

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 22

The Plan of Salvation in the Book of Genesis

AIM: to teach my pupils from several different angles the simple plan of salvation.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils to give something about their conversion experience. Ask them when they were saved, where they were saved, who was around, etc. Do not point out anyone or require anyone to do this, but seek participation on a voluntary basis.

INTRODUCTION: For many lessons we have been discussing the wonderful book of Genesis and the characters found therein. We come to the conclusion of the book, and as is the case in every book in the Bible, the main purpose is to point people to Jesus Christ. This is a review lesson as was the one for last week. This week we summarize the plan of salvation in the book of Genesis.

I. SALVATION IN CREATION.

1. The first day. See Genesis 1:1-3.
  - 1) The condition of man without Christ. Verse 2a, “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” This is the condition of every person without Jesus Christ. His life is without form; it certainly has a void; and he abides in darkness.
  - 2) Verse 2b, “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” This shows how a man finds the way of salvation. Jesus is the living water. The Spirit of God reveals Him to us as our Saviour so we can understand the truth.
  - 3) Verse 3a, “And God said....” Salvation is certainly in the Word of God.
  - 4) Verse 3b, “Let there be light: and there was light.” John 8:12 says Jesus is the light of the world. This is the fourth step in this little outline picturing salvation. After we have realized our condition, the Spirit of God has moved us to Christ, the Word of God has led us to faith, and then there comes light.
2. The second day. Read Genesis 1:6-8. In the second day we have salvation also mentioned beautifully. You will notice it pertains to the waters. A cloud represents God the Father in the Bible. Remember the pillar of cloud by day that led the Israelites through the wilderness? This is pictured in the second day. When the cloud breaks up and rain falls, it is a picture of the incarnation of Jesus Christ—God coming to earth and becoming man. When the rain beats upon the earth, then we have the water going into the earth. Here is a picture of the death and burial of Jesus Christ. Then finally, the heat causes the steam to rise from the earth, which pictures the glorious resurrection of Christ from the earth. Then, as the steam rises back into the heavens to form clouds again, it pictures the ascension of Jesus Christ. After it makes a cloud formation, it rains again, picturing the second coming of Jesus Christ. Hence, in the second day we have salvation.
3. The third day. Notice Genesis 1:9-13. In verse 11a we read, “And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass,” and plant life appeared. Certainly plant life pictures salvation. In I Corinthians 15, we are told that death is pictured by planting and that the resurrection is pictured by the the growth of plants. Jesus spoke of His own body as being a corn of wheat falling into the ground. So salvation is pictured when the seed comes forth as a lovely plant. This pictures His resurrection body. This is a picture of Christ in us, the hope of glory. Notice also, this is the third day, which was the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Certainly this has a purpose.
4. The fourth day. Read Genesis 1:14-19. This is the day when the sun, moon and stars became visible. Certainly the sun represents Jesus Christ. See Malachi 4:2. The moon represents the collective body of Christians receiving our life from Jesus Christ and being the light of the world during the darkness. The stars represent each of us individually reflecting in a dark world. Though the pictures of Jesus and salvation continue in the days of creation, time will not permit a further discussion of these.

- II. SALVATION IN THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS OF GENESIS. Seven is certainly God’s number. God gives us so many sevens in the Bible. There are seven colors in the rainbow, seven notes on the scale, and seven is certainly God’s number of completion. It is not surprising then that God outlined the book of Genesis by seven leading characters. These characters are, beyond a doubt, Adam,

Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Each of these characters pictures salvation in his own life. Let us notice them.

1. Adam. See Genesis 3:7, 8 and 21.
  - 1) Sin and its penalty. Notice in Genesis 3:7 we have sin and the penalty for sin, which is separation from God.
  - 2) Man's attempt to save himself. In Genesis 3:7 they made themselves aprons of fig leaves. This certainly would not cover. You might discuss with the pupils man's attempts to save himself. It might be wise to bring an apron to class and use the apron for a point of contact showing that this did not please God and did not cover man's sins.
  - 3) True salvation. Notice Genesis 3:21.
    1. Provided by the Lord.
    2. Blood was shed.
    3. Taken by faith.
    4. Covers all of man's sins.This certainly is a picture of salvation.
2. Abel. See Genesis 4:1-5. In Abel, we have another picture of salvation. You will notice he, too, was a sinner; he, too, needed an offering for his sins. He brought of the firstlings of his flock. In other words, he brought the blood. This animal pictures Jesus Christ. The blood pictures the blood that was shed for us. Cain's offering represents man's efforts to save himself. Once again, you can go through these efforts, and it might be wise to bring a bowl of fruit or vegetables to show Cain's offering and how God did not accept it. God did not accept it because it was man-made and bloodless. Once again, we have a picture of salvation.
3. Noah. See Genesis 6:8. Noah also pictures salvation so beautifully, especially in the ark. The ark was the only place of safety. It was made of wood, as was Calvary. It was sealed with pitch, which was the blood of a tree. Jesus' blood seals our salvation. There was only one door, as there is to salvation. Man had to come in of his own choice, as is the case in salvation. Once the people were in the ark, they were shut in, as is the case in the security concerning our salvation. Explain to the pupils about the big boat and how God provided it and how God provided His Son. You might explain also about how the ark had a door in the side because an opening was made, and then how Jesus is our ark, and through His wounded side we may enter into Him and obtain salvation.
4. Abraham. Notice Genesis 12:1. Abraham certainly pictures salvation in that he was the one who offered his son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah. John 3:16a says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." Abraham also was willing to give his son. Explain to the pupils how that God did give His Son as a sacrifice. Explain how it was the only thing that God could do to save men. Explain how that God loved man and yet could not save him unless the sins were paid for. Man must pay for his own sins, or God must provide a substitute. The only kind of substitute God could provide would be one that was perfect and did not owe a sin debt for himself. This must be God. Hence, God became man, lived a perfect life, and paid the price for our sins. Explain to the boys and girls that the only thing we can do is receive what God has done for us, thereby becoming Christians.
5. Isaac. See Genesis 22:2. Certainly Isaac is a beautiful picture of salvation. He pictures Jesus Christ as offered by the Father, willing to die, raised from the place of death, and then having the servant choose a bride from the far country. Explain to the pupils how that Jesus did the same as Isaac, except that in God's perfect plan, Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice. He rose from the place of death. Then He sent the Holy Spirit to convict people of their sins and draw them to Himself. Explain to the pupils how the Holy Spirit talks to them through sermons and through the Word of God and through their own heart's conviction. Explain that each of them is being called by the Holy Spirit to be a child of God even now.
6. Jacob. Notice Genesis 28:12. Jacob also pictures salvation, especially in the ladder experience. Jacob was asleep. He did not ask for the dream or vision. Once again, this pictures that salvation is of grace. Nothing we can do can save ourselves. The ladder extended from heaven to earth—a picture of how God offers salvation to every man. Angels were going up and down—a picture of the access there is between heaven and earth. Man can be saved by faith in God's provision.

John 1:51 explains that the ladder is Jesus Christ, and He is the way to Heaven. Also, note John 14:6.

7. Joseph. See Genesis 39:1. Joseph is certainly a beautiful picture of salvation. He was sold into slavery, betrayed by his brethren, cast into the pit, raised up from the pit, exalted at the right hand of the king, and then saved his brethren until the day he revealed himself unto them. What a beautiful picture of salvation! Jesus died for us on the cross, was buried, rose from the place of death, and even now is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. He offers to save us from our sins, make us His children, and someday will reveal Himself to us.

CONCLUSION: Now then, show the pupils salvation from the Bible. Show them how Romans 3:10 and 3:23 show that we are all sinners. Romans 5:12 and 6:23 show us that the wages of sin is death, which leads to eventual Hell. Romans 5:8 shows us that God gave His Son, and His Son paid the price for our sins. Romans 10:9-10 explains how by faith we may be saved. Ask the pupils how many have been saved, win them to Christ, bring them forward in the service Sunday evening. Sit with them to make it easy for them to be saved. Let's win as many as we can to Jesus this week.

QUESTIONS: Fill in the blanks

1. On the first day, God said, "Let there be \_\_\_\_\_: and there was \_\_\_\_\_."
2. On the second day, God divided the \_\_\_\_\_ above from the \_\_\_\_\_ beneath.
3. On the third day, God let \_\_\_\_\_ life appear.
4. On the fourth day, God made visible the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the stars.
5. The cloud represents God the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The cloud coming to earth represents \_\_\_\_\_ coming to earth.
7. The seed being planted represents the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.
8. The sun is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The moon is a type of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The stars are a type of each individual \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Adam and Eve's fig leaves represent man's attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ himself.
12. God gave Adam and Eve a coat made of skins. That means He had killed an animal and the animal had given his \_\_\_\_\_ that man might have a covering. This pictures the blood of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Abel brought of the firstlings of his \_\_\_\_\_ to God.
14. God did not accept Cain's sacrifice because it offered no \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The door in the side of the ark represents the fact that there is only \_\_\_\_\_ way to be saved.
16. When Isaac was offered on Mount Moriah by his father, \_\_\_\_\_, it pictured Jesus dying on the \_\_\_\_\_ for us.
17. When Jacob dreamed about a \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven to earth, it pictured \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Joseph ascending to the right hand of the king of Egypt pictures Jesus now on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

True or False

- T F 1. A person must be baptized before he can be saved.
- T F 2. A person must repent, believe, be baptized, join the church and obey before he can be saved.
- T F 3. A person must realize that he is a sinner before he can be saved.
- T F 4. Salvation is by joining a church.
- T F 5. Adam was saved by making fig leaves.
- T F 6. Cain was saved because he brought a pretty offering to God.
- T F 7. There were two doors in the ark.
- T F 8. The angels going up and down the ladder represent the fact we must work our way to Heaven.
- T F 9. A person must realize that he is a sinner, realize that the price on sin is eternal death, realize that Jesus Christ paid the price for that sin, and trust what Jesus did in faith to be saved.
- T F 10. After a person is saved, he should be baptized immediately.
- T F 11. When a person is saved and baptized, he should then join a Bible-preaching church.
- T F 12. After one does the above, he should live a dedicated Christian life.

MEMORY VERSE: John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”