

Home Session 12

Dear Parents,

We are now entering the period of David in the story of our salvation. Our last lesson left off with Moses in Exodus and the 10 Commandments. Earlier in these lessons we learned about the promises that God made to Abraham and we saw how some of those promises were coming to light. Now Abraham had the big family that he always wanted. God had also promised to make his family a great nation. This is why God did not lead them right into the promised land and led them through the desert for so long. The Israelites had been under Egyptian rule for so long that they lacked the proper organization and community to form a nation. They needed to learn to govern themselves and work together, as well as truly trust the God who saved them. It took 40 years for the Lord to get them disciplined enough to enter the promised land. Their hardships and victories, squabbles and reconciliations all made them come together as a more cohesive people and also gave them a chance to develop their beginnings of government and customs that they would need to function as a nation when they finally came to their Promised Land.

After Exodus, we have Leviticus, which is some more rules to establish their laws and government and proper ways to worship in a way pleasing to God. Then on to Numbers where it talks mostly about counting people and tribes as well as some military skirmishes and such. Then on to Deuteronomy. This book is the last with Moses active in the stories but it largely informs the people how to live together as well as reminding them of God's great providence. This is Moses' getting off point in the Bible. And Joshua is his successor who will actually lead the people into the promised land.

From there, we have the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel. These books span about 500 years between Moses' death and David's anointing. They are quite entertaining if you would like to fill in some reading for yourself so it is easier for you to tell your kids the stories. It is a bit much for us to have them read all of this for their Sunday School lessons, but if you know the stories and have read them in this context, you will better understand things and be better equipped to pass the stories along as opportunities arise. Or simply read them for your own sake, either again or for the first time.

We are hoping that you and your family are all enjoying this series on the Covenants this year as we learn more about God's love for us as his creation, his people and his children. Know that we are praying for all of you and the entire parish family as we make this journey together even though we are also separate.

Through Christ who loves us,
Julie