



Union  
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**FALL QUARTER**  
September, October, November 2020

YOUNG  
PEOPLE'S  
*Bible Class*

For Adults Ages 18 Through 25

# Young People's Bible Class

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2020

The Quarter Ahead.....	2
Editorial.....	3

## Preparation of a Nation

### UNIT I: Provisions

Sept. 6—God Provides Manna and Quail—Exod. 16:2-15.....	5
Sept. 13—God Provides Water from a Rock—Exod. 17:1-7 .....	10
Sept. 20—God Gives Victory Over the Amalekites—Exod. 17:8-16 .....	15
Sept. 27—God Provides Judges to Help Moses—Exod. 18:13-26 .....	20

### UNIT II: Instructions

Oct. 4—God's First Instructions to Israel—Exod. 19:1-9.....	25
Oct. 11—God Gives the Ten Commandments—Exod. 20:1-17 .....	30
Oct. 18—God Confirms the Covenant—Exod. 24:1-11.....	35
Oct. 25—God Meets Moses Alone—Exod. 24:12-18 .....	40

### UNIT III: Correction

Nov. 1—The People Sin Against God—Exod. 32:1-14.....	45
Nov. 8—God Confronts the Sin—Exod. 32:15-24 .....	49
Nov. 15—God Judges the Sin—Exod. 32:25-35.....	53
Nov. 22—Moses' Audacious Request—Exod. 33:12-23.....	57
Nov. 29—Moses Reflects God's Glory—Exod. 34:27-35.....	61



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# The Quarter Ahead

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance” (Ps. 33:12). The nation the psalmist was referring to here was specifically Israel, a nation God Himself had created.

Throughout this quarter, we will see how God took a large group of slaves He delivered from bondage and made them into a nation that was to be devoted to Him. This was not a smooth process by any means, and Israel committed many sins along the way. What we see through it all, though, is a God who was remarkably dedicated to His people and gracious to them, loving them in spite of their rebellion.

In the first unit of lessons this quarter, we will see how God provided for the Israelites after they left Egypt. They were unable to care for themselves in the wilderness, so they had to learn to trust the Lord.

Lesson 1 shows how God provided food for the large multitude in the wilderness and cared for their needs, in spite of their murmuring and complaints. Lesson 2 further demonstrates God’s loving provision for the people, as He miraculously gave them water from a rock. In Lesson 3, we see how God gave Israel military victory over a ferocious enemy, even though the Israelites had very little military training. Lesson 4 teaches us through Moses’ experience that no one can do everything; the work of God is a community effort.

The second unit deals with the instructions God gave the new nation He was creating. This began with a covenant He established with the people,

setting forth very specific stipulations.

In Lesson 5, we see God’s first instructions to the people of Israel as He reminded them that He had delivered them from Egypt and that they were a special people to Him. Lesson 6 deals with the giving of the Ten Commandments and explains the importance of each one, showing how they impact our relationship with both God and each other. Lesson 7 presents God’s confirmation of the covenant in the presence of several witnesses with a sacrificial meal that celebrated peace and fellowship. In Lesson 8, we learn that God met with Moses alone on the mountaintop in a time of one-on-one communion that continued forty days and forty nights.

The third unit concerns the correction God gave to Israel after they committed idolatry due to their unbelief and impatience. God wants us to trust Him at all times, and Israel learned the hard way how disastrous it is to fail to do this.

In Lesson 9, we read how the people grew impatient with Moses’ prolonged absence and built a golden calf to worship. Lesson 10 shows that God does not tolerate spiritual compromise and that nothing escapes His notice. He confronts our sin just as He did Israel’s. Lesson 11 deals with God’s judgment of sin and shows the seriousness of sinning against God. In Lesson 12, we observe God’s assurance to Moses to be present with him as he led the people to the Promised Land. Despite their sin, the Lord would not abandon them. Lesson 13 reveals the dramatic result of Moses’ being in God’s presence and seeing His glory.

—Robert Ferguson Jr.

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# One Nation Under God

ROBERT FERGUSON JR.

Every nation in the world owes its existence to God, whether any of the citizens of that nation believe it or not. Throughout world history, nations have come and gone, empires have risen and fallen, kingdoms have triumphed and suffered defeat. The one constant among them all is the Lord, who reigns supreme over the earth.

The nation of Israel stands as a unique crown jewel among the nations of the world. God formed this nation on the basis of His covenant with Abraham (cf. Gen. 12:1-3) and formally brought it into being with His covenant under the leadership of Moses. This quarter's lessons focus on the formation of the nation of Israel from its very humble beginnings.

The Israelites could hardly be considered a nation in their early days. They were slaves to the Egyptians for centuries and were subject to the harsh treatment of their masters. Egypt was a dominant world power at that time, and a group of servants was no match for them.

God had different plans for Israel, however. He chose Moses, a fugitive from Egypt who had fled because he killed an Egyptian man, to deliver the Israelite people from bondage. After a series of plagues, Egypt's king, or pharaoh, agreed to allow the Hebrew slaves to leave.

God brought the Israelites through the desert, where He supernaturally provided quail and manna for the people to eat. He also gave them water from a rock so their thirst could be quenched. God not only delivered them, but He also cared for them and nurtured them.

The people grew restless, however, whenever trouble appeared. They certainly did not act like the people of



God much of the time. After agreeing to obey the terms of the covenant God made with them at Mount Sinai, they soon violated this covenant when they grew impatient with Moses and built a golden calf to worship. This idolatry caused the deaths of many Israelites.

God was teaching the people that they could and must trust Him at all times. The existence of the nation of Israel today shows that God had, and still has, a great plan for Israel.

God has done many great things through Israel, but the greatest was sending His Son Jesus Christ into the world. The Messiah and King promised in the Old Testament came in the Person of Jesus, who was born of the tribe of Judah, the royal tribe of Israel.

The nation of Israel is a nation under God's authority. God is her Creator and Sustainer. Many regimes and kingdoms have attacked Israel throughout history, and the people have been scattered numerous times throughout their existence. By God's grace, they have survived.

Israel is uniquely God's chosen people and nation, and they are integrally entwined in God's eternal plan. However, the Lord desires all nations to honor Him and receive His blessing. Nations that refuse to worship God are living on borrowed time if they do not repent.

My own country, the United States, has been greatly blessed by God. Churches and denominations around the United States have sent out missionaries all over the globe for the purpose of spreading the gospel to the entire world. The freedoms we enjoy as Americans are something not to be taken for granted, and as Christians we must take advantage of the freedom we have to worship and share the gospel freely with our neighbors.

America was founded on the principle that all people are created equal and are given certain rights by God that are absolute. The rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not endowed on the people of a nation by the government that rules over them but rather by God Himself. The role of the government is seen as protecting those rights and ensuring that every citizen has the freedom and opportunity to exercise them.

Ultimately, such freedom is conditional upon our worship of and submission to God and biblical principles. Sadly, God is seen as less and less relevant in our culture today, and scientific discovery is often seen as the standard and even source of most, if not all, knowledge. If a country continually moves away from God, it runs the risk of losing divine protection and blessing. God is looking for people and nations who will worship Him, not anyone or anything else.

A nation that is truly under God understands that they are under His authority. Yet the United States and other nations that have in times past formally acknowledged the God of the Bible are now eagerly practicing egregious sins,

murdering thousands of unborn children every day and redefining marriage.

If there is any hope we can truly be one nation under God, we are going to have to repent. We must turn away from our sin and turn to God as a people. This will happen only if the people of God within a nation intercede for their nation the same way Moses interceded for Israel. Patriots are not only people who fight for their country but also pray for their country.

Nations are made of people, all of whom are imperfect. A nation comprised of imperfect people is bound to be imperfect. A nation under God, however, is one that repents when her sins are exposed. This is what God requires of us.

Israel serves as a great example for our nations today. They were often a rebellious people, and their wickedness led them into captivity to other nations and the forfeiture of their land for centuries on end. However, God heard them when they cried out to Him, and He will do the same for us.

Our extravagant standard of living is often the object of our worship. We serve God when it is convenient for us as long as it does not interfere with our way of life. If you are considering a career right now, how about seeking one that gives opportunities to serve, as opposed to one that offers the highest standard of living you can achieve? How about using your talents to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost as opposed to simply making money?

There is nothing wrong with making a good living, but it should not be the most important factor when deciding what to do with our lives. Asking God to place us where He wants us should be most important to us. If our desire is for our nation to be a nation under God, then it starts at the individual level. You can have an influence on the people around you. Will you use that influence for Christ?

# SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**EX. 16:2** And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

**3** And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

**5** And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare *that* which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:

**7** And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what *are* we, that ye murmur against us?

8 And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that

the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what *are* we? your murmurings *are* not against us, but against the LORD.

**9** And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings.

10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

**11** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.

**13** And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness *there lay* a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

**15** And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, *It is* manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, *This is* the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

# God Provides Manna and Quail

Lesson Text: Exodus 16:2-15

Related Scriptures: I Corinthians 10:1-10; Exodus 6:1-8;  
John 6:30-58; Numbers 11:4-34

TIME: 1445 B.C.

PLACE: Wilderness of Sin

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—“Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst” (John 6:35).

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## *Lesson Exposition*

Have you ever complained about anything? Sure, we all have. Have you noticed, however, that it is impossible to feel positive when complaining? Moaning and groaning does not change our circumstances, but it does deeply affect how we perceive God. Instead of seeing Him in our difficulties, we see the problems even more. This week’s lesson will help us to understand that God will take care of us even in the most desperate situations.

### **GOD’S PROMISES—Ex. 16:2-8**

The people of Israel were also very good at complaining. Whenever the people went through hardships, they grumbled against Moses and even God. God responded with amazing patience and always provided what they needed.

Now, a month after God miraculously delivered them from Egypt, the people were still not satisfied. They started complaining about the lack of food. They started to remember their time in Egypt when they ate meat and bread to their stomach’s content. Apparently, they had forgotten how they had suffered as slaves.

Hard times have a way of skewing reality. What the Israelites failed to mention in their walk down memory lane was that in Egypt they were slaves who had been beaten down by centuries of cruel treatment by their slave-owners (cf. 6:9). Their remembrances did not correspond with reality.

Instead of abandoning His people, which He never does, God provided for them. He told Moses He was going to “rain bread from heaven” (16:4) in order to feed the people. All the people had to do was to go out each morning and gather enough to supply their needs for that day. The Lord would give, and the people would gather.

A special provision would be given on the sixth day of the week; twice as much bread would be available to them. This would provide food for the Sabbath, when no bread would be given. This was because the Sabbath would be a day of rest and worship set apart by God.

Moses and Aaron reminded the people that God had brought them out of Egypt, and He would now powerfully affirm that. God had heard the grumbling and complaining of the Isra-