

LESSON 7

Egermeier's Story:

Page 25 - Abram's Tent Home

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Memory Verse: Genesis 15:6 "Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness." NASB

Scripture: Genesis 15-18

Teaching Resource:

Old Testament Overview Section 3 Abraham
Bible Study Guide for All Ages Lessons 125-126

Doctrinal Emphasis: The Prophecy of Genesis 15:13-14

Key Theme: *We don't know the future, but God does; and sometimes He tells us things about what will happen in the future.*

Teaching the Timeline:

It is essential that the children understand the chronology of events up to this time. Ask the class if they understand what a timeline is. Most of them will; but in case one or two of them look puzzled, teach the class the concept of the timeline. Draw a line on the board. Choose one of the children and ask, "What is the first thing you did today?" If they don't answer immediately, say, "You woke up in bed, didn't you?" Depending on the age group, either write "bed" at the left end of the line or draw a stick figure bed. Then say, "What did you do next?" It may be "get dressed" or "watch TV," etc. Put this on the timeline to the right of the bed. Elicit several things such as breakfast, dressing, getting in the car, coming to church, and have the child in class, right now, on the right end of the line. This is a timeline of this morning.

Do a bigger timeline, possibly one of the major events of your life, a timeline of decades. Then say that we are going to start a timeline of the entire earth. Start with creation, then the Garden, Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Tower of Babel, Noah and the Flood. Now put some years on the chart—you can say that Abraham was born approximately 2160 B.C. Abraham's calling is next. Place the prophecy in Genesis 15 next on the timeline. It would have been spoken somewhat earlier than 2080 B.C. since this is the approximate date of the birth

of Ishmael. Isaac was born about 2066 B.C. Jacob and Esau were born sometime around 2000 B.C. Joseph was born about 1915 B.C. and sold into slavery around 1898 B.C. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea in approximately 1446 B.C. Exodus 12:40 tells us that they were in Egypt 430 years. The approximate time of their entry into Egypt would be around 1876 B.C. This would still be about 200 years after the prophecy was given. The point to make to the children is that God provided information to Moses about events that would begin about 200 years later and culminate more than 600 years later. This is the nature of prophecy. Prophecy is information given about what will happen in the future.

Try to get the class to understand the nature of prophecy by asking them which one knows for sure what will happen 50 years from now. Do they know the names of their grandchildren or what they will be doing?

We don't know the future but God does, and sometimes He tells us things about what will happen in the future. He does this because He wants us to know something about Himself: He is all-knowing (omniscient). And He knows that some things are good for us to know about the future. God wanted Abraham to know about what would happen to his descendants. If Abraham's grandchildren and great-grandchildren had done a better job of telling their children and grandchildren about this prophecy from God, they would have been better prepared for the deliverance from Egypt by Moses.

If we would draw the timeline clear out to where we are right now, we know that the next thing God has told us will happen is the rapture of the church. We haven't been told exactly when this will be, but God wanted us to know what would happen next so that we can be ready when Jesus comes to take us to be with Him.