

# THE ETERNAL GOD

## *Jesus Came into the World*

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ISBN 1-932381-03-1

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### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

## Lesson #1

# THE PROMISE OF GOD

**Scripture to be studied:** Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25

**The aim of the lesson:** To show that God keeps His promises, even seemingly impossible promises, though He may take long years to fulfill them.

**What your students should know:** God is everywhere, He knows everything and can do anything.

**What your students should feel:** Conscious that God, who knows everything, knows they have sinned.

**What your students should do:** Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as Saviour.

**Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):**

1. God has no beginning and no end (Psalm 90:2).
2. Prophets recorded the promises of God (Luke 1:70).
3. Mary, chosen to be the mother of Christ (Luke 1:26-38).
4. Christ's birth revealed to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25).

**The verse to be memorized:**

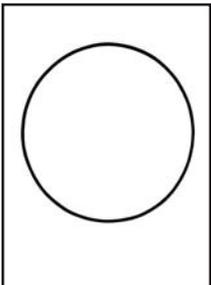
*In this was manifested [revealed] the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (1 John 4:9)*

## THE LESSON

### 1. GOD HAS NO BEGINNING AND NO END

Psalm 90:2

#### Show Illustration #1



Long, long ago there was no earth. There were no trees, no flowers, no houses, no people. There was no sky or sun or moon. There were no stars or planets. But there was God. God always was. God always will be. As the circle in our illustration has no beginning or no ending, so God has no beginning or ending. He always was. He always will be.

### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

You are going to enjoy teaching the four lessons in this book. Each one has to do with the coming of the Son of God to earth. Because the Word of God is a living Book, the truths in it can—and will—live, first to us who are teachers, and then to those whom we teach.

Try to put yourself in the place of the people in these lessons. If an angel came to you as he did to Mary and to Joseph, you would be amazed surely. Share that amazement with your students. These events really took place. When you tell something thrilling to another, you tell it enthusiastically. Tell these true events from the Word of God with that same kind of enthusiasm.

Where is God? He is *everywhere*. (See Psalm 139:1-17.) Only God could be everywhere at once because He *can do anything*—anything that is right. God would not, could not, do wrong.

This wonderful God who is everywhere and can do anything also *knows everything*, even before things happen.

Before the beginning of time, God had a plan—a plan about Heaven, a plan about earth, a plan about people, about His Son and about you! (See Proverbs 8:22-30.)

God planned that the heaven and earth would be beautiful. He planned that the first man and woman He would make and place on earth would be perfect. They would live in the Garden of Eden.

But God knew more. God knew that something terrible would happen—that Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, would disobey Him. Disobeying God is sin. Because of this, God knew that each man and woman, each boy and girl who would live after Adam and Eve would be a sinner.

God was very sad about this. He wanted all the people who would live on the earth to come to live with Him some day in His home, Heaven. Heaven is even more lovely than the earth. But God could never let His home be spoiled by sin or bad things or evil people. (See Revelation 21:27.)

God loved all people. (See John 3:16.) He loved every person who would ever live on the earth. He loved them even though He knew they would be sinners and would lie and cheat and steal and disobey. He loved you before you were born, for He knew about you. He knew where you would be born—and when. He knew where you would live. He knew, too, that you would sin. God knows everything!

When time began, everything happened exactly as God knew it would happen. When He placed the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, on the earth, He made them able to choose between doing right and wrong. God wanted Adam and Eve to love Him and to obey Him.

But Adam and Eve wanted to have their own way. So they disobeyed God. The minute they did that, everything was changed. Instead of being able to enjoy talking with God each day as they had always done, they were ashamed to talk with Him. So they hid from Him. But God had made Adam and Eve so He and they could enjoy each other. He wanted them to be happy on the beautiful earth He had created and, later, in a more beautiful place, His home, Heaven. All of this was changed the moment Adam and Eve sinned.

God knew it was His enemy, Satan, who had caused Adam and Eve to be disobedient. So He promised He would send His Son to earth. He told Satan, His enemy, that His Son would overcome sin and Satan himself! (See Genesis 3:15.) God's wonderful Son would bring everlasting life to all.

## 2. PROPHETS RECORDED THE PROMISES OF GOD

Luke 1:70



### Show Illustration #2

Again and again God repeated His promise that He would send His Son. He told His promise to men called prophets. (See Luke 1:70.) The prophets wrote the promise on scrolls.

One of the great prophets (Isaiah) wrote down this promise of God about His Son who was to come: "And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The

Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

God also promised, "Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). The prophet wrote this down.

God promised another prophet (Micah) that His Son would be born in the city of Bethlehem. (See Micah 5:2.)

The prophets wrote down these and many other promises of God. The people heard and read those promises. They waited and waited. They hoped. When would the Son of God be born? When would the promises come true? Hundreds and hundreds of years passed after God made His first promise. Some believed His promise would come true. Others did not believe.

## 3. MARY, CHOSEN TO BE THE MOTHER OF CHRIST

Luke 1:26-38

Many Jewish women waited and wondered, each wishing she might be the mother of the wonderful Child whom God had promised.

Mary was a young Jewish woman who loved God very much. (See Luke 1:26-38.) She, too, was waiting for the promised One who would some day be King. When would He come?



### Show Illustration #3

While we do not know exactly all that happened, apparently one day Mary's little room in Nazareth was suddenly filled with a great brightness. Mary was afraid, for standing there was a shining angel! The angel Gabriel, who was sent from God, spoke: "Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. Listen! You are going to have a Son. You will call His name Jesus. He will be great and shall be called the Son

of the Most High God."

"But—but I am not married. How can this be?" Mary asked her heavenly visitor.

"Through the power of God it shall be. There is not one thing God cannot do," the angel answered.

Mary could not understand all that this wonderful promise would mean or how it would happen. But she believed.

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "Let it happen as you have said."

When Gabriel left, Mary wondered, *Am I really the one chosen to be the mother of the Son of God—the Child promised long ago?* Yes, it was true.

But who would be the Father of the Child? His Father would be God. Nothing so wonderful had ever happened since the earth was made. The time had come for God to make sure His promise.

## 4. CHRIST'S BIRTH REVEALED TO JOSEPH

Matthew 1:18-25

Mary had to tell her great secret to someone. She chose to tell Joseph, a good man whom she loved and had promised to marry. When he heard the strange news, he could not understand how such a thing could be. (See Matthew 1:18-25.) He thought he should not marry this young woman, even though he loved her.



### Show Illustration #4

One night an angel of the Lord stood before him. "Joseph," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. Her child will be the Son of God. You will call His name JESUS: for He will save His people from their sins."

When Joseph awoke, the angel had disappeared. But Joseph remembered the message of the angel of God. This Child would be the Son of God. But he, Joseph,

would have the honor of caring for God's Son.

"He will save His people from their sins," the angel had said. Joseph thought of those words. What did they mean? How would this Baby, the Son of God, save His people from their sins?

Joseph may not have understood all that the angel had said. Perhaps he did not realize that the One who was to be born would die for the sins of the world. He may not have understood. But Joseph believed God. And Mary believed God.

Do you believe God? Do you believe He sent His Son exactly as He promised, to save people from their sins? Do you believe in His Son, the wonderful Lord Jesus Christ? Have you received Him as your Saviour? If you have never done so, and if you truly believe He is the Son of God, ask Him to forgive your sin and invite Him to live in your heart and life. Do it this very minute.