh. Many people in Egypt were crying and wailing because of their deep sadness.

11:08

That same night, Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron and said, "Take the Israelites and leave Egypt immediately!" The Egyptian people also urged the Israelites to leave right away.

What the Story Says

1. Who was God going to kill in this final plague?

He would kill the firstborn males of the Egyptian people and animals (See: [11:01](#)).

2. God had already sent nine plagues on Egypt. Did Pharaoh now believe that God would send another plague?

No, Pharaoh did not believe God would kill the firstborn males even though God had already sent nine plagues (See: [11:01](#)).

3. What did people in Egypt need to do to save their firstborn sons?

To save their firstborn sons, they needed to kill a perfect lamb and put its blood around the door of their houses. Then they must roast the meat of the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread (See: [11:02](#), [11:03](#)).

4. What happened to the Israelites with the lamb's blood around their doors?

God passed over the houses with the blood on the doors and did not kill the firstborn sons inside (See: [11:05](#)).

5. What happened to the Egyptians who did not put the blood on their doors?

God killed the firstborn son of every Egyptian who did not put the blood on their doors. It did not matter if they were poor or rich. Every one of them died ([11:06](#), [11:07](#)).

6. What did Pharaoh do after this plague?

Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron to take the Israelites and to leave Egypt immediately. All the Egyptian people also asked them to go away (See: [11:08](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did Pharaoh not believe that God would kill the firstborn males in Egypt?

Pharaoh had every reason to believe that God would do what he said. God had already sent nine plagues, just as he said he would. However, Pharaoh did not want to lose his power, so he chose not to believe God or to obey him, despite all the evidence that God has shown to him.

2. Why did each family need to kill a lamb in order to be saved from the plague?

God could have simply spared all of the Israelites. Instead, he required that they kill a perfect lamb. God wanted each person to decide to obey him.

3. Why did God tell the Israelites to put the blood of the lamb around the door of their houses?

When they put the blood of the lamb around their door, they showed God and other people that they believed God would save them from the plague. They trusted that the blood of the lamb would be enough to protect them from being killed.

4. Why were the people to eat unleavened bread?

God wanted the people to believe that he would take them out of Egypt immediately after the plague. They were to hurry to get ready to leave Egypt quickly. They would not have time to wait for bread to rise. Instead, they would prepare it without leaven, so they could eat soon. Unleavened bread was therefore a symbol that they were eating quickly.

5. Did God really kill the firstborn sons? Even the children?

God did exactly what he promised to do. He killed the firstborn son of any Egyptian family that did not kill the lamb and put its blood on the door. He did not spare the people who refused to believe and obey him.

6. How did Pharaoh respond to this final plague?

Pharaoh was forced to finally obey God. God knew how to cause Pharaoh to let the people go. He also knew how to show Pharaoh that he was more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of Egypt. When the firstborn sons of Egypt died, Pharaoh let the people go exactly as God had told Moses he would do.

Summary

God told Moses that he would do one final plague that would force Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. He also told him to have the Israelites kill a perfect lamb and put its blood around the door of their houses. The Israelites did exactly as God told them to do. The blood showed that they had believed and obeyed God. When God saw the blood, he spared the firstborn son of that household. The Egyptians, however, did not believe or obey God. They did not have the blood of the lamb on their doors to protect them. So God killed all of their firstborn sons. When this happened, Pharaoh and all the Egyptians knew that Yahweh was more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of Egypt. They finally agreed to let the Israelites go. God freed the entire nation from being slaves in Egypt, just as he had told Moses that he would do.

12. The Exodus

A Bible story from: Exodus 12:33-15:21

12:01

The Israelites were very happy to leave Egypt. They were no longer slaves, and they were going to the Promised Land! The Egyptians gave the Israelites whatever they asked for, even gold and silver and other valuable things. Some people from other nations believed in God and went along with the Israelites as they left Egypt.

12:02

A tall pillar of cloud went ahead of them during the day. It became a tall pillar of fire at night. God, who was in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, was always with them and guided them as they traveled. All they had to do was follow him.

12:03

After a short time, Pharaoh and his people changed their minds. They wanted to make the Israelites their slaves again. So they chased after the Israelites. It was God who made them change their minds. He did this because he wanted everyone to know that he, Yahweh, is more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of the Egyptians.

12:04

When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army coming, they realized they were trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. They were very afraid and cried out, "Why did we leave Egypt? We are going to die!"

12:05

Moses told the Israelites, "Stop being afraid! God will fight for you today and save you." Then God told Moses, "Tell the people to move toward the Red Sea."

12:06

Then the pillar of cloud moved between the Israelites and the Egyptians and became a pillar of fire at night. The Egyptians were not able to come near the Israelites all night.

12:07

God told Moses to raise his hand over the sea. Then God caused the wind to push the water in the sea to the left and the right, so that there was a path through the sea.

12:08

The Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground with a wall of water on either side of them.

12:09

Then the Egyptians saw that the Israelites were escaping. The Egyptians started chasing after them again.

12:10

So they followed the Israelites onto the path through the sea, but God caused the Egyptians to panic and caused their chariots to get stuck. They shouted, "Run away! God is fighting for the Israelites!"

12:11

The Israelites all arrived at the other side of the sea. Then God told Moses to stretch out his hand again over the water. When Moses did that, the water fell on the Egyptian army and returned to its normal place. The whole Egyptian army drowned.

12:12

When the Israelites saw that the Egyptians were dead, they trusted in God. They believed that Moses was a prophet of God.

12:13

The Israelites also rejoiced very much because God had saved them from dying and from being slaves. Now they were free to worship God and obey him. The Israelites sang many songs to celebrate their new freedom and to praise God because he saved them from the Egyptian army.

12:14

God commanded the Israelites to celebrate a festival every year in order to remember how God had defeated the Egyptians and freed them from being slaves. This festival was called the Passover. In it, they had to celebrate by killing a healthy lamb, roasting it, and eating it with bread made without yeast.

What the Story Says

1. Who also left Egypt along with the Israelites?

Some people from other nations who believed in God also left Egypt along with the Israelites (See: [12:01](#)).

2. How did God lead the Israelites?

God sent a tall pillar of cloud during the day. It became a pillar of fire at night. It went ahead of the Israelites to show them where to go. God was in this pillar (See: [12:02](#)).

3. Why did Pharaoh change his mind about letting the Israelites go?

God caused Pharaoh to change his mind so that he could show everyone that he is more powerful than Pharaoh and all the gods of Egypt (See: [12:03](#)).

4. Why were the Israelites afraid when they saw the Egyptian army coming?

They were trapped between the Egyptians and the Red Sea. They thought the Egyptians would kill them (See: [12:04](#)).

5. What did God do to protect the Israelites from the Egyptians?

God moved the pillar of cloud between the Israelites and the Egyptians so the Egyptians could not see the Israelites (See: [12:06](#)).

6. What happened when Moses raised his hand over the sea?

God caused the wind to push the water to the left and to the right so that there was a path through the sea for the Israelites. The Israelites crossed the sea on dry ground (See: [12:07](#), [12:08](#)).

7. What happened to the Egyptians when they followed the Israelites into the sea?

God caused the Egyptians to panic and their chariots to get stuck. Then he closed the water over the Egyptians so that they all drowned (See: [12:10](#), [12:11](#)).

8. What did the Israelites believe about Moses?

They believed that he was a prophet of God (See: [12:12](#)).

9. How do the Israelites remember every year that God defeated the Egyptians?

Every year, the Israelites celebrate the festival of the Passover by killing and eating a lamb with unleavened bread (See: [12:14](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think some people from other nations went with the Israelites from Egypt?

They would have seen all the plagues that God did to the Egyptians. Perhaps that is why they believed that Yahweh is God. They decided to follow him instead of the gods of Egypt.

2. God had already forced Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave Egypt. Why did he make Pharaoh chase after them again?

Perhaps other nations would not know that God forced Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. God caused Pharaoh to chase after the Israelites so that he could completely destroy the Egyptians. In this way, people in every nation would hear about it and know that God was more powerful than Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt.

3. Why did God lead the Israelites to the Red Sea where they would be trapped, instead of leading them around it?

God wanted to use the Red Sea to destroy the Egyptians and to show the Israelites how powerful he was. For this reason, God led them to the edge of the sea instead of around it.

4. Why were the Egyptians not able to immediately catch the Israelites before they finished crossing the sea?

There were so many Israelites that it would have taken a long time for them to all cross the sea. However, God placed the pillar of cloud behind them so the Egyptians could attack them as they were crossing the sea.

5. What did the Israelites do when they realized the Egyptians were dead?

The Israelites rejoiced and worshiped God. They realized that he had save them from dying and from being slaves. They were very happy and decided to obey God. They continued to celebrate the festival of the Passover every year as God commanded them to do.

Summary

The Israelites left Egypt to go to the Promised Land, along with people from other nations who saw what God did to the Egyptians and believed in him. But God was not finished with the Egyptians. He caused Pharaoh to change his mind and chase after the Israelites so he could destroy Pharaoh completely. He made a way for Israel to escape through the Red Sea. But he killed all the Egyptians when they tried to follow them. In this way, he showed the Israelites and all the other nations that he was more powerful than Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. He also showed the Israelites that he would lead and protect them as they traveled to the Promised Land.

13. God's Covenant with Israel

A Bible story from: Exodus 19-34

13:01

After God led the Israelites through the Red Sea, he led them through the wilderness to a mountain called Sinai. This was the same mountain where Moses had seen the burning bush. The people set up their tents at the base of the mountain.

13:02

God said to Moses and all the people of Israel, "You must always obey me and keep the covenant I am making with you. If you do this, you will be my prized possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."

13:03

For three days the people made themselves ready for God to come near to them. Then God came down to the top of Mount Sinai. When he came, there was thunder, lightning, smoke, and sounds of loud trumpets. Then Moses went by himself up the mountain.

13:04

Then God made a covenant with the people. He said, "I am Yahweh, your God. It is I who saved you from being slaves in Egypt. Do not worship any other god."

13:05

"Do not make idols and do not worship them, because I, Yahweh, must be your only God. Do not use my name in a disrespectful way. Be sure to keep the Sabbath day holy. In other words, do all your work in six days, for the seventh day is a day for you to rest and to remember me."

13:06

"Honor your father and your mother. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not desire to have your neighbor's wife, his house, or anything that belongs to him."

13:07

The people all agreed to obey the laws that God had given them. They agreed to belong to God alone and to worship only him.

13:08

God also told the Israelites to make a large tent—the Tent of Meeting. He told them exactly how to make this tent and what things to put in it. He told them to make a large curtain to separate the tent into two rooms. God would come into the room behind the curtain and stay there. Only the high priest was allowed to go into that room where God was.

13:09

The people must also make an altar in front of the Tent of Meeting. Anyone who had disobeyed God's law should bring an animal to that altar. A priest would then kill it and burn it on the altar as a sacrifice to God. God said that the animal's blood would cover that person's sin. In this way, God would not see that sin any longer. That person would become clean in God's sight. God chose Moses' brother, Aaron, and Aaron's descendants to be his priests.

13:10

God wrote these Ten Commandments on two stone tablets and gave them to Moses. God also gave the people many other laws and rules to follow. God promised to bless the people and protect them if they obeyed these laws. But he said he would punish them if they did not obey them.

13:11

For many days, Moses remained on top of Mount Sinai. He was talking with God. But the people became tired of waiting for him to return to them. So they brought gold to Aaron and asked him to make an idol that they could worship instead of God. In this way, they sinned terribly against God.

13:12

Aaron made a golden idol in the shape of a calf. The people began to wildly worship the idol and make sacrifices to it! God was very angry with them because of their sin. God told Moses he wanted to destroy them. But Moses asked God not to kill them. God listened to his prayer and did not destroy them.

13:13

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, he was carrying the two stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments. When Moses saw the idol, he was so angry that he smashed the tablets.

13:14

Then Moses burned the idol and ground it into powder. He threw the powder into a stream and made the people drink the water. God sent a plague on the people and many of them died.

13:15

Moses made new stone tablets for the Ten Commandments to replace the ones that he had broken. Then he climbed the mountain again and prayed that God would forgive the people. God listened to Moses and forgave them. Moses came back down the mountain with the Ten Commandments on the new tablets. Then God led the Israelites away from Mount Sinai toward the Promised Land.

What the Story Says

1. What did God say the Israelites would become if they kept his covenant with them?

They would become his prized possession, a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation (See: [13:02](#)).

2. What were the signs of God's presence when he came down on the mountain?

There was thunder, lightning, smoke, and sounds of loud trumpets (See: [13:03](#)).

3. What was the first command that God gave to the people?

God told them not to worship any other god (See: [13:04](#)).

4. What were the Israelites supposed to do on the seventh day of the week?

They were supposed to keep the Sabbath day holy by resting and remembering God (See: [13:05](#)).

5. What would God do to the people if they did not obey his commandments?

God would punish them if they did not obey him (See: [13:07](#)).

6. Who was allowed to enter into the room in the Tent of Meeting where God was?

Only the high priest was allowed to go into that room (See: [13:08](#)).

7. What would the blood from an animal sacrifice do to the sin of the person who brought the animal?

The blood of the animal would cover that person's sin. He would become clean in God's sight (See: [13:09](#)).

8. Why did the people make an idol to worship?

Moses remained on the mountain for a long time, and the people grew tired of waiting for him. Therefore, they asked Aaron to make an idol for them to worship (See: [13:11](#)).

9. What did Moses do when he came down the mountain and saw the people worshipping the idol?

He smashed the two stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments. He then destroyed the idol and made the people drink the dust of it in water (See: [13:13](#), [13:14](#)).

10. Why did God forgive the people?

He forgave them because Moses prayed for them (See: [13:15](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did God bring the people to Mount Sinai?

This was the place where God had spoken to Moses from the burning bush. He promised Moses that he would bring the people out of Egypt to worship him there. God kept that promise and led them to that same place.

2. Why did God say the Israelites would be a kingdom of priests?

Priests help other people worship God. They also teach people what God has said. All the people of Israel would be able to do these things for the other nations if they would obey God.

3. Why did God write the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone?

God wanted the people to always remember his commandments. Perhaps that is why he wrote them on hard stone tablets with his own hand, instead of on clay, wood, or paper.

4. Why did God tell the Israelites to make a tent where he could meet them?

The Israelites were traveling to the Promised Land. They could not build a temple which would be in one place. Instead, God told them to make a special tent that they could move with them and set up when they stopped in a place.

5. Why do you think God said the blood of the sacrifice would cover a person's sin?

The sin of the person would still be there, but it would be covered. God would look at the blood instead of their sin, and would consider that person to be clean before him.

6. Why was it especially evil that the people made an idol to worship?

The first and most important command God gave them was not to worship any other god.

7. What did God send on the people to punish them for worshiping the idol?

God sent a plague on them, which killed many of them. In Egypt, God sent plagues on the Egyptians. Now, God punished his own people with a plague because they sinned.

Summary

God brought the Israelites to Mount Sinai just as he had promised Moses. He came down on the mountain with powerful signs and gave them the Ten Commandments and other laws to obey. He told them how to sacrifice to him, and how to meet him in the Tent of Meeting. But while Moses was still on the mountain with God, the people made an idol to worship. God was very angry and wanted to destroy them. Moses was also so angry that he smashed the Ten Commandments. But Moses prayed for the people and God forgave them.

14. Wandering in the Wilderness

A Bible story from: Exodus 16-17; Numbers 10-14; 20; 27; Deuteronomy 34

14:01

God finished telling the Israelites about all the laws that they must obey because of his covenant with them. Then he led them away from Mount Sinai. He wanted to take them to the Promised Land. This land was also called Canaan. God went ahead of them in the pillar of cloud, and they followed him.

14:02

God had promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that he would give the Promised Land to their descendants, but now there were many people groups living there. They were called Canaanites. The Canaanites did not worship or obey God. They worshiped false gods and did many evil things.

14:03

God told the Israelites, "After you go into the Promised Land, you must get rid of all the Canaanites there. Do not make peace with them and do not marry them. You must completely destroy all of their idols. If you do not obey me, you will end up worshiping their idols instead of me."

14:04

When the Israelites reached the border of Canaan, Moses chose 12 men, one from each tribe of Israel. He gave the men instructions to go and spy on the land to see what it was like. They were also to spy on the Canaanites to see if they were strong or weak.

14:05

The 12 men traveled through Canaan for 40 days, and then they came back. They told the people, "The land is very fertile and the crops are plentiful!" But ten of the spies said, "The cities are very strong and the people are giants! If we attack them, they will certainly defeat us and kill us!"

14:06

Immediately, Caleb and Joshua, the other two spies, said, "It is true that the people of Canaan are tall and strong, but we can certainly defeat them! God will fight for us!"

14:07

But the people did not listen to Caleb and Joshua. They became angry with Moses and Aaron and said, "Why did you bring us to this horrible place? We should have stayed in Egypt. If we go into the land, we will die in battle, and the Canaanites will make our wives and children to be slaves." The people wanted to choose a different leader to take them back to Egypt.

14:08

When the people said this, God was very angry. He came to the Tent of Meeting and said, "You have rebelled against me, so all of you will have to wander in the wilderness. Everyone who is 20 years or older will die there and never enter the land I am giving you. Only Joshua and Caleb will enter it."

14:09

When the people heard God say this, they were sorry they had sinned. So they decided to attack the people of Canaan. Moses warned them not to go because God would not go with them, but they did not listen to him.

14:10

God did not go with them into this battle, so the Canaanites defeated them and killed many of them. Then the Israelites turned back from Canaan. For the next 40 years, they would wander through the wilderness.

14:11

During the 40 years that the people of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God provided for them. He gave them bread from heaven, called manna. He also sent flocks of quail (which are medium-sized birds) into their camp so they could have meat to eat. During all that time, God kept their clothes and sandals from wearing out.

14:12

To provide them with water to drink, God miraculously made it come out of a rock. But despite all this, the people of Israel complained and grumbled against God and against Moses. Even so, God was still faithful. He did what he promised that he would do for the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

14:13

Another time when the people did not have any water, God told Moses, "Speak to the rock, and water will come out of it." But Moses did not speak to the rock. Instead, he hit the rock twice with a stick. In this way, he dishonored God. Water came out of the rock for everyone to drink, but God was angry with Moses. He said, "Because you did this, you will not enter the Promised Land."

14:14

After the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, all of those who had rebelled against God were dead. Then God led the people to the edge of the Promised Land again. Moses was now very old, so God chose Joshua to lead the people. God also promised Moses that one day he would send to the people another prophet like Moses.

14:15

Then God told Moses to go to the top of a mountain so he could see the Promised Land. Moses saw the Promised Land but God did not permit him to enter it. Then Moses died, and the Israelites mourned for 30 days. Joshua became their new leader. Joshua was a good leader because he trusted and obeyed God.

What the Story Says

1. Why did God tell the people to get rid of the Canaanites completely?

The Canaanites worshiped idols and did many evil things. God knew that if the Israelites lived with the Canaanites, they would marry them and start to worship idols also (See: [14:02](#), [14:03](#)).

2. What did ten of the spies say about the land and people of Canaan?

They said the land was good, but that the people were giants. They said the Israelites could not defeat them (See: [14:05](#)).

3. What did Joshua and Caleb say about the people of Canaan?

They said the people were indeed strong, but that God would fight for the Israelites so they could defeat the Canaanites (See: [14:06](#)).

4. How did the people respond to the bad report of the ten spies?

They were angry that they had left Egypt. They wanted to choose a new leader to replace Moses and Aaron and to lead them back to Egypt (See: [14:07](#)).

5. How did God answer the people when they wanted to go back to Egypt?

God was very angry with the people, and promised that they would wander in the wilderness until all the adults died. Only their children would enter into the Promised Land. Joshua and Caleb would also enter the land because they wanted to obey God (See: [14:08](#)).

6. What did the people do when they heard that they would die in the wilderness?

They attacked the Canaanites, but the Canaanites defeated them (See: [14:09](#), [14:10](#)).

7. How did God take care of the people in the wilderness?

He gave them manna and quail to eat, and provided water for them. He also kept their clothes and sandals from wearing out for 40 years (See: [14:11](#), [14:12](#)).

8. Why could Moses not enter the Promised Land?

God told Moses to speak to a rock so that it would give water to the people. But Moses disobeyed God and struck a rock with a stick instead. In this way, he dishonored God before the people. Therefore, God did not allow him to enter into the land. He went up to a high mountain and saw the land, and then he died (See: [14:13](#), [14:15](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. What had the people of Canaan become like since Joseph and his family left?

Joseph and his family had been in Egypt for 400 years. During that time, there was no one in Canaan who worshiped God. The people there had become very evil and worshiped many idols.

2. What often happens to people who live among people that worship other gods?

God said the Israelites would begin to worship the idols of the Canaanites if they lived with them. People normally begin to worship the gods of the people around them. This is especially true if they marry people who believe in other gods.

3. Why did Joshua give the people different advice than the other ten spies?

All 12 of the spies saw the same land and people. However, ten of the spies only thought about how hard it would be to defeat the people. But Joshua and Caleb thought about the good land and about how God would help them. They believed he would enable them to defeat the Canaanites even though they were tall and strong.

4. Why did the people want to go back and be slaves in Egypt?

The people were very afraid that the Canaanites would kill them. They thought it would be better to be enslaved in Egypt than to be killed. They did not trust God to protect them.

5. God made the Israelites wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults died. Why did he take such good care of them during that time?

God was angry with the people who would not go into the Promised Land. But he kept his promise to Abraham to make his descendants into a great nation. Therefore, he continued to care for the Israelites in the wilderness, and for their children who would enter into the Promised Land after their parents would die.

6. Why did God punish Moses so harshly for striking the rock?

Moses was the leader of Israel. He spoke to them for God. Because everyone watched what Moses did, God punished him harshly so the people would be afraid to disobey God. For this reason, Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Summary

God brought the people to the Promised Land, just as he said. But they were afraid of the Canaanites and refused to enter. Therefore, God made them wander for 40 years until all of the adults died. However, he cared for the people so that their children could enter the land. He kept his promise to Abraham. Moses saw the land, but could not enter because he had disobeyed God. Joshua became the leader of Israel after Moses died.

15. The Promised Land

A Bible story from: Joshua 1-24

15:01

At last it was time for the Israelites to enter Canaan, the Promised Land. In that land was a city called Jericho. It had strong walls around it to protect it. Joshua sent two spies to that city. In that city lived a prostitute named Rahab. She hid these spies, and later she helped them to escape from the city. She did this because she believed God. The spies promised to protect Rahab and her family when the Israelites would destroy Jericho.

15:02

The Israelites had to cross the Jordan River to enter into the Promised Land. God told Joshua, "Have the priests go first." When the priests started to step into the Jordan River, the water upstream stopped flowing so the Israelites could cross over to the other side of the river on dry ground.

15:03

After the people crossed the Jordan River, God told Joshua to get ready to attack the city of Jericho, even though it was very strong. God told the people that their priests and soldiers must march around the city once a day for six days. So the priests and the soldiers did this.

15:04

God also said that on the seventh day the Israelites must march around the city seven times. Then the priests must blow their trumpets and all the people must shout loudly. So they did this.

15:05

Then the walls around Jericho fell down! The Israelites destroyed everything in the city, as God had commanded. They only spared Rahab and her family, who became part of the Israelites. When the other people living in Canaan heard that the Israelites had destroyed Jericho, they were terrified that the Israelites would attack them also.

15:06

God had commanded the Israelites not to make a peace treaty with any of the people groups in Canaan. But one of the Canaanite people groups, called the Gibeonites, lied to Joshua and said they were from a place far from Canaan. They asked Joshua to make a peace treaty with them. Joshua and the other leaders of the Israelites did not ask God what they should do. Instead, they made a peace treaty with the Gibeonites.

15:07

Three days later, the Israelites found out that the Gibeonites really did live in Canaan. They were angry because the Gibeonites had deceived them. But they kept the peace treaty they had made with them because it was a promise before God. Then, some time later, the kings of another people group in Canaan, the Amorites, heard that the Gibeonites had made a peace treaty with the Israelites, so they combined their armies into one large army and attacked Gibeon. The Gibeonites sent a message to Joshua asking for help.

15:08

So Joshua gathered the Israelite army. They marched all night to reach the Gibeonites. In the early morning, they surprised the Amorite armies and attacked them.

15:09

God fought for Israel that day. He caused the Amorites to be confused and he sent large hailstones that killed many of the Amorites.

15:10

God also caused the sun to stay in one place in the sky so that Israel would have enough time to completely defeat the Amorites. On that day, God won a great victory for Israel.

15:11

After God defeated those armies, many of the other Canaanite people groups gathered together to attack Israel. Joshua and the Israelites attacked and destroyed them.

15:12

After these battles, God gave each tribe of Israel its own section of the Promised Land. Then God gave Israel peace along all its borders.

15:13

When Joshua was an old man, he called all the people of Israel together. Then Joshua reminded the people that they had promised to obey the covenant that God had made with the Israelites at Mount Sinai. The people promised to be faithful to God and obey his laws.

What the Story Says

1. Why did the two spies promise to protect Rahab the prostitute and her family?

Rahab believed in God and helped the spies escape from Jericho (See: [15:01](#)).

2. How did God enable the Israelites to cross the Jordan River?

He caused the water upstream to stop flowing so the Israelites could walk across the river on dry ground (See: [15:02](#)).

3. How did God make it possible for the Israelites able to defeat the city of Jericho?

They marched around Jericho, blew their trumpets, and shouted. When they did that, God caused the walls of the city to fall down so they could attack the people (See: [15:03](#), [15:04](#)).

4. What happened to Rahab and her family when the Israelites destroyed Jericho?

Joshua spared Rahab and her family, and they became part of the Israelites (See: [15:05](#)).

5. What did the Gibeonites do so that the Israelites would not destroy them?

They pretended to be from a country far away so the Israelites would make a peace treaty with them (See: [15:06](#)).

6. How did the Amorites respond when the Gibeonites made peace with the Israelites?

They joined their armies together to attack the Gibeonites (See: [15:07](#)).

7. What were the two miracles that God did to help the Israelites defeat the Amorites?

God sent large hailstones to kill the Amorites, and made the sun stay in one place so the Israelites would have enough time to completely defeat them (See: [15:09](#), [15:10](#)).

8. What did God give to each tribe after they finished fighting against the Canaanites?

He gave each tribe of Israel its own section of the Promised Land (See: [15:12](#)).

9. When Joshua called the Israelites together, what did they promise to do?

They promised to be faithful to God and to obey his laws (See: [15:13](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Rahab was a prostitute. But God accepted her and her entire family as part of Israel because she believed in God. What does that tell you about who God is?

God is willing to accept any person who believes in him. It does not matter how much they have sinned. He will accept them even if other people do not think they deserve honor.

2. God made a dry path through the Jordan River for Joshua and the Israelites. What had God done for Moses that was similar?

God made a path through the Red Sea so Moses and the Israelites could escape the Egyptians. In a similar way, God made a path through the Jordan River for Joshua. Perhaps God wanted the Israelites to know that he would work through Joshua in the same powerful way as he worked through Moses.

3. Would you expect the walls of a great city to fall down because a group of people marched around it and shouted?

This is not a normal way to attack a city with high walls. However, Joshua and all the Israelites obeyed God and did what he told them to do. As a result, God caused all the walls to fall down so they could destroy the city.

4. Why do you think the Israelites did not ask God about the Gibeonites?

People often neglect to ask God for help unless they know they need him. Perhaps Joshua and the Israelites thought they could decide how to answer the Gibeonites without God's help. Because they did not ask God, they made a terrible mistake. The Gibeonites deceived them, and the Israelites could not break their peace treaty with them.

5. In what way did God show his power over creation when he helped the Israelites defeat the Amorites?

God controlled the weather so that hailstones fell from the sky to kill the Amorites. He also caused the sun in the sky to stand still in order to make the day longer. Only Yahweh, who created all things, is able to do this.

Summary

God led the Israelites into the Promised Land and helped them defeat all their enemies. He did this in a way that showed how powerful he is. He stopped the waters of the Jordan River. He knocked down the walls of Jericho. He caused hail to fall that was big enough to kill the Amorites. And he made the sun stand still to help Israel. When he accepted Rahab and her family, he also showed that he will accept anyone who believes in him. And he worked powerfully through Joshua to give Canaan to Israel. This showed that he kept his covenant with Abraham.

16. The Deliverers

A Bible story from: Judges 1-3; 6-8; 1 Samuel 1-10

16:01

After Joshua died, the Israelites disobeyed God. They did not obey God's laws, and they did not drive out the rest of the Canaanites from the Promised Land. The Israelites began to worship the Canaanite gods instead of Yahweh, the true God. The Israelites had no king, so everyone did what they thought was right for themselves.

16:02

By disobeying God, the Israelites started a pattern that repeated many times. The pattern went like this: the Israelites would disobey God for several years, then he would punish them by allowing their enemies to defeat them. These enemies would steal things from the Israelites, destroy their property, and kill many of them. Then after Israel's enemies oppressed them for many years, the Israelites would repent of their sin and ask God to rescue them.

16:03

Each time the Israelites repented, God would rescue them. He did this by providing a deliverer—a person who would fight against their enemies and defeat them. Then there would be peace in the land and the deliverer would rule over them well. God sent many deliverers to rescue the people. God did this again after he allowed the Midianites, a nearby enemy people group, to defeat the Israelites.

16:04

The Midianites took all of the Israelites' crops for seven years. The Israelites were so scared, they hid in caves so the Midianites would not find them. Finally, they cried out to God to save them.

16:05

There was an Israelite man name Gideon. One day, he was threshing grain in a hidden place so the Midianites would not steal it. The angel of Yahweh came to Gideon and said, "God is with you, mighty warrior. Go and save Israel from the Midianites."

16:06

Gideon's father had an altar dedicated to an idol. The first thing God told Gideon to do was to tear down that altar. But Gideon was afraid of the people, so he waited until nighttime. Then he tore down the altar and smashed it to pieces. He built a new altar to God nearby and made a sacrifice to God on it.

16:07

The next morning the people saw that someone had torn down and destroyed the altar, and they were very angry. They went to Gideon's house to kill him, but Gideon's father said, "Why are you trying to help your god? If he is a god, let him protect himself!" Because he said this, the people did not kill Gideon.

16:08

Then the Midianites came again to steal from the Israelites. There were so many of them that they could not be counted. Gideon called the Israelites together to fight them. Gideon asked God for two signs so he could be sure that God was really telling him to save Israel.

16:09

For the first sign, Gideon laid a sheepskin on the ground and asked God to let the morning dew fall only on the sheepskin and not on the ground. God did that. The next night, he asked that the ground be wet but the sheepskin dry. God did that, too. Because of these two signs, Gideon believed that God really wanted him to save Israel from the Midianites.

16:10

Then Gideon called for soldiers to come to him, and 32,000 men came. But God told him this was too many. So Gideon sent home 22,000 men, all who were afraid to fight. God told Gideon that he still had too many men. So Gideon sent all of them home except for 300 soldiers.

16:11

That night God told Gideon, "Go down to the Midianite camp and listen to them talk. When you hear what they say, you will no longer be afraid to attack them." So that night, Gideon went down to the camp and heard a Midianite soldier telling his friend about something he had dreamed. The man's friend said, "This dream means that Gideon's army will defeat us, the Midianite army!" When Gideon heard this, he worshiped God.

16:12

Then Gideon returned to his soldiers and gave each of them a horn, a clay pot, and a burning torch. They surrounded the camp where the Midianite soldiers were sleeping. Gideon's 300 soldiers had the torches in the pots so the Midianites could not see the light of the torches.

16:13

Then, all of Gideon's soldiers broke their pots at the same moment, suddenly revealing the fire of the torches. They blew their horns and shouted, "A sword for Yahweh and for Gideon!"

16:14

God confused the Midianites so that they started attacking and killing each other. Immediately, Gideon sent messengers to call many other Israelites to come from their homes and help chase the Midianites. They killed many of them and chased the rest of them out of the Israelites' land. God caused 120,000 Midianites to die that day. This is how God saved Israel.

16:15

The people wanted to make Gideon their king. Gideon did not allow them to do this, but he asked them for some of the gold rings that each of them had taken from the Midianites. The people gave Gideon a large amount of gold.

16:16

Then Gideon used the gold to make a special garment like the high priest used to wear. But the people started worshiping it as if it were an idol. So God punished Israel again because they worshiped idols. God allowed their enemies to defeat them. They finally asked God for help again, and God sent them another deliverer to rescue them.

16:17

This same thing happened many times: the Israelites would sin, God would punish them, they would repent, and God would send someone to rescue them. Over many years, God sent many deliverers who saved the Israelites from their enemies.

16:18

Finally, the people asked God for a king like all the other nations had. They wanted a king who was tall and strong, and who could lead them into battle. God did not like this request, but he gave them a king just as they had asked.

What the Story Says

1. How did the Israelites disobey God?

They did not keep his laws, and they did not drive out the rest of the Canaanites from the land. Also, they began to worship Canaanite gods (See: [16:01](#)).

2. What pattern did the Israelites keep repeating?

They would disobey God, so he would punish them by allowing their enemies to defeat them. When the Israelites repented, God would send a deliverer to rescue them (See: [16:02](#)).

3. Why was Gideon threshing grain in a hidden place?

He was afraid the Midianites would find his grain and steal it (See: [16:05](#)).

4. What was the first thing that God told Gideon to do?

God told him to tear down his father's altar where his father worshiped an idol (See: [16:06](#)).

5. What two signs did God give to Gideon to prove that he would defeat the Midianites?

God caused a sheepskin to be wet, but the ground around it to be dry. Then the next night, God caused the sheepskin to be dry, but the ground to be wet (See: [16:09](#)).

6. What did God do when 32,000 men came to fight for Israel?

God had Gideon send most of them home. He kept only 300 soldiers (See: [16:10](#)).

7. How did Gideon's 300 soldiers attack the Midianites?

They put torches in clay pots. Then they blew their horns and all broke the pots at the same time, showing the torches (See: [16:12](#), [16:13](#)).

8. How did God help Gideon attack the Midianites?

God confused the Midianites so that they attacked and killed each other (See: [16:14](#)).

9. What did the people do with the special garment that Gideon made out of gold?

The people began to worship it as an idol (See: [16:16](#)).

10. Why did the people ask God to give them a king?

They wanted a king who was tall and strong, and who could lead them into battle against their enemies (See: [16:18](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. All of the Israelites did what they thought was right for themselves. Does this mean they obeyed God?

The Israelites did not think about God in the right way. Therefore, they thought it was right to worship idols even though God had told them to worship only him. In this way, they disobeyed God.

2. How many times did God send a deliverer to rescue the Israelites when they repented of their sin?

Every time the Israelites repented of their sin and asked God to help them, he sent a deliverer to rescue them. This happened many times.

3. Why did it take so long for the Israelites to ask God to save them from the Midianites?

The Midianites stole all of the Israelites' crops for seven years before they asked God to save them. Perhaps they forgot that he could rescue them. Or perhaps they asked their idols to save them for seven years before they finally decided to ask God for help.

4. What are some of the ways that Gideon showed that he was not very brave?

Gideon was hiding from the Midianites as he threshed grain. He tore down his father's altar at night because he was afraid of the people. God had to show him two signs to convince him to attack the Midianites. And God sent him to the Midianite camp to hear a soldier talk about his dream so Gideon would not be afraid. In spite of his fear, God used him to save Israel.

5. Why did God make Gideon send home all but 300 soldiers?

God wanted everyone to know that the Israelites defeated the Midianites because God helped them. He did not want them to think their own strength saved them. For that reason, he did not want Gideon to attack with a lot of soldiers.

6. Were the people thankful that God send deliverers to rescue them from their enemies?

The people were not happy that God only sent them deliverers. Instead, they wanted a king like all the other nations had.

Summary

God and the people did not change. The people always disobeyed God and worshiped idols. And God always punished them when they sinned and rescued them when they repented of their sin. This pattern happened to the Israelites many times. With great power, God helped Gideon to rescue them from the Midianites. But after that, they worshiped idols again. They would not obey God. They did not want God to be their king. Instead, they finally asked God to give them a king so they could be just like the other nations who worshiped idols.

17. God's Covenant with David

A Bible story from: 1 Samuel 10; 15-19; 24; 31; 2 Samuel 5; 7; 11-12

17:01

Saul was the first king of Israel. He was tall and handsome, just like the people wanted. Saul was a good king for the first few years that he ruled over Israel. But then he became a wicked man who did not obey God, so God chose a different man who would one day be king in his place.

17:02

God chose a young Israelite named David and began to prepare him to one day become king after Saul. David was a shepherd from the town of Bethlehem. At different times, David killed both a lion and a bear that attacked his father's sheep while David was watching them. David was a humble and righteous man. He trusted and obeyed God.

17:03

When David was still a young man, he fought against a giant named Goliath. Goliath was a very good soldier. He was very strong and about three meters tall! But God helped David kill Goliath and save Israel. After that, David won many victories over Israel's enemies. David became a great soldier, and he led Israel's army in many battles. The people praised him very much.

17:04

The people loved David so much that King Saul became jealous of him. Finally Saul wanted to kill him, so David ran away into the wilderness to hide from him and his soldiers. One day when Saul and his soldiers were looking for him, Saul went into a cave. It was the same cave that David was hiding in, but Saul did not see him. David went up very close behind Saul and cut off a piece of his clothing. Later, after Saul left the cave, David shouted to him to look at the cloth he was holding. In this way, Saul knew that David refused to kill him to become king.

17:05

Some time later, Saul died in battle, and David became king of Israel. He was a good king, and the people loved him. God blessed David and made him successful. David fought many battles, and God helped him defeat Israel's enemies. David conquered the city of Jerusalem and made it his capital city, where he lived and ruled. David was king for 40 years. During this time, Israel became powerful and wealthy.

17:06

David wanted to build a temple where all the Israelites could worship God and offer him sacrifices. For about 400 years, the people had been worshiping God and offering sacrifices to him at the Tent of Meeting that Moses had made.

17:07

But there was a prophet named Nathan. God sent him to tell David this: "You have fought in many wars, so you will not build this Temple for me. Your son will build it. But still, I will greatly bless you. One of your descendants will rule as king over my people forever!" The only descendant of David who could rule forever was the Messiah. The Messiah was God's Chosen One who would save the people of the world from their sin.

17:08

When David heard Nathan's message, he thanked God and praised him. God was honoring him and giving him many blessings. Of course, David did not know when God would do these things. We know now that the Israelites would have to wait a long time before the Messiah came, almost 1,000 years.

17:09

David ruled his people justly for many years. He obeyed God faithfully, and God blessed him. However, in his later years, he sinned greatly against God.

17:10

One day, David looked out from his palace and saw a beautiful woman bathing. He did not know her, but he found out that her name was Bathsheba.

17:11

Instead of looking away, David sent someone to bring her to him. He slept with her and sent her back home. A short time later, Bathsheba sent a message to David saying that she was pregnant.

17:12

Bathsheba's husband was a man named Uriah. He was one of David's best soldiers. He was away fighting in a war at this time. David called Uriah back from the battle and told him to go be with his wife. But Uriah refused to go home while the rest of the soldiers were in battle. So David sent Uriah back to the battle and told the general to place him where the enemy was strongest so that he would be killed. This is what happened: Uriah died in battle.

17:13

After Uriah died in the war, David married Bathsheba. Later, she gave birth to David's son. God was very angry about what David had done, so he sent the prophet Nathan to tell David how evil his sin was. David repented of his sin and God forgave him. For the rest of his life, David followed and obeyed God, even in difficult times.

17:14

But David's baby boy died. This is how God punished David. Also, until David died, some members of his own family rebelled against him, and David lost much power. But God was faithful and still did what he had promised David he would do for him, even though David had disobeyed him. Later, David and Bathsheba had another son, and they named him Solomon.

What the Story Says

1. What kind of a man was Saul?

Saul was tall and handsome, just like the people wanted. But he became a wicked man who did not obey God (See: [17:01](#)).

2. Who did God choose to become king after Saul?

God chose a young shepherd from Bethlehem. He was humble and righteous, and he trusted and obeyed God (See: [17:02](#)).

3. Who was Goliath, whom David killed?

Goliath was a giant enemy soldier who was three meters tall (See: [17:03](#)).

4. How did David prove to Saul that he was not trying to kill Saul?

David cut off a piece of Saul's clothing in a cave. He could have killed Saul at that time, but he did not harm him. When Saul found out about it, he knew that David was not trying to kill him (See: [17:04](#)).

5. What did David want to build for God?

David wanted to build a temple where the Israelites could worship God and bring him sacrifices (See: [17:06](#)).

6. How did God respond to David's plan to build a temple?

God sent the prophet Nathan to tell David he would not be the one to build a temple. Instead, David's son would build it (See: [17:07](#)).

7. Who did God say would rule forever?

One of David's descendants would rule forever. This person would be the Messiah. But the Messiah would not come for almost 1,000 years after David died (See: [17:08](#)).

8. How did David sin against God?

David slept with Bathsheba. Then he murdered her husband, Uriah, who was one of David's best soldiers (See: [17:10](#), [17:11](#), [17:12](#)).

9. How did God punish David for his sin?

God caused Bathsheba's baby to die. He also made David's own family fight against him (See: [17:14](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. In what ways was David different than Saul?

The people wanted Saul to be king because he was tall and handsome. But he was a wicked man. God chose David to be king because David was humble and trusted and obeyed God.

2. How might David have learned to be the king of Israel while he was a shepherd?

While he was a shepherd, David learned to be brave and to protect his father's sheep. As a young man, he even killed a bear and a lion when they attacked the sheep. Because of this, he was able to protect the Israelites against their enemies.

3. Saul tried to kill David. Why did David not kill Saul when he found him in the cave?

David did not want to sin in order to be king. He chose to wait until the time when God would make him king. Therefore, he did not kill Saul. Instead, he trusted God to protect him from Saul.

4. Why did God not allow David to build a temple?

David ruled Israel well, and God was pleased with David. God wanted David to be a good soldier for him. That was God's plan for David. God wanted a different person to build a temple. David's son would not be a soldier. He would be a builder. God would use him to build a temple. In this way, God would honor David by blessing his descendants.

5. What was the greatest blessing that God promised to David?

God promised David that one of his descendants would be the Messiah. He would rule over God's people forever.

6. Why did David cause Uriah to be killed?

David tried to hide his sin by killing Uriah. If Uriah was dead, David thought no one would know the king was the father of Bathsheba's baby.

7. Why did God punish David after he repented?

God forgave David when he repented. But because David had dishonored God before the people, God had to punish him. David accepted that punishment and obeyed God.

Summary

God chose David to be the king of Israel. He was a humble man who obeyed God. Therefore, God promised that David's son would build God's Temple and that one of David's descendants would rule forever. He would be the Messiah, who would come 1,000 years later. After David sinned terribly, he repented and continued to obey God. Although God punished him for sinning, he still did everything he promised David he would do.

18. The Divided Kingdom

A Bible story from: 1 Kings 1-6; 11-12

18:01

King David ruled for 40 years. Then he died, and his son Solomon began to rule over Israel. God spoke to Solomon and asked him what he wanted most that God should do for him. Solomon asked that God would make him very wise. This pleased God, so he made Solomon the wisest man in the world. Solomon learned many things and was a very wise ruler. God also made him very wealthy.

18:02

In Jerusalem, Solomon built the Temple for which his father, David, had planned and gathered materials. People now worshiped God and offered sacrifices to him at the Temple instead of at the Tent of Meeting. God came and was present in the Temple, and he lived there with his people.

18:03

But Solomon loved women from other countries. He disobeyed God by marrying many women, almost 1,000 of them! Many of these women came from foreign countries and brought their gods with them and continued to worship them. When Solomon was old, he also worshiped their gods.

18:04

God was angry with Solomon because of this. He said that he would punish him by dividing the nation of Israel into two kingdoms. He would do this after Solomon died.

18:05

After Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. All the people of the nation of Israel came together to accept him as their king. They complained to Rehoboam that Solomon had made them do a lot of hard work and pay a lot of taxes. They asked Rehoboam to make them work less.

18:06

But Rehoboam answered them in a very foolish way. He said, "You say that my father, Solomon, made you work hard. But I will make you work harder than he did, and I will make you suffer worse than he did."

18:07

When the people heard him say this, most of them rebelled against him. Ten tribes left him; only two tribes remained with him. These two tribes called themselves the kingdom of Judah.

18:08

The other ten tribes made a man named Jeroboam to be their king. These tribes were in the northern part of the land. They called themselves the kingdom of Israel.

18:09

Jeroboam rebelled against God and caused the people to sin. He built two idols for his people to worship. They no longer went to Jerusalem in the kingdom of Judah to worship God at the Temple.

18:10

The kingdoms of Judah and Israel became enemies and often fought against each other.

18:11

In the new kingdom of Israel, all the kings were evil. Many of these kings were killed by other Israelites who wanted to become king in their place.

18:12

All of the kings and most of the people of the kingdom of Israel worshiped idols. When they did this, they often slept with prostitutes and sometimes even sacrificed children to the idols.

18:13

The kings of Judah were descendants of David. Some of these kings were good men who ruled justly and worshiped God. But most of Judah's kings were evil. They ruled badly, and they worshiped idols. Some of these kings even sacrificed their children to false gods. Most of the people of Judah also rebelled against God and worshiped other gods.

What the Story Says

1. What did Solomon ask God to do for him?

He asked God to make him very wise (See: [18:01](#)).

2. Why did the people no longer offer sacrifices at the Tent of Meeting?

Solomon build the Temple for which David had planned and prepared. People now offered sacrifices and worshiped God there instead of at the Tent of Meeting (See: [18:02](#)).

3. Solomon married almost 1,000 women. How did that cause Solomon to sin?

Many of the women Solomon married were foreign women. They brought their gods with them, and Solomon started to worship those false gods (See: [18:03](#)).

4. How did God say he would punish Solomon for worshiping other gods?

God said he would punish Solomon by dividing the nation of Israel into two kingdoms after Solomon died (See: [18:04](#)).

5. Why did the people rebel against Rehoboam?

They asked him to make them work less than Solomon did. Instead, Rehoboam said he would make them work harder. This made them angry, so they refused to serve him (See: [18:05](#), [18:06](#)).

6. How many of the tribes of Israel remained with Rehoboam?

Only two of the 12 tribes remained with Rehoboam (See: [18:07](#)).

7. What did Jeroboam make so the people would no longer go to Jerusalem to worship?

He made two idols for the people of the kingdom of Israel to worship (See: [18:09](#)).

8. How many of the kings of the kingdom of Israel were evil?

All of the kings of the kingdom of Israel were evil (See: [18:11](#)).

9. Were most of the kings of Judah good or evil?

Some of the kings of Judah were good men, but most of them were evil. They ruled badly, worshiped idols, and even sacrificed their children to false gods (See: [18:13](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did it please God when Solomon asked God to make him wise?

Solomon did not ask for wealth for himself. Instead, he asked God to make him wise so that he could rule God's people well. This pleased God, and so he also made him wealthy.

2. What problem happened because Solomon married women from foreign countries?

Many people from other countries believed in God, and he accepted them. Solomon was not wrong to marry foreign women. But he was wrong to marry foreign women who still served other gods. Those women continued to worship those false gods. And eventually, they caused Solomon to worship those idols as well. This made God very angry.

3. Solomon was very wise. How was Rehoboam different than Solomon?

Unlike his father Solomon, Rehoboam, was very foolish. The people were willing to follow him if he would treat them well. But instead, he answered the people so harshly that most of the tribes of Israel refused to follow him.

4. Why did Jeroboam build idols for his people to worship?

Jeroboam may have wanted to worship idols. But he also did not want his people to continue to go to Jerusalem to worship. Jerusalem was in the kingdom of Judah. Judah was now the enemy of the kingdom of Israel. Therefore, the main reason Jeroboam made the idols was so his people would stay away from the kingdom of Judah. They worshiped the idols in the kingdom of Israel instead.

5. The kings of Judah were descendants of David. How is it that many of them were evil?

Even though David obeyed God, many of his children did not. Solomon obeyed God for a time, but then began to worship the idols of his foreign wives. Many of David's other descendants also chose not to obey God. Each person had to decide for himself whether or not he would obey God.

Summary

Solomon began as a good and wise king who ruled Israel well. However, he married many women who worshiped foreign gods. Eventually, Solomon also began to worship these idols. God was angry with Solomon and decided to divide Israel into two kingdoms. Ten tribes followed Jeroboam and formed the kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam made idols so the people would not go to Jerusalem to worship Yahweh at the Temple. All the kings of the kingdom of Israel were evil. Two of the tribes formed the kingdom of Judah and chose descendants of David as their kings. However, many of their kings were also evil. Even though they were descendants of David, they refused to obey God. The two kingdoms fought against each other for many years.

19. The Prophets

A Bible story from: 1 Kings 16-18; 2 Kings 5; Jeremiah 38

19:01

God was always sending prophets to the Israelites. The prophets heard messages from God and then told them to the people.

19:02

Elijah was a prophet when Ahab was king over the kingdom of Israel. Ahab was an evil man. He tried to make the people worship a false god named Baal. So Elijah told King Ahab that God was going to punish the people. He said to him, "There will be no rain or dew in the kingdom of Israel until I say it will rain again." This made Ahab so angry that he decided to kill Elijah.

19:03

So God told Elijah to go into the wilderness to hide from Ahab. Elijah went into the wilderness to a certain stream where God directed him. Every morning and every evening, birds would bring Elijah bread and meat. During this time, Ahab and his army looked for Elijah, but they could not find him.

19:04

Because there was no rain, after some time the stream dried up. So Elijah went to another country close by. In that country lived a poor widow and her son. They had almost run out of food because there was no harvest. But still, as the woman took care of Elijah, God provided for her and her son. Her jar of flour and her bottle of oil never became empty. They had food during the whole famine. Elijah stayed there for about three years.

19:05

After three and a half years, God told Elijah that he would make it rain again. He told Elijah to return to the kingdom of Israel and speak with Ahab. So Elijah went to Ahab. When Ahab saw him, he said, "There you are, you troublemaker!" Elijah replied to him, "It is you who are the troublemaker! You have abandoned Yahweh. He is the true God, but you are worshiping Baal. Now you must bring all the people of the kingdom of Israel to Mount Carmel."

19:06

So all the people of Israel went to Mount Carmel. The men who said they spoke messages for Baal also came. These were Baal's prophets. There were 450 of them. Elijah said to the people, "How long will you keep changing your mind? If Yahweh is God, worship him! But if Baal is God, worship him!"

19:07

Then Elijah said to Baal's prophets, "Kill a bull, divide the meat into pieces, and put it on an altar for a sacrifice, but do not light the fire. I will do the same later, and I will put the meat on a different altar. Then if God sends fire on the altar, you will know that he is the real God." So the prophets of Baal prepared a sacrifice but did not light the fire.

19:08

Then the prophets of Baal prayed to Baal, "Hear us, Baal!" All day long they prayed and shouted and even cut themselves with knives, but Baal did not answer, and he did not send any fire.

19:09

Baal's prophets spent almost the whole day praying to Baal. They finally stopped praying. Then Elijah put the meat of another bull on an altar for God. After that, he told the people to pour 12 huge pots of water on top of the sacrifice until the meat, the wood, and even the ground around the altar were completely wet.

19:10

Then Elijah prayed, "Yahweh, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, show us today that you are the God of Israel and that I am your servant. Answer me so that these people will know that you are the true God."

19:11

Immediately, fire fell from the sky. It burned up the meat, the wood, the rocks, the soil, and even the water that was around the altar. When the people saw this, they prostrated themselves to the ground and said, "Yahweh is God! Yahweh is God!"

19:12

Then Elijah said, "Do not let any of the prophets of Baal escape!" So the people captured the prophets of Baal and took them away from there and killed them.

19:13

Then Elijah said to King Ahab, "Return immediately to your home, because the rain is coming." Soon the sky became black, and a heavy rain began. Yahweh was ending the drought. This also showed that he is the true God.

19:14

When Elijah finished his work, God chose a man named Elisha to be his prophet. God did many miracles through Elisha. One of the miracles happened to Naaman. He was the commander of an enemy army, but he had a bad skin disease. Naaman heard about Elisha, so he went to Elisha and asked him to heal him. Elisha told Naaman to go the Jordan River and dip himself in the water seven times.

19:15

Naaman became angry. He refused to do this because it seemed foolish. But later he changed his mind. He went to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times into the water. When he came up from the water the last time, God healed him.

19:16

God also sent many other prophets to the people of Israel. They all told the people to stop worshiping idols. Instead, people should act justly with each other and have mercy on each other. The prophets warned the people that they must stop doing evil and obey God instead. If the people did not do this, then God would judge them as guilty, and he would punish them.

19:17

Most of the time, the people did not obey God. They often mistreated the prophets and sometimes even killed them. Once, they put the prophet Jeremiah into a dry well and left him there to die. He sank down into the mud in the bottom of the well. But then the king had mercy on him and ordered his servants to pull Jeremiah out of the well before he died.

19:18

The prophets continued to speak for God even though the people hated them. They warned people that God would destroy them if they did not repent. They also reminded people that God promised to send them the Messiah.

What the Story Says

1. Why did King Ahab try to kill the prophet Elijah?

Ahab was angry with Elijah because Elijah said there would be no rain in the kingdom of Israel. Elijah said this because Ahab and the people of the kingdom of Israel worshiped an idol named Baal (See: [19:02](#)).

2. How did God provide for Elijah while he hid from Ahab at the stream?

God sent birds to bring Elijah bread and meat to eat while he hid from Ahab (See: [19:03](#)).

3. How did God provide for Elijah while he lived with the widow and her son?

God caused the widow's jar of flour and bottle of oil to never become empty. For about three years, there was always enough food for them to eat even though there was no other food in the land (See: [19:04](#)).

4. What did Elijah tell the people to decide about when they came with the prophets of Baal to Mount Carmel?

Elijah told the people that they should stop changing their mind about God. If Yahweh is God, they should worship him, but if Baal is God, they should worship him instead (See: [19:06](#)).

5. How did Elijah say the people could tell whether Yahweh or Baal was the true God?

Elijah and the prophets of Baal would prepare a sacrifice on an altar. The people would know that the God who responded by sending fire onto the altar was the true God (See: [19:07](#)).

6. What happened when the prophets of Baal asked Baal to send fire on the altar?

Nothing happened when they asked Baal to send fire (See: [19:08](#)).

7. What happened when Elijah asked Yahweh to send fire on the altar?

Fire fell from the sky and burned up the altar and everything around it (See: [19:11](#)).

8. How did God heal Naaman of his skin disease?

Elisha told Naaman to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times. At first, he refused. But then he changed his mind and did what Elisha told him to do. God healed him as soon as he obeyed (See: [19:14](#), [19:15](#)).

9. How did the people try to kill the prophet Jeremiah?

They put Jeremiah into a dry well and left him there to die. But later, the king sent his servants to pull him out (See: [19:17](#)).

10. Who did the prophets remind the people that God promised to send to them?

The prophets reminded them that God would send the Messiah to them (See: [19:18](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. How did the people usually respond to the prophets whom God sent to them?

The people did not believe what the prophets said. Instead, they hated the prophets and often tried to kill them. In spite of this, the prophets continued to speak to the people for God.

2. How did the prophet Elijah survive during the drought and the famine that it caused?

When there was no rain in the kingdom of Israel, there was also very little food. During that time, God provided food for Elijah in special ways. For a while, he sent birds to bring food to Elijah. Then he caused the food of a poor widow to never end so she could feed Elijah. God took care of Elijah because Elijah obeyed God and spoke God's messages to the people.

3. Why did Elijah tell the people to pour water on his sacrifice?

Elijah told the people to pour water on his sacrifice in order to make it harder for it to burn. He wanted the people to know that Yahweh was truly the one who burned up the sacrifice. Therefore, he made the sacrifice so wet that only God could cause it to burn. He knew that nothing was too difficult for God.

4. Why did Naaman not go to the river immediately when Elisha told him to go?

Perhaps Naaman thought what Elisha told him to do was too simple to cure his disease. At first, he thought he would have to do something more difficult in order to be healed. However, when he did the easy thing Elisha told him to do, he was healed!

5. What did the prophets say the people must do so that God would not destroy them?

The prophets told the people they must repent. That is, they must change their mind about God and begin to think about him in a different way. They must understand that Yahweh is the true God and stop worshipping other gods. If they did not repent, God would destroy them because they sinned against him.

Summary

God always sent prophets to tell the Israelites to worship only him. But the people hated the prophets and refused to listen to them. They served idols instead of Yahweh. They even tried to kill the prophets whom God sent to them. But the prophets continued to speak for God, and God continued to care for his prophets. The prophets warned the people to repent or God would punish them. Even so, God still promised that he would send the Messiah to them.

20. The Exile and Return

A Bible story from: 2 Kings 17; 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36; Ezra 1-10; Nehemiah 1-13

20:01

The kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah both sinned against God. They broke the covenant that God had made with them at Sinai. God sent his prophets to warn them to repent and worship him again, but they refused to obey.

20:02

So God punished both kingdoms by allowing their enemies to destroy them. Assyria was another nation that became very powerful. The Assyrians were also very cruel to other nations. They came and destroyed the kingdom of Israel. The Assyrians killed many people in the kingdom of Israel, took away everything they wanted, and burned much of the country.

20:03

The Assyrians gathered together all the leaders, the rich people, and the people who could make valuable things. They took them to Assyria. Only some very poor Israelites remained in Israel.

20:04

Then the Assyrians brought foreigners to live in the land. The foreigners rebuilt the cities. They intermarried with the Israelites who were left there. The descendants of these people were called Samaritans.

20:05

The people in the kingdom of Judah saw how God had punished the people of the kingdom of Israel for not believing and obeying him. But they still worshiped idols, including the gods of the Canaanites. God sent prophets to warn them, but they refused to listen.

20:06

About 100 years after the Assyrians destroyed the kingdom of Israel, God sent Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonians, to attack the kingdom of Judah. Babylon was a powerful nation. The king of Judah agreed to be Nebuchadnezzar's servant and pay him a lot of money every year.

20:07

But after a few years, the king of Judah rebelled against Babylon. So, the Babylonians came back and attacked the kingdom of Judah. They captured the city of Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and took away all the treasures of the city and the Temple.

20:08

To punish the king of Judah for rebelling, Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers killed the king's sons in front of him and then made him blind. After that, they took the king away so he would die in prison in Babylon.

20:09

Nebuchadnezzar and his army took almost all of the people of the kingdom of Judah to Babylon, leaving only the poorest people behind to plant the fields. This period of time when God's people were forced to leave the Promised Land is called the Exile.

20:10

Even though God punished his people for their sin by taking them away into exile, he did not forget them or his promises. God continued to watch over his people and speak to them through his prophets. He promised that, after 70 years, they would return to the Promised Land again.

20:11

About 70 years later, Cyrus, the king of Persia, defeated Babylonia. So, instead of the Babylonian Empire, the Persian Empire now ruled over many nations. The Israelites were now called Jews. Most of them had lived their whole lives in Babylon. Only a few very old Jews even remembered the land of Judah.

20:12

The Persians were very strong, but they had mercy on the people they conquered. Shortly after Cyrus became king of the Persians, he gave an order that any Jew who wanted to return to Judah could leave Persia and go back to Judah. He even gave them money to rebuild the Temple! So, after 70 years in exile, a small group of Jews returned to the city of Jerusalem in Judah.

20:13

When the people arrived in Jerusalem, they rebuilt the Temple and the wall around the city. The Persians still ruled over them, but once again the Jews were living in the Promised Land and worshiping at the Temple.

What the Story Says

1. What nation did God send to destroy the kingdom of Israel?

God sent the Assyrians to destroy the kingdom of Israel. The Assyrians were very cruel. They killed many of the Israelites and took the rest of them to Assyria (See: [20:02](#), [20:03](#)).

2. Who did the Assyrians bring to live in the land of Israel?

The Assyrians brought foreigners to live in the land of Israel. These foreigners married the Israelites who were left in the land. Their descendants were called Samaritans (See: [20:04](#)).

3. What did the people in the kingdom of Judah do when they saw how God had punished the kingdom of Israel?

The people in the kingdom of Judah continued to worship idols, including the gods of the Canaanites. They refused to believe the prophets whom God sent to warn them (See: [20:05](#)).

4. What nation did God send to attack the kingdom of Judah?

God sent the Babylonians to attack the kingdom of Judah. As a result, the king of Judah promised to pay a lot of money each year to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Babylonians (See: [20:06](#)).

5. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to the kingdom of Judah when they rebelled against him?

Nebuchadnezzar sent his army to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. They took away all the treasures of the city. They also killed the king's sons and made him blind. Then they led him away to Babylon (See: [20:07](#), [20:08](#)).

6. Who remained in the land of Judah during the Exile?

The Exile is the time when many of the people of Judah were forced to go away to Babylon. During this time, Nebuchadnezzar left only the poorest people in the land (See: [20:09](#)).

7. Did God forget his people after he punished them by sending them into exile?

God did not forget his people as they were away from the land. He continued to send his prophets to speak to them for him. He promised that they would return to the land after 70 years in Babylon (See: [20:10](#)).

8. How did the Jews return to the land of Judah?

God caused the Persians to defeat the Babylonians. Cyrus, the Persian king, allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. He gave them money to rebuild the Temple. Many of the Jews returned to Jerusalem. They also rebuilt the walls of the city (See: [20:12](#), [20:13](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Does it seem right that God would send the cruel, evil Assyrians to destroy his people?

God warned the kingdom of Israel that he would punish them, but they would not repent. Therefore, God sent the Assyrians to destroy them. Even though the Assyrians were a cruel people, God allowed them to defeat Israel in order to punish Israel. Later, however, he punished the Assyrians by allowing the Babylonians to defeat them.

2. Why do you think the people in the kingdom of Judah refused to repent after the Assyrians destroyed the kingdom of Israel?

People normally think they are not as bad as other people. Perhaps the people of the kingdom of Judah thought they were better than the people in the kingdom of Israel. They thought God would not punish them in the same way. But they were wrong. God sent his prophets to tell them that he would punish them if they did not repent. And he punished them just as he said that he would.

3. Why do you think the Babylonians were able to destroy the Temple in Jerusalem?

The Temple was the place where God stayed with the Israelites. However, God did not stay with them because they sinned against him and worshiped other gods. Therefore, God left the Temple and allowed the Babylonians to destroy it.

4. Why did the prophets say that the Israelites would only be in exile for 70 years?

God decided to allow the Jews to return to Judah after 70 years in exile in Babylon. He also decided to cause Cyrus and the Persians to defeat Babylon in order to let the Jews leave and go home to Judah. Since God knew beforehand that he was going to do this, he sent his prophets to tell the Jews that he would do these things.

5. How were the Jews able to rebuild the Temple?

God provided everything the Jews needed to rebuild the Temple. He even caused Cyrus, the king of the Persians, to give them the money they needed to rebuild the Temple. God wanted to live with his people there again. So he made it possible for them to rebuild the Temple where he would live with them.

Summary

The people in both of the kingdoms refused to believe that God would punish them. Even after God sent the Assyrians to destroy the kingdom of Israel, the people in the kingdom of Judah refused to repent and obey God. Therefore, God sent the Babylonians to destroy them as well. They were in exile in Babylon for 70 years before God caused a new king to allow them to return to Jerusalem. God made it possible for them to rebuild the Temple and the city of Jerusalem and to worship him there again.

21. God Promises the Messiah

A Bible story from: Genesis 3; 12; Deuteronomy 18:15; 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 16; 22; 35; 69; 41; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 61; 53; 50:6; 59:16; Jeremiah 31; Daniel 7; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 11:12-13; Malachi 4:5

21:01

Even when God created the world, he knew that he would send the Messiah at some time far later. He promised Adam and Eve that he would do this. He said that a descendant of Eve would be born who would crush the snake's head. Of course, Satan appeared as a snake in order to deceive Eve. God meant that the Messiah would defeat Satan completely.

21:02

God promised Abraham that through him all people groups of the world would receive a blessing. God would fulfill this promise by sending the Messiah at some later time. The Messiah would save people from their sin out of every people group in the world.

21:03

God promised Moses that in the future he would send another prophet like Moses. This prophet would be the Messiah. In this way, God promised again that he would send the Messiah.

21:04

God promised King David that one of his own descendants would be the Messiah. He would be king and rule over God's people forever.

21:05

God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and told him that he would make a New Covenant one day. The New Covenant would not be like the old covenant God made with Israel at Sinai. When he would make his New Covenant with people, he would make them to know him personally. Each person would love him and want to obey his laws. God said this would be like writing his law on their hearts. They would be his people, and God would forgive their sins. It is the Messiah who would make the New Covenant with them.

21:06

God's prophets also said that the Messiah would be a prophet, a priest, and a king. A prophet is a person who hears the words of God and then proclaims God's messages to the people. The Messiah that God promised to send would be the perfect prophet. That is, the Messiah would hear God's messages perfectly, he would understand them perfectly, and he would teach them to people perfectly.

21:07

Israelite priests kept on making sacrifices to God for the people. These sacrifices were in place of God punishing the people for their sins. Priests also prayed to God for the people. However, the Messiah would be the perfect high priest who would offer himself as a perfect sacrifice to God. That is, he would never sin, and when he would give himself to be the sacrifice, no other sacrifice for sin would ever be necessary.

21:08

Kings and chiefs rule over groups of people, and sometimes they make mistakes. King David ruled over only the Israelites. But the Messiah, a descendant of David's, will rule over the whole world, and he will rule forever. Also, he will always rule justly and make the right decisions.

21:09

God's prophets said many other things about the Messiah. For example, Malachi said that another prophet would come before the Messiah came. That prophet would be very important. Also, the prophet Isaiah wrote that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. And the prophet Micah said that the Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem.

21:10

The prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would live in the region of Galilee. The Messiah would comfort people who were very sad. He would also set prisoners free. The Messiah would also heal sick people and those who could not hear, see, speak, or walk.

21:11

The prophet Isaiah also said that people would hate the Messiah and refuse to accept him. Other prophets said that a friend of the Messiah would turn against him. The prophet Zechariah said that this friend would receive 30 silver coins from other people for doing this. Also, some prophets said that people would kill the Messiah, and that they would gamble for his clothes.

21:12

The prophets also told about how the Messiah would die. Isaiah prophesied that people would spit on, mock, and beat the Messiah. They would pierce him, and he would die in great suffering and agony even though he had not done anything wrong.

21:13

The prophets also said that the Messiah would not sin. He would be perfect. But he would die because God would punish him for other people's sins. When he died, people would be able to have peace with God. This is why, in God's plan, the Messiah had to die.

21:14

The prophets also said that God would raise the Messiah from the dead. This shows that Jesus' death and resurrection was all God's plan to make the New Covenant, so he could save people who had sinned against him.

21:15

God revealed to the prophets many things about the Messiah, but the Messiah did not come during the time of any of those prophets. More than 400 years after the last of these prophecies was given, at exactly the right time, God sent the Messiah into the world.

What the Story Says

1. Who would crush the snake's head?

The Messiah, a descendant of Eve, would crush the snake's head (See: [21:01](#)).

2. Who were the people whom the Messiah would save?

The Messiah would save people out of every people group in the world (See: [21:02](#)).

3. How would the New Covenant be different than the old covenant?

In the New Covenant, people would know God personally. They would love him and want to obey his laws. His law would be written on their hearts (See: [21:05](#)).

4. What perfect sacrifice would the Messiah offer to God?

The Messiah would offer himself as a perfect sacrifice to God (See: [21:07](#)).

5. What did the prophets say about the birth of the Messiah?

The prophets said the Messiah would be born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem (See: [21:09](#)).

6. According to the prophet Isaiah, how would people receive the Messiah?

The prophet Isaiah said people would hate the Messiah and refuse to accept him. His friend would turn against him, and the people would kill him (See: [21:11](#)).

7. According to the prophets, why would the Messiah die?

The Messiah would die because God would punish him for other people's sins. He would die so they could have peace with God (See: [21:13](#)).

8. What would God do for the Messiah after he died?

The prophets said God would raise the Messiah from the dead (See: [21:14](#)).

9. After the prophets finished speaking about the Messiah, how much time passed before God send him into the world?

God sent the Messiah into the world 400 years after the prophets last spoke about him (See: [21:15](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think God spoke about the Messiah to Adam and Eve, even though God would not send the Messiah for a very long time?

When he first created the world, God already planned to send the Messiah to save us from our sins. Therefore, he began to tell people about the Messiah from the very beginning.

2. Abraham's descendants were the Jews, who are God's chosen people. Why is it significant that God told Abraham that he would bless all the people groups of the world through him?

God never planned to save only the Jews. Rather, from the very beginning, his plan was to save people from every people group in the world. However, God told Abraham that God would bless all these people through a Jewish descendant of Abraham. This descendant would be the Messiah.

3. The New Covenant will be written on people's hearts. Why is this important?

The old covenant was written on tables of stone and paper. Even the Jews who received it often forgot about it and did not obey it. But God will write the New Covenant within people so they cannot forget it. Because God will change their hearts, people will obey the New Covenant. They will willingly worship and serve God.

4. Why should we be encouraged that the Messiah never has to make another sacrifice for sin?

The Messiah offered himself as a perfect sacrifice to God. God accepted his sacrifice in place of punishing us. Since his sacrifice was perfect, he never has to offer it again. That means God will never punish believers for their sins, since the sacrifice of the Messiah will always be enough to please God.

5. The Messiah never sinned. Why did God allow people to kill him?

God wanted the Messiah to die because that was the only way God could forgive people's sins. God is holy and cannot ignore when people sin. But God punished the Messiah in the place of other people so God would not have to punish them.

Summary

When God first created the world, he had already decided to send the Messiah to die for people's sins. Throughout history, God has revealed to us what the Messiah would do. He promised Adam and Eve that the Messiah would destroy Satan. He told Abraham that the Messiah would bless all the people groups in the world. He told the prophets that the Messiah would be a perfect prophet, priest, and king. He would be born of a virgin and never sin. But people would hate him and kill him anyway. God would allow this to happen so that the Messiah could die and be punished in the place of other people.

22. The Birth of John

A Bible story from: Luke 1

22:01

In the past, God had spoken to his prophets so they could speak to his people. Then came 400 years of silence in which he did not speak to men. Then God sent an angel to a priest named Zechariah. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, honored God. They were very old, and she had never born any children.

22:02

The angel said to Zechariah, "Your wife will have a son. You will name him John. God will fill him with the Holy Spirit, and John will get the people ready to accept the Messiah!" Zechariah responded, "My wife and I are too old to have children! How can I know you are telling me the truth?"

22:03

The angel responded to Zechariah, "I was sent by God to bring you this good news. Because you did not believe me, you will not be able to speak until the child is born." Immediately, Zechariah was unable to speak. Then the angel left Zechariah. After this, Zechariah returned home and his wife became pregnant.

22:04

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, the same angel suddenly appeared to Elizabeth's relative, whose name was Mary. She was a virgin and was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. The angel said, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You are to name him Jesus. He will be the Son of the Most High God and will rule forever."

22:05

Mary replied, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel explained, "The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of God will come to you. So the baby will be holy, and he will be the Son of God." Mary believed what the angel said.

22:06

Soon after this happened, Mary went and visited Elizabeth. As soon as Mary greeted her, Elizabeth's baby jumped inside her. The women rejoiced together about what God had done for them. After Mary visited Elizabeth for three months, Mary returned home.

22:07

After this, Elizabeth gave birth to her baby boy. Zechariah and Elizabeth named the baby John, as the angel had commanded. Then God made Zechariah able to speak again. Zechariah said, "Praise God, because he has remembered to help his people! You, my son, will be the prophet of the Most High God. You will tell the people how they can receive forgiveness for their sins!"

What the Story Says

1. How many years went by when God did not speak to his people through a prophet?

God did not speak to his people through a prophet for 400 years (See: [22:01](#)).

2. What problem did Zechariah and Elizabeth have?

They were very old, and Elizabeth had not been able to have children (See: [22:01](#)).

3. What would John get the people ready to do?

John would get the people ready to accept the Messiah (See: [22:02](#)).

4. Why did Zechariah become unable to speak?

Zechariah became unable to speak because he did not believe the angel when the angel said Zechariah would have a son (See: [22:03](#)).

5. To whom was Mary engaged to be married?

Mary was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph (See: [22:04](#)).

6. Who did the angel tell Mary that her son would be?

The angel said she should name her son Jesus, and he would be the Son of the Most High God who would rule forever (See: [22:04](#)).

7. Why was Mary confused about how she could have a son?

Mary was a virgin. Therefore, she did not understand how she could have a son (See: [22:05](#)).

8. How did Mary respond when the angel told her that God and the Holy Spirit would come to her so that she would be pregnant?

Mary believed that what the angel said would happen to her (See: [22:05](#)).

9. What did Elizabeth's baby do when Mary arrived to visit Elizabeth?

Elizabeth's baby jumped inside her when Mary arrived to visit (See: [22:06](#)).

10. Why did Zechariah and Elizabeth name their baby John?

The angel has commanded them to name their baby John.

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why were Zechariah and Elizabeth unable to have children before this time?

Zechariah and Elizabeth were unable to have children, but this did not mean that they had done anything wrong. They honored God, and he was pleased with them. Therefore, God did a miracle through them, allowing them to become the parents of John in their old age.

2. Was Zechariah being reasonable when he doubted the message of the angel?

It would certainly seem reasonable that Zechariah doubted the angel, because God had not spoken to his people for 400 years. However, God did not merely send a prophet to Zechariah. Instead, he sent one of his mighty angels. The presence of the angel should have convinced Zechariah to believe the message.

3. Mary was a virgin. Therefore, her son did not have a human father. Why do you think this was important?

Every descendant of Adam and Eve is born with a desire to sin. Mary's son, however, is the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit. For that reason, he is holy and has never sinned. He is the only person who has ever been born who does not have this desire to sin. God did not need to punish him for his sins. Instead, he could be punished in the place of other people who sinned.

4. How was baby John able to know when Mary came to Elizabeth, and to jump in Elizabeth's womb?

John was already a person who could think and act even while he was in Elizabeth's womb. He was already able to worship God by jumping inside Elizabeth when Mary came near with the baby Son of God inside her.

5. Why did God send John ahead of the Messiah?

The Messiah is the most important person who ever came to earth. When important people traveled somewhere in that time, someone went ahead of them to make preparations for their arrival and to tell people that they were coming. This is what John did for the Messiah. He told them that the Messiah was coming, and prepared people to accept him.

Summary

God did not send the Messiah in the way that people usually arrive in the world. God did a miracle so that John could be born to elderly parents and prepare the way for the Messiah. Then God caused the Messiah to be born of a virgin so he would be without sin. The Messiah did not have a human father—he was the Son of God! There has never been anyone like him in the world.

23. The Birth of Jesus

A Bible story from: Matthew 1-2; Luke 2

23:01

Mary was engaged to a righteous man named Joseph. When he heard that Mary was pregnant, he knew it was not his baby. However, he did not want to shame Mary, so he decided to have mercy on her and to divorce her quietly. But before he could do that, an angel came to him in a dream and spoke to him.

23:02

The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby that is in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. Name him Jesus (which means 'Yahweh saves'), because he will save the people from their sins."

23:03

So Joseph married Mary and took her home as his wife, but he did not sleep with her until she had given birth.

23:04

When the time was near for Mary to give birth, she and Joseph made a long journey to the town of Bethlehem. They had to go there because the Roman officials wanted to count all the people in the land of Israel. They wanted everyone to go to where their ancestors had lived. King David had been born in Bethlehem, and he was the ancestor of both Mary and Joseph.

23:05

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, but there was no place for them to stay except for where some animals were kept. It was there that Mary gave birth to her baby. She laid him in a feeding trough since there was no bed for him. They named him Jesus.

23:06

That night, there were some shepherds in a nearby field guarding their flocks. Suddenly, a shining angel appeared to them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Do not be afraid, because I have some good news for you. The Messiah, the Master, has been born in Bethlehem!"

23:07

"Go search for the baby, and you will find him wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly, the skies were filled with angels. They were praising God. They said, "May all honor be to God in heaven. May there be peace on earth to the people he favors!"

23:08

Then the angels left. The shepherds left their sheep to look for the baby. They soon arrived at the place where Jesus was and they found him lying in a feeding trough, just as the angel had told them. They were very excited. Then the shepherds returned to the fields where their sheep were. They were praising God for everything they had heard and seen.

23:09

There were some men in a country far to the east. They studied the stars and were very wise. They saw an unusual star in the sky. They said that it meant that a new king of the Jews had been born. So they decided to travel from their country to see the child. After a long journey, they came to Bethlehem and found the house where Jesus and his parents were staying.

23:10

When these men saw Jesus with his mother, they bowed down and worshiped him. They gave Jesus expensive gifts. Then they returned home.

What the Story Says

1. Why did Joseph decide to divorce Mary quietly?

Mary was pregnant, and Joseph knew it was not his baby. Therefore, he decided to divorce her. However, he decided to have mercy on her and not to shame her. Therefore, he was going to divorce her quietly (See: [23:01](#)).

2. The angel told Joseph how Mary became pregnant. How did he say this happened?

The angel told Joseph that the Holy Spirit placed the baby in her (See: [23:02](#)).

3. What does the name **Jesus** mean?

It means 'Yahweh saves' (See: [23:02](#)).

4. How long did Mary remain a virgin?

Joseph did not sleep with her until after she had given birth (See: [23:03](#)).

5. Why did Joseph and Mary need to travel to Bethlehem?

Their ancestor, King David, was born in Bethlehem. The Roman officials told everyone to travel back to where their ancestors lived. Therefore, Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem (See: [23:04](#)).

6. Who told the shepherds that the Messiah was born?

An angel told the shepherds that the Messiah was born. Then many other angels also appeared to the shepherds, praising God for what he had done (See: [23:06](#)), (See: [23:07](#)).

7. What did the shepherds do after the angel told them about the Messiah?

The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found the baby in the feeding trough, just as the angel had told them (See: [23:08](#)).

8. Why did men come from the east to see the baby?

They studied the stars and saw an unusual star in the sky. They knew this meant the king of the Jews had been born. Therefore, they came to see him (See: [23:09](#)).

9. What did the wise men do when they saw the child?

They bowed down and worshiped him, and they gave him expensive gifts (See: [23:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, and knew he was not the father of the baby. Why do you think he decided to have mercy on Mary?

Joseph believed that Mary was pregnant because she had been unfaithful to him and had slept with another man. Joseph could have been angry with Mary and wanted to punish her. Joseph was a righteous man, and did not want to marry an adulteress. However, he was a good man, and it appears that he loved Mary. Therefore, he decided to have mercy on her instead of punishing her.

2. How might Mary have felt when people learned that she was pregnant?

Mary must have been very sad when people learned that she was pregnant, because they did not believe that her baby was from the Holy Spirit. Everyone thought she was an adulteress. Even Joseph thought she had sinned, and did not want to marry her. However, Mary knew that she had obeyed God and was still a virgin. She waited patiently until God told Joseph that she was faithful, and that he should marry her.

3. Why did Joseph not sleep with Mary until the baby was born?

God told Joseph that Mary was a virgin and that the baby inside her was from God. Perhaps Joseph was so amazed that the Son of God was in Mary's womb that he kept her a virgin. Or perhaps he wanted to be able to tell everyone that Mary's baby could not possibly be the result of a human father. Therefore, he did not sleep with her until Jesus was born.

4. How was the location of Jesus' birth different than where you would expect the Son of God to be born?

Joseph and Mary were forced to travel far away to another city while she was pregnant. She gave birth to Jesus in a place where animals were kept. They were too poor to be able to find a proper room to stay in. None of their family or friends were with them. Joseph and Mary honored and obeyed God. And Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. However, they still faced many difficult situations. But God took care of them during that time.

5. What did God do to encourage Joseph and Mary after Jesus was born?

God sent the shepherds to tell Joseph and Mary about the angels that visited them. He also sent the wise men who brought expensive gifts and worshiped Jesus.

Summary

Life was very difficult for Mary when she became pregnant. Her friends and family, and even her fiancée, did not believe that the baby was from God. However, God intervened to tell Joseph to marry her. Joseph obeyed and kept her a virgin until Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary were all alone when Jesus was born. But God sent his angels and the wise men to celebrate his birth!

24. John Baptizes Jesus

A Bible story from: Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1:15-37

24:01

John, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, grew up and became a prophet. He lived in the wilderness, ate wild honey and locusts, and wore clothes made from camel hair.

24:02

Many people came out to the wilderness to listen to John. He preached to them, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!"

24:03

When people heard John's message, many of them repented from their sins, and John baptized them. Many religious leaders also came to see John, but they did not repent or confess their sins.

24:04

John said to the religious leaders, "You poisonous snakes! Repent and change your behavior. God will cut down every tree that does not bear good fruit, and he will throw them into the fire." John fulfilled what the prophets had said, "See, I will soon send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way."

24:05

Some religious leaders asked John if he was the Messiah. John replied, "I am not the Messiah, but he is coming after me. He is so great that I am not even worthy to untie his sandals."

24:06

The next day, Jesus came for John to baptize him. When John saw him, he said, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who will take away the sin of the world."

24:07

John said to Jesus, "I am not worthy to baptize you. You should baptize me instead." But Jesus said, "You should baptize me, because it is the right thing to do." So John baptized him even though Jesus had never sinned.

24:08

When Jesus came up out of the water after being baptized, the Spirit of God appeared in the form of a dove and came down and rested on him. At the same time, God spoke from heaven. He said, "This is my Son. I love him, and I am very pleased with him."

24:09

God had told John, "The Holy Spirit will come down and stay on someone you baptize. That person is the Son of God." There is only one God. But when John baptized Jesus, he heard God the Father speak, saw God the Son, who is Jesus, and he saw the Holy Spirit.

What the Story Says

1. Where did John live?

He lived in the wilderness, apart from other people (See: [24:01](#)).

2. What was the message that John preached to the people?

John told the people to repent, for the kingdom of God is near (See: [24:02](#)).

3. How did people respond when they heard John's message?

Some of the people repented from their sins and John baptized them. However, many of the religious leaders who came to John did not repent (See: [24:03](#)).

4. To what did John compare the religious leaders who did not repent?

He compared them to poisonous snakes (See: [24:04](#)).

5. How did John respond when the religious leaders asked him if he was the Messiah?

John told them that he was not the Messiah, but that the Messiah was coming after him (See: [24:05](#)).

6. What was the title that John called Jesus when Jesus came to John?

John called Jesus the Lamb of God who will take away the sin of the world (See: [24:06](#)).

7. Why did John not want to baptize Jesus?

John said he was not worthy to baptize Jesus, but that Jesus should baptize John instead (See: [24:07](#)).

8. What came down and landed on Jesus after John baptized him?

After John baptized Jesus, the Spirit of God came down in the form of a dove and rested on Jesus (See: [24:08](#)).

9. What did God say about Jesus when he spoke from heaven?

God said that Jesus was his Son, and that he was very pleased with Jesus (See: [24:08](#)).

10. What had God told John about the person on whom the Holy Spirit would stay?

God told John that the person on whom the Holy Spirit would stay would be the Son of God (See: [24:09](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think John preached in the wilderness instead of in a city?

Perhaps John wanted to preach God's message to people who wanted to listen. Few people lived in the wilderness, so people had to make an effort to go there in order to hear John. Most of the people who came to John were serious about listening to his message.

2. John told people to repent, for the kingdom of God was near. Why was his message so simple?

John's message was indeed very simple. However, he told the people everything they needed to know at that time. That is, the Messiah was coming soon to establish his kingdom. People had to repent of their sins if they wanted to participate in that kingdom.

3. Why do you think the religious rulers came to John?

The religious rulers did not come to John to repent of their sins. Perhaps they were curious about why other people were coming to see him. Or perhaps they were jealous that people were coming to John instead of coming to them. We know John did not think the leaders came for good reasons, because he called them poisonous snakes. Even today, some people come to hear preaching for evil reasons.

4. How did John show that he was a humble man?

John openly said that he was not the Messiah, and that he was not worthy to untie the sandals of the Messiah. He also told Jesus that he was not worthy to baptize him. John is an example for us. He was a great prophet, but he knew the Messiah was greater than he was.

5. How can Jesus be both the Messiah and the Lamb of God?

The Messiah is the only person who did not sin. Therefore, he was the only one who could be a perfect sacrifice to God. In that way, he was punished for the sins of everyone in the world who believes in him.

6. Why did the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit appear together when Jesus was baptized?

By appearing together, they demonstrated that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all working together to save people from their sins, and to enable them to enter into the kingdom of God. When Jesus was baptized, he was doing what God the Father wanted him to do. The Holy Spirit guided Jesus to prepare him to do the work of the Messiah and to become the Lamb of God.

Summary

John told people to repent and prepare for the kingdom of God. Many people came to him and repented that they had sinned. Jesus also came so John could baptize him, even though Jesus never sinned. God the Father spoke from heaven to say that Jesus, his Son, pleased him. And the Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove to show that he was with Jesus.

25. Satan Tempts Jesus

A Bible story from: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

25:01

Immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led him out into the wilderness. Jesus was there for 40 days and 40 nights. During that time he fasted, and Satan came to Jesus and tempted him to sin.

25:02

First, Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread so you can eat!"

25:03

But Jesus said to Satan, "It is written in God's word, 'People do not only need bread in order to live, but they need everything that God tells them!'"

25:04

Then Satan took Jesus to the highest point on the Temple. He said to him, "If you are the Son of God, jump off to the ground, because it is written, 'God will command his angels to carry you so your foot does not hit a stone.'"

25:05

But Jesus did not do what Satan asked him to do. Instead, he said, "God tells everyone, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

25:06

Then Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He showed him how powerful they were, and how wealthy they were. He said to Jesus, "I will give you all this if you bow down and worship me."

25:07

Jesus replied, "Get away from me, Satan! In God's word he commands his people, 'Worship only the Lord your God. Honor only him as God.'"

25:08

Jesus did not give in to Satan's temptations, so Satan left him. Then angels came and took care of Jesus.

What the Story Says

1. Why did Jesus go out into the wilderness?

The Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness (See: [25:01](#)).

2. What did Jesus do in the wilderness before Satan came to tempt him?

Jesus had fasted for 40 days and 40 nights before Satan came to tempt him (See: [25:01](#)).

3. What did Satan tell Jesus to do the first time he tempted him?

Satan told Jesus to turn the rocks into bread so he could eat. (See: [25:02](#)).

4. What did Jesus say was more important than eating bread?

Jesus said it was more important to obey God than to eat bread (See: [25:03](#)).

5. Why did Satan say that Jesus would not be hurt if he jumped off the top of the Temple?

Satan said the angels of God would catch Jesus so that he would not hit the ground (See: [25:04](#)).

6. Why did Jesus refuse to jump off the top of the Temple?

Jesus did not want to test God, and God had not told him to jump off the Temple (See: [25:05](#)).

7. What was the only thing Satan told Jesus to do in order to receive all the kingdoms of the world?

Satan told Jesus he would give him all the kingdoms of the world if he would bow down and worship Satan (See: [25:06](#)).

8. Did Jesus do any of the sinful things that Satan tempted him to do?

No, Jesus refused to do any of the things that Satan told him to do (See: [25:08](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think Satan tempted Jesus to turn a stone into bread?

Satan knew that Jesus was very hungry after he had fasted for 40 days and nights. Satan often uses a person's weakness when he tries to tempt them.

2. Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to fast for 40 days?

God wanted to prove that Jesus would not sin. To show this, he caused Jesus to be weak and hungry. Yet, even though Jesus was weak, he did not sin. He did not do what Satan told him to do.

3. Why did Satan quote from the scripture when he told Jesus to jump off the top of the Temple?

Satan knows the scripture and can quote it. However, he does not use the scripture in the correct way. He tries to give the scripture meanings that God did not intend for it to have. Satan only uses the scripture to deceive people.

4. Did Satan really have the authority to offer all the kingdoms of the world to Jesus?

Jesus did not contradict Satan when. There is no reason to believe that Satan cannot give people wealth and power in this world.

5. How was Satan trying to deceive Jesus by offering him all the kingdoms of the world?

The things in this world will end. However, only God can give wealth and power that lasts forever in heaven. Jesus correctly chose to wait until God gave him all the kingdoms of the world so that he could rule forever in heaven.

6. Why was it impossible for Jesus to worship Satan even for a short time in order to receive the kingdoms of this world from Satan?

God demands that people serve him alone. It is never right to serve Satan or anyone else—not even for a short time. We are to worship God only. We sin if we worship anyone or anything other than God.

Summary

Jesus could not die for the sins of other people if he himself were a sinner. Therefore, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness so that Satan could tempt him. God wanted to prove to Satan and everyone else that Jesus never sinned, even though Satan personally tried to make him sin. Jesus was weak, tired, and hungry. Even so, he never sinned. He refused to do what Satan told him to do. He understood when Satan used scripture to try to trick him into testing God. And Jesus chose not to accept all the wealth and power in the world from Satan. Instead, he faithfully waited until God would make him ruler over the world. This would not happen until after he had suffered for our sins.

26. Jesus Starts His Ministry

A Bible story from: Matthew 4:12-25; Mark 1-3; Luke 4:

26:01

After Jesus refused Satan's temptations, he returned to the region of Galilee. This is where he lived. The Holy Spirit was giving him much power, and Jesus went from place to place and taught people. Everyone said good things about him.

26:02

Jesus went to the town of Nazareth. This is the village where he had lived when he was a child. On the Sabbath, he went to the place of worship. The leaders handed him a scroll with the messages of the prophet Isaiah. They wanted him to read from it. So Jesus opened up the scroll and read part of it to the people.

26:03

Jesus read, "God has given me his Spirit so that I can proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to set prisoners free, to make the blind people see again, and to free those whom others are oppressing. This is the time when the Lord will be merciful to us and help us."

26:04

Then Jesus sat down. Everybody was watching him closely. They knew the passage of scripture that he had just read was about the Messiah. Jesus said, "The things I just read to you, they are happening right now." All the people were amazed. "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" they said.

26:05

Then Jesus said, "It is true that people never accept a prophet in the town he grew up in. During the time of the prophet Elijah, there were many widows in Israel. But when it did not rain for three and a half years, God did not send Elijah to help a widow from Israel. Instead, he sent Elijah to a widow in a different nation."

26:06

Jesus continued, saying, "And during the time of the prophet Elisha, there were many people in Israel with skin diseases. But Elisha did not heal any of them. He only healed the skin disease of Naaman, a commander of Israel's enemies." But the people who were listening to Jesus were Jews. So when they heard him say this, they were furious at him.

26:07

The people of Nazareth seized Jesus and dragged him out of the place of worship. They took him to the edge of a cliff to throw him off of it in order to kill him. But Jesus walked through the crowd and left the town of Nazareth.

26:08

Then Jesus went throughout the region of Galilee, and large crowds came to him. They brought many people who were sick or disabled. There were some who were blind, others who were crippled, deaf, or mute, and Jesus healed them.

26:09

Also, many people who had demons in them were brought to Jesus. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of them, so the demons came out. The demons often shouted, "You are the Son of God!" The crowds of people were amazed, and they praised God.

26:10

Then Jesus chose 12 men from among his disciples to be his special representatives. He called them "apostles." These apostles traveled with Jesus and learned from him.

What the Story Says

1. How did Jesus receive power to do the things that he did?

The Holy Spirit was giving him power (See: [26:01](#)).

2. Why did the people of Nazareth know Jesus well?

Jesus lived in Nazareth when he was a child (See: [26:02](#)).

3. Who wrote the scroll that the leaders asked Jesus to read?

The leaders asked Jesus to read the scroll that the prophet Isaiah wrote (See: [26:02](#)).

4. Who was the scripture about that Jesus read?

The scripture that Jesus read was about the Messiah (See: [26:04](#)).

5. Why were the people amazed?

Jesus said the things he had read were happening right then. He wanted to say that the Messiah was doing those things right then. This amazed the people (See: [26:04](#)).

6. Who did the prophet Elijah go to help?

Elijah went to help a widow from another nation (See: [26:05](#)).

7. Who did the prophet Elisha heal?

Elisha healed a commander of Israel's enemies (See: [26:06](#)).

8. Why did the people of Nazareth take Jesus out of the place of worship?

The people wanted to throw Jesus off a cliff to kill him because he said that the prophets helped Israel's enemies (See: [26:07](#)).

9. What did Jesus do when the people in Galilee brought many sick people and people with demons to him?

Jesus healed them all (See: [26:08](#), [26:09](#)).

10. What did Jesus call the 12 men whom he called to travel with him and learn from him?

Jesus called these 12 men his apostles (See: [26:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Jesus grew up in Nazareth. Did that influence how the people responded to him when he claimed to be the Messiah?

Because the people of Nazareth knew Jesus when he was a little boy, they continued to think of him as an unimportant person. Therefore, it was hard for them to believe that he was the Messiah. For this reason, Jesus said that people do not accept a prophet in the town where he grew up. Have you seen this happen?

2. Jesus did not directly tell the people of Nazareth that he was the Messiah. Instead, he read the scripture and said it was happening right then. Why do you think Jesus revealed himself in this way?

Jesus knew that the people of Nazareth did not want to accept that he was the Messiah. Therefore, instead of stating that as a fact, he read the scripture and said that it was talking about him. If the people of Nazareth wanted to know who he was, they could see that he was doing all the things that the scripture said the Messiah would do. If they were willing to believe in him, they could figure out for themselves from the scripture that he was the Messiah.

3. Why were the Jews so angry when Jesus told them what Elijah and Elisha did?

The Jews believed that God loved only Jews, and would not help people from other nations. They were wrong. Jesus spoke about Elijah and Elisha to show that God also loved people of other nations. God send the prophets to help the people who would believe in him. But he did not send them to help the Jews when the Jews did not serve him.

4. Why did Jesus choose 12 men to be his apostles?

Jesus knew that he would die for our sins. After he would die, someone would have to be able to tell everyone what Jesus had done for us. Therefore, Jesus chose 12 men to prepare them to teach about him. They traveled with him and he taught them so they would be ready to be witnesses for him when he went back to heaven.

Summary

Jesus went to the city of Nazareth in Galilee, the place where he grew up. The people there came together every week to worship God. However, they were not ready to believe that Jesus came from God. When he showed them in the scriptures that he was doing the work of the Messiah, they did not want to believe him. And when Jesus told them that God would accept people from other nations who believed in him, they were so angry that they tried to kill Jesus. Therefore, he left them and went away to preach to other people in Galilee. Many saw the works he did and believed in him. From those who believed, Jesus then chose 12 men to be with him as his apostles. They traveled with him, and he began to teach them so they could tell people about him.

27. The Story of the Good Samaritan

A Bible story from: Luke 10:25-37

27:01

One day, an expert in the Jewish law came to Jesus. He wanted to show everyone that Jesus was teaching wrongly. So he said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered, "What is written in God's law?"

27:02

The man said, "It says, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.'" Jesus answered, "You are correct! If you do this, you will have eternal life."

27:03

But the law expert wanted to show the people that his way of living was correct. So he asked Jesus, "Well then, who is my neighbor?"

27:04

Jesus answered the law expert by telling a story. "There was a Jewish man who was traveling along the road from Jerusalem to Jericho."

27:05

"But some robbers saw him and attacked him. They took everything he had and beat him until he was almost dead. Then they went away."

27:06

"Soon after that, a Jewish priest happened to walk down that same road. This priest saw that man lying in the road. When he saw him, he moved to the other side of the road and kept on going. He completely ignored that man."

27:07

"Not long after that, a Levite came down the road. (Levites were a tribe of Jews who helped the priests at the Temple.) The Levite also crossed over to the other side of the road. He also ignored that man."

27:08

"The next person to walk down that road was a man from Samaria. (Samaritans and Jews hated each other.) The Samaritan saw the man in the road. He saw he was Jewish, but he still had very strong compassion for him. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds."

27:09

"Then the Samaritan lifted the man onto his own donkey. He took him to an inn by the road. There he continued to take care of him."

27:10

"The next day, the Samaritan needed to continue his journey. He gave some money to the person in charge of the inn. He said to him, 'Take care of this man. If you spend any more money than this, I will repay those expenses when I return.'"

27:11

Then Jesus asked the law expert, "What do you think? Which one of the three men was a neighbor to the man who was robbed and beaten?" He replied, "The one who was merciful to him." Jesus told him, "You go and do the same."

What the Story Says

1. Did the expert in the Jewish law really want to know how to have eternal life?

No, he only wanted to show that Jesus was teaching wrongly (See: [27:01](#)).

2. Where did Jesus tell the man to find the answer to his question?

Jesus asked the man to see what was written in God's law (See: [27:01](#)).

3. What did Jesus say would happen to the man if he did what God's law told him to do?

Jesus said the man would have eternal life if he did what God's law told him to do (See: [27:02](#)).

4. Why did the man ask Jesus who his neighbor was?

The man wanted to show people that he was living correctly (See: [27:03](#)).

5. Why did Jesus tell a story to the man?

Jesus told the man a story in order to answer his question about who was his neighbor (See: [27:04](#)).

6. What did the priest and the Levite do when they saw the injured man?

The priest and the Levite both ignored the injured man and did not help him (See: [27:06](#), [27:07](#)).

7. Why was it surprising that the Samaritan helped the injured Jewish man?

The Samaritans and the Jews hated each other (See: [27:08](#)).

8. Which of the men was merciful to the injured man?

The Samaritan was the only one who was merciful to the injured man (See: [27:11](#)).

9. What did Jesus tell the expert in the Jewish law to do?

Jesus told the expert in the Jewish law to be merciful to people in need, just as the Samaritan in the story did to the injured Jewish man (See: [27:11](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why was it surprising that Jesus asked the expert in the Jewish law about what was written in God's law?

The man knew far more about the Jewish law than any other person in Israel. He continually studied it and taught it to others. However, he did not really understand what the law meant. Therefore, Jesus started questioning him about the law so that he could show the man that he did not really know what God's law taught.

2. Why do you think the man asked Jesus who his neighbor was?

The man knew God's law said to love his neighbor as himself. But he also knew that he did not love other people as he should. Therefore, he asked about his neighbor because he was hoping that he only needed to love a few specific people in order to obey the law.

3. Why might Jesus have chosen to talk to this man about a priest and a Levite?

The Jews considered the priests and Levites to be the most spiritual people in Israel. They also considered the experts in the law to be very much like the priests and the Levites. Because the experts studied and taught God's law, people assumed they knew more about God than other people did.

4. Why might the expert in the Jewish law have been offended when Jesus compared the actions of the priest and the Levite to the actions of the Samaritan?

The expert in the Jewish law considered the priests and the Levites to be good people, but he hated the Samaritan. He thought all Samaritans were sinners. However, in the story that Jesus told him, the Samaritan was the only person who acted kindly to the injured Jewish man.

5. How much did the Samaritan show mercy to the injured man?

The Samaritan did not merely help the injured man a little bit. Instead, he did more for the injured man than anyone would expect him to do. He bandaged him, took him to the inn, and paid all of the expenses for the man.

6. What does the story tell us about loving our neighbor?

The Samaritan saw another person who had a serious need. Although the man was a stranger from a people that the Samaritans hated, he felt compassion for him. He took care of the man, doing more than was necessary or expected to help him. He treated the injured man as he would like to be treated himself if he was in need. This is what it means to be a neighbor to someone.

Summary

The expert in the law who came to Jesus did not believe in Jesus, and he did not really understand God's law. Instead, he wanted to embarrass Jesus. Jesus knew this, and so he questioned the man about the law. He then told a story that showed how a follower of God should treat other people. God gives eternal life to people who believe in him and obey him, rather than to people who hold powerful religious positions. When the simple Samaritan was merciful to the injured man, he acted more like God than do the most religious people in Israel.

28. The Rich Young Ruler

A Bible story from: Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30

28:01

One day, a rich young ruler came up to Jesus and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me 'good'? There is only one who is good, and that is God. But if you want to have eternal life, obey God's laws."

28:02

"Which ones do I need to obey?" he asked. Jesus replied, "Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as you love yourself."

28:03

But the young man said, "I have obeyed all these laws ever since I was a boy. What do I still need to do in order to live forever?" Jesus looked at him and loved him.

28:04

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, then go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

28:05

When the young man heard what Jesus said, he became very sad because he was very rich and did not want to give away all the things he possessed. He turned and went away from Jesus.

28:06

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "It is extremely hard for rich people to enter into the kingdom of God! Yes, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

28:07

When the disciples heard what Jesus said, they were shocked. They said, "If it is like this, who will God save?"

28:08

Jesus looked at the disciples and said, "It is impossible for people to save themselves. But nothing is impossible for God to do."

28:09

Peter said to Jesus, "We disciples have left everything and followed you. What will be our reward?"

28:10

Jesus answered, "Everyone who has left houses, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children, or property for my sake will receive 100 times more and will also receive eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first."

What the Story Says

1. What did the rich young ruler want Jesus to tell him?

The rich young ruler wanted Jesus to tell him how he could have eternal life. He wanted to live forever with God (See: [28:01](#)).

2. How did Jesus respond when the man called him **good**?

Jesus asked the young man what he meant to say when he called Jesus **good**. Jesus did not wait for the man to answer. He reminded the man that only God is truly good. Perhaps Jesus was asking the man if he believed that Jesus was God (See: [28:01](#)).

3. What did Jesus tell the young man he should do in order to have eternal life?

Jesus told him to obey God's laws in order to have eternal life (See: [28:01](#)).

4. How well did the young man think he had obeyed the law?

The young man thought he had always fully obeyed God's law. Of course, no one can do that. But he honestly believed that he had done everything that God asked him to do (See: [28:03](#)).

5. What did Jesus tell the young man to give up?

Jesus told the young man to give up all of his possessions (See: [28:04](#)).

6. What did Jesus tell the young man to do after he gave up his possessions?

Jesus told the young man to follow him as his disciple (See: [28:04](#)).

7. Why did the young man go away sad?

The young man went away sad because he had many possessions, and he did not want to give them up (See: [28:05](#)).

8. According to Jesus, how do riches affect whether a person enters heaven?

Jesus said that it was almost impossible for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of heaven (See: [28:06](#)).

9. If disciples give up things for Jesus' sake, how much more will they receive from him?

Disciples who give up things for Jesus will receive 100 times as much from him as a reward (See: [28:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did the young man ask which laws he must obey?

The young man did not understand that people must obey all of God's laws. God considers that we sin if we fail to obey even one of his laws. The young man wrongly thought that God would accept him if he faithfully obeyed some of God's most important laws.

2. Why did Jesus talk to the young man about being perfect?

The young man wrongly thought he could be 'good enough' to have eternal life. Jesus wanted him to know that he had to be perfect—that is, without any sin—in order to have eternal life. He could not keep God's law perfectly. The only way for him to be perfect was to follow Jesus and trust that Jesus would save him from his sin.

3. If the young man wanted to have eternal life, why was he not willing to give up his possessions?

Jesus promised that the young man would have treasure in heaven if he followed Jesus. However, the young man could not yet see and touch that treasure. He had to believe that Jesus would reward him. However, he could easily see and touch the possessions that he already had in this world. Therefore, it was hard for him to give up his current treasure to gain something that he could not yet see.

4. Why were the disciples so shocked to hear that it was almost impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven?

The people of that day believed that if God loved someone, he made them wealthy. The more possessions a person had, the more people thought God loved them. The disciples were shocked to hear that God does not necessarily accept a person who is rich.

5. When will Jesus reward his disciples for giving up things for his sake?

Jesus does not say when he will reward his disciples. He may give them some things in this life, but most of their reward will be in heaven. Jesus clearly told his disciples that he would give them 100 times as much as they give up for him in this life. Other people may think they are poor in this life, but Jesus will richly reward them in his kingdom.

Summary

The rich young ruler who came to Jesus genuinely wanted to receive eternal life. He thought that he had obeyed God enough to be worthy of eternal life. Jesus loved him, but also knew that the young man loved his possessions. Therefore, Jesus tested him by telling him to give up his possessions and to follow Jesus in order to have eternal life. However, this made the young man very sad. The disciples were surprised that Jesus did not accept the rich young man. But Jesus explained that he would reward the disciples who gave up their wealth for his sake.

29. The Story of the Unmerciful Servant

A Bible story from: Matthew 18:21-35

29:01

One day, Peter asked Jesus, "Master, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus said, "Not seven times, but 70 times seven!" By this, Jesus meant that we should always forgive. Then Jesus told this story.

29:02

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. One of his servants owed a huge debt worth 200,000 years' wages."

29:03

"But the servant could not pay his debt, so the king said, 'Sell this man and his family as slaves to pay his debt.'"

29:04

"The servant fell on his knees before the king and said, 'Please be patient with me, and I will pay the full amount that I owe you.' The king felt pity for the servant, so he canceled all of his debt and let him go."

29:05

"But when the servant went out from the king, he found a fellow servant who owed him a debt worth four months' wages. The servant grabbed his fellow servant and said, 'Pay me the money that you owe me!'"

29:06

"The fellow servant fell on his knees and said, 'Please be patient with me, and I will pay the full amount that I owe you.' But instead, the servant threw his fellow servant into prison until he could pay the debt."

29:07

"Some other servants saw what had happened and were greatly disturbed. They went to the king and told him everything."

29:08

"The king called the servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave your debt because you begged me. You should have done the same.' The king was so angry that he threw the wicked servant into prison until he could pay back all of his debt."

29:09

Then Jesus said, "This is what my heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

What the Story Says

1. What did Jesus mean when he told Peter to forgive his brother 70 times seven?

When Jesus told Peter to forgive his brother 70 times seven, he wanted to say that Peter should forgive his brother as many times as necessary without stopping (See: [29:01](#)).

2. How would the king get his money back by selling the servant and his family as slaves?

The king would take the money that he would receive from selling the man and his family as slaves. This money would be a partial payment toward what the servant owed the king (See: [29:03](#)).

3. Would the servant ever be able to repay the money he owed to the king?

Since the servant owed 200,000 years' wages, he would not be able to repay the king in his lifetime (See: [29:02](#), [29:04](#)).

4. Would the servant who owed four months' wages be able to repay the other servant?

The servant who owed four months' wages might have been able to repay the other servant if he had time to earn the money (See: [29:05](#), [29:06](#)).

5. Why were the other servants disturbed by what happened?

The other servants thought the servant whom the king forgave had treated the other servant unfairly. He should have forgiven the other servant (See: [29:07](#)).

6. Why was the king so angry?

The king was angry because he had forgiven the debt of the servant, but now he saw that the servant was a wicked man. He was not willing to forgive other people as the king had forgiven him (See: [29:08](#)).

7. For how long did the king put the wicked servant into prison?

The king put the servant into the prison until he could repay his debt. However, his debt was so large that he would never be able to repay it. Therefore, he would be in prison for the rest of his life (See: [29:08](#)).

8. Why did Jesus tell this story?

Jesus wanted his disciples to know that God had forgiven them, and that he expected them to forgive each other in the same way (See: [29:09](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think Peter offered to forgive his brother seven times?

Peter apparently thought that he was being merciful if he forgave his brother seven times. That seemed like a lot to Peter. However, Jesus answered that seven times was not enough. Disciples of Jesus should forgive 70 times more than that. That is, they should forgive their brothers without limit.

2. How did the debts of the two servants compare to each other?

The debt of the first servant was so large that it would be impossible to repay. The debt of the second servant was significant, but not impossible to pay.

3. Who do you think the king and the servants represent in this story?

In this story, the king represents God. The servants represent the disciples of Jesus. Every disciple owed God a payment for his sin that was impossible to pay, just as the servant owed the king a huge debt. However, God forgave their sin because Jesus died in their places. Therefore, God expects his disciples to forgive each other.

4. How will God respond to disciples who do not forgive other disciples?

God will be very angry with disciples who are not willing to forgive other disciples. He will judge them severely.

Summary

Peter asked Jesus how many times he should forgive a fellow disciple who sinned against him. He thought that perhaps seven times would be enough. But Jesus told him that he should continue to forgive his brother even 70 times more than that. Jesus then told a story to show that God is like a king who has forgiven his disciples a great debt of sin. Therefore, his disciples should also forgive their fellow disciples. The debt that they owe each other is much less than the debt they owed to God. If his disciples do not forgive each other, God will be angry with them and will punish them.

30. Jesus Feeds Thousands of People

A Bible story from: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:5-15

30:01

Jesus sent his apostles to preach and to teach people in many different villages. When they returned to where Jesus was, they told him what they had done. Then Jesus invited them to go with him to a quiet place across the lake to rest for a while. So, they got into a boat and went to the other side of the lake.

30:02

But there were many people who saw Jesus and the disciples leave in the boat. These people ran along the shore of the lake to get to the other side ahead of them. So when Jesus and the disciples arrived, a large group of people was already there, waiting for them.

30:03

The crowd had over 5,000 men in it, not counting the women and children. Jesus felt great compassion towards the people. To Jesus, these people were like sheep without a shepherd. So he taught them and healed the people among them who were sick.

30:04

Late in the day, the disciples told Jesus, "It is late and there are no towns nearby. Send the people away so they can go get something to eat."

30:05

But Jesus said to the disciples, "You give them something to eat!" They responded, "How can we do that? We only have five loaves of bread and two small fish."

30:06

Jesus told his disciples to tell the people in the crowd to sit down on the grass in groups of 50 people each.

30:07

Then Jesus took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, and thanked God for the food.

30:08

Then Jesus broke the bread and the fish into pieces. He gave the pieces to his disciples to give to the people. The disciples kept passing out the food, and it never ran out! All the people ate and were satisfied.

30:09

After that, the disciples collected the food that had not been eaten. It was enough to fill 12 baskets! All the food came from the five loaves of bread and two fish.

What the Story Says

1. Why did Jesus invite his disciples to go to a quiet place to rest?

His disciples had been preaching and teaching about Jesus in many different villages, and they were tired (See: [30:01](#)).

2. What did the people do in order to see Jesus?

The people ran along the shore of the lake in order to get to the other side to be there when the boat carrying Jesus and his disciples would arrive there (See: [30:02](#)).

3. How many people were in the crowd that waited for Jesus?

There were over 5,000 men in the crowd, but there were also many woman and children. We do not know the total number of people who were there (See: [30:03](#)).

4. How did Jesus respond to the crowds that waited for him?

Jesus had compassion on the people, because they were like sheep without a shepherd (See: [30:03](#)).

5. How much food did the disciples have with them?

The disciples only had five loaves of bread and two small fish (See: [30:05](#)).

6. What did Jesus do with the loaves and the fish?

Jesus thanked God for the loaves and fish, broke them into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to give to the people (See: [30:07](#), [30:08](#)).

7. What happened when the crowd ate the five loaves of bread and the two small fish?

The bread and the fish never ran out. The crowd ate as much as they wanted and they were satisfied (See: [30:08](#)).

8. How much food was left over after the crowd ate what they wanted?

The disciples picked up 12 baskets full of food that was left over (See: [30:09](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Should disciples rest even when there is a lot of work to do?

Rest is a good thing. When God created the earth, he commanded people to rest on the seventh day of the week. When the disciples finished preaching and teaching, Jesus took them away to rest. People need to rest occasionally in order to do their work well.

2. How did Jesus respond to the crowd when they interrupted him and the disciples as they were going to a place to rest?

Even though Jesus wanted the disciples to rest, he was not angry with the crowds that followed them. Instead, he felt compassion on the people. Even though he and his disciples needed to rest, they taught and healed the people in the crowd.

3. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to give the crowd something to eat?

Jesus knew that they did not have enough food to feed the crowd. He told the disciples to feed them so that the disciples would understand that it was impossible to do that. Then, when Jesus caused the bread and the fish to increase and feed them all, the disciples would understand that he had done what was impossible. They would know that God had worked through him in a mighty way.

4. Who caused the food to increase?

Jesus was the one who caused the food to increase and satisfy all the people. The disciples passed out the food to the people, but Jesus was the one who continually gave them the food. When everyone had finished eating, the disciples knew that Jesus was the one who had done this miracle.

5. Why do you think the disciples collected the leftover food?

Jesus wanted the disciples to see how much he had multiplied the food. The leftover food was more than the five loaves of bread and two fish that they had at the beginning. Those would fit into a single basket. But now there were 12 full baskets. Each of the 12 disciples had a full basket of leftover food.

Summary

Jesus' disciples were tired from preaching and teaching about Jesus. Jesus knew they needed rest, so he took them in a boat to a quiet place. However, thousands of people who wanted to see Jesus ran ahead to that place. But Jesus was not angry with them. Instead, he felt compassion for them. They did not have anyone to teach them and to care for them, so he did that. Even though there was not enough for the people to eat, Jesus multiplied the small amount of food they had and gave it to his disciples to give to the people. The food fed all of the people as much as they wanted to eat. The disciples had more food left over than they had before they fed the people. Jesus took the small amount of food that they had and enabled them to meet the needs of the entire crowd with it. Only God can do that.

31. Jesus Walks on Water

A Bible story from: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21

31:01

After Jesus fed the crowd, he told the disciples to get into a boat. He told them to sail to the other side of the lake while he stayed behind for a little while. So the disciples left, and Jesus sent the crowd to their homes. After that Jesus went up on a mountainside to pray. He was there all alone, and he prayed until late at night.

31:02

During this time, the disciples were rowing their boat, but the wind was blowing hard against them. When it was late in the night, they had only reached the middle of the lake.

31:03

At that time, Jesus finished praying and started to go back to meet his disciples. He walked on top of the water toward their boat.

31:04

Then the disciples saw him. They were very afraid because they thought he was a ghost. Jesus knew that they were afraid, so he called out to them and said, "Do not be afraid. It is I!"

31:05

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Master, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus told Peter, "Come!"

31:06

So, Peter got out of the boat and started walking to Jesus on the surface of the water. But after walking a short distance, he turned his eyes away from Jesus and began to look at the waves and to feel the strong wind.

31:07

Then Peter became afraid and began to sink in the water. He cried out, "Master, save me!" Right away, Jesus reached out and grabbed him. Then he said to Peter, "You have so little faith! Why did you not trust me to keep you safe?"

31:08

Then Peter and Jesus got into the boat, and the wind immediately stopped blowing. The water became calm. The disciples were amazed and bowed down to Jesus. They worshiped him and said to him, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

What the Story Says

1. What did Jesus do after he sent his disciples across the lake in a boat?

Jesus sent away the crowd and then went up on a mountainside to pray alone (See: [31:01](#)).

2. What difficulty did the disciples have on the lake?

The wind was blowing hard, so the disciples were having difficulty crossing the lake in the boat (See: [31:02](#)).

3. How did Jesus come to the disciples?

Jesus walked on top of the water to the boat in the middle of the lake (See: [31:03](#)).

4. Why were the disciples afraid of Jesus when he came to them?

The disciples were afraid when they saw Jesus walking on top of the water because they thought Jesus was a ghost (See: [31:04](#)).

5. What did Peter ask Jesus to do in order to prove that Jesus was not a ghost?

Peter asked Jesus to command him to walk to Jesus on the water (See: [31:05](#)).

6. What happened when Peter stepped onto the water?

Peter was also able to walk on the water for a short distance (See: [31:06](#)).

7. Why did Peter begin to sink in the water?

Peter began to sink when he took his eyes away from Jesus and looked at the waves instead (See: [31:06](#), [31:07](#)).

8. What did Peter do to save himself as he was sinking in the water?

Peter shouted for Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out and grabbed Peter (See: [31:07](#)).

9. What happened to the storm?

The storm stopped as soon as Peter and Jesus stepped into the boat (See: [31:08](#)).

10. How did the disciples respond when Jesus entered the boat?

The disciples were amazed. They all bowed down and worshiped Jesus as the Son of God (See: [31:08](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did Jesus remain on the mountainside and pray until late at night?

Jesus believed that prayer was important even for him. He often spent time talking to his Father. Even when he was very busy, he took time to pray. He became an example for all of his disciples, and for us.

2. Why do you think the disciples had difficulty crossing the lake? Jesus had sent them there.

A disciple who follows Jesus will still experience difficult times. Jesus did not say it was easy to be his disciple. In this situation, Jesus sent the wind against the disciples so he could show them that he had authority over the storm. God often causes difficult times in our lives so that he can show us his power.

3. Why do you think it was wise for Peter to try to walk on the water to Jesus?

Peter often did not think carefully about things before he did them. Perhaps this occasion is an example. It may have been a foolish thing to do. But at the same time, it was also very brave. None of the other disciples tried to go to Jesus. They all remained in the boat and waited for Jesus to come to them.

4. Why did Jesus say that Peter had little faith?

Peter began to trust Jesus. He asked to Jesus to cause him to walk on the water. That shows that Peter believed in Jesus. However, when Peter saw the wind and the waves, he began to fear that Jesus could not keep him safe on the water. His faith began to waver. At that point, he began to sink. His faith was not strong enough to trust Jesus for very long.

5. Why did the disciples worship Jesus?

The disciples saw that he had walked across the water of the lake during the storm, and that he had calmed the wind. Many of the disciples were fishermen. They knew that no mere man could walk on the water. They understood clearly that Jesus was doing things that only God could do. Therefore, they bowed down and worshiped him.

Summary

Jesus stayed behind as he sent his disciples across the lake in the boat. While they went, he prayed to his Father until late at night. Jesus often spend much time in prayer, no matter how busy he was. Eventually, Jesus began to walk across the lake on the water toward the disciples. They were afraid when they saw him, but Peter asked permission to come to Jesus on the water. He walked partway to Jesus before he became afraid the waves and began to sink. Jesus saved Peter, but he rebuked him for not believing in Jesus enough. When Jesus got into the boat, the storm stopped. The disciples were so amazed at what Jesus had done that they all fell down and worshiped him as the Son of God.

32. Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man & a Sick Woman

A Bible story from: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:20-22; Mark 5; Luke 8:26-48

32:01

Jesus and his disciples went in their boat to the region where the Gerasene people lived. They reached land and got out of their boat.

32:02

Now there was a man there who was demon possessed.

32:03

This man was so strong that nobody could control him. Sometimes people even fastened his arms and legs with chains, but he kept breaking them.

32:04

The man lived among the tombs in the area. This man would scream all day and all night. He did not wear clothes, and he often cut himself with stones.

32:05

This man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of him. Then Jesus spoke to the demon in the man and said, "Come out of this man!"

32:06

The demon cried out in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please do not torture me!" Then Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, because we are many."

32:07

The demons begged Jesus, "Please do not send us out of this region!" There was a herd of pigs feeding on a nearby hill. So the demons begged Jesus, "Please send us into the pigs instead!" Jesus said, "Alright, go into them!"

32:08

So the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs. The pigs ran down a steep bank into the lake and drowned. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd.

32:09

There were people taking care of those pigs. When they saw what happened, they ran into the town. There they told everyone what Jesus had done. The people from the town came and saw the man who used to have the demons. He was sitting calmly, wearing clothes, and acting like a normal person.

32:10

The people were very afraid and asked Jesus to leave. So Jesus got into the boat. The man who used to have the demons begged to go along with Jesus.

32:11

But Jesus said to him, "No. I want you to go home and tell everyone what God has done for you. Tell them how he has had mercy on you."

32:12

So the man went away and told everyone about what Jesus had done for him. Everyone who heard his story was amazed.

32:13

Jesus returned to the other side of the lake. After he arrived there, a large crowd gathered around him and pressed in on him. In the crowd was a woman who had suffered from a bleeding problem for 12 years. She had paid all of her money to doctors so they would heal her, but she only got worse.

32:14

She had heard that Jesus had healed many sick people and thought, 'I'm sure that if I can just touch Jesus' clothes, then I will be healed too!' So she came up behind Jesus and touched his clothes. As soon as she touched them, the bleeding stopped!

32:15

Immediately, Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. So he turned around and asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples replied, "There are many people crowding around you and bumping into you. Why did you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32:16

The woman fell on her knees before Jesus, shaking and very afraid. Then she told him what she had done, and that she had been healed. Jesus said to her, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

What the Story Says

1. How did the demon affect the man he possessed?

The demon made the man so strong that no one could control him. But it also made him scream all day and night, go around without clothes, and cut himself with stones (See: [32:03](#), [32:04](#)).

2. What was the name of the demon in the man?

The name of the demon was Legion because he was actually a group of many demons (See: [32:06](#)).

3. The demons asked Jesus for permission to do what?

The demons asked Jesus for permission to go into the pigs instead of leaving the region (See: [32:07](#)).

4. What happened when the demons entered into the pigs?

All 2,000 pigs ran into the lake and drowned (See: [32:08](#)).

5. What did the people of the region ask Jesus to do when they saw the man who was healed and heard that the pigs were dead?

Because the people of the region were afraid of Jesus, they asked him to leave them (See: [32:10](#)).

6. What problem did the woman in the crowd have?

The woman had been bleeding for 12 years. She spent all of her money on doctors and none of them could heal her. Instead, she got worse (See: [32:13](#)).

7. What did the woman think would heal her?

The woman thought she would be healed if she could only touch Jesus' clothes (See: [32:14](#)).

8. What happened when the woman touched Jesus?

The woman immediately stopped bleeding when she touched Jesus. But Jesus knew that power had gone out from him, and asked who had touched him (See: [32:14](#), [32:15](#)).

9. What did Jesus say was the reason the woman was healed?

Jesus told the woman that her faith had healed her. She was well because she believed that Jesus could heal her (See: [32:16](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. How did the demons treat the man they possessed?

The demons caused the man they possessed to suffer and to bring shame upon himself. They caused him to harm even his own body. He would scream in pain all day and all night. Demons want to destroy the people whom God created.

2. This story show that Jesus had which power over the demons?

Jesus had the power to command the demons to come out of the man. He also had the power to decide where they could go after they left him. Jesus could send them into eternal punishment. The demons were afraid Jesus would do that. That is why they asked to go into the pigs instead.

3. Why did the people ask Jesus to leave their region?

The people were very concerned about the money they lost when their pigs drowned, but they did not care that the man was released from the demons. They asked Jesus to leave because they valued their possessions more than they valued other people.

4. Why did Jesus tell the man who was freed from the demons to go to his home?

The man wanted to follow Jesus as his disciple. But Jesus told the man to stay and to be his disciple among his own people. The people sent Jesus away. So Jesus told the man to stay at his home so that he could tell the people there about Jesus after Jesus went away.

5. Why did Jesus ask the woman to tell what had happened to her?

Jesus healed the woman because she believed in him. But Jesus also wanted other people to believe in him. For that reason, he did not allow the woman to be healed in secret. Instead, he caused her to tell everyone how he had healed her. In this way, she acted as his disciple.

Summary

Jesus healed two people who were suffering greatly. The man had a demon that no one could control or remove. The woman was bleeding and no doctor could heal her. Jesus had the power to easily heal them both. However, he did not heal either person in secret. He sent the demons from the man into the pigs so that they died. As a result, everyone in the region heard that he had healed the man. Furthermore, he told the man who was healed to go home and to continue to tell everyone there what Jesus had done for him. Likewise, Jesus did not allow the woman to be healed in secret. He called her out before the crowd so that she could tell them all how Jesus had healed her. Jesus was preparing people to be able to tell everyone who he was and what he had done for them.

33. The Story of the Farmer

A Bible story from: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

33:01

One day, Jesus was near the shore of the lake. He was teaching a very large crowd of people. So many people came to hear him that Jesus did not have enough room to speak to them all. So he got into a boat in the water. There he sat and taught the people.

33:02

Jesus told this story. "A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he was spreading the seed by hand, some of the seed happened to fall on the path. But birds came and ate all of that seed."

33:03

"Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was very little soil. The seed in the rocky ground sprouted quickly, but its roots were not able to go deep into the soil. When the sun came up and it got hot, the plants withered and died."

33:04

"Still other seed fell among thorn bushes. This seed began to grow, but the thorns choked it out. So the plants that grew from the seed in the thorny ground did not produce any grain."

33:05

"Other seed fell into good soil. This seed grew up and produced 30, 60, or even 100 times as much grain as the seed that had been planted. Whoever wants to follow God, let him pay attention to what I am saying!"

33:06

This story confused the disciples. So Jesus explained, "The seed is the word of God. The path is a person who hears God's word, but does not understand it. Then the devil takes the word away from him. That is, the devil keeps him from understanding it."

33:07

"The rocky ground is a person who hears God's word and accepts it with joy. But when he suffers hardships, or when other people make him suffer, he falls away from God. That is, he stops trusting in God."

33:08

"The thorny ground is a person who hears God's word. But he begins to worry about many things, and he tries to make a lot of money, and he tries to get many things. After some time, he is not able to love God any longer. So what he learned from God's word does not make him able to please God. He is like wheat stalks that do not produce any grain."

33:09

"But the seed in the good soil is a person who hears the word of God, believes it, and produces fruit."

What the Story Says

1. Why did Jesus get into a boat to teach the people?

The people were crowding too tightly around him. So Jesus got into the boat so that he would have room to speak to all the people (See: [33:01](#)).

2. What happened to the seed that fell on the path?

The birds ate the seed that fell on the path (See: [33:02](#)).

3. What happened to the seed that fell on rocky ground?

The seed that fell on rocky ground did not have enough soil for its roots, so it withered and died (See: [33:03](#)).

4. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns?

The thorns choked out the seed that fell among them so that it did not produce any grain (See: [33:04](#)).

5. What happened to the seed that fell on the good soil?

The seed that fell on the good soil produced 30, 60 or even 100 times as much grain as the seed that was planted (See: [33:05](#)).

6. What does the seed in the story represent?

The seed in the story represents the word of God that goes out to different people (See: [33:06](#)).

7. What does the seed on the path represent?

The seed on the path represents people who do not understand the word of God. Then the devil takes it away from them (See: [33:06](#)).

8. What does the seed on the rocky ground represent?

The seed on the rocky ground represents people who hear the word of God, but then hardship causes them to stop trusting in God (See: [33:07](#)).

9. What does the seed on the thorny ground represent?

The seed on the thorny ground represents people who allow money and other things to distract them from their love for God (See: [33:07](#)).

10. What does the seed in the good soil represent?

The seed in the good soil is the person who hears and believes the word of God (See: [33:09](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think Jesus told this story to the large crowd?

There would be many kinds of people in the large crowd. They would respond to the words of Jesus in different ways. This story described how they would respond. They would all hear the words of Jesus, but only a few would believe his words and do what God wanted them to do. The other people would fail to love God for different reasons.

2. How can hardship and suffering cause a person to stop trusting in God?

Many people wrongly think that God will only allow good things to happen to them. Therefore, when they suffer, they think that God has deceived them or that he does not care about them. They stop trusting in him and following him. But God promised that people would treat his disciples badly.

3. How do worries about money and other things cause people to stop loving God?

Jesus said that people cannot love both God and money. They must choose to serve either God or possessions. Many people try to do both, but they cannot. If they do not stop loving their possessions, they stop loving God. God is not pleased with these people.

4. How does a person produce 30, 60 or 100 times as much fruit?

A single person can cause many other people to hear about Jesus and to love God. This may not happen all at once. But if they obey God throughout their lives and tell others about him, many people will respond to their testimony. The people may be their family, their friends, or even total strangers.

Summary

A large crowd came to hear Jesus teach. There were so many people that he had to get into a boat in the water so that he had room to speak to them all. The people in the crowd would respond to his words in different ways. Some would not understand at all. Others would believe for a while and then fade away. But some would believe his words and serve God for their entire lives. For this reason, Jesus told the story about a farmer sowing seed. The seed fell on different kinds of soil, and it grew in different ways. The seed on the different kinds of soil represented the different people in the crowd. Jesus was telling the crowd and his disciples that they should pay attention to whether they believed the word of God. They should also make sure that they did not let anything else in their lives take the place of their love for God. If they continued to believe, they would accomplish much for God.

34. Jesus Teaches Other Stories

A Bible story from: Matthew 13:31-46; Mark 4:26-34; Luke 13:18-21; 18:9-14

34:01

Jesus told many other stories about the kingdom of God. For example, he said, "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that someone planted in his field. You know that the mustard seed is the smallest seed of all."

34:02

"But when the mustard seed grows, it becomes the largest of all of the garden plants, big enough that even the birds come and rest in its branches."

34:03

Telling another story, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like yeast that a woman mixes into some bread dough until it spreads throughout the dough."

34:04

"The kingdom of God is also like treasure that someone hid in a field. Another man found the treasure and wanted it very much. So he buried it again. He was so filled with joy that he went and sold everything he had so he could buy that field where the treasure was."

34:05

"The kingdom of God is also like a perfect pearl of great value. When a pearl merchant found it, he sold all that he had so he could buy it."

34:06

There were some people who thought God would accept them because they were doing good things. These people despised others who did not do those good things. So Jesus told them this story: "There were two men, both of whom went to the Temple to pray. One of them was a tax collector, and the other was a religious leader."

34:07

"The religious leader prayed like this, 'Thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like other men—such as robbers, unjust men, adulterers, or even like that tax collector over there.'"

34:08

"For example, I fast two times every week and I give you ten percent of all the money and goods that I receive."

34:09

"But the tax collector stood far away from the religious leader. He did not even look up to heaven. Instead, he pounded on his chest with his fist and prayed, 'God, please be merciful to me because I am a sinner.'"

34:10

Then Jesus said, "I tell you, God heard the tax collector's prayer, and declared him to be righteous rather than the religious leader. God will dishonor everyone who is proud, but he will honor whoever humbles himself."

What the Story Says

1. What was Jesus talking about when he told his stories?

He was talking about the kingdom of God (See: [34:01](#)).

2. How did Jesus describe the mustard seed?

The mustard seed was the smallest of all the seeds that people planted at that time (See: [34:01](#)).

3. What happens to the mustard seed when it grows?

The mustard seed becomes bigger than other garden plants, so that even birds nest in its branches (See: [34:02](#)).

4. What happens to the yeast that a woman mixes into bread dough?

It spreads throughout the dough (See: [34:03](#)).

5. What did the man do when he found the treasure in a field?

He was filled with joy, and went and sold everything he had so he could buy that field (See: [34:04](#)).

6. What did the merchant do when he found a perfect pearl?

He sold all that he had so he could buy that pearl (See: [34:05](#)).

7. How did the religious leader pray?

He thanked God that he was not a sinner like other men (See: [34:07](#)).

8. How did the tax collector pray?

He asked God to be merciful to him because he was a sinner (See: [34:09](#)).

9. Which man did God declare to be righteous?

Jesus said that God declared the tax collector to be righteous (See: [34:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. In what way is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed?

The kingdom of God will be small when it begins, but it will grow to become larger than all other kingdoms of the world.

2. In what way is the kingdom of God like yeast?

The kingdom of God will spread throughout the world.

3. In what way is the kingdom of God like a treasure hidden in a field?

The kingdom of God is so valuable that a person should be willing to sell everything they own in order to obtain it, and then rejoice.

4. What wrong understanding did some people have about who God would accept?

Some people thought God would accept them because they did good things. Jesus told the story of the two men in order to correct their wrong understanding.

5. Why might the people who heard the story of the two men be surprised about who God accepted?

The people of that time thought tax collectors were evil and religious rulers were good. They did not understand that everyone is a sinner, and that God only accepts the people who humble themselves and confess that they are sinners.

Summary

Jesus told five stories to explain what the kingdom of God is like. The stories of the mustard seed and the yeast showed that the kingdom of God will begin small, but will become larger than all other kingdoms, filling the whole earth. The stories of the treasure and the perfect pearl showed that the kingdom of God is so valuable that people should be willing to sell all they own in order to obtain it. And the story of the two men who prayed showed that God will only accept into his kingdom people who confess their sins. He will not accept proud people who trust in their good works instead of confessing their sins.

35. The Story of the Compassionate Father

A Bible story from: Luke 15

35:01

One day, Jesus was teaching many people who had gathered to hear him. These people were tax collectors and also other people who did not try to obey the Law of Moses.

35:02

Some religious leaders saw Jesus talking to these people as friends. So they began to tell each other that he was doing wrong. Jesus heard them talk, so he told them this story.

35:03

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'Father, I want my inheritance now!' So the father divided his property between his two sons."

35:04

"Soon the younger son gathered all that he had and went far away and wasted his money in sinful living."

35:05

"After that, a severe famine occurred in the land where the younger son was, and he had no money to buy food. So he took the only job he could find, feeding pigs. He was so miserable and hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food."

35:06

"Finally, the younger son said to himself, 'What am I doing? All my father's servants have plenty to eat, and yet here I am starving. I will go back to my father and ask to be one of his servants.'"

35:07

"So the younger son started back towards his father's home. When he was still far away, his father saw him and felt compassion for him. He ran to his son and hugged him and kissed him."

35:08

"The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not worthy to be your son.'"

35:09

"But his father told one of his servants, 'Go quickly and bring the best clothes and put them on my son! Put a ring on his finger and put sandals on his feet. Then kill the best calf so we can have a feast and celebrate, because my son was dead, but now he is alive! He was lost, but now we have found him!'"

35:10

"So the people began to celebrate. Before long, the older son came home from working in the field. He heard the music and dancing and wondered what was happening."

35:11

"When the older son found out that they were celebrating because his brother had come home, he was very angry and would not go into the house. His father came out and begged him to come and celebrate with them, but he refused."

35:12

"The older son said to his father, 'All these years I have worked faithfully for you! I never disobeyed you, and still you did not give me even one small goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours has wasted your money doing sinful things. When he came home, you killed the best calf to celebrate!'"

35:13

"The father answered, 'My son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But it is right for us to celebrate because your brother was dead, but now is alive. He was lost, but now we have found him!'"

What the Story Says

1. Why did the religious leaders criticize Jesus?

The religious leaders criticized Jesus because he treated the tax collectors and sinners as friends (See: [35:02](#)).

2. Why did the man's younger son decide to return to his father?

The younger son had no money, and was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food he gave to the pigs. He realized that the servants of his father lived better than that (See: [35:05](#), [35:06](#)).

3. What did the man's younger son want his father to do for him when he returned home?

The man's younger son wanted his father to treat him as a servant, and not as a son (See: [35:06](#), [35:08](#)).

4. What did the father do when he saw his younger son?

The father was so happy that he ran to his younger son and hugged and kissed him (See: [35:07](#)).

5. What did the man's younger son tell his father after his father greeted him?

The man's younger son told his father that he had sinned against his father and against God, and that he was not worthy to be his father's son (See: [35:08](#)).

6. Why did the father need to go out to his older son?

The father went out to his older son because the older son would not come into the house where they were celebrating that his younger brother had returned (See: [35:11](#)).

7. Why was the man's older son angry with his father?

The man's older son was angry with his father because he thought his father treated his younger son better than he treated his older son. The man's older son thought his father should treat him better because he stayed home and worked while his younger brother went away and wasted his money (See: [35:12](#)).

8. Why should the father and his older son celebrate?

The father told his older son that they should celebrate because his younger brother had returned to them alive. This was a time to rejoice, rather than a time to be angry about the past (See: [35:13](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did the man's younger son demand that his father give him his inheritance while his father was still alive?

Perhaps the man's younger son only wanted his father's possessions, and was not interested in honoring his father (See: [35:03](#)).

2. Why do you think the father agreed to give his inheritance to his sons while he was still alive?

It seems that the father loved his sons more than he loved his possessions (See: [35:03](#)).

3. How is the younger son an example of people who run away from God and live according to their desires?

Many people are like the younger son. They want to live according to their own desires rather than to be friends with God the Father.

4. Do you think the father should have treated his younger son well when he returned?

Many people would think the father should have rejected his younger son since that son abandoned him. However, the father in the story was merciful, just as God the Father is merciful. He continued to love his son and accepted him with joy when he returned.

5. How should people who have sinned, but who now want to come to God, expect God to treat them?

Jesus told this story to people who had sinned, but who were then coming to God. He wanted them to know that God will accept them when they come to him.

6. Why do you think some believers want to make it difficult for people who have sinned to come to God?

Some believers do not think it is fair that God accepts people who have sinned without punishing them. In this story, Jesus showed that God will not punish people who have sinned when they come to him and ask him to forgive them.

Summary

The religious leaders worked hard to try to please God. They were angry that Jesus treated tax collectors and sinners as friends when they came to listen to his teaching. So Jesus told this story to show them why God was happy when sinners returned to him. The father in the story represents God the Father. The older son represents the religious leaders. The younger son represents the tax collectors who sinned, but were now coming back to God. Jesus wanted the religious leaders to know that it was right to celebrate that these sinners were coming to God.

36. The Transfiguration

A Bible story from: Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

36:01

One day, Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John, with him. (The disciple named John was not the same person who baptized Jesus.) They went up on a high mountain by themselves to pray.

36:02

As Jesus was praying, his face became as bright as the sun. His clothes became as white as light, whiter than anyone on earth could make them.

36:03

Then Moses and the prophet Elijah appeared. These men had lived on the earth hundreds of years before this. They talked with Jesus about his death, because he would soon die in Jerusalem.

36:04

As Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus, Peter said to Jesus, "It is good for us to be here. Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But Peter did not know what he was saying.

36:05

As Peter was talking, a bright cloud came down and surrounded them. Then they heard a voice coming from the cloud. It said, "This is my Son whom I love. I am pleased with him. Listen to him." The three disciples were terrified and fell on the ground.

36:06

Then Jesus touched them and said, "Do not be afraid. Get up." When they looked around, the only one still there was Jesus.

36:07

Jesus and the three disciples went back down the mountain. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not tell anyone yet about what happened here. I will soon die and then come back to life. After that, you may tell people."

What the Story Says

1. Who did Jesus take with him when he went up the mountain to pray?

He took Peter, James, and John (See: [36:01](#)).

2. In what way did Jesus' face change as he was praying?

His face became as bright as the sun (See: [36:02](#)).

3. In what way did Jesus' clothes change as he was praying?

His clothes became as white as light, whiter than anyone on earth could make them (See: [36:02](#)).

4. Who appeared with Jesus on the mountain?

Moses and the prophet Elijah appeared with him (See: [36:03](#)).

5. What were Jesus, Moses, and Elijah talking about?

They were talking about Jesus' death, which would soon happen in Jerusalem (See: [36:03](#)).

6. What did Peter offer to do for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah?

Peter offered to build three shelters for them (See: [36:04](#)).

7. Who answered Peter?

God the Father answered as a voice from heaven (See: [36:05](#)).

8. What did God the Father tell Peter to do?

God said that Peter should listen to Jesus, because he was God's Son whom he loved, and God was pleased with him (See: [36:05](#)).

9. What did the disciples do when they heard God's voice?

The disciples fell down on the ground in fear (See: [36:05](#)).

10. What did the disciples see when Jesus told them to get up?

They no longer saw anyone there except Jesus (See: [36:06](#)).

11. When would Jesus allow the disciples to tell people what had happened on the mountain?

Jesus told the disciples that after he would die and come back to life, they could then tell people what had happened on the mountain (See: [36:07](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think Jesus took only Peter, James, and John with him up the mountain, and not the other disciples?

Jesus allowed Peter, James, and John to see and hear more things than the other disciples. This may have been because they would become the highest leaders of the early church.

2. Why do you think the appearance of Jesus changed?

While Jesus was on earth, he appeared as a normal person. However, he was also God. On the mountain, he allowed the disciples to see a glimpse of his divine nature. Both his face and his clothes changed to the form they have in heaven.

3. Why is it significant that Moses and Elijah were the two men who were talking with Jesus?

Moses represents all the law of God, and Elijah represents all the Old Testament prophets who prophesied that the Messiah would come and die in order to save people. When they appeared with Jesus, that showed that Jesus was the Messiah.

4. Why was it not proper for Peter to make shelters for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah?

Peter wanted to make three shelters in order to honor Jesus, Moses, and Elijah as equals. But they were not equal. Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God. He was greater than Moses and Elijah. Therefore, God the Father spoke from heaven and told Peter to listen only to Jesus.

5. Why do you think Jesus did not allow the disciples to tell anyone what had happened on the mountain right away?

The disciples did not yet understand what these things meant. They would not be able to explain them properly at that time. However, after Jesus would die and come back to life again, they would understand these things, and could explain to other people what these things meant.

Summary

Jesus took only his closest disciples—Peter, James, and John—up the mountain with him. He then allowed them to see him briefly change to his divine appearance and talk with Moses and Elijah about his coming death. The disciples were not yet able to understand what these things meant. But after the death and resurrection of Jesus, they would understand that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God. They would then be able to explain to other people that God sent his Son Jesus as the Messiah to pay the penalty for the sins of other people.

37. Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

A Bible story from: John 11:1-46

37:01

There was a man named Lazarus. He had two sisters named Mary and Martha. They were all close friends of Jesus. One day someone told Jesus that Lazarus was very sick. When Jesus heard this, he said, "This sickness will not end with Lazarus dying. Instead, it will cause people to honor God."

37:02

Jesus loved his friends, but he waited where he was for two days. After those two days he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea." "But Teacher," the disciples answered, "just a short time ago the people there wanted to kill you!" Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, and I must wake him."

37:03

Jesus' disciples replied, "Master, if Lazarus is sleeping, then he will get better." Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe in me."

37:04

When Jesus arrived at Lazarus' hometown, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. Martha went out to meet Jesus and said, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I believe God will give you whatever you ask from him."

37:05

Jesus replied, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies. Everyone who believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha answered, "Yes, Master! I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God."

37:06

Then Mary arrived. She fell at the feet of Jesus and said, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus asked them, "Where have you put Lazarus?" They told him, "In the tomb. Come and see." Then Jesus wept.

37:07

The tomb was a cave with a stone rolled in front of its opening. When Jesus arrived at the tomb, he told them, "Roll the stone away." But Martha said, "He has been dead for four days. There will be a bad smell."

37:08

Jesus answered, "Did I not tell you that you would see God's power if you believe in me?" So they rolled the stone away.

37:09

Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always listen to me, but I say this in order to help all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

37:10

So Lazarus came out! He was still wrapped in grave clothes. Jesus told them, "Help him take off those grave clothes and release him!" Many of the Jews believed in Jesus because of this miracle.

37:11

But the religious leaders of the Jews envied Jesus, so they gathered together to plan how they could kill Jesus and Lazarus.

What the Story Says

1. What did Jesus say would be the result of Lazarus being sick?

He said that Lazarus' illness would cause people to honor God (See: [37:01](#)).

2. How long did Jesus wait before he went to see Lazarus?

Jesus waited two days in the place where he was (See: [37:02](#)).

3. What did Jesus mean when he said that Lazarus was sleeping?

When Jesus said Lazarus was sleeping, he was using a polite way to say that Lazarus was dead (See: [37:02](#), [37:03](#)).

4. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus finally arrived at his home?

Lazarus had already been dead for four days by that time (See: [37:04](#)).

5. What title did Jesus give to himself when he spoke to Martha?

Jesus said that he was the Resurrection and the Life (See: [37:05](#)).

6. Who did Martha say that Jesus was?

She said he was the Messiah, the Son of God (See: [37:05](#)).

7. Why was Martha afraid to open the tomb?

She was afraid that the body of Lazarus would smell bad because he had been dead for four days (See: [37:07](#)).

8. What did Jesus say to his Father was the reason that he was praying to his Father?

Jesus said he was praying to his Father so that the people standing around would believe that God had sent Jesus into the world (See: [37:08](#)).

9. What did Lazarus do when Jesus told him to come out of the tomb?

Lazarus became alive again and came out of the tomb, still wrapped in the grave clothes (See: [37:10](#)).

10. Why did the religious leaders of the Jews plan to kill Jesus and Lazarus?

They envied Jesus, because the people believed in him (See: [37:11](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think Jesus spoke about Lazarus' death as if Lazarus were asleep?

Lazarus had died, but he would not remain dead. Jesus knew that he would make Lazarus alive again. Jesus perhaps said Lazarus was asleep in order to show that his death was temporary. In the same way, God speaks of all believers who die as being asleep. This encourages followers of Jesus when a fellow believer dies.

2. Why did Jesus wait for two days before he went to Lazarus?

Jesus did not want his friend Lazarus to suffer, or his sisters to grieve. But the most important thing to Jesus was to honor God. Therefore, Jesus allowed Lazarus, Martha, and Mary to suffer so that God would be honored when Jesus made Lazarus alive again. For followers of Jesus, suffering is temporary, and can bring glory to God.

3. Why were the disciples surprised that Jesus wanted to go to Lazarus in Judea?

The Jewish leaders in Judea wanted to kill Jesus. However, Jesus was not afraid to die. In fact, he came to earth in order to die for sinners. Therefore, he was willing to go to Judea even though he knew they wanted to kill him there.

4. In what way was the faith of Martha and Mary limited?

Martha and Mary both believed that Jesus was able to prevent Lazarus from dying. However, neither of them understood that Jesus could raise Lazarus to life even after he had died.

5. Why do you think the religious leaders did not believe in Jesus even after he raised Lazarus from the dead?

The religious leaders hated Jesus because people listened to Jesus instead of to them. They wanted power over people so badly that they would not even believe in him when he performed a miracle that only God can do. Their sin kept them from seeing that Jesus was God.

Summary

Jesus honored God with everything he did. He was not afraid of people who wanted to kill him. He was willing to allow Lazarus to die even though it made Martha, Mary, and Jesus himself very sad. The most important thing was to honor God. As a result, Martha, Mary, the disciples, and many others saw God work powerfully through Jesus to raise Lazarus to life again. This proved that Jesus was the Resurrection, the Life, the Messiah, and the Son of God. However, even these proofs did not stop the sinful religious leaders from hating Jesus and plotting to kill him.

38. Jesus Is Betrayed

A Bible story from: Matthew 26:14-56; Mark 14:10-50; Luke 22:1-53; John 18:1-11

38:01

Every year, the Jews celebrated the Passover. This was a celebration of how God had saved their ancestors from slavery in Egypt many centuries earlier. About three years after Jesus first began preaching and teaching publicly, Jesus told his disciples that he wanted to celebrate this Passover with them in Jerusalem, and that he would be killed there.

38:02

One of Jesus' disciples was a man named Judas. Judas was in charge of the apostles' moneybag, but he often stole money out of the bag. After Jesus and the disciples arrived in Jerusalem, Judas went to the Jewish leaders. He offered to betray Jesus by identifying him to the authorities in exchange for money. He knew that the Jewish leaders did not accept that Jesus was the Messiah. He knew that they wanted to kill him.

38:03

The Jewish leaders, led by the high priest, paid Judas 30 silver coins to betray Jesus by handing him over to them. This happened just as the prophets said it would. Judas agreed, took the money, and went away. He began looking for an opportunity to help them arrest Jesus.

38:04

In Jerusalem, Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples. During the Passover meal, Jesus took some bread and broke it. He said, "Take and eat this. This is my body, which I will give for you. Do this to remember me." In this way, Jesus said that he would die for them, that he would sacrifice his body for them.

38:05

Then Jesus picked up a cup of wine and said, "Drink this. It is my blood of the New Covenant that I will pour out so that God will forgive your sins. Do what I am doing now, to remember me every time you drink it."

38:06

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "One of you will betray me." The disciples were shocked, and asked who would do such a thing. Jesus said, "The person to whom I give this piece of bread is the betrayer." Then he gave the bread to Judas.

38:07

After Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. Judas left and went to help the Jewish leaders arrest Jesus. It was nighttime.

38:08

After the meal, Jesus and his disciples walked to the Mount of Olives. Jesus said, "You will all abandon me tonight. It is written, 'I will strike the shepherd and all the sheep will be scattered.'"

38:09

Peter replied, "Even if all the others abandon you, I will not!" Then Jesus said to Peter, "Satan wants to have all of you, but I have prayed for you, Peter, that your faith will not fail. Even so, tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know me."

38:10

Peter then said to Jesus, "Even if I must die, I will never deny you!" All the other disciples said the same thing.

38:11

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples to pray that they would not enter into temptation. Then Jesus went to pray by himself.

38:12

Jesus prayed three times, "My Father, if it is possible, please let me not have to drink this cup of suffering. But if there is no other way for people's sins to be forgiven, then let your will be done." Jesus was very troubled and his sweat was like drops of blood. God sent an angel to strengthen him.

38:13

After each time of prayer, Jesus came back to his disciples, but they were asleep. When he returned the third time, Jesus said, "Wake up! My betrayer is here."

38:14

Judas came with the Jewish leaders, soldiers, and a large crowd. They were carrying swords and clubs. Judas came to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Teacher," and kissed him. He did this to show the Jewish leaders the man to arrest. Then Jesus said, "Judas, are you betraying me with a kiss?"

38:15

As the soldiers were seizing Jesus, Peter pulled out his sword and cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. But Jesus said, "Put the sword away! I could ask the Father for an army of angels to defend me, but I must obey my Father." Jesus healed the man's ear. Then all the disciples ran away.

What the Story Says

1. What does the Passover celebrate?

It celebrates how God saved the Jews from slavery in Egypt (See: [38:01](#)).

2. What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen to him in Jerusalem after the Passover?

He told them that he would be killed there (See: [38:01](#)).

3. What did Judas offer to do for the Jewish leaders in exchange for money?

He offered to betray Jesus to them so they could kill Jesus (See: [38:02](#)).

4. What did Jesus say the bread he broke represented?

Jesus said the bread was his body, which he would give for the disciples (See: [38:04](#)).

5. What did Jesus say the cup of wine he drank represented?

Jesus said the cup of wine was the New Covenant in his blood, which he would pour out for the disciples (See: [38:05](#)).

6. As Jesus and the disciples walked to the Mount of Olives, what did Jesus say the disciples would all do that night?

Jesus said the disciples would all abandon him, like sheep scattering when their shepherd is struck (See: [38:08](#)).

7. What did Jesus say that Peter would do before the rooster crowed that night?

He said Peter would deny three times that he even knew Jesus (See: [38:09](#)).

8. What did Jesus ask his Father to do when he prayed in the garden?

Jesus asked his Father not to make him drink the cup of suffering. But he also asked his Father to do his will even if there was no other way except for Jesus to die (See: [38:12](#)).

9. What did the disciples do instead of watching with Jesus?

They fell asleep, because they were very tired (See: [38:13](#)).

10. How did Judas betray Jesus to the crowd?

He pretended to honor Jesus by greeting him with a kiss (See: [38:14](#)).

11. What did Jesus do for the servant of the high priest?

Jesus healed the servant after Peter cut off his ear with a sword (See: [38:15](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did the disciples not suspect that Judas would betray Jesus?

Judas appeared to be just like the other disciples. In fact, they trusted him so much that they put him in charge of their shared money bag. Judas fooled all of the disciples. Jesus alone knew that he would betray Jesus.

2. What new meaning did Jesus reveal about the Passover meal?

Jesus said the bread and the cup of wine at the Passover meal would remind the disciples that Jesus gave his body and shed his blood in order to save them.

3. Why do you think the disciples did not believe that they would abandon Jesus?

The disciples thought they were brave enough to stand with Jesus. They were offended when he warned them that they would flee. Therefore, they fell asleep instead of watching and praying as Jesus had asked them. As a result, they were not able to stand with him when Judas and the crowd came for Jesus.

4. What does Jesus prayer to his Father in the garden teach us about doing God's will?

Jesus did not want to suffer and die, and asked his Father to spare him. However, Jesus was also willing to suffer in order to do his Father's will. He knew that there was no other way for sinners to be saved if he did not die for them. Therefore, he was willing to be arrested and killed.

5. Why did the Jewish leaders need Judas to betray Jesus?

Jesus taught publicly every day, but the Jewish leaders were afraid to arrest him in front of the crowds who came to listen to him. They needed Judas to tell them when Jesus would be in a secluded place so they could arrest him in secret.

6. Why do you think Peter struck the servant of the high priest with his sword?

Peter did not understand that Jesus must die for sinners. He had not listened each time Jesus told him this would happen. Therefore, he wrongly tried to save Jesus by force. But Jesus rebuked Peter and even healed the servant that Peter struck. He did not want his servants to prevent his arrest.

Summary

Jesus knew that the Passover meal represented the way Jesus would suffer and die for sinners. He explained this to his disciples, but they did not understand him or believe that he would die. None of the disciples prayed or prepared for the time when Jesus would be betrayed. Even worse, his own disciple, Judas, betrayed him. Then the other disciples ran away. However, this did not surprise Jesus. He knew they would leave him and that he would die. That was the reason for which he came into the world.

39. Jesus Is Put on Trial

A Bible story from: Matthew 26:57-27:26; Mark 14:53-15:15; Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:12-19:16

39:01

It was now the middle of the night. The soldiers led Jesus to the house of the high priest because he wanted to question Jesus. Peter was following far behind them. When the soldiers took Jesus into the house, Peter stayed outside and warmed himself by a fire.

39:02

Inside the house, the Jewish leaders put Jesus on trial. They brought many false witnesses who lied about him. However, their statements did not agree with each other, so the Jewish leaders could not prove he was guilty of anything. Jesus did not say anything.

39:03

Finally, the high priest looked directly at Jesus and said, "Tell us, are you the Messiah, the Son of the living God?"

39:04

Jesus said, "I am, and you will see me seated with God and coming from heaven." The high priest tore his clothes because he was angry at what Jesus said. He shouted to the other leaders, "We do not need any more witnesses to tell us what this man has done! You yourselves have heard him say that he is the Son of God. What is your decision about him?"

39:05

The Jewish leaders all answered the high priest, "He deserves to die!" Then they blindfolded Jesus, spit on him, hit him, and mocked him.

39:06

As for Peter, he was waiting outside the house. A servant girl saw him. She said to him, "You also were with Jesus!" Peter denied it. Later, another girl said the same thing, and Peter denied it again. Finally, some people said, "We know that you were with Jesus because you both are from Galilee."

39:07

Then Peter said, "May God curse me if I know this man!" Immediately after Peter swore like this, a rooster crowed. Jesus turned around and looked at Peter.

39:08

Peter went away and cried bitterly. At the same time, Judas, the one who had betrayed Jesus, saw that the Jewish leaders had condemned Jesus to die. Judas became full of sorrow and went away and killed himself.

39:09

Now Pilate was the governor of Judea. He worked for Rome. The Jewish leaders brought Jesus to him. They wanted Pilate to condemn Jesus and kill him. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

39:10

Jesus answered, "You have said the truth. But my kingdom is not here on earth. If it were, my servants would fight for me. I have come to earth to tell the truth about God. Everyone who loves the truth listens to me." Pilate asked, "What is truth?"

39:11

After speaking with Jesus, Pilate went out to the crowd and said, "I cannot find any reason that this man deserves to die." But the Jewish leaders and the crowd shouted, "Crucify him!" Pilate replied, "He is not guilty of doing anything wrong." But they shouted even louder. Then Pilate said a third time, "He is not guilty!"

39:12

Pilate became afraid that the crowd would begin to riot, so he agreed to have his soldiers crucify Jesus. The Roman soldiers whipped Jesus and put a royal robe and a crown made of thorns on him. Then they mocked him by saying, "Look, the King of the Jews!"

What the Story Says

1. Where did the soldiers first take Jesus after they arrested him?

They took him to the house of the high priest (See: [39:01](#)).

2. What did the Jewish leaders do to try and prove that Jesus was guilty?

They brought many false witnesses who lied about Jesus. However, the witnesses did not agree with each other, so they could not prove that Jesus was guilty of anything (See: [39:02](#)).

3. What question did the high priest ask Jesus, and how did Jesus answer?

The high priest asked if Jesus was the Messiah, and the Son of the living God. Jesus told the high priest that this was who he was (See: [39:03](#), [39:04](#)).

4. How did the Jewish leaders react when Jesus said he was the Messiah and the Son of God?

They all became angry and shouted that Jesus deserved to die. They blindfolded him, spit on him, hit him, and mocked him (See: [39:05](#)).

5. What did Peter say when people outside the high priest's house said he had been with Jesus?

Peter swore and said he did not know Jesus (See: [39:07](#)).

6. What did Judas do to himself after Jesus was arrested?

Judas went away and killed himself (See: [39:08](#)).

7. What question did Pilate ask Jesus?

Pilate asked Jesus if he was the king of the Jews (See: [39:09](#)).

8. Why did Jesus say his servants would not fight to defend him?

Jesus' kingdom was not on earth, so his servants did not fight on earth to save him (See: [39:10](#)).

9. What did Pilate decide about whether Jesus was guilty?

Pilate decided that Jesus was not guilty of anything, and told this to the crowd three times (See: [39:11](#)).

10. Why did Pilate tell his soldiers to crucify Jesus?

Pilate was afraid the crowd would riot, so he ordered his soldiers to crucify Jesus in order to satisfy the crowd. Therefore, they whipped Jesus and prepared to kill him (See: [39:12](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. What was the only charge the high priest was able to bring against Jesus?

Jesus had not done anything wrong, so the high priest could not find true witnesses against him. Finally, he accused Jesus of pretending to be the Messiah and the Son of God. Jesus really was God's Son, so he was not pretending. He was innocent, but the high priest would not believe him. Therefore, the whole group of religious leaders condemned Jesus.

2. How is it encouraging to followers of Jesus that Peter denied Jesus?

Peter was one of Jesus' closest disciples. He truly believed in Jesus, and became a leader in the church. However, even Peter denied Jesus when the people accused him. No believer is perfect. Jesus does not expect us to always do the right thing. Just as Jesus loved Peter in spite of his failure, followers of Jesus know he will forgive them when they repent of their sin.

3. Why do you think God allowed Jesus to be falsely accused and condemned?

God knows that our fallen nature causes us to sin. His Holy Spirit enables people to do his will. By dying, Jesus took the place of sinners, accepting God's judgment of sin on himself, even though he was without sin. Paying the penalty for our sin, he made it possible for God to forgive sinners. So God allowed the Jewish leaders and the Romans to convict Jesus even though they knew he was innocent. Evil actions do not stop God's plan or his will from happening.

Summary

When Jesus was arrested and tried, everyone who should have defended him turned against him instead. The religious leaders rejected the Messiah that God sent to them. Peter denied that he knew Jesus. And Pilate ordered his soldiers to crucify Jesus even though he knew that Jesus was innocent. But God used all of these evil things to accomplish his plan. He wanted Jesus to die in order to make a way for God to forgive sinners. And Jesus was willing to die in order to accomplish God's plan.

40. Jesus Is Crucified

A Bible story from: Matthew 27:27-61; Mark 15:16-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:17-42

40:01

After the soldiers mocked Jesus, they led him away to crucify him. They made him carry the cross on which he would die.

40:02

The soldiers brought Jesus to a place called 'the Skull' and nailed his hands and feet to the cross. But Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." They also put a sign on the cross above his head. It said, "King of the Jews." This is what Pilate had told them to write.

40:03

Then the soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothing. When they did this, they fulfilled a prophecy that said, "They divided my garments among them, and gambled for my clothing."

40:04

There were also two robbers whom the soldiers crucified at the same time, putting them on either side of Jesus. One of the robbers mocked Jesus, but the other said to him, "Do you not fear that God will punish you? We are guilty of doing many bad things, but this man is innocent." Then he said to Jesus, "Please remember me when you become king in your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

40:05

The Jewish leaders and the other people in the crowd mocked Jesus. They said to him, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and save yourself! Then we will believe you."

40:06

Then the sky over the whole region became completely dark, even though it was the middle of the day. It became dark at noon and stayed dark for three hours.

40:07

Then Jesus cried out, "It is finished! Father, I am giving my spirit into your hands." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. When he died, there was an earthquake. In the Temple, the large curtain that separated the people from the presence of God was torn in two from the top to the bottom.

40:08

Through his death, Jesus opened the way for people to come to God. When a soldier guarding Jesus saw everything that had happened, he said, "Certainly, this man was innocent. He was the Son of God."

40:09

Then two Jewish leaders named Joseph and Nicodemus came and asked Pilate for Jesus' body. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah. They wrapped his body in cloth, took it to a tomb cut out of rock and placed it inside. Then they rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to block the opening.

What the Story Says

1. What did the soldiers force Jesus to carry?

They forced him to carry the cross on which he would die (See: [40:02](#)).

2. What did Jesus ask his Father to do for the soldiers who crucified him?

He asked his Father to forgive them, for they did not understand what they were doing (See: [40:02](#)).

3. What did the sign above Jesus' head say?

The sign said **King of the Jews** (See: [40:02](#)).

4. What did Jesus promise to the robber who asked Jesus to remember him?

Jesus promised him that he would be with Jesus that very day in Paradise (See: [40:04](#)).

5. What did the Jewish leaders and people in the crowd tell Jesus to do so that they might believe in him?

They told Jesus to come down from the cross and to save himself (See: [40:05](#)).

6. What happened to the sky as Jesus was on the cross?

The sky became completely dark for three hours in the middle of the day (See: [40:06](#)).

7. What did Jesus cry out to his Father as he died?

He said that it was finished, and gave his spirit into his Father's hands (See: [40:07](#)).

8. What happened to the curtain in the Temple when Jesus died?

The curtain was torn in two from the top to the bottom (See: [40:07](#)).

9. What did the the Roman soldier say about Jesus when he died?

The soldier said the Jesus was certainly innocent, and that he was the Son of God (See: [40:08](#)).

10. Who buried Jesus?

Two Jewish leaders named Joseph and Nicodemus buried Jesus (See: [40:09](#)).

11. How did Joseph close the tomb?

He rolled a large stone in front of the tomb to block the entrance (See: [40:09](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think Jesus said the soldiers did not know what they were doing?

The soldiers were Romans who did not know very much about the Jewish religion. They probably thought Jesus was an ordinary criminal, and they treated him as one.

2. They soldiers gambled for Jesus' clothing. Why does that help us believe Jesus was the Messiah?

This action was one of many things that the scriptures, written hundreds of years before, said they would do to the Messiah. All these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

3. Jesus told the robber who repented that he would be with Jesus in Paradise that day. What does that tell us about the way to enter into heaven?

The robber did not perform a single good deed. Instead, he simply confessed that he was a sinner, and asked Jesus to remember him in the kingdom. As a result, Jesus promised that he would be in Paradise (that is, heaven) that same day. The way to enter into heaven is to believe in Jesus.

4. Why do you think Jesus did not come down from the cross and save himself when the people asked him to?

The people who told Jesus to come down from the cross did not want to believe in him. They were only mocking him. They did not realize that he had the power to come down from the cross. But he came to earth to die for sinners. That was the will of his Father. He had to stay on the cross and give up his own life in order to make it possible for God to forgive other people who believed in Jesus.

5. What was finished when Jesus cried out?

When Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" he wanted to say that he had finished paying the penalty for the sins of everyone in the world. It was now possible for God to forgive those who repented and trusted in Jesus. People no longer needed to die for their own sins.

6. Why was the curtain of the Temple torn from top to bottom?

The curtain of the Temple prevented people from seeing or entering into the most holy place in the Temple where God was. God in heaven above tore the curtain from the top to the bottom when Jesus died. He did this to show that Jesus had opened a way for man to approach God through the sacrifice of Jesus.

7. Why did the soldier say that Jesus was innocent, and the Son of God?

The Roman soldier had probably executed hundreds of criminals. He recognized that Jesus did not act like a criminal. Instead, he was a good man who asked his Father to forgive the soldiers, and who spoke kindly to the robber who repented. Furthermore, the miraculous signs that happened when Jesus died convinced the soldier that Jesus was not just a man—he was the Son of God.

Summary

Jesus suffered greatly as he died. The soldiers mocked and mistreated him. The religious leaders and the crowd mocked him. Even one of the robbers on a cross beside him mocked him. Despite this, Jesus remained on the cross and suffered in order to make a way for God to forgive sinners. He was willing to die in order to obey his Father and finish the task that he came to do. One of the robbers understood this, and went to heaven with Jesus. One of the soldiers also saw that Jesus was truly the Son of God. And two of the religious leaders believed in Jesus and honored him by burying his body. God was honored even through the death of his Son.

41. God Raises Jesus from the Dead

A Bible story from: Matthew 27:62-28:15; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

41:01

After the soldiers crucified Jesus, the Jewish leaders said to Pilate, "That liar, Jesus, said he would rise from the dead after three days. Someone must guard the tomb to make sure that his disciples do not steal the body. If they do, they will say he has risen from the dead."

41:02

Pilate said, "Take some soldiers and guard the tomb as well as you can." So they placed a seal on the stone at the entrance of the tomb. They also put soldiers there to make sure no one could steal the body.

41:03

The day after Jesus died was a Sabbath day. No one could work on the Sabbath day, so no friends of Jesus went to his tomb. But on the day after the Sabbath, very early in the morning, several women got ready to go to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to put more spices on his body.

41:04

Before the women arrived, there was a great earthquake at the tomb. An angel came from heaven. He rolled away the stone that was covering the entrance to the tomb and sat on it. This angel was shining as brightly as lightning. The soldiers at the tomb saw him. They were so terrified that they fell to the ground like dead men.

41:05

When the women arrived at the tomb, the angel told them, "Do not be afraid. Jesus is not here. He has risen from the dead, just like he said he would! Look in the tomb and see." The women looked into the tomb and saw where Jesus' body had been laid. His body was not there!

41:06

Then the angel told the women, "Go and tell the disciples, 'Jesus has risen from the dead and he will go to Galilee ahead of you.'"

41:07

The women were amazed and very joyful. They ran to tell the disciples the good news.

41:08

As the women were on their way to tell the disciples the good news, Jesus appeared to them. They bowed down at his feet. Then Jesus said, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to go to Galilee. They will see me there."

What the Story Says

1. What were the Jewish leaders afraid the disciples would do with the body of Jesus?

They were afraid the disciples would steal Jesus' body and say he had risen from the dead (See: [41:01](#)).

2. How did Pilate make sure the disciples could not steal Jesus' body?

Pilate let them place a seal on the entrance of the tomb, and also stationed some soldiers there to guard it. (See: [41:02](#)).

3. When did the women come to the tomb?

The women came to the tomb after the Sabbath day was over (See: [41:03](#)).

4. What did the women plan to do at the tomb?

The women wanted to put more spices on Jesus' body (See: [41:03](#)).

5. Who rolled the stone away from the tomb?

An angel from heaven rolled the stone away from the tomb (See: [41:04](#)).

6. What did the soldiers do when they saw the angel?

The soldiers were so afraid that they fell to the ground like dead men (See: [41:04](#)).

7. What did the angel tell the women had happened to Jesus?

The angel told them that Jesus was not there, but that he had risen from the dead (See: [41:05](#)).

8. What did the angel tell the women to say to the disciples?

He told them to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, and would go ahead of them to Galilee (See: [41:06](#)).

9. What did the women do when Jesus appeared to them as they were on their way?

The woman fell down and worshiped Jesus (See: [41:08](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Who was it that remembered Jesus' promise to rise from the dead in three days?

It is surprising that the disciples did not remember the Jesus said he would rise from the dead in three days. Instead, it was the unbelieving Jewish leaders who remembered what he said. They did not believe him, but they did remember his words. The disciples should have remembered.

2. Were the soldiers able to prevent the tomb from opening?

The Roman soldiers were the best soldiers of that time. However, they could not stand against the single angel that God sent to open the tomb. The strongest military force could not stop God from doing what he planned to do. When the angel appeared, they fell down like dead men.

3. How did the angel treat the women who came to the tomb?

The angel knew that the women had come to honor Jesus by putting spices on his body. Therefore, the angel spoke kindly to them and told them not to be afraid. He showed them the empty tomb, and told them that Jesus would meet them in Galilee.

4. Why do you think Jesus met the women, when he told them the same thing as the angel?

Jesus did not need to appear to the women. The angel had already told them that he was alive and would meet the disciples in Galilee. But Jesus also knew that the women had come to honor him. Perhaps he appears to them for that reason, so he could honor them for coming to serve him. The women were therefore the first people to see Jesus after he became alive again.

Summary

Jesus had told the disciples and other people the he would become alive again after three days. Surprisingly, the disciples did not remember this, nor come to the tomb to see if he would rise again. Only the women came, and even they did not expect Jesus to be alive. The only people who seemed to remember that he promised to rise again were the unbelieving religious leaders. They remembered what Jesus said, and tried to stop people from believing that he would rise from the dead. They posted soldiers to make sure his body remained in the tomb. But they could not stop the plan of God. An angel struck down the soldiers, and Jesus rose with power.

42. Jesus Returns to Heaven

A Bible story from: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:12-20; Luke 24:13-53; John 20:19-23; Acts 1:1-11

42:01

On the day that God raised Jesus from the dead, two of his disciples were going to a nearby town. As they walked, they talked about what had happened to Jesus. They had hoped that he was the Messiah, but then he was killed. Now the women said he was alive again. They did not know what to believe.

42:02

Jesus approached them and started walking with them, but they did not recognize him. He asked what they were talking about. They told him about all the things that had happened to Jesus during the previous few days. They thought they were talking to a foreigner who did not know what had happened in Jerusalem.

42:03

Then Jesus explained to them what God's word said about the Messiah. Long ago, prophets had said that evil men would make the Messiah suffer and die. But the prophets also said he would rise again on the third day.

42:04

When they arrived at the town where the two men wanted to stay, it was almost evening. They invited Jesus to stay with them, so he went into a house with them. They sat down to eat their evening meal. Jesus picked up a loaf of bread, thanked God for it, and then broke it. Suddenly, they recognized that he was Jesus. But at that moment, he disappeared from their sight.

42:05

The two men said to each other, "That was Jesus! That is why we were so excited when he explained God's word to us!" Immediately they left and went back to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they told the disciples, "Jesus is alive! We have seen him!"

42:06

As the disciples were talking, Jesus suddenly appeared in the room with them. He said, "Peace to you!" The disciples thought he was a ghost, but Jesus said, "Why are you afraid? Why do you not think it is really I, Jesus? Look at my hands and feet. Ghosts do not have bodies like I do." To show that he was not a ghost, he asked for something to eat. They gave him a piece of fish, and he ate it.

42:07

Jesus said, "Everything about me that God's word says will happen, I have told you that it must happen." Then Jesus made them understand God's word better. He said, "Long ago, prophets wrote that I, the Messiah, would suffer, die, and then rise from the dead on the third day."

42:08

"The prophets also wrote that my disciples will proclaim God's message. They will tell everyone to repent. If they repent, God will forgive their sins. My disciples will proclaim this message starting in Jerusalem. Then they will go to all people groups everywhere. You are witnesses of everything I have said and done, and of everything that happened to me."

42:09

During the next 40 days, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times. Once, he even appeared to more than 500 people at the same time! In many ways, he proved to his disciples that he was alive, and he taught them about the kingdom of God.

42:10

Jesus said to his disciples, "God has given me the right to rule over everyone in heaven and on earth. So I am telling you now: go and make disciples in all people groups. In order to do this, you must baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You must also teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. Remember, I will always be with you."

42:11

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he told his disciples, "Stay in Jerusalem until my Father gives you power. He will do this by sending the Holy Spirit upon you." Then Jesus went up to heaven, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Jesus sat down in heaven at the right hand of God to rule over all things.

What the Story Says

1. What were the two disciples talking about as they went to a nearby town?

They were talking about what had happened to Jesus. The women had said Jesus was alive, so they did not know what to believe (See: [42:01](#)).

2. Who did the disciples think Jesus was?

They thought he was a foreigner who did not know what had happened in Jerusalem (See: [42:02](#)).

3. What did Jesus explain to the two disciples?

Jesus explained what God's word said about the Messiah—how he would suffer and die, and then rise again on the third day (See: [42:03](#)).

4. When did the two disciples recognize Jesus?

They recognized him when he broke the bread with them (See: [42:04](#)).

5. How did Jesus convince the disciples in Jerusalem that he was not a ghost?

He showed them his hands and feet, and then ate a piece of fish before them (See: [42:05](#)).

6. What is the message that the prophets said Jesus' disciples would proclaim?

They would tell everyone to repent so God will forgive their sins. They would tell this to people everywhere, starting in Jerusalem (See: [42:08](#)).

7. How many people saw Jesus at one time after he rose from the dead?

More than 500 people saw him at the same time (See: [42:09](#)).

8. What did Jesus command his disciples to do?

He told them to make disciples in all people groups, and to baptize them and to teach them to obey everything that he had commanded them (See: [42:10](#)).

9. Where did Jesus go 40 days after he rose from the dead?

Jesus went up to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God to rule over all things (See: [42:11](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why do you think the two disciples on the road did not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead?

They had thought Jesus was the Messiah, so it was very difficult and discouraging for them when he died. Perhaps they did not want to believe the report from the women so that they would not be disappointed again if Jesus was not really alive.

2. Why do you think the two disciples did not recognize Jesus?

It seems as if Jesus prevented the two disciples from recognizing him. Perhaps he wanted them to believe the things the prophets had written about him in God's word before he revealed himself to them. From the time Jesus went back to heaven, people have not been able to see him, and must believe in him because of what God's word says about him.

3. Why did the disciples in Jerusalem not believe Jesus was alive when he first appeared to them?

Jesus had told the disciples that he would become alive again after three days. The woman had also seen him alive at the tomb and told the disciples. And the two disciples who saw Jesus on the road told them that Jesus was alive. Even so, when Jesus appeared among them in the room, they thought he was a ghost. It is amazing that they did not believe he was alive even with so much proof. They only understood clearly after Jesus explained to them the things written about him in God's word.

4. What must people do in order for God to forgive them?

People must repent in order for God to forgive them. That is, they must change their minds about themselves and confess that they are sinners, and change their minds about God and confess that Jesus died to pay for their sins.

5. To whom are Jesus' disciples to speak his message?

We are to proclaim God's message about Jesus to all people groups everywhere.

6. How long are Jesus' disciples to proclaim his message?

We are to continue to proclaim his message until there are disciples among all people groups who obey everything that Jesus commanded us.

7. How does Jesus help his disciples to proclaim his message?

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give power to his disciples so they can proclaim his message to everyone everywhere.

8. What is Jesus doing as his disciples proclaim his message?

Jesus is in heaven ruling over all things at the right hand of God. This encourages his disciples, as they know that he will enable them to do what he has commanded us. He will cause disciples to believe in him in every people group.

Summary

The disciples did not understand that the Messiah had to die for the sins of people. Therefore, they were so discouraged when Jesus died that it was difficult for them to believe that he was alive again—even when there was so much proof that he was alive. However, Jesus appeared alive to many of the disciples over a period of 40 days in order to prove to them from the word of God that he was the Messiah and had risen from the dead. He then sent the Holy Spirit to give them power so they could tell people everywhere to repent, believe in him, and obey all that he commanded us. Meanwhile, he is sitting at the right hand of God and ruling over everything.

43. The Church Begins

A Bible story from: Acts 1:12-14; 2

43:01

After Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples stayed in Jerusalem as Jesus had commanded them to do. The believers there constantly gathered together to pray.

43:02

Every year, 50 days after the Passover, the Jews celebrated an important day called Pentecost. Pentecost was a time when the Jews celebrated the wheat harvest. Jews came from all over the world to Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost together. This year the time for Pentecost came about a week after Jesus had gone back to heaven.

43:03

While the believers were all together, suddenly the house where they had gathered was filled with a sound like a strong wind. Then something that looked like flames of fire appeared over the heads of all the believers. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they praised God in other languages. They did not know these languages, but these were languages that the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak.

43:04

When the people in Jerusalem heard this noise, they came together in a crowd to see what was happening. They heard the believers proclaiming the great things God had done. They were astonished because they could understand even though they were from many different countries and spoke many different languages. The disciples were from Israel and spoke Aramaic, Hebrew, or Greek, but the people were each hearing what God had done in their own native language.

43:05

Some of these people said that the disciples were drunk. But Peter stood up and said to them, "Listen to me! These people are not drunk! Instead, what you see is what the prophet Joel said would happen: God said, 'In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit.'"

43:06

"Men of Israel, Jesus was a man who did many wonderful things to show who he was. He did many amazing things by God's power. You know this because you saw these things. But you crucified him!"

43:07

"Jesus died, but God raised him from the dead. This made come true what a prophet wrote: 'You will not let your Holy One rot in the grave.' We are witnesses that God raised Jesus to life again."

43:08

"God the Father has now honored Jesus by making him sit at his right hand. And Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to us just as he promised he would do. The Holy Spirit is causing the things that you are now seeing and hearing."

43:09

"You crucified this man, Jesus. But know for certain that God has caused Jesus to become both the Lord of everything and the Messiah!"

43:10

The people listening to Peter were deeply moved by the things that he said. So they asked Peter and the disciples, "Brothers, what should we do?"

43:11

Peter answered them, "All of you need God to forgive your sins. So repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ. Then God will also give you the Holy Spirit as a gift."

43:12

About 3,000 people believed what Peter said and became disciples of Jesus. They were baptized and became part of the church at Jerusalem.

43:13

The believers continually listened as the apostles taught them. They often met together and ate together, and they often prayed with each other. They praised God together and they shared everything they had with each other. Everyone in the city thought well of them. Every day, more people became believers.

What the Story Says

1. Why did the believers constantly gather together in Jerusalem?

They continually gathered together to pray (See: [43:01](#)).

2. What happened to the believers as they were gathered together during Pentecost?

As the believers were gathered together, the house was filled with the sound of a strong wind and something like flames of fire appeared over their heads. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages (See: [43:03](#)).

3. What astonished the crowd when they came to see the believers?

They heard the believers speaking in the native language of each person in the crowd (See: [43:04](#)).

4. How did Peter reply when the crowd said the believers were drunk?

Peter told the crowd that they were not drunk, but that this was the Spirit of God poured out on the believers as the prophet Joel had said long ago (See: [43:05](#)).

5. According to Peter, how did God the Father honor Jesus?

God the Father honored Jesus by making him sit at his right hand, and by making him both Lord over everything and the Messiah (See: [43:06](#), [43:07](#)).

6. When the people asked Peter what they should do, how did he reply?

Peter told them to repent so that God would forgive them and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (See: [43:11](#)).

7. How many people believed what Peter preached and became disciples of Jesus that day?

About 3,000 people believed Peter and became disciples of Jesus (See: [43:12](#)).

8. What did the new believers do together in Jerusalem?

They continued to listen to the teaching of the apostles. They also met, ate, and prayed together. And they continually praised God together and shared everything they had with each other (See: [43:13](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. What was the main thing the believers continually did when they gathered together?

Prayer was very important to the believers. They continually gathered together to pray to God as a group, in addition to praying individually. Perhaps that is why God did such powerful works among them.

2. How did the gift of speaking in other languages help the believers proclaim the message of Jesus?

The people in Jerusalem knew the believers could not speak the native languages of everyone in the crowd. When they heard and saw them do this, they knew it was a miracle. Therefore, they were ready to listen to Peter as he preached to them. They could also speak to any person from any language group about Jesus, and that person would understand completely what they said.

3. What did Peter tell the crowd about Jesus?

Peter told them that they had crucified Jesus, but that God had raised him from the dead just as the prophets had said he would. Peter and the believers were eyewitnesses of this. Peter also said that God had honored Jesus by making him sit at his right hand in heaven, and that it was Jesus who was sending the Holy Spirit.

4. How did people respond to Peter's message?

God caused the people to be deeply moved so that they asked Peter what they should do. God will not always cause people to respond in this way, but on that occasion, 3,000 people believed the message and repented.

5. How did the people of Jerusalem react when they saw that the believers continually met together to pray, praise God, and share with each other?

When everyone in Jerusalem saw how the believers treated each other and praised God, they thought well of them, and many more people became believers.

Summary

After Jesus went up to heaven, the believers continually met to pray together. Soon God sent the Holy Spirit to do a mighty work in them. He enabled them to speak in the native language of every person to whom they spoke. People were amazed at this. They listened to Peter as he told them that Jesus, whom they had crucified, had become Lord and Messiah and had sent the Holy Spirit to do this. When they heard this, 3,000 immediately believed in Jesus and were baptized. As they continued to meet together, other people saw how they praised God and helped each other. As a result, the church continued to grow.

44. Peter and John Heal a Beggar

A Bible story from: Acts 3-4:22

44:01

One day Peter and John went to the Temple. A crippled man was sitting at the gate, begging for money.

44:02

Peter looked at the lame man and said, "I do not have any money to give you. But I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus, get up and walk!"

44:03

Immediately, God healed the lame man. He began to walk and jump around, and to praise God. The people in the courtyard of the Temple were amazed.

44:04

A crowd of people quickly came to see the man who was healed. Peter said to them, "This man is well, but do not be amazed at this. We did not heal him with our own power or because we honor God. Rather, it is Jesus who healed this man with his power, because we believe in Jesus."

44:05

"You are the ones who told the Roman governor to kill Jesus. You killed the one who gives life to everybody. But God raised him from the dead. You did not understand what you were doing, but when you did those things, what the prophets said came true. They said that the Messiah would suffer and die. God made it happen in this way. So now, repent and turn to God, so that he will wash away your sins."

44:06

When the leaders of the Temple heard Peter and John, they were very upset. So they arrested them and put them into prison. But many people believed what Peter said. The number of men who believed in Jesus grew to about 5,000.

44:07

The next day the Jewish leaders brought Peter and John to the high priest and the other religious leaders. They also brought the man who had been crippled. They asked Peter and John, "By what power did you heal this crippled man?"

44:08

Peter answered them, "This man standing before you has been healed by the power of Jesus the Messiah. You crucified Jesus, but God raised him to life again! You rejected him, but there is no other way to be saved except through the power of Jesus!"

44:09

The leaders were shocked that Peter and John spoke so boldly. They saw that these men were ordinary men who were uneducated. But then they remembered that these men had been with Jesus. So they said to them, "We will punish you very much if you give any more messages to the people about this man Jesus." After saying many things like this, they let Peter and John go.

What the Story Says

1. Why was the crippled man sitting at the gate of the Temple?

He was begging for money from the people who were coming to the Temple (See: [44:01](#)).

2. What did Peter give the crippled man instead of money?

Peter told him to get up and walk in the name of Jesus (See: [44:02](#)).

3. According to Peter, whose power healed the crippled man?

Peter said the man was not healed by the power of Peter and John, but by the power of Jesus (See: [44:04](#)).

4. What did Peter tell the people to do?

He told them to repent and turn to God so that God would wash away their sins (See: [44:05](#)).

5. How many believers were there in Jerusalem after this message by Peter?

The number of believers grew to about 5,000 (See: [44:06](#)).

6. What did the Jewish leaders do to Peter and John after they healed the man?

The leaders arrested them and brought them before the high priest and the other leaders (See: [44:07](#)).

7. According to Peter, what was the only way to be saved?

Peter said there is no other way to be saved except through the power of Jesus Christ (See: [44:08](#)).

8. Why were the leaders shocked that Peter and John spoke so boldly?

Peter and John were ordinary, uneducated men. They should not have been able to speak so powerfully (See: [44:09](#)).

9. What did the leaders tell Peter and John before they let them go?

The leaders threatened to punish them if they continued to speak to the people about Jesus (See: [44:09](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. What did the crippled man have to do in order to be healed?

It appears that the crippled man did not have to do anything to be healed. We do not even know if he believed in Jesus before he was healed. Instead, Peter believed that Jesus would heal the man, and God healed him.

2. How did the healing of the crippled man happen?

The crippled man was immediately and completely healed. One minute, he could not stand, and the next minute, he was able to walk and jump around. The change was so obvious to everyone that the people who saw it were amazed and responded to Peter's message.

3. Who gave the power to heal the crippled man?

Peter was very careful to tell the people that the power to heal the man did not come from Peter and John. Instead, Jesus healed the man because Peter and John believed in Jesus. Peter and John were very humble about the way God used them.

4. Why did Peter tell the crowd that they killed Jesus?

People cannot be saved if they do not repent. Therefore, Peter clearly explained how they had sinned by rejecting Jesus. Although they did not personally kill Jesus, they wanted Pilate to kill him, and so they were guilty of his death. They needed to confess that sin before God would save them, so Peter was not afraid to confront them.

5. Is there any other way to be saved other than through Jesus?

Peter very clearly told the religious leaders that there is no other way to be saved except through Jesus. The works of the leaders would not save them. No other god could save them. Jesus is the only way.

6. What did the leaders decide was the reason that Peter and John spoke so boldly?

The leaders realized that they spoke so boldly because they had been with Jesus. It did not matter that they were not educated, and that they did not have important positions among their people. They followed Jesus and learned from him. Therefore, they were able to speak boldly and accurately for him.

Summary

Jesus has gone up to heaven, but he continued to give power to his disciples so they could do his work on earth. Jesus powerfully healed the crippled man through Peter so that many saw and believed Peter's message. Jesus also enabled Peter and John to speak boldly to the Jewish leaders and to not be afraid of their threats. Instead, with great power, they continued to proclaim the message of Jesus to everyone. As a result, the church in Jerusalem continued to grow.

45. Stephen and Philip

A Bible story from: Acts 6-8

45:01

One of the leaders among the first followers of Jesus was a man named Stephen. Everyone respected him. The Holy Spirit gave him much power and wisdom. Stephen did many miracles. Many people believed him when he taught them to trust in Jesus.

45:02

One day when Stephen was teaching about Jesus, some Jews who did not believe in Jesus came and began to argue with him. They became very angry, so they went to the religious leaders and told lies about him. They said, "We heard Stephen speak evil things about Moses and God!" So the religious leaders arrested Stephen and brought him to the high priest and the other leaders of the Jews. More false witnesses came and lied to them about Stephen.

45:03

The high priest asked Stephen, "Are these men telling the truth about you?" Stephen began to say many things in order to answer the high priest. He said that God had done many wonderful things for the people of Israel from the time when Abraham lived to the time of Jesus. But the people had always disobeyed God. Stephen said, "You people are stubborn and rebellious against God. You always reject the Holy Spirit, just as our ancestors always rejected God and always killed his prophets. But you did something worse than they did! You killed the Messiah!"

45:04

When the religious leaders heard this, they were so angry that they covered their ears and yelled loudly. They dragged Stephen out of the city and threw stones at him in order to kill him.

45:05

As Stephen was dying, he cried out, "Jesus, receive my spirit." He fell to his knees and cried out again, "Master, do not hold this sin against them." Then he died.

45:06

That day many people in Jerusalem started persecuting the followers of Jesus, so the believers fled to other places. But in spite of opposition, they preached about Jesus everywhere they went.

45:07

There was a believer in Jesus named Philip. He fled from Jerusalem, as did most other believers. He went to the region of Samaria where he preached to people about Jesus. Many people believed him and were saved. One day, an angel came from God to Philip and told him to go into the wilderness, and to walk down a certain road. Philip went there. As he was walking on the road, he saw a man riding in his chariot. This man was an important official from the land of Ethiopia. The Holy Spirit told Philip to go and talk with this man.

45:08

So Philip went to the chariot. He heard the Ethiopian reading God's word. He was reading what the prophet Isaiah had written. The man read, "They led him like a lamb to be killed, and as a lamb is silent, he did not say a word. They treated him unfairly and did not respect him. They took his life away from him."

45:09

Philip asked the Ethiopian, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "No. I cannot understand it unless someone explains it to me. Please come and sit next to me. Was Isaiah writing about himself or someone else?"

45:10

Philip got into the chariot and sat down. Then he told the Ethiopian man that Isaiah had written about Jesus. Philip also spoke about many other parts of God's word. In this way, he told the man the good news about Jesus.

45:11

As Philip and the Ethiopian traveled, they came to some water. The Ethiopian said, "Look! There is some water! May I be baptized?" And he told the driver to stop the chariot.

45:12

So they went down into the water, and Philip baptized the Ethiopian. After they came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit suddenly carried Philip away to another place. There Philip continued to tell people about Jesus.

45:13

The Ethiopian continued traveling toward his home. He was happy that he now knew Jesus.

What the Story Says

1. What lie did the unbelieving Jews tell about Stephen?

They lied and said he was speaking evil things about Moses and God (See: [45:02](#)).

2. What evil things did Stephen say the people of Israel had done?

In the past, the people of Israel had always disobeyed God, rejected the Holy Spirit, and killed God's prophets. But Stephen said that they had now done something even worse—they had killed the Messiah (See: [45:03](#)).

3. What did the religious leaders do to Stephen when they heard what he said about them?

They dragged Stephen out of the city and threw stones at him to kill him (See: [45:04](#)).

4. What did Stephen ask God to do for the religious leaders?

Stephen asked God not to hold it against them that they were stoning him (See: [45:05](#)).

5. What did the believers do when the persecution forced them to leave Jerusalem?

They fled to other places and continued to preach about Jesus everywhere they went (See: [45:06](#)).

6. Who did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to go and meet on the road?

He told Philip to meet an important official from Ethiopia, who was riding in his chariot (See: [45:07](#)).

7. What was the official reading when Philip approached him?

He was reading what the prophet Isaiah wrote about a man who was silent as a lamb when he was killed (See: [45:08](#)).

8. Who did Philip say Isaiah had written about?

Philip said Isaiah had written about Jesus (See: [45:10](#)).

9. What did the Ethiopian ask to do when they came to some water?

The Ethiopian asked Philip if he could be baptized (See: [45:11](#)).

10. What happened to Philip after he baptized the Ethiopian?

The Holy Spirit took Philip away to another place where he continued to tell people about Jesus (See: [45:12](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. How did Stephen respond when he was arrested and brought before the high priest and other leaders?

Even though people had lied about Stephen, he boldly proclaimed the message about Jesus. He was not afraid to tell the leaders that they had sinned and disobeyed God.

2. What was Stephen's attitude toward the Jews who killed him?

Stephen did not condemn the people who killed him. Instead, he was gracious to them and asked God not to punish them for killing him. He loved his enemies even as he was dying.

3. Did the persecution of the believers stop the message about Jesus?

God used the persecution of the believers to spread the message about Jesus even further than Jerusalem. Before the persecution, the believers only preached in Jerusalem. But after the persecution started, they scattered everywhere and preached the message wherever they went.

4. What was Philip doing when the Holy Spirit told him to go to the wilderness to meet the Ethiopian?

Philip was preaching in Samaria, and many people were believing in Jesus as a result. However, the Holy Spirit sent Philip away from Samaria to meet only the Ethiopian. It seems that it was so important that the Ethiopian believed that God took Philip away from speaking to many other people. Philip obeyed God and went.

5. When Philip approached the Ethiopian, how was it exactly the right time for the Ethiopian to hear about Jesus?

The Ethiopian was reading about the Messiah in the book of the prophet Isaiah, but did not know that Isaiah was writing about Jesus. The Holy Spirit brought Philip to the Ethiopian at exactly the right time when he was willing to listen to God's message. Because Philip came to him then, the Ethiopian quickly believed and was baptized.

6. Who suggested that the Ethiopian be baptized?

The Ethiopian himself knew that he should honor Jesus by being baptized in his name. Therefore, he asked Philip to baptize him. Philip did that, and the Ethiopian continued on to his home, happy to know Jesus.

Summary

At first, the Jews approved of the followers of Jesus because of the miracles they did and the way they lived. But they soon turned against the believers. They accused Stephen of saying evil things about Moses and God, and then killed him. After that, they persecuted the believers and forced them to leave Jerusalem and scatter to other places. But God used the persecution to cause the believers to proclaim the message about Jesus to everyone everywhere. Many people believed in Jesus at the preaching Philip and others. But God also sought out individual people, such as the Ethiopian official, who needed to hear about Jesus. Even during the persecution, God was at work to powerfully grow his church.

46. Paul Becomes a follower of Jesus

A Bible story from: Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-31; 11:19-26; 13-14

46:01

There was a man named Saul who did not believe in Jesus. When he was a young man, he guarded the robes of the men who killed Stephen. Later he persecuted the believers. He went from house to house in Jerusalem to arrest both men and women and to put them in prison. Then the high priest gave Saul permission to go to the city of Damascus. He told Saul to arrest followers of Jesus there and to bring them back to Jerusalem.

46:02

So Saul began to travel to Damascus. Just before he reached the city, a bright light in the sky shone all around him, and he fell to the ground. Saul heard someone say, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Master?" Jesus replied to him, "I am Jesus. You are persecuting me!"

46:03

When Saul got up, he could not see. His friends had to lead him into Damascus. Saul did not eat or drink anything for three days.

46:04

There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. God said to him, "Go to the house where Saul is staying. Place your hands on him so that he can see again." But Ananias said, "Master, I have heard how this man has persecuted the believers." God answered him, "Go! I have chosen him to declare my name to the Jews and to people from other people groups. He will suffer many things for my name."

46:05

So Ananias went to Saul, placed his hands on him, and said, "Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, sent me to you so that you can see again, and so the Holy Spirit will fill you." Immediately Saul was able to see again, and Ananias baptized him. Then Saul ate some food and became strong again.

46:06

Right away Saul began preaching to the Jews in Damascus. He said, "Jesus is the Son of God!" The Jews were amazed because Saul had tried to kill believers, and now he believed in Jesus! Saul argued with the Jews. He showed that Jesus was the Messiah.

46:07

After many days, the Jews made a plan to kill Saul. They sent people to watch for him at the city gates in order to kill him. But Saul heard about the plan, and his friends helped him escape. One night they lowered him over the city wall in a basket. After Saul escaped from Damascus, he continued to preach about Jesus.

46:08

Saul went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles, but they were afraid of him. Then a believer named Barnabas took Saul to the apostles. He told them how Saul had preached boldly in Damascus. After that the apostles accepted Saul.

46:09

Some believers who fled from the persecution in Jerusalem went far away to the city of Antioch and preached about Jesus. Most of the people in Antioch were not Jews, but for the first time, people who were not Jews became believers. Barnabas and Saul went there to teach these new believers more about Jesus and to strengthen the church. It was at Antioch that believers in Jesus were first called 'Christians.'

46:10

One day, the followers of Jesus at Antioch were fasting and praying. The Holy Spirit said to them, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul to do the work I have called them to do." So the church in Antioch prayed for Barnabas and Saul and placed their hands on them. Then they sent them out to preach the good news about Jesus in many other places. Barnabas and Saul taught people in different people groups, and many people believed in Jesus.

What the Story Says

1. What did Saul do to the believers in Jerusalem?

He persecuted them by going from house to house to arrest both men and women and put them in prison (See: [46:01](#)).

2. Why did Saul go to the city of Damascus?

The high priest gave Saul permission to go to Damascus to arrest the followers of Jesus there and bring them back to Jerusalem (See: [46:01](#)).

3. What happened to Saul as he was traveling to Damascus?

A bright light shone around him and he heard someone say, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?" (See: [46:03](#)).

4. Who did God send to Saul so that he could see again?

God sent a disciple in Damascus named Ananias to Saul to make him see again (See: [46:04](#)).

5. Who did Saul tell the Jews in Damascus that Jesus was?

Saul told them that Jesus was the Son of God and the Messiah (See: [46:05](#)).

6. How did Saul escape from the Jews in Damascus when they wanted to kill him?

Saul's friends lowered him over the city wall in a basket at night so he could escape (See: [46:07](#)).

7. What happened when Saul tried to meet with the apostles in Jerusalem?

The apostles were afraid of Saul until Barnabas took him to them and explained how Saul had boldly preached about Jesus in Damascus (See: [46:08](#)).

8. How were the believers in Antioch different from the believers in Jerusalem?

The believers in Antioch were not Jews (See: [46:09](#)).

9. Who did the Holy Spirit tell the followers of Jesus in Antioch to set apart to do God's work in other places?

The Holy Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul to do God's work, so they sent them out (See: [46:10](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. What was Saul's attitude about the believers before the Lord appeared to him?

Saul hated the believers and tried to destroy them. He guarded the robes of the people who killed Stephen. Later, he arrested believers throughout Jerusalem, and planned to do the same thing in Damascus. He was perhaps the least likely person we would expect God to save and use for his glory.

2. Why do you think Jesus told Saul that he was persecuting Jesus?

Jesus was already in heaven when Saul began to persecute the believers. But the believers represented Jesus on earth, so when Saul persecuted them, it was as if he was persecuting Jesus himself. Jesus cares about what happens to the believers.

3. What did God tell Ananias that he had chosen Saul to do?

God told Ananias that he had chosen Saul to declare his name to the Jews and to people from other people groups, and to suffer in God's name. Even though Saul had hated the believers and persecuted them, God had a plan to use Saul to spread the good news about Jesus throughout the world of that day.

4. What happened in Damascus when Saul preached about Jesus?

Saul argued boldly with the Jews to prove that Jesus was the Son of God. However, it is not clear if many people believed. Perhaps arguing about Jesus is not the best way to convince people to repent of their sin. After a time, the Jews tried to kill Saul, and he had to escape at night.

5. Who went to Antioch to teach the new believers there?

The two people who went to teach the believers at Antioch were Barnabas and Saul. Saul was the one who God said he would send to people of other nations, such as the people at Antioch. And Barnabas was the one who spoke for Saul and convinced the apostles in Jerusalem to accept him. Both men were uniquely prepared to teach people who were not Jews.

6. How did the Holy Spirit send out Barnabas and Saul?

The Holy Spirit spoke to the believers in the church at Antioch in order to send out Barnabas and Saul. The church then prayed for them, placed their hands on them, and supported them as they went out to preach among the other people groups. God did not send them out alone. Instead, he worked through the church so the believers were deeply involved in the work of Barnabas and Saul.

Summary

As the Jews continued to persecute the believers, God did an amazing thing. He chose to set apart Saul, one of the worst persecutors of the church, and cause him to preach boldly about Jesus! He appeared to Saul on the road in blazing light, rebuked him, and made Saul blind. As a result, Saul believed in Jesus and began to boldly proclaim his name. When the Jews drove him out of Damascus, he went to Jerusalem and continued to preach there. Later, he went with Barnabas to Antioch and taught the first believers who were not Jews. And finally, God told the church at Antioch to send out Barnabas and Saul to preach to other people groups everywhere. God continued to spread the message of Jesus.

47. Paul and Silas in Philippi

A Bible story from: Acts 16:11-40

47:01

As Saul traveled throughout the Roman Empire, he began to use his Roman name, 'Paul.' One day, Paul and his friend Silas went to the town of Philippi to proclaim the good news about Jesus. They went to a place by the river outside the city where people gathered to pray. There they met a woman named Lydia who was a merchant. She loved and worshiped God.

47:02

God enabled Lydia to believe the message about Jesus. Paul and Silas baptized her and her family. She invited Paul and Silas to stay at her house, so they stayed there.

47:03

Paul and Silas often met with people at the place where Jews prayed. Every day as they walked there, a slave girl possessed by a demon followed them. By means of this demon, she predicted the future for people, so she made a lot of money for her masters as a fortuneteller.

47:04

The slave girl kept yelling as they walked, "These men are servants of the Most High God. They are telling you the way to be saved!" She did this so often that Paul became annoyed.

47:05

Finally, one day when the slave girl started yelling, Paul turned to her and said to the demon that was in her, "In the name of Jesus, come out of her." Right away the demon left her.

47:06

The men who owned the slave girl became very angry! They realized that, without the demon, the slave girl could not tell people the future. This meant that people would no longer pay her owners to have her tell their future.

47:07

So the owners of the slave girl took Paul and Silas to the Roman authorities, who beat Paul and Silas, and then threw them into jail.

47:08

They put Paul and Silas in the part of the prison where there were the most guards. They even attached their feet to large pieces of wood. But in the middle of the night, Paul and Silas were singing songs of praise to God.

47:09

Suddenly, there was a violent earthquake! All the prison doors opened wide, and the chains of all the prisoners fell off.

47:10

Then the jailer woke up. He saw that the prison doors were open. He thought that all the prisoners had escaped. He was afraid the Roman authorities would kill him for allowing them to go, so he got ready to kill himself! But Paul saw him and shouted, "Stop! Do not hurt yourself. We are all here."

47:11

The jailer trembled as he came to Paul and Silas and asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul answered, "Believe in Jesus, the Master, and you and your family will be saved." Then the jailer took Paul and Silas into his home and washed their wounds. Paul preached the good news about Jesus to everyone in his house.

47:12

The jailer and his whole family believed in Jesus, so Paul and Silas baptized them. Then the jailer gave Paul and Silas a meal, and they rejoiced together.

47:13

The next day the leaders of the city released Paul and Silas from prison and asked them to leave Philippi. Paul and Silas visited Lydia and some other friends and then left the city. The good news about Jesus kept spreading, and the Church kept growing.

47:14

Paul and other leaders of the believers traveled to many cities. They preached and taught people the good news about Jesus. They also wrote many letters to encourage and teach the believers in the churches. Some of these letters became books of the Bible.

What the Story Says

1. Who was Paul?

Paul was Saul using his Roman name as he traveled through the Roman Empire (See: [47:01](#)).

2. Where did Paul and Silas meet Lydia?

Paul and Silas met Lydia in Philippi when they went to a place by the river outside the city where people gathered to pray (See: [47:02](#)).

3. What did the demon enable the slave girl to do for her masters?

The demon enabled her to predict the future for people. They paid her masters a lot of money for that (See: [47:03](#)).

4. Why was Paul annoyed with the slave girl?

The demon caused her to keep telling people that Paul and Silas were servants of the Most High God (See: [47:04](#)).

5. What did the owners of the slave girl do when Paul forced the demon to leave her?

They became very angry with Paul and Silas, for they realized the girl could no longer tell the future, and people would no longer pay them. So they took Paul and Silas to the authorities, who beat them and put them into jail (See: [47:06](#), [47:07](#)).

6. What happened when the earthquake shook the jail during the night?

All the prison doors opened wide, and the chains of all the prisoners fell off. As a result, the jailer thought the prisoners had escaped, and planned to kill himself (See: [47:09](#), [47:10](#)).

7. What did the jailer ask Paul and Silas when they stopped him from killing himself?

The jailer asked them what he must do in order to be saved (See: [47:11](#)).

8. Why did Paul and Silas baptize the jailer and his whole family?

Paul and Silas baptized them because they all believed in Jesus (See: [47:12](#)).

9. What did Paul do after he and Silas were released from jail in Philippi?

Paul traveled to many cities to preach the good news about Jesus. He also wrote many letters to teach and encourage the believers in the churches. Some of his letters became books of the Bible (See: [47:13](#), [47:14](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why did Paul and Silas go to the river in Philippi?

When Paul and Silas arrived in Philippi, they looked for a place where people would be willing to hear about Jesus. They went to the river because that was the place where people went to pray to God.

2. Why did Lydia need to believe in Jesus if she already loved and worshiped God?

Lydia perhaps followed the Jewish religion. She knew about God, but she did not know about Jesus. When Paul and Silas told her about Jesus, she believed in him and was baptized. It is not enough for a person to believe in God. They must also believe in Jesus, whom God sent, in order to be saved from their sins.

3. Why was Paul so annoyed by the demon that was speaking the truth about Paul and Silas?

Demons are evil, and the enemies of God. Therefore, Paul was not willing to have them speak about God—even if what they said at that time was true. There can be no friendship between demons and the servants of God.

4. What were Paul and Silas doing in the middle of the night while they were in jail?

Even though the authorities beat Paul and Silas and threw them into jail, they were singing songs of praise to God. They trusted God completely, and were able to praise him in the most difficult situations.

5. Why did Paul stop the jailer from killing himself?

Paul had mercy on the jailer. Because he thought the prisoners had escaped, the jailer was so afraid that he planned to kill himself. But Paul and Silas remained in the prison instead of escaping so that they could tell the jailer about Jesus. As a result, the jailer and his whole family believed.

6. To whom did Paul write the letters that became books of the Bible?

Paul wrote all of his letters to the believers in the churches of that time. However, the Holy Spirit guided Paul so that some of his books are also written to us today to encourage and teach us. Therefore, each book of the Bible has both an ancient and a modern audience.

Summary

Paul never forgot that God saved him from persecuting the believers and enabled him to proclaim the message about Jesus to people in many different people groups. Because God was so gracious to him, Paul was willing to go anywhere for God, and to praise him even when he was suffering. As a result, God used Paul powerfully to preach to people in many cities throughout the world. In addition, Paul wrote many letters to believers in different cities to teach and encourage them. Many of these letters became books of the Bible and continue to teach and encourage us today. Therefore, Paul's ministry extended to places he never visited, and continues long after his death, even to today.

48. Jesus Is the Promised Messiah

A Bible story from: Genesis 1-3, 6, 14, 22; Exodus 12, 20; 2 Samuel 7; Hebrews 3:1-6, 4:14-5:10, 7:1-8:13, 9:11-10:18; Revelation 21

48:01

When God created the world, everything was perfect. There was no sin. Adam and Eve loved each other, and they loved God. There was no sickness or death. This was the way God wanted the world to be.

48:02

Satan spoke to Eve in the garden through the snake because he wanted to deceive her. Then she and Adam sinned against God. Because they sinned, everyone on earth dies.

48:03

Because Adam and Eve sinned, something even worse happened. They became enemies of God. As a result, every person since then has sinned. Every person is an enemy of God from birth. There was no peace between people and God. But God wanted to make peace.

48:04

God promised that one of Eve's descendants would crush Satan's head, and Satan would bite his heel. In other words, Satan would kill the Messiah, but God would raise him to life again. The Messiah would take away Satan's power forever. Many years later, God showed that the Messiah is Jesus.

48:05

God told Noah to build a boat to save his family from the flood he was going to send. This is how God saved the people who believed in him. In the same way, everyone deserves death from God because they have sinned. But God sent Jesus to save everyone who believes in him.

48:06

For hundreds of years, priests kept on offering sacrifices to God. This showed people that they committed sin and that they deserved God's punishment. But those sacrifices could not forgive their sins. Jesus did what the priests could not do. He gave himself to be the only sacrifice that could take away everyone's sin. He accepted onto himself the punishment that we should have received for our sins. For this reason, Jesus is the Great High Priest.

48:07

God had told Abraham, "I will bless all the people groups on the earth through you." Jesus was a descendant of this Abraham. God blesses all the people groups through Abraham, because God saves from sin everyone who believes in Jesus. When these people believe in Jesus, God considers them to be descendants of Abraham.

48:08

God told Abraham to sacrifice his own son, Isaac, to him. But then God gave a ram for the sacrifice instead of Isaac. We all deserve to die for our sins! But God gave Jesus to be a sacrifice to die in our place. That is why we call Jesus the Lamb of God.

48:09

When God sent the last plague on Egypt, he told each Israelite family to kill a lamb. The lamb must not have any flaws. Then they had to spread its blood on the tops and sides of their door frames. When God saw the blood, he passed over their houses and did not kill their firstborn sons. When this happened, God called this the Passover.

48:10

Jesus is like a Passover Lamb. He never sinned, so there was nothing wrong with him. He was killed at the time of the Passover festival. When anyone believes in Jesus, the blood of Jesus pays for that person's sin. It is as if God passed over that person, because he does not punish him.

48:11

God made a covenant with the Israelites because they were the people he had chosen to belong to himself. But God has now made a New Covenant that is for everyone. If anyone in any people group accepts this New Covenant, he joins God's people. He does this because he believes in Jesus.

48:12

Moses was a prophet who proclaimed the word of God with great power. But Jesus is the greatest prophet of all. He is God, so all the things he did and said were the actions and words of God. That is why the Scriptures call Jesus the Word of God.

48:13

God promised King David that one of his descendants would rule as king over God's people forever. Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah, so he is the descendant of David who can rule forever.

48:14

David was a king of Israel, but Jesus is the king of the entire universe! He will come again and rule his kingdom with justice and peace forever.

What the Story Says

1. What was the world like when God rested from its creation?

Everything was perfect, and there was no sin, sickness, or death. Adam and Eve loved each other and they loved God (See: [48:01](#)).

2. Why do people die?

Everyone dies because Adam and Eve sinned against God (See: [48:02](#)).

3. What did God promise that the Messiah would do to Satan?

God promised that the Messiah would take away Satan's power forever (See: [48:04](#)).

4. What did the sacrifices that the priest offered to God accomplish?

These sacrifices showed people that they had sinned, and that they deserved God's punishment (See: [48:06](#)).

5. Who did God say he would bless through Abraham?

God said he would bless all the people groups on earth through Abraham (See: [48:07](#)).

6. Why do we call Jesus the "Lamb of God?"

God gave Abraham a lamb to sacrifice instead of his son, Isaac. In the same way, Jesus died in our place as a sacrifice for our sins. That is why he is called the "Lamb of God" (See: [48:08](#)).

7. How is Jesus like the Passover lamb?

Just as God spared the Jews who put the blood of the lamb on their doors, he will not punish the person for whom Jesus shed his blood (See: [48:09](#), [48:10](#)).

8. Why is Jesus a greater prophet than Moses?

Everything Jesus did and said were the actions and words of God (See: [48:12](#)).

9. Why is Jesus able to rule forever?

Jesus is the descendant of King David and also the Messiah. Therefore, he will rule forever (See: [48:13](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why is there evil, suffering, and death in the world?

People do evil things, suffer, and die because Adam and Eve sinned against God. They became sinners because of that, and so did all of their descendants. As a result, every person in the world is a sinner.

2. Why is there no peace between God and people?

When Adam and Eve sinned, they and their descendants became enemies of God. Therefore, there is no peace between God and people.

3. Why did God require sacrifices if they cannot save people from their sins?

God required sacrifices in order to show them that only Jesus, the perfect high priest, could offer a sacrifice that would take away their sins. Any other sacrifice does not save us, but only shows us that we need to believe in Jesus.

4. Who does God want to save from their sins?

God wants to save people from every people group from their sins. Therefore, we must proclaim the message about Jesus to every people group so they can believe in Jesus and be saved.

5. How does the Lamb of God keep God from punishing those who believe in him?

Jesus was perfect, and never sinned. Therefore, when he shed his blood, he died to pay the penalty for our sins, and not for his own. We can be confident, then, that God will not punish us, since Jesus has already paid for our sins.

6. How does a person accept the New Covenant?

The New Covenant that God made with us means that anyone who believes in Jesus belongs to God. It is no longer necessary to obey the Law (that is, the Old Covenant) in order to be saved. Jesus already completely fulfilled the Law. We only need to believe in him in order to be saved.

7. How is Jesus a greater king than King David?

King David ruled over Israel. But Jesus will rule over the entire universe. Therefore, he is a greater king than his ancestor, King David.

Summary

The world was perfect when God created it. But Adam and Eve sinned against God. As a result, they and their ancestors became sinners and enemies of God. But God chose to make a way for there to be peace between God and people. He sent his Son, Jesus, as a great high priest to sacrifice himself as the Lamb of God to pay for our sins. No other sacrifice could do that. Everyone who believes in Jesus belongs to God, and God will not punish them. God wants people from every people group to believe in Jesus and be part of his kingdom when he will rule over the entire universe with justice and peace.

49. God's New Covenant

A Bible story from: Genesis 3; Matthew 13-14; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 2; 10:25-37; 15; John 3:16; Romans 3:21-26, 5:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 1:13-14; 1 John 1:5-10

49:01

An angel told Mary, a young woman, that she would give birth to God's Son. She was still a virgin, but the Holy Spirit came to her and made her become pregnant. She gave birth to a son and named him Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is both God and human.

49:02

Jesus did many miracles that show that he is God. He walked on water and stopped storms. He healed many sick people and drove demons out of many others. He raised dead people to life, and he turned five loaves of bread and two small fish into enough food to feed over 5,000 people.

49:03

Jesus was also a great teacher. Everything he taught, he taught correctly. People should do what he told them to do because he is the Son of God. For example, he taught that you need to love other people the same way you love yourself.

49:04

He also taught that you need to love God more than you love anything else, including your possessions.

49:05

Jesus said that it is better to be in God's kingdom than to have anything else in the world. God must save you from your sins in order for you to enter his kingdom.

49:06

Jesus said that some people will accept him. God will save these people. However, other people will not accept him. He also said that some people are like good soil. Because they accept the good news about Jesus, God saves them. However, other people are like the hard soil on a path. God's Word is like seed that falls on the path, but nothing grows there. These people reject the message about Jesus. They refuse to enter into his kingdom.

49:07

Jesus taught that God loves sinners very much. He wants to forgive them and to make them his children.

49:08

Jesus also told us that God hates sin. Because Adam and Eve sinned, all of their descendants also sin. Every person in the world sins and is far from God. Everyone is an enemy of God.

49:09

But God loved everyone in the world in this way: he gave his only Son so that God will not punish those who believe in Jesus. Instead, believers will live with him forever.

49:10

You deserve to die because you have sinned. It would be right for God to punish you, but Jesus took the punishment for sin in our place. God punished Jesus by killing him on a cross.

49:11

Jesus never sinned. He accepted the punishment for sin, including the worst possible death. In this way, he was the perfect sacrifice to take away your sins and the sins of every person in the world. Jesus sacrificed himself to God, so God will forgive any sin, even terrible sins, of the people who believe in Jesus.

49:12

Even if you do many very good things, this will not make God save you. There is nothing you can do on your own to become friends with him. Instead, you should believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he died on the cross instead of you, and that God raised him to life again. If you believe this, God will forgive you for having sinned.

49:13

God will save everyone who believes in Jesus and accepts him as their Master. But he will not save those who do not believe in him. It does not matter if you are rich or poor, man or woman, old or young, or where you live. God loves you and wants you to believe in Jesus so he can be a friend to you.

49:14

Jesus is calling you to believe in him and to be baptized. Do you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the only Son of God? Do you believe that you are a sinner and that you deserve God's punishment for your sin? Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross to take away your sins?

49:15

If you believe in Jesus and confess what he has done for you, you are a follower of Jesus! Satan no longer rules you in his kingdom of darkness. God is now ruling over you in his kingdom of light. God has enabled you to no longer sin as you used to do. He has given you a new, right way of living.

49:16

If you are a follower of Jesus, God has forgiven your sins because of what Jesus did. Now, God considers you to be a close friend instead of an enemy.

49:17

If you are a friend of God and a servant of Jesus the Master, you will want to obey what Jesus teaches you. Even though you are a follower of Jesus, Satan will still tempt you to sin. But God always does what he says he will do. He says that if you confess your sins, he will forgive you. He will give you strength to fight against sin.

49:18

God tells you to pray and to study his word. He also tells you to worship him together with other followers of Jesus. You must also tell other people what he has done for you. If you do all these things, you will become a strong friend of his.

What the Story Says

1. How did Mary become pregnant with Jesus?

She was a virgin, but the Holy Spirit came to her and made her become pregnant (See: [49:01](#)).

2. What did Jesus say was better than anything else in the world?

He said to be in the kingdom of God was better than anything else in the world (See: [49:05](#)).

3. Who did Jesus say were like good soil?

People who receive the good news about Jesus are like good soil, and God will save them (See: [49:06](#)).

4. What does God want to do for sinners because he loves them very much?

He wants to forgive them and to make them his children (See: [49:07](#)).

5. How did God show that he loves everyone in the world?

He gave his only Son to receive the punishment due to sinners so that those who believe in him will escape the punishment and live with him forever (See: [49:09](#)).

6. How is Jesus the perfect sacrifice to take away your sins?

Jesus never sinned, but he took the place of all sinners, receiving the punishment for sin (See: [49:11](#)).

7. What do you need to do in order to become a follower of Jesus?

If you believe in Jesus and confess what he has done for you, you are a follower of Jesus (See: [49:15](#)).

8. Does Satan tempt followers of Jesus to sin?

Yes, Satan will still tempt followers of Jesus to sin. But if you confess your sins, God will forgive you (See: [49:17](#)).

9. How can you become a strong friend of Jesus?

You will be a strong friend of Jesus if you pray and study his word, worship together with other followers of Jesus, and tell other people what Jesus has done for you (See: [49:18](#)).

What the Story Means to Us

1. Why is it important to us that Jesus is human as well as God?

Because Jesus is human as well as divine he can understand our struggles and weaknesses and will help us to serve God.

2. Why can we be confident that Jesus is God?

He did many powerful miracles for many people that proved he was God. He walked on water, calmed storms, healed sick people, drove out demons, and even raised dead people to life. If he were only a man, he would not have been able to do these things.

3. How can you know that you will be in God's kingdom?

If you believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive your sins, God will save you and invite you into his kingdom.

4. What kind of soil are you—good soil, or hard soil on a path?

Only you can answer that question.

5. Have you become a friend of God and a child of God, or are you still an enemy of God?

Only you can answer that question.

6. Will you pay for your own sins against God, or have you asked Jesus to pay for your sins?

Only you can answer that question.

7. What are you doing to become a strong friend of God?

Only you can answer that question.

Summary

God sent his Son into the world to be human as well as divine. Jesus did many powerful miracles to prove he is the Son of God. Becoming human, he understood our weaknesses and struggles. Being divine, he is able to save us from our sins and make us friends and children of God. He taught us about God and his kingdom, and showed us how to live as his followers. He made it possible for all people to repent of their sins. We can ask God to forgive us because Jesus died for us. God wants every person to hear this message, and to believe in Jesus.

50. Jesus Returns

A Bible story from: Matthew 13:24-42; 22:13; 24:14; 28:18; John 4:35; 15:20; 16:33; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; James 1:12; Revelation 2:10; 20:10; 21-22

50:01

For almost 2,000 years, more and more people around the world have been hearing the good news about Jesus the Messiah. The Church has been growing. Jesus promised he would return at the end of the world. Though he has not yet come back, he will keep his promise.

50:02

As we wait for Jesus to return, God wants us to live in a way that is holy and that honors him. He also wants us to tell others about his kingdom. When Jesus was living on earth, he said, "My disciples will preach the good news about the kingdom of God to people everywhere in the world, and then the end will come."

50:03

Many people groups still have not heard about Jesus. Before he returned to heaven, Jesus told his followers to proclaim the good news to people who have never heard it. He said, "Go and make disciples in all people groups!" and "The fields are ripe for harvest!"

50:04

Jesus also said, "A man's servant is not greater than his master. The important people in this world have hated me, and they will also torture you and kill you because of me. In this world you will suffer, but be strong, because I have defeated Satan, the one who rules this world. If you remain faithful to me to the end, then God will save you!"

50:05

Jesus told his disciples a story to explain what will happen to people when the world ends. He said, "A man planted good seed in his field. While he was sleeping, his enemy came and planted weed seeds among the wheat seeds, and then he went away."

50:06

"When the plants sprouted, the servants of the man said, 'Master, you planted good seed in that field. So why are there weeds in it?' The man answered, 'Only my enemies would want to plant them. It is one of my enemies who did this.'"

50:07

"The servants responded to their master, 'Should we pull out the weeds?' The master said, 'No. If you do that, you will pull out some of the wheat as well. Wait until the harvest. Then gather the weeds into piles so you can burn them. But bring the wheat into my barn.'"

50:08

The disciples did not understand the meaning of the story, so they asked Jesus to explain it to them. Jesus said, "The man who planted the good seed represents the Messiah. The field represents the world. The good seed represents the people of God's kingdom."

50:09

"The weeds represent the people who belong to the devil, the evil one. The man's enemy, the one who planted the weeds, represents the devil. The harvest represents the end of the world, and the harvesters represent God's angels."

50:10

"When the world ends, the angels will gather together all the people who belong to the devil. The angels will throw them into a very hot fire. There those people will cry and grind their teeth in terrible suffering. But the people who are righteous, who have followed Jesus, will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God their Father."

50:11

Jesus also said that he would return to earth just before the world ends. He will come back the same way that he left. That is, he will have a real body, and he will come on the clouds in the sky. When Jesus returns, every follower of Jesus who has died will rise from the dead and meet him in the sky.

50:12

Then the followers of Jesus who are still alive will rise up into the sky and join with the other followers of Jesus who rose from the dead. They will all be with Jesus there. After that, Jesus will live with his people. They will have complete peace forever as they live together.

50:13

Jesus promised to give a crown to everyone who believes in him. They will rule with God over everything forever. They will have perfect peace.

50:14

But God will judge everyone who does not believe in Jesus. He will throw them into hell. There they will weep and grind their teeth, and they will suffer forever. A fire that never goes out will continually burn them, and worms will never stop eating them.

50:15

When Jesus returns, he will completely destroy Satan and his kingdom. He will throw Satan into hell. Satan will burn there forever, along with everyone who chose to follow him rather than to obey God.

50:16

Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into this world, God cursed it and decided to destroy it. But some day God will create a new heaven and a new earth that will be perfect.

50:17

Jesus and his people will live on the new earth, and he will reign forever over everything. He will wipe away every tear from people's eyes. No one will suffer or be sad any longer. They will not cry. They will not be sick or die. And there will be nothing evil there. Jesus will rule his kingdom justly and with peace. He will be with his people forever.

What the Story Says

1. When did Jesus say the end of the world would happen?

He said his disciples would preach the good news about the kingdom of God to people everywhere in the world, and then the end would come (See: [50:02](#)).

2. Will Jesus' servants be treated well in the world?

No, Jesus said the important people in this world would torture and kill them because of him (See: [50:03](#)).

3. What did an enemy do to the field where a man planted good seed?

His enemy planted weeds in the field to ruin his crop (See: [50:05](#)).

4. When the world ends, what will God's angels do to all the people who belong to the devil and not to God?

His angels will gather the people who belong to the devil together and throw them into a very hot fire where they will suffer terribly (See: [50:10](#)).

5. When the world ends, what will happen to the people who are righteous and have followed God?

They will shine like the sun in the kingdom of God their Father (See: [50:10](#)).

6. When Jesus returns, what will happen to every follower of Jesus who has died?

They will rise from the dead and meet him in the sky (See: [50:11](#)).

7. What will Jesus give to everyone who believes in him?

He will give them a crown, and they will rule with God forever and have perfect peace (See: [50:13](#)).

8. Where will God throw everyone who does not believe in Jesus?

He will throw them into hell, where they will suffer forever and burn continually in a fire that never goes out (See: [50:14](#)).

9. What will happen to Satan when Jesus returns?

Jesus will completely destroy Satan and his kingdom and throw him into hell, where he will burn there forever (See: [50:15](#)).

10. What will happen to this earth when Jesus returns?

God will destroy the present heaven and earth and create a new heaven and earth that will be perfect.

What the Story Means to Us

1. Should we be concerned that Jesus has not come back to earth for almost 2,000 years?

No, we should not be worried. Jesus promised to return at the end of the world, and he will keep his promise.

2. What should followers of Jesus be doing as we wait for him to return?

We should be living in a holy way that honors Jesus, and telling other people about his kingdom.

3. What did Jesus want to say when he said, "The fields are ripe for harvest"?

He wanted to say that at any time, there are many people in the world who are ready to believe in Jesus.

4. Should we let persecution stop us from telling people about Jesus?

No, people killed Jesus, and he said they will also torture and kill his servants. Jesus expects us to be faithful just as he was faithful to God.

5. Why are there so many evil people in the world?

Jesus said Satan places evil people in the world just as an enemy placed weeds in a man's field. These people will grow up together with believers, but God's angels will separate them out at the judgement.

6. Why will Jesus give us a crown?

He will give a crown to everyone who believes in him as a sign that they will rule with him forever. This should encourage us in this life.

7. Will God always allow evil and Satan to be in the world?

No, God will throw Satan and every evil person into hell where they will suffer forever. He will even destroy this earth where sin has been, and create a new heaven and earth that will be perfect. That is where believers will live forever with God.

Summary

It has been almost 2,000 years since Jesus went up to heaven, but he will return just as he said he would. He is waiting for us to bring in the harvest by telling everyone about him. Some will believe in Jesus, but many will not believe in him and will even persecute us, his servants. But when the time is right, Jesus will return to judge those who did not believe in him, and will throw them into hell forever. However, he will create a new heaven and earth where he will rule forever together with everyone who believes in him. We will be with him in perfect peace forever.

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