

# Lesson Five:

# God’s Disobedient People

## NOTES

### Introduction

In the previous lesson, we looked at God’s covenant with the nation of Israel. The Lord had given Israel the covenant to show them how to serve Him and how to keep themselves separate from the nations around them. If Israel would obey the Lord, then the Lord would bless them. However, if Israel disobeyed the Lord, then the Lord would bring upon them His wrath and punishment.

In this lesson, *God’s Disobedient People*, we will see the progression of Israel’s unfaithfulness and disobedience.

### The Lord Warned Moses About Israel’s Disobedience

- A. Moses prepared Israel for what was to come.
  - 1. Moses instructed the people, when they cross over the Jordan, to build an altar on Mount Ebal and to “write very plainly on the stones all the words of this law.” (Deuteronomy 27:1-10)
  - 2. Moses gave further instructions regarding learning the law. The Lord also warned Moses of Israel’s unfaithfulness. (Deuteronomy 31:1 - 32:47)
    - a. Moses told Israel the Lord would deliver the land of Canaan to them under Joshua’s leadership. (31:1-8)
    - b. Moses delivered the law to the priests and instructed the priests to read the law to the people every seven years. (31:9-13)
    - c. The Lord warned Moses of Israel’s coming disobedience. (31:14-18)
    - d. The Lord told Moses to write a song and teach it to the children of Israel. This song would testify against Israel as a witness. (31:19-23)
    - e. Moses finished writing the words of the law in a book. He commanded the priests to put the Book of the Law beside the ark

<b>God’s Covenant with Israel</b>		<b>God’s Disobedient People</b>	
<b>Man and Sin</b>		<b>God’s Promise to Abram</b>	
<b>God’s Everlasting Word</b>			

# World Filled with Sin

# Lesson Five:

# God's Disobedient People

of the covenant. The Book of the Law would serve as a witness against Israel. (31:24-29)

- f. Moses taught the song of witness to the children of Israel. (31:30 - 32:47)

B. Despite Moses' best efforts, the children of Israel would disobey the Lord.

## Examples of Israel's Disobedience

A. Over the next 1,530 years, the children of Israel, God's chosen people, would sin against the Lord in many different ways. Let us consider a limited look at the history of Israel's disobedience.

B. From Sinai through the wilderness wanderings.

1. The apostle Paul summarizes the sins of the first generation who came out of Egypt. (1 Corinthians 10:6-11)
  - a. The people lusted after evil things. (vs 6; Numbers 11:4-6, 34)
  - b. The people become idolaters. (vs 7; Exodus 32:1-10)
  - c. The people committed sexual immorality with the women of Moab in Acacia Grove. The people also worshiped Baal of Peor. (vs 8; Numbers 25:1-9)
  - d. The people tested God ("Christ") by becoming impatient with God's provision of food and water. The Lord sent serpents among the people. (vs 9; Numbers 21:4-6)
  - e. The people complained against the Lord. (vs 10)
    - In Numbers 14:1-38, the people complained when they heard the spies' report about the land of Canaan.
    - In Numbers 16:11-35, during the rebellion of Korah, people complained against Moses and Aaron.

C. The period of the judges.

1. The Angel of the Lord warned the children Israel of the consequences of their disobedience. (Judges 2:1-6)
2. After the death of Joshua, the "children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord" and forsook the Lord. (Judges 2:11-23) Consider the following examples:
  - a. The people served the Baals and Asherahs. (Judges 3:7)
  - b. The people did evil in the sight of the Lord. (Judges 3:12)
  - c. After Ehud died, the people again did evil in the sight of the Lord. (Judges 4:1)

## NOTES

## Lesson Five:

# God's Disobedient People

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### NOTES

- d. The people once again did evil in the sight of the Lord. (Judges 6:1-2)
  - e. The people “played the harlot” with the ephod made by Gideon. (Judges 8:27)
  - f. After the days of Jair the judge, the people once again served the Baals and the Ashtoreths. (Judges 10:6)
  - g. Before the days of Samson, the people of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord. (Judges 13:1)
  - h. A man named Micah, worshiped household idols. (Judges 17:1-13)
  - i. The tribe of Dan adopted Micah's idolatry. (Judges 18:1-31)
- D. The period of the kings.
1. Solomon's sin of idolatry led to a divided kingdom (1 Kings 11:1-13)
  2. Jeroboam, the first king of Israel after the division, started a process of idolatry which led the northern nation of Israel away from the Lord. (1 Kings 12:25-33) This departure would eventually lead to the Assyrian nation taking Israel captive.
  3. Many of the kings of the southern nation of Judah led Judah away from the Lord.
    - a. Rehoboam, Abijah, Jehoram, Ahaziah, Ahaz, Manasseh, Amon, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jeconiah, and Zedekiah were all wicked kings. They either failed to stop the idolatry or fully promoted idol worship.
    - b. The sins of Manasseh ultimately brought about the Babylonian captivity.
      - Manasseh rebuilt the high places, raised up altars for Baal, and worshiped all the host of heaven. (2 Kings 21:1-3)
      - Manasseh sacrificed his own son, practiced witchcraft, and set a carved image of Asherahs in the house of the Lord. (2 Kings 21:4-8)
      - Manasseh seduced the people to follow him in his extreme wickedness. The Lord warned of the coming captivity. (2 Kings 21:9-18)
      - Although Manasseh's son Josiah served the Lord, the sins of Manasseh were too great. The Babylonian captivity of Israel was assured. (2 Kings 23:23-27)

# Lesson Five:

# God's Disobedient People

- During the reign of Josiah, the Lord foretold the coming of a faithful remnant of Israel and of Judah, as well as a new covenant which the Lord would make with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 31:1-40)
- C. After the return from Babylon, God's people continued to sin against the Lord. (Malachi 1-4)
- D. Four hundred years later, God's people was still continuing in their disobedience.
1. John, the son of Zechariah, preached a message of repentance.
    - a. Consider the angel's message to Zechariah. (Luke 1:13-17)
    - b. After the birth of John, Zechariah prophesied about John's role in being the "prophet of the Highest." (Luke 1:67-79)
    - c. Isaiah foretold the work and message of John the baptizer. (Luke 3:1-6; cf. Isaiah 40:3)
    - d. John told the people to repent because of the coming kingdom and the wrath of God. (Matthew 3:1-12; Luke 3:15-18)
  2. Jesus preached a message of repentance and the coming kingdom. (Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15)
    - a. Many people rejected the messages of repentance.
    - b. Jesus rebuked the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum because they did not repent. (Matthew 11:20-24)
    - c. Jesus said the wrath of God would fall upon the current generation. (Matthew 12:38-45)
    - d. Jesus rebuked the scribes and Pharisees. (Matthew 23:29 - 24:2)
- E. Just as the Lord told Moses, the children of Israel was not always faithful to the Lord.

## NOTES

### Conclusion

As we saw with the prophecy of Jeremiah, God said He would save for Himself a remnant. He would establish a better covenant with this remnant. Because Israel rejected the first covenant, the Law of Moses, God promised a new covenant. (Hebrews 8:6-13; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34) God would take away the first that He might establish a second. (Hebrews 10:5-10)

In our next lesson, *Jesus the Christ*, we will consider Jesus Christ, God's fulfilled promise to Abraham, as well as the new covenant for which Jesus would die. ◀