

MP 1: The Problem (vss. 10-12)

The curse of the law

Remembering an ancient ritual

Joshua 8:33 And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal.

The choice of life and death

What would it take to keep the law?

Regarding anger: “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.” – Jesus

Regarding adultery: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” – Jesus

How should we relate to the law?

1 Timothy 1:8 “Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully.”

MP 2: The Prophecy (vss. 7-9)

The blessing of Abraham

Gen 12:1-3 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.”

Why is Genesis 12 so pivotal in the biblical storyline?

- ➔ Genesis 1-2 Creation
- ➔ Genesis 3-11 Fall
 - Adam and Eve sin, Eden is lost
 - Cain kills Abel
 - Lamech boasts about murdering a man for striking him, polygamy introduced
 - “Every intention of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually” – The flood
 - Humanity gathers in open rebellion against God – Tower of Babel
- ➔ Genesis 12 The beginning of God’s redemption story (the Gospel) Gal 3:8

MP 3: The Promise (vss. 13-14)

What happened on the cross

The promise for you

Receiving the promise by faith

The promise for the world

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. What problem does the law reveal to us?
2. How can Paul say that the Gospel was preached beforehand to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3? What is the ultimate outcome of the Gospel, and how does that give us hope?
3. How does the cross guarantee our past and future redemption?
4. Where in your life do you need hope? How does the Gospel give us a basis and future hope?