

Genesis ch.12-50 – The Way of Salvation / Redemption

As you study the lives of the Patriarchs ie. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, begin looking for the progressive revelation of Jesus Christ being foreshadowed by the major events in their lives.

ch.12

The Promise and the Blessing (vss.2-3)

- Abram is called to leave the old and go towards some place totally new and unknown (a new identity).
- Look at the specifics in the promise to see the emphasis on identity (name).
- God's plan vs. Man's plan

ch.13

- Abraham cheerfully gave Lot portions of what God had given him.
- Out of Abraham's humility in giving Lot the choice of the land, God then showed him the extent of the promised land which God had already given him.

ch.14

- Abraham and Melchizedek
- gave him a tenth = Indication of divine representation
- Hebrews 7, the identity of Melchizedek

ch.15

- the first explicit revelation of "I am"
- "I am your shield, your very great reward."
- In considering the context, why "shield...reward."?
- v.6 – "Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness."

Define "belief"

- Abram was concerned with only one. What was it?
- How does this context define true, Biblical saving faith?
- trust and confidence in the One who holds tomorrow's descendants (future generations)
- trust and confidence that God is the One who can raise the dead
- **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO APPLY THIS TRUTH?**
- Who is your foundation? What does your belief focus on God for?
- After belief was expressed, God revealed to Abram the future of his descendants
- **True, Biblical saving faith is Confidence in the God who raises the dead.**
- **What far reaching applications can we deduce from this truth, especially in the area of relationships and our hearts / souls?**

ch.16 – **ERROR:** Abram demonstrated confidence in the flesh. Not totally believing in the Word of the Lord, he listened to Sarai and had a child with Hagar.

- Major obstacle to living by faith is confidence in the flesh. The flesh is adamantly against belief in the resurrection..
- Abram should've said no to Sarai's suggestion. There is validity to Sarai's words in v.5.
- Just like Sarai and Hagar ended in contention and division, living according to the flesh always results in conflict ridden lives not growing in peace and love.
- But God's grace was faithful to Hagar in His revelation to her. vss.11-12

ch.17 – The Lord revealed that there **MUST BE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH**. Thus circumcision was introduced

- Here we see the second "I am" – "I am God Almighty; walk before Me and be blameless..."
- Principle and Promise of Circumcision = No confidence in the flesh will result in greatly increased descendants.

- this covenant confirms that God is Abram's God and the God of his descendants; Christians must come to grips with this condition of the covenant – NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH!!!
- There must be the sacrifice of the trust in the flesh – a VERY PAINFUL EXPERIENCE
- So what is the covenant of circumcision?
- **v.5 the covenant is to change your name – true covenant changes our identity, who we are!!!**
- **This is according to God's kind, which is spirit and truth, not fleshly.**
- **Is Jesus your God? Are you willing to change who you are for His sake? Jesus is the God of those who are circumcised of heart, ie. NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH!!!**
- **JESUS CHRIST IS THE FULFILLMENT AND SUBSTANCE of every covenant God made in the Old Testament.**
- How do we apply this truth to our belief system? What life transforming changes should the resurrection cause in our hearts and minds?
- Regarding Ishmael, God affirmed Abram's concern for his son. Ishmael's blessing (limited though it was) showed God's permissive will as well as His loving kindness toward Abram. Also consider the far reaching impact that the head of household has over those under his care and protection.
- Note that everyone in Abraham's house was circumcised. All of God's people (those of the faith of Abraham) go through this painful experience. Have you suffered

ch.18 – God's Visitation

- The visit confirmed God's fulfillment of His promise of descendants through Abraham and Sarah.
- v.3 "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by." Moses said the same thing in Exodus 33:12-13
 - Does God know your name? If God knows our name, He will not pass us by but rather do His good work in us and with us.
- Note Abraham's hospitality and generosity to the visitors. His humility and graciousness evidenced his faith in God; just like when he gave Lot the choice of land.
- Moreover, Abraham pleaded for Sodom, just as Moses pleaded for rebellious Israel; a beautiful picture of God's council involving a Man who would intercede for sinners for the salvation of their souls.
- Do we recognize God when He visits us? **God's visitation always involves a mediator** who relates to God and man with the call to repentance and the act of deliverance.
- Here we see the relationship which Abraham had with God – a oneness of heart = the identity of a reconciler
 - PASSION FOR GOD AND COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE!
 - Abraham whittled the number down to 10. God saved 3.
- Thinking about the numbers, how does this give you confidence in the One who has visited this world in the Greatest Way? How does this point out to the nth degree that God is "your shield and very great reward" (15:1)? What are we seeing about the Great I am?