

General Church Education



The Lord Is King of Kings

Psalm 24; *Arcana Coelestia* 10325

Lesson 1

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is Our King

For ages 10-11

The Lord Is King of Kings

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Teacher Background

This lesson is the first in a series about King Saul and King David, the first kings of Israel. These kings represent a shift in the way the Lord led the children of Israel. In Genesis, the Lord led Israel as a loving father caring for His children. After years of slavery in Egypt the Lord raised up Moses to lead Israel to the Promised Land. During the journey, Moses received the Ten Commandments and Aaron became a priestly leader. After Moses' death, Joshua led Israel into the land of Canaan and commanded the conquest against the enemies in the land. Afterwards, the Lord raised up local rulers or judges. However, in time the people asked for a king. The Lord told Samuel, the last judge, to anoint the first kings: Saul and David.

Today, the Lord is present with humankind through His Word. It is how He speaks with us and leads us. Changes in leadership in the Word show the Lord's constant care for His people, even when He seemed to permit evil to come into their lives. When the children of Israel disobeyed, the Lord appeared to be angry vengeful. However it is important to note that this was only an appearance. Children may experience such appearances when their bad behaviors are corrected. However, parents and teachers can foster the idea that the Lord was and is truly a loving God who can bring the greatest blessing when we obey Him.

Focus Points

- The theme of the lessons in this book is The Lord is King of Kings.
- The Word consists of books from the Bible that have an internal meaning.
- The Lord speaks to us in His Word.

Readings from the Writings

“The Lord is called Lord from Divine good, and King from Divine truth.” *Arcana Coelestia* 1073

“The Lord is the Word because He is the Divine truth. The Lord is the Word also because the Word is from Him, and treats of Him. And because it treats of the Lord alone in its inmost sense, therefore the Lord Himself is therein.” *White Horse* 14

“Many places in the Word speak of Jehovah's becoming inflamed with anger and growing hot.... But the reason why they do so is that when a person turns himself away from the Lord...it appears to that person as though He acts in those ways. And since he is not heard then and is also punished the person supposes that the Lord is full of anger towards him, when in fact the Lord is never angry and never consumes; for He is Mercy itself and Goodness itself.” *Arcana Coelestia* 10431

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers students the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

“Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle...
The Lord of hosts,
He is the king of glory.” (Psalm 24)

Projects and Activities (see back of lesson for answers)

The Bible and the Word True or False?

Read sentences about the Word and decide if they are true or false.

Video Reviews of Genesis-Judges

Review the books of the Word from Genesis to Judges by watching two short videos. Try to tell what's going on and who is doing it in each picture. Pause video if you need time to think. Check your answers by turning on the CC (Closed Captioning) at the bottom of the screen.

The Five Books of Moses. Available at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-five-books-of-moses/> (5min 1 sec).

The Books of Joshua and Judges. Available at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-joshua-judges-review-in-pictures/> (3min 27sec).

Crossword Puzzle Review of Joshua and Judges

Use clues to complete a crossword.

Additional Project and Activity Choices

Review Activities for the Books of the Word

Flashcards: learn to sequence the books of the Word at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-books-of-the-word-flashcards.pdf>

Word Search: find the names of the books of the Word. Online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-books-of-the-word-word-search.pdf>

Multiple Choice Review of the Books of Joshua and Judges: Choose one of three answers to review events in the books of Joshua and Judges, at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-review-of-the-books-of-joshua-and-judges.pdf>

The Lord Is King of Kings

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Vocabulary

covenant—a two-way agreement

internal meaning—deeper spiritual wisdom about the Lord and heaven

revelation—a message given by the Lord to people

The Lord Teaches Us

How is it possible for us to know anything about the Lord? How can we learn what He plans for us? How can we know about the Lord's heavenly kingdom?

The Lord tells us the answers to these questions in His Word. The Word tells us about the Lord, how to live a good life in this world, and how to become an angel in His heavenly kingdom.

The Word is the Lord speaking to us here on earth. That is why we say that the Word is God-with-us.

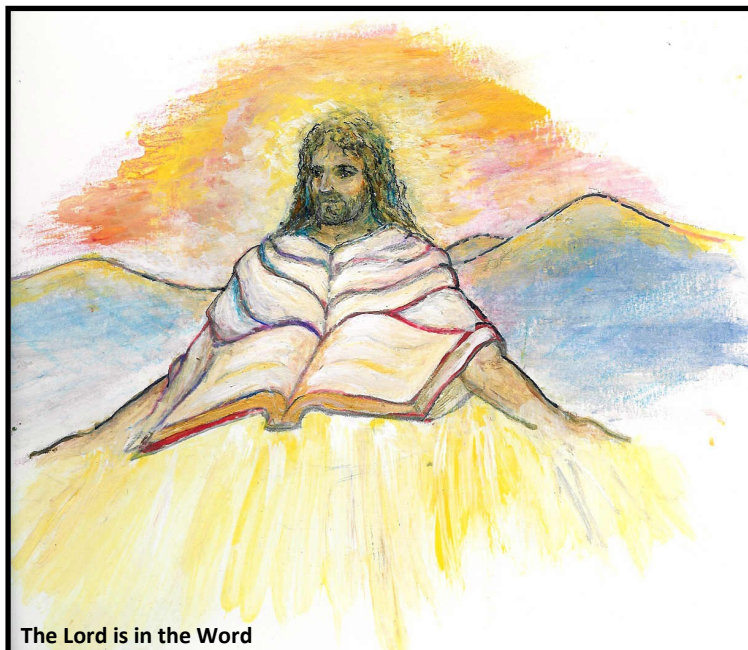
The Difference between the Word and the Bible

You have probably seen a copy of the Word and a copy of a Bible. The word "Bible" comes from a word that means book. Sometimes the Bible is called the "Good Book". It contains a collection of books that Jews and Christians believe to be holy and inspired by the Lord. These books are divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Writings for the New

Church tell us that some of these books do not have an inner meaning throughout, but are useful because they teach us about being a good person and describe the history and culture of the people who lived when the Word was written. The New Church teachings say that,

"The books of the Word are all those which have the internal sense; books which do not have it are not the Word." (*Arcana Coelestia* 10325)

This means that there are fewer books in the Word than there are in the Bible.



The Lord is in the Word

The books of the Word

The Word is written in many books. The Old Testament consists of twenty-nine books, while the New Testament contains five more books. The Heavenly Doctrine given through Emanuel Swedenborg contains the books of the Word for the New Church. These are called the Writings.

The books of the Word were written down by people, but every word was inspired by the Lord. The stories in the Old and New Testament have an inner meaning that is given in the Heavenly Doctrine. When you read the Word the angels think about the special inner meaning that teaches about the Lord. All the wonderful things you learn are stored up in your mind so that you can discover and use them later to become an angel of heaven.

Revelation from the Lord

From the time of the first people on earth, the Lord revealed ideas from heaven so that people could learn about Him and how to live good lives so that they could become angels in heaven.

The Lord did not tell people everything at once but taught them a little at a time. At first, the Word was not written down. The Lord spoke directly to the people of the Most Ancient Church and filled their minds with heavenly ideas.

Then the Lord gave the Ancient Word. This was written down by people who were taught by angels. You can read about the Angel of Jehovah in some of the stories in the Old Testament. The beginning of Genesis contains some of the Ancient Word, but most of it was lost.

The Old and New Testaments were given one book at a time over a period of about 2,000 years. The final revelation, the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem was given by the Lord through His servant Emanuel Swedenborg. These books were written over twenty-four years.

These tell the inner story of the Old and New Testaments and also contain wonderful teachings about marriage and life in heaven.

It is important to remember that although the Word was given over many years, and is made up of many books it is *one* Word.

The stories are about long-ago events, but the truth they teach is eternal.

This series contains lessons from the two books of Samuel. Before starting these, we will review stories that come before this in the Word. Each book of the Word shows a different way that the Lord helps us.



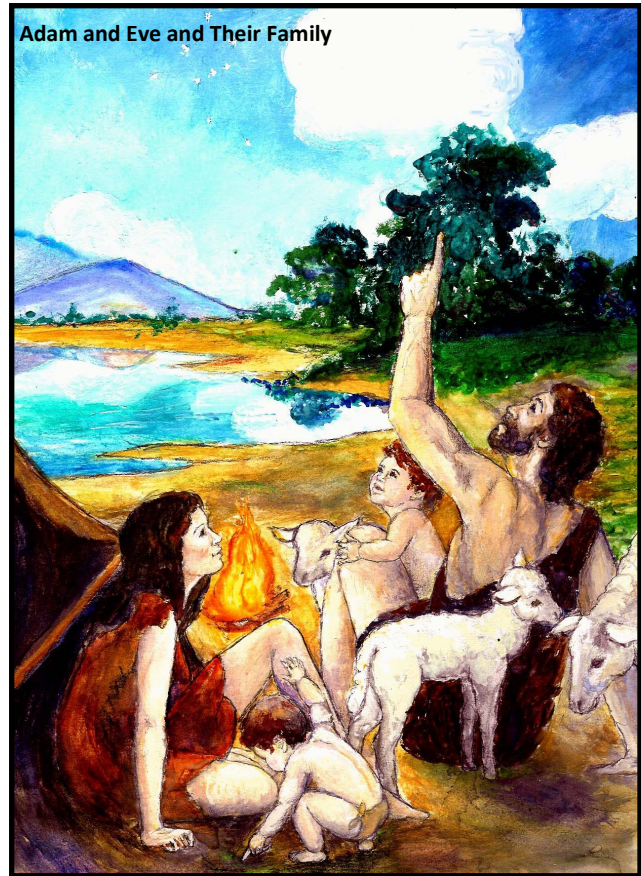
The Old Testament begins with the story of creation in the book of Genesis. Then it tells of the Lord protecting Noah and his family from a flood, after which He made a sacred promise or covenant, with him. Next come the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Lord's covenant promise that their descendants would fill the earth. Jacob's son Joseph became a leader in Egypt and when there was a famine his entire family moved to Egypt.

Jacob's descendants were called the children of Israel. In time the family was so large that Pharaoh was afraid they would threaten him, and made them slaves. Many years later the Lord raised up a great leader to free them from Egypt. Moses saw the Lord in the burning bush. The Lord gave Moses great strength to do this difficult task. The Lord sent terrible plagues and then Pharaoh finally let the children of Israel go. Next, He miraculously parted the Red Sea and they crossed into the wilderness. At Mount Sinai the Lord gave them the Ten Commandments. Through many hardships they learned they could succeed if they obeyed the Lord. After forty years they arrived at the Jordan River and Moses died.

Next, the Lord chose Joshua as the leader. He was a brave commander of the armies of Israel. The book of Joshua tells how the Lord helped Israel to drive many enemies out of the land of Canaan so the children of Israel could live in the promised land. In all these battles, the Israelites were successful when they obeyed and worshiped the Lord. Finally, each tribe received part of the land of Canaan as an inheritance.

For many years the Lord raised up judges to rule the children of Israel. Samuel was the last judge, and the only one who was also a priest and leader of all the people. The lessons in this series take place after that, when Israel wanted a king like other nations. The Lord chose Samuel to anoint the first two kings. Like all rulers, the kings of Israel were under the rule of higher laws. Whether they remembered it or not, they were always ruled by the Lord, the King of Kings.

As you read about the kings of Israel, you will come to know the Lord as King of Kings. You will learn how the Lord is your King as He leads you and cares for you. You will see that only the Lord can truly lead people, even earthly kings, with complete and genuine love and wisdom.



Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle...
The Lord of hosts,
He is the king of glory.” (Psalm 24)

Projects and Activities (answers are at the back of this lesson)

Choose one or two.

The Bible and the Word True or False?

Read each sentence and decide whether it is true or false.

Video Reviews of Genesis-Judges

Review the books of the Word from Genesis to Judges by watching two short videos. Try to tell what’s going on and who is doing it in each picture. Pause video if you need time to think. Check your answers by turning on the CC (Closed Captioning) at the bottom of the screen.

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Crossword Puzzle Review of Joshua and Judges

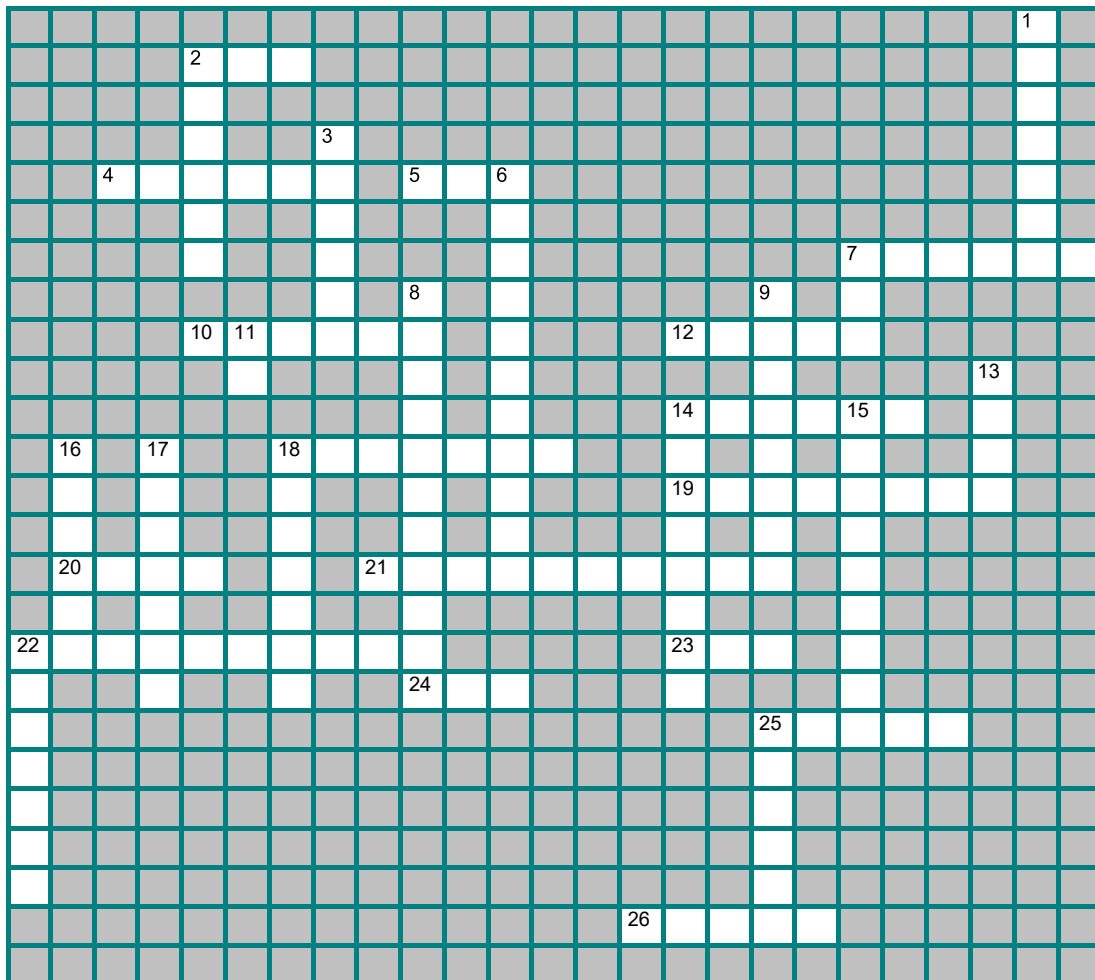
Use clues to complete a crossword.

The Bible and the Word True or False?

Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each statement. If you are not sure how to answer look at the reading on the previous pages. If you decide a sentence is “false” explain why you think so underneath the statement.

- _____ 1. The Lord gave us His Word so we could know what we should do to go to heaven.
- _____ 2. The stories in the Bible that are not in the Word for the New Church are good books that we can read and learn from.
- _____ 3. The Word has more books in it than the Bible.
- _____ 4. The stories in the Word have a special inner meaning.
- _____ 5. The Bible and the Word are exactly the same.
- _____ 6. Books in the Bible that are not in the Word contain ideas that are useful for us to learn.
- _____ 7. The first story in Genesis, the first book of the Word, is the story of creation.
- _____ 8. Joseph’s family moved to Egypt because there was a flood.
- _____ 9. Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt and to the Land of Canaan.
- _____ 10. The Children of Israel always did what the Lord told them and did not have any enemies.
- _____ 11. Samuel was Israel’s first king.

Crossword Puzzle Review of Joshua and Judges



Crossword Puzzle Review of Joshua and Judges Clues

Across

2. One of the tribes that settled on the east side of the Jordan.
4. A memorial of _____ stones was set up in the middle of the Jordan.
5. The high priest who taught Samuel.
7. He killed a lion with his bare hands.
10. The name of Samuel's mother.
12. He stole treasure from Jericho.
14. The Children of Israel crossed the river _____.
18. Samson told the secret of his strength to _____.
19. The land of Canaan was also called the _____ Land.
20. Samson would lose his strength if he cut his _____.
21. They fooled Joshua by pretending they had come from far away.
22. The _____ was set up in Shiloh.
23. The priests held the _____ in the middle of the Jordan.
24. How many cities of refuge were there?
25. She hid the spies on her roof in Jericho.
26. Joshua became the leader after _____ died.

Down

1. The Israelites marched around _____ seven times.
2. He was given the signs of the wet fleece and the dry fleece.
3. One of the tribes that settled on the east side of the Jordan.
6. The tribes of Israel were given their _____ by casting lots.
7. The _____ stood still for a whole day (Joshua 10:13).
8. When the _____ stole the Ark, terrible plagues came upon them.
9. The kings of the northern part of Canaan had a mighty arm with many _____.
11. The Israelites lost the first battle against this city.
13. The _____ called Samuel in the night.
14. He had to sacrifice his own daughter.
15. Jotham's parable of the trees was about wicked King _____.
16. His name means "The Lord is Savior."
17. The _____ were the priests.
18. A woman judge.
22. Gideon's soldiers hid _____ inside pitchers.
25. An Israelite who had killed someone by accident could run to a city of _____.

Answers

Lesson 1

The Bible and the Word True or False?

1. True, 2. True, 3. False, 4. True, 5. False, 6. True, 7. True, 8. False, 9. True, 10. False, 11. False.

Crossword Puzzle Review of Joshua and Judges

Across

2. Gad, 4. Twelve, 5. Eli, 7. Samson, 10. Hannah, 12. Achan, 14. Jordan, 19. Promised, 20. Hair, 21 Gibeonites, 22. Tabernacle, 23. Ark, 24. Six, 25. Rahab, 26. Moses.

Down

1. Jericho, 2. Gideon, 3. Reuben, 6. Inheritance, 7. Sun, 8. Philistines, 9. Chariots, 11. Ai, 13. Lord, 14. Jephthah, 15. Abimelech, 16. Joshua, 17. Levites 18. Deborah, 22. Torches, 25. Refuge.