

BREAD OF LIFE

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS - TEACHINGS FROM THE WORD

1st Quarter

"TEACHINGS FROM THE WORD" is a Bible study covering the entire Bible in one year and placing special emphasis on the doctrines of the Word of God. This is the first of four quarterlies and covers the period of Bible history from creation to the ending of the forty years of wilderness wanderings of the Israelites. The last two lessons of this quarterly are on the prophecies related to the birth of Jesus and the actual birth and childhood of Jesus. These lessons are placed at this point in the study so that they coincide with the Christmas season.

Doctrine has often been a subject considered dry and dull by many Christians. As a result they fail to make a concentrated effort to learn systematically what the Bible teaches on various subjects. The entire Bible is full of doctrine necessary for our growth and establishment as Christians. Events of history as well as the lives of individuals will be used in this study as the means for bringing out these teachings.

Following the first lesson entitled "The Beginning and the End," a lesson which will be repeated again at the close of the year, are three lessons on the "second coming of Christ." The New Testament frequently refers to Old Testament patriarchs in connection with its teachings on this subject. Therefore, it is fitting that in studying about Enoch, Noah, and Lot, the New Testament lessons on the second coming be brought out.

Four lessons are devoted to the major feasts of the Jewish calendar. The importance of knowing about these "old covenant" festivals lies in the teachings they offer regarding present dispensation realities. For example, the New Testament tells us that Christ is our "Passover sacrificed for us." To understand the full and rich meaning of this statement, knowledge of the origin of the Passover and its meaning to the Israelites is necessary. Basic truths are brought out by this event. These include the teaching that man is a sinner in need of salvation from the penalty of sin that God is the only Saviour (Deliverer), and that God offers a way of salvation which is all of His grace and is received by faith. Similarly the Feast of Pentecost and the Feast of Tabernacles portray great lessons on privileges we enjoy today as God's people under the "new covenant."

Lessons such as these can be approached in one of two ways. For the younger and less mature Christians the details of the Old Testament events should be stressed. These details can in a sense be likened to the scaffolding (the supporting frame work) which must be erected before the actual building is constructed. Without the scaffold (the details) the building cannot be built. For the more mature believers, a knowledge of the details should be assumed and the lesson can be approached from the standpoint of bringing out the teachings which the events bring out.

Much of the doctrines of the Bible have their roots in the Old Testament. To Paul, Peter, and the other apostles of Acts it was still the Scriptures, even though a new

era had begun with Pentecost. A thorough knowledge of the Old Testament provides a good foundation for Christian faith. The New Testament merely completes what the Old commenced, and neither is fully understandable without the other. Both form two halves of a perfect whole. There are more than 250 direct quotations from the Old Testament which are found in the New. Someone has figured that there are over 1,600 quotations, references, and allusions which link the New Testament with the Old. A knowledge of the Old Testament details is therefore quite important.

The ministry of example is one of the Old Testament's major emphases. "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" ([1 Cor. 10:11](#)). In any one passage, look for ...

- **an example to follow,**
- **a sin to avoid,**
- **a command to obey,**
- **a promise to claim, and**
- **a prayer to echo.**

As the seedbed, the foundation, and preparation of all that appears in the New Testament, the Old Testament is profitable for the man of God.