

God's Grand Story pt 4 – Telling the Story of Redemption: Abrahamic Covenant

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

THANKSGIVING Celebrations:

- 2653 people came through the doors! 1800 hampers made and only 12 left!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Celebrations & Church-Wide Prayer: Peace and Salvation for all of Israel

- Pray for Jesus to reveal himself to Israelis & Palestinians. Whether secular or religious. Through dreams, visions or Christian witness.
- Pray for grieving families of victims who were raped, tortured and/or killed, or have lost home. Entire families were wiped out. 1300 civilians murdered on day 1.
- Pray for the hostages and their families. Protection, freedom, strength.
- Pray for God's purposes to be completed in the Middle East.
- Pray against the growing antisemitism in the world
- Pray against antisemitism in the Church
- Pray for Jesus to return and establish his kingdom on the earth! MARANATHA

Recap: 4 Chapters, 5 Main Promises, 1 HERO – Jesus and is moving towards the most EPIC finale ever and the FINAL happily ever after! This is a love story – a story of redemption!

The BIG questions a worldview answers: see how many answers you can find for these questions!

- **Origin** – how did we get here? Is there a God?
- **Meaning & Purpose** – what is the meaning of life? Why are we here?
- **Morality** – is there right and wrong?
- **Destiny** – where is everything headed? What happens after we die?
- **Identity** – who am I? how do I fit in the world around me?
- **Problem** – what is wrong with the world? society? And me?
- **Solution** – how can we fix what's wrong?

What did we learn last week:

1. **Creation: God created everything in heaven & earth.** The seen and unseen. Material and immaterial.
 - a. God spoke... and... it was so
 - b. He creates a special possession out of ALL creation – Humans – made in his likeness!
2. **Fall: sin & the entrance of death into creation**
 - a. Appears in the Garden of Eden... tempts Eve **“Did God really say?”** DID HE? How is he using this in your life?

3. **Redemption: Gen 3:15** He will strike your heel and you will crush his head
 - a. **PROMISE 1: Edenic Covenant** → God promises that he would send a SERPENT CRUSHER
 - b. **The Serpent knows that when God speaks... it is so... so he hates the promises of God and wars actively against those promises and the people they are given to!**

A. Redemption: God's plan to redeem creation

- **Genesis 9:25-27** he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant."
 - **God's Promise:** 1) Serpent Crusher will come through Shem & 2) God will dwell with them! Just like he did with Adam & Eve in the garden!
- **Challenges to overcome in redemption:**
 - Defeat the Serpent (satan)
 - Reverse the curse of death, disease, pain, hardship, sorrow brought on by SIN
 - Repair the "evil inclinations of man's heart"
 - Restore us to FULL communion and fellowship with God!

THE REBELLION CONTINUES to grow and culminates once more in a place called Babylon at the Tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

Two Sins highlighted:

- 1) **let us make a name for ourselves** – PRIDE – they would exalt themselves to the heights of heaven – just like the Serpent had done in heaven!
- 2) **Rebel against the command:** "be fruitful, multiple and fill the earth and subdue it!" rather they would just build a kingdom for themselves and STAY PUT.

Genesis 11:7-8 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

- **God: Relational & loving:** God enters his creation
- **God: Judges sin. He is JUST. He is merciful!** God confused their language and dispersed them
- **NOTE:** Genesis 10 already states they had other languages! Gen 10:5 "each with his own language" and describes nations spreading across the earth. REPEAT PATTERN: Gen 1&2 1 – large view → 2 gives details how. Gen 10 large view → Gen 11 details how.

Moving forward in the Timeline: 10 generations from Adam - Noah → 10 generations from Noah - Abraham

The story of Abraham begins with an introduction to his family, who were living in Ur of the Chaldees, today's modern-day Iraq (Gen 11:27-32). We are told that his family served other gods (Josh 24:2-

3). According to Stephen's account, God called Abraham to leave his country and family for Canaan (Gen 11:31, Acts 7:2-3). For some reason, his father Terah seems to have taken the lead on this, and took Lot, Abraham's nephew along as well (Gen 11:31). But when they got to Haran they settled there instead.

After Terah died in Haran God called Abraham to leave for the country, He would show him.

Genesis 12:1-5 Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you... So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan,

- **Abraham (Abram) was a "YES" person! God called, Abram says, "YES" and obeys.**

Genesis 12:1-5, 7 (2) And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."... Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

- **PROMISE 2: The Abrahamic Covenant**
 - **Warning & Blessing:** "bless those who bless, curse those who curse"
 - **Main details of Promise:**
 - **Great nation** – size, stature & righteousness
 - **Isaiah 60:21** Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever,
 - **Land – the Promised Land** - land of Canaan
 - **Bless the Nations** – God heart has always been for ALL nations

Genesis 15:1-6 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

Genesis 15:9-11 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Genesis 15:12-16 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”

Genesis 15:17-21 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites.”

Conditions of the Abrahamic Promise:

- **Unilateral & Unconditional** – depended entirely on God!
- **Eternal** – “everlasting possession, and I will be their God”
- **Applies to Abrahams descendants** – pass through the bloodline

Abram and Sarai receive new names Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and Sarah finally have the child of promise – Isaac!

Isaac gives birth to Jacob and Esau. Jacob (God calls him Israel) fathers the 12 Tribes of Israel. → Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin.

Joseph ends up a slave, then prisoner, then second command in Egypt!

Genesis 41:25-27 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine.

To be continued.... NEXT WEEK we pick up with Moses!

B. Main Promises revealed thus far:

- Promise 1: EDENIC COVENANT – serpent crusher who will undo the curse!**
- Promise 2: Abrahamic Covenant:**
 - Details:** Great nation
 - Details:** Promised Land
 - Details:** Blessing to ALL nations
 - Conditions:** Unilateral & Unconditional – depends entirely on God
 - Conditions:** Eternal – “everlasting...”
 - Conditions:** Applies to descendants of Abraham

IF these answers are TRUE. How should they effect your life & prayers today?

AFTER SERVICE PRAYER – PRAYER ROOM – 9AM and 11AM

MARANATHA!! Come soon Lord!

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SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

- 1. Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
- 2. Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
- 3. Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
- 4. Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
- 5. Church Renewal:** Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers