THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS
Studies in Genesis

The Fear of God
Lesson 8
Genesis 21-23

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
October 22, 2017
Genesis: the Book of Beginnings

- The work of salvation by the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39)
- The just shall live by faith (Habakkuk 2:4)
- Teaching through history
- Teaching through poetry, prose, visions and dreams
- Genesis 1-11 – laying the foundation
God the Creator
- 6 day creation
- Man in the image of God

Man the sinner
- Very good, but not spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:45)
- The fall (Genesis 3:1-7)
- The curse of God (Genesis 3:8-24)

Creation under the curse
- Murder because of anger at God
- Death of all – both believing and unbelieving (except Enoch)
- The flood – God’s judgment on sin (Gen 6:5-7)
- The dispersion at Babel – Post-flood rebellion
Points of hope in deep darkness

- The *protevangelium* (Genesis 3:15)
- Abel’s offering accepted by God (“had regard”) (Genesis 4:4)
- Seth’s offspring began to call upon the name of the LORD (Genesis 4:26)
- Enoch’s walk with God (Genesis 5:22)
- Lamech’s hope (Genesis 5:29)
- Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD – the ark (Genesis 6:8)
- God’s covenant with Noah, the animals and the earth (Genesis 9:8-17)
Genesis 12-50 - God’s Plan on Display

▪ God’s covenant - the framework (Gen 12:1-3, 7)
  ▪ A great nation in a specific land – the land of Canaan (Gen 10:19)
  ▪ Blessing – salvation
  ▪ Blessing to all nations (the scattered human race) – a universal salvation
  ▪ A Descendant to come – the Savior/King

▪ A progressive revelation
  ▪ Delayed possession (Gen 15:16)
  ▪ Father of many nations (Gen 17:5)
Genesis 12-50 - God’s Plan on Display

- Justification by faith (Gen 15:6)
  - Melchizedek – blessed Abraham (Gen 14:17-20 – explained in Hebrews)
  - Sojourning in the land
  - The beginning of the great nation – the 12 sons of Israel

- The Character of God
  - God the Sovereign possessor of heaven and earth (Gen 14:19)
  - God Almighty (Genesis 17:1-8) v. LORD (Exodus 6:2-8)
Lesson 8: The Fear of God

- Birth of Isaac (21:1-8)
- Expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael (21:9-21)
- Covenant with Abimelech (21:22-34)
- God’s test for Abraham (22:1-19)
- A family remembered (22:20-24)
- The death and burial of Sarah (23)
Birth of Isaac (21:1-8)

- A promise fulfilled
  - Sarah to be the mother of the promised child (17:19)
  - Isaac would be the child to carry on the Covenant (17:19, 21)
  - Child to be born in 1 year (18:14)

- “Then the LORD took note of Sarah as He had said . . .” (21:1)
  - Precedes the mention of the promise as the cause of this birth
  - It indicates why God is acting at this time to give Sarah a child
  - Hebrew: “take note of” or “look after”
  - Exodus 3:16 – “the text reads (literally): “Looking after, I have looked after”
  - God remembered . . .
    - Noah (Gen 8:1)
    - Abraham (Gen 19:29)
The LORD Took Note of Sarah (21:1)

- A remarkable truth – God’s love for individuals
  - Lot (Gen 19:19)
  - Abraham’s servant (24:12, 14, 27)
  - Jacob (32:10)
  - The Song of Moses and Israel (Exodus 15:13)
  - The reason for our great salvation (Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16)
  - It is an attribute which defines the relationship within the Trinity (John 15:9)
  - The cause for all the acts of God in creation (Psalm 136)
  - His everlasting lovingkindness (Ps. 136, 118:1; Isa. 54:8; Jer. 31:3; 33:11)
Sarah’s Laughter

- Laughter – with joy over the LORD'S faithfulness (17:17; 18:12)
- “Everyone who hears will laugh with me”
- “Who would have said . . .?”
- Abraham’s quiet obedience and joy
Expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael (21:9-21)

- Ishmael mocks
- Sarah’s reaction: “Drive out this maid and her son . . .”
- Love of Abraham for his son
- God intervened to agree with Sarah
- A great nation for Ishmael (17:4, 20; 25:16)
- God’s covenant to be with Isaac (17:21)
Expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael (21:9-21)

- Galatians 4:21-30
- An enemy of God’s ways – persecuted (Gal 4:28, 29) . . .
- The Law of Moses v. the grace of God – “and so it is now.”
- Main point: absolutely no “co-existence”
- Just shall live by faith
- Law of Moses confuses this truth (1 Tim 1:8-11)
- Abraham did not bring Ishmael back into the family at a later date
- The blessing for Ishmael (16:10; 17:20 [blessed]; 21:13, 18:12-18)
Covenant with Abimelech (21:22-34)

- The setting: Abraham’s failure in Genesis 20
- Abimelech - a king with an army
- Abraham - a sojourner
- Abimelech’s observation – “God is with you in all that you do.”
- Beersheba – “well of the 7-fold oath”
- Abraham called on the name of the Everlasting God
- “In you, all the families of the earth will be blessed.” (Gen. 12:3)
God’s Test for Abraham (22:1-19)

- The God Who tests
- The test: sacrifice Isaac, the source of God’s blessing
- Abraham’s response – unquestioning obedience in hope
- The response of God: “I know that you fear God.”
  - Isaiah 66:2 – “trembles at My word”
  - Psalm 36:1 – the ungodly - “no fear of God before His eyes”
  - Psalm 112:1 “How blessed is the man who fears the LORD.”
- The NT view: an act of faith (Hebrews 11:17-19)
  - God is the Judge of all the earth (Genesis 18:25)
  - The necessity of a Mediator
- Is the Covenant conditional? (Genesis 22:15-18)
  - True faith works (James 2:26)
A Family Remembered (22:20-24)

- Uz (Job 1:1; Genesis 22:21)
- Buz (Elihu was a Buzite, Job 32:2)
- Preparation for Genesis 24 – a wife for Isaac
The Death and Burial of Sarah (23)

- The death of Sarah at age 127 years
- Principle for dealing with people of the land (14:23)
- No mixing with the accursed race, in life or death
- No common burial; no free burial site
- Expectation of resurrection – fulfillment of the Promise
Lesson 8: The Fear of God

- The love of God – the cause of our salvation
- The testing of faith – instruction and not punishment
- The nature of true faith = fear and obedience
- Anticipates the place of the Law – no place in the blessing
- Anticipates the Substitute on Mount Moriah – a Beloved Son