

The Book of Beginnings

God's Covenant of Salvation Lesson 5 Genesis 12-14

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
October 1, 2017*

Genesis 1-11 – Setting the Stage

- ▶ 2100 years – flood at 1656
- ▶ Minimal personal interaction: Adam, Eve, Enoch, Cain, Noah
- ▶ 6 day creation
 - Divine consultation
 - Man in the image of God
- ▶ Two trees in the Garden
 - Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or die
 - The sin of Adam
 - The curse of God . . . and the promise of God

Genesis 1-11 – Setting the Stage

- ▶ The accursed race
 - Enmity toward God
 - An evil heart
 - The prosperity of the wicked
- ▶ The great flood
- ▶ The accursed race after the flood (Romans 3:10-18)
 - A wicked heart
 - Disobedient
 - Self seeking – none that seeketh after God (Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3)
 - God is not in all of his thoughts (Ps 10:4)

Genesis 1-11 – Setting the Stage

▶ The Promise of God

- Genesis 3:15 – Seed of the woman
- Genesis 6:18 – My covenant
- Genesis 9:1-17 – Covenant with Noah, his seed, all animal life, the earth

▶ The favor of God

- Seth: men began to call upon the name of the LORD
- Enoch walked with God
- Lamech looking for rest from the curse
- Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD
- A genealogy – a single family set apart

Genesis 12 – Revelation 22

- ▶ The development of the promise – 2 principles
 - The exaltation of Christ in creation through the work of redemption
 - The just shall live by faith
- ▶ Genesis 12-14 – The Promise of God – new revelation
 - The work of salvation revealed in world history
 - Begins with Abraham – the father of salvation (Galatians 3:7)
- ▶ Four anecdotes from the life of Abraham
 - The promise of blessing (Genesis 12:1-9)
 - The sojourn in Egypt – prosperity without blessing (Genesis 12:10-20)
 - Fraternal conflict in the Promised Land (Genesis 13)
 - External conflict in the Promised Land (Genesis 14)

The Promise of God (Genesis 12:1-9)

- ▶ After the death of Terah (12:1-3)
 - “Now the LORD had said to Abram . . .” (Gen 12:1)
 - Stephen’s sermon: God appeared to Abraham in Mesopotamia (Acts 7:2)
 - Terah “settled” in Haran – an unadvised delay
- ▶ The promise of salvation
 - 7 individual promises – great nation; blessing; great name; you shall be a blessing; blessing for those who bless you; curse for those who curse you; all families of the earth blessed in you
 - After entry into the land, an 8th blessing: this land to be given to your Seed (12:7; Galatians 3:16) – Christ

Four Promises to Abram

- ▶ Blessing – salvation
 - Psalm 133:3 – blessing is eternal life
 - Galatians 3:8-9 – blessing is salvation by faith
- ▶ A great nation – Israel
 - Repeated to Isaac (26:1-5)
 - Repeated to Jacob (28:13-16)
- ▶ All nations blessed
 - Not an ethnic religion
 - All nations blessed – world-wide Gospel since the beginning
- ▶ The Seed is the focal point of this promise – Christ (Gal 3:16)
 - The ultimate end is for Christ to be exalted in the work of Salvation
 - The means is the cross of Christ (Heb 13:20-21)

The Journey to Canaan (12:4-9)

- ▶ Abraham obeyed – the obedience of faith (Romans 1:5; 16:26)
- ▶ The land of Canaan – Given as part of the curse (9:26-27; 10:19)
 - Possession by Abraham deferred (15:13-16)
 - Canaanites to be servants (9:25; Joshua 9:3, 7, 27)
- ▶ Built an altar
 - Burnt offering (8:20) – devotion to the LORD
- ▶ Called upon the name of the LORD
 - First noted in Genesis 4:26 – after birth of Enosh, son of Seth
 - Abram (12:8; 13:4)
 - Isaac (26:25)
 - A call for salvation (Psalm 116:4,13, 17; Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Rom 10:13)

A Trip to Egypt (Genesis 12:10-20)

- ▶ A trial of faith (1 Peter 1:6-7) “proven genuineness”
- ▶ The place of blessing does not appear so blessed.
- ▶ Abraham’s plan
 - Sin begets sin – the lie about Sarah
 - Abram became a curse to Pharaoh and his house
 - Pharaoh rebuked Abram and then drove him out
- ▶ The word of God and the ways of God
- ▶ Admonition to build faith – Rom 10:17; John 17:17

Family Strife in the Promised Land (Genesis 13)

- ▶ A new beginning
 - Abram returned to Bethel where there was an altar
 - Abram called on the name of the LORD
- ▶ Strife between the herdsmen of Lot and Abram
- ▶ Abram's faith v. Lot's eyesight
- ▶ The Promise re-affirmed without external support
- ▶ Abram settled by the oaks of Mamre

External Strife in the Promised Land (Genesis 14)

- ▶ This land given to Canaan (10:19)
- ▶ A coalition of nations
 - Chedorlaomer , king of Elam, was leader
 - The Elamite Empire was one of the longest-surviving empires (2700 BC to 500 BC)
 - Became a part of Persia – Daniel in Susa (Daniel 8:1); also Esther (Esther 3,4,8,9)
 - Mentioned by prophets: Isa 11:11; 21:2; 22:6; Jer 25:25; 49:34-39; Eze 32:24



External Strife in the Promised Land (Genesis 14)

- ▶ Chedorlaomer, king of Elam, was leader
- ▶ Amraphel, king of Shinar – area of Iraq/Babylon
- ▶ Tidal, king of Goiim – King of collection of nations
- ▶ Arioch, king of Ellasar – unknown
- ▶ A spiritual warfare to disrupt the plan of God
- ▶ Five cities in Canaan
 - Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Admah and Zeboiim (Deut 30:23; Hosea 11:8)
 - Zoar (Lot's preferred refuge)

External Strife in the Promised Land (Genesis 14)

- ▶ 12 years of domination by Elam
- ▶ Rebellion in 13th year
- ▶ Rebellion suppressed in 14th year
- ▶ Lot and his possessions taken captive
- ▶ Abram's rescue mission
 - 318 trained servants
 - Amorite brothers: Mamre, Eshcol, Aner
- ▶ Victory – Lot rescued

Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17-20)

- ▶ King of Salem (peace)
- ▶ “King of righteousness”
- ▶ No record of genealogy or death – perpetual priesthood
- ▶ The High Priest mediates between God and man
 - Blessed be Abram of God Most High.
 - Blessed be God Most High
- ▶ Abram gave 10% of all
- ▶ A type or a theophany?
- ▶ The Great High Priest of the order of Melchizedek
 - Blesses those who come by faith
 - Blesses the Godhead

King of Sodom (Genesis 14:21-24)

- ▶ Only wants his people back
- ▶ Offers to let Abram keep what he has gained for himself
- ▶ Abram's oath before God – blessing only from God
- ▶ The Amorites may have the temporal gain

God's Covenant of Salvation

- ▶ The Promise of blessing
- ▶ The faith of Abram
 - In the word of God – obedience (Romans 1:5)
 - In the ways of God – waiting and seeking (Psalm 62:5)
- ▶ Proof of genuine faith is precious to God (1 Peter 1:6-7)