

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 King of Kings

For ages 10-11

The Lord Is King of Kings

Psalm 24; *Arcana Coelestia* 10325

Teacher Background

The lessons in this book are 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 them as a loving father caring for His children. After years of slavery in Egypt the Lord raised up Moses to take Israel to the Promised Land. During the journey, Moses received the Ten Commandments, and Aaron became a priestly leader. After Moses' death, Joshua led the Israelites into the land of Canaan and led the conquest against 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.

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 allow 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 also 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 for answers)

True or False?

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

Crossword Puzzle Review of Joshua and Judges

Use clues to complete a crossword.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

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>

Video Reviews: Genesis-Judges

Watch *The Five Books of Moses*. Identify stories from the first five books of the Word at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-five-books-of-moses/> (5min 1 sec). **Directions:** Ask students: “What is going on? Who is doing it?” For more thinking time, pause the video. To check answers, turn on the closed captions. The story and reference from the Word will appear on the screen.

Watch *The Books of Joshua and Judges*. Identify stories from the books of Joshua and Judges at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-joshua-judges-review-in-pictures/> (3min 27sec).

The Lord Is King of Kings

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 Lord teaches us in His Word, telling us about Himself, and how to live a good life in this world, and how to become an angel in His heavenly kingdom.

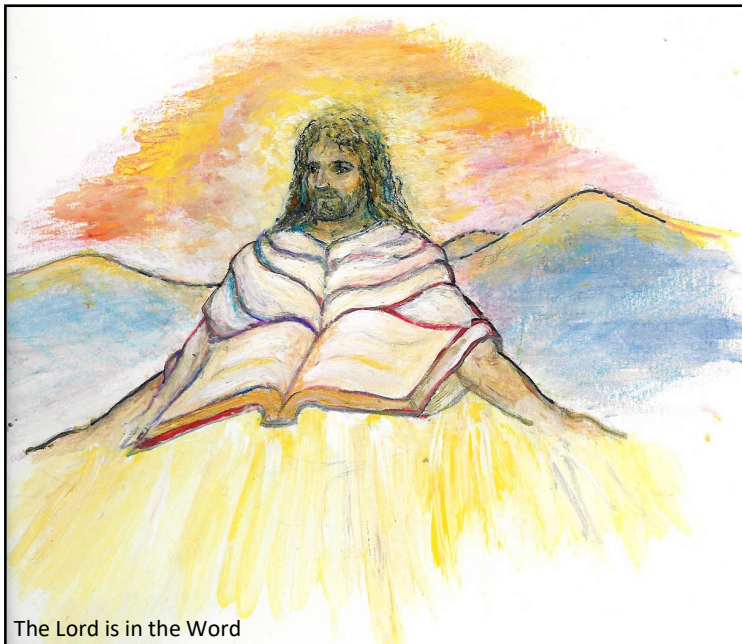
The Word is the Lord speaking to us here on earth. That is why we say that the Word is God-with-us.

The Difference between the Word and the Bible

Many of you have seen a copy of the Word and the 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 in the Old and New Testaments that Jews and Christians believe to be holy

and inspired by the Lord. Some of these books do not have an inner meaning throughout, but are good books that teach us about being a good person and about the history and culture of the people of those times. 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)



The Lord is in the Word

Lesson 1 • The Lord Is King of Kings

The books of the Word

The Word is written in many books. There are twenty-nine books in the Old Testament and five books in the New Testament. The books of the Heavenly Doctrine given through Emanuel Swedenborg are books of the Word for the New Church. They 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 the angels learn are also 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 know about Him and learn how to live good lives so they could become angels in heaven.

The Lord did not tell people everything at once. He taught people a little at a time, as they needed it. 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 there was the Ancient Word, which 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 Word. A little of the Ancient Word is in the beginning of the book of Genesis, but most of it was lost.

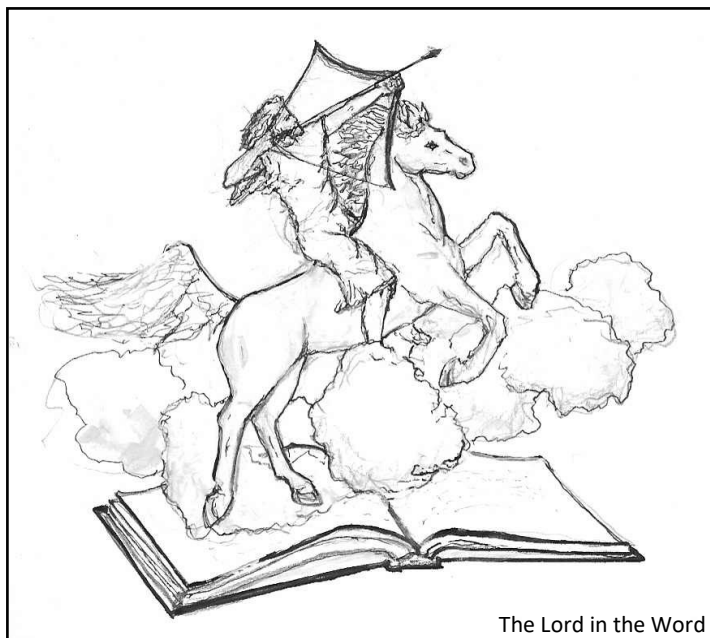
The Old and New Testaments were given one book at a time over a period of about 2,000 years. The final revelation, the Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem was given by the Lord through His servant Emanuel Swedenborg. These books were written over twenty-four years.

As well as telling the inner story of the Old and New Testaments they 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 book contains lessons from the first and second books of Samuel. Before starting these lessons, we will review the stories that come before Samuel. Each book of the Word shows a



The Lord in the Word

different way that the Lord helps you.

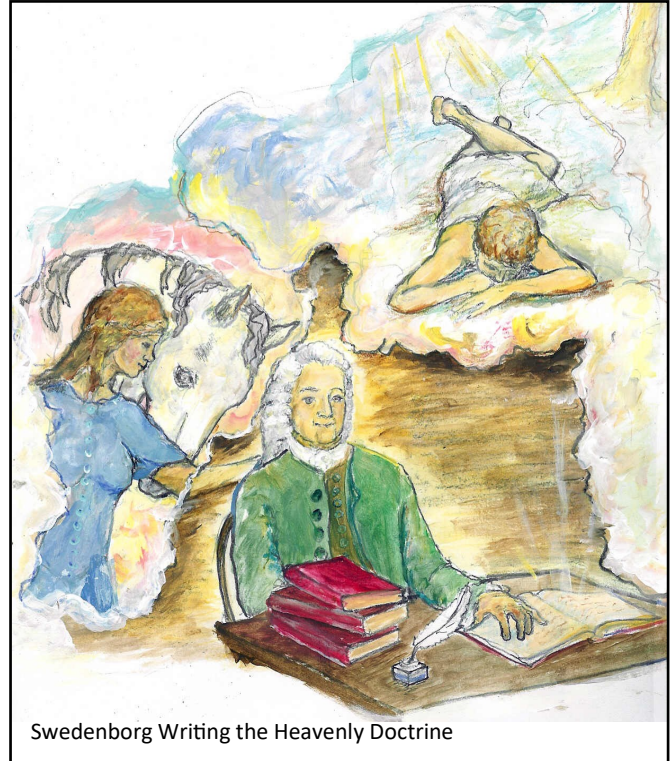
The Old Testament begins with the story of creation in the book of Genesis. Then it tells of the Lord protecting Noah and his family from a flood and making a sacred promise or covenant, with him. Next come the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the Lord's covenant promise that their descendants 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 there so many of them that Pharaoh was afraid they would threaten him, so he 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. Pharaoh finally let the children of Israel go after the Lord sent terrible plagues. Then 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.

The Lord chose Joshua to be the next 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 they 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 are about the two books of Samuel, when Israel wanted a king like other nations. The Lord chose Samuel to anoint the first two kings. These stories teach about the Lord who is the King of 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 most important King of all.

As you read about the kings of Israel, you will come to know the Lord as King of Kings. You will be able to understand 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.



Swedenborg Writing the Heavenly Doctrine

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 at back)

Choose one or two.

True or False?

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

Review Activities: Joshua and Judges

Crossword: Use clues to complete a crossword.

True or False?

Write T (true) or F (false) on the line next to each statement. If you are not sure, look at the reading on the previous pages. If decide a statement 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.

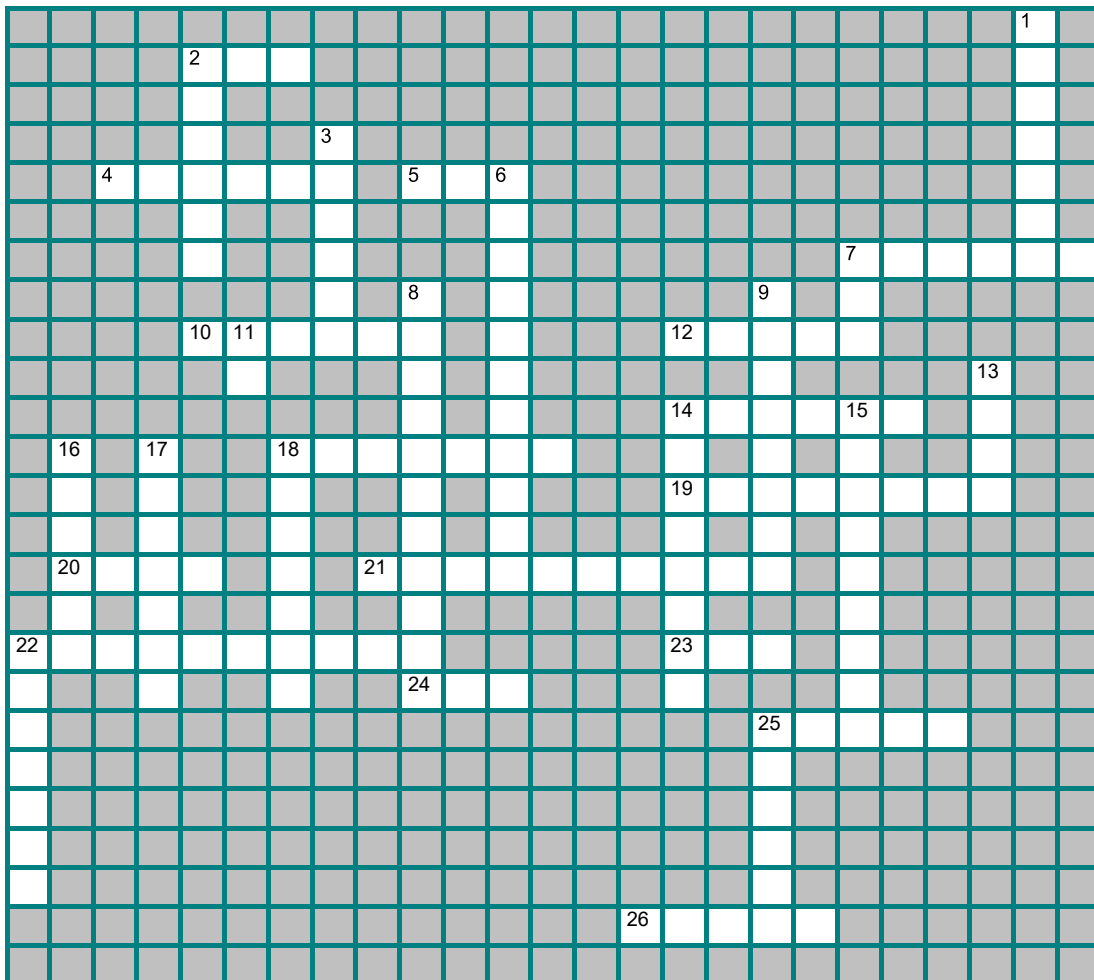
_____ 8. Joseph’s family moved to Egypt because there was a flood.

_____ 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 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

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, 8. Philistines, 9. Chariots, 11. Ai, 13. Lord, 15. Abimelech, 16. Joshua, 17. Levites 18. Deborah, 22. Torches, 25. Refuge.