

On The Way to Jesus pt 2
Abraham and the Patriarchs (3-4)

Some people are interested in Genealogy, some are not.
Ex: Ancestry.com

- Could you explain the truths concerning Jesus by using the scripture that Jesus had...the OT

Remember Lk 24:27 **Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, Jesus explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.**

Kids song "Genesis to Revelation"



CHORUS

From Genesis to Revelation
There's one story of Your great salvation
It's all about Jesus
Oh, it's all about Jesus
Shoutin' out from every page
There's one Hero that'll save the day
It's all about Jesus
Oh, it's all about Jesus

We left off last week with the first Promise of Good news in Gen 3:15

THE PROLEGAMENA

It literally means "those things which are said first."

So, the first proclamation of Good News is God saying that the seed of the woman would crush the head of the serpent.

EX: The Passion of the Christ – opening scene of Jesus in the garden and he crushes the serpent on the head. That was a shorthand way of connecting the first promise in Gen 3:15 to the suffering of Christ.

In the Historical Redemption Reading Plan – TOPICS 3&4

3- God's Covenant Promise to Abraham

The central promise that drives Old Testament history is that of God to Abraham: a nation coming from his offspring, a land in which to dwell, and the blessing of all nations through him—all by *faith*.

4- Promise Continued through the Patriarchs

God fulfills his promise to Abraham by giving him twelve descendants from which the tribes of Israel emerge.

THE SO WHAT ?

This is OUR GENEALOGY as believers. This is our spiritual FAMILY TREE. Though we are separated by thousands of years, we are impacted by their lives. The fact that you open the bible regularly, or irregularly, indicates that this STORY is relevant to us today.

Baylis...In Genesis 1-11 we were faced with cosmic issues:

the sovereign Creator, the divine order for life, the destructive and debilitating effects of sin, God as sovereign moral ruler, and man as God's designated regent—yet unable to rule himself.

Genesis 1-11 crunched more than 2000 years of human history—perhaps much more—into less than twenty percent of the book.

As you read the OT, listen for the echoes of the promises to Abraham, especially the threefold content of a

'seed', a 'land', and a 'blessing to all the nations of the earth'.

Walter Kaiser notes that the hallmark of Gen 1-11 is found in the term "blessing" of God as it is expressed in the covenants in Eden, with Noah, and with Abraham.

In Gen 1-2 God blesses the animals and mankind that they might be fruitful and multiply and have dominion. And he blessed mankind with a rest on the seventh day.

The blessings of God are followed by three instances of judgment brought on by human sin:

The Fall -Adam and Eve

The Flood – all mankind was evil

The Failure of the Tower of Babel – it revealed the pride of mankind in their desire to 'make a name for themselves.'" The result was that God scattered them.

Despite humanity's failures, God continued to provide a promise of blessing and hope

The Fall

Promise of a seed to crush the serpent

The flood (Gen 6-8

Promise of God's dwelling in the tents of Shem – Gen 9

The failure of Babel

Promise of worldwide blessing through Abraham – Gen 12

Genesis 12 builds on these themes, but focuses our vision on the cosmic importance of one person's life. Genesis 12-50 deals with only four generations and covers the period of the call to Abraham to the fruitful multiplication of the descendants of Abraham in the land of promise and even down in Egypt. Gen 50 ends with the death of Joseph.

There is a biblical pattern of God focusing on one representative family or person – Adam and Eve in the garden.

Things went so bad that God brought the flood and started over with Noah and his family.

That narrative gives the next big event of the Tower of Babel and the pride of humanity – Gen 11.

Gen 12 then picks up with a restart with Terah, the father of Abraham, who becomes the central focus from chapters 12-25, where we see the call of Abraham and his life of faith that is built on the foundation of God's promise of blessing.

Even though Abraham dies in Gen 25, he casts a very long shadow of promise ALL the way to Jesus.

Genesis 12: 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. 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. 3 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."

Genesis 15: 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." 6 And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 17: I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Gen 15:6 – is taken up with it's theological cousin, "The just shall live by faith" in Hab, Gal, Rom, Eph, etc

Baylis...The Abrahamic Covenant is the spring from which the rest of God's plan of redemption flows. In the Old Testament it is the foundation for the rest of the covenants.

➤ The Law, or Mosaic Covenant, marks the beginning of the nation that was promised to Abraham,

Isaac, and Jacob.

- And the entrance into the land under Joshua is the beginning of God's fulfilling the promise of land (cf. Josh. 1:6).
- The kings promised as part of Abraham's descendants include first Saul, but later David and his line. God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7:8-16, the Davidic Covenant, promises his descendants will have perpetual rulership over the land and nation promised to Abraham.
- Even when Israel becomes a nation in exile because of her unfaithfulness to God, God promises restoration in Jeremiah 30:18-22. The restoration of blessing, land, descendants, a great name, a nation, God's protection and presence correspond to the elements of the Abrahamic Covenant

Some areas of APPLICATION

Abraham is NOT perfect in his walk of faith, but he is persistent. Direction counts more than perfection. The direction of his life was toward God, even though he had some steps backwards at times.

*** Have you had some steps backward spiritually? The important thing is to get back on the way to Jesus. That is a step of faith. It is repentant faith that keep us walking with God. It means that we believe what God says more than what the accuser says i.e. that "if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**God is not in a hurry, and that can be frustrating to us. "Wait on the Lord" is the movement of faith.

** At times, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their own worst enemies, but they have God as their friend. That is not an excuse for sin, but it does mean that their or our failures don't define us.

The Promise to Abraham was repeated or renewed with his offspring Isaac and Jacob.

As you read the OT, listen for the echoes of the promises to Abraham, especially the threefold content of a 'seed', a 'land', and a 'blessing to all the nations of the earth'.

KAISER...

If one could select an emphasis in the series of promises, pride of place would go to the designation of the Patriarchs as a blessing to the nations..

On five separate occasions the patriarchs were designated to be a blessing for all nations: Abraham in Genesis 12:3; 18:18; and 22:17 - 18; Isaac in 26:3 - 4; and Jacob in 28:13 - 14. Indeed, worldwide blessing was the whole purpose of God's promised blessing ever since the very first statement of that promise in 12:2 - 3.

We tend to think of the global vision of the gospel as beginning with the Great Commission of Matt 28, but it began much much sooner.

Gen 26 Promise to Isaac

Gen 26:3 Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham. 4 I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes and My laws."

TO JACOB Gen 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants. 14 Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

PSALM 105 Gives an overview of God's dealing with His people according to His promises beginning with

Abraham.

OTWTJ –On The Way to Jesus Matt 1:1

1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

In that one verse of genealogy, the writer collapses and connects about 2000 years of history.

The promised blessings passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Judah – Jacob’s fourth son. The oldest son, Reuben, lost his birthright because he dishonored his father’s marriage bed (Ge 35:22). Simeon and Levi, Jacob’s second and third sons, were bypassed because of their outrageous revenge on the Shechemites (34:13 – 29). So the mantle of leadership fell to Jacob’s fourth son, Judah.

The genealogies of Matt 1 and Luke 3 trace the lineage from Jacob to Judah to Perez, etc all the way to Jesus, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. Rev 5:5

Luke 1:46ff

Mary visiting Elizabeth...

54 He has given help to Israel His servant,

In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers,

To Abraham and his descendants forever.”

How was the promise of blessing to the nations to be mediated?

It would be by faith, just as it had been for Abraham:

Gen 15:6 “Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.”

Abraham didn’t have as much information as we do, but the Good News is still received by faith. And the Good News is that Jesus, THE SEED of Abraham has come.

Baylis p. 96

Jesus is the Seed—the descendant of Abraham par excellence. Just as the Israelite king would represent the whole nation, so Jesus is God’s chosen representative for the nation.

Good news for the gentiles – we too are brought in by grace through faith.

The good news of Jesus Christ—that God would justify the Gentiles by faith—was proclaimed to Abraham, Paul says, in the promise: “All nations will be blessed through you” (Gal. 3:8).

Jesus, in fact, came under God’s judgment on the cross **“in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit” (Gal. 3:14).**

But the full extent of the mystery of this Gentile blessing is revealed only in the New Testament. The Old Testament foresees ultimate Gentile redemption but does not foresee the nature of the church—a body in which there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile. Both are fellow members in the Body of Christ, the church (Eph. 3:6)

Kaiser:

It is helpful to note an important part of the blessing promise – the simple word from God: “I will be with you.” There are 104 instances in the OT where the Hebrew usage gives this formula of divine presence.

The promise continues in the NT as Jesus tells his disciples, and us...

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Friends, we are not alone. We are not spiritual orphans wandering aimlessly through life. We are the spiritual descendants of those who received the promised blessings of the Lord God Almighty.

We are not without hope, for Jesus is with us, even to the end of the age.

--	--