

# **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

# 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

# Genesis 1-11 – Laying the Foundation

- ▶ 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