

Genesis Series 2022 #9 (8.28.22) #22069

Genesis 11:10-12:5

Abraham's Covenant

I. Jesus had a set-to with the Pharisees about their easy divorce laws. Matt.19:4

A. Jesus said, have you not read...and he quotes Gen.2:24.

B. *Jesus expects people who know God truly to read Genesis. So we are...*

II. Genesis is about beginning of everything we need to know about eternal life.

A. It is theological history (Not a modernist/secular history).

1. Our culture does not have a category for this. We are steeped in secular history, history that leaves God out of the picture. But secularism is sort of a myth itself.

B. It focuses on God's plan to renew his fallen world. Gen.3:15

1. Theological history answers questions that secular history simply cannot answer.
2. It leaves unanswered many of our questions, though.

III. One main theme—*God creating relationship and humans failing in it.*

A. Covenant: God deals with humanity through covenant relationship.

1. An implied covenant with Adam. Gen.2

a) You are good, free, responsible and accountable. Live in the beautiful creation, trusting Me...

**b) They failed this covenant, resulting in eventual death.**

c) *Decided not to trust God. The result was death and ruin in humanity (Gen.4-11)*

(1) *Things got horrible, completely sinful and evil (Gen.6:5)*

2. A broad covenant with Noah. (Rainbow = grace) Gen. 9:1-17

a) God starts over with a "new Adam". Four things in Noahic Covenant

(1) Continuity of earth's life (no more threat of world-wide flood)

(2) Human dominion over the creation.

(3) Sanctity of human life. (no murder)

(4) Accountability of humanity to God. (I will require the blood)

**b) The human race fails again and ends in confusion. 10-11**

(1) Noah gets drunk and Ham dishonors his father, receiving a curse on Canaan

(2) The human race decides to make a name for itself without God. Tower of Babel (Confusion). Gen.11:1-9

3. A personal covenant with Abraham that will change the destiny of the world. Gen.12:1-5 (also ch.15 and 17)

a) Everything has been building to this point.

b) Abrahamic Covenant. Beginning in 12:1-3

c) *Will humans fail again? We'll see...*

**B. *The rest of the Bible is about this thing that God will do through the seed of Abraham.***

IV. Genesis 11:10- 12:5 Abram and God's covenant with him...

A. His Context: 11:10-32; (Acts 7:1-4)

1. He was a descendant of Shem through Terah. 11:10-26

a) 10 generations, the connection with Noah's good son, Shem.

2. He was raised in a pagan home. Josh 24:2-3

a) Terah had three sons, Abram, Nahor, Haran.

(1) Haran died leaving Lot his son, whom Abe basically adopted.

b) Abram is married to Sarai and they can't have kids. 11:30

(1) Key idea, human inability

3. He was called by God from Ur, to Canaan by way of Haran

(1) Capital of Sumerian civilization.

(2) Same area as Babylon, the rebellious culture of previous generations.

**B. His Call: 12:1**

1. *Get up and follow me ...*
2. Leave your entire Identity. Land, Family, history.
3. The Lord and His kingdom become your identity. Mtt.10:37
4. Abe was 75, Sarai was 65

**C. His Covenant: 1-3. 4 things:** All impossible from Abram's perspective.

1. Many descendants.
  - a) Repeated again in ch 15 and 17. He would wait 25 more years though.
2. Great name.
  - a) Next to Jesus, Abraham's name is the most honored in the world. Judaism, Christianity, Islam, all monotheism traces to him (over 50% of world)
3. Real Land.
  - a) Currently occupied by the Canaanites, but eventually belonging to Israel.
4. Ultimate Blessing.
  - a) For himself. Bless and curse enemies? God will be on Abraham's side.
  - b) For the Whole world.
5. *Fulfilling this covenant is the subject of the rest of Genesis and the rest of the Bible.*

**D. His Commitment. 4-6. Heb. 11:8**

1. He left everything of his old identity and history.
  - a) Land, family, history.
2. He followed not really knowing everything.
  - a) A step of faith is always required. Real belief/faith is the tendency to act, to obey, to move mentally and physically in the new reality.

**V. We learn two crucial things from this passage.**

**A. Abraham's call is a paradigm: God still calls us...**

**1. By the Personal and Sovereign God.**

- a) God initiates relationship with fallen humans.
  - (1) He does it through the gospel message. Rom. 1:16-17
  - (2) Jesus said, You did not choose me. I chose you. **Jn. 15:16**
- b) *When you respond to the gospel, you are responding to God.*
  - (1) Not the church, the evangelist etc...
- c) *When you share the gospel with a person, you are God's voice to them ...*

**2. According to divine and undeserved Grace. Josh.24:2-5**

- a) Abraham was a pagan until he heard God's voice.
  - (1) Josh 24, "I" 18 times. God's faithfulness, not human goodness, achieved all of this promise-keeping.
- b) *And even then he was not "Jewish" in the historic sense (Rom.4). He was a "gentile."*

**3. Through sheer but demonstrable faith. He got up and went. Gen.12-25**

- a) The faith preceded the obedience and the call preceded the faith. The next 12 chapters are about Abraham's walk of faith.

**4. To a new identity and citizenship. Col.1:12-13**

- a) *Out of the world – to the promised land,*
  - (1) Ur of the Chaldeans, the culture of confusion/Babel

**B. Because Abraham's Seed is the Messiah. Gal.3:7-9; 16; 24-29**

1. The ultimate answer to human death and sin is one Man, Jesus the Messiah.
2. The ultimate blessing for all people is the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. So, be baptized into Christ, put on Christ, be Abraham's offspring in Christ the ultimate Offspring.