

Table of Contents

Table of contents-----	1
How to study-----	2
Introduction-----	3
Adam-----	4
Eve-----	10
Cain, Abel & Seth-----	14
Isaac-----	18
Joseph-----	22
Ruth-----	28
Hannah-----	32
Daniel-----	36

How to Study Your Bible

1. Begin in Prayer 1 Cor 2: 9-14
2. Read the Bible Neh. 8: 1-3
3. Study the Bible Neh. 8:8
4. Meditate upon it Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 1
5. Pass the Bible on to others Heb. 5: 12

How to Study Each Chapter

1. The Theme
2. The most important verse
3. The most prominent word
4. The teaching about Christ
5. The command to obey
6. The promise to claim
7. The new truth learned Psalm 119:18

Also every verse or passage has at least 3 applications

1. Past: this is the historical application
2. Present: This is a devotional or spiritual application
3. Future: This is a doctrinal or prophetic application

God's Best Characters

Introduction

This study will be about the people God chose to use and work through in revealing His word and His great plan of salvation to man. We will look at both men and women and how God took frail halting sinful people called them and then even in their failure picked them up and restored them to usefulness. He did this to show His love, mercy and great grace not only to these individuals but to all of mankind down through the centuries. Redemption was necessary because of Adams sin as we will see and the means of telling people of their need of this was men and women chosen by God to speak at specific times and places. The natural place to start is in the beginning with Gods first man.

CHAPTER ONE

ADAM GODS SPECIAL CREATION

His name means “from the earth or of the ground- red earth. He was God’s highest created being. Adam was made by God out of the materials of the earth and life was given by God Himself breathing into Adams nostrils.

Adam was not a descendent of an amoeba or any of the following despite what the atheist, evolutionist (this is still just a theory it has never been proven) or even theistic evolutionist (God started the process and then left it to develop on its own using natural selection). He was not from

- a. Neanderthal man Germany 1856 – proven later to be people with rickets.
- b. Cro-Magnon man France 1868 – Based on a handful of bones.
- c. Java man Island of Java 1891 Skull cap of a Gibbon Ape.
- d. Heidelberg man Germany 1907 one lower jawbone
- e. Piltdown man England 1912 one skull fragment and some teeth. In 1950 it was revealed it was all a hoax.
- f. Peking man China 1921 built from a Baboon
- g. Nebraska man America 1922 one tooth later revealed in 1927 to be from a pig.

Old Testament

What we can learn about Adam from the Old Testament. First he was created by the trinity according to what we read here in Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” notice the words “us” and “our” are plural. Second we see that Adam was created in the “image” and “likeness” of God. The word “image” means a representation of something in this case that of God in His triune form. The word “likeness” means a model of something and here it is the character of God. Paul in Eph. 4: 24 says “and put on the new man, that after God hath been

created in righteousness and holiness of truth". This is our imputed character given to us through and by Jesus at the moment of salvation. We have more added by Paul in his letter to the Colossian church Col. 3:10 "and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him". The new man in he is to be the image that the world sees in us.

Adam was created perfect in that he used 100% of his brains capacity no one today uses anywhere near this much. Researchers say that the average person uses between 10 to 20% of brain capacity leaving 80% unused. We are 97% blind to the total color spectrum along with being 98% deaf to the full range of sound. Because of this he was able to name every living creature, plant, tree, etc. Adam was also able to communicate with the animals just read Gen. 3:1-2 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat:" this passage is the basis for the Dr. Doolittle story.

Adam was formed out of the dust. The basic elements in the body are also the same elements found in the ground Gen. 2: 7 And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground. The difference between each of us and dirt is this God breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul.

Adam was created a 3 part being having a body "physical", spirit "emotion", and soul "mind" and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Adam was self conscious, a personality, a free moral agent. In 1 Thess. 5:23 "And the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body" here Paul says that we to are body, spirit, and soul!

God made the earth for man and then man for the earth Gen. 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed and 15 And Jehovah God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Adam had care over the garden of the earth as seen in these two verses. The Garden of Eden in which Adam exercised this was in the modern Tigris Euphrates river valley.

God had told Adam in Gen 1:28 to be fruitful and multiply and subdue or bring into order the earth and the things on the earth. Now Adam could follow all of God's instructions except being fruitful as he was alone in the garden. Seeing this God said it was not good for Adam to be by himself. So He puts Adam to sleep and took out one of Adam's ribs. Why a rib well a always has flesh on the bone and from this He could take the chromosomes x & y cancel the y (cell reduction) and put 2 xx's together to form a woman; why this way? To negate so called theistic evolution or any other form of evolution.

Now if a woman would have been created first there could be no y chromosome to work with. This is one of the unique things of Jesus birth it is the only time two xx's made a y.

God has used 4 ways to get man on the earth

1. direct creation – Adam
2. indirect creation – Eve
3. the virgin birth – Jesus
4. Natural generation – the rest of us!

So God took a rib made Eve and then gave her to Adam in Gen. 2: 21-25. It is good to note that did not give Eve her name until after the fall in Gen. 3: 20. In Gen. 2: 16-17 we read here of a limit put on Adam and Eve "And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" God is going to test their love for Him. They were to be obedient to God or die; obedience = life; disobedience= death.

What was the tree's name? God called it the tree of good and evil. The tree had the best fruit but Adam was ordered not to eat of it. When all around Adam was life God spoke of death!

The testing and fall is found in Gen. 3: 1-7 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God

doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons

This testing or tempting will either develop or destroy you. It is vital to remember Adam was created innocent not righteous.

Righteousness is innocence that has been maintained in the presence of temptation. When Eve saw that the tree was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and made one wise. After she ate of it she gave some of it to Adam also and he ate it also. Immediately their eyes opened in the sense that they realized that the glory that overshadowed them was gone, their conscience came on line. A physiologist at Southern Cal said the "guilt complex is as much a part of man as his right arm".

God immediately goes to look for them in 3: 8-13 and He has been looking for that which is lost ever since. God in His mercy gives these two a great promise in a coming Saviour Gen. 3: 15 **and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel**

Because of the fall into sin Adam is given the consequences first a curse on the earth in 3: 17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; and the pronouncement of death 19 in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

God in his great love and mercy acted by grace to cover their sin 3:21 And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them. It is well to notice that "something had to die" to redeem Adam and Eve. There are four things important to see

1. man must be covered to approach God
2. fig leaves are not acceptable

3. God must provide the covering

4. the covering is obtained through the death of another

In the process of time Adam and Eve have 2 sons Cain and Abel and in Cain we will see the rapid advancement of sin. The third son Seth would take the second son Abel's place and there would be many more sons and daughters after them. Adam dies at the ripe old age of 930 years.

New Testament

In the gospel of Luke chapter 3 and verse 28 we have part of Christ genealogy "the [son] of Enos, the [son] of Seth, the [son] of Adam, the [son] of God". As the son of man Jesus could trace his lineage all the way back to Adam.

Paul tells us here in Romans 5:12 Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned we see that sin entered the world by one man Adam. His disobedience was an act as the federal headship that he held for all of the human family thus plunging the world into sin.

The first Adam was "made" a living soul according to 1 Cor. 15: 45 So also it is written, The first man Adam became a living soul. Paul goes on with the second Adam Jesus in verses 46-47 The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit. Howbeit that is not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; then that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is of heaven. Jesus was not earthly but heavenly. In Romans 5: 15-21 find that though all are sinners there is grace enough for all through the second Adam Jesus.

Here is the lesson you should learn from Adam. That is the principal of the second before the first. This is a powerful principle of God carried through out the Bible He chooses the 2nd over the 1st. in 1 Cor. 1: 26-27 For behold your calling, brethren, that not many wise after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, [are called]: but God chose the foolish things of the world, that he might put to shame them that are wise; and God chose the weak things of the world, that he might put to shame the things that are strong; from this we can see God chooses the nothings for His purpose. For

instance He chooses the younger over the elder, smaller over the greater. Such as

Not Cain but Abel & his substitute Seth

Not Japheth but Shem Gen. 10

Not Ishmael but Isaac Gen. 17

Not Esau but Jacob Gen. 25

Not Manasseh but Ephraim Gen. 48

Not Aaron but Moses Exodus 7

Not Eliah but David 1 Sam. 16

Not Saul but David 1 Sam. 15

Not the Old Covenant but the New Heb. 8

Not the 1st Adam but the 2nd

Eve

Mother of us all

We start with the meaning of her name. The first woman actually carries three names.

1st She is called woman or Isha because she came from man or Ish.

2nd She is called "Adam" by God in Gen. 1:27 "He called their name Adam"

3rd She is given the name Eve by Adam after the fall in Gen. 3:20. Eve is mother of all living.

A woman carries a man's name all her life.

The mother of all who have life; so her life is in all of us! Adam gave her this name to express the prophetic life of her descendants through which the promised seed would come.

Eve was the first woman to live upon the earth. She was a product of indirect creation. The first female to be born was her first daughter in Gen. 5:4.

Eve came from one of Adam's ribs and may I speculate that it was the 5th rib on the left side just under the heart. There are two reasons for this thought. First Eve came from his side close to his heart to indicate that they should be together side by side in love. Secondly it pictures Christ the second Adam having His left side pierced just under the fifth rib to give life to his espoused bride the church!

When Adam saw her he gave to us her background in Gen. 2:23 she was a basic part of Adam.

What the Old Testament says

God the Father told the first couple "to multiply" in ch. 1:25. Eve is the first wife mentioned in the Bible 2:18. In ch. 2:24 we find this most interesting fact the husband is to leave his mom and dad and become one with his wife the wife is not instructed to do this!

Notice also that Eve was to become Adam's "helpmeet" this word means by the side of. It does not mean above or below. They were to become "one flesh" Matthew Henry said "God did not take her from the head to be his superior or from his foot to be his inferior, but from his side to be equal with him, to be along with him".

It was God's desire that their two hearts best as one for each other. Marriage should still mean "they shall be one flesh". Today this is being assaulted on every hand.

Eve was created with out sin having been created by the hand of God. Since Eve was the first woman she had no inherited sin, she like Adam was innocent.

However this did not last as she becomes the first sinner, and introduced sin to her children. Everyone since then has been born in sin. David expressed it well in Psalm 51:5 "Shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me".

Eve holds the distinction of being the first human attacked by Satan by casting doubt and suspicion on what God had told Adam and Eve.

In this confrontation it is well to remember that the serpent was a beautiful creature that walked and spoke in some manner. The serpent was used by Satan to tempt Eve and was cursed to crawl on the ground and eat dust for it.

Now let's look at how Satan worked on Eve and still works today. The y.h.g.s. society said "Satan has never been interested in what God did or didn't say only in getting us to doubt that God said it or meant what He said!"

How Satan works is in Gen. 3

Verse 1- "yea hath God said" He casts doubt

Verse 2- "Neither shall ye touch it" – Eve added to the word, she got her information from Adam and then added to it just a little. Never try and match wits with the Devil, we are told to resist not debate in 1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith

Verse 4- "ye shall not surely die- this is the first lie put into the form of questioning God's love.

Verse 5- "ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"- this is an appeal to pride. This is Satan's set-up for the strike

Verse 6- "she saw the tree was good for food- this is the lust of the flesh. It was pleasant to the eyes- lust of the eyes; and a tree to be desired- pride of life.

She took- and gave to her husband and he did eat. Her sis was from "temptation" – the channel not the cause. Adams sin was deliberate. Note this food –lust of the flesh, that which caters to

human appetites or indulgences. Eyes gratify the sight and wise this is the pride of life which takes many forms. Lets read 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. All that the world lives for is under theses three headings.

Eve becomes the first clothing manufacturer as she sewed fig leaves to cover their bodies in ch. 3:7 and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. In so doing she created the first religion of self as they could not face their sin or commune any longer wit God compare with Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. Next they start making excuses they heard the voice and they hid in verse 8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. Religion separates men from God this is the first tragic result of sin. It makes man want to hide from God as David wrote in Psalm 69:5 and my sins are not hid from thee.

God calls "Adam where art thou" He was seeking the lost in Gen. 3:9. Adams answers "I was afraid- I hid" in 3:10. Notice no confession of sin from any of them. Adam blames Eve and she blames the serpent in verses 12&13. Notice also that God did not curse Adam and Eve, why did God not curse them? Because God intended to redeem them from their sins.

Eve is given the first prophecy of Christ in 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel Eve in her punishment is given pain in child bearing and multiply the number of children she would bare. Eve will be the first mother to lose a child to death and murder.

What the New Testament says about Eve

Jesus when questioned in Matthew 19:4-5 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? He goes back to what the Father said in the beginning it was to be one man and one woman the two were to become one flesh or one life. Much like gluing paper

together, when it tears it tears as one in interest, affection, animated by one soul one desire!

Paul in 2 Cor. 11:2-3 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. Here he tells us that just as Eve was joined to Adam, we are to be joined to Christ. In Eph. 5:31 Paul uses the same words from Gen. 2:24 that Jesus used in Matt. 19. When Paul wrote these words the church was pure as Eve was at her creation but just as Eve believed the lie, the church also believes the lie.

In Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; because of her sin Eve suffered sorrow and pain and the church at large is also.

What we can learn from Eve

1. Satan is real, he is subtle (beautiful) in his approach.
2. We should love the one God has given us as ourselves
3. The love of Christ for His church
4. Eve was a real person with real emotions. Eve and Adam both are real not myths, with real children, she suffered real heartaches!

Cain, Abel & Seth

These are the first 3 children in the Bible of the 3 one is a murderer, one is murdered and one is a replacement. The Lord will begin a principle here that is followed through out the rest of the Old Testament. It is the principle of giving the bad line of man first and then the line that the Saviour or messiah will come from.

Let's first see the meaning of their names

Cain- means "acquisition or possession"

Abel- means "breath or vapor"

Seth- means "substitute"

After God created Adam and Eve, He said for them to be fruitful and multiply and "thou" shalt bring forth children" 3:16.

None of these children were born before the fall into sin. Now Adam and Eve had no birth, no childhood, no youth, God made them fully grown adults. Here is the beginning of the family unit.

What the Old Testament Says of the 3

First is Cain, he was born after the fall making him the first 'to be born into sin'. We will see the effects of this fallen nature as they will be well displayed in Cain.

Let's hear his mother Eve's words in chapter 4:1 and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. We see in these words that Eve believed that Cain was that promised deliverer from chapter 3:15. Eve had no idea how long the struggle would be.

We find out in verse 2 that Cain was a farmer. He was working with a cursed earth which is one reason God couldn't accept the offering he would bring to the altar at the appropriate time. Now raising vegetables is an honorable vocation but in reality the crops are self producing.

In chapter 4:3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. Notice in this verse if you will 4 things about Cain.

1. He came first
2. He knew where to come to
3. He knew when to come
4. He knows what to bring

What we see is that Cain is there in himself and of his own way. He was right in his desire to give an offering but the wrong came in the fact he was bringing the product of his hands and labors. In verse 5 we find that God did not “respect” or accept this type of offering. This is seen in Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself we see that the religious Pharisee was praying in himself.

Cain’s “countenance” his look fell, eyebrows lower mouth drops open, heart sinks into his sandals. Because his self works was not accepted he became mad and committed murder and caused the first grave to be dug.

Now in verse 8 there is a conversation at the altars. In verse 9 we find Cain exhibiting self righteous indignation as Cain asks God a question to keep from answering one. In verse 10 we see that God does not answer Cain as He has no obligation to. What God hears is Abel’s blood crying out for justice and God will meet it out swift and sure. Cain is first to receive a curse on himself. Now not only in the ground cursed but the tiller of it also. Cain becomes a fugitive and a vagabond instead of a pilgrim and a stranger as he should have been.

Cain receives a mark to identify him as the first murderer and to be a constant reminder of the judgment of God. His home would be in the land of Nod and there he would found the first civilization.

Cain has 4 things about his curse for us to learn.

1. He has a mark- the anti Christ has a mark
2. a mark so all will know him
3. a fugitive, cannot make a living farming
4. Cain is a city builder

Abel

Abel was born second and grew to become a shepherd and would have been the one from which the Saviour would have come. Notice as the second he is preferred over Cain. Now in verse 4 it says “firstlings”, Abel brought more than one lamb, also “fat thereof” or the best of the herd also used this way in Gen. 45:18 & 49:20.

Now the Lord accepted Abel’s offering it was accepted first because only the shedding of blood will “remit” or pay for sin.

Second we learn that the offering showed the character of the offerer, it also showed the surrender of the heart to God. Abel by offering nothing which he has made rather he offered something which God had given him to care for.

Abel had the answer

1. He offered the right thing
2. He was accepted
3. He knew he was accepted
4. He had assurance

Seth

Seth is the replacement for Abel look at chapter 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel. He was the one from whom the deliverer would come and in Luke 3:38 you find Seth in Jesus lineage.

What the New Testament Says

First is Cain in him are some lessons in 1 John 3: 11-12 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. John draws a contrast with these 2 verses we are to have love one for another. We are not to live as Cain who was of the devil, because of jealousy and envy.

Cain killed a physical brother and it speaks to us today the brothers and sisters in the church get envious and proceed to kill a brother or sister's life and testimony. Then we have "the way of Cain" found in Jude 11 id associated with false teachers. Apostate teachers are those who teach "of those things they know naturally" Cain was religious but lost trusting in his works.

Abel's blood is placed with the shed blood of Christ which is better than Abel's. Abel's blood cried for vengeance while Christ blood cries out for mercy, atonement and forgiveness as seen in Hebrews 12:24 and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel. In Matthew 23:35 Jesus says "righteous Abel" in Hebrews 11 Abel is in this great roll of faith. Eve told her children

what God expected and that one was coming to save them, he believed her and brought the temporary sacrifice.

The only mention of Seth is in Luke 3:38.

What we can learn

1. the first parents faced the same issues we do
2. family life was the first organized unit
3. the adamic nature is passed on to children
4. Our gifts to the Lord must be matched with how we give it.

Isaac

A Promised Son

Introduction

Isaac means "he laughs" or "laughing one". He is the second son of Abraham born when Abraham is 100 and Sarah is 91. He was promised to them by God and Sarah laughed in Genesis 17. When Isaac is born Sarah says that God had prepared laughter for her in Genesis 21:6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me.

Isaac is one of 8 whose name was chosen by God before their birth. Notice there are 7 beginning with Isaac, Ishmael, and Solomon, Josiah, Cyrus, Isaiah's son Maher-shalal-hash-baz, John the Baptist and the 8th is Jesus His is the number of new beginnings. The only record of his early life is his circumcision at 8 days old and his weaning in Chapter 21:8 And the child grew, and was weaned:

What the Old Testament Says

In Genesis chapter 22 we have the offering of Isaac as a sacrifice by Abraham. Look here at verse 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. God says He is going to test Abraham notice now that he is going to ask of him that which he loves so dearly. God always tests His people on the thing they love. If you love something or a person you will stand by it, fight for it, suffer for it, and even die for it.

Abraham obeys God and takes Isaac to Mt. Moriah, now Moriah means "God is my instruction" 2 Chron. 3:1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father. This is the same area where the temple will be built and the cross will stand.

Isaac is often pictured as a boy of 10-12 years old yet Josephus records that he was at least 25 years old others say he was 33 years old which would fit into the type he gives of Jesus in his birth and sacrifice.

The important fact is the test of faith as from Isaac was to come the great nation of Israel. Isaac asked only one question "where is the lamb" it will be provided 1900 years later when John the Baptist

announces Jesus as "The Lamb". In verse 8 Abraham does not understand the test but he will obey and trust God to provide the Lamb.

Look at verses 11-13 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. We see in these verses

1. Abraham offering his only son- type of God the Father
2. Isaac obedient even unto death-type of Jesus the Son
3. A ram a substitute – type of Jesus being our substitute.

This incident proved for all time that man needs someone to stand in the gap for him.

There is an important truth to learn at this point; Isaac's birth is a foreshadowing of the birth of our Lord Jesus. Here are some similarities

1. Both promised Sons Isaac 25 years before his birth; Jesus in Gen 3:15.
2. The announcement of both births was unusual; Sarah laughed being 91; Mary questioned in Luke 1: 34
3. Both were named before their births
4. Both births happened at God's appointed time; Isaac in Gen. 21: 2 and Jesus in Gal 4:4
5. Both births were miracles; Abraham was 100 and Sarah 91 and Jesus born of a virgin compare Romans 4:19-25.

Our next encounter is Abraham seeking a bride for Isaac in Gen. 24. Abraham has his chief steward Eliezer which means "my God is helper" who is a type of the Holy Spirit. Eliezer makes a pact to find the right woman for Isaac. Eliezer guided by God in verse 27 I being in the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren. He comes to Rebekah and her family, she is willing to go as the chosen bride in verse 58, And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go. In verse 27 Eliezer gives thanks for being led to the right woman. Between verses 27 and 58 he tells her and her family of the house he came

from. The Holy Spirit tells us about our Future Home. Notice also that he has 10 camels (gentiles) they kneel at the well (of living water).

As they neared Abraham's camp Isaac went out to meet her and Eliezer. Isaac takes her into his mother's tent and she becomes his wife and he loved her in verse 67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: Isaac was comforted by Rebekah's love when remembering the death of his mother in the last part of verse 67 and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Isaac has two sons in Gen. 25: 19-34 when Isaac was 60 his boys Esau and Jacob were born after 20 years of prayer. This should help us to realize that we need to just keep praying until the answer comes. In verse 22-23 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger. We see here that Rebekah prayed for guidance and God told her that there was a struggle in her between two nations and always would be.

In Genesis 26 we find the covenant of God made to Abraham confirmed to Isaac. In the first five verses Isaac is told by God not to go to Egypt (type of the world) but Isaac being a natural man he went just like dad. When he meets the Egyptians at Gerar near Hebron, he tells them Rebekah is his sister verse 9 And Abimelech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, She is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because I said, Lest I die for her. Isaac becomes a well digger because of the constant struggle for water. He goes to Beer-Sheba and again God appears to him, blesses and reaffirms the covenant verse 24 And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I am the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake we should want the water springing up unto everlasting life.

In Genesis 27 we have the sad story of the stealing of a blessing that did not belong. Isaac in his old age asks for food and promises Esau the blessing if he will bring back some fresh venison. Rebekah overhears this and knows that God said the older would serve the younger and sets about helping God bring this to pass by passing

Jacob off as Esau since Isaac cannot see well. She tricks Isaac into blessing Jacob and Jacob in turn tricks Esau out of his birthright for a bowl of soup.

Once this trickery is discovered Rebekah sends Jacob to her family, a brother to live. Jacob will spend 20 some years their and never see his mother alive again. Esau goes to Ishmael and marries one of his daughters. So Rebekah loses both her sons.

What the New Testament says

First there are three individual references Romans 4:1-4; 13-25 and Gal. 3: 6-18. In Gal. 3:29 we are called heirs because of our faith. This is our relationship to Abraham our faith in Jesus. Second he is found in Heb. 11: 17-20 he is mentioned as being offered up by his father. Also in John 8: 56 Jesus confirms Isaac as a type of himself Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad also in Hebrews 9:9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices,

The lessons to be learned

1. What God promises He does even if it takes 25 years?
2. What God requires of us we should do knowing His way and will are always better?
3. Faith is a must for a Christian.
4. Isaac prefigures in the Old Testament what was fulfilled in the New Testament.
5. Trickery and worldly schemes only bring heartache to any family.

"JOSEPH"

The meaning of the name: Joseph: "may he (Jehovah) add". Gen. 30:24. This is a prophecy of having another son.

Scriptures: Gen. 37-50, Acts 7:9-19; Heb. 11:21-22.

Family background: from Gen. 37 until the end of the book, Joseph is the central character. More chapters are devoted to him than to Abraham or Isaac. Why should Joseph be given such prominence in Scripture? First because he was a good example of a man who lived a good and great life. Second and most important, there is no one in scripture who is more like Christ in his person and experience. The parallel is so evident; therefore we shall mention some of the 150 or so parallels. Joseph was born in Haran before Jacob returned to Canaan. He was Jacob's favorite child because he was the son of his old age, and also Rachel's child.

What the Old Testament says about Joseph:

The humiliation of Joseph is found in Genesis chapters 37-4. Joseph was a shepherd like the rest of his family and loved by his father Jacob (Israel) Gen. 37:2, 3. However, he was hated by his brothers because of his favored status (v. 3-4). They were jealous; Jacob made him a coat of many colors, a mark of distinction, honor and separation. We see in vs. 4-11 that it says 3 times that they hated Joseph (envied him - a root cause of sin). Joseph was a dreamer. From these dreams he could see the future when his brothers would bow down to him (9-10). In their minds they would never bow down. This was another reason they hated him. Jacob sent Joseph to look after the welfare of his brothers. This typifies Jesus being sent to Israel (Jn. 17:18, 1:11-12.) The brothers were about 40 miles north and Joseph walks it without question. Upon arriving they had moved onto another 20 miles or so. Through Reuben, who had already lost his position wanted to save him, showing some maturity. Judah sells him for 20 pieces of silver to some Ishmaelites. Joseph was taken from the pit and sold. The boys took Joseph's coat and sprinkled it with blood and took it to Jacob who believed his beloved son had been killed by a lion.

Note: where Joseph really was (36). He was sold into Egypt.

First 6 comparisons:

1. Miraculous birth

2. Both loved by their fathers
3. Both were set apart (Joseph by his coat, Jesus from sinners)
4. Both would rule their brethren
5. Both sent to their brethren
6. Both hated by their brethren

The shame of Judah is recorded in Genesis 38

Joseph is tested by adversity in (Gen. 39-40). God will not openly communicate with Joseph but he will marvelously take care of him. Joseph became a servant in Potiphar's house. He was prosperous and greatly pleased his master and became a great blessing to others (Gen. 39:1-6). From our point of view things look very bad. From God's view they are right on schedule. In vs. 7-12 Joseph is greatly tempted, yet he did not sin. Joseph serves God right on and will not openly sin against Him. Joseph was falsely accused of rape and cast into prison (16-20). Prison was different with him in it (v. 21). Even in the discouragement of a dark prison, the Lord is with him, and gives him a good standing with the jailer.

A few more comparison:

Joseph sold by brothers; Jesus sold by a brother

Sold for 20 pieces of silver; Jesus for 30 pieces

Brothers plotted death, brethren plotted death of Jesus

Joseph in pit of death, Jesus in grave of death

Joseph rose out of pit, Jesus came out of grave

Both obeyed their father

Both sent to seek their brethren, both receive Gentile brides

In Chapter 40, Joseph while in prison was a blessing to one prisoner and a condemnation to another (5-22). In all of his adversity, Joseph spoke only of God (39:9) and now 40:8. Anything you or I do, God should get the glory. Notice also (40:23) the one who received the blessing forgot Joseph.

Joseph's exaltation by Pharaoh (Gen. 41). Pharaoh had a dream and Joseph was summoned to interpret. Again in vs. 16, Joseph magnified God, not himself. God was working; He was the one to deliver Joseph out of prison. He interpreted the dream, both good

and bad. He gave explicit instructions to Pharaoh. Look at his statement about Joseph in vs. 39. Pharaoh is lost but he sees in Joseph what people should see in every believer today - Christ. Joseph was made ruler over all the land of Egypt (v. 41). He received a Gentile bride (vs. 45). He provided bread for all (v. 57). Jesus is the bread of life.

Joseph's exaltation by his family (Gen. 42- 45). The first visit by Joseph's was caused by the famine in Canaan. It was hunger that made them go to Egypt (42:1-5). Jacob is acting by faith. The brothers did not recognize Joseph, but he knew them (v. 6-16). Fulfillment of Joseph's dream. They had not seen one another since they had sold Joseph at the age of 17. Now he was 30 years of age. In 7-16 Joseph is testing them to find out about his family without him knowing it.

He wants whole brother with him so he demands that Benjamin be brought the next time they come to Egypt. Vs. 18 - Joseph never misses an opportunity to give honor to God. In chapters 43-44, Jacob consented to Benjamin going on the second trip. Judah assured his father that Benjamin would return. When Joseph sees him he weeps for joy. Then Joseph serves them lunch giving Benjamin 5 times as much. As they returned homeward, they were humiliated when overtaken by a servant of Joseph. They were accused of stealing Joseph's silver cup. It was found on Benjamin and they were taken back to Joseph and there Judah pleaded their case. One of the finest confessions ever is found in vs. 18-24. There came one in his line who did pay the penalty for us all.

In chapter 45 Joseph made himself known and wept aloud (vs. 1, 2). Here is another parallel. Joseph sends the servants out and then tells them who he is. There is coming a day when Christ will do the same. He revealed that God had sent him to Egypt for a definite purpose (Gen. 45:5-8). If you or I could see the hand of God in our lives would we be angry. I think not because we could see it is for our good. Joseph showed marvelous grace in vs. 4 and 14,15. His brother left to tell of Joseph and even Pharaoh's favors.

Jacob's blessing upon the 12 tribes (Gen. 46-50). Jacob took his journey to Beer-Sheba and offered sacrifices unto God 46:1 (Jacob has come full circle. The first time he left he was running from God. The 2nd time he offers sacrifices to God). God spoke to Israel in vs. 2-3. This is the 7th and last recorded time that God spoke to Jacob.

1. Gen. 28:13
2. Gen. 31:3
3. Gen. 32:1
4. Gen. 32:24
5. Gen. 35:1
6. Gen. 35:9
7. Gen. 46:2

God gives Israel a great promise in vs. 4. They were going down, they thought for a short time. Little did they realize that 70 souls would grow to a great multitude before they would leave Egypt? They were exalted in Egypt by Pharaoh and given the land of Ramses (Goshen) Gen. 47:1-11.

Jacob lives in Egypt 17 years. Before his death he repeats the covenant (48:3-4) and accepts Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh as his. Jacob blesses the second over the first (8-14). '

In chapter 49 Jacob blesses his 12 sons and utters prophecies over them. Note only one Gen. 49:8-12. Jacob gives a prophecy to his son Judah of the coming of Christ (v. 10). The word "Shiloh" means Christ. In chapter 50 Jacob is dead. The Egyptians mourn for 3 days. Joseph dies at 110 years of age, promising his brothers that God would return them to Canaan (v. 24)

Joseph	Jesus
1. Was the well beloved son of his father Gen. 37:3	1. Was the well-beloved Son Of His Father Matt. 3:17
2. Lived in Hebron, the place of fellowship, with his father before he was sent to his brethren. Gen. 37:14	2. Lived in heaven, the place Of fellowship, before coming To the earth John 17:5
3. His father sent him, but he was perfectly willing to go Gen. 37:13	3. His Father sent Him but He was perfectly willing to go John 3:16 Phil. 2: 5-7
4. Testified against his brothers sin, and they hated him Gen. 37:2	4. Testifies against their sin, and Men hated him John 15:18
5. Revealed to them the Exalted position he would hold in the future, and they hated him the more Gen. 37: 5-8	5. Revealed to man the exalted position He would hold in the future, and they hated Him the more Matt. 24: 30-31
6. His brethren plot against him Gen. 37: 19-20	6. His brethren, according to the flesh (the Jews), plot against Him Luke 20: 13-14; 19:46-47
7. Judah sells him for twenty pieces of silver Gen. 37: 26&28	7. Judah sells Him for thirty pieces of silver Matt. 26:15
8. Was tempted and did not yield Gen. 39	8. Was tempted but did not yield Matt. 4:1-11
9. Accused wrongfully Gen. 39:13-18	9. Accused wrongfully Matt. 26: 59,65

<p>10. Put in the Egyptian dungeon, the place of death, with two malefactors Gen. 39:20</p> <p>11. One of the malefactors died and the other lived Gen. 40: 21-22</p> <p>12. Was raised from the place of death by the king of the land Gen. 41:14</p> <p>13. Was given all power in Egypt Gen. 41: 42-44</p> <p>14. After his exaltation took Gentile bride to share his glory Gen. 41:45</p> <p>15. Acknowledged to be the saviour of the people and their ruler Gen. 47:25</p> <p>16. All must get their bread (physical life) through Joseph Gen. 41: 55,57</p> <p>17. Gives all honor to the King, and delivers all things into his hands Gen. 47: 14-20</p> <p>18. Knew the past history of his brethren Gen. 42:33</p>	<p>10. Put on the cross, the place of death with two malefactors Mk 15: 27-28</p> <p>11. One of the malefactors died and the other lived- spiritually Luke 23:39- 43</p> <p>12. Was raised from the place of death by the King of the universe Eph. 1:19-20</p> <p>13. Was given all power in heaven and earth Matt. 18: 28</p> <p>14. after His exaltation takes Gentile bride (the church) to share His glory Eph. 5: 23-32</p> <p>15. Acknowledged to be Saviour and Ruler Philippians 2: 10-11</p> <p>16. All must get spiritual life through Jesus Christ Acts 4:12</p> <p>17. gives all honour to the King (God) and delivers all things into his hands 1 Cor. 15:24</p> <p>18. Knew what was in man John 2:24-25; Matthew 9:4</p>
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Ruth

This is one of two Old Testament books named after women. Now in this study of Ruth whose name means “a sight worth seeing” or “beauty” is a small book about a very important woman as she is in the line of Christ and the story behind her being there can tell us a great deal about Christ and the Church.

Ruth is from Moab and is called this in some form 7 times. There is no record of her family or her past. This in itself is important as the church has no mention of family or past.

Ruth lived during the time period covered by the book of Judges. She is a young girl with some very amazing qualities. When god writes the history of a life He does it with a purpose, to teach us some lesson or truth we should know. Ruth will do both for us!

Let's see what the Old Testament says

The first two chapters of her story picture our part in the spiritual life of a Christian. The last two show God's part.

Beginning in chapter one we will see Ruth's decision. She had married a Jewish boy “Mahlon” and after only 10 years both he and his brother had died and left Ruth and Orpah widows.

Now there is Naomi the mother in law, Ruth and Orpah all widows. Naomi receives word that the famine is over back home. This story compare to that of the prodigal son. On the way home Naomi stops and tells the other two to go home to their families. Orpah cannot leave her past and turns back; she typifies someone making a profession without a real possession.

Ruth however made her decision she will go with Naomi she wants no more to do with her past. In verses 16-17 you find some beautiful words but there is more to them. They hold a 7 fold decision that demonstrates true repentance. She accepted

1st Going with Naomi

2nd the poverty of Naomi

3rd Being and outcast in a strange land

4th Remaining a widow

5th Identifying with the God of Israel

6th Accepting the Hope of Israel

7th She was willing to accept any judgment if she failed

Paul told the Corinthian church in 2 Cor. 7:10 Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation!

The most important part of her decision was that Ruth was taking God as her god and turning her back on all others in 1:19. Naomi went out full and came back empty except for this Moabite girl! So Ruth's decision in Ch. 1 is "Thy people shall be my people"

Now in chapter two we will have Ruth's service. Ruth being young was excited to work and care for Naomi so at daylight she heads to the fields and it was her "hap" or perhaps to enter the field of a wealthy man named "Boaz" his name means "Strength or Mighty" he is related to Naomi and also to Ruth by marriage. As she starts gleaning for grain according to the law of the poor Lev. 19:9-10 and 22:22.

Boaz returns from a trip and having heard all about Ruth and her dedication to Naomi. He is going to make sure she is well taken care of or blessed even to "handfuls on purpose". Now a kinsman had the ability to "redeem" a relative who was in trouble as seen in Lev. 25. A kinsman was a Goel someone who could free by paying or the one who pays. This is what makes Jesus our Kinsmen redeemer for we are all Ruth's and need redeemed from the curse of sin.

There were three requirements of a kinsman.

1st He must be willing to redeem according to Lev. 25:25 and for us Gal. 4:4-5

2nd he must be a kinsman to have the right to redeem Lev. 25:48-49; Ruth 3:12-13; and Heb. 2:11 Boaz is probably a cousin of Elemelech. There was one closer probably a brother so Boaz is going to confront him and see where he stands.

3rd he must have the power or means to redeem John 10: 11-18. This man is willing to redeem Naomi's land (type of the law as the law was for the land first and a people second) so Boaz adds Ruth and explains that she is a Moabite. The law said a Moabite could not come into the congregation for 10 generations according to Deut. 23:3. So "Ho such a one" refuses and this gives Boaz the opportunity he needed to claim Ruth his love!

Chapter 3 brings us Ruth's rest as there is nothing more she can do Boaz has to accept her or not. Now the actions of Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz seem strange to us but was in accordance of with the law Deut. 25:5-6

When Naomi sent Ruth to lie down at Boaz feet she was asking him to honor the law and love and shelter Ruth. Ruth has both the right and need to claim him and Boaz understands as we see in verses 10-13. Ruth could rest in the fact that Boaz would fulfill his word. Jesus bids poor sinners to do the same and come to his feet at the cross and ask him to claim them.

Lastly in chapter 4 we find Ruth's reward. Boaz let's everyone know that he takes it all to redeem that is the land Naomi and Ruth in 9&10 his gentile bride.

Ruth a gentile is mother of Obed

Obed becomes the father of Jesse

Jesse becomes the father of David the king

Also Boaz is the son of Rehab and Salmon

New Testament

Her name only mentioned once in Matt. 1:5

However there are several lessons with New Testament teaching in picture & type

We have covered the pictures of Ruth 1 decision and 2 service being the part of a believer in the church age. Chapter 3 Rest and 4 Reward these are God's parts toward the believer.

Boaz is a type of our Kinsman Redeemer Jesus Christ who met the requirement for a Goel.

1. He must be willing to redeem Gal. 4:4-5
2. he must be a Kinsman to have the right Phil. 2:5-8
3. He must have the power or the means to redeem John 10:11,18

Ruth herself is a type of the church the bride of Christ the redeemer. When Ruth had no hope in anyone other than Boaz she knelt at his feet, he graciously received her. So today Jesus Christ is our Kinsman our Redeemer the church is His bride.

Lessons to take from this character

1. A family left Canaan and suffered. We do the same thing and wonder why things happen to us.
2. God always receives and restores those who came back to Him
3. Love should abound for our loved ones

4. When we place ourselves at His disposal and serve Him, He rewards us with spiritual blessings
5. We should not be like Orpah who turned back because it would cost her too much!
6. The Lord provides for all our needs if we ask, believe and work and work for Him!

Hannah

Here is our third woman in this series, Hannah means “gracious” and with a slight change her name becomes Anna or Ann. The story about her is found in 1st Samuel chapters 1&2, her life before this is not recorded for us. Her family life after marriage to Elkanah is what has the most significance.

Now Elkanah was a Levite of the honorable family the Kohathites. He was just the average priest and followed the custom of polygamy, his other wife being Peninnah. Now Hannah was barren but Peninnah had children and this is where the trouble was as she made sure Hannah knew who the children belonged to look at chapter 1 verse 6 now this happens because Elkanah had shown favor to Hannah in verse 5, you see love helps one make sacrifices for others.

Hannah if you notice never acted on nor showed any sign or attitude of revenge this attitude would make her one of the most notable of Old Testament people.

Let's see what we can learn about her for lives from the Old Testament. The first thing we find in her life is GRIEF in 1:3-10. It was the family custom to go once a year to “Shiloh” where the Tabernacle was to offer the sacrifice and to worship the Lord. All along the way Hannah had to endure the ridicule heaped on her by Peninnah. This and being childless was the cause of her grief. In those days for a woman not to be able to have children was a great disgrace. We see that God still prefers the 2nd over the 1st. Elkanah is really hurting for Hannah he is trying to do his best by her. However we see in verse 7 that her sorrow is so heavy that she begins to fast and pray.

Her husband was good to her and loved her the most. For a Jewess to be childless was a great shame as the book of Proverbs says a man is to have a full quiver or many children. Hannah was said to be “bitter in her soul” this describes her deep disappointment at not having a son as she approaches Eli at the gate. Now verse 15 tells us how sorrowful she was.

Hannah is the 4th woman who grieved because she had not had children, if you look them up she is the most prayerful of all lets just see.

1. Sarah- laughed
2. Isaac prayed for Rebekah
3. Rachel said "give me children or else I die"
4. Hannah prayed.

Her first step to conquering grief is that she went to the Tabernacle now this friend is the second lesson for us the first is pray then go to church. The old hymn says "take your burden to the Lord and leave them there".

The second thing we find is Prayer and praise in verses 11-19. Hannah prayed in her prayer she makes a vow with the Lord in verse 11. Hannah begs God for a son, she is dead serious with God she makes the vow and she will give the son for a life of Levitical service. In Hannah's prayer she said that the son would never have a "razor touch his head" this was a pledge to separate him unto God in a fashion that all around would know!

This is a part of what is called a "Nazarite Vow" from Num. 6:2-5. Now a man or a woman could make this vow, but Hannah makes it for Samuel before he was even born. It was a voluntary vow that involved 3 things 1st He was not to drink anything from the vine. This has nothing to do with right or wrong but rather pleasing the Lord. Wine is a symbol of earthly joy. The Nazarite was to find his joy in the Lord. Where do you find your joy? 2nd NO razor was to ever touch his head or beard until the vow was completed or contact was made with a dead body. 3rd He was not to touch a dead body. The Lord was to be first above all else, as the one with the vow could not even attend his or her parents funeral.

It may well be that Hannah was looking beyond her own longing for a child to Israel's desperate situation of religious decline. The prayer she prayed was one without speech. She prayed with such zeal of the heart that she did not actually say the words!

Eli the priest watched her mouth and thought she was drunk in verses 12&13. There were a lot of drunks coming into the Tabernacle

including his sons. Eli's words only added to her sorrow but her answer is classic in verse 15. This is the kind of praying people ought to be doing today! In verse 17 Eli says "go in peace" and prophecies that God was going to hear and answer her prayer. With this Hannah went home happy. She was smiling and eating again, in verse 19 she conceives.

The third thing we see is Hannah's promise kept in verses 20-28. Hannah has the son she prayed for his name will be Samuel or "heard of God". Hannah keeps him until he is weaned in verse 23 about 4 or 5 years old and then takes him to Eli as promised. This is a great contrast to today when women want to kill the blessing of the Lord. In verse 28 she did not give him for a year or two no she gave him for his entire life. One thing to note Hannah had no fear in giving her son since it was to the Lord! We should have no fear in giving ourselves or loved to the Lord's service.

The fourth thing is Hannah's praise to god in chapter 2:1-10. Before leaving she prays a prayer of triumph to the Lord.

1. Harm- strength, in the Lord 2. Rock- Jesus 3. Must pray for God's will to be done in our lives 4-6 god does not need to apologize for what he does 7 god will do what's right if we trust wholly in him 8-9 man can never succeed, but God can through us as we yield to His Holy spirit.

The fifth thing God gave fruit of the first fruits in verses 18-21. God seeing Hannah's faithfulness in her vow gave her more fruit in verse 20. Notice she has 5 (number of grace) more children in verse 21.

The Sixth thing is the lessons we should learn

1. god at times holds back good things until we are submissive to His will
2. When cruel remarks are made with out cause take them as a Christian and not ruin our testimony

3. When we pray we must know that god answers in His own way and at His time.
4. Every sorrow we have the Lord can handle
5. What we promise and give to the Lord he will bless
6. In everything we should rejoice. Hannah praised the Lord for Samuel.

"DANIEL"

The meaning of his name: "God is my judge."

Scriptures: Daniel 1 - 12, Matt. 24:15, Mk. 13:14, Heb. 11:33-34.

Family background - Daniel was of noble if not royal blood (Dan. 1:3). We know nothing of his partners, only that Daniel was of the tribe of Judah. At about age 20, Daniel was taken from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. Daniel was young but had wisdom beyond his years. His aptitude was high in all subjects, especially science. Daniel had a spotless character. He was referred to 3 times as "the greatly beloved one" in 9:23, and twice in 10:11-19.

Daniel was indeed a prophetic statesman of his day. Jeremiah was a contemporary of Daniel in his later ministry. Daniel pondered the words of Jeremiah 25:8-13 concerning the 70 years of captivity (Dan. 9:2). Daniel, then Ezekiel - both Jews and both prophets - was taken captive to Babylon. They were the prophets of God during their captivity. Even though Daniel was in captivity, there was a note of birth, and breeding and aristocracy about his whole character.

What the Old Testament says: Prophecy fulfilled. The prophecy of the 70 years of captivity of the southern kingdom of Judah was whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Now in Daniel 9:2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem Daniel is praying because he has been in God's word, it has revealed God's will for Israel. "A study of God's word, followed by prayer, is the formula for determining God's will." II Chr. 36:21 To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years. Daniel was taken in the first deportation to Babylon in the 3rd year of Jehoiakin, King of Judah (Dan. 1:1). Deportation was completed in the 4th year (Jer. 25:1).

Prophecy about the descendants of Hezekiah. Isaiah said in Isaiah 39:5-7, notice verse 6 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. He gives the prophecy that Israel's finest would be going into captivity. Hebrew names changed (Dan. 1:3-4). Four Hebrews including Daniel, who met the qualifications of King Nebuchadnezzar, were taken and made eunuchs. They were placed under the prince of eunuchs, who changed their names. The reason for the change to Babylonian names was to wean them away from their land, their faith in God, and to get them to adopt the religion and habits of Babylon. The name change is as follows (Dan. 1:7):

- Daniel, meaning "God is my Judge" to Belteshazzar, meaning "who best favors."
- Hananiah, meaning "beloved of the Lord" to Shadrach, meaning "illuminated by the sun god."
- Mishael, meaning "who is as God" to Meshach, meaning "who is Ishtar."
- Azariah, meaning "the Lord is my help" to Abednego, meaning "slave of the god of wisdom."

Now you have Belteshazzar, who was Daniel. You also have the three famous names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Do not forget, these were Babylonian names. Changing a person's name does not always change his character. These four Hebrew boys were deeply rooted in their own faith and they didn't change.

Daniel as God's representative to Babylon. It was God's purpose to make the descendants of Abraham, the Hebrew nation, the leading nation of the world. Their disobedience and idolatry prevented that and the earthly reign was transferred from Israel to Babylon. God raised up Daniel to speak for Him in the courts of Babylon. Daniel spoke a supernatural language and thereby, impressed not only the Babylonians but also his own people. The only hope for the Hebrews in captivity was this man, Daniel. He spoke in such miraculous fashion, with the power of God so that even the Jews in captivity realized that the Lord God of Israel was still their God and they were His people.

What David said, by the inspiration of God was prophecy. Daniel was different. All the other prophets, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah were to go to the people and proclaim the Word of the Lord. Daniel was to record what was revealed to him through visions. Dan. 12:4-9 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

Now let's look at the miracles and prophecies of Daniel. Here we will only point out some of the miraculous prophecies of Daniel:

Daniel and the 3 Hebrews refused to defile themselves by eating the king's meat and wine. They ate something akin to barley mush and water and appeared fairer and fatter than the others. Dan. 1:5-16. The outcome is in vs. 17-20 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. Daniel is a genius among geniuses. This was a miracle of the Lord.

The meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Dan. 2). The king had a dream which was a summation of the entire course of the "times of

the Gentiles." None of the astrologers and magicians could interpret the dream. The king sent for Daniel. Daniel gathers his prayer team and seeks God's answer in Dan. 2:17-19 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. God answered and revealed the meaning of the dream to Daniel in a night vision (Dan. 2:19-22). Daniel gave a testimony of the power of God to the king (Dan. 2:28-29). Then Daniel sets forth the meaning of the dream. He names the world powers from Babylon on to the kingdom of Heaven represented as the Stone cut out without hands (Dan. 2:44-45).

Daniel's vision (Dan. 7) we go to Daniel 7 where the Lord reveals to Daniel in a dream, a message concerning the same world powers. This was God's way of writing prophecy. All of these have come and gone. The prophecy of the man of sin is in Dan. 7:24-25 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time. He will conquer 3 kings and become a world dictator (Rev. 13:7). The anti-Christ is a blasphemer as seen in Rev. 13:5-6 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. He is against Christ he is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Daniel interprets the tree vision of the King in Dan. 4. The dream of the king was one to be interpreted by Daniel. It could have spelled doom for Daniel, but he was faithful to the Lord. He had to tell the king that God still ruled over men and nations look at 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most

High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men, 25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, 32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Belshazzar and the handwriting on the wall (Dan. 5). The king's grandson, Belshazzar, witnessed God's handwriting on the wall. Again Daniel witnessed to the power of God and told the truth of the writing. The meaning is found in vs. 25-28 And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. That very night it was fulfilled as Darius diverted the river and sent his troops in and took the city 30- 31 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain. And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old .

Daniel in the den of lions (Dan. 6). This story is popular but the real test in the scriptures is the faith of Daniel. Daniel refused to bow down to a man's decree found in 6:7 and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Because he refused, he was placed in a den of lions for an entire night but was not harmed. Darius was forced to acknowledge God in vs. 26 I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

The 70 weeks of Daniel (Dan. 9). This 70th week is still future. What was predicted and what has come to pass in reference to Ch. 9.

Israel in the latter days as seen in Dan. chapters 10-12. These 3 chapters go together. They speak of the vision of the glory of God and what God said to Daniel in 10:14 Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. These chapters were a vision and a prophecy. Daniel declared the Word of the Lord and interpreted the future from Darius to the man of sin who is yet to come.

What the New Testament says about Daniel. The Lord spoke of him in Matt. 24:15. This is a reference to Dan. 9:27 and 11:31. Paul describes the man of sin, 1 Thess. 2:3, this is from Dan. 7:8. In Hebrews 11:33 is a reference to Daniel. Hebrews 11:34 is a reference to the 3 Hebrews in the fire.

The lesson you should learn: Daniel was taken captive as a teen. He lived 72 years in a strange land and never ceased to speak for God. The secret of Daniel's life was prayer. All that God told Daniel to say came to pass, except those that are still future. Daniel was a man whom God could use. Jesus authenticated Daniel's words therefore we should not doubt the prophecy. Daniel's declaration in Ch. 4:17, 25, and 32 about God is still true.

