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The Beginning of People

Lessons from

the

First Book of the Taurat

of the Prophet Moses

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Welcome to this course called: **The Beginning of People**

The Taurat of the Prophet Moses came from God. The Quran says: “He (God) revealed the Taurat and the Injil” (Surat Al Imran (3): 3). For this reason Muslims believe that the Taurat is God’s word. Christians and Jews also believe that the Taurat came from God. All people everywhere should read the Taurat. It is God’s word!

The Taurat is the five books of the Prophet Moses. These five books are called: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. In this course you will learn from the first book of the Taurat.

The Taurat tells about many people. In it we read about Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Aaron. Some of them were prophets. This course will teach you wonderful things about some of these people of God.

This course is called: The Beginning of People. There are six lessons. Each lesson is taken from the first book of the Taurat, which is called Genesis.

Genesis is also the first book of the Bible. This is because the five books of the Taurat are also the first five books of the Holy Writings from God.

This is how you do the lessons:

1. Read the part in the Taurat, which is written at the beginning of each lesson. The part of the Taurat which you should read is written like this:

Genesis 2:10-12

Genesis: This means the name of the book in the Taurat.

2: : This means the chapter in the book.

10-12: This means the verses in the chapter.

So **Genesis 2:10-12** means the book of Genesis, chapter two, verses ten to twelve.

2. Read the whole lesson carefully.

In each lesson you will see references at the end of some sentences. The references will look like this: (Genesis 1:1). This means that the ideas in the sentence came from that part of the Taurat.

At the end of some lessons you will find the meanings of difficult words which were used in the lesson. Each difficult word is marked like this: *

3. Answer the questions in the test found at the back of book.

4. Learn the Scripture verse at the end of the lesson.

We wish you great success in your study. God bless you!

Lesson 1

God Made the World

Before you do this lesson, read these verses from the Taurat: Genesis 1:1-31.

Now read the lesson and do the test at the end. The lesson explains what you have read in the Taurat.

“In the beginning when God created* the universe*” are the first words of the Taurat in the Bible.

The world is a very wonderful place, isn't it? God's word through the Prophet Moses shows us why the world is so wonderful. The Taurat of Moses says that God himself created the world.

Some people do not believe in God. God says that people who do not believe in him are foolish. They cannot explain how the world can be such a wonderful place.

When God Made the World

The first verse of the Taurat says that God created the heavens and the earth in the beginning (Genesis 1:1).

Remember: Genesis 1:1 means chapter one and verse one of Genesis. Genesis is the first book of the Taurat.
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Do you know when the beginning was? Most scientists say that the earth is millions* of years old. But some people say it is only thousands of years old. Who is right? The Taurat does not tell us. No one knows for sure when the beginning was.

What the World was Like

What do you think the world was like at the beginning? The first book of the Taurat says that it was without form and empty (Genesis 1:2). This means that it did not have a shape. Scientists think that in the beginning the earth was full of boiling rock and burning gases. The sun is very much like that today.

But God changed the earth. He made it into a good place. He made the air and the water. He made the dry land and the cool winds. God made the rain, the trees, and the grass. He also made the fish, the lions, and the camels. God created everything in the world.

How God Made the World

In Genesis chapter one we learn that God created our world in seven steps. These steps are called days.

On the first day God made day and night (Genesis 1:3-5). We know that the world turns round and round. And we know that this causes day and night. The day and night are just right for working and sleeping. This is very good for us. Truly God planned to make the world into a good place.

On the second day God made the air and the clouds above the earth (Genesis 1:6-8). The air is like a covering. It protects us. It prevents the sun from making the earth become too hot in the daytime. Also, rain is formed in the air, and so are the clouds.

On the third day God made the dry land rise out of the seas (Genesis 1:9-13). Even on the highest mountains we can find stones which were formed under the sea! This shows us that at one time the sea covered all the land in the world. The Taurat says that in the beginning water covered everything (Genesis 1:6-10). But then the land rose above the water. Trees and plants began to grow.

On the fourth day God made the sun and the moon and the stars to give their light (Genesis 1:14-19). The sun, moon and the stars are very helpful to us. The stars to give us light at night. They also help us know directions when we travel. The sun and the moon give light for the day and night. They help us know the time of the day or night and the time of the month or the year.

On the fifth day God made the fish and the birds (Genesis 1:20-23). What do you think they ate? They ate the plants which God had made on the third day! God made food for the animals before he made them! How wonderfully God planned the world!

On the sixth day God made the large animals like camels and cows. These animals live on land (Genesis 1:24-25). Many of these animals serve us. They work for us. They are very helpful to us. God also made mankind at this time.

On the seventh day God finished his work of creating the world (Genesis 2:2). God was very pleased after he created the world. "God looked at everything he had made, and he was pleased" (Genesis 1:31).

When God made the world, He only said words. Listen to the Taurat: "God commanded, 'Let there be light,' and light appeared" (Genesis 1:3). When you read the first chapter of Genesis, you will see the words "God commanded" or "God said" at least nine times. When God spoke, things were made. God's word made the world.

Why God Made the World

After God created the world, he gave it to the people to care for. The Taurat says that God gives us everything to enjoy (Genesis 1: 28-31). The world is God's gift to us.

Here is a list of difficult words in this lesson.

Create	-	to make out of nothing
Universe	-	heavens and earth
Million	-	a thousand thousands

Learn this verse: It gives an important idea in the lesson.

Genesis 1:31: "God looked at everything he had made, and he was very pleased."

NOTICE:

Now turn to the question papers in the back of the book and write answers for lesson one. Do the same for each of the other lessons after you have studied them.

Lesson 2

God Made Adam and Eve

Before you do this lesson, read these verses from the Taurat: Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:9
Genesis 2:15-25

Now read the lesson and do the test at the end. The lesson explains what you have read in the Taurat.

The Taurat says that God made man out of soil from the ground (Genesis 2:7). Then he breathed into the man the breath of life. And the man became a living person (Genesis 2:7). God also made a wife for the man. He put the man to sleep and took a bone out of his side. He made a wife out of the bone (Genesis 2:21-23). The wife was called Eve. The man was called Adam (Genesis 3:20-21).

Adam loved Eve because she was part of his body. This story shows us God's plan for marriage. The man should love his wife. The woman should love her husband. Marriage makes them one in a special way.

What is mankind? Why did God make us? What is life for? These are the biggest questions anyone can ask.

We Were Formed from the Dust

Remember that God created mankind on the sixth day when he created the animals. God formed mankind from dust (Genesis 1:26-31).

This shows that we are part of the world which God created. That is the reason we act like animals in some ways. We can hear, smell, and make noises. We like to rest under the trees when the sun is hot. We fight like lions.

Yet in some other important ways, we are different than animals. In fact, we are much better than animals.

We Have God's Breath of Life

“Then the Lord God took some soil from the ground and formed a man out of it; he breathed life-giving breath into his nostrils* and man began to live” (Genesis 2:7). The Taurat from God also says: “So God created human beings, making them to be like Himself. He created them male and female” (Genesis 1:27).

These verses show that we are very special and important. The Taurat says that we are created like Himself (God) and we have God's life-giving breath. This is truly surprising! In God's eyes people are certainly very special indeed!

We Are Special

Here are four ways in which we are special and important.

1. We are special and important because we think.

God told Adam and Eve to care for the earth (Genesis 1:28-30). This means that the earth and everything on it were put into our care. We are to be caretakers* (caliph) of the earth. We should use the earth for the good of people. We build roads and tall buildings. We use camels and goats. We make and use radios and telephones. We can do all this because we can think and plan and work. We must work to control and use the world for good. If we do not, we are not obeying God.

2. We are special and important because we can talk with God.

God talked with Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28-30). When we talk with God, we say that we are praying. Prayer is both listening to God and talking to him. God hears us when we talk with him through prayers. The fact is, God has also chosen to talk with us.

3. We are special and important because we know the difference between right and wrong.

God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. It was called the Garden of Eden. God told Adam to eat all the fruit he wanted. But there was one fruit that he should not eat. That fruit came from a special tree. It was called "the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad."

God said to Adam: "You must not eat the fruit of that tree; if you do, you will die the same day" (Genesis 2:17).

Adam had to decide whether to obey or not to obey God.

The story of the “tree of the knowledge of good or bad” is important. It shows two truths:

First, we know the difference between right and wrong. God himself shows us what is right.

Second, God does not force us to obey him. We ourselves must decide whether we will do right.

4. We are special and important because God has a special plan for us.

God put the breath of life into Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:7). In fact, God breathed his own breath into Adam. This means that God has given us some of his own special kind of life.

Because we have this special kind of life, we are more than caretakers of the earth. God even calls us his children. We are created in God’s likeness. For this reason God wants us to live with him forever in Heaven.

Why God Made Us

Why did God make mankind? God made us so that we can care for his world. God wants us to care for the world in a good way. He wants us to be good caretakers (caliph).

God’s special blessing is on those who care for the world in a good way. We obey God by being good caretakers of all that he has given us.

Here is a list of difficult words in this lesson.

Nostrils	-	The openings in the nose of a person
Caretaker	-	one who takes care of something for another person

Learn this verse: Genesis 1:27: “So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female.”

Lesson 3

Adam and Eve Turned Away from God

Before you do this lesson, read these verses from the Taurat: Genesis 3:1-24

Now read the lesson and do the test at the end. The lesson explains what you have read in the Taurat.

Did you hear the radio today? Did you listen to the news? Perhaps the radio told about fighting. Maybe you heard about hunger or floods or accidents. Perhaps you heard about trouble in London, Nairobi, Cairo or New York. Was most of the news good news, or news about trouble? Probably most of the news was about trouble.

When God made the world, he said that it was very good. But now much that we hear and see in the world is not good. What has gone wrong? Why is there trouble in the world? Why is there hunger? What is the cause of all this trouble?

The prophets have written that trouble comes when people turn away from God. Sin is turning away from God.

The Taurat shows that sin began when Adam and Eve refused to obey God. They said “no” to God. Trouble began with the sin of Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve Refused to Obey God

Remember that God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They could eat every fruit except the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:15-17).

One day Satan came to Eve in the form of a snake. He told her that the tree was good. He said it would open her eyes and she would be wise like God (Genesis 3:4-5).

Eve liked that idea. She wanted to be wise like God. She looked at the tree. It looked nice. She took one piece of fruit and ate it. She gave another piece to Adam (Genesis 3:6).

Adam and Eve had accepted the advice of Satan. The first parents of mankind had refused to obey God. This was the beginning of sin in the world.

Everyone Has Sinned

All people are the children of Adam and Eve. And like Adam and Eve, we have all refused to obey God. God’s word says: “Everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence” (Romans 3:23).

Is that hard to believe? Think for a minute. Ask yourself: **Do I always obey God?** Of course not! You often fail to obey God.

Perhaps you have stolen a shilling from a friend. Perhaps you become angry too quickly. Perhaps you do not always tell the truth. These kinds of actions show that we are sinful.

Even though we want to obey God, we all fail to live according to the perfect will of God. We fail because we are sinful. We are selfish and proud.

Sin is more than making mistakes. Sin is refusing to obey God. Sin is not only the wrong deeds that we often do. Our hearts are sinful. All of us have sinned.

Our Sin Makes Us Ashamed

Before Adam and Eve sinned, they were never ashamed. In fact, they didn't even wear clothes.

But after Adam and Eve sinned, they became ashamed. Now they wanted to cover themselves with clothes as quickly as possible. They ran to the bushes and tied leaves around their bodies (Genesis 3:7).

We know exactly how Adam and Eve felt. We try to cover our sins in many different ways. Sometimes we smile to cover our hate. We are afraid of other people. We hide our true selves from each other, because of our sin.

Our Sin Makes Us Afraid of God

Before Adam and Eve sinned, they talked with God freely. They were not afraid of God, because they were good people.

But after they sinned, they were afraid of God. They hid among the trees (Genesis 3:8). They tried to escape from God. They knew that they were not good people any more. They knew that God cannot accept sin. That is why they were afraid.

We also often try to hide from God like Adam and Eve did. We often want God to leave us alone. We want to forget God. Our sin is a very sad thing. Sin spoils our lives. When we sin, we cut ourselves off from God.

Who is to Blame?

God appeared to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. But they were hiding among the trees (Genesis 3:8-13). God asked them why they were hiding.

Adam answered, “I was afraid.”

God knew why they were afraid. They could not hide their sin from God.

God said, “Did you eat the fruit from the tree?”

Adam answered, “God, you gave me a wife. The wife you gave me made me eat the fruit.”

Eve said, “The snake tricked me and I ate the fruit.”

Do you ever act like that? You know you did wrong, but you try to blame other people. Perhaps you even blame God. That is wrong.

If someone tells you to jump off a tall tree, and you obey and hurt yourself, whose fault is it? Everyone would say that you were foolish. They would say it was your own fault.

Sin is like that. People or Satan can help you sin, but they cannot force you to sin. When you sin, it is your own fault. However, that is hard to accept. It is easier to do like our father Adam. We would rather blame others.

God’s Plan to Save Us

God put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden because they had sinned. They and all the earth suffered because of their sin. But God is merciful. He wanted to save Adam and Eve and their children from sin, evil, and the power of Satan.

Already at this time God began to show his plan to save mankind from sin. He did two things which showed that he had a plan:

1. He promised that a son born to a woman would crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15). This is the first promise from God about the Messiah.
2. He clothed Adam and Eve with skins to cover their shame and sin (Genesis 3:21).

Later on the prophets explain what this means. But for now it is important to remember this:

As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God began to show his plan to save mankind from sin.

Learn this verse: Romans 3:23: “Everyone has sinned and is far away from God’s saving presence.”

Lesson 4

The Prophet Noah and the Flood

Before you do this lesson, read these verses from the Taurat:

Genesis 6:5-22

Genesis 7:1-24

Genesis 8:1-22

Now read the lesson and do the test at the end. The lesson explains what you have read in the Taurat.

Cain and Abel were sons of Adam and Eve. These two brothers each brought an offering to God. God was pleased with Abel's offering. But he was not pleased with Cain's offering (Genesis 4:1-7). So Cain became angry with Abel and killed him (Genesis 4: 8).

Adam and Eve were very sad. They remembered that they had refused to obey God. Now they saw that their sin had brought killing and death into their own family.

As people increased, they sinned more and more. They killed each other just as Cain had done to Abel. People were selfish and proud. The Taurat says, "The Lord saw how wicked everyone on earth was and how evil their thoughts were all the time" (Genesis 6:5).

God was sorry about the wickedness of people on the earth (Genesis 6:6). Why was God sorry? God was sorry because when people sin, they separate themselves from God.

To be cut off from God is terrible. The whole earth suffers because of the sin of mankind. God does not want people to separate themselves from him. This is why God was sorry about the sinfulness of mankind.

God Punished the Wicked People

The wicked people on earth were punished by death. God made a great flood of water which covered the earth. It destroyed most of the people and animals.

Only the family of the Prophet Noah still believed God (Genesis 6:8). God saved Noah by warning him about the flood. He told Noah to build a large boat (Genesis 6:13-17). So for many years Noah and his sons built the big boat. The wicked people probably laughed and thought Noah was foolish.

Finally the boat was finished. Noah and his family and some animals got into it. Then the rain fell and the flood came. Only Noah and his family were saved. Everyone else died (Genesis 7:19-23).

After forty days the rain stopped and the flood became less. Finally the boat came to rest on the mountains of Ararat in Western Asia (Genesis 8:4). Noah and his family left the boat. They prayed to God and thanked him for saving their lives. God accepted their prayers.

God made a covenant* with Noah and all the earth. He said that he would never send such a flood again. Then God put the rainbow* in the sky as a sign of his covenant (Genesis 9:11-13).

We must think carefully about the way we live. The story of the flood is a great warning to us. It shows us that God does not accept sin.

Some time there will be another great punishment. This last great punishment will begin at the Day of Judgement. The prophets of God have warned us that on the Day of Judgement the people who have rejected God will be thrown into the lake of fire, which is hell.

Noah's Children Sinned

All the unbelievers* were dead. Only Noah and his family were still alive. Perhaps Noah hoped that people would never sin again. But sin is in everyone. Even before Noah died, people began to sin again. Even Noah himself became drunk with wine (Genesis 9:20-21).

The power of sin and unbelief became great in the world again. In a few more years Noah's children built a very tall tower. It was called Babel. They were proud and wanted to be famous and powerful.

This did not please God. So God stopped the work at the tower of Babel by giving the people many different languages. After that the people separated and left the tower of Babel, because they could not understand each other (Genesis 11:8-9). Everywhere the children of Noah went, they continued in their sin.

God's Plan to Save Us

But God did not forget his plan to save us from sin. God could not forget because he cares for us.

After Noah left the boat, God gave him one rule. God told Noah not to eat meat with blood still in it (Genesis 9:4). Even today many Jews, Christians, and Muslims do not eat meat with blood or drink blood.

Why did God command Noah not to eat meat with blood in it? Later you will learn that blood poured out in sacrifice* is a sign of God's plan to save us from sin. As you study more lessons, God's plan will become more and more plain.

Here is a list of difficult words in this lesson.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Covenant | - an agreement which cannot be broken |
| Rainbow | - pretty colours in the sky after it rains |
| Unbeliever | - one who does not believe |
| Sacrifice | - when one suffers for the sake of another |
-

Learn this verse: Ezekiel 18:4 "The person who sins is the one who will die."

Lesson 5

God's Covenant with Abraham

Before you do this lesson, read these verses from the Taurat: Genesis 12:1-20.

Now read the lesson and do the test at the end. The lesson explains what you have read in the Taurat.

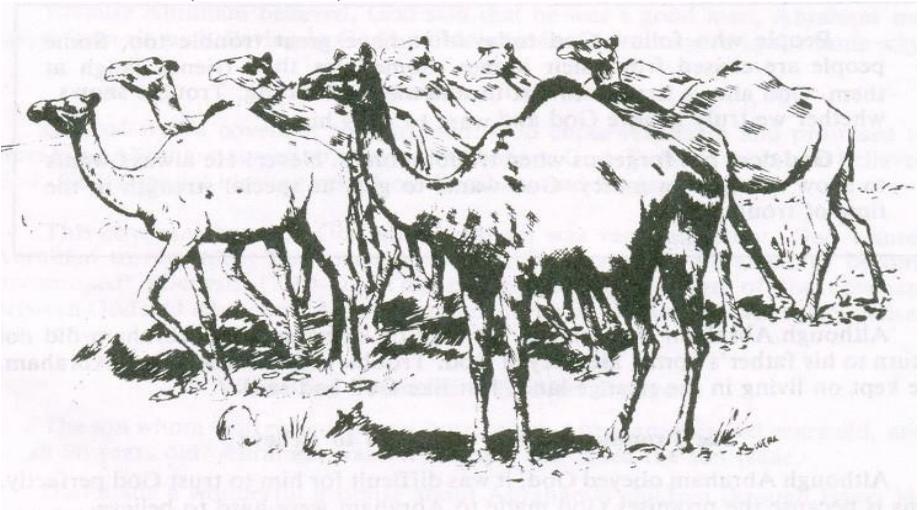
Abraham lived many years after the flood and the Prophet Noah. He lived with his father in Mesopotamia in the city of Haran. Mesopotamia is only 1,500 kilometers north of Mecca in the country called Iraq today. Mesopotamia is a good land for camels and farming. It has two big rivers, which bring plenty of water from the mountains.

Abraham had a beautiful wife called Sarah. But she had no children. However, Abraham had a very good life indeed.

God Called Abraham

But something happened that changed Abraham's whole life. God said to Abraham: "Leave your native* land, your relatives* and your father's home and go to a country that I am going to show you" (Genesis 12:1).

So Abraham went (Genesis 12:4).



Abraham Moved from Mesopotamia to Palestine with all his Camels

Abraham Obeyed God

Abraham respected and obeyed God's call.

Because Abraham obeyed God's call, he left his father's home. He travelled for many months. Finally he came to a new and strange country. This strange land is called Palestine today. Abraham lived in Palestine for a long time. In fact, he died in Palestine, far away from his father's people.

God's Promise to Abraham

God knew that Abraham had true faith. God was pleased with Abraham, because Abraham obeyed and trusted God. For this reason God promised to bless Abraham (Genesis 12:2). God promised that Abraham's children would be many, like the stars of the heavens. He promised to give the land of Palestine to Abraham and to his children forever. He promised to bless all mankind through a son of Abraham.

Abraham Experienced Trouble

It was difficult for Abraham to leave all his friends. It was difficult to become a nomad* in the strange land of Palestine. In fact, very soon Abraham came into great trouble. The rain stopped and the land became very dry. There was not enough grass for the cattle. There was not enough food to eat (Genesis 12:10).

People who follow God today often have great trouble too. Some people are chased from their homes. Sometimes their friends laugh at them. God allows trouble to test us and make us strong. Trouble shows whether we truly believe God and want to obey him.

God wants us to obey him. God does not forget us when trouble comes. Never! He always wants to show us his great mercy. God wants to give us special strength in the time of trouble.

Although Abraham was hungry, he kept on obeying God. Abraham did not return to his father's home. He obeyed God. Trouble did not discourage Abraham. He kept on living in the strange land, just like God had said.

The Promise of God Was Hard to Believe

Although Abraham obeyed God, it was difficult for him to trust God perfectly. This is because the promises God made to Abraham were hard to believe.

Abraham's wife, Sarah, was very old. She had no children. How could Abraham's descendents* become many, when he had no children of his own?

The Birth of Ishmael

Sarah thought she could never have a son. So Sarah asked Abraham to have a child by her servant Hagar. Abraham accepted Sarah's advice. Soon Hagar gave birth to a son called Ishmael.

God promised to bless the descendants of Ishmael. God said that Ishmael would become a mighty nation.

The blessing of God was upon the boy Ishmael. The Taurat says, "God was with the boy" (Genesis 21:20). Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, needed to travel in the desert. They had no water. But an angel saved them by showing Hagar a well of water (Genesis 21:14-21). This showed that God loved Ishmael and cared for him.

Abraham Believed the Promise of God

After the birth of Ishmael, God appeared to Abraham again. God promised that Abraham's wife, Sarah, would also have a son. That was a surprising promise. Sarah was very old. In fact, she was nearly 90 years old!

Yet Abraham believed God.

God loved Abraham because he believed God's promise. This is very important. The Bible says, "Abraham believed God and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous*" (Romans 4:3). Sometimes Abraham did not believe very strongly. But he tried to believe that his old wife Sarah could still have a boy.

Because Abraham believed, God said that he was a good man. **Abraham was saved from sin by believing in God and his promise.** We are saved in the same way.

God's Covenant with Abraham

God offered a covenant to Abraham. God chose Abraham and promised to bless him. Abraham agreed to obey and believe God. Because Abraham believed God, God's special blessing rested on Abraham and his family.

This covenant between God and Abraham was very important. God wanted Abraham to remember the covenant always. So God told Abraham to become circumcised* (Genesis 17:10-11). This circumcision was a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham. After this the children of Abraham always circumcised their boys.

What God Promised Will Bless Everyone

The son whom God promised was born when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90 years old. Abraham was very happy. He called the son Isaac.

God made a wonderful promise about Abraham's children through Isaac. He said, "All the nations will ask me to bless them as I have blessed your descendants..." (Genesis 22:18).

This means that all the nations of the world are blessed through the son of Abraham and Sarah. Later you will learn that the Messiah came through the descendants of Abraham and Sarah. Truly God's covenant with Abraham was very important for the whole world!

Here is a list of difficult words in this lesson.

Native	-	of the place of one's birth
Relatives	-	family
Nomad	-	one who goes from place to place
Descendants	-	my children or the children of my children
Righteous	-	good
Circumcision	-	to cut the skin from the end of the sex part of a boy

Learn this verse: Romans 4:3: "Abraham believed God, and because of his faith God accepted him as righteous."

Lesson 6

God's Plan For Jacob

Before you do this lesson, read these verses from the Taurat: Genesis 25:19-34
Genesis 37:2-11

Now read this lesson and do the test at the end. The lesson explains what you have read in the Taurat.

Much of the first part of the Holy Writings from God is really the history of Abraham and Sarah's children. But it is more than that. It is the history of how God showed more and more of his plan to save us.

When we obey the call of God, we begin to see God working miracles in our lives. We see that God cares about us. This is the way it was with Abraham and his children.

God Chose Jacob

Abraham wanted his son Isaac to have a wife from his own people. Therefore Abraham sent one of his servants back to Mesopotamia to the land of his father. God led the servant to the woman he had chosen for Isaac. Her name was Rebecca.

For 20 years Rebecca did not have any children. Then Isaac prayed to God for her, and God gave her twin boys (Genesis 25:21). Before they were born, God told Rebecca: "...the older will serve the younger" (Genesis 25:23). The first boy was called Esau and the second was called Jacob.

Esau became a great hunter and liked to be in the fields. Jacob was quiet and liked to stay in the tents. On day when Esau came home from hunting, he was very hungry. He asked Jacob for something to eat. Jacob said: "I will give it to you if you give me your rights as the firstborn son" (Genesis 25:31). So Esau sold his rights to Jacob for a bowl of thick soup.

When Isaac became very old and could not see very well, he wanted to bless Esau his first-born. But Jacob tricked his father, Isaac, by acting like Esau. In this way he received the blessing which Isaac wanted to give to Esau.

God Took the People of Israel to Egypt

Jacob had twelve sons. One of these sons was called Joseph. Joseph's brothers hated him because Jacob loved Joseph the most. In fact, Jacob gave Joseph a special coat of many colours. Once Joseph dreamed that some day his brothers would bow down

to him to show their respect for him (Genesis 37:5-8). When he told his brothers the dream they hated him even more.

We also read about the Prophet Joseph in the Qur'an. See Surat Yusuf (12):4-10.

One day when his brothers were with their sheep far from home, Joseph came to see them. They caught him and sold him to some traders going to Egypt. They made their father believe that Joseph was killed by wild animals.

In Egypt Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh*. Joseph was very handsome. After some time Potiphar's wife began asking him to sleep with her. But Joseph refused to do it. The Bible tells us: "Although she asked Joseph day after day, he would not go to bed with her" (Genesis 39:10).

One day when Joseph was working in the house, Potiphar's wife caught him by his coat and said: "Come to bed with me" (Genesis 39:12). Joseph knew this was wrong. He knew this was sin against God. He ran out of the house leaving his coat in her hand. Then she told her husband a lie. She said that Joseph had attacked her. Potiphar became very angry and put Joseph in prison.

God was with Joseph even in prison. One night Pharaoh had a dream. A friend of Joseph told Pharaoh that Joseph could tell him what the dream meant. Joseph told Pharaoh that the dream was a warning from God. It meant that after seven years there would be a great famine. So Pharaoh took Joseph from prison and made him ruler over all of Egypt. For seven years Joseph saved food and prepared for the famine.

When the famine came, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food. When they met Joseph they bowed low before him. They did not recognize him. At first he treated them very unkindly to test them. But later he told them who he was. They were very much afraid, but he told them not to be afraid. Later he explained to them:

"You plotted* evil against me but God turned it into good, in order to preserve* the lives of many people" (Genesis 50:20).

Joseph told his brothers to go home and bring his father Jacob to Egypt. So Jacob and all the children moved to Egypt.

Three Important Facts

This story teaches us three important facts.

1. God's plan does not always follow what we think or expect. Isaac expected that God's plan would continue through Esau his firstborn. That was the custom of Isaac's people. But God chose Jacob instead.

2. God uses even trouble and difficulty to bring good. When Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave, God was working in this trouble and difficulty. In the end Joseph saw that God had meant everything for good.
3. God can deliver us from any kind of temptation*. Joseph refused to do what Potiphar's wife wanted, and God gave him victory.

In the next course you will study from the second book of the Taurat and the Zabur. You will learn about the Prophets Moses, Aaron and David.

Here is list of difficult words in this lesson.

Pharaoh	-	the Egyptian word for king
Plotted	-	made secret plans to harm
Preserve	-	save
Temptation	-	anything that makes us want to do wrong.

Learn this verse: It gives an important idea in the lesson. (Genesis 50:20) "You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good."

TESTS

Please write your name and
address on the bottom of the test
and mail to:

Test 1: The Beginning of People

1. The Qur'an says the Taurat
 - (a) was written by Aaron.
 - (b) came from God.
 - (c) consists of three books.

2. Genesis is
 - (a) the second book of the Taurat.
 - (b) the first book of the Taurat.
 - (c) the fifth book of the Taurat.

3. The Taurat says that the world was created
 - (a) in the beginning.
 - (b) millions of years ago.
 - (c) thousands of years ago.

4. Before God made the world into a good place
 - (a) it was in the shape of a ball.
 - (b) it was covered with trees.
 - (c) it was without form and empty.

5. God made the world into a good place
 - (a) in seven days.
 - (b) in four days.
 - (c) in three days.

Write "True" or "False" after each of the following sentences.

6. God made the air on the second day.

7. God made the birds on the fifth day.

8. God made mankind on the sixth day.

9. God made the grass on the seventh day.

10. The world is God's gift to us.

Test 2: The Beginning of People

1. God made Adam
 - (a) from another animal.
 - (b) out of the soil of the ground.
 - (c) out of the plants. _____
2. God made Eve
 - (a) out of the soil of the ground.
 - (b) from a bone of a cow.
 - (c) from a bone which he took out of Adam.
3. The Taurat shows that we
 - (a) have the breath of life.
 - (b) cannot pray to God.
 - (c) are the same as animals. _____
4. Which were created “to be like Himself (God)”?
 - (a) animals
 - (b) people
 - (c) both animals and people _____
5. God told Adam and Eve to eat
 - (a) every bird except one special bird.
 - (b) every fish except one special fish.
 - (c) every fruit except one special fruit. _____

Write “True” or “False” after each of the following sentences. _____

6. Adam was created out of light. _____
7. God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden. _____
8. We should use the earth for the good of people. _____
9. God forces us to obey him. _____
10. God wants us to live with him forever. _____

Test 3: The Beginning of People

1. Satan came to Eve in the form
 - (a) of a snake.
 - (b) of an angel.
 - (c) of a man._____

2. Satan told Eve
 - (a) that the fruit would make her beautiful.
 - (b) that the fruit would make her wise like God.
 - (c) that the fruit would help her grow._____

3. After Adam and Eve sinned
 - (a) God began to show his plan to save mankind from sin.
 - (b) God was very pleased.
 - (c) God didn't do anything to Adam and Eve._____

4. Sin
 - (a) is only making mistakes.
 - (b) is refusing to obey God.
 - (c) is good for us._____

5. When we sin
 - (a) it is our own fault.
 - (b) It is Satan's fault.
 - (c) It is God's fault._____

Write "True" or "False" after each of the following sentences.

6. Satan can force us to sin. _____
7. Adam and Eve were ashamed of their sin. _____
8. God clothed Adam and Eve with leaves. _____
9. After they sinned, Adam and Eve still lived in the Garden of Eden. _____
10. All people sin. _____

Test 4: The Beginning of People

1. After Adam and Eve
 - (a) people stopped sinning.
 - (b) people sinned more and more.
 - (c) people sinned just a little bit. _____

2. God punished mankind
 - (a) because the sinfulness of mankind was great.
 - (b) because there were too many people.
 - (c) because mankind had too much knowledge. _____

3. God destroyed the people
 - (a) with a flood.
 - (b) with hunger.
 - (c) with sickness. _____

4. Noah and his family
 - (a) were killed in a flood.
 - (b) escaped in a boat.
 - (c) killed all the animals. _____

5. At the Tower of Babel
 - (a) God gave the people different languages.
 - (b) God told the people about the flood.
 - (c) God sent fire upon the people. _____

Write "True" or "False" after each of the following sentences.

6. Abel killed Cain. _____
7. Noah's children sinned. _____
8. God told Noah to drink blood. _____
9. God wants us to separate ourselves from him. _____
10. God's plan to save mankind includes blood poured out in sacrifice. _____

Test 5: The Beginning of People

1. Abraham lived
 - (a) before the Prophet Noah.
 - (b) many years after the Prophet Noah.
 - (c) at the same time as the Prophet Noah._____

2. God told Abraham
 - (a) to get married.
 - (b) to sell all his camels.
 - (c) to go to a land that he would show him._____

3. God lets trouble come to us
 - (a) because he wants to test us and make us strong.
 - (b) because he does not care about us.
 - (c) because trouble is very pleasant to us._____

4. God said Abraham was good
 - (a) because Abraham did not sin.
 - (b) because Abraham helped many people.
 - (c) because Abraham believed God._____

5. The son that God promised to Abraham and Sarah was called
 - (a) Adam.
 - (b) Isaac.
 - (c) Cain._____

Write "True" or "False" after each of the following sentences.

6. Abraham left his father's country. _____
7. Ishmael was the son of Sarah. _____
8. God promised to bless Ishmael. _____
9. Sarah gave birth to a son when she was 90 years old. _____
10. Circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Abraham. _____

Test 6: The Beginning of People

1. Abraham wanted Isaac
 - (a) to be a great king.
 - (b) to have a wife from Abraham's own people.
 - (c) to move to Egypt.

2. God told Rebecca that
 - (a) both of her children would serve their uncle.
 - (b) her younger child would serve her older child.
 - (c) her older child would serve her younger child.

3. Esau sold his rights as the first-born to Jacob
 - (a) for a great amount of money.
 - (b) for five camels.
 - (c) for a bowl of thick soup.

4. Joseph was taken by traders to
 - (a) Egypt.
 - (b) Mesopotamia.
 - (c) Palestine.

5. Joseph became very great in Egypt.
 - (a) because he was clever.
 - (b) because God was with him.
 - (c) because he was famous.

Write "True" or "False" after each of the following sentences.

6. When we obey the call of God, we begin to see God working in our lives.

7. Jacob was the first-born son of Isaac.

8. Jacob tricked his father Isaac.

9. God uses even trouble to bring good.

10. God can deliver us from any kind of temptation.

This is the first in a series of courses called: **The People of God**.
These are the four course included in **The People of God** series:

The Beginning of People
God's Covenant with People
God Loves People
The People of Faith

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