F. New Testament
1. Made up of 27 books
2. Written from 33 AD to 90 AD (most believe 90 AD, but some say 70 AD.)
3. Written in Koine Greek

LESSON THREE DEFINITIONS

Sanctified: set apart for service to God

Remission: pardon; forgiveness; relinquishment of a payment or obligation

Paternal: characteristic of or befitting a father; fatherly

Heir: a person who inherits or is entitled to inherit the rank, title, position, etc., of a predecessor

Aramaic: became a common language among the Jews after the 6th century BC. Considered by some as the commoners' language, while Hebrew was the scholarly language.

TEACHER NOTES:

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

ADULT TEACHER GUIDE 3

God's People

FOR PROVIDING HIS WORD TO EVERY GENERATION

TEACHER GUIDE NOTES

We have already discussed in Lesson One that God had a desire to reveal Himself to mankind. That ultimately resulted in Him giving us His written Word. In Lesson Two, we saw that once He gave His Word to mankind, there was a specific place and procedure that man was to implement to care for it. In this lesson, we will see that if it was going to be cared for properly, then there was a specific group of people to be involved in the process, so as to maintain its purity.

It is amazing how God has used men to be vessels to impact mankind. He uses men to preach His glorious Gospel. He uses men to impact the lives of others. He gives us so many opportunities to serve Him; He promises to bless us if we are obedient; and He then rewards us for simply obeying what He said to do. This approach by God is not something new. It did not just start this century. God has included certain men to be involved with His heavenly work on earth for thousands of years. The handling of His Word is no exception. God was very specific on who was to be involved with the heavenly work on earth of handling and caring for the Word of God. These groups are going to be discussed in this lesson.

Priests were only to come through Levi and his descendants. This is where we get what is called the Levitical priesthood. He had three sons: Gershon, Merari, and Kohath. Gershon and his descendants were given the responsibility of caring for the many coverings and their heavy structures that were part of the tabernacle (Numbers 3:25-26). Merari and his descendants were given the responsibility and care for the hardware items used in the tabernacle (boards, bars, pillars, sockets, all vessels, etc... Numbers 3:33-37). Kohath and his descendants were the priests that we are going to look at in this lesson. They were given care of the holy things (ark and its contents and all that God viewed as holy - Numbers 3:30-31). Desiring a king was a result of Israel looking at the world around them and wanting to function as much like them as possible. They wanted to look as much like the world as they could and still have God bless them. After murmuring to God about it, He gave them their wish. His desire was always for them to look to Him for direction, protection, counsel, and provision. They desired to have a man that they could see to sit in that position. God said "yes" to Israel's request, but said that He would set the job requirements and qualifications for that role. These are discussed in this lesson.

LESSON **THREE**

God's People For Providing His Word to Every Generation

I. Priests (Numbers 3:31; 4:4; 18:1-7)

A. They were a SPECIFIC people (Numbers 3:27-32 — Kohath and his descendants).

B. They were a SANCTIFIED people (Numbers 18:1-7 — only the tribe of Levi. No "strangers" —non-family members).

C. They were a SERVING people (Numbers 4:4 — "This shall be the service of the sons of Kohath...").
(HOLY hands were to be the only ones to handle the HOLY things.)

II. Kings (Deuteronomy 17:18-20)

A. They were a SPECIFIC people (Deuteronomy 17:15 — "...whom the Lord thy God shall choose;").

B. They were a SANCTIFIED people (Deuteronomy 17:19 — "...all the days of his life;").

C. They were a SERVING people (Deuteronomy 17:19-20 — "...to do them;").

III. Christians—the Church (Revelation 1:5-6; 5:10; I Peter 2:5,9)

A. We are a SPECIFIC people (Deuteronomy 26:18; Titus 2:14; I Peter 2:9 — "...peculiar people...").

B. We are a SANCTIFIED people (Titus 2:14 — "...from all iniquity, and purify unto himself...").

C. We are a SERVING people (I Peter 2:5 — "...to offer up spiritual sacrifices...").

IV. Salvation brings certain results, rights, and responsibilities.

The list of things that happen at salvation is endless. For every one blessing we could list, there are many that we may never realize this side of glory. Sufficient information has been revealed through Scripture for us to realize that God has done an amazing thing by saving our souls.

A. Results of the washing by the blood at salvation
1. Remission of sin (Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:22)
2. Cleansing from sin (I John 1:7)
3. Purges our sinful conscience (Hebrews 9:14)
4. Purchased our salvation (I Corinthians 6:20; 7:23)
5. Promised companionship (Ephesians 2:13; Proverbs 18:24)
6. Paternal rewards (Romans 8:15; I John 3:1)

B. The Rights made possible at salvation - Jesus' work on Calvary made us to be kings and priests unto Himself (Revelation 1:6).
1. We have rights as being part of a royal PRIESTHOOD - We can come boldly before the throne (Hebrews 4:16).
2. We have rights as being part of a royal family.
(a) We are joint HEIRS with Jesus (Romans 8:17).
(b) We receive PROMISES as children.
(1) Peace (Philippians 4:7; Colossians 3:15)
(2) Provision (Philippians 4:19)
(3) Power (Matthew 16:18; Philippians 4:13)
(4) Productivity (John 14:12; 15:5)

C. Responsibility that comes at salvation:
There are many responsibilities that are expected of a Christian. Just as the kings and priests had God-given responsibilities concerning His Word, we as Christians also bear the same responsibility concerning His Word (I Thessalonians 2:4). The emphasis of the Great Commission was first to go and teach. It then went on to include the copying and providing of the Word of God. After all, how are you going to teach them to "observe all things" (Matthew 28:19-20), if they do not have the Word to study and observe for themselves (I Thessalonians 5:27)? Simply speaking, it isn't enough.
1. God allows us to handle the Scriptures.
2. God makes us responsible for the Scriptures.
3. Biblical example of mishandled responsibilities — God classified these actions as an ABOMINATION (Ezekiel 44:1-8).
(a) Included lost people in the work He had assigned to the saved (verse 7 — "strangers").
(b) Did not take their responsibilities seriously (verse 8 — "...have not kept the charge...").
(c) Satisfied to have someone else do their responsibilities (verse 8 — "...have set keepers...for yourselves.") With the RECOGNITION of both kings and priests also comes the RESPONSIBILITY of both.

V. General Facts about our Bible

A. Made up of 66 books
B. Written over 1500+ years
C. 40+ writers
D. Originally three accepted sections of the Old Testament (Luke 24:44)
1. Law
2. Prophets
3. Writings
E. Old Testament
1. Made up of 39 books
2. Written between 1500 BC and 400 BC
3. Written in mostly Hebrew with just a few portions in Aramaic (Genesis 31:47; Daniel 2:4b-7:28; Ezekiel 4:8-6:18; 7:12-26; Jeremiah 10:11).