

Jesus in the Old Testament

The Last Adam

Lesson 13

Key Verse

Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

—1 Peter 2:10

Key Verse Thought: Read the key verse. As we began our study of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, we learned that they had very few good kings. Although the good kings sought to please God, they, too, failed. The kingdom did not live up to the plan God had for them. Nevertheless, we will learn today that God had a better plan for His people – to be *His* people. It was not in obedience to the Law (as they thought), but by His mercy. **Mercy** means “God’s pity for man in his sin, and which reveals itself in God’s will for man’s salvation.” Today we will see God’s plan was for them to believe in His Son, Jesus. We will also understand that plan was not only for the Israelites, but also for all of mankind.

Emphasis: We are to recognize that just as one man, Adam, brought sin into the world, God sent One, Jesus, to set us free from that sin – free to have eternal life with Him, if we only believe.

Lesson Summary: In this quarter, we have studied the books of the Kings and Chronicles, learning about the scriptures from Adam until King Hezekiah of the kingdom of Judah. We know God created Adam and that Adam sinned, bringing sin upon every man. With that sin came separation from God. However, at the same time, God gave man a promise that He would send one to restore that broken relationship.

We then remember Abraham, and the promise God gave him – the promise of a son through whom all of the world would be blessed (the promise of Jesus). Abraham lived by faith, looking forward to Jesus. He believed the promise God gave, and Abraham was called the friend of God. We are to have the faith of Abraham.

After Moses led the people out of bondage in Egypt, God gave Moses the Law. Without the Law, mankind did not know how sinful they were, or how far they were from God. In that

Law, sin was revealed. They also learned that with obedience comes blessing, but with disobedience comes a curse.

As we remembered the kings of Judah, we saw how few good kings there were. We could recognize good kings, for they sought to obey God's Laws. Nevertheless, at some point, they all failed. It was then that the sin was even worse in the land. After learning of the kings, we learned that it is impossible to obey *all* of God's Laws – for people are sinners.

In this lesson, we will learn that, “21. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive ...” (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

Suggested Bible Reading to Prepare for This Lesson

- Monday: Galatians 3
- Tuesday: Romans 3
- Wednesday: Romans 9
- Thursday: Romans 5
- Friday: Genesis 2
- Saturday: 1 Corinthians 15

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The Last Adam

1. Adam Until Abraham
 - By Adam, sin entered into the world
 - Abraham lived by faith – believing Jesus would come
2. Moses and the Law
 - Moses delivered the people from physical bondage
 - Obedience to the Law brought blessing, but disobedience brought a curse
3. The Kings
 - The kings failed, not continually obeying God's Law – they forgot to live by faith
 - All of mankind are sinners, deserving the curse brought by disobedience
4. The Last Adam
 - For as in Adam, all die
 - So in Christ shall all be made alive

Note: In our last lesson, we remembered the failure of yet another good king. It seemed they were not the kingdom God had planned for them to be. In this lesson, we will learn that God's plan was for them not to be a people here on earth, but a people unto Him.

1. Adam Until Abraham

All throughout this quarter as we began our study of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, in the Kings and Chronicles, we remembered from Adam until good King Hezekiah. This is the lineage of God's people. When we recalled Adam, we remembered that it was through him sin entered into the world. But, immediately after that sin came a promise from God – He would send one to deliver mankind from that sin. “**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**” (Genesis 3:15). From that point forward, mankind waited for God to send the Promised One; and from then on, mankind recognized they were sinners before God.

Remember Abraham. God called him to leave his home and extended family to walk where God told him to walk – and he obeyed God. God promised Abraham, an old man with no children, that through his seed, all of the world would be blessed. Abraham believed God, and God gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac. Through that son's son, God gave the twelve tribes of Israel. It was through one of those sons that God promised He would send that Promised One. However, remember – it took the faith of Abraham believing God would give him that son that would eventually bring about that Promised One, Jesus. For that faith, Abraham was called the “Friend of God.” “**And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God**” (James 2:23). We today, are to have the faith of Abraham (faith in Jesus).

Read some encouraging words recorded about faithful Abraham.

6. Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9. So then

they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. (Galatians 3:6-9)

Notice that God “preached before the gospel unto Abraham.” The gospel is the good news of Jesus.

Just as Abraham looked forward to Jesus in faith, we look back to Jesus in faith.

A Deeper Path: To help one understand the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15 better, read the following: “14. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16. For verily he took not on *him the nature of* angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham. 17. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:14-17). When Jesus came, lived a sinless human life, died upon the cross, and rose from the dead, he defeated the devil and death – allowing Him to be able to reconcile us to God once and for all.

2. Moses and the Law

Long after Abraham, his descendants grew to be many. They were in bondage as slaves in Egypt. God sent Moses to deliver them from that bondage. Once they were free, God gave them the Law (we call the first five books, Genesis through Deuteronomy, the Law). This Law held the commandments God expected His people to obey. In having this Law, they could understand just how sinful of a people they were, and just how far from God they had become. Especially remember that with obedience to that Law came blessing – but if they disobeyed that law in any area, they were promised a curse (see Deuteronomy 27-29).

Instead of living by faith – looking for the Promised One, they tried to obey that Law – but failed.

10. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are

written in the book of the law to do them. 11. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is evident*: for, The just shall live by faith. 12. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: 14. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:10-14)

They had forgotten the purpose of the law – to reveal mankind’s sin, and they had forgotten to live by faith – watching and waiting for the Promised One, Jesus.

A Deeper Path: When Jesus came, He fulfilled every letter of the Law. This is something that no man had ever done, or ever will do. In that fulfillment, he took upon himself the curse of the Law for us (because we are cursed for not fulfilling it). See what he accomplished by doing this. “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree” (Galatians 3:13). (Compare that with Deuteronomy 21:22-23.) All one has to do is believe, by faith, that Christ took that curse for us.

3. The Kings

We learned about the kings of Israel, and then we began our study of the kings of Judah. There was never a good king of Israel. So far, we discovered that out of twelve kings (and one queen) in Judah, there have only been seven good kings. (Next quarter as we complete our study of the kings of Judah, we will find there were a total of nineteen kings and one queen. Of those, there were only eight good kings!) Many times, we could see the difference when they read God’s Word, which reminded them of their sin. It was only then that we saw them seek after God (remember – the law revealed to them their sin and their separation from God). The other kings (and one queen) had no fear of God, and did not care that they sinned. Often we read of the excessive sin in which they were involved and always their idolatry.

See if the following verses sound much like the kings about whom we have learned. So far, we have only found seven kings out of twelve who sought after God, but at some point in

their life, they too, forgot or forsook God. In the remaining seven kings, we will learn of next quarter, only one was a good king. Are we any better today than they were back then?

9. What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10. As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11. There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13. Their throat *is* an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps *is* under their lips: 14. Whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness: 15. Their feet *are* swift to shed blood: 16. Destruction and misery *are* in their ways: 17. And the way of peace have they not known: 18. There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin ... 23. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:9-20, 23)

Is there any hope?

After reading these verses, we understand that all of mankind have not only sinned, but come short of what God expected of mankind. The time of the kings in Judah helped show this vividly. Even when the people tried to obey the law, they could not, and soon the sin was even greater in the land than before (and we will study the worst king of Judah next quarter!). Man cannot obey the Law of God completely – for “*by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin*” (Romans 3:20).

We know Adam sinned when he disobeyed God, bringing sin into the world upon every man. We remember that God promised Abraham that through his seed, all of mankind would be blessed (the promise of Jesus). After beginning our study of the kings, we learned that no one could obey all of the Law. Now we understand that all of mankind has sinned.

Where does that leave sinful man?

18. For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise. 19. Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made ... 21. *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. 22. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus ... 29. And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:18-19, 21-26, 29)

If we relied upon our obedience of God's Law today for our salvation, we would be in the same condition in which we learned Judah continued – the ups and downs of blessings and curses. However, by understanding the verses we just read (Galatians 3:18-29), we are to understand that the Law of God was only given to expose to mankind his sin. It also revealed just how far away from God man had fallen. That understanding of mankind's sin is to make known the need for Jesus. It takes the same faith of Abraham. Abraham believed God *would* send One to deliver mankind from their sin. We must believe that God *did* send One to deliver mankind from their sin. That One in *both* instances is Jesus.

Remember what we just read. “And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29).

What was the problem with Judah?

31. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. 32. Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; 33. As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 9:31-33)

They forgot that the Law was to reveal to them their sin, and they were not to depend upon it for their salvation. They were to look continually forward to the promise of Jesus.

We can read that that stone is Jesus. “*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone*” (Ephesians 2:20). Also, see that stone is to be the foundation, chosen by God.

A Deeper Path: There is more to understand about Jesus as the stone, chosen to be the cornerstone upon which our salvation is based. If one does *not* believe in Jesus, Jesus becomes a stumbling stone to him. If one rejects Jesus, they are disobedient, and they reject the only way to salvation. “4. *To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5. Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed*” (1 Peter 2:4-8). That chief cornerstone is Jesus.

4. The Second Adam

Remember Adam, the first man. “*And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul*” (Genesis 2:7). God created man, breathed life into him, and man became alive. Then sin entered into the world by one man, Adam, and through that sin, death. “12. *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered*

into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: 13. (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses ...” (Romans 5:12-14). In addition, we have read how through the centuries God revealed mankind’s sin to them, by the Law. However, it was not revealed without the promise that He would send One who would deliver mankind from their sin and death caused by that sin.

19. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. 20. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21. That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:19-21)

God then revealed that there was a second Adam. The second man Adam would be life giving.

21. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. 22. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive ... 42. So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 46. Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47. The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 42-47)

We can then understand that God never intended for man to live perfectly under the Law, for it is impossible. However, the intent of that Law is to reveal to mankind their need for grace – only provided by the Savior, Jesus. “For the law was given by Moses, *but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*” (John 1:17).

Remember also the encouraging words Jesus gave to Martha when her brother Lazarus had died. “25. *Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*” (John 11:25-26).

Do you believe this?

A Deeper Path: Once we understand and believe that Jesus died to give us eternal life, we must also die to our sinful nature and live a life pleasing to God – remembering that sin no longer reigns over us. “11. *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace*” (Romans 6:11-14).

Reinforcement: We must understand that the Law was only given to reveal mankind’s sin. The Law cannot save anyone. One must have faith in Jesus (as did Abraham). Just as we watched Judah’s failure in faithfully obeying the Law, we see that through Jesus, He not only fulfilled that Law, but also died so that we could have eternal Life. If only one would believe. Just as through Adam, all will die, through Jesus, all can live.

Closing: It would be good to close with a short prayer reinforcing today’s lesson. Always include any prayer requests you may have. *Today, pray that we will understand that obeying God’s Law is not enough. We must believe that Jesus was the One promised from the beginning of time – the One who came to take away our sin, restoring our relationship with God. Moreover, if we do not believe that Jesus died for our sin, we will never have eternal life with God.*