



Imperial Academy Bible Lessons



Key of David Vision

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The greatest, most inspiring vision in the Bible is the incredible human potential. It is about how all human beings can become Spirit-born members of God's Family!

This vision can be summarized in the phrase: the key of David. It is a key because it unlocks the meaning of the Bible. But why is it named after David?

This vision looks forward to the return of Jesus Christ to Earth. He will return not as a human being, but as the King of kings, ruling the entire world from His throne. Then He will open up the God Family vision to everyone on the planet.

The key of David focuses on Christ's throne. When Jesus Christ returns, He will take over a throne that *already exists*: the throne of King David. (This throne is not necessarily a literal chair; it is an office of authority.) Those who believe and obey Jesus Christ before He returns will have the awesome opportunity to help Him as He rules the world from the throne of David.

Before God created human beings, He established Lucifer as the ruler of the Earth. Then Lucifer rebelled and became Satan—he failed, but he kept the throne over the Earth. God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to be

born into His Family and to replace Satan on that throne. But Adam and Eve also rebelled and failed to qualify.

God revealed in the Bible that He would send a Second Adam: a Savior (1 Corinthians 15:45). He also specifically said that this Savior would be a descendant of King David to honor King David's humble, believing, obedient attitude. If this Savior obeyed and succeeded, He would qualify to take over David's throne and make it the throne over the whole Earth—defeating and replacing Satan.

About 2,000 years ago, God sent the Word to Earth as Jesus Christ.

His mother, Mary, was a descendant of King David, so when the Word became flesh and was born as a human, He became a literal descendant of King David.

God and the Word risked everything when the Word came to Earth and became a human being. If Jesus rebelled and failed, the whole God Family plan would fail. Satan, the demons and other human beings warred against Him spiritually and physically to cause Him to sin. *But Jesus Christ did not fail!* He believed and obeyed God every second of every day. He defeated Satan, became the Savior for mankind, and qualified to replace Satan on the throne of

the Earth—to rule the entire world from the throne of David!

In this level of the *Imperial Academy Bible Lessons*, you will learn how God raised up and preserved the throne of David. Be sure to get your Bible and a pencil before you read the next section. You will need to fill in the important scriptures that record this amazing history and that prophesy what it means for your future!

THE PROMISE OF A SAVIOR

About 2,000 years after Adam and Eve rejected God, the world was filled with evil and selfishness. God chose a faithful man named **Abraham** to be the father of a *new* nation. God revealed His law to Abraham and his descendants, to whom God gave the opportunity to follow Him and to become an example to other nations.

God promised Abraham tremendous blessings because of his life of faith and obedience toward God that would positively impact the entire world!

There were **two phases** to the promises God made to Abraham. One was a physical, purely material and national promise that was intended to show the whole world the fruits of living God's way of life. The other was a spiritual, individual promise that was to be a blessing for the entire world.

To understand these two phases, turn to Genesis 12:1-3 and fill in the blanks below: "Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get you out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house, unto a land that I will show you: And I will make of you a _____, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless you,



The key of David vision unlocks the understanding of the whole Bible.

and curse him that curses you: and in you shall _____ of the _____ be _____.”

Notice the two phases of God’s promise: 1) to physically bless Abraham’s descendants as a great nation, and 2) to spiritually bless every person on Earth because of Abraham.

In modern times, the descendants of Abraham have lived in the most physically blessed nations in human history: nations where young people have plenty to eat, comfortable homes, warm clothing, opportunity for education, and many more physical advantages. Though many of those blessings have been removed, the lives of young people in these nations are still much more prosperous than the lives of billions living in crushing poverty. These blessed descendants of Abraham live in the United Kingdom, the United States, Israel, Canada, Aus-

tralia, New Zealand, South Africa and much of northwestern Europe.

These *physical blessings* prove that God fulfilled the **first phase** of His promise to Abraham!

At the same time, *every person on Earth* has the opportunity to have his or her sins forgiven and to ultimately become part of the God Family. Why? Because Jesus Christ, a descendant of Abraham, lived a sinless life and then died to pay the penalty of sin for all humanity.

These are awesome *spiritual blessings*, and they exist because God has fulfilled the **second phase** of His promise to Abraham!

About two centuries after God made these promises, Abraham’s grandson **Jacob** called his 12 sons to his side so he could tell them what would befall their descendants in the latter days. Immediately before this, Jacob blessed Joseph’s two sons **Ephraim and Manasseh**



The blessings to Abraham’s descendants included bountiful crops.

with the physical birthright promise of national greatness. Now God revealed He would bless Jacob's son **Judah** with the spiritual promise of salvation—that **Jesus Christ** would be born of the Jewish people.

Turn to Genesis 49:10 to see Jacob's blessing to Judah: "The _____ shall not depart from _____, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh [the Messiah] come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."

Look up the word "scepter" in the dictionary and write out the definition: _____

Because of this blessing, the spiritual promise of salvation is also known as the **scepter promise**. It is also the guarantee of a kingly line—given to Judah—that would continue unbroken throughout the ages and culminate in Christ's Second Coming to replace Satan as ruler over the Earth.

MEMORY TEST

Why is Jesus Christ sometimes referred to as the Second Adam? _____

Describe the two phases of the promises God made to Abraham. _____

TRACKING GOD'S PROMISE

The spiritual phase of God's promise to Abraham is that one of his descendants would be a Savior; and through Him, every human being would be blessed. It is fascinating to

trace how this promise has been preserved through the generations.

This spiritual phase of the promise passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Judah, the father of all Jews. From Judah, it passed from generation to generation all the way to King David, then from King David all the way to Jesus Christ, who was born into the tribe of Judah, specifically the house of David.

Bible history shows that Judah became the father of twin sons.

The midwife who was attending the mother apparently knew that twins were about to be born. The firstborn twin would inherit the spiritual phase of the promise that had passed down to his father, Judah. Just before birth, one of the twins "put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first" (Genesis 38:27-28).

Then a strange thing happened: The child drew back his hand, and the other baby was born first. The midwife exclaimed, "How have you broken forth? this breach be upon you: therefore his name was called **Pharez**," which means "breach." The other twin was named **Zarah** (verses 29-30).

The spiritual phase of the promise (also called "the scepter of Judah") was passed down to Pharez. From him, it passed down to King David and ultimately Jesus Christ.

Zarah had five famous sons (1 Chronicles 2:6). History shows these descendants became wanderers, later migrating to Ireland in the days of King David. In a future lesson, you will learn how a princess of the line of Pharez married a prince of the line of Zarah, which united the two families and healed the breach.

DAVID'S GREAT-GRANDMOTHER

Long after Pharez and Zarah were born, the descendants of Abraham had grown into a nation of 12 tribes. The tribe of Judah alone had more than 74,000 men of fighting age, plus women, children and older men. But this tribe, along with all the others, was enslaved in Egypt.

God miraculously liberated the 12 tribes of Israel and made them His chosen nation. He led them out of Egypt through a man named Moses, and then a man named Joshua brought them into the land God had promised them.

Immediately before entering the Promised Land, Joshua sent two spies into a city inhabited by Canaanites: Jericho. As the spies tried to remain hidden and then to escape, a woman named **Rahab**, an Ephraimite living among the Canaanites, helped them. Rather than fear the pagan gods of the Canaanites, she feared and respected the true God of Israel.

Rahab's faith and courage apparently impressed a man named Salmon, a chief who descended from Pharez. Salmon married Rahab, and they had a son named **Boaz** (Matthew 1:5).

Israel did well under Joshua's leadership and under the men who had served with him. But after Joshua and those men died, Israel's leadership deteriorated. This was known as the terrible time of the judges. During this period, Israel had no king and the people did whatever they thought was right.

As the people sinned and rebelled against God's commandments, other nations invaded the land, defeated the Israelites, and oppressed them. When the people repented,

God raised up an Israelite to judge the people and lead them to victory. But once they had victory, the people would begin to sin and rebel again.

This horrible cycle repeated itself for over 300 years!

This was the state of Israel when Boaz grew up. During Boaz's time, it was the Moabite king Eglon who oppressed the Israelites (Judges 3). God cursed the land around the city of Bethlehem with a famine. It became so severe that one of Boaz's relatives, Elimelech, left the city with his wife and two sons and traveled to the country of Moab (Ruth 1).

In the plains of Moab, tragedy struck: Elimelech and both of his sons died, leaving behind his wife, **Naomi**, and their two sons' wives, Orpah and **Ruth**. When Naomi decided to travel back to Bethlehem to be with her own people, Orpah chose to stay in the country of Moab. Ruth showed great loyalty to Naomi and willingness to obey the God of Israel. She insisted that she go with her to Bethlehem.

Turn to Ruth 1:16 and fill in the blanks to see Ruth's loyal attitude: "And Ruth said, _____ me not to _____ you, or to _____ from _____ after you: for where you _____, I will _____; and where you _____, I will _____: your _____ shall be my _____, and your _____ my _____."

By refusing to leave Naomi, Ruth obeyed the Fifth Commandment, honoring her deceased husband's mother. God was impressed by her kindness and loyalty. He inspired an entire book of the Bible to be written about Ruth.



Boaz notices Ruth's work ethic.

RUTH AND BOAZ

While Ruth and Naomi were in the country of Moab, an Israelite judge named Ehud killed the evil King Eglon. The famine also ceased. But when Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem, they were very poor.

A century before, God gave Moses a law for the Israelites: Whenever you harvest your grain, always leave some behind so that the poor can harvest it and eat it (Leviticus 23:22). Ruth knew Naomi was too old to do the hard labor of gleaning grain in the fields, so she volunteered to do the hard work herself.

The field Ruth went to glean in belonged to Boaz. Boaz was impressed by how hard

Ruth worked to help her mother-in-law. He told some of his servants to look after her and to intentionally leave some extra grain behind for her to gather (Ruth 2:14-16).

God was blessing Ruth for her kindness, loyalty and hard work!

When Ruth told Naomi about the gleaning, Naomi told her that her deceased husband, Elimelech, was a close relative of Boaz's. Naomi encouraged Ruth to continue gleaning in Boaz's fields. Boaz was a man of good character. Perhaps she wanted to encourage a closer relationship between Ruth and Boaz.

God's laws for ancient Israel said that when a woman was left a widow without children, her

dead husband's nearest relative should marry her. After Ruth had worked in Boaz's fields for a while, Naomi reminded her about this custom. She asked Ruth to go to the threshing floor where Boaz would be sleeping that night and lie down at his feet. This was the way that a widow claimed her right to be married.

Ruth faithfully obeyed Naomi's instructions (Ruth 3:1-5). She admired Boaz and wanted to be his wife.

Around midnight, Boaz awoke and was startled to notice someone at his feet. Ruth told him who she was and that she was the widow of one of his close relatives. Boaz knew that Ruth was the daughter-in-law of Naomi, but he had not asked Ruth to marry him because he was considerably older than she was.

Now that Ruth had proposed marriage to him, however, he gladly accepted his responsibility to take care of Ruth. He knew Ruth was a loyal woman who had great virtue and character.

Boaz told Ruth, however, that there was another man who was a closer relative to Elimelech than he. By the laws of ancient Israel, this other man had first right to marry Ruth if he chose to.

Boaz promised to settle this matter first thing in the morning. He talked to the other relative and told him that the law said if he married Ruth, their first child would be counted as the heir of Ruth's first husband. The man did not want a child who was not his own heir, so he asked Boaz to marry Ruth instead.

A short time later, Ruth and Boaz were married!

Turn to Ruth 4:13, 17 and fill in the blanks to find out about the descendants of Ruth and

Boaz: "So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a _____. ... And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a _____ born to Naomi; and they called his name _____: he is the father of _____, the father of _____."

Ruth went from being a poor widow to becoming the wife of a good and prosperous man, and she became the great-grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus Christ! When they were children, David and Christ probably learned much about loyalty when they were taught Ruth's example!

MEMORY TEST

Why did Pharez inherit the royal promises made to his father instead of Zarah? _____

What lessons can you learn from the life of Ruth? _____

THE BOY PROPHET

Decades after Ruth and Boaz died, God chose a prophet who would grow up to anoint Ruth's great-grandson as the king of Israel. This prophet's name was Samuel, and he was the son of another very special woman.

Toward the end of the period of the judges, a Levite named Elkanah lived in the hill country of Ephraim. He loved his wife, Hannah, very much, but she could not

have children. Even though it was wrong, Elkanah married a second wife who could have children.

Hannah wanted a child very badly. She promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him to God to use in His Work (1 Samuel 1:10-11). God heard Hannah's prayer and blessed her with a son. Hannah was so happy that she sang a song to praise God for His miracle!

Fill in the blanks using 1 Samuel 2:10: "The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give _____ unto his _____, and _____ the _____ of his _____."

This part of Hannah's song is also a prophecy about the day when her son, Samuel, would anoint David as the king of Israel. Jesus Christ, the Savior of all mankind, would later be born as a descendant of David.

When Samuel was old enough, Hannah kept her promise. She sent him to the tabernacle to serve the high priest. God began working with Samuel when he was still a young boy. He revealed prophecy to him (1 Samuel 3). When Samuel grew up, he became both a prophet and a judge. He established three colleges to train leaders who would teach the people of Israel how to live God's way of life.

THE PEOPLE DEMAND A KING

When Samuel grew old, the elders of the people of Israel came to him and demanded to have a king to rule over them, like all the other nations. Samuel was deeply hurt by this request. He thought the Israelites wanted to

get rid of him. So, he prayed to God all night.

Turn to 1 Samuel 8:7 to see God's answer: "And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto you: for they _____ not _____, but they have _____, that I should _____ over _____."

God had already planned to anoint a king of Israel from the royal line of Pharez. But this demand by the people of Israel was rebellious and impatient.

God told Samuel to warn the people what to expect if they got a king like all the other nations. A king would take their sons to fight in his army, take their daughters to be his servants, and take portions of their wealth and their property (verses 11-18).

The people still demanded a king, so God led Samuel to anoint a man from the tribe of Benjamin named Saul. Saul was tall and handsome, and the people were very proud to have him as their king.

At first, King Saul was humble and tried to follow God's instructions. But the new king had a serious weakness: He cared more about what the Israelites thought than what God thought!

One of Saul's first responsibilities as king was to protect the people from the invading Ammonite army of King Nahash. With God's help, King Saul and his army totally destroyed the Ammonites, chasing them until only a few scattered soldiers escaped (1 Samuel 11:11).

A couple of years later, the Philistines attacked southern Israel. Once again, King Saul led an army to defend Israel, but the soldiers were afraid of the Philistines. Saul



No one thought the shepherd boy, David, would ever be king. God looks on the heart.

tried to encourage them by saying that Samuel would arrive soon. As a prophet of God, Samuel could make a sacrifice to God and ask for His help to defeat the Philistines.

Samuel did not come when Saul expected, and the soldiers began to lose faith. Because he feared what the people would do, Saul took matters into his own hands and offered the sacrifices himself, even though he knew God commanded that only priests could offer sacrifices (1 Samuel 13:9; Leviticus 1:3-9).

Samuel arrived just as Saul had finished offering up his sacrifices.

Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14 to see Samuel's response to Saul's actions: "And Samuel said to Saul, You have done _____:

you have not kept the _____ of the _____ your _____, which he commanded you: for now would the LORD have _____ your _____ upon Israel _____ . But now your _____ shall not _____ : the LORD has sought him a man after _____ , and the LORD has commanded him to be _____ over his people, because you have not kept that which the LORD _____ you."

If Saul had obeyed God instead of worrying about what the people thought, his descendants could have ruled over Israel forever. Even though Saul was not part of the line of Pharez, one of his

descendants could have married into that line. God would have kept His scepter promise to Judah and blessed the family of Saul. But because of Saul's disobedience (1 Samuel 15:23), God removed his family as the royal family of Israel.

Instead, God looked for another king who would obey His law—a man after God's own heart.

AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Some time after this event, God sent the Prophet Samuel on a secret mission to Bethlehem. God told him to travel to the home of Boaz and Ruth's grandson, Jesse. There, from among Jesse's seven sons, he would find the next king of Israel!

In Bethlehem, Samuel was very impressed by Jesse's older sons. However, God told him that none of them was the one He had chosen.

Turn to 1 Samuel 16:7 to see what God told Samuel: "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD sees not as man sees; for man _____ on the _____, but the LORD looks on the _____."

Samuel asked Jesse if he had another son. Jesse said that the youngest, David, was still in the field, keeping the sheep. The prophet ordered him to be sent for. When David arrived, God revealed that he was the one Samuel was to anoint as the future king of Israel. David had a humble, obedient spirit like his great-grandmother Ruth. God did not want another king like Saul. He wanted a humble, obedient man who would tremble at His word.

David is a type of every person who will be born into God's Family. You do not have to be

handsome, beautiful or impressive to serve God. You have to have a humble, believing and obedient attitude.

In the next two issues of the *Imperial Academy Bible Lessons*, you will learn about the life of King David and the lessons he teaches us. If you develop the same humble, obedient attitude toward God that King David had, you too can become a young man or young woman after God's own heart!

MEMORY TEST

What did Hannah promise she would do if God gave her a son? _____

Why did God remove Saul and his family from being the royal family of Israel? _____

Out of all of Jesse's sons, why did God choose David? _____

BIBLE MEMORY Books of the Bible

Old Testament

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1 Samuel
2 Samuel
1 Kings
2 Kings
1 Chronicles
2 Chronicles

Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel

Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

New Testament

Matthew
Mark
Luke

John
Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Revelation

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Genealogy Unscramble

Unscramble the names of Jesus Christ's ancestors below and place them in the correct order by writing the correct number beside their name. Finally, unscramble the circled letters to reveal the hidden word.

___ VIADD ___

___ HARBAMA ___

___ AAMD ___

___ ACAIS

___ BCAJO

___ ZREHAP ___

___ AHON ___

___ DUHJA ___

___ ABZO

___ DEOB ___

___ ESSJE ___

