

LESSON

4 History of Faith and Worship

Now, with their years of slavery behind them, the people of God needed to be trained. Such a process would take time. The location of God's "school" for His people was the desert, and the time they spent there was to be one of rich religious experience and education. Laws were to be given, learned, and put into practice. The hearts of the people were to be knit to their leaders and to each other. The Israelites must be made to understand their mission. And the life of the desert was needed to produce a people hardy and sturdy enough to be God's sword against the Canaanites.

As you study this lesson you will follow the Israelites as they journeyed toward the promised land. You will see them as they progressed and were delayed. You will learn about the various means God used to bring order and unity among them. You will discover, too, the spiritual truths that are pictured by the particular objects and observances that God chose.

Your understanding of what faith and worship involves will be greatly enriched through the material in this lesson. You will also see how God's people were prepared through their experiences to possess the land He had promised them.

lesson outline

God's People Are Prepared

God's People Doubt and Wander

God's People Hear Final Instructions

lesson objectives

When you finish this lesson you should be able to:

- Describe places and events in Israel's journey from the Red Sea to Sinai.
- Indicate the meaning and purpose of the Law for Israel and all believers.
- Explain the spiritual significance of the tabernacle furniture.
- Describe ways in which the priesthood illustrated the way believers should serve God.
- Match the names of the offerings to their meanings.
- Discuss how the special seasons related to people's experiences and relationship to God.
- State the spiritual principle illustrated by the organization of the camp of Israel.
- Describe Israel's doubt and wandering and the spiritual lessons these events teach.
- Summarize the final instructions given by Moses in the book of Deuteronomy.

learning activities

1. Read from your Bible as directed. It is important for you to fulfill the reading assignments so that you will become acquainted with the content of each Old Testament book. (Lessons 4–10 cover the major themes of these readings but not all the details you will find as you read.)
2. Complete the lesson.

3. Reviewed Unit 1 (Lessons 1–4), complete Unit Student Report 1 and return Answer Sheet 1 to your national GU office if you live outside the United States or to your local church’s CED learning center coordinator if you live in the United States.

(If you are currently incarcerated in a jail or prison in the United States you may mark your answers on the scantron answer sheet provided and send to the following address: CED, Global University, 1211 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65804.)

key words

ceremonial law
civil law
consecration
Decalogue
feast

legalism
manna
Messiah
moral law
offering

peninsula
priest
veil

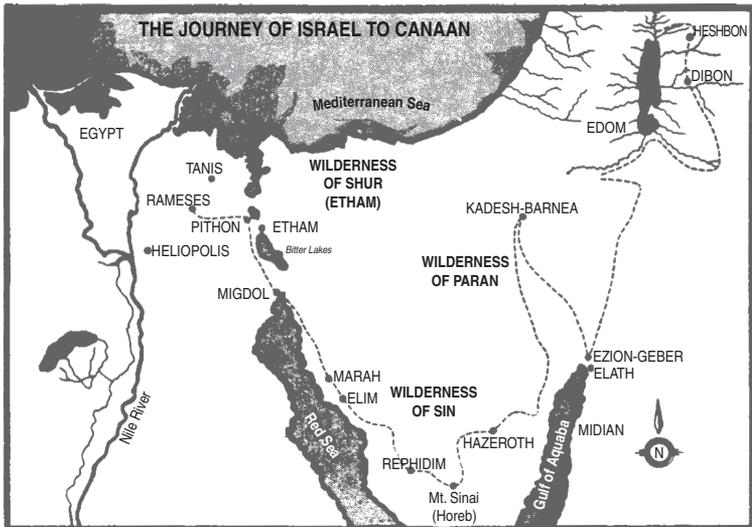
lesson development

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE PREPARED

Objective 1. *Describe places and events in Israel's journey from the Red Sea to Sinai.*

For Israel their exodus, or way out from Egypt was one of the greatest events in their experience. The following map shows the route they traveled, which is represented by a broken line. As you read about their journey, find on this map each place that is mentioned. (Read Exodus 15–19.)

After the Israelites left Egypt, their journey to Canaan by way of the Sinai peninsula was by God's divine order. (The Sinai peninsula is the land between the Red Sea on the west and the Gulf of Aquaba on the east.)



After God defeated the Egyptians by His mighty power, there came a time of triumphant praise (Exodus 15). This was followed by a three-day journey into the wilderness of Shur. At Maran, the bitter waters were made sweet by a miracle (Exodus 15:25). The Israelites then went south, camping at Elim.

In the wilderness of Sin, God miraculously provided manna. Manna meant what is this? in the language of the people. It was a mysterious, good-to-eat, and concentrated food which was to be Israel's daily food until they entered Canaan. Quails were supplied in abundance when the Israelites craved meat like they had eaten in Egypt.

At Rephidim, three significant things happened: 1) God provided a gushing torrent of water when Moses struck the rock with his rod; 2) Amalek was turned back by the Israelite army under Joshua while Moses prayed; and 3) Moses followed his father-in-law's advice and appointed elders to help him carry out his overwhelming duties.

In less than three months the Israelites arrived at Mount Sinai (also called Horeb). They were to camp there for almost one year. There they were to learn their destiny and purpose under God.

Application

- 1** Circle the letter of each TRUE statement below.
- a)** It took the Israelites about 12 weeks to arrive at Sinai.
 - b)** At Elim, the bitter waters were made sweet.
 - c)** The wilderness of Shur is south of the Sinai peninsula.
 - d)** Mt. Sinai is located west of the Gulf of Aquaba.
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God's Law and Its Purpose

Objective 2. *Indicate the meaning and purpose of the Law for Israel and all believers.*

One year of living in a camp around Mt. Sinai was sufficient for God's covenant people to become a nation. First, the Decalogue (which means the ten laws or commandments) was given to them. Then the specific laws for holy living were given. A place for God to dwell among the people and for their worship of Him was constructed. This place was called the tabernacle or the tent of the Lord's presence. In addition, the priesthood was organized, the offerings put in order, and the

feasts and seasons begun. In short, Israel was being made ready to serve God effectively.

For centuries, the Israelites had known that their fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—had enjoyed a covenant with God. Now that same God was revealing himself to them. His power was no longer something that others had felt, it became an experience in their own lives. They saw His miracles for themselves!

At Sinai, Israel prepared for three days for the covenant to be established. God revealed to Moses the Decalogue, the other laws, and the directions for the sacred feasts. God spoke to the people in the midst of fire and cloud. Aaron, two of his sons, and seventy elders led the people in making the burnt offerings. After Moses read the book of the covenant, the people responded by accepting the law. Then the covenant was sealed with the blood of the sacrifices. The condition of the covenant was obedience. Under the covenant, members of the nation could give up their rights by disobedience.

The laws God gave can be divided into three types:

1. Moral Law—Rules of Right and Wrong
2. Civil Law—Rules for the Nation
3. Ceremonial Law—Rules of Worship

The moral law was permanent. But many of the civil and ceremonial laws were given for a limited period of time. For example, certain laws concerning the killing of animals were changed when Israel entered Canaan (compare Leviticus 17 to Deuteronomy 12:20–24).

Application

- 2** Read Exodus 24:1–8. Why do you think that the covenant was sealed with the blood of a sacrifice?
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-
- 

The Moral Law (Read Exodus 20:1–26)

The moral law is made up of the Decalogue or ten commandments. These were first spoken by God, and then they were written down. Following is a short version of these ten important laws, which are first found in Exodus 20:3–17.

1. Worship no god but Me.
2. Do not make for yourselves images of anything.
3. Do not use My name for evil purposes.
4. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Respect your father and your mother.
6. Do not commit murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not accuse anyone falsely.
10. Do not desire what belongs to another man.

The first two laws are the ones that show the special nature of the Decalogue. They forbid the worship of idols or any other gods. Egypt, from which Israel had come, worshipped many gods. Canaan, to which Israel was marching, was also filled with idolatry. God's people had to be different! They must express devotion only to the true God.

After these commandments had been given to Israel, however, the people sinned. While Moses was in the holy mountain they made a golden idol shaped like a bull and worshipped it (Exodus 32:1–10). In Egypt the Israelites probably had joined the Egyptians in their worship of the god Apis, who was represented by an image of a bull. Now at Sinai, the Israelites themselves made and worshipped the same kind of image. This showed that they had not really turned away from worshipping other gods as the Decalogue commanded. Their action demonstrated the great need for total separation from heathen practices as the Law required.

Application

3 Read the ten commandments. Write the number of each group (right side) in front of the subject it deals with (left side).

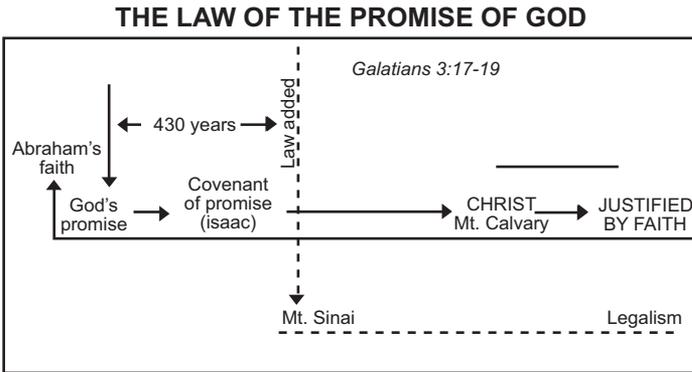
- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| ... a Relationship to family | 1) Laws 1–4 |
| ... b Relationship to other people | 2) Law 5 |
| ... c Relationship to God | 3) Laws 6, 7, 9 |
| ... d Relationship to other people's property | 4) Laws 8, 10 |
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The moral law shows how humans must live in order to be accepted by God. But no person can keep it perfectly, so it shows up humanity's sinfulness. The purpose of the entire moral law is the same today as it was for the Israelites. The New Testament teaches us that the law shows a) God's holiness, b) humanity's sinfulness, and c) our need for God's righteousness (Romans 3:19–31).

During Old Testament times, God required men to offer sacrifices. These sacrifices temporarily covered people's sins and failures to keep the Law. The Law itself had no provision for failure. Since it was given, only one man has been able to keep it perfectly, and that man was Jesus Christ, God's Son. Christ not only kept the Law but also paid the complete penalty for the broken Law. That penalty was death. He died that we might live. He was the perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 9:13–15; 10:1–22, 1 Peter 1:18–20).

Abraham is an Old Testament example of how God puts people right with himself. God accepted Abraham 13 years before Abraham was circumcised (Genesis 15:6) and 430 years before the Law was added to show what sin was (Galatians 3:15–18). It was impossible, then, for Abraham to have been accepted because he had kept the Law. It is important to understand this! It will help us to avoid thinking that believers today must keep all the Old Testament laws in order to be accepted by God.

Paul wrote, “Now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify” (Romans 3:21). But God now puts people right with himself on the basis of Christ’s sacrifice and their faith in Him (Romans 3:22–26). Thus we may make a contrast between Mt. Sinai with its horror, thunder, and lightning (Exodus 19) and Mt. Calvary where a meeting place between God and the sinner is made possible by the blood of Jesus Christ. The following diagram illustrates these points.



So God’s eternal plan, as we have seen, is to declare us righteous by our faith and trust in Him. That is always the basic covenant of His kingdom. Our righteousness can never come by way of the Law. But the Law still has its purposes. It shows us our need for a savior. It also represents God’s standard for living. Jesus summed up the spirit of the Law in Matthew 22:34–40. He said that we should love God with all our heart and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Application

4 Write the short form of each of the ten commandments in your notebook. Then after each one list one or two ways in which you can apply it to your life.



Civil Law (Read Exodus 21:1–23:9; Leviticus 18)

God gave His people laws which related to every area of living; these laws are known as the civil law. His people were not to follow the evil ways of the Egyptians and the Canaanites. Laws about motherhood and childbirth were necessary because of sexual perversion, prostitution, and child sacrifice, which were common among the Canaanites. Laws forbidding brother and sister marriages were also given because these were common in Egypt. The more a person knows about the cultures of Egypt and Canaan the easier it is to understand the Law's restrictions!

Ceremonial Law

The ceremonial law, or the rules of worship, includes laws relating to the tabernacle, the priesthood, the feasts, the offerings, and the organization of the camp. It is described in the following section.

Application

5 Circle the letter of the statement that best describes the purpose of the Law.

- a)** The Law gives us God's rules to follow so we can become righteous by obeying them.
- b)** The Law makes us realize our sinful condition and shows us we need God's righteousness.

God's Organization and Its Purpose

Every country celebrates some day in which its citizens recognize their national existence or freedom. From Mt. Sinai on, the Israelites celebrated their existence as a special people for God's use. But emotion and sentiment are not enough! God organized His people so that they might walk in their commitment. This organization, described in the ceremonial laws, took five basic forms. For the believer, each of them is like a rich vein in a gold mine. They singly and together

point to the true kingdom of God. Each gives us an illustration (called a figure or type) of Jesus, God's chosen one or Messiah, or pictures Him in some way. These forms had to do with five basic areas of Israel's spiritual life. Also, they illustrate truths which apply in a similar manner to the lives of believers today. These five forms are as follows:

Form of Organization	Illustration
1. The tent of the Lord's presence and its furnishings	1. God living among humans and giving them a way to come to Him
2. The priesthood	2. The ways in which people serve God
3. The offerings	3. The means by which people worship God
4. The feasts or seasons	4. The ordering of a person's life and experience in God
5. The numbering and organizing of tribes	5. Spiritual warfare

If you were to write a study of even one of these applications, you would need a whole book. This course can give only the main points of the truths they teach. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will inspire you to study them in greater detail on your own!

Application

- 6** The form which had to do with spiritual warfare was the
- a)** tabernacle (tent of the Lord's presence).
 - b)** numbering and organization of the tribes.
 - c)** priesthood.
-



The Tent of the Lord's Presence

(Read Exodus 23–27; 30–40)

Objective 3. *Explain the spiritual significance of tabernacle furniture.*

The tent of the Lord's presence, also called the tabernacle, is emphasized in many chapters of the Bible. For example, more than one-third of the verses in the book of Hebrews refer to the tabernacle.

The tabernacle was built to provide a way for God to have fellowship with His people; He wanted to live among them (Exodus 25:8). God gave Bezalel of the tribe of Judah and Oholiab of the tribe of Dan special ability to do the work.

In building the tabernacle, the people of God were invited to make freewill or voluntary contributions. The men brought gold and silver. They cut down acacia trees and brought them; these were desert trees supported by deep tap-roots into underground streams. Their wood was practically indestructible! The women brought the finest of their spun and woven cloth. According to Genesis 15:14 and Exodus 12:35–36, the Israelites had carried away the wealth of the Egyptians with them. This was where they got the precious materials used to build the tabernacle. In this way a portable structure of rare fineness was made. For hundreds of years it continued to be a place where God's people gathered and worshipped.

Application

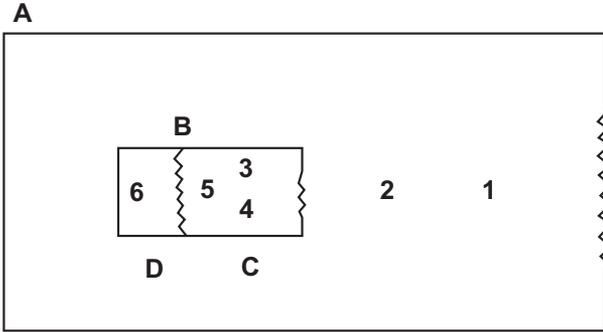
7 Why do you think God had the tabernacle made so that it was portable?

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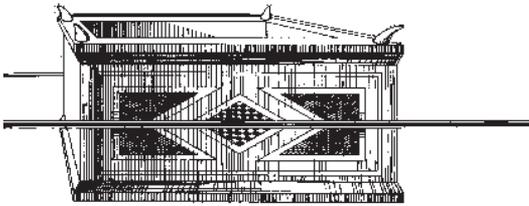
Refer to the following diagram as you study the various parts of the tabernacle and its furnishings.

THE TABERNACLE AND ENCLOSURE



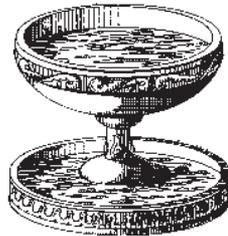
The tabernacle was set in the midst of a court which was enclosed by 450 feet (137 meters) of fine linen curtains (**A**). These were hung on bronze pillars spaced $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet (2.3 meters) apart. The only entrance was at the east end; it was 30 feet (9 meters) wide (Exodus 27:9–18; 38:9–20).

When the Israelite entered, he made his offering in the open area at the altar of sacrifice (**1**). This altar was covered with bronze and was portable, like the other furnishings (Exodus 27:1–8; 38:1–7). A bronze basin where the priests had to cleanse themselves (**2**) also stood in this court (Exodus 30:17–21; 38:8; 40:30). This court, furnished mostly with bronze, stands for judgment upon sin. The offerings made there were consumed or tested by fire.



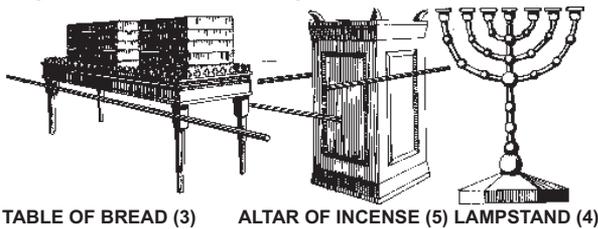
ALTAR OF SACRIFICE (1)

BRONZE BASIN (2)

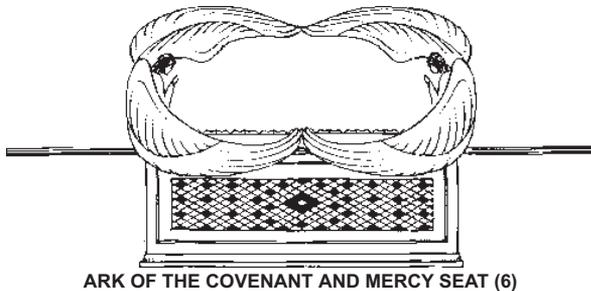


In the western half of the court was the tabernacle itself **(B)**. Its length was 45 feet (13.7 meters) and its width was 15 feet (4.6 meters). It was divided into two parts: the Holy Place **(C)** and the Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place **(D)**. The Holy Place measured 30 feet by 15 feet (9.1 meters by 4.6 meters) and the Most Holy Place measured 15 feet by 15 feet (4.6 meters by 4.6 meters). There was only one entrance, which opened from the east into the Holy Place. Only priests could go in. Beyond a veil was the Most Holy Place. Into this part only the high priest could enter, and only on one day a year—the day of covering or atonement.

Against the north side of the Holy Place stood the table of bread **(3)**. On the south side the lampstand was placed **(4)**. In front of the veil which divided the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was located the altar of incense **(5)**. All of these furnishings were covered with gold.



The Most Holy Place contained the most sacred object in the religion of Israel. It was called the ark of the Lord or the ark of the covenant **(6)**. It was made of acacia wood and overlaid inside and outside with pure gold. It was 3 feet 9 inches long (1.1 meters) and had a depth and width of 2 feet 9 inches (84 centimeters) according to Exodus 25:10–22 and 37:1–9. The cover of the box or chest was called the mercy seat.



Two winged creatures made of gold overshadowed the center of the mercy seat, which represented God's presence. Unlike the other nations, who represented their gods with idols, no object was used to represent the God of Israel. Nevertheless, the mercy seat was the place where God and man met (Exodus 30:6), and where God spoke to man (Exodus 25:22, Numbers 7:89). It was the place whereon the Day of Atonement the high priest sprinkled the blood for the sins of the nation of Israel (Leviticus 16:14).

The stone tablets on which the Decalogue was written were placed inside the ark (Exodus 25:21; 31:18, Deuteronomy 10:3–5). Later on, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod were also put into the ark (Exodus 16:32–34, Numbers 17:1–11).

The construction and furnishings of the tabernacle picture aspects of Christ and His work. For example, each of the seven pieces of furniture (counting the mercy seat as a separate piece) represents a specific spiritual truth.

Application

8 On the diagram of the tabernacle, write the name of each article of furniture beside the number showing where it was located.

9 Match each article or furnishing (right side) with the spiritual truth you think it best represents (left side).

- | | | |
|--------------|--|------------------------|
| ... a | Praise and prayer and the fragrance of Christ's perfect life | 1) Altar of sacrifice |
| ... b | God dwelling among His people | 2) Bronze basin |
| ... c | The cross of Christ and judgment upon sin | 3) Table of bread |
| ... d | Communion with Jesus, the bread of life | 4) Lampstand |
| ... e | Cleansing and forgiveness of sin | 5) Altar of incense |
| ... f | Mercy given because of shed blood | 6) Ark of the Covenant |
| ... g | Christ, the light of the world | 7) Mercy seat |



Of course these are only some of the spiritual meanings these objects can represent. There are many others as well.

The Priesthood (Read Exodus 28–29; Leviticus 8–10)

Objective 4. *Describe ways in which the priesthood illustrated the way believers should serve God.*

God's purpose that Israel be a holy nation demanded an orderly worship. God therefore chose Aaron, Moses' brother, to serve as high priest. Aaron's four sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar were to help him.

Before this official priesthood was begun, the head of each house (the patriarch) represented his family in the worship of God. Only one priest is mentioned earlier in Scripture. He was the mysterious Melchizedek in Genesis 14:18. Since the Passover in Egypt, the first-born son of every Israelite family belonged to God (Exodus 13:1–2). The people's sin in making the golden bull caused God to choose the Levites (male members of the tribe of Levi) as substitutes for the oldest son of each family (Numbers 3:5–13; 8:17).

The priests offered sacrifices and led the people in making atonement for sin (Exodus 28:1–43, Leviticus 16:1–34). They helped discern the will of God for the people (Numbers 27:21, Deuteronomy 33:8). They were responsible for caring for and supervising the tabernacle with the help of the Levites. As guardians of the Law, they were also the teachers of the nation.

The priests were required to live holy (Leviticus 21:1–22:10). There were special clothes for them (Exodus 28:40–43; 39:27–29) and for the high priest also (Exodus 28:4–39). The priests and the high priest went through a ceremony of consecration (Exodus 29:1–37; 40:12–15; Leviticus 8:1–36). All of these matters are worthy of further study when you have opportunity. Now, however, we will consider how they relate to our lives as Christians.

We are called to serve God also. First Peter 2:5–9 tells us that believers today are like the priests of Old Testament times in some ways. Like those priests, believers should also live

lives that are separated from the world. Much can be learned from the Old Testament priesthood about what it means to serve God.

Application

10 Compare 1 Peter 2:5–9 to the passages of Scripture on the priesthood given in the preceding section. In your notebook, write two ways in which the priesthood illustrated how believers should serve God today.

The Offerings (Read Leviticus 1–7)

Objective 5. *Match the names of the offerings to their meanings.*

The practice of making offerings to God did not begin at Mt. Sinai. Sacrifices and offerings to God had undoubtedly been a regular procedure. The records concerning Cain, Abel, and Noah indicate this. Remember that Moses spoke of such offerings to Pharaoh (Exodus 5:1–3, 18:12, and 24:5). But the sacrificial laws given at Mt. Sinai were meant to provide specific instructions for such worship.

There were offerings of five kinds. In four of these, blood was shed: 1) the sin offering, 2) the trespass offering, 3) the burnt offering, and 4) the peace offering. In the fifth kind, the meal offering, no blood was shed. For the first four offerings, acceptable animals were those that were clean and tame such as sheep, goats, or oxen. Israelites who were extremely poor were allowed to substitute pigeons.

The general procedure for making each offering where blood was shed was this:

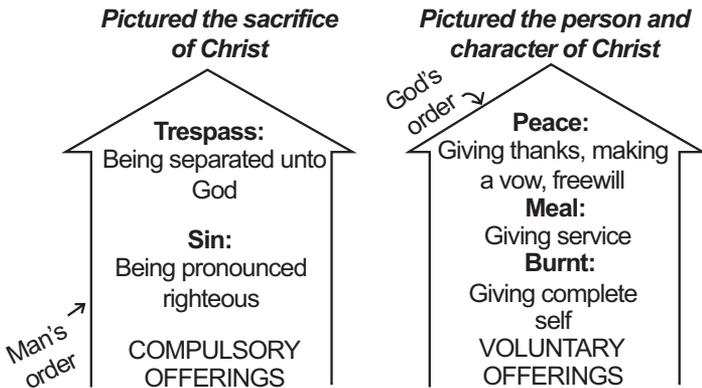
1. The Israelite presented the animal at the altar.
2. He then placed his hand on the animal, testifying that it was offered in substitution for him.
3. The animal was slain.
4. The blood was sprinkled, generally at the base of the altar.

5. The sacrifice was burned in whole or in part depending upon the offering.

These offerings and sacrifices were related to human needs and behaviors. In the chart below, notice the purpose each one had and read the Bible verses that describe the offering.

Offering	Purpose	Bible References
Sin	To deal with sins done in ignorance	Leviticus 4:1–35; 6:24–30
Trespass	To deal with the neglect of the rights of a person or of God	Leviticus 5:14–6:7; 7:1–7
Burnt	To express consecration	Leviticus 1:3–17; 6:8–13
Peace (Fellowship)	To express thanksgiving, a vow, or a freewill sacrifice; it represented fellowship between God and man	Leviticus 3:1–17; 7:11–34; 19:5–8; 22:21–25
Meal (or Grain)	Represented the fruit of man’s labor and stood for service offered to God.	Leviticus 2:1–16; 6:14–23

Carefully study the following diagram. Notice that the order in which God gave the offerings in Leviticus started with the peace (communion), meal (service), and burnt (surrender) offerings—all voluntary. In contrast, the order in which man came to God began with the sin and trespass offerings—both compulsory or required.



Each of the offerings pictures something about the Redeemer, Jesus Christ. The voluntary offerings pointed to His person, character, and obedience. The compulsory offerings pointed to the sacrifice it was necessary for Him to make for our sins. Each of the offerings also describes an aspect of our worship to God. For example, the odor of the burnt offering pleased God (Leviticus 1:9). In a similar way, God is pleased when we offer ourselves completely to Him (Romans 12:1).

Application

11 Match each offering named below (right side) with each phrase that describes what it dealt with or expressed (left side). Write the number in front of the phrase.

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| ... a Service offered to God | 1) Sin |
| ... b Sins of ignorance | 2) Trespass |
| ... c Neglect of a person's rights | 3) Burnt |
| ... d Consecration | 4) Peace |
| ... e Thanksgiving | 5) Meal |
| ... f Vow | |
| ... g Freewill expression | |
| ... h No blood was shed | |
| ... i Represented man's labor | |

The Appointed Feasts and Seasons

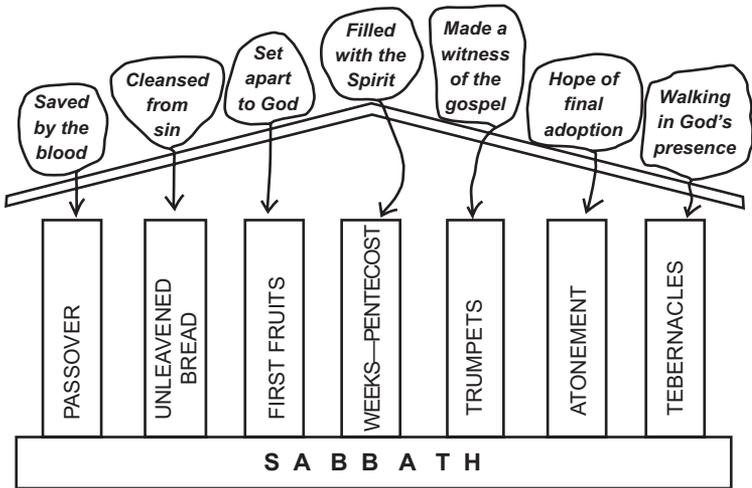
(Read Leviticus 16, 23–25)

Objective 6. *Discuss how the special seasons related to people's experiences and relationship to God.*

God had a way of constantly reminding the Israelites that they were His special people, called to separation from sin and communion with Him. The five offerings, which we have just studied, were saying constantly get into a right relationship with God. The feasts and seasons were saying constantly order

your life to keep right with God. The faithful observance of these feasts and seasons was a part of the people's covenant commitment (Exodus 20–24).

Seven feasts were celebrated during three annual observances. These feasts or festivals were so important that all Israelite men were required to attend them (Exodus 23:14–17). The following diagram gives these feasts and shows how each one is a picture of experiences believers have today.



We may make the following observations:

1. The foundation of all experience in God is the Sabbath (Leviticus 23:1–3). Hebrews 4 teaches us that the believer can experience the Sabbath, or rest, by believing in God.
2. The seven feasts relate to seven experiences we may have in our walk in the Holy Spirit: being saved, cleansed, set apart or consecrated, filled, inspired to speak, adopted, and knowing God's presence.

Application

12 Match each feast (right side) to the phrase which describes its meaning for believers today (left side).

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| ... a Living in God's presence | 1) Passover |
| ... b Accepted into God's family | 2) Unleavened bread |
| ... c Made clean from sin | 3) First fruits |
| ... d Dedicated to God | 4) Weeks—
Pentecost |
| ... e Speaking forth the gospel | 5) Trumpets |
| ... f Saved through Christ's blood | 6) Atonement |
| ... g Knowing the fullness of the Spirit | 7) Tabernacles |

The Numbering and Organizing of the Camp
(Read Numbers 1–10)

Objective 7. *State the spiritual principle illustrated by the organization of the camp of Israel.*

As shown in the book of Numbers, God gave Moses and Aaron instructions for taking a census. The tribes were numbered and arranged (Numbers 1–2), and the leaders, priests, and Levites were chosen and given their responsibilities. The following diagram shows how God gathered His people around Him. The twelve tribes guarded the tabernacle and were placed in their positions around it. The Levites (divided into the three families of the Merarites, Gershonites, and Kohathites) camped right next to the court. Moses and Aaron and the priest-family guarded the entrance. This entrance was the only way into the tabernacle and God's presence.

wilderness of Paran. They had marched in order as an organized unit. But the people were filled with complaining and rebellion (Numbers 11:1–35). There was jealousy among the leaders, even in Moses' family (Numbers 12:1–16). The doubt and unbelief of the people had serious consequences.

Application

14 Refer to the map at the beginning of this lesson. Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a)** Kadesh-barnea is closer to Mt. Sinai than Rephidim is.
 - b)** The wilderness of Paran is south of the wilderness of Shur.
 - c)** Kadesh-barnea and the wilderness of Paran are both east of Egypt.
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Delayed by Lack of Faith

Moses sent 12 spies into Canaan from the wilderness of Paran. They all reported that the land was good and that the people there were strong. Ten declared that it would be impossible to occupy Canaan and stirred the people to return to Egypt. However, two men, Joshua and Caleb, were confident that victory could be won. The people, unwilling to believe that God would give them the land, became a mob and resorted to stoning their leaders.

In judgment, God considered destroying the people. But Moses interceded again as he had done after the people had made the golden bull. Moses obtained a pardon for the people. The ten faithless spies died in a plague, and all the people aged twenty years and older (except Joshua and Caleb) were told that they could not go into Canaan. The people grieved but later rebelled by making an attempt to enter Canaan against Moses' orders. They were defeated and driven back by the Amalekites and Canaanites (Numbers 14:1–45).

Application

15 Hebrews 3:16–4:7 refers to Israel’s unbelief at Paran. In what way is their experience a warning to us today?

- a)** We should not disbelieve God’s Word and refuse to have faith and act on it.
 - b)** We should always expect God to give us a supernatural sign before we obey Him.
 - c)** If some people we know doubt God’s Word, we should wait until they believe before we obey God.
-

Learning While Delayed

The book we call Numbers is called in the wilderness or desert journeys in the Hebrew language. After they turned back from entering Canaan, the Israelites wandered in the desert for 39 years (Deuteronomy 2:14) until an entire generation died (Numbers 15:1–20:13). The accomplishment of God’s purpose for them was delayed, but He continued to be faithful. He gave them food every day, guided them by the pillar of fire and the cloud, and accepted their sacrifices and worship in the tabernacle.

In Numbers 16:1–50 we read that Korah, Nathan, and Abiram led a great rebellion against Moses. As a result, they perished along with their families and 14,700 other Israelites. At this time God confirmed that He had chosen Aaron to serve as Priest. He caused Aaron’s rod to blossom (Numbers 17).

Many other events are described in Numbers 15–22:1. The experience of the poisonous snakes (Numbers 21:6–9) showed the people that they needed faith. Anyone who looked at the bronze snake Moses had made and put on a pole was saved.

We can learn many lessons from the other events given in these chapters. God is kind and forgiving. He continues to lead us even when we miss His perfect will. But oh, how costly doubt is! Like the Israelites, we can allow our fear to keep us from enjoying God’s full intention for us. We can feel

as small as grasshoppers beside our problems like they did (Numbers 13:33). When we compare our difficulties to our own strength and forget God, our journey—like theirs—will be one of despair.

Application

16 Circle the letter of the statement which best describes the wilderness wanderings.

- a) Because the people did not have faith, God left them to wander in the desert alone.
 - b) Although the people had doubted God, His presence did not leave them during their wanderings.
 - c) It did not matter that the people had doubted God because His presence stayed with them.
-

GOD'S PEOPLE HEAR FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

(Read Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 1, 7, 11–12, 27–28, 30, 34)

Objective 9. *Summarize the final instructions given by Moses in the book of Deuteronomy.*

After the forty years of wandering, Israel camped on the plains of Moab, east of the Dead Sea (also called the Salt Sea). Numbers 33:50–36:13 and the entire book of Deuteronomy record the final instructions they received before entering Canaan.

Moses gave his final message to the people about one month before they crossed the Jordan. He probably spoke it out loud, taking about seven days to do so. His audience was a new generation of Israelites, all under the age of sixty. His message occupies the entire book of Deuteronomy except the final chapter, which was probably written by Joshua. It can be divided into three addresses:

1. Deuteronomy 1–4: A survey of God's revelation to Israel
2. Deuteronomy 5–26: An exhortation to let love motivate them to obey God's law

3. Deuteronomy 27–33: Warnings and prophecy concerning their entry into Canaan

Moses' words in Deuteronomy 6:5 seem to sum up the meaning of what we have learned. They state what we have learned, what is the key to our relationship with God: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Love is the key to faith and worship of the true God. Love means commitment and involves a lifestyle of exclusive devotion. Love demands all the strength of heart and soul. It is possible for us to love in this way because this is how God loves us (compare 1 John 4:19). You should take special notice also of Deuteronomy 28:1–14. This is a remarkable statement of what the nation of Israel could be if they would obey God.

Jesus quoted from the book of Deuteronomy more frequently, and the New Testament writers refer to it more often than any other book in the Old Testament. Compare Matthew 4:1–11 and Luke 4:1–13 with Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:13, 16; and 10:20. Notice how Jesus used statements from this book when He was in conflict with the devil.

Application

17 Circle the letter of the phrase that best summarizes the content of the book of Deuteronomy.

- a)** Several speeches by Moses about different parts of Israel's history
- b)** Laws about the priesthood—the high priest, the robes, and the special ceremony of consecration
- c)** A review of God's dealings with Israel, a reminder of His laws, and instructions on living in Canaan

We have studied the history of the development of faith and worship among God's people after they were freed from slavery in Egypt. Moses, their mighty leader, was a grand old man at the end of the book of Deuteronomy—120 years old. Deuteronomy 32 records the song he sang for Israel. His disobedience at Kadesh (Numbers 20:10) meant that he

could not enter Canaan. But God took him to mount Nebo and showed him the land. He died there on the mountain and God buried Moses, His servant. He had not only led God's people for forty years, but also is credited with writing one-fourth of all the literature known today as the Old Testament.

self-test

1 Match each of the three kinds of law God gave to Israel (right side) to each phrase that describes it (left side).

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| ... a Rules for the nation | 1) Moral law |
| ... b The Ten Commandments | 2) Civil Law |
| ... c Having to do with worship | 3) Ceremonial law |
| ... d Permanent in nature | |
| ... e Laws concerning marriage | |

2 Following are several statements about the priesthood and its meaning. Circle the letter of each TRUE statement.

- a)** Any priest could enter the Holy of Holies.
- b)** God appointed priests because He wanted the people to worship Him in an orderly manner.
- c)** The Levites were chosen to be priests before the Israelites came to Mt. Sinai.

3 The offerings were of two kinds—compulsory and voluntary. Match each of these types (right side) to each phrase describing its meaning or what it included (left side).

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| ... a Trespass and sin offerings | 1) Voluntary offerings |
| ... b Pictured the sacrifice of the Son | 2) Compulsory offerings |
| ... c Man's order began with | |
| ... d Peace, meal, and burnt offerings | |
| ... e God's order began with | |
| ... f Pictured the character of the Son | |
| ... g Had to do with service | |
| ... h Had to do with judgment on sin | |

4 According to Hebrews 4, those who enter God's rest (or Sabbath) are those who

- a)** believe what He has said.
- b)** do not work to provide their material needs.
- c)** keep all the Old Testament laws.

5 At Paran, the Israelites turned back from entering Canaan for

- a)** they were not prepared to go in.
- b)** God's presence had left them.
- c)** they did not believe God.
- d)** all the spies brought bad reports.

6 From the list below, select the five major ways in which God organized His people. Circle the letter in front of each one.

- a)** Moral law
- b)** Priesthood
- c)** Passover
- d)** Tabernacle
- e)** Sacrifices and offerings
- f)** Burnt sacrifices
- g)** Holy of Holies
- h)** Position of the tribes
- i)** Bronze altar
- j)** Feasts and seasons

7 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a)** Abraham became righteous in God's eyes by keeping the law.
- b)** God gave the law to Israel after He had already made a covenant with Abraham.
- c)** Though believers today do not keep the ceremonial law, it pictures many truths about worship.
- d)** The organization of the camp of Israel picture the way God expects people to come to Him.
- e)** The first time sacrifices were offered to God was by Moses at Mt. Sinai.

8 Match each truth concerning believers today (left side) with the item on the right which illustrates it best.

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|
| ... a | The church needs to have a definite order and organization. | 1) Priesthood |
| ... b | Believers must live holy lives, separated from sin. | 2) Tabernacle |
| ... c | Only through Christ can we enter into God's presence. | 3) Camp of Israel |
| ... d | The sacrifice of Christ is required to remove sin. | 4) Sacrifices and offerings |
| ... e | The foundation of a believer's experience is his or her belief in God. | 5) Feasts and seasons |

9 Put the following events into chronological sequence by numbering them from 1 to 8.

- ... **a** Jacob and his eleven sons went to live in Egypt along with Joseph.
- ... **b** The Israelites received the Law at Mt. Sinai.
- ... **c** Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were sent out of the Garden.
- ... **d** The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years.
- ... **e** Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt.
- ... **f** Noah and his family were saved from the Flood.
- ... **g** God destroyed mankind's plans to build the tower of Babel.
- ... **h** Abram (Abraham) left the city of Ur and went to Canaan.

Before you continue your study with Lesson 5, be sure to complete your student report for Unit 1 and return Answer Sheet 1 to your GU instructor.

answers to study questions

- 9 a** 5) Altar of incense
b 6) Ark of the covenant
c 1) Altar of sacrifice
d 3) Table of bread
e 2) Bronze basin
f 7) Mercy seat
g 4) Lampstand

- 1 a)** True
b) False
c) False
d) True

10 Your answer. Two of the most important ways are these:
 1) The need for holiness and consecration was illustrated by the ceremony of consecration and the laws of holy living (Leviticus 21:1–22:10); 2) The importance of acceptable worship was illustrated by the rules regarding the making of sacrifices (see for example Exodus 28:36–38).

2 Your answer. Suggested answer: To show that the covenant between God and His people was based on sacrifice and atonement for sin.

- 11 a** 5) Meal
b 1) Sin
c 2) Trespass
d 3) Burnt
e 4) Peace
f 4) Peace
g 4) Peace
h 5) Meal
i 5) Meal

- 3 a** 2) Law 5
b 3) Laws 6, 7, 9
c 1) Laws 1–4
d 4) Laws 8, 10

- 12 a** 7) Tabernacles
- b** 6) Atonement
- c** 2) Unleavened bread
- d** 3) First fruits
- e** 5) Trumpets
- f** 1) Passover
- g** 4) Weeks—Pentecost

4 Your answer should include at least one way you can apply each of the commandments to your life.

13 b) God provided for order and organization among His people.

5 b) The Law makes us realize our sinful condition and shows us we need God's righteousness.

- 14 a)** False
- b)** True
- c)** True

6 b) numbering and organization of the tribes.

15 a) We should not disbelieve God's Word and refuse to have faith and act on it.

7 Your answer. It was portable because God wanted to dwell among His people wherever they journeyed.

16 b) Although the people had doubted God, His presence did not leave them during their wanderings.

8 See the discussion of the tabernacle and its furnishings.

17 c) A review of God's dealings with Israel, a reminder of His laws, and instructions on living in Canaan



Living in the Land

Lessons

- 5** A Home for the People of God
- 6** A Kingdom United
- 7** Writings of a Kingdom Age
- 8** A Kingdom Divided