



Lesson 7

Bridging the Gap – From the Fall to the Birth of Christ

Key Verse:

“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”
John 1:17

Key Words:

- judgment

- exodus

- forsook (forsake)

- plunderers

- calamity

- nourished

- captivity

- fulfil

Key Points:

In Lesson 5, we talked about the fall, when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. Today’s lesson is going to provide you with a very brief overview of events between the fall and the coming of Christ into the world, taking us from Genesis through the rest of the Old Testament through to the book of Malachi.

The founding of Israel, God’s chosen People *read Genesis 12:1-4*

In Genesis 12, we read about God calling a man named Abram out from his country and deciding to make a great nation starting with him. Abram, whose name was changed by God to Abraham, became the founder of a great nation, called Israel. He had a son, called Isaac, who in turn had a son called Jacob, and Jacob had 12 sons.

The Exodus from Egypt *read Exodus 1:1-14*

Those 12 sons and their families ended up as slaves in Egypt. God used a great leader, Moses, to rescue the people of Israel from Egypt, and they traveled to the land of Canaan, where they became established as a nation, under the leadership of Joshua, Moses’ successor.

Period of the Judges (1400 BC to 1000 BC) *read Judges 2:11-16*

In Canaan, after the death of Joshua, there were a series of leaders, called Judges, for about 300 years. Israel would often stop trusting in God, and start worshipping idols.

God would then allow other nations to fight Israel and win, and Israel would be slaves. Then they would pray to God, and he would give them a man to deliver them, and this person would be their leader for a period of time.

Period of the Kings (1000 BC to 500 BC) read I Samuel 8:19-22 Psalm 23

Israel was a unique nation because they had God as their leader. But they saw that other nations had kings, and they began to want one too. God allowed them to have a king, starting with King Saul. He was succeeded by Israel's most famous king, King David. David wrote most of the Psalms, and also gathered the materials for the building of the temple, a permanent version of the tabernacle.

After David's death, Israel was split into two parts – the northern kingdom of 10 tribes, called Israel, and the southern kingdom of 2 tribes, called Judah.

Prophets read Isaiah 1:1-7

Both Israel and Judah forgot about God, and worshipped idols. God sent prophets to warn them about their sin, and to warn them that judgment was coming. Many of these prophets also spoke about a coming deliver, the Messiah.

The Captivity read II Chronicles 36:19-21

Israel – in 722 BC, the Assyrian army invaded Israel and took them into captivity.
Judah – in 586 BC, the Babylonian army invaded Judah, destroyed the temple and took the people into captivity. The exile continued for 70 years. Then some people returned back to their homeland and began to rebuild.

Greeks and Romans

From about 400 BC until around 4 BC, there are no biblical writings. However, history continued on.

Alexander the Great led the Greek army through the land of Israel. Greek became the common language (this is the language that the new testament was written in).

In 67 BC, the Roman army conquered the land of Judah and the Jews came under the authority of the Roman empire.

Questions:

1. What promise did God make to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-4?
2. What miracle did God do for the people of Israel to allow them to escape from Egypt? (Exodus 14:21-22)
3. Which King of Israel was greater, Saul or David? Why?
4. Give the names of five prophets in the Old Testament (hint – look in the table of contents)
5. Why was the nation of Israel taken into captivity?