

Everyday Life in Bible Times
Chapter 1 -- Primitive Outdoor Occupations

Lesson 1.01

Course introduction

The Bible. What is it for?

Teaching religious ideas?

Is the Bible just a lot of rules?

The Bible is really history -- His Story.

The Bible has real people, real places, real events, in real time, long ago.

Those people had hearts, the same as our hearts.

Those people had minds, the same as our minds.

Since that time, did people change? No, not really.

Oh, our language has changed.

Our culture has changed.

Life has changed.

Technology has really changed a lot.

But hearts, mind, and character since those days have remained the same.

They have not changed.

Today we may be smarter. But are we wiser? Not really.

How can we better understand Bible stories?

If we understand history and culture, we will understand the Bible better.

“Bible Times” means what?

Long? Long? Long ago? Not really.

From the time at the Bible's beginning in the Old Testament, to the Bible's end in the New Testament, that is about 4,000 years.

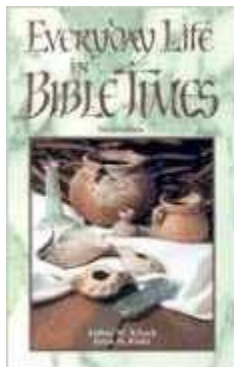
The time from the end of the Bible until now is only 2,000 years.

By comparison, that's short.

So the Bible is really not long, long ago.

In this course we will look at where people lived -- the geography, earth places.

And we will look at how people lived -- their work, their homes, and their everyday life.



Our book for this course is
EVERYDAY LIFE IN BIBLE TIMES
by Arthur W. Klinck and Erich H. Kiehl
(Concordia Publishing House)

You can order this book through the internet.
Be careful which book you order.
There are other books that have the same title.

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We will follow the topics in this book.
I encourage you to read each chapter as we study here.

If you already have this book, please read chapter 1 now.
Then watch the next video lesson.

Lesson 1.02

Work Before & After The Fall

Long ago Adam and Eve...
worked,
created,
farmed.
plowed,
planted seed,
harvested,
trees pruned,
fruit picked,
grew food, ate, and enjoyed.

Their work was pleasant.

In Genesis chapter 1 God told Adam and Eve, “Work the earth and control it.”

But Adam and Eve sinned, and then their work changed.
From that time forward, work changed.
It wasn't happy work.
It became hard work. Patient.
Work for what? For life.

From that time forward, we and the earth struggle.
Sin ruined everything.

Work still has benefits. What?
Work helps us understand that sin causes trouble.
While we focus on work, we can ignore temptation to do sin,

Adam and Eve had two sons – Cain and Abel.
Cain was a farmer.
Abel was a shepherd.
They both worked hard.

Abel's heart was good.

Cain worked and worked, but he wasn't satisfied.

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Why?

His heart rebelled. His heart was wrong.
Cain and Abel -- their hearts were different.

Abe thanked God.
But Cain didn't. He was angry.

READ Genesis 1:26-29

Lesson 1.03

Rugged Palestine as the home of God's people

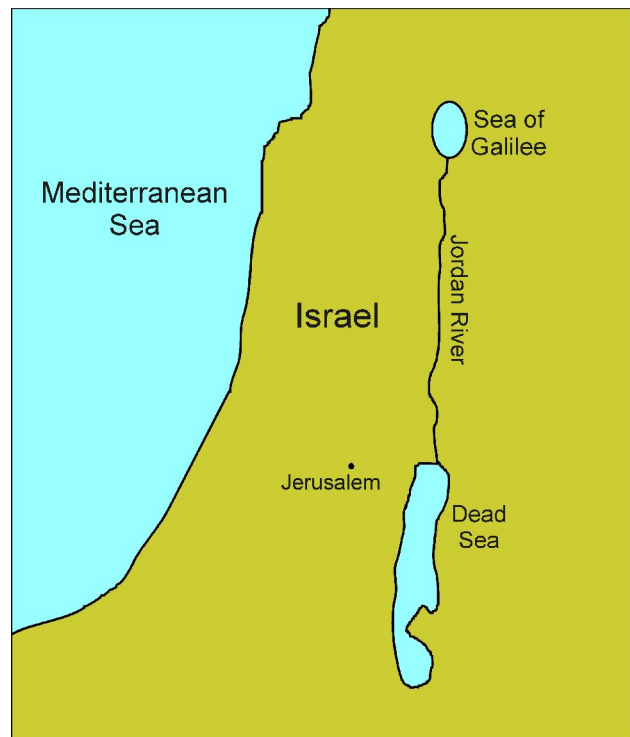
Jewish people in the Bible lived in that area,
country called ISRAEL.
(That area also has another name:
PALESTINE.)

That area country is not all dry, and not all green
forests,

But that area grows food enough.
That requires a lot of work.

The people living there don't live fancy.
And they are not working in slavery.
They have their own homes.
Their work supports themselves.

Doing what?
Shepherding and farming
fruit trees, grapes, and grain.



That requires preparation., hard work, and a heart trusting God.

Long ago, while the Jewish people were slaves in Egypt, God promised they will have plenty of
food. But that still requires their work.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read Deuteronomy 8:6-11

1. How did God describe the land?
2. What did God want the people to do?

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Lesson 1.04
Hunting Wild Animals

Now we study, work outside, focusing on animals.

1. Hunting and catching wild animals
2. Catching fish
3. Caring for farm animals.

Now, the first: Hunting animals and killing them for food.

Remember **Noah**.

God commanded that he could eat animal meat.

Your book has names of different animals. that God said that Jewish people could catch, kill, and eat for food. The Bible calls those "**clean animals.**" (Examples: wild sheep and goats.)

Jewish people were not allowed to eat "unclean" animals – God forbid it.

God permitted them to hunt and catch wild animals for six years.

Then the 7th year, they must suspend hunting to let animal herds grow again.

God had another rule that helped animals:

When a farmer harvested his field, poor people and wild animals could come into the farm and pick up any grain or fruit that was left.

God's law commanded that people take care of animals, honor them, and be kind to them.

When they killed animals for food,

- they must let the blood flow into the ground.
- they must not save animal blood for food.
- they must not offer blood for false religions.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 27:1-5

Esau hunted what animal?

Esau hunted using what?

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Lesson 1.05
Weapons for Hunting

People killed wild animals for food, how?
They had several things.

First, they used BOWS and ARROWS.
Long ago Jews had short bows.
Later, people in Europe had long bows.

They made the arrow from a thin wood plant which grew in shallow water,
or from a straight tree branch.

The arrowhead was made of iron or bronze.

They carried the arrows in a QUIVER, which held about 12 arrows.
They carried the quiver over the shoulder.

Another weapon for hunting was a SPEAR, about 3 to 7 feet long.
They could throw the spear far.
They also used the spear in war – they could thrust (poke and push) into the body of their enemy.
The spearhead was made of iron or bronze.

They also had a short spear, called a DART, which they threw.

Another weapon was a SLING, that shepherds used.

The sling was a piece of cord or leather, about six feet long, holding a small stone.
They spun the sling around and around, let one end loose, and the stone would fly out and hit the target.
Jewish shepherds were skilled in using that sling.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read 1 Samuel 17:40-50

How many stones did David take to his battle against Goliath?

David found those stones where?

How many stones did David use?

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Lesson 1.06

Methods used in trapping animals and birds

Now we will learn about catching animals,
not killing them, but keeping them alive.

People in Bible times had three ways to do this.

First, for birds and small animals they used a NET.
They hung the net between two trees.
They chased the animals or birds into the net, where they became stuck.

Second, they use a SNARE.
They bent the top of a thin tree over, and tied it down with a rope.
They made the end of the rope into a loop, or NOOSE.
An animal pulled on the bait, which released the tree. and it pulled the animal up.

Third, for large animals, like a deer, goat, or lion, they dug a large hole – a pit.
They covered the hole with tree branches, and they cover that with thin layer of dirt.
The animal came walking along. It didn't see the hole. And down it fell.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Psalm 124:2 & 7

This verse uses the picture of a bird caught in a net, compared to what?

Lesson 1.07

Fishing

The Bible tells about people catching fish.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament doesn't explain *how* they caught fish.

We find a few Old Testament verses about fish.

With Jewish people escaped from Egypt, they traveled in the desert 40 years
During that time, many people looked back and remembered, “We had fish from the Nile River. I wish we had fish.”

Next, we read, that the Jewish people living in Jerusalem sold fish near a city gate that they called “the Fish Gate.”

The Old Testament has laws about fish,
which fish Jewish people can eat,
and what water animals that they can't eat, that was forbidden.

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NEW TESTAMENT

Over in the New Testament we find lots of verses about fish.

Some of Jesus' Disciples were professional fishermen:

Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

They caught fish in the Sea of Galilee, a lake in northern Israel.

That lake had many different kinds of fish.
Several fish were large. They caught those for food.
And Several fish were small, like SARDINES.

Jesus' Disciples caught those fish and sold them.

Their profession was a big business.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Deuteronomy 14:9-10

God permitted Jews to eat what kind of fish?

Lesson 1.08

Fish Nets

How did people in Bible times catch fish?

Most people used a net.

They had several kinds of nets

First, they had a long pole with a large ring at the end, that held a net for scooping up fish.



Second, they had a large net, about 10 feet to 15 feet wide.
Around the edge of the net they attached weights.

They threw the net into the water and then they pulled it in like a bag.
If they caught any fish, they just reached into the net and pulled them out.

People using that net must have a lot of skill. It wasn't easy.

Third, they used a really large net, about 700 feet, to 1000 feet long and 5 feet, to 25 feet deep.
The top edge had light wood or cork floats attached.
The bottom edge had weights.

Two boats held each end of the net.

They dragged the net into a circle, that was about 300 feet wide.

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Fish swam into the net. That net collected both fish. and junk.
Sometimes the net needed cleaning.

The best time to catch fish was afternoon and overnight.

Sometimes helpers stood on shore, spotting schools of fish.
and yelling to their friends in the boats were they can find the fish.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 13:47-50

This story is about a fish net.

What does the story mean?

Lesson 1.09

Fishing with hooks and spears

The Old Testament, and New Testament. both have stories about fish hooks.

Recently Archeologists discovered fishhooks of various sizes –
small hooks and large hooks. for large fish in rivers.

Fishhooks long ago looked like what?
Exactly the same way fishhooks look today.

Another way for catching fish is a spear.
Long ago, Egyptians caught fish by sitting in their boats, waiting, watching.
A fish would swim by. They watched, and then speared it.

Did Jews also fish with spears?
The Bible doesn't say.

Catching fish was not easy.
It was hard and frustrating work, hour after hour, all night.
And sometimes they caught nothing.

That work required patience.
Storms were dangerous.
That was hard work.

That attitude is the same as that we need for inviting people to Jesus.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Matthew 4:18-22

What were the Disciples doing when Jesus met them?

What Jesus want them to do?

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Lesson 1.10

**Farm Animals:
Cows and Sheep**

In the east, the country called BASHAN, that area was famous for their cows, like Texas Long Horns.

People did not keep those cows in a fenced area. When the cows finished eat grass in one area, they moved to another to find more grass.

People ate meat from the cows and they drank cow's milk.

While the cow herders moved around with the cows, they also ate fruit, nuts, and various plants that grew wild.

They sold meat in the big cities. They also sold cow skins and other animals they had – sheep, goats, donkeys, and camels.

In Israel, most farmers worked growing food from the land. They had a few cows for helping work and for milk. They did not have cow herds for meat. But they did have flocks of sheep. Their sheep lived on country hills.

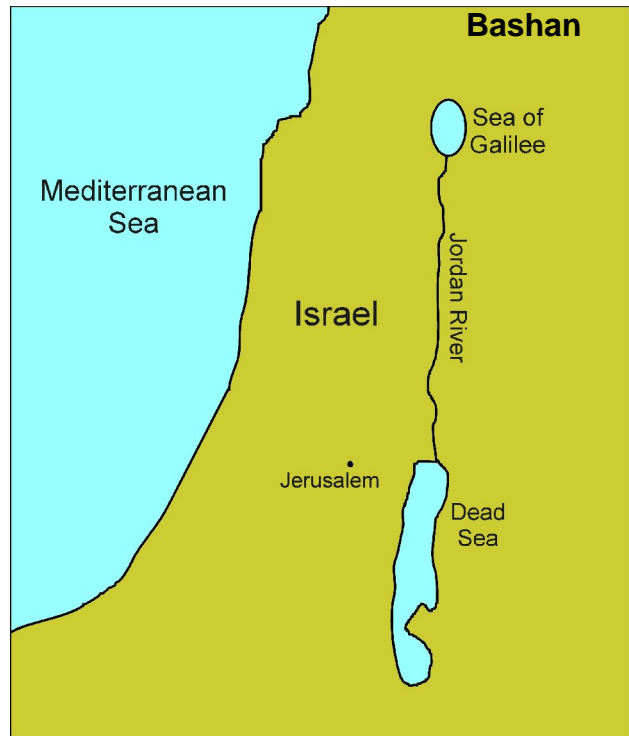
Also, people living in cities had a few sheep and goats. People living in cities. they kept their sheep all together.

They had sheep and goats for wool or hair for making clothes. and tents. Also, they had sheep and goats for milk. and meat.

Farmers in Israel did not have pigs. But in that area in the east, outside of Israel, they had pigs.

STUDY QUESTION

In the Bible, sheep and goats were important for what?



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Lesson 1.11

Equipment of the shepherd

Shepherds had various equipment for their work and their life outdoors with their animals.

First, shepherds had a ROD -- short stick, 2 feet long, with a thick end.

They used the rod for
protecting their sheep.
hitting thieves.
hitting wild animals.

They used the rod for guiding their sheep, tapping on their backsides.

They struck trees and knocked off fruit for eating.

Also, shepherds had a long stick, about 6 to 7 feet long, called the STAFF.
The top was not curved. Europeans invented that later.
The Jews had a straight staff.

Another piece of equipment that shepherds had was a SLING.
It was a long strap.

They put a stone in the middle of the strap.
Then they folded the two ends of the strap together,
swung the stone around and around over their head,
released one end of the strap,
and the stone went flying out really fast.

They kept stones in a small bag.

They also had larger bags for keeping food:

figs .
olives.
raisins.
cheese.
bread.
wheat.

They had clay bottles and bags for drinks.

wine.
water.
milk.

Shepherds also had OLIVE OIL that they kept in a hollow cow horn.
The cow horn had a cap on the wide end.

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Shepherd's clothing

Shepherds had a CLOAK, like a coat.

On cold days, or during rain, the cloak kept them warm.

During night the cloak became their blanket.

If a lamb became hurt, the shepherd could use the cloak like a bag for carrying the lamb.

For covering their head, they had a cloth, tied with a cord.

Shepherds liked **music**. So they had a small flute.

Your book shows pictures of shepherds' various equipment.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Psalm 23

Who is the shepherd?

Who is the sheep?

Lesson 1.12

The Sheepfold

People living in small cities in Israel, each family had their sheep flock (group).

During the day, those groups came together and became one large group. They went out into the fields to graze. In the afternoon, the sheep came back to the city, to their separate groups.

Sometimes, if the sheep did not have enough grass, they move to further fields. In the evening, they couldn't come back home. They stayed out in a fenced area called a **sheepfold**.

Sometimes they used an open cave. The sheep could hide there.

In front of the cave, they had a wall that was about six feet tall.

It had one opening for their entrance.

On top of the wall they had sharp metal and glass for protection, to stop robbers and wild animals.

A wall in front of the cave made an open area that was protected.

If the weather was nice, the sheep could remain outdoors.

In bad weather, the sheep could go inside the cave for protection.

If that area had no cave, one side of the stone walled sheepfold had a roof.

STUDY QUESTION

Read John 10

Describe things Jesus does that are like a Good Shepherd.

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Lesson 1.13
The Shepherd and His Sheep

Sheep are not strong.
Sheep are not smart.
They are stupid.
They are not fast.
They have many dangers.
Sheep easily become scared, confused, and stampede.
The shepherd must work hard for their care and protection.

The place where sheep live, eat grass, travel, and rest, the shepherd works hard preparing that place, making sure that it is safe for the sheep.

The area must have no small holes where small animals live, that the sheep could step in and break its leg.

The shepherd inspects the plants growing there.
Many wild plants make sheep sick and can kill them.

Sometimes where the sheep must migrate (travel), the land is rough.
The shepherd leads them carefully.

Of course sheep must have water.
If the river water is okay if the river is not flowing fast.
A fast flowing river is really dangerous.
Deep rivers are dangerous.

Streams that are shallow and quiet are safe.

Pools where water does not flow, but just stays there (stagnant), are dangerous.
That can make the sheep sick.

Often the shepherd will lead his sheep to a well, and he will give them cool fresh water.

After the sheep have eaten all day, they travel back to the sheepfold for protection during the night.

If the weather looks bad, they stay near the sheepfold.

The shepherd did not drive the sheep from behind.
He led them in front, calling them, watching for individual sheep that wandered away, or stayed behind.

When they arrived back at the sheepfold, the shepherd stood in the entrance.
The shepherd called each sheep by name.
The animal came and the shepherd inspected it, looking for injuries and insects.

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One shepherd could care for about 30 to 40 sheep.
If he had more, he had helpers.

STUDY QUESTION

Read Luke 15:3-7

Jesus compares the lost sheep to whom?

Lesson 1.14

Dangers of the night

When the sheep are back in the sheepfold, resting, the shepherd is still working, still watching, still protecting his sheep from robbers and wild animals, wolves, bears, and lions.

Shepherds took turns keeping watch.

When shepherds themselves needed sleep, the shepherd lay in the sheepfold entrance.

If the sheepfold didn't have a gate, the shepherd himself became the door for his sheep.

When danger struck, good shepherds did not run away.
They stayed and fought to protect their sheep.
They risked their lives for their sheep.
Sometimes shepherds died trying to protect their sheep.

Throughout the Bible, we see that same picture, again and again.
"The Good Shepherd" is God.
You know the famous chapter – Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd..."

In the Old Testament prophets writings, God often calls Israel as His sheep and He is their shepherd.

In the New Testament, in John 10, Jesus says,
"I am the Good Shepherd. I give up my life for my sheep."

Thank you, Lord!

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read again: Psalm 23 and John 10

In what ways is the Lord like a Shepherd for us?

Read Chapter 2 in your book *Everyday Life in Bible Times*