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SCHEME OF WORK

**Lesson one: The Sovereignty of God; God the creator and God the controller of the Universe**

**Lesson Two: The Covenant; God’s Covenant with Abraham and God’s Covenant with Israel**

**Lesson Three: The Leadership; Joseph and Moses as Leaders of Israel**

**Lesson Four: Leadership Continues; Joshua and Deborah as leaders of Israel**

**Lesson Six: God’s Care for His People**

**Lesson Seven: Parental Responsibility**

**Lesson Eight: Disobedience and Consequences**

**Lesson Nine: A Man after God’s Own** Heart

 **SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

**Sovereignty** refers to absolute or unlimited power. The sovereignty of God refers to his Supremacy over all things both in heaven and on earth. In this chapter, we shall be looking at God’s ability and capability to create and control the heaven and the earth. It reveals the power in the outspoken word of God.

1. **God the Creator**

**The First Account on Creation Story (Gen. 1)**

In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep and the spirit of God was moving upon the surface of the waters.

On the first day, God said, “let there be light” and there was light. He separated the darkness from light and called the light day and the darkness he called night.

On the second day, He created firmament to form the heavens to separate the waters under the firmament from the waters above the firmament and called the firmament heaven.

On the third day, He formed Land, sea and vegetation.

On the fourth day, He created heavenly bodies, sun, moon and stars to give light to the heaven and the earth; and to be for signs, seasons, days and years.

On the fifth day, He created sea animals and birds. He blessed them by saying to them, “Be fruitful and multiply………..”

On the sixth day, He created Land animals and man. He also commanded the man to be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth, subdue it and have dominion over all creatures

On the seventh day, God rested and hallowed the day and called it ‘the Sabbath’ that no work should be done on that day.

**Second Account on Creation (Gen. 2)**

 In the beginning, God made the earth and the heaven. There were no plants nor herbs because rain had not fallen. The Lord formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. God then created a garden called Eden and put the man. God then said it was not good for the man to be alone. God then brought all His creatures for man to name them’ He caused a deep sleep to fall on man and took one of his ribs to form a woman and brought her to the man. The man named her woman because she was taken out of man. God put them in the garden and to have dominion over all his creation. Their names were Adam and Eve.

In the midst of the garden, God planted two trees; the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed in the garden to water it. The river parted into four ways to form: Pishon, which flowed into Havila; Gihon, which flowed into Ethiopia; Hiddekel (Tigris), which flowed into east of Assyria and Euphrates. God then commanded the man not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil that the consequence of eating it is death.

1. **God the controller of the universe (Amos. 9:5-6; Isa. 45:5-12)**

 God did not depart from the world after he had created it; its existence is subject to His will. God still exercises His sovereignty over the universe and over nations and kingdoms. Amos recognized God as the “Lord of Hosts” who exercises absolute control over the universe. Isaiah also recognized Him as the creator and controller of the universe. He emphasizes His ability to command all His creatures into being. Man was also appointed by God to oversee the world after creation.

**The significance and moral lessons**

1. We learnt that there is power in God’s outspoken word let there be”.
2. We learnt that God created man in his own image.
3. God is orderly in His activities.
4. Creation reveals God’s omnipotence, omnipresence and omniscience.
5. We are to continue God’s creative work and have dominion over His creation.

 **THE COVENANT**

**A covenant** means an agreement, a bond, an oath, a treaty, a truce etc between two or more people. Every covenant has conditions attached to it, and these conditions will always be binding on the parties to the covenant of which the breaking of any of the conditions do warrant great consequences. We shall be looking at the Covenants God made with people in the bible especially that of Noah, Abraham and that of the Israelites.

**The Flood and God’s Covenant with Noah (Gen. 6:1-22; 7:1-24; 9:1-17)**

 There was a time when the number of men began to increase on the earth and they were giving birth to daughters that the sons of God saw that the daughters were fair. They began to marry them as wives. There were giants among the men and when the sons of God marry the girls, they gave birth to mighty men or men of renown. God saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth and that every imagination of the thought of his heart was only evil continually. He repented to have created man and decided to wipe away man and other creatures off the surface of the earth.

 Noah then found grace in the eyes of the Lord because he was a just and perfect man in his generation in his walk with God. He had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. God also saw that the earth was corrupt and filled with violence. He then called Noah and told him that he wanted to destroy man with the earth; for corrupting himself upon the earth. He told Noah to build an ark of gopher wood; He also gave him the fashion of the ark. God told him that He was bringing rain upon the earth within seven days to destroy both man and everything that has breathe upon the earth. He also told Noah to put in the ark all his family, food and all living creatures, male and female after their kind, which Noah did.

When Noah was six hundred years old, God opened the heaven and it rained for forty days and forty nights that every living creature on the earth died. It was only Noah and his family that survived the flood and the water lasted on the earth surface for a hundred and fifty days.

 God then blessed Noah and his sons. He told them to be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth. God then made a covenant with him that his fear shall be upon every creature. He told him to have all creatures for food, but he should not eat flesh and the life in it. He told Noah that if anyone shed the blood of any man, by man shall his own blood also be shed; for man is made in the image of God.

God then put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of His covenant with him and his generations and all creatures. He said that it shall be used for remembrance of His covenant that He shall no longer destroy all flesh with flood.

**God‘s Covenant with Abraham (Gen.12:1-9, 17:1-21, 21:1-8, 25:19-26)**

 **(a) The call of Abraham** **(Gen. 12:1-9)**

 Abraham was living in Haran with his father Terah at the age of 75yrs when God asked him to leave his father’s house to a Land he would show him. God promised to bless him, make him a great nation and a blessing to others. God also said he would bless those who bless him and curse those who curse him and by him shall all the families of the earth bless themselves.

Abram obeyed, took Sarai, Lot his nephew and all that they had gotten in Haran and headed towards Canaan. At Shechem, God appeared to Abraham at oak of Moreh and promised to give him the Land of Canaan. Abram then built an altar to the Lord there and began to call on the name of the Lord

 **(b) God’s covenant with Abram (Gen.17:1-21)**

When Abram had spent 24yrs in the Land of Canaan at the age of 99yrs, God appeared to him and entered into a covenant with him:

**These are the Terms of the Covenant:**

1. Walk before me and be blameless and I will multiply you.
2. Your name shall be changed from Abram (exalted or glorified father) to

 Abraham (father of many nations).

1. Nations and kings shall come out of you.
2. My covenant shall be everlasting with your descendant
3. As a sign of the covenant, every male is to be circumcised.
4. Your wife’s name shall change from Sarai to Sarah (mother of many

 nations).

1. You shall have a son named Isaac.

At the mentioning of a son, Abraham fell on his face to the ground and laughed. He told God to allow Ishmael to live but God said Sarah will bear him a son called Isaac.

 A year later, Isaac was born and at his birth Sarah expressed gratitude to God by saying '‘God has made laughter for me” Isaac was circumcised at 8days old and when he was 40year old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel. She conceived and the children struggled in her womb and on consulting a seer, she was told that two nations were in her womb; the elder shall serve the younger she later gave birth to twins, Esau who was hairy and a hunter and Jacob who was dwelling in tents and he was a shepherd. Isaac loved Esau because he ate out of his hunting while Rebecca loved Jacob. At the birth of Isaac, God Started fulfilling his covenant with Abraham. God promised to establish His covenant with Isaac but said He would bless Ishmael, make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly. He also said Ishmael shall born twelve princes and He would make him a great nation.

**God’s Covenant with Israel (Ex. 19 and 20)**

 Three months after God had brought out the children of Israel from Egypt, they gathered at the Wilderness of Sinai. Moses made his intention known to them and reminded the people how God brought them out of Egypt. That God promised to be their God if only they could keep His laws. The people accepted by saying ‘All that the Lord has spoken, we will d’.

God told Moses to prepare the people that He was coming to meet them. On the third day, the mountain was covered with smoke, and it quaked because of the presence of God on it. God descended on it in fire. Moses spoke and God answered him in thunder. God then called Moses to the mountain and gave him the terms of the covenant, known as the Ten Commandments, written on tables of stones.

 **Confirmation of the Covenant (Ex. 24; 1-11)**

 God called Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy elders to the mountain; they were to worship God afar off the mountain. Moses read the content of the covenant to the people and they agreed to do what He had said. Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. He slaughtered an ox for burnt and peace offerings. He poured half of the blood on the altar and sprinkled the rest on the people. The four people with the elders went to the mountain; they saw God, ate and drank with him

 **The covenant broken (Ex. 32; 1-20-30-34)**

 When Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people went to Aaron to make for them god in place of Moses. He made a molten calf for them to worship with the earrings he collected from the women. He told them to come and see their god and they all danced around it. God was displeased with them and decided to punish them, but Moses pleaded for them and God changed His mind.

 Moses broke the tables containing the Ten Commandments. He burnt the golden image with fire, ground it to powder, mixed it with water and forced the Israelites to drink it. God sent plagues on the people as a warning.

**The New Covenant (Jer. 31; 31-34, 32; 36-41, Ezek. 36:25-28)**

 When the Israelites could not keep the old covenant, God decided to enter into a new covenant with them. This covenant was prophesied by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Jeremiah said in the new covenant, God will put His law within the people and write it upon their hearts, He will be their God, and they shall be His people. No one shall teach his neighbor to know God; for they shall all know God and obey Him. He will forgive their sins and restore them to Himself.

 Ezekiel said that God shall cleanse them from all their iniquities, give them a new heart and a new spirit, He will remove their stony hearts and give them hearts of flesh. They will be given the spirit to make them walk in His ways. This new covenant is fulfilled in the life, ministry and death of Jesus. At supper, Jesus described the cup of wine as the blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many, for the forgiveness of sins. (Mat 26; 27-28) Jesus’ blood has served for atonement for the sin of man in order to bring man into a close relationship with God.

 **Differences Among the Three Covenants**

1. The first covenant was between a man and God while the other two are between a group of people and God.
2. The first two were based on strict obedience to God’s Law while the New
3. Covenant is based on the restoration of man to an acceptable status before God through Christ.
4. That of Israel was written in tablets while the new covenant was written in the peoples’ hearts.
5. That of Israel was external and Ceremonial while the new covenant was internal and un-ceremonial.
6. The old covenant was to establish permanent relationship with man while the new became a final attempt to reconcile man with God.
7. The old covenant came from Moses while the new covenant came from Jesus.

 **Ways God Calls People Today**

God, in the process of trying to continue his relationship with man calls

people through these ways:

1. **Through direct voice:** this is hearing the voice of God talking to you directly.
2. **Through impression in the heart:** this is having a very strong feeling towards a particular thing that if you fail to react to it, you soon develop a sense of guilt.
3. **Through His prophets or messengers:** God can use any of His servants to speak to you at a particular time and you will know and feel it that the person is actually talking to you.
4. **Through His word (bible):** this is when you open a page in the bible and read and it speaks directly to you to address your issue.
5. **Through vision and revelation:** God can speak to us through vision in the night, particularly when someone is telling you to do something in that vision.
6. **Through dreams:** through dreams, God reveals to us what will happen next to us and what we are to do in those circumstances.
7. **Through personal experience:** God can allow us to pass through a situation so as to learn from it and come to Him. This can be in form of affliction, pain or sickness.

**The significance and moral lessons**

1. We learnt from God covenant with Abraham that God desires to restore man to Himself after the fall of Adam.
2. We learnt from Israel that God fulfills covenant i.e. from Abraham to Israel
3. We learnt that the new covenant is to establish a permanent relationship between God and man.

 **LEADERSHIP**

**A leader** is someone who heads and directs the people in order to achieve a particular goal. Such a person will always have the interest of his people at heart. God chose leaders for the Israelites to lead them when they were yet to have a king. These leaders were referred to as liberators or Judges. They include Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Gideon and Samson.

 **JOSEPH AS A LEADER (Gen.37: 1-28)**

 **The Early Life of Joseph**

 Joseph was the eleventh son of Jacob, and he was the second son of Rachel, one of Jacob’s wives. At the age of seventeen, he was living with his father and his other eleven brothers in Canaan. His father loved him more than his other children because he was the son of his old age, and he brought bad report of his brothers to their father. His father made him a long robe with sleeves. His brother hated him not only because he was their father’s favorite but also for the long robe.

 Besides that, Joseph had two dreams. In the first dream, he saw himself binding Sheaves with his brothers in the field, his sheaves rose up and his brothers’ sheaves bowed to his. In the second dream, he saw the sun, moon and eleven stars bowing down to him and when he told his brothers, they hated him the more and gave him the title ‘the dreamer’.

 One day, Jacob sent Joseph from the valley of Hebron to his brothers at Shechem. On getting there, a man informed him that they had gone to Dothan. On seeing him afar off, his brothers conspired against him to kill him in order not to live and fulfill his dreams. Reuben, their eldest brother advised them not to share blood but to cast him into the pit. He did this in order to restore Joseph back to their father. They stripped him of his robe and cast him into the pit but there was no water in the pit.

 As his brothers sat down to eat, they saw Ishmaelite traders approaching, Judah suggested that they sold Joseph and Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver and they took him into Egypt and sold him to Portiphar, an officer of pharaoh. The brothers killed a goat, smeared his robe with its blood and brought it to their father saying that Joseph was devoured by a wild beast. Jacob mourned the death of Joseph for many days.

**Pharaoh’s Dream and Joseph’s Rise to Power in Egypt (Gen. 41 ;1-57)**

 The wife of Potiphar loved Joseph and she asked him to sleep with her, and when he refused, she lied against him, and her husband put Joseph in prison. In the prison, he met the chief baker and the chief butler who he interpreted their dreams. While the chief baker was killed, the chief butler was restored back to his master’s service as Joseph had interpreted. But the chief butler forgot Joseph in the prison for two years.

Pharaoh then had two dreams. In the first dream, he saw seven sleek and fat cows and seven gaunt and thin cows coming out of the river. The thin cows ate up the fat cows and it was as if they had not eaten anything. In the second dream, he saw seven ears of corn plump and good growing out of one stalk and seven thin ears blighted by the wind also growing out. The thin ears of corn swallowed up the plump ears of corn and it was as if they had also eaten nothing. Then Joseph was sent for to interpret the dreams. Joseph interpreted the dreams as the seven ears of fat corn representing seven years of abundance which shall be followed by seven years of famine representing blasted corn that will overtake seven years of abundance.

 However, Pharaoh asked Joseph what was to be done to avert the seven years of famine and he told the king that abundant food should be stored so that when the famine comes; there will be enough food for the people to eat. When the king could not get any man so wise to gather the food for the seven years of abundance, he appointed Joseph to take charge of storage of food and to be governor in Egypt. Meanwhile, the famine came over all the land as Joseph had said but Egypt had enough grain to eat and to sell during the famine. Pharaoh changed Joseph’s name to Zaphnathpaaneah and gave him Asenat, the daughter of Potipherah priest of On, who bore him two sons. The first was called Manasseh meaning ‘’God has made me forget all my hardship and my entire father’s house” and the second was Ephraim meaning “God had made me fruitful in the Land of my affliction”. Joseph was thirty years old when he became governor in Egypt.

**Joseph Reconciled with his Brothers (Gen. 45:1-15)**

 During famine Jacob sent his eleven sons to Egypt to buy grains. When they saw Joseph, they couldn’t recognize him, but he knew his brothers. He described them as spies and treated them as such. He later sent the people away when he revealed himself to them. He cried aloud as he told his brothers that he is Joseph and his brothers wept, but he told them that it was not their fault that he was sold by them into Egypt, but it was God that brought him to Egypt to save lives. He then sent them away to go and bring their father into Egypt because the famine had five more years to end. The whole household came into Egypt and Joseph put them in the Land of Goshen.

**Leadership qualities in Joseph**

1. He was a dreamer hence, he was visionary.
2. He was faithful and loyal to God and to his people.
3. He was accountable.
4. He had the love of his people at heart.
5. He was an effective administrator.
6. He had a forgiving spirit.

 **MOSES AS A LEADER**

**Social Conditions of the Hebrew when Moses was Born (Exo.1:8-22)**

 When Joseph and Pharaoh had died, there arose another king who did not know Joseph or the Hebrews. He saw them as different people who would join with their enemies and fight against them if war should arise. He decided to suppress them. He employed task master over them to subject them to hard labor to build his store cities, Pithom and Raamses. The more he oppressed them, the more they increased in number. Joseph’s brothers that came to Egypt with their families are Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad and Asher.

 Secondly, Pharaoh employed the services of two midwives called Shiphrah and Puah to kill upon the birth stool all males born to the Hebrews. They couldn’t carry this out because before they could get to the Hebrew women during labour, they have already given birth.

 Thirdly, Pharaoh ordered all the male children born to the Hebrews to be thrown into River Nile while the females be kept alive. It was in these conditions that Moses was born.

**The Early Life of Moses (Exo.2:1-25, 3:1-22)**

 The names of Moses’ parents were Amram and Jacobed and they were from the house of Levi. When he was given birth to, his mother saw that he was a beautiful child, and she hid him for three months and finally put him in a basket made of bull rushes and put him at the bank of the river. She put Moses’ elder sister Miriam to watch what would happen to the child. When pharaoh’s daughter came to bath in the river, she found the baby and called Miriam to find a nurse to take care of the baby for her and she went to call the mother of Moses. Pharaoh’s daughter named the child Moses meaning “Because I draw him out of the water”.

 As Moses was growing up in the king’s palace, one day he went out to see the burden of his people that he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew; he quickly killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. When he went the second day, he saw two Hebrews fighting and as he was about to separate them, one of them said, “who made you a judge and a ruler over us? Do you want to kill me as you killed the Egyptian”? When Moses heard this statement, he became afraid that the dead of the Egyptian might have been known by the king, he then ran to Midian. He went to live with the priest of Midian called Jethro who had seven daughters. Moses sat by a well when his daughters came to draw water from the well and the shepherds drove them away. But Moses helped them and watered their flock. When their father asked them why they came back early that day, they told him that Moses helped them. Jethro called him into his house and he gave one of his daughters Zipporah as wife to Moses, which bore him a son. Moses called him Gorshem meaning, "I have been a stranger in a foreign land". In time, the king of Egypt died and the children of Israel groaned in bondage and cried to God, God heard their cry and remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob and looked upon them. Stop

**The Call and Commissioning of Moses (Exo. 3:1-22)**

 Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro and as he got to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God, the Lord appeared to him in form of a burning bush and as Moses drew near to see what was happening to the bush that was burning and not consumed, God spoke to him and told him to remove the shoe from his feet that the place he was standing was a holy ground. God told him that he had seen the suffering of His people and heard their cry and He had come to rescue them. He told Moses to go to pharaoh and demand for the release of the people for a 3days journey to serve Him in the wilderness.

 However, Moses asked God what he would tell the Israelites about who sent him and God told him to tell them that, “I am who I am” had sent him. That is the God of Abraham of Isaac and of Jacob. He asked Moses to take Aaron to be his spokes man when he also complained about his eloquence. God said he should go with elders to pharaoh, and he said he know that pharaoh will not allow them to go.

**God Equips and Sends Moses to Lead the Israelites out of Egypt (Exo. 4:1-17; 5:1-5, 22-23, 6:28, 7:7)**

 God gave three signs to Moses for him to believe that he would make the people believe him.

 **Firstly**, God told Moses to drop the rod in his hand and it turned to serpent and God asked him to take it and it turned to snake again.

 **Secondly**, God told him to put his hand in the pocket and when he brought it out, it turned leprous. And God asked him to put it back and it became normal again.

**Thirdly**, God asked him to collect water from the Nile and when he poured it on the ground, it turned to blood.

 When Moses, Aaron and the elders of Israel went to pharaoh to request for the release of the Israelites, Pharaoh did not only refuse, but he also increased their labour. He said they should no longer be given straw but to gather it by themselves. Moses narrated everything to God and God assured him of His determination to release the people.

**Moses Leads the Israelites out of Egypt (Exo.14:1-31)**

When Moses was 80 years old and Aaron 83 years old, God sent them back to Pharaoh and he still refused to let the people go. God decided to send plagues to punish pharaoh and all the Egyptians. The plagues were of this order; their water was turned to blood, there were frogs over the land, God brought lice (gnats), God brought flies, death of all cattle in Egypt, boils on man and animals, hail mixed with fire and thunder, locust over all the land, The magicians were able to reproduce the plagues except that of gnats which pharaoh described as the “finger of God”. The tenth plague was the death of first born son of man and cattle in Egypt. It was called the Passover in it, God told Moses to tell the Israelites to kill a lamb and anoint the lithe of their house with its blood. The angel of destruction Passed over the house of Israel but killed every male first born child among the Egyptians.

 When pharaoh had let the people go, they encamped at Pihahirot between Migdol and the Red Sea. God hardened the heart of Pharaoh and they started chasing the people. When the Israelites saw pharaoh and his chariots approaching, they became afraid and murmured against Moses for bringing them to the wilderness to die. Moses then assured them of God’s deliverance.

 **Firstly**, God then took the angel and the pillar of cloud in front of them and brought them behind them to shield them from the Egyptians army.

 **Secondly**, God told Moses to strike the sea with his rod and the sea parted into two for the people to pass through on dry land.

 **Thirdly**, God clogged the wheels of the chariots of the Egyptians making it difficult for them to move fast.

 **Lastly**, God told Moses to stretch back the rod on the sea and it returned and covered all the hosts of the Egyptians. This was how God gave the Israelites victory over the Egyptians.

**The Golden Calf (Exo32:1-14).**

 When Moses, delayed in coming down from the mountains, the people went to Aaron to make them god in place of Moses. Aaron collected their rings and used them to prepare a golden calf for them and called it the god who brought them out of Egypt. God was angry and decided to wipe them off the surface of the earth, but Moses interceded for them and God pardoned them.

**Spies Sent out (Num13:1-33, 14:1-19).**

 At the command of the Lord, Moses sent out twelve spies from the wilderness of Paran to spy out the land of Canaan. He sent out a man from each tribe in Israel and among them was Oshea whose name Moses changed to Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh from the tribes of Ephriam and Judah respectively.

 They were to check whether the people in the land were weak or strong, few or many and whether the land is good or bad, whether the people lived in camps or strongholds and to bring back the fruits of the land. The spies went and spent forty days in their mission. They met that the land was flowing with milk and honey but the land was occupied by the Nephilins, the children of Anak who were as tall as palm trees and they became afraid. The spies returned with two reports from their journey as follows;

1. **Majority Report**: the ten spies out of the twelve gave ill report to Moses that they could not possess the land.
2. **Majority Report**: the other two spies Joshua and Caleb gave good report of the land by saying they could possess the land.

 However, the people wanted to stone them to death and God became angry that he wanted to strike them with pestilence but Moses interceded for them and God pardoned them. God declared that those from twenty years old that murmured would not see the land of Canaan.

 **Leadership Qualities in Moses**

1. He had total faith in God.
2. He had an interceding spirit.
3. He had an enduring and accommodating spirit.
4. He had complete love for his nation.
5. He was a courageous leader.
6. He was determined and focused.

 **JOSHUA AS A LEADER (Num. 27:15-23)**

Joshua was the son of Nun; God told Moses, to choose him to lead the people, when he told God to set a man over the congregation as he was about to die Moses then brought him before Eleazar the priest and laid hands on him in the presence of all the congregation. After the death of Moses, God appeared to Joshua and told him to go over Jordan to the promise land. God promised to be with him but he only needed to be strong and courageous. God told him to observe the law and meditate on it daily to make him proper and be successful.

**Joshua and the Fall of Jericho (Jos. 6).**

 The city of Jericho was strictly shut up because of the children of Israel, but God assured Joshua of victory over Jericho. God advised Joshua to march round the city once a day in six days with his men of war and seven priests bearing seven trumpets of ram’s horns before the ark. On the seventh day, they were to march round, the city seven times and at the last round, the priests would blow the trumpets and the people would shout greatly.

 Joshua observed all that God commanded him and at the seventh time on the seventh day, the priests blew their trumpets, the people shouted and the wall of Jericho fell down flat. The Israelites went into the city and destroyed it, but spared the vessels of silver and gold, vessel of bronze and iron and they kept them in the house of the lord. They also spared Rehab the harlot and her family, because she hid the two spies whom Joshua sent to spy out the land before the destruction.

**Joshua Admonishes the People and Renewed the Covenant (Jos24:1-28).**

 After Joshua had succeeded in taking the Israelites into the land of Canaan and settling them, he assembled the elders of Israel at Shechem & advised them on the need to worship Yahweh as true God. He reminded the people how God called Abraham from his idol worship with his father into the land of Canaan and blessed him and how his descendants went into Egypt to dwell and how God brought them out after plaguing the Egyptians and also getting them drowned in the sea.

 Besides, he reminded them how God gave them victories over the Amorites, the Moabites whose king invited Balaam to curse them but God turned the curse into blessing. He also told them of their victories over Jericho, Perrizites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, Jebusites etc. he told them that the victories were not made by their efforts but by Yahweh. He therefore urged the people to avoid other gods and worship Yahweh in sincerity and faithfulness. He said he and his family has chosen to serve the lord, the Israelites should choose who to serve.

 All the people agreed to serve the lord and Joshua made a covenant with them. He made statutes and ordinance which were written in the book of the law. He took a great stone and set it under the oak of the sanctuary of the lord, as a witness to the agreement he made with the people. The people served God throughout his time till his death at the age of 110 years.

**Leadership Qualities of Joshua**.

1. He was a man of courage
2. He had total faith in God.
3. He was an effective administrator and mobilizes of the people.
4. He had an effective control over his people.

 **DEBORAH AS A LEADER (Judges 4:1-24)**

 Deborah was a judge as well a prophetess in Israel. She was the wife of Lappidoth. She dwelt under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in mount Ephraim where the Israelites came up to her for Judgment.

 When the Israelites sinned against God, God gave them into the hands of the Canaanite king called Jabin who had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the Israelites for 20years. God told Deborah to tell Barak, the commander of Israel’s army to gather 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulum at Tabour to fight against Sisera the commander of Jabin’s army. She assured him of God’s backing.

 Meanwhile, Barak refused saying unless Deborah agreed to follow him to the battle field. She told him that the glory of the war shall be given to a woman. In the battle, God gave victory to the Israelites and the Canaanites were defeated. Sisera ran to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber and asked for water to drink. The woman gave him milk which he drank after which he slept off. The woman took a tent peg and a hammer and drove the peg into his temple, and Sisera died. The glory was given to a woman as prophesied by Deborah that Sisera was killed by Jael. Jael invited Barak to her house and showed him Sisera. So God gave Israel victory over Jabin. Deborah was described as, ‘the lioness of Judah” due to her courage.

**Qualities in Deborah**

1. She had absolute faith in God.
2. She had an inspiring spirit.
3. She had courage.

 **The significant points and lessons**

1. Joseph’s life was a plan by God to save His people from suffering
2. Moses was born to liberate the Israelites from Egypt
3. Joshua’s leadership was to finish Moses assignment of taking Israelites the promise land.
4. We learnt that God call anyone to achieve his purpose.
5. We also learnt that faith in God is a necessity in fulfilling God’s purpose.

 **GOD’S CARE FOR HIS PEOPLE**

God’s care refers to the goodness of God to his people particularly the children of Israel. It refers to God’s goodness to Abraham to Isaac, to Jacob and to Israel. It is manifested in God’s guidance, provision and protection.

**(a) God’s Guidance (Exo14; Gen28:10-22, 1-7, 46).**

 This refers to the guidance of God on the Israelites right from the time he took them out of Egypt until they got to Canaan. How he provided solutions to their problems. How he provided a pillar of cloud and an angel to protects them and guided them through the Red sea on dry land.

 Also, he appeared to Jacob at Luz in a dream and promised to bless him and give the land of Canaan to his descendants forever. Jacob took the stone he used as pillow, poured oil on it and erected an altar to the lord and called the place Bethel. God guided him into Haran to Laban, when Esau was pursing him

 God also guided Jacob to go to Egypt to join his son Joseph at his request. God assured him of his guidance and promised to make him a great nation in Egypt. He also promised to be with him always, and after some time, return his descendants to the land of Canaan.

**(b) God’s Provision (Exo16:1-21, 17:1-7, I kgs17:1-6).**

 When the Israelites came to the wilderness of sin, they murmured against Moses and Aaron because of hunger. God gave them Manna and Quails.

 At Rephidim the people also complained to, Moses due to thirst. God told Moses to strike the rock and water came out forthe people to drink. Moses called the place and Meribah because the people find fault.

 God commanded Elijah to go to the brook Cherith in order to escape from Ahab & Jezebel. God commanded the raven to feed him with bread and meat both morning and evening and he also drank from the brook. God later commanded him to go to Zarephath to a widow when the brook dried up.

**(c) God’s Protection (Exo14:10-31).**

 When pharaoh had granted freedom to the Israelites, he changed his mind again and started pursuing them. When they saw pharaoh and his soldiers he began to fear. God told Moses to tell them to stand still and see the salvation of the lord. God took the angel from their front and the pillar of cloud and put them behind them so that the Egyptians could not see the Israelites.

 God told Moses to part the river with his rod and the Israelites passed through the sea on dry land. He also clogged the wheels of the Egyptians chariots. After the Israelites have passed through the sea, God told Moses to stretch back the rod and the sea came back and covered all the hosts of Egypt.

**Significance and lessons.**

1. We learnt that God guides his people.
2. We learnt that God provides for his people.
3. We learnt that God protects his people.
4. We learnt also that we should allow God to lead us in whatever we do.
5. We should learn to request for what we want from God at all times.

 **PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**(a) The Examples of Eli and Samuel.**

 **(i) The Sons of Eli (I Sam2:1-36).**

The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were priest’s also with their father at the temple at Shiloh. They were worthless and had no regard for the lord. They treated the Lord’s offering with contempt due to greed. They also slept with women that served at the temple.

God sent his messenger to Eli, to warn him of the consequences of the evil of his two sons. Though, he warned them, he did not use strict measure to correct them.

**(ii) The Call of Samuel (I Sam3:2-18).**

 Samuel was in the temple one night when he heard a voice saying, “Samuel, Samuel” Samuel ran to Eli saying, “Here I am for you called me” Eli told him that he should go and sleep that he was not calling him. This happened three times. At the third time, Eli told him to say, “Speak Lord, for thy servant hears” at the fourth time Samuel did and God told him the evil he was about to do in Eli’s household for the sins of his two sons.

When Samuel woke up, he narrated to Eli all that God had revealed to him, but Eli said, “It is the lord, let him do what pleases him”.

**(iii) The Death of Eli’s Sons (I Sam4:10-22).**

 The philistines had a war with the Israelites. They defeated the Israelites. They killed the two sons of Eli and also captured the ark of the covenant of God and carried it away into the land of the philistines.

A man came out of the battlefield and ran to Eli and narrated everything to him. He was told that Israel had been defeated and his two sons are dead. As the man said, “The Ark of the Covenant had been captured; he fell down from his seat and broke his spinal cord because he was 98 years old.

The wife of Phinehas was about to give birth. As she heard that her husband Phinehas was dead, she bowed and gave birth due to the pains. She named the child Ichabod meaning, “The glory has departed from Israel’’.

**(b) The examples of Asa and Jehoshaphat.**

 **(i) Asa and his Reforms (I Kgs15:9-15).**

King Asa ruled Israel for forty-one years. His mother’s name was Maacah the daughter of Absalom. His reign presents to us a picture of a person whose parents were idol worshippers, put small letter? Put decided not to follow their footsteps? He did what was right in the eyes of the lord as David his father had done.

 He put away male cult prostitute out of the land, and removed all the idols that his fathers had made. He also removed Maacah his mother from being queen mother because she had an abominable image of Asherah. He cut down the image and burnt it at the brook Kidron. But the high places were not taken away. His heart wholly followed the lord that he brought his votive and his father’s votive gifts into the house of the lord including silver, gold and vessels.

**(ii)** **King Jehoshaphat (Ikgs22:41-44).**

 Jehoshaphat followed the way of his father Asa, but his children did not follow his footsteps. He maintained the reforms of his father, but could not remove the high places as the people burnt incense on the high places. He made peace with the king of Israel.

**(ii) The sons of Samuel (I Sam8:1-5).**

 When Samuel became old, He made his son’s judges in Israel. Their names were Joel and Abijah His sons did not follow his footsteps. They took bribes and turn aside after gain. They perverted justice. Then, all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and told him to choose for them a king since he was old and his sons have refused to walk in his ways. Samuel then choose Saul as King for them.

**The significance and moral lessons**

 1. We learnt that we should follow the right way of our parents.

 2. We learnt that we should heed our parent’s advice.

 3. We also learnt that our lives can be ruined due to disregard for God and greed.

 4. We learnt that we should not take bribe or give bribe.

 **DISOBEDIENCE AND CONSEQUENCES**

 **(i) Samuel Anoints Saul as King (I Sam10:1-16).**

 Samuel anointed the head of Saul, the son of Kish, a Benjaminite. He kissed him and told him that the lord had anointed him to be King over his people Israel, in answer to the request by the elders of Israel that they needed a king in order to be like other nations. He told Saul that as he was departing from him that day, he would see three signs on the way to make him know that the Lord has anointed him king over Israel.

I. he said he would meet two men at Rachel’s tomb who will tell him that his father asses has been found that his father was looking for him.

ii. He shall meet three men at the Oak of Tabor on their way to worship God at Bethel; One carrying three kids, another three loaves, and another skin of wine. He said they would give him two loaves of bread which he would accept.

iii. He would meet a band of prophets at Gibeah, prophesying. He would join them and prophesy.

 All the above three signs came to pass on his way back. As he got to Gibeah, he met a band of prophets prophesying. The spirit of God came upon him and he was changed into another man and began to prophesy with them. Those who say him remarked. “Is Saul also among the prophets”? As Saul got home his uncle asked him what the discussion was between him and Samuel and Saul told him that Samuel told him that the asses have been found. On the issues of Kingship, he did not tell him anything.

**Saul’s Disobedience (I Sam15:1-19).**

 God sent Samuel to tell Saul to go and utterly destroy the Amalekites for opposing the Israelites on their way from Egypt. Saul then gathered his army in Telaim and went to fight the Amalekites. He asked the Kenites to go away from their midst in other not to destroy them also. Saul fought with them and defeated them, but spared their king Agag, their best oxen and asses to be sacrificed to the Lord.

 God became angry and sent Samuel to him and told him that God is not pleased with him for disobeying him. He said he had utterly destroyed the Amalekites and Samuel said, “What about the bleating of the sheep I heard”? Saul said his soldiers brought them to be used as sacrifice to God and Samuel said, “Behold to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fat of rams” he said, “Because you have rejected the word of the lord, he has also rejected you from being King”.

**The Consequence of Saul’s Disobedience (I Sam15:20-25, 16:14-23, 31:1-13).**

1. He was rejected as king of Israel.
2. God allowed an evil spirit to torment him
3. David was chosen to take his Kingship
4. Saul and his three sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua died on mount Gilboa.

 As the battle pressed hard on Saul between the Israelites and the philistines, he was badly wounded by the archers. Saul then said to his amour-bearer, “draw your sword and trust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and trust me through, and make sport of me”. But his amour bearer refused. Saul then took his sword and fell upon it and died. When his armor-bearer saw it, he also fell upon his own sword and died.

 On the next day, when the philistines come to strip the slain, they found Saul dead and his three sons. They cut off his head and stripped off his armour. They put his armour in the temple of Ashtaroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Bethshan. But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-Gilead heard what the philistines had done to Saul all the valiant men arose, took the bodies of Saul and his sons and burnt them at Jabesh. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

**The significance and moral lessons**

1. We learnt that God can call us into his services irrespective of our background.
2. We learnt that disobedience to God brings consequences
3. We should not lay our hands on an anointed man of God or kill them.
4. And that we should learn to obey God completely.

 **A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART**

**David Submission to the Will of God (I Sam26:1-25).**

The Ziphites came to Saul and told him that David was hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah Saul then arose with 3000 chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. David took Abishai to go and see Saul in the camp. When they got to the camp, they met Saul sleeping within the encampment with his spear stuck to the ground and Abner the commander of his army and other army around him. Abishai asked to let him pin Saul to the ground but David said, “Do not destroy him, for who can put forth his hand against the lord’s anointed and be guiltless”.

 David told him, to take the spear and the jar of water and they went away. None of them saw David because God had caused a deep sleep to fall on them. David then went to the top of the mountain afar off and called Abner and accused him of being slack in keeping watch over his Lord. He said a man came to the camp and took away the King’s spear and a jar and he was unaware of it, so he deserved to die. Saul recognized the voice of David and addressed him as my son. David asked him why he had been pursuing after him and Saul regretted to have wronged David and promised never to do so again.

 David asked him to send one of the young men to fetch the spear. David then said, “as I was privileged to kill the King but refused to do so because his life was precious in my sight, so shall my life also be precious in the sight of God and deliver me out of all tribulations”. Then Saul said to David, “Blessed be you, son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them”. So David went away and Saul returned to his place.

**David’s Sin of Adultery and Murder (2Sam12:15-25).**

After David had committed incest with Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, the child that was given birth to fell sick and was about to die. David pleaded for God’s mercy on the child fasted and went and lay all night upon the ground and would not eat. On the seventh day the child died. The servants refused to tell David and when he later heard of it, he rose from the earth, washed, anointed himself, changed his clothes and went to his house and ate. When his servants asked him why he decided to do so, he told them that while the child was alive; he could do all to keep him, but now he is dead, he cannot do anything to bring him back.

 David also comforted his wife Bathsheba. He lay with her and she gave birth to a son called Solomon. The Lord loved him and sent a message by Prophet Nathan to him and called him Jedidah because of the Lord.

**David’s Repentance and Forgiveness (2 Sam3:1-39, 11, 12:1-15).** There was a long war between the house of Saul and that of David. While the house of David was becoming stronger and stronger, the house of Saul was becoming weaker and weaker. Abner, who was Saul’s commander, was making himself strong in Saul’s house to the extent that he slept with Saul’s concubine called Rizpah. When the only surviving son of Saul Ishbosheth heard of it, he was angry with Abner. Abner then swore in anger to transfer Saul’s Kingdom to David.

 Abner then sent massagers to David at Hebron, requesting for a covenant to be made between him and David. David agreed to make a covenant if only Michal can be sent for and given to him as wife. Ishbosheth took Michal from her husband Paltiel and sent her to David. Abner then conferred with the elders of Israel to make David King over them based on God promise that he was going to use David to save Israel from her enemies. They went to David at Hebron and he made a feast for them.

 When Joab, the commander of David’s army returned from a raid and was told that Abner visited the King and he allowed him to go free, he went to confirm from the King what Abner came to do. He then sent men to call him back at Hebron after which he took him aside and smote him to death in the belly and he died for the blood of his brother Asahel. When David learnt of it, he pleaded guiltless before God and cursed Joab and his father’s house. David ordered Joab to rent his clothes and mourned for Abner. They buried him at Hebron and David fasted for his death.

**David Adultery with Bathsheba (2Sam11).**

At the time the Israelites were in battle with the Ammonites, David was at home. One afternoon, he saw a woman bathing. He sent for the woman called Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah and slept with her. She became pregnant and sent to inform David about it.David sent for Uriah who was at the battle field. When he came, David asked him to go to his house and wash his feet. He refused and David later sent him back to Joab in the battle field requesting Joab to put Uriah at the front in the battlefield where the war is hottest.

 The battle pressed hard on Israel that many soldiers were killed including Uriah the Hittite. When David learnt that Uriah has died; he went to take Bathsheba as his own wife. What he did displeased God that he sent Prophet Nathan to rebuke him. Nathan told David a parable about a rich man who had numerous sheep and goats. In the same city was a poor man who only had an ewe lamb he loved dearly. He said visitors came to the rich man, instead for him to take one of his sheep to prepare for his guests; he took the only lamb of the poor man to prepare for his guests. David said, “Such a man deserved to die”.

 SNathan told David that he was man. He told him how God had made him king over Israel and how he had delivered the Israelites from her enemies. He said he had descended so low as not only killing Uriah but also taking his wife. God said he would raise evil against him and give his wives to his neighbors. David pleaded guilty and Nathan told him that God had forgiven him but the child born to him by Bathsheba would die.

**The significance and moral lessons.**

1. We learnt we should not kill our enemies but allow God to judge them for us.
2. We should not raise our hand to kill the Lord anointed man or Woman.
3. We must learn to repent whenever we sin against God and beg for forgiveness.
4. We learnt that we should be bent on doing God’s will always.
5. And that we should not be greedy but to be satisfied with whatever we have.