



A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT
YEAR ONE, QUARTER ONE

In The Beginning

THE BOOK OF GENESIS

**A Thirteen Lesson Bible Study
by Jeff S. Smith**

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A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Year One

Year Two

First Quarter: "In The Beginning"

1. Creation (Genesis 1-2)
2. Sin (Genesis 3-4)
3. Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-10)
4. Promises to Abraham (Genesis 11-12, 15-18)
5. Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 13-14, 18-19)
6. Abraham, Sarah and Isaac (Genesis 20-24)
7. Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25-28, 32-33, 36)
8. Jacob and Rachel (Genesis 29-31, 34-35)
9. Joseph Sold Into Slavery (Genesis 37-38)
10. Joseph Imprisoned (Genesis 39)
11. Joseph Interprets Dreams (Genesis 40-41)
12. Providence (Genesis 42-45)
13. Reunited (Genesis 46-50)

Second Quarter: "From Egypt to Canaan"

1. Call of Moses (Exodus 1-5)
2. The Nine Plagues (Exodus 6-10)
3. The Passover (Exodus 11-13)
4. Crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 14-18)
5. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 19-31)
6. The Golden Calf (Exodus 32-40)
7. Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 1-10)
8. Holy Living (Leviticus 11-27)
9. Leaving Sinai for Canaan (Numbers 1-10)
10. Loyalty and Disloyalty (Numbers 11-21)
11. Balaam and Balak (Numbers 22-36)
12. Moses's Review (Deuteronomy 1-4)
13. Moses's Final Charge (Deuteronomy 5-34)

Third Quarter: "Taming Canaan"

1. Entrance Into The Land (Joshua 1-4)
2. Jericho (Joshua 5-6)
3. Ai and Other Conquests (Joshua 7-21)
4. Covenant Matters (Joshua 22-24)
5. Failure to Drive Out Canaanites (Judges 1-2)
6. Deborah and Other Judges (Judges 3-5)
7. Gideon (Judges 6-9)
8. Jephthah (Judges 10-12)
9. Samson and Delilah (Judges 13-16)
10. Tribal Depravity (Judges 17-21)
11. The Courtship of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 1-4)
12. Samuel's Beginnings (First Samuel 1-3)
13. The Ark of the Covenant (First Samuel 4-6)

Fourth Quarter: "The Throne of David"

1. Institution of the Monarchy (First Samuel 7-12)
2. The Reign of Saul Begins (First Samuel 13-16)
3. David and Goliath (First Samuel 17)
4. Saul Persecutes David (First Samuel 18-20)
5. David's Flight and Fight (First Samuel 21-24)
6. Abigail and David (First Samuel 25)
7. Saul's Downfall (First Samuel 26-28)
8. David's Rise (First Samuel 29-31)
9. David Becomes King (Second Samuel 1-5)
10. David's Successes (Second Samuel 6-10)
11. David and Bathsheba (Second Samuel 11-12)
12. Absalom's Rebellion (Second Samuel 13-19)
13. David's Decline (Second Samuel 20-24)

First Quarter: "Israel and Judah"

1. David's Demise (First Kings 1-2)
2. Solomon's Splendor (First Kings 3-10)
3. Solomon's Demise (First Kings 11)
4. Rehoboam and Jeroboam (First Kings 12-16)
5. Elijah (First Kings 17-19)
6. Ahab and Jezebel (First Kings 20-22)
7. Elisha (Second Kings 1-4, 6)
8. Naaman the Leper (Second Kings 5)
9. Bloody Reigns (Second Kings 7-12)
10. Fall of Israel (Second Kings 13-17)
11. Hezekiah (Second Kings 18-21)
12. Josiah (Second Kings 22-23)
13. Fall of Judah (Second Kings 24-25)

Second Quarter: "The Major Prophets"

1. The Book of Isaiah (Part 1)
2. The Book of Isaiah (Part 2)
3. The Book of Isaiah (Part 3)
4. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 1)
5. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 2)
6. The Book of Jeremiah (Part 3)
7. The Book of Lamentations
8. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 1)
9. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 2)
10. The Book of Ezekiel (Part 3)
11. The Book of Daniel (Part 1)
12. The Book of Daniel (Part 2)
13. The Book of Daniel (Part 3)

Third Quarter: "The Minor Prophets"

1. The Book of Joel
2. The Book of Jonah
3. The Book of Amos
4. The Book of Hosea
5. The Book of Micah
6. The Book of Zephaniah
7. The Book of Nahum
8. The Book of Habakkuk
9. The Book of Obadiah
10. The Book of Haggai
11. The Book of Zechariah
12. The Book of Malachi
13. Review

Fourth Quarter: "Wisdom Literature & Post-Exile"

1. The Book of Psalms
2. The Book of Proverbs
3. The Book of Job (Part 1)
4. The Book of Job (Part 2)
5. The Book of Ecclesiastes
6. The Song of Solomon
7. The Book of Esther (Part 1)
8. The Book of Esther (Part 2)
9. The Book of Ezra (Part 1)
10. The Book of Ezra (Part 2)
11. The Book of Nehemiah (Part 1)
12. The Book of Nehemiah (Part 2)
13. Intertestamental Period

9. Why would become of Zebulun’s descendants ((49:13-15; Judges 1:30)?

10. Name one great descendant of Dan ((49:16-18; Judges 13:2, 14:4).

11. Jacob has little to say to these three sons, but it was positive (49:19-21). What was their future?

- Gad:
- Asher:
- Naphtali:

12. To what trait of Joseph’s life does Jacob pay tribute in opening this blessing (49:22-26)?

13. Jacob saw the Benjaminites as like ravenous wolves (49:27-28). How was King Saul, a descendant of Benjamin, like a wolf?

14. What wish does Jacob renew (49:29-33)?

15. How did his sons carry through with their promise (50:1-14)?

16. How does Joseph see his brothers’ behavior and future (50:15-21)?

17. What was Joseph’s wish (50:22-26)? Was it fulfilled (Joshua 24:32)?

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT

Year One, First Quarter:

In The Beginning

A PASSAGE THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT is designed to take a Bible class all the way through the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament in two years’ time. Sacrifices were made to arrange this pace, especially in obscure passages such as some found in the Pentateuch, major prophets and wisdom literature. Topical class books can supplement the cursory study of these books at other times, however, so that no part of God’s writ is slighted.

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Lesson 13: Reunited

Genesis 46-50

1. What promise did God make in Jacob's dream about Egypt (Genesis 46:1-7)?
2. Because shepherding was considered an abomination to the Egyptians, Joseph had to handle his family's occupation carefully in Pharaoh's realm (46:8-33). Did he counsel them to lie about their occupation?
3. Were the brothers truthful with Pharaoh (47:1-12)? What could have happened had they lied and been discovered later?
4. How did Joseph save Egyptian in the ensuing years (47:13-31)?
5. Jacob knew something of blessings being switched from older son to younger (48:1-22). How does he apportion his blessings upon Joseph's sons?
6. Reuben was the first son of Israel (49:1-4). Would the royal and Messianic line issue from him or a younger brother?
7. What was the character flaw of Simeon and Levi (49:5-7)?
8. What was in store for Judah's offspring (49:8-12)?

Printing Instructions

1. Download the booklet and open it in Adobe Reader.
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4. Print ONLY the EVEN pages.
5. Fold the pages in the middle and staple twice along the spine.

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8. Why did the brothers think Joseph invited them (43:15-25)?
9. To whom did the steward attribute the return of their wealth?
10. What happened to Joseph when he saw Benjamin (43:26-34)? Why was Joseph particularly fond of Benjamin?
11. What extra “gift” did Joseph command be given to Benjamin(44:1-17) W?
12. Why were the other sons so unwilling to leave Benjamin and go home? Had they matured since selling Joseph more than two decades earlier?
13. What offer does Judah make (44:18-34)? Why?
14. Whose idea was it to sell Joseph as a slave? How much did the brothers care for their father’s feelings back then?
15. What explanation did Joseph give for his brothers’ treachery (45:1-15)?
16. What was Pharaoh’s invitation (45:16-28)? Did Jacob consent to it?

Lesson 1: Creation

Genesis 1-2

1. A children’s question is “Where did God stand when he created the universe?” How would you answer that (Genesis 1:1-2)?
2. List what God created on each day (1:3-31):
 - The first day:
 - The second day:
 - The third day:
 - The fourth day:
 - The fifth day:
 - The sixth day:
3. In whose image did God create man? Since God is spirit, what does this mean?
4. What instruction did God give man?
5. Was man created good or evil?
6. By what name was the seventh day later called (2:1-3)?

7. What material did God use to form man (2:4-17)? Does this harmonize with science?

8. Where did God place man? What was his job there?

9. What two prominent trees were planted there? What was God's warning to him?

10. What deficiency did God recognize in man's life (2:18-25)? How did he intend to fill it?

11. What task did God busy Adam with in the meanwhile?

12. What material did God use to form Adam's companion?

13. What does Adam's response to her appearance teach us about the marital relationship?

14. There are three instructions for marriage given in verse 24. What are they? Explain each one.

Lesson 12: Providence

Genesis 42-45

1. None of the people yet understood about God's providence, but the historian made it clear (Genesis 42:1-24). How had God provided for Israel in Joseph's enslavement?

2. Did Joseph's ten brothers recognize the governor as their brother? Why didn't Joseph identify himself?

3. How had Joseph's own dreams now come true?

4. What test did Joseph inflict upon his brothers? How did Joseph get a measure of revenge on his brothers for enslaving him?

5. What did Joseph do that confounded his brothers (42:25-38)?

6. What offer did Reuben make? What do we know about his character?

7. The family seems resigned to giving up Simeon, but why are they ultimately compelled to go back to Egypt (43:1-14)?

10. How does the butler help both Pharaoh and Joseph?

11. To whom did Joseph give the credit for his ability to interpret dreams (41:14-24)?

12. What was the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams (41:25-36)?

13. What tax rate did Joseph suggest to Pharaoh to ward off the effects of the famine?

14. Whom did Pharaoh appoint to oversee the saving plan (41:37-45)?

15. How many times has God's guidance led Joseph to a high rank in Egypt?

16. What did Joseph name his two sons (41:46-57)?

17. Why did all roads suddenly lead to Egypt?

Lesson 2: Sin Genesis 3-4

1. From which tree did God forbid Adam and Eve to eat (Genesis 3:1-7)? Why (2:17)?

2. How did the serpent attack her obedience?

3. What happened when Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree?

4. What does their reaction to God's presence show about them after their sin (3:8-21)?

5. On whom did Adam blame his sin? Did God accept this explanation?

6. On whom did Eve blame her sin? Did God accept her explanation?

7. To what event does God point in punishing the devil (verse 15)?

8. What curse did God pronounce upon the woman (see also First Timothy 2:12-15)?

9. What curse did God pronounce on Adam?

10. Why did God expel them from the garden of Eden (3:22-24)?

11. Why was Cain angry (4:1-8; cf. Hebrews 11:4 and Romans 10:17)?

12. What advice did God give Cain?

13. What did Cain do instead?

14. What question did Cain reply with to God's question (4:9-15)? What does this reveal about his character?

15. Who was Adam and Eve's third son (4:16-26)?

Lesson II: Joseph Interprets Dreams Genesis 40-41

1. Who were Joseph's new cellmates (Genesis 40:1-23)? Why were they in?

2. What made these two sad?

3. What was the interpretation of the butler's dream? Be very brief in your answer.

4. What did Joseph ask of the butler in return for this interpretation?

5. What was the interpretation of the baker's dream? Be very brief.

6. How did Pharaoh celebrate his birthday?

7. How did the butler show his gratitude to Joseph?

8. How long separated the butler's release and Pharaoh's dreams (41:1-13)?

9. Why was Pharaoh's spirit troubled and not comforted by his magicians?

7. When we commit an offense against a person, how was God affected?

8. How persistent was Potiphar's wife in her requests?

9. What happened one day when none of the other men was present? Her lust refused, how did she now treat the object of her desire?

10. Often, we cannot help being in situation in which temptation attacks us every day. How can we consistently refuse its allure, as Joseph did?

11. Compare Joseph's reaction to the temptation of Potiphar's wife with David's behavior concerning Uriah's wife, Bathsheba.

12. How well did Potiphar know his wife (39:19-23)?

13. What benefit did God give the prisoner? Did Joseph's progress in Potiphar's house continue in the prison?

Lesson 3: Noah's Ark

Genesis 5-10

1. Which of Adam's descendants lived the longest (Genesis 5:1-32)? Who were Noah's three sons?

2. What was angering God at this early date (6:1-8)?

3. Who would be spared? Why? Was this arbitrary (cf. 6:9, 7:1)? Explain.

4. Upon whom does the writer place the blame for sin (6:9-22)? Did God create man with an inherently sinful nature, then?

5. What did God tell Noah to construct? How precise were God's blueprints? How precisely did Noah follow them?

6. How many went into the ark (7:1-12; First Peter 3:20)? Why did not many more people enter the ark (Second Peter 2:5)?

7. What happened to all those caught outside the ark when the floodwaters increased (7:13-24)? How does Peter use this as an illustration of water baptism (First Peter 3:20-21)?

8. With God's experience with man's sin, why did he want Noah to repopulate the earth (8:1-19)?

9. How does the writer describe Noah's worship to God's senses (8:20-22)? Why do you think he chose that particular phrase?

10. What sign did God give Noah to show that he would never flood the whole earth again (9:1-19)? Does it still hold this significance?

11. What will become of the earth (Second Peter 3:8-13)?

12. What was the difference between Ham's handling of this situation and that of Shem and Japheth (9:20-29)? What was Noah's sin in the matter?

13. What were the three divisions of mankind after Noah's time (10:1-32)?

Lesson 10: Joseph Imprisoned

Genesis 39

1. Who was Joseph's owner (Genesis 39:1-6)? How had he become enslaved?

2. What was ironic about the situation, considering that it was Ishmaelites who sold Joseph?

3. No doubt, Joseph thought his condition hopeless, but who was with him, ensuring the progress of God's scheme of redemption?

4. How much did Potiphar trust Joseph? Why?

5. How can Joseph's example affect relationships with employers today?

6. What was the request of Potiphar's wife to Joseph (39:7-18)? How did Joseph refuse her?

7. Where did Joseph end up?

8. Did the brothers tell their father a lie? Did they deceive him?

9. With Joseph gone, Judah began to wander into sin (38:1-10). His children were born to a heathen woman. Why did Er and Onan die?

10. After Onan's death, what command did Judah give Tamar (38:11-23)? Did he keep this promise?

11. How did Tamar take matters into her own hands? How did Tamar prove to be very cunning in this event?

12. In what way does Judah prove to be hypocritical when he learns Tamar was with child from harlotry (38:24-30)?

13. How does he react to the news that he was the father of her children?

14. What were the names of their twins?

Lesson 4: Promises to Abraham

Genesis 11-12, 15-18:15

1. What did the people propose to build (Genesis 11:1-9)? Why did God prevent them?

2. How was Lot related to Abraham (11:10-31)? What caused Sarah social stigma?

3. What three things did God tell Abraham to leave behind (12:1-9)?

a.

b.

c.

4. Why was this a test of Abraham's faith? Why is moving away from home a test of a person's faith today?

5. Each of the first three verses of this chapter contain one promise to Abraham. What are they?

a. verse one:

b. verse two:

c. verse three:

6. Where did the famine lead Abraham (12:10-20)? What was his fear there? What did he do about it?

7. How did Pharaoh react to the news that Sarah was Abraham's wife?

8. How did God teach Abraham about the future nation of Israel (15:1-6)? Did Abraham believe this lesson?

9. What era of Hebrew history was foretold by God as Abraham falls asleep (15:7-21)?

10. How did Abraham and Sarah conspire to take matters into their own hands (16:1-15)? What caused them to do this?

11. How old was Abraham when God renewed his covenant with him (17:1-14)? What did God command as a physical part of this covenant? Is this somehow binding upon Christians today (Galatians 5:6, 6:15)?

12. What were the names of Abraham's sons (17:15-27)? Of the mothers?

13. How did Sarah react to the news that she would still bear a child in her old age (18:1-15)? Despite this, what did the Hebrew writer say about her (11:11-12)?

Lesson 9: Joseph Sold Into Slavery Genesis 37-38

1. Would Jacob's family always be strangers in Canaan (Genesis 37:1-11)?

2. What word might one use to apply to Joseph's actions here? Is this the kind of thing to make one popular with others? What else made Joseph's brothers dislike him?

3. What was the implication of Joseph's dreams? How did Joseph's brothers feel about him following these two dreams?

4. Why were the brothers worried when Joseph came (37:12-24)? How did Reuben temper their plans to kill Joseph?

5. What was significant about the coat that they took from Joseph?

6. How was Reuben's benevolent plan upset (37:25-36)?

8. How did Jacob become prosperous (30:37-43)?

9. Why did Jacob decide now to leave Laban's house (31:1-21)?

10. Why did Laban not harm Jacob when he caught him (31:22-55)?

11. What was Rachel's crime? What was her deception when nearly caught?
How might her larceny damage Israel in the years to come?

12. Who violated Dinah (34:1-24)? Did Jacob immediately lose control
when he found out?

13. Why didn't the men of the city fight when Simeon and Levi arrived to
exact vengeance and plunder them (34:25-31)?

14. What did Jacob hide under the terebinth tree by Shechem (35:1-15)?

15. What child did Rachel bear last (35:16-29)? Why was her joy curtailed?

Lesson 5: Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 13-14, 18:16-33, 19

1. Where did Abraham go first after leaving Egypt (Genesis 13:1-18)?
Following his error with Pharaoh and Sarah, why would this be an important
place to go?

2. Why was there strife between Lot's and Abraham's herdsmen?

3. Why did Lot choose the plain of the Jordan and pitch his tent toward
Sodom? Was it wise?

4. What became of Lot in his newly chosen homeland (14:1-16)? Why
wasn't Abraham bitter that his nephew had taken advantage of his offer to
choose first?

5. A mysterious person appears in Genesis 14:17-24. Melchizedek will also
figure prominently in the New Testament high priesthood of Jesus Christ.
Who was this Melchizedek (cf. Hebrews 7:1-4)?

6. Why was God considering action against Sodom and Gomorrah (18:16-32)? According to Jude 7, why?

7. How did Abraham react when God revealed this plan to him? How many righteous did God need to see to stay His hand?

8. What one word described Lot's offers to the two angels who came to visit (19:1-8; First Peter 4:9, Hebrews 13:2)?

9. What did the men of Sodom have on their minds? What shocking counteroffer did Lot make them? Why?

10. What did the Sodomites think of Lot (19:9-14)? How did he feel about living among them (Second Peter 2:7)?

11. What warning did angels give Lot? How did his sons-in-law respond?

12. Why didn't Lot immediately rush out of the city (19:15-29)? What could have kept him?

13. What did Lot's daughters do to him (19:30-38)?

Lesson 8: Jacob and Rachel

Genesis 29-31, 34-35

1. What woman did Jacob see upon heading east (Genesis 29:1-20)? What was her occupation?

2. What kindness did Jacob show Rachel? What information did he divulge to her?

3. In those days, many wives were nothing more than possessions. Did Jacob have genuine feelings for Rachel or merely see her as a thing?

4. How did Laban deceive Jacob (29:21-30)? How many years did Rachel end up costing Jacob?

5. Name Leah's four sons, born in Genesis 29:31-35. Why wasn't childbearing enough to save her marriage to Jacob?

6. Name the sons born to Rachel's maid, Bilhah (30:1-24). Name the sons born to Leah's maid, Zilpah. Name the other children that Leah bore. Name Rachel's son.

7. What wages did Jacob now ask of Laban (30:25-36)?

8. What did Esau plan to do in vengeance (27:41-46)? What was making Rebekah weary (26:34-35)? What advice did she give her favorite son?

9. Did he obey her (28:1-9)?

10. What was the significance of “Jacob’s Ladder” (28:10-22)?

11. How did Jacob react to the news that his brother was coming (32:1-12)? Did he have anything to fear in reality?

12. How did Jacob attempt to appease his brother (32:13-21)?

13. How was Jacob’s name changed (32:22-32)? With whom did he wrestle (see also Hosea 12:3-4)?

14. How did Esau react to the sight of his brother and his family (33:1-20)? Did he take Israel’s gift?

15. What was the name of the nation that descended from Esau (36:1-43)?

Lesson 6: Abraham and Sarah Bear Isaac Genesis 20-24

1. On whom had Abraham and Sarah used this ploy once before (Genesis 20:1-13)?

2. In both cases, who does the rebuking: the man of God or the heathen?

3. Did Abraham’s story have a kernel of truth to it? Does God permit half-truths, then?

4. Abraham’s lie showed a weakness in his faith in God and His promises. Occasionally, our faith falters in the face of danger and we resort to sin to protect us. How should we respond instead, according to First Peter 3:13-17?

5. Was Sarah rebuked by Abimelech also (20:14-18)? Did she deserve rebuke, though a submissive wife and not the author of the lie? Explain.

6. Despite all of Abraham and Sarah’s attempts to help God to deliver on his promise in their time and way, God came through as he saw fit (21:1-7). What was the child’s name?

7. Why was Abraham reluctant to heed Sarah's wish to dismiss Hagar and Ishmael (21:8-21)?

8. Paul uses this event and its characters in a New Testament analogy on the two major covenants between mankind and God (Galatians 4:21-31). What are the implications of this analogy: Are we under the law of Moses at all now? What has become of the law of Moses, including the Ten Commandments (Ephesians 2:15)?

9. What did God command Abraham to do (22:1-14)? How did the man react?

10. How did the wood for the offering get to the place for the sacrifice? How does this foreshadow Christ's suffering (John 19:17)?

11. If Abraham had disobeyed this command, would God have delivered his promises anyway (22:15-24)? Were God's promises to Abraham conditional upon a "working faith"?

12. The apostle Peter remembers Sarah in the New Testament (23:1-20). What lesson does he teach with her example (First Peter 3:1-6)?

13. What was the name of Isaac's bride (24:1-66)?

Lesson 7: Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25-28, 32-33, 36

1. Why did Rebekah think something was amiss with the children in her womb (Genesis 25:19-28)?

2. What was God's explanation for the ruckus?

3. Describe the differences between each son.

4. Isaac proves "like father, like son." What mistake of Abraham's does he repeat (26:1-11)?

5. What does "Rehoboth" mean (26:12-35). What lesson might this give?

6. Describe Rebekah's ploy (27:1-29).

7. In what two ways had Jacob now supplanted Esau (27:30-40)?