



THE STORY OF THE WORLD



Covenant of New Creation

Genesis 12-25

Main Idea

The LORD Blesses Abram/Abraham with a Promise and a Covenant whereby Abraham would be a blessing to the nations

Overview

I. A Promise Made: Genesis 12

A. After seeing the continued spiraling down of humanity, God intervenes by Grace to bring about a Restoration in His creation through a Promise to Abram

1. There are in essence six promises here:
 - a. I will make you a great nation
 - b. I will bless you
 - c. I will make your name great
 - d. I will bless those who bless you
 - e. I will curse those who dishonor you
 - f. In you all the families (nations) of the earth will be blessed
2. The Scriptures will go onto emphasize two aspects of this Promise:
 - a. God will give Abram many offspring (13.15, etc.)
 - b. God will give Abram & that offspring the Land of Canaan (12.7, etc.)
3. Everything in the Bible from this point forward will be built off these promises
 - a. In these Promises (and the impending Covenant) God is working to make a place for His people where He will make all things new

4. We can notice that it is GOD who is going to bring these things about (He is the hero)

B. Blessing is mentioned 5 times in 12.1-3: (“Curse” is mentioned 5 times in 3-11)

1. Blessing is always connected to the notion of life (1.22)
2. In God “blessing” Abram He will bring Life to the nations (12.3)
 - a. This is what God has always intended in creation (1.26-28, 9.1, Matt. 28.19-20)
 - b. He will have a world full of worshipers of Him...it is certain (Rev. 5.9)

C. The ultimate fulfillment of 12.3 is Jesus Christ (Galatians 3.16)

1. The same “He” of Genesis 3.15 is the seed that blesses the nations “in Abraham” (12.3)

II. A Covenant Born: Genesis 15-17

A. A Covenant is an agreement between two parties

1. This is a God initiated, everlasting Covenant (Gen. 17.7-8, 13, 19)

B. God Promises a Son that will be the heir to this promise (15.4)

1. God brings Abram out to confirm his faith by looking to the stars that illustrate the number of his offspring...Abram believes and it is counted to him as righteousness (15.6)
 - a. Abram is made right with God the same way we are by Grace (God chose him)
 - i. Through Faith that gives him righteousness (15.6)

- b. This comes apart from the Law (Romans 4)
- 2. The Covenant is made and confirmed (15.18)
- C. Abram & Sarai disobey God in attempting to pre-empt Gods plans in Sarai giving Abram her Egyptian servant Hagar...she conceives and has a son named Ishmael (Chap 16)
 - 1. God cares for Hagar and Ishmael
- D. Abram is 86 years old at this point (16.16) and God made the Promise to him when he was 75 (Genesis 12.4)
- E. After this, God Re-Affirms the Covenant and calls Abram to walk before Him & be blameless (17.1)
 - 1. God changes Abrams name to Abraham: 17.5-6
 - a. Because he will be the father to many nations
 - 2. God changes Sarai's name to Sarah (Princess): 17.15
- F. Abram continues to struggle in trusting God to make good on His promise and so he requests that Ishmael be used as the child of Promise...God says no: 17.18-19
 - 1. Abram is having trouble believing God can do this in their age: 17.17
 - 2. God does this to make certain WHO is bringing this about: God is after their Faith
- G. The sign of circumcision was given in order to have a seal or sign of this covenant: 17.9-10
- F. The Lord finally brings Isaac (laughter) when they are 100/90 respectively: 21.1-5
 - 1. Notice the emphasis on who brought the child in vss. 1-3

III. A Faith Revealed: Genesis 22

- A. God tests Abraham (22.1) by seeing if his faith is real by asking Abraham to sacrifice his son: 22.1-2
 - 1. This will make clear if Abraham loves God for his gifts or for God Himself
- B. Abraham is faithful to do so (22.10-14) and God sees this and stops him in the act
 - 1. Reaffirms His promise & provides a substitutionary sacrifice in a Ram

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Discuss people who you would say had "great faith" and what typified that faith.*

1. Who is the one author of these Promises and who Promises to bring them about? Why is this important in understanding the story?
2. Blessing is mentioned 5 times in the first three verses of Chapter 12...why would the author choose to repeat this? Why is this notion of "blessing" so important in the story of the Pentateuch?
3. Where is it you seek blessing and why? Where are you seeing "blessing" in the life of the church or your life in particular?
4. How do we see Christ in this passage? (Galatians 3.16)
5. In what ways does Abram's disobedience discourage or encourage you? How is your world similar or dissimilar to his story?
6. Why is this Covenant so important? Who is bringing it about? Who is the one who is remaining faithful to it?
7. Why is Offspring and Land so important? Does this affect you today in any way?
8. Why is it God is waiting so long to bring about His promises? How are you challenged in this?
9. What is seen in Gods challenging Abraham's faith? What do we learn about what true Faith is (15.6)
10. Describe what Faith is? (Romans 4: Fully Convinced...Future Grace)
11. Where do you see the Gospel in Chapter 22?

Accountability Question: *Who are you investing in to see the nations be blessed? Where is God calling you to wait patiently before Him?*