

- I. Genesis Part 2
- a. Purpose: In this session we will continue with our survey of Genesis with a closer look at **Genesis 12-50** in terms of its structural outline and major themes.
  - b. Reminder: As a big picture perspective the book can be divided into parts:
    - i. Universal and Primitive History (**Genesis 1-11**)
    - ii. Unique and Patriarch's History (**Genesis 12-50**)
  - c. Structural Outline<sup>1</sup>
    - i. Abraham (**12:1-25:18**)
      1. The Call of Abram (12:1-9)
      2. Abram in Egypt (12:10-20)
      3. Abram and Lot Separate (13:1-18)
      4. Abram Rescues Lot (14:1-24)
      5. God's Covenant with Abram (15:1-21)
      6. Hagar and Ishmael (16:1-15)
      7. The Covenant of Circumcision (17:1-27)
      8. The Lord of Birth and Death (18:1-33)
      9. The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (19:1-38)
      10. Abraham and Abimelek (20:1-18)
      11. Friction inside and outside the Family (21:1-34)
      12. Abraham's Test (22:1-24)
      13. The Death of Sarah (23:1-20)
      14. Isaac and Rebekah (24:1-67)
      15. Abraham and Ishmael (25:1-18)
    - ii. Jacob (**25:19-36:43**)
      1. Esau and Jacob (25:19-34)
      2. Isaac and Abimelek (26:1-35)
      3. Jacob's Deceit (27:1-40)
      4. Jacob Flees to Harran (27:41-29:14)
      5. Jacob, Leah, and Rachel (29:15-30:24)
      6. Jacob and Laban (30:25-31:55)
      7. Jacob and Esau (32:1-33:20)
      8. The Rape of Dinah (34:1-31)
      9. Jacob Returns to Bethel (35:1-29)
      10. Esau's Descendants (36:1-43)
    - iii. Joseph (**37:1-50:26**)
      1. Joseph and His Brothers (37:1-36)
      2. Judah and Tamar (38:1-30)
      3. Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (39:1-23)
      4. Joseph's Interpretation of Dreams (40:1-41:57)
      5. Joseph's Brothers in Egypt (42:1-38)
      6. The Second Journey to Egypt (43:1-34)
      7. Judah's Plea (44:1-34)
      8. Joseph Makes Himself Known (45:1-28)
      9. Jacob in Egypt (46:1-50:14)
      10. Joseph's Reassurance (50:15-21)
      11. Joseph's Death (50:22-26)
  - d. Themes

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<sup>1</sup> Victor Hamilton, "Genesis" in *The Baker Illustrated Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan). Accessed online at <https://books.google.com/books?id=mD8zBgAAQBAJ&lpg=PP1&pg=PT20#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

- i. God's promise plan of blessing that began in **Genesis 1-11** continues through Abraham's lineage
  1. God's promise to Abraham can be seen in **Genesis 12:1-3, 13:14-16, 15:4-21, 17:4-16 22:15-18.**
  2. *"Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'" (Genesis 12:1-3)*
    - a. God tells Abraham (who was then called Abram) to go to a new land in **verse 1.**
    - b. Note that in two verses, **v.2-3**, God used the word "bless" five different times, picking up with the theme of God's blessing earlier in **Genesis 1-11.**<sup>2</sup>
    - c. Even as Abraham is blessed by God, yet the purpose is so that others will be blessed:
      - i. *"And so you shall be a blessing" (v.2c)*
      - ii. *"in you all the families of the earth will be blessed" (v.3b)* → Keep this in mind that earlier in Genesis 10-11 we saw the forming of the nations and how that came about through sin but now God has a plan to bless them showing how much of a merciful God He is.
    - d. Yet there is a condition for others to be blessed by God: *"And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse" (v.3a)*
- ii. God's Blessing #1: The Promised Seed
  1. The Hebrew word for "Seed" in **Genesis 3:15** as part of God's promise appears again in **Genesis 12:7**: *"The Lord appeared to Abram and said, 'To your descendants I will give this land.' So he built an altar there to the Lord who had appeared to him."*
    - a. The word in the NASB is translated "descendants."
    - b. However the footnote says "seed."
  2. Twenty eight times the word seed appears in the patriarch narrative. Other passages that talk about the Seed include: **Genesis 13:15, 13:16, 15:13, 15:18, 16:10, 17:7-10, 17:13, 17:16, 17:19, 21:12, 21:17-18, 26:3-4, 26:24, 28:13-14, 32:12, 35:12, 48:3-4.**<sup>3</sup>
  3. Descendants or the "Seed?" We see this to be referring to the Messianic Seed mentioned in **Genesis 3:15**
    - a. The term "seed" in Hebrew can refer to an individual but also can be a collective noun that is singular in form but plural in its references.
    - b. We must remember that in light of God's progressive revelation, new information is built upon previous revelation as our antecedent theology. Thus we should understand "seed" as referring to not just descendants (plural) in general but the seed that is the expectation of people in **Genesis 1-11.**

<sup>2</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 55.

<sup>3</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 56.

- c. Paul in the New Testament interpreted this seed as singular and not plural as its meaning: “*Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as referring to many, but rather to one, “And to your seed,” that is, Christ.*” (Galatians 3:16)
- iii. God’s Blessing #2: Nothing is too difficult for God
  - 1. We saw above that an important theme is the Messianic Seed is now going through Abraham’s lineage which will also be promised to Issac and Jacob.
  - 2. Humanly speaking it seems the promise of God of a Seed seems impossible.<sup>4</sup>
    - a. Barrenness of the wives of the Patriarchs:
      - i. Sarah (Genesis 16:1, 17:15-21)
      - ii. Rebekah (Genesis 25:21)
      - iii. Rachel (Genesis 30:1)
    - b. Wives almost stolen by kings because of husbands’ lies out of fear (Genesis 12:10-20, 20:1-18, 26:1-11)
    - c. Famine (Genesis 12:10)
  - 3. Yet don’t forget what God asked Sarah when she laughed at God’s promise of an offspring: “*Is anything too [p]difficult for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, [q]at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.*” (Genesis 18:14)
  - 4. Nothing too difficult for God to keep His promise plan of a Messianic Seed is a theme in Genesis that is reinforce throughout the Book in light of the titles of God.<sup>5</sup>
    - a. God Almighty (Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3)
    - b. Yahweh will provide (Genesis 22:14)
- iv. God’s Blessing #3: Promised Land
  - 1. There are discussions of land as part of the Promise plan of God from Genesis 12-50: Genesis 12:1, 12:7, 13:15, 13:17, 15:17-8, 15:18, 17:8, 24:7, 26:3-5, 28:13-14, 35:12, 48:4, 50:24)<sup>6</sup>
  - 2. The duration of the Promise Land: “*I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.*” (Genesis 17:8)
    - a. This land promise according to God is forever.
    - b. This is embedded within the context of the Abrahamic Covenant which is also an eternal covenant.
  - 3. The extent of the Promise Land: “*On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your [a]descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:”* (Genesis 15:18)
    - a. The boundaries extends to the Nile in Egypt (“*river of Egypt*”) to modern day Iraq (“*the river Euphrates*”)

<sup>4</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 57.

<sup>5</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 65.

<sup>6</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 57.

- b. This has not happen yet but since God is all powerful to keep His promise and that this duration of this promise is forever it will happen in the future!
- v. God's Blessing #4: Promised Seed is a Ruler
  - 1. If a land is given to the Seed and it is His, we would expect the Seed to be a ruler.
  - 2. This is not too surprising if we consider that part of the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah is that kings will come from her: *"I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will [a]come from her."* (Genesis 17:16)
  - 3. Yet which one of the lineage of Abraham, Issac and Jacob will the Promised Seed and Promised Ruler? *"The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples."* (Genesis 49:10)
    - a. There are images of ruling pictured here:
      - i. "scepter"
      - ii. "ruler's staff"
      - iii. If He rules we would expect that *"to him shall be the obedience of the peoples"*
    - b. Here the Promised Seed and Promise Ruler is prophesied as coming from the Tribe of Judah.
- vi. God's Blessing #5: God's Presence
  - 1. Fourteen times the phrase *"with you"* where God is the subject appears in the narrative of Isaac and Jacob.<sup>7</sup>
  - 2. For instance with Isaac:
    - a. *"Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your [a]descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham."* (Genesis 26:3)
    - b. *"The Lord appeared to him the same night and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham; Do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you, and multiply your [a]descendants, For the sake of My servant Abraham."* (Genesis 26:24)
  - 3. Other examples: Jacob returning to Canaan in Genesis 31:3: *"Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you. ""*
    - a. God being Jacob is why He was successful and blessed which He acknowledges to Laban in Genesis 31:5, 35:3.
    - b. Note again how God says He is with someone at critical moments where they need to trust in God. We can learn something here that the way we deal with growing in our faith is being before God's presence.
  - 4. God's presence a key in understanding Genesis 39 with Joseph's low point (v.2, 3, 21, 23).
- e. Application
  - i. Have you trusted in God's promises in Scripture that's applicable in your life? He is an Almighty God!
  - ii. Have you sought comfort, encouragement and strength from God's presence?

<sup>7</sup> Walter Kaiser, *The Promise-Plan of God* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 62.