

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN SEVEN SENTENCES

ABRAHAM

All peoples on earth will be blessed through you.
Genesis 12:3

I. THE PROBLEM OF GENESIS 3-11

A. Humans Are Living in Sinful Rebellion Against God

Genesis 3:6-8

⁶ The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. ⁷ At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves. ⁸ When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees

Genesis 6:5, 12-13

The Lord observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil.

God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³ So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth!

B. The Ground Is Cursed and Creation Is Negatively Affected by Human Sin.

Genesis 3:17

¹⁷ And to the man he said,
"Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree
whose fruit I commanded you not to eat,
the ground is cursed because of you.

C. The Nations are Scattered and Confused

Genesis 11:1-8

At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. ² As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain in the land of Babylon and settled there.

³ They began saying to each other, "Let's make bricks and harden them with fire." (In this region bricks were used instead of stone, and tar was used for mortar.) ⁴ Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world."

⁵ But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let's go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won't be able to understand each other."

⁸ In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world

II. GOD'S PROUNOUNCEMENT OF HOPE IN GENESIS 3-11

A. God Will Defeat Evil through a Human Being

Genesis 3:15

And I will cause hostility between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring.
He will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel."

B. God Will Sustain Life on Earth

Genesis 9:8-17

Then God told Noah and his sons, ⁹ "I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, ¹⁰ and with all the animals that were on the boat with you—the

birds, the livestock, and all the wild animals—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ Yes, I am confirming my covenant with you. Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth.”

¹² Then God said, “I am giving you a sign of my covenant with you and with all living creatures, for all generations to come. ¹³ I have placed my rainbow in the clouds. It is the sign of my covenant with you and with all the earth. ¹⁴ When I send clouds over the earth, the rainbow will appear in the clouds, ¹⁵ and I will remember my covenant with you and with all living creatures. Never again will the floodwaters destroy all life. ¹⁶ When I see the rainbow in the clouds, I will remember the eternal covenant between God and every living creature on earth.” ¹⁷ Then God said to Noah, “Yes, this rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am confirming with all the creatures on earth.”

C. God Has a Better Plan for the Nations of the Earth

Genesis 11: 5-9

But the Lord came down to look at the city and the tower the people were building. ⁶ “Look!” he said. “The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them! ⁷ Come, let’s go down and confuse the people with different languages. Then they won’t be able to understand each other.”

⁸ In that way, the Lord scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. ⁹ That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the Lord confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world

III. GOD’S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH (Gen. 12, 15, 17, 22)

Genesis 12:1-3

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

² “I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

A. Three Particular Promises

1. A Nation (v. 2)
2. A Blessing (vv. 2-3)
3. A Land (v. 1)

B. One Particular Story

1. A People Become a Nation (Genesis 12 – Exodus 1)
2. A Blessing (Exodus – Numbers 9)
3. A Land (Numbers 10 – 1 Samuel)

C. One Universal Goal

1. God’s Promise to Abraham is the Launch of His Redemptive Mission

Genesis 12:3

...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Genesis 18:18

For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him.

Genesis 22:18

And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.

Genesis 26:4b (To Isaac)

And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Genesis 28:14b (To Jacob)

And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants.

2. God's Promise to Abraham is Good News for the Whole World

Psalm 22:27

The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.
All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

Psalm 47:9

The nobles of the nations assemble
as the people of the God of Abraham,
for the kings^[c] of the earth belong to God;
he is greatly exalted.

Psalm 86:9

All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

3. God's Proclamation to Abraham is the Gospel in Advance

Galatians 3:8

⁸ What's more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would make the Gentiles right in his sight because of their faith. God proclaimed this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, "All nations will be blessed through you."