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)
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
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)
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)