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Passage: Genesis 1

Title: In the Beginning.....God Created

Summary: We start a new Book, and it is the book of beginnings. The word for “created” in the original Hebrew language is “bara”, and it means “to create out of nothing”. The first verse is vital in so many ways as the foundation of the whole Word of God (Bible); but equally as well this word “bara” (out of nothing) as God declares to us, He is the “Bara God” and take what seems to be nothing there in our lives personally, and create something beautiful and wonderful out of it.

(Genesis 1:1 NKJV) In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Laws of physics

For you technically minded, I point out the points needed for all the Laws of physics. Time, Force, Energy, Space, and Matter. All five are spoken of here in the first verse of the Book of Beginnings. Time (in the beginning), Force (God), Energy (created), Space (heavens), and Matter (earth).

First Cause

The Theory of Evolution is failed from the beginning because they do not have a “First Cause”, they say there was a Big Bang, but can’t explain where the Time, Force, Energy, Space, and Matter came from to support a Big Bang. As for the Creationist, the “First Cause” is God.

Bara vs asa

Also, interesting to note is that the word used here for create in the Hebrew is “bara”, it means to create out of nothing. The other creation will use the word “asa” which means to create from existing material.

Jesus the Creator

God created - If you want to be more specific on who was doing the creating, it was Jesus.

(Colossians 1:16 NKJV) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

(Ephesians 3:9 NKJV) and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

(Revelation 4:11 NKJV) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Created with Purpose

The earth was created to be inhabited, created for His good pleasure, therefore we are created for His pleasure, therefore we are created for a purpose. You were created for fellowship with your creator. *(Isaiah 45:18 NKJV) For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.*

(Genesis 1:2 NKJV) The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

God He always sees the finished product

I like this, without form and void. Sounds contrary to God, for it says He doesn’t create in vain, everything has a purpose, then how could anything be without form and void. To us that is what it seems, but to God He always sees the finished product before he begins. God assembled all the basics to start building from; everything needed was there, Time, Force, Energy, Space, and Matter. God didn’t just create light on the first day, he created all of these things. Like any good builder God assembled His materials before He started. He still does this everyday, in the creation of a newborn child.

Sonogram of a baby

If you ever see a sonogram of a baby in the womb in the first few days, it looks like it has no form and is void, but we know from Psalm 139 that God is fashioning the baby at that very moment, and slowly it develops and matures before our very eyes, yet all the while God knew what he/she was to become.

(Psalms 139:14 NKJV) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

(Psalms 139:15 NKJV) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Empty Mess / The Spirit Moves

What seems like an empty mess to us, God says that is from your perspective, watch what happens when my Spirit moves across it. God says that to you, watch what I can do in your life, do you think it is a mess, without form and empty? Let my Spirit move across your life and watch what I can do. This brings me comfort for I know He is always working in my life; and not only in my life but also in the lives of others, my loved ones, and friends. I know when I pray, His Spirit is already there, and He is in their presence and midst already.

Day 1 – God Created Light After Creating all Matter-

(Genesis 1:3 NKJV) Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

(Genesis 1:4 NKJV) And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

(Genesis 1:5 NKJV) God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

Light Spectrum

Note: God divides light: Here is the description of the Light Spectrum. It moves from Ultraviolet Light to Infrared Light. We didn't know the light spectrum existed until a few centuries ago, and here God speaks of it on day 1.

Spirit Moves / Light Goes On / On Earth & In your Life

Do you see what happens on Day 1 (verse 3), the Spirit moved and the light goes on, and God starts His wondrous creation, not just on the earth, but in your life and my life.

evening and the morning / our Lives move darkness to light

Notice the evening and the morning, evening and the morning after each day. This is still how the Jewish people count their days, it starts in the evening. I like that for the day moves from darkness to light. For us our day starts bright and ends dark. God, as the Spirit moves across you, will move you from darkness to light.

(Luke 1:78 NKJV) Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

(Luke 1:79 NKJV) To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Day 2 – God Separates the waters from above and below.

(Genesis 1:6 NKJV) Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."

(Genesis 1:7 NKJV) Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:8 NKJV) And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

Water Canopy

The firmament. God is making a water canopy. This is important to see here for we will see it come into play in Genesis 6 when the flood happens, and also throughout the book as we see men living to 800 and 900 years old.

Greenhouse / Tropical / UV & IR / Life drops

What we have here is water on the earth, atmosphere (air), and then a water blanket encircling the earth. You have one big greenhouse, a perfect tropical environment, the whole world having a uniform temperature. The water blanket would block out the dangerous UV and IR rays that cause our bodies to breakdown and deteriorate. That is why they would live so long, they had perfect bodies in a perfect environment. We will see when the flood happens the water blanket collapses, and immediately following the flood we see the life spans drop dramatically, down to pretty much no more than living 120 years.

Fossil Evidence

Now if this was true, there should be evidence of it, and there is. There are fossil finds up in northern regions such as the Arctic and Canada that prove it. Alligator fossils found in the Arctic, a Woolly Mammoth was found in the Polar Region frozen, with green vegetation still in it's belly. There are fossils found in the polar region of palm trees and tropical leaves. We will study this more when we study the flood.

Day 3 – God Separates the waters from the land / Grass, Seeds, Fruit Trees.

(Genesis 1:9 NKJV) Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:10 NKJV) And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:11 NKJV) Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:12 NKJV) And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:13 NKJV) So the evening and the morning were the third day.

Why the Third Day

Day 3 – gathered the waters together and the land. The grass the herbs, the trees with fruit. Day 1 was light, Day 2 the Greenhouse; now the earth is ready for life. But why third day for life? Because life that bears fruit comes on the third day. It was the third day that Jesus rose from the dead, the first fruit; and now we have life because of what happened on the third day of His-story.

Day 4 – He made the sun, the moon, and the stars.

(Genesis 1:14 NKJV) Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;

(Genesis 1:15 NKJV) "and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:16 NKJV) Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also.

(Genesis 1:17 NKJV) God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth,

(Genesis 1:18 NKJV) and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:19 NKJV) So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

Maowr vs Owr

What is interesting here is that the Bible uses two different words that are scientifically correct:

- ma'owr – which means light holder
- 'owr – which means actual light.

Written 4500 years ago

"Ma'owr" is used when it speaks of the moon, which reflects light, and "owr" is used when it speaks to the burning stars like the sun. Interesting how this was written some 4500 years ago yet the author knew the difference.

we are the Light holders

Application for us, Jesus is the Son, and we are the Light holders, we reflect the Son's light. We are not the lights, we have no power within ourselves to produce light, all we can do is reflect what has been illuminated on to us from the true light source.

(Matthew 5:16 NKJV) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Day 5 – He creates the Sea Creatures and the Birds of the Air

(Genesis 1:20 NKJV) Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens."

(Genesis 1:21 NKJV) So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

(Genesis 1:22 NKJV) And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth."

(Genesis 1:23 NKJV) So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

God speaks to the animals

And God blessed them, saying - If our minds can grasp this, God speaks to the animals and they listen. They know who their Creator is, and obey him. We will talk more about this next study. Even the rocks know their Creator:

(Luke 19:39 NKJV) And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

(Luke 19:40 NKJV) But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."

All of nature is not only in subjection to Him, but exults Him as the Lord of All Creation.

Do you see the paradox

Do you see the paradox? The lowly animal, even the inorganic materials, knows and exults Him, but the so-called intelligent man doesn't. A study released by the Barna Research Institute concluded that the higher education, and greater the income, the less likely they were to believe in God. I thought the evolution theory says that man evolved into a higher intelligence form.

Day 6 – He creates the land animals and man

(Genesis 1:24 NKJV) Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind"; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:25 NKJV) And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Man is His crowning jewel on top of His creation. We will study more on that in chapter two.

(Genesis 1:26 NKJV) Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

(Genesis 1:27 NKJV) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Let Us make man in Our image, - spoken of plurally. The word used here is "Elohim", it means three or more. "El" is the singular word for God, "Eli" means two or more. The word used here is, Elohim, three or more. Also "Elohim" is used in verse one.

Clearly, from the first verse of His-story, we see the trinity. As for us, with the benefits of the whole Scriptures, we know this is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1:28 NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

man has been made to be fruitful

Be fruitful and multiply. From the beginning man has been made to be fruitful.

What is the Fruit we are to produce?

(Galatians 5:22 NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (Galatians 5:23 NKJV) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Do you want to have dominion over your world

subdue it; have dominion - The fruit of the Spirit is love. Do you want to have dominion over your world, then be fruitful. Be fruitful in your family, in all that you do.

Do you want to multiply

Do you want to multiply? Speak the word and your world will multiply. When the word is spoken then life multiplies.

(Acts 6:7 NKJV) Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Speak the Word in your home

Speak the Word in your home, on your drives, on your walks and watch what happens as the Spirit of God moves over your life. Look at your life when you are in the word, and when you are not.

Let it go through you

Gipsy Smith told of a man who said he had received no inspiration from the Bible although he had "gone through it several times." "Let it go through you once," replied Smith, "then you will tell a different story!"

You are either going to subdue, or be subdued by the enemy

Every word you speak will either produce life or death, fruit or barrenness. You are either going to subdue, or be subdued by the enemy. It is amazing kids who grow up hearing the Word, and watched it being lived out by their parents. They grow up to subdue the powers of evil, and bear fruit.

(Genesis 1:29 NKJV) And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

(Genesis 1:30 NKJV) "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

(Genesis 1:31 NKJV) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God will not withhold anything that is good for you

it was *very* good. God will not withhold anything that is good for you. It pleases Him to give you good things.

(James 1:17 NKJV) Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

If God hasn't given it to you now, it doesn't mean that He won't give it to you in the future, what it does mean is that he doesn't consider it good for you at this time. You singles, if you are single, then know and trust that God doesn't consider you having a mate at this time a good thing. If you don't have that job, that home, etc, then know and trust that God doesn't consider it a good thing for you to have at this time

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 2

Title: Resting in the Lord

Summary: The Lord's rests in chapter 2, and speaks a message to us that we too can rest, in all things as we rest in Him; whether that be work, ministry, marriage, or singleness.... We can rest in Him.

Outline: Genesis 2

- God Sanctified the 7th Day & God Rested (2:1-3)
- The Garden Before the Fall & the Mist (2:4-6)
- God Forms Man & the Breath of God (2:7)
- The Garden, The Rivers, and the Trees of Life and Knowledge (2:8-17)
- Helpmate (Flesh of My Flesh) – (2:18-25)

1.) God Sanctified the 7th Day & God Rested (2:1-3)

God Rested & You Can Too

Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Genesis 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Chapter Breaks

Chapter divisions in the Bible were introduced in the 13th century. They are commonly attributed to Stephen Langton, an English theologian and later Archbishop of Canterbury, around 1227. Langton's chapter system was adopted widely in later manuscripts and printed versions of the Bible.

Before this, the biblical texts were written without consistent chapter breaks, though some early versions, particularly in the Hebrew Bible, had section markers. Langton's system laid the foundation for the chapter divisions used in nearly all modern Bibles.

The modern verse divisions, however, were added later in the 16th century by a French printer named Robert Estienne (also known as Stephanus) in 1551 for the New Testament and in 1571 for the Old Testament.

Praises for the Rest

As we read this, let's pause to appreciate and express gratitude. It's not just about a day of rest—it's a symbol of God resting from creation and working on the cross so we can find rest in His redemption. The Bible, especially Hebrews, illustrates this as our sabbath rest. We are thankful to be able to come here today and rest.

Hebrews 4:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

What to Do on Sabbath

When God prescribes His top Ten Commandments the fourth is a Sabbath rest. He gives us one day a week to remember why we work the other six days - to worship Him and enjoy life. It's interesting, that the man was made on the sixth day - which means his first full day of life was the seventh, or the day of rest. Adam rested with God before he ever labored for God. And this is a vital lesson... Often we want to jump in and serve the Lord, without first learning to rest and rely on His strength. Resting with God always precedes laboring for God.

What are we to do on a Sabbath? Rest, refresh, and above all....."see". What does God do on the sabbath, well He surely wasn't tired, His God after all (haha). But we are not and we need a day to power down, rest body and mind,

and get refreshed as life is tiring. But what do I clearly see God doing on the Sabbath..... seeing. God saw all that He had done, and it was good. I think there is just a place for us to come to contemplation for ourself, and just look and see all that God has done in our lives, in the world, in the fellowship, and say.... "it is good".

Can't rest in His Love if don't Rest

Rest so your bodies may be refreshed, so you will be able to see that He is resting in His love for you, therefore you can rest.

Communion

We are going to take communion and do this in remembrance of him that we can simply rest that it's done.

Nothing left to do except rest in his finished work.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

2..) The Garden Before the Fall & the Mist (2:4-6)

Genesis 2:4 This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,

Genesis 2:5 before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground;

Genesis 2:6 but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

Before the Fall

In other words, this is before formal agriculture. Growing crops don't become a necessity until man sins and gets booted from the garden and will have to till the ground by the sweat of his brow – oh Paradise Lost!

The Mist – Cool of the Day / Paradise Lost – Sin Robs and Deceives

So the mist in the cool of the day again brings us back to the canopy, the perfect environment. And we know that God would meet Adam in the cool of the day. And so even in the greenhouse, earth rotating, there would be day and night it'd be hot and warm. That it would heat up and then it would cool when the sun went down. this beautiful environment, greenhouse environment, tropical and lush. yet we know God would meet Adam, and they would fellowship together. And the point I make about it is, though I wasn't there for what the fellowship was like, I can imagine what the dis-fellowship was when it was broken by sin when Adam came to the full realization of what he had, the perfection and the beauty of it, and then what was lost. It was paradise. It was lost. And sin is deceptive. And if you're thinking about anything today, and you have this beautiful paradise and you're not content in it. You're safe, you know your savior, but you're just not content. you're thinking about something. don't do it. It'll be a paradise lost. It's a hard way

Genesis 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Man was made on the sixth day - which means his first full day of life was the seventh, or the day of rest. Adam rested with God – Rest in Him and with Him and you will stay safe from loss.

3..) God Forms Man & the Breath of God (2:7)

Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Life Begins

Man became a living being when God breathed into his nostrils. Life begins when God gives breath and any scientists or doctor physician medical expert or politician or so-called protector of rights who thinks that they know when God breathes life or doesn't is foolish. Life begins at conception. And anything other than that man is

playing God thinking that they know when life begins whether six week or 9 months, but here it's day one when God breathes Adam becomes a living being.

*(Job 12:10 KJV) In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, **and the breath of all mankind.***

(Acts 17:24 NKJV) "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

*(Acts 17:25 NKJV) "Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, **since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.***

*(Daniel 5:23 NKJV) "And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; **and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.***

A fetus in the womb does not breathe air directly. Instead, it gets oxygen through the placenta, an organ that connects the developing baby to the mother's uterine wall. Oxygen-rich blood from the mother is delivered to the fetus through the umbilical cord, while carbon dioxide and other waste products from the fetus are carried back to the placenta for removal. This exchange occurs through the blood, so the baby does not need to use its lungs until after birth, when it takes its first breath.

A baby is breathing on Day 1 through the mother.

Response to Pro-Choice

When people give their pro-choice speech and declaration, I say let them speak, hear them out, and then here is a response to them:

- I acknowledge your personal belief system. I recognize your exercising a personal belief and I too have a personal belief system. My personal belief system is based on the word of God these holy scriptures, and this is what he says regarding your statements. And then tell them what the Word of God says and get them to Jesus and get them to the cross, and why He died for them.

God Touches

Dust until He breaths

Adam means man. The root of Adam means dust, coming from the ground. We are nothing but dust until the breath of God moves over us.

*(Genesis 1:2 KJV) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.***

(Psalms 103:14 NKJV) For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

Same elements found in the dirt are found in man:

The human body is composed of several essential mineral elements, most of which are crucial for various biological processes. The primary ones include:

1. **Oxygen (O)** – Makes up about 65% of the body, mostly found in water and in molecules essential for life.
2. **Carbon (C)** – Accounts for about 18%, and is a key component of all organic molecules.
3. **Hydrogen (H)** – About 10%, present in water and organic compounds.
4. **Nitrogen (N)** – Around 3%, found in amino acids, proteins, and nucleic acids (DNA and RNA).

In addition to these, there are other essential mineral elements in smaller amounts:

5. **Calcium (Ca)** – About 1.5%, crucial for bones, teeth, and various cellular functions.
6. **Phosphorus (P)** – 1%, mostly found in bones and in energy-carrying molecules like ATP.
7. **Potassium (K)** – Important for nerve function and maintaining cellular fluid balance.
8. **Sulfur (S)** – Found in some amino acids and proteins.
9. **Sodium (Na)** – Vital for nerve impulses and fluid balance.
10. **Chlorine (Cl)** – Helps with fluid balance and stomach acid production.

11. **Magnesium (Mg)** – Involved in over 300 biochemical reactions, including energy production.
12. **Iron (Fe)** – Essential for oxygen transport in the blood (hemoglobin).
13. **Zinc (Zn)** – Important for immune function, protein synthesis, and wound healing.

There are also trace elements like copper, iodine, selenium, and manganese that play vital roles despite being present in very small amounts.

Your body contains:

Enough iron to make a small nail,
 Enough salt to fill an ordinary shaker
 Enough sugar to fill a small bowl
 Enough lime to whitewash a small chicken coop
 Enough phosphorus to make a dozen matches
 Enough fat to fill a twelve-pound pail

I think if you went to the recycle yard your body might be worth 3 dollars, but as we study through this Bible, we see the Scarlet Thread, that it cost God His only Son to buy us out of the prison of sin and death.

How special you are

Just how special you are to God. Are you special! Let me just share a small glimpse of how special you are.

Know how special or Satan will rob you

If you go through your whole life never fully understanding how special you are to God, you will miss out on the many blessing the Lord has for you, also Satan will be able to defeat you in many areas of your life cause you will believe some of his lies.

3 Creations

We are going to look at 3 creations, and see just how special we are.

- Creation 1: The Creation of Man.
- Creation 2: The Creation of You.
- Creation 3: The Creation of You: Part 2

Creation 1: The creation of man.

Lets read Gen 1:4, 1:10, 1:12, 1:18, 1:21, 1:25; we see the repeated statement: it was good:

- *(Genesis 1:4 NKJV) And God saw the light, **that it was good**; and God divided the light from the darkness.*
- *(Genesis 1:10 NKJV) And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw **that it was good**.*
- *(Genesis 1:12 NKJV) And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw **that it was good**.*
- *(Genesis 1:18 NKJV) and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw **that it was good**.*
- *(Genesis 1:21 NKJV) So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.*
- *(Genesis 1:25 NKJV) And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw **that it was good**.*

But things change on His last creation:

*(Genesis 1:31 NKJV) Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.*

Very Good / Intensifier / Final Creation / Crown

At the end of every day of creation God said "it was good", until the sixth day, when God said "it was very good". The word "very" as used here is used often with other words to intensify them; in this case it would mean especially good, exceedingly good, great. Why did God say it was so good? Because in His final act of creation, He created man.

Do you know what the Hebrew word for man is here "Adam", but it is used in its generic sense meaning "mankind". So here we see God is talking about all of the human race, and that includes me and you. And God said it was VERY good. The creation of man was God putting the crowning jewel on top of His creation. And He said, "It was VERY good"

Adam was first, but it very well could have been us, for we, man, are created in God's image.

Genesis 2:7

(Genesis 2:7 NKJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being

Picture the Day / All eyes on the Lord / Starts forming the dirt / The Animals watch

When I read the Bible I like to put myself in the story, like I was standing right there. So Picture the day in this tropical climate, the lush green garden, a cool mist coming out of the ground, and along comes the Lord. We know from Scripture that wherever the Lord is, all eyes are upon Him. When Jesus walked the earth everywhere He went all eyes were upon Him. When Jesus returns all eyes will turn to see Him, God is the center of His creation. So can you picture all the animals in the garden? When God passed every eye turned to Him, but He didn't just pass, He stopped and started to do something in the dirt. The attention of all the animals are locked in on what He is doing. A lion comes over cocking his head in wonderment, two beavers leave the water to get a closer look, a giraffe uses his height advantage to get a better look, some squirrels hang out on branches to get a bird's-eye view, and a few rabbits hop over to watch. They all watch in silence as God puts some dirt here, some dirt there, and begins to shape it.

Formed / Jeremiah 18 / Ish 64 / The Master Potter

The Hebrew word used here in Genesis 2:7 for "formed" is the exact same Hebrew word used for "potter" in Jeremiah 18. The picture it brings to mind here in the garden is God forming Adam just as a potter forming a piece of clay. God knew specifically what He was going to make when He started to form Adam.

(Jeremiah 18:1 NKJV) The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying:

(Jeremiah 18:2 NKJV) "Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words."

(Jeremiah 18:3 NKJV) Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.

(Jeremiah 18:4 NKJV) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

(Jeremiah 18:5 NKJV) Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

(Jeremiah 18:6 NKJV) "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!"

(Isaiah 64:8 NKJV) But now, O LORD, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.

Master Potter / Finished Product

I met a man who is considered to be a Master Potter, which is no small claim, in other words he is considered one of the best in the world in this field. One thing I'll never forget him saying was that every time he begins with that lump of clay, he doesn't even see the clay, but only the finished product, he sees that beautiful finished product. So too with God, for he is the Master of Master Potters.

Every Move shape takes place / Adams face - 930 / The Creator hands get Dirty

Now, picture it, with every move of the Master's hand a distinguishable form begins to appear, can you imagine the joy God had as He formed Adam's face, the face He would look at and fellowship with for 930 years. Here is the creator of the universe getting His hands dirty to create man.

Shaping Done - God Leans Back / Animals Silent / the Breath

After all the shaping was complete I picture God leaning back to stop and admire what He had fashioned. All the animals remain silenced wondering what is it, and then the Creator of the universe leans forward, possibly chest to chest, and breaths life into the nostrils of Adam.

Creator stands / Lifts His Creation / Animals erupt

The Creator stands, then He extends His hands and lifts Adam to His feet and presents him to the rest of His creation. At this point the garden erupts into a euphoric cheer, lions are roaring, monkeys screeching and shaking the trees, squirrels chattering, and birds singing. All of creation rejoicing, the animals in amazement at the beauty of God's creation, the crown of God's creation, MAN.

Creation stopped on Universe / Didn't stop with Adam / Same love interest in Us

God may have stopped creating the universe after six days, but He didn't stop creating with Adam, but He is active in the creation of every one of us. And the same love and interest that God put into Adam, He puts into us.

Creation 2: The creation of you.

(Psalms 139:13 NKJV) For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

(Psalms 139:14 NKJV) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

(Psalms 139:15 NKJV) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

(Psalms 139:16 NKJV) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

v.15 Wrought / embroiderer, needlework / every detail / Artwork

In verse 15 of Psalm 139, the word wrought means "embroiderer, needlework", the picture it gives us is God with a needle and thread, ever so patiently making us. God being so interested in every little detail of how he makes us, bringing the fabric together into a beautiful piece of art. For that's what needlework is, it is art. God considers us his piece of art.

V16 formed - same as Gen 2:7

In verse 16, days fashioned is the same word used for "formed" in Gen 2:7. God doesn't just make you and let you go, He is actively shaping your future, before you are even born, God is preparing your future for you.

He Still Isn't Done

But, God still isn't done. When He finished His artwork as He created you, He begins to create His poem about you.

Creation Three: The creation of You: Part 2

You are a wonderful poem God is writing about you.

(Ephesians 2:10 NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

workmanship" is "poiema

The Greek word for "workmanship" is "poiema", from where we get our English word "poem". You see that is exactly what we are, we are God's poem, a love poem at that.

God's Poem / Whole new shaping / New Audience / The Creator Stands / Heaven Erupts

As God creates His poem a whole new shaping takes place, and a whole new audience is present. When we give our life to Jesus Christ God starts to shape us from the inside, conforming us into the image of Jesus Christ. And now the audience has changed from creation to the heavenly angels. They watch on, and much like on day six all they see is some dirt here, some dirt there, but the Master begins to shape it. Now, picture it, with every move of the Master's hand a distinguishable form begins to appear, can you imagine the joy God has as He forms us knowing what the finished result will be? The Creator stands, then He extends His hands and lifts us to our feet and presents us to the host of angels in heaven. And heaven as in the garden erupts with euphoric cheers as they rejoice in the great work of God, they stare in amazement at the masterpiece of beauty God has created and all of heaven exalts God for His greatness.

He is not Done / Philp 1:6

My friends if you feel discouraged or defeated right now please know that God is still actively involved in your life, and He is still forming and shaping you. How precious you are to Him.

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

He Loves you / Ever Doubt it / Go to the Cross

God loves you, He can't stop thinking about you, nor can He take His eyes off you, you are His poem.

If you ever doubt God's love, than think of these three creations, but most of all Go Back To The Cross, and you will see a Love that is undeniable.

(John 15:13 NKJV) "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

How Precious you are to God / Kola Bear

How precious we are to God that we would be the crown of His creation. I don't think so, we may argue over what is the most beautiful species on the planet, a man, a lion, kola bear, etc; but never what is the most precious. For it was man that Jesus Christ became, and it was for man that Jesus Christ died.

Rest in His Love

Rest in His love, that's is what He is doing.

The Ruwach

The Hebrew word **Ruwach** (רוּחַ) appears in several significant places throughout the Bible, often referring to the "spirit," "wind," or "breath." Here are some key instances:

1. **Genesis 1:2** – The first occurrence of *Ruwach* in the Bible:
 - "And the Spirit of God [*Ruwach Elohim*] was hovering over the face of the waters."
 - Here, it refers to the divine presence or the Spirit of God active during creation.
2. **Genesis 2:7** – While the word *Ruwach* **is not used**, this verse is related to the concept:
 - "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life."
 - The idea of the "breath of life" (often associated with *Ruwach*) refers to the life-giving spirit.
3. **Ezekiel 37:9-10** – The valley of dry bones:
 - "Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'"
 - *Ruwach* here is translated as "breath" and "winds," symbolizing life and revival through God's Spirit.
4. **Isaiah 11:2** – A messianic prophecy:
 - "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord."
 - The "Spirit of the Lord" (*Ruwach Yahweh*) refers to the empowering presence of God.
5. **Psalms 51:10-12** – David's prayer of repentance:
 - "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... Do not take your Holy Spirit [*Ruwach Qadosh*] from me."
 - David is pleading for God's Spirit to remain with him.
6. **Zechariah 4:6** – A message to Zerubbabel:
 - "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit [*Ruwach*], says the Lord of hosts."
 - This emphasizes the divine enablement of God's Spirit over human effort.

These are just a few examples where *Ruwach* is used in Scripture, symbolizing God's presence, power, and life-giving force.

Body – Soul – Spirit / Must be Born-Again

1st Thessalonians 5 explains that humans are composed of body, spirit, and soul. The body is made of flesh, bones, and blood; the soul is our animated being, our identity; and the spirit is the essence of God. We see in this chapter, the Lord speaking to Adam, the day you eat of it, you shall die. And Adam will begin to die. A slow process of 930 years with God's word will fulfill itself, and there's just a side note for anyone. You can feel that your sin isn't a big deal. God doesn't see it. But as the word in Galatians says, you'll reap what you sow, however long it takes, it will eventually destroy something in your life, maybe even your physical body life. But it brings me to a great pondering as we read because here Jesus, God breathes, not a spirit, as we read, but just a breath into Adam and he becomes a living being, an animated being. But we see in first Thessalonians five, the man is body spirit and soul. And it brings me to the great pondering of what Jesus meant in John 3 when he said, you must be born again, and the context is, speaking of the spirit in the work and move of the spirit, taking up residence within a person's life, very being. But we use the word "again", and it literally means "from above". And I don't have to figure it all out of what the trinity of man is, body spirit and soul, just as I can't figure it all out, the trinity of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. What I know is, that no one can enter heaven unless they're born again. And the word means to be born from above, and here we see whether it's Adam in the garden or man, woman in the womb, God gives them breath, and they come to life. But when they sin, death begins, all of us have the sin nature in us. passed down to us from the first Adam and every last person needs this breath from heaven to be born from above. And so the question for you, have you been born from above? Are you sure that the spirit of God lives in you and has taken up residence in you, because, as he will say in those short verses later, the gospel in summary, John 3:16.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV) ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:31 (NKJV) ³¹ He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all.

Genesis 2:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

But Dust

Psalm 103 reminds us that God knows our earthly origins and our fragility. I find comfort in knowing He understands our weaknesses. Without His breath of life, we are merely dust, but with it, we become remarkable creations, showcasing God's incredible work.

Psalm 103:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

4.) The Garden, The Rivers, and the Trees of Life and Knowledge (2:8-17)

Genesis 2:8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Genesis 2:9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:10 Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads.

Genesis 2:11 The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

Genesis 2:12 And the gold of that land is good. Bdelium and the onyx stone are there.

Genesis 2:13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one which goes around the whole land of Cush.

Genesis 2:14 The name of the third river is Hiddekel; it is the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river is the Euphrates.

2:8. In addition to the general creation of plant life on the third creation day, God by the sixth day had planted a beautiful garden, specially prepared for Adam. It was eastward in Eden ("land of delight"), possibly near what is now the Persian Gulf.

2:9–14. These verses are possibly a parenthesis giving more information about the garden. It was full of trees bearing delicious fruit, but in the middle of the garden were both the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. A river flowed out of Eden through the garden and divided into four heads. The first two, the Pishon and the Gihon are not easy to identify today. The Pishon and the land of Havilah, however, must have been known in Moses' day, for he knew of the gold and jewels that came from there. The Gihon went around the land of Cush. In most of the Old Testament, Cush means Ethiopia. But there is another Cush in the east which is more likely the meaning here. The other two rivers are well known. The Hiddekel is the Tigris and the Euphrates remains the great river of the Middle East. The relationships of the rivers, however, must have been changed, probably due to great changes in the earth's geography during Noah's flood.

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 2:8–14\). World Library Press.](#)

Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Give Adam Something to Do

God gives him something to do, God asked Adam to tend the garden. Picture Adam taking care of this tropical paradise, arranging beautiful bouquets for the Lord. They would both take pleasure in these creations and talk about them together.

Exodus 21 – the Bondservant

Adam tending the garden reminds me of the bond servant in Exodus 21 who chose to stay with a kind master. He stayed because his master loved, provided for, and cared for him. This reflects the closeness and care Adam experienced with the Lord in the garden.

Exodus 21:1–6 (NKJV) ¹ “Now these are the judgments which you shall set before them: ² If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years; and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. ³ If he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. ⁴ If his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. ⁵ But if the servant plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ ⁶ then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Burnout

Burnout - I say this cause I've been there I get their way too many times burnout and it happens that all of us don't beat yourself up over it, but what I would plead with you today is don't quit either don't say I'm tired. I'm burnt out. It's not about taking a break. It's not even about taking the Sabbath. arrest It's about putting yourself back into the garden if you would. And you really just stay evaluate and you go, well, why am I doing this? And then what is my purpose of doing this? and it's a whole heart change when we come to this place where we go. I just want to make you something beautiful. Sometimes it might just be a beautiful chair that you're cutting and carving to give to somebody because you're a carpenter. and you make that chair saying they're going sit here and they're going sit on this chair. They're going meet with you. Maybe it's making a meal and you're saying I'm making this meal. I'm going give it to somebody. It's going be a gift from me and you more to them. They're going need to smell and know that you see them and that you hear them and that you're in the middle of what they're in the middle of it might be serving God's people and there's a beauty of Lord, I'm making a bouquet, making a tapestry. I'm tending this and I'm arranging this as if a beautiful bouquet that I deliver to you that you might be pleased with it and I do it as unto you, If you're burned out, maybe you' quit, maybe you're ready to get back in, you just don't know how to what to just go back to the garden if you would and say, Lord and what can I make for you? What can I create for you? That's beautiful that you'll come and smile be well, pleased with me and what we tend for him and what we do for him it's not work. It's a labor of love, making something beautiful for him, given him this gift. because we love serving our master

Genesis 2:16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; Genesis 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

The Choice

Why would God place in the Garden a tree from which Adam and Eve were not to eat? Because God desires a loving relationship with man. And true love is built on choice. Therefore, in placing the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden, God said to mankind, "If you want to kill our relationship, if you want to turn your back on Me, I must provide this opportunity. All you have to do, Adam, to end our relationship is to eat from that tree."

Genesis 2:17 (b)

... for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The Lord is so good because He made it as scary as possible. He said, "If you eat from that tree, it's going to kill you." What else could the Father have done to provide a choice, but also to say, "Don't do that."?

Notice God does not say, "If you eat of that tree, I'm going to kill you." He says, "If you eat of the tree, it will kill you." For many years, I thought that if I did something wrong, God would track me down. No, the Bible says, "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). It is sin that tracks us down, our sin that wipes us out. (Courson)

5..) Helpmate (Flesh of My Flesh) – (2:18-25)

Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name.

Genesis 2:20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

1st Not Good / no Mr and Mrs Adam / showing his need

This is the first time that God says something is not good in the Bible - that man was alone. There was a Mr and Mrs Hippopotamus, a Mr and Mrs Orangutan, Mr and Mrs Giraffe, but there was no Mr and Mrs Adam. Adam knew that he had no helpmate, no completer. As God brought all the animals before Adam, he was showing Adam his need, He was drawing out of Adam a desire for the same. God showed Adam his need, before Adam even knew he had a need. God will show you that need, not to frustrate you, but to bring you into the greatest fulfillment you can have. When God brings the fulfillment of your desire to you, it is because of that wanting, that desire to be filled, that when God does fulfill, you will be appreciative, you will be full of joy and praise.

Intelligence – Language – Dictionary / Still Needs God's Spirit Giving Wisdom

We see Adam naming every animal so it shows us that there was a language system at the beginning of creation a language system that God had given Adam a language system that Adam used to communicate with the lord and the lord with him, but here Adam he starts to use the language system what the alphabet looked like we don't know, but the pronunciation of what we know as nouns and verbs through the sounding of letters to make words was established, and here as he gives names to every animal were literally seen the genius and the intelligence level of Adam, it have the ability to do that, and so while he's naming these animals now is the beginning of a dictionary. This is an elephant and that's what an elephant looks like what that dictionary would look like we don't know a verbal dictionary that would begin to be the language and the dictionary of mankind, so dismiss anything primitive of Adam highly intellectual But with that said we can see even the highest of intellect still make bad decisions and therefore we need more than the intellect we need the connection to the leading of the Lord through his Word and spirit giving wisdom and what to do

Husband to Teach Wife

Notice God is speaking to Adam and Eve has not been created. There's a takeaway here that God is requiring the leadership of the husband to learn the word and share with his wife, and yes, she gets to make her decision, but he has given this precedence. I tell you and you share with your wife.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil Adam is a man of high intelligence. He has a vocabulary; he has a dictionary. The words mean something to him. He knows what good means and he knows what evil means,

though he has an experienced evil he knows the definition of it and when he takes it, he comes and now has a carnal knowledge and a fleshly knowledge of the word that is spoken, and you know you don't have to experience it to understand it. God speaks it and it's enough to give the guidance of what to avoid and what to lean into.

Genesis 2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place.

Genesis 2:22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

God puts Adam to sleep / Desire / wait on the Lord

God puts man to sleep, to bring him to rest. God was saying Adam, just rest, you see your need, you have this desire, now rest and I will bring you your desire. You singles, God says that to you, you have this desire because I have shown it to you, now just rest, and I will bring your desire to you, in my perfect timing. You may say but I am ready, I'm all formed and fashioned, you have breathed your breath upon me Lord, but God may still be preparing your mate, He may not have even breathed His breath of eternal life into your mate yet. What your Heavenly Father says to you today is, just rest, I'll take care of everything, in my perfect timing.

(Psalms 37:7 NKJV) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

Not resting / shaking bushes / mate might not be ready

You see if Adam wasn't resting, then he would have been out there shaking the bushes and the trees, and he would have ended up with an animal. You singles, that is exactly what will happen to you, you go out and start shaking the trees and bushes, turning over every rock, you will get what ever crawls out from underneath that rock, or falls out of the tree, and you will be greatly disappointed. Rest in the Lord, wait on His perfect timing, you may be ready, but the mate God has for you, isn't prepared yet.

Taken from the side / close to your heart

and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place - The bone was taken from the side. Not the head that she should rule over him, not the feet that she should be his stepping stone, but from his side, a rib, which is close to the heart. The bride needs to be close to your heart, brides the ribs protect the heart, you need to protect his heart. Wives you are to be at your husband's side, stand by him and with him.

Something missing in Man / only found in woman

God had taken from man - God took a piece from man, something was missing in man, and that piece that was missing could only be found in woman.

Man never able to fully satisfy / Last Adam

Adam, man, is missing something. Man is not all there. Therefore man will never be able to satisfy you fully woman. You can never expect that; you have to look to the one that can meet your every need, who you can talk to and go to at anytime - Jesus, the last Adam.

(1 Corinthians 15:45 KJV) And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Men wife reflection of You / Die to self / let this cup pass

Men, if your wife isn't all that you want her to be, you have to look at yourself, because she is made from you. You are to love her as Christ loves the Church, and gave Himself for her. Husband you are to die to yourself. Jesus gave up His desire, "let this cup pass", but not my will, but thy will be done. The only way to die to yourself is to go to the last Adam, and seek Him to help you.

Find in the last Adam is freedom to enjoy

What you will both find as you go to the last Adam is that as you look to Jesus to meet and fulfill your needs, then you lift the burden of having to be perfect and meet every need. You then will be free to enjoy each other.

Genesis 2:23 And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

Actually, the naming of the woman is one of the most beautifully romantic passages in all the Bible... Recall, naming was a function of dominion and authority. That Adam named Eve tells us God had placed her under his authority, *but notice how Adam uses his authority...* The Hebrew word translated "man" is "Ish." The term "woman" is the same word, but in a feminine form, "Ishah." Adam had authority over Eve, but rather than asserting it he treats her as his equal.

Genesis 2:24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Hope for Unity / Debaq

Is there hope for unity, absolutely, verse 24 says the two shall become one. The word used here for cleave/joined, is the Hebrew word "debaq". It is a gluing, a permanent glue.

There are two requirements for unity: leaving and cleaving.

Leave: Leave every other relationship, burn the bridges, cut loose the life rafts, wave bye-bye to mother and father and all others. You can't be living for your parent's consent and approval. You have to serve your spouse not your parents. Parents you have to let them go; give counsel and then let them live it out. Couples you have to cut-off the relationship with that guy or gal at work, the old friends from church or high school. No more lunch dates with the opposite sex, no more coffee breaks together. Burn the photos of the old flames, shred their cards and letters, remove them from your Rolodex. When there is Leaving it means there is no comparing your spouse to anyone. Men your wife has to be secure in this, that there is no other that you are comparing her to.

Woman you are to seek your spiritual leadership from your husband. If you have a question ask your husband, if he doesn't have the answer then let him go find out the answer. When he comes the leadership in the church, then we get to disciple him, and he grows in his leadership in the home. He has to know that you look to him for leadership and there is no one else that can lead you.

Then secondly,

Cleave: Cleaving is that romance and intimacy. The bible says that sex is more than two bodies coming together, it is two souls coming together, it is giving a piece of yourself away.

You may say well I don't have those feelings anymore, I don't want to cleave. Let me tell you, you have to cleave to get those feelings. You don't wait for the feeling to cleave, you cleave and those feelings then come.

And of course, if "I am a treasure" God forming me with His very hands, then my spouse is "A TREASURE" as well, and I will do well to remember she is God's treasure and I should handle her as such.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. - there was no competition, there was no comparison, so then there was no embarrassment or fear of rejection. As Adam would say, WOW, this is now mine, all mine, she is my completer, she is a gift from my Father.

What About You Singles?

What to do if you are single, waiting and wanting. What are you to do?

Rest (in the Lord)

Walk (with the Lord)

Work (tending to the Lord's Garden)

Guard (guard your singleness)

And again.... (Rest in the Lord), He sees you and He will “bring” that helpmate in His perfect timing.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 3

Title: The Encounter in the Garden

Summary: Nothing will make sense in this whole world and in our whole lives personally, apart from understanding chapters 1, 2 and 3 Genesis. But when we look and understand chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Genesis, then everything in life will make sense even in so much senselessness that we see in the world today.

In chapter 1 the mighty God creating a whole universe, with the crowning jewel, mankind. Chapter 2 we see we are fearfully and wonderfully made for fellowship with God. Chapter 3 the encounter in the garden, the fall of man, and all the consequences that came with it; and yet God is always searching out man, even after the greatest failing, coming with words of love, where are you? And then God provides a covering for sin. Now life makes sense, even with so much senselessness around us in a fallen world, life makes sense. I know why I do what I do, and yet I know who He is and what He does and what He can do in my life through the covering, in the communion and the fellowship with the one who created me for fellowship. Someday this world will be over. This life will be past; and I have a future of walking with Him in the garden (perfect heaven) again in perfect, unbroken fellowship, in the cool of the day, because of the Lamb who is slain for me.

Outline: The Encounter in the Garden

The Serpent & Mankind (3:1-8)

There's Always an "Indeed" with the Devil (3:1-5)

There's Always a Consequence in Every Decision (3:6-8)

The Savior & Mankind (3:8-24)

There's Always a Searching of God After a Sin (3:9-13)

There's Always a Covering of God After a Sin (3:14-24)

Show Us Great Things

Jeremiah 33:1-3, emphasizing God's invitation to Jeremiah to call upon Him for profound revelations. This message likely came shortly after a previous communication regarding a field, while Jeremiah was imprisoned. Despite his confinement, the text highlights that God's word remains unbound and powerful. The Lord assures the authenticity of His message by invoking His eternal name and mighty power to create the world/universe, encouraging Jeremiah to seek understanding of "unsearchable" truths that surpass human comprehension. These truths pertain to the restoration of the nation and Jerusalem, indicating that divine insight is necessary for grasping these significant revelations. The text also notes a linguistic nuance regarding the Hebrew term for "unsearchable," suggesting its implications of being beyond human knowledge, reinforcing the need for divine revelation in understanding God's plans. Chapter 3 is a place where we need divine revelation to understand what happened then, but what it speaks to us today.

Jeremiah 33:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Moreover the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah a second time, while he was still shut up in the court of the prison, saying, ² "Thus says the Lord who made it, the Lord who formed it to establish it (the Lord is His name): ³ 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

The Encounter in the Garden

The Serpent & Mankind (3:1-8)

There's Always an "Indeed" with the Devil (3:1-5)

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

Indeed

"Yea" (indeed, really) suggests surprise and astonishment. His question really denied the love of God and was intended to imply, "How could God keep any good thing from you if He loves you?"

Did God say is introduced in Hebrew by an intensive particle that gives the sense "Is it really so that God said ...?"

We don't know if this came as a whisper, as a casual conversation, or a forceful challenge. I know in life personally that I face the "indeed" in all three of these forms as I have pondered various situations in life.

most beautiful creature

The serpent was the most beautiful creature in the garden, and the most cunning, which is being deceitful for evil reasons.

(Ezekiel 28:12 NKJV) "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

(Ezekiel 28:13 NKJV) You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

more cunning than any beast / worship leader

His reason behind his deceit, he wants to be God, he wants to be worshipped, rather than a worshipper.

(Isaiah 14:12 NKJV) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

(Isaiah 14:13 NKJV) For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

(Isaiah 14:14 NKJV) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Satan was the worship leader in heaven, but he wanted to be worshipped rather than worship the one who created him:

(Ezekiel 28:13 NKJV) You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

He didn't always slither around, it is not until he was cursed that he began to

(Genesis 3:14 NKJV) So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life

I Will

Satan demonstrate his utter hatred for mankind. But why does he tempt and deceive and want to see this? Well, he has five "I Will". He wants to be God, and therefore, when a man bows the knee to him, he feels accomplished in that he's been made to be the supreme being who can direct the heart of man to worship and follow him.

Image Bearers

In chapter one, we learn in detail that we are image bearers created in God's likeness. Unlike humans, Satan isn't made in God's image. Although we'll understand more about the angelic host in the future, the significant point is that God formed humans uniquely, not merely by speaking them into existence. Ultimately, Satan despises those who bear God's image, and as we'll see, redemption for humanity involves a deep sacrifice.

More Cunning

The devil is so cunning you don't even know you're in a battle with him many times until the battle's over and you've lost or you're halfway through the battle and you realize that its spiritual warfare. He's cunning, and we have to guard accordingly.

He has a plan for every one of you - he studies you, knows your weakness, and wants to exploit them.

The Devil is cunning, and it is crucial to understand his deceptive strategies. The best approach is to remain steadfast in faith and stay vigilant. In my daily devotion, I emphasize the importance of being watchful. I make a note on my devotional page as a reminder that I must always stay alert and remember that he is constantly watching me.

He aims to undermine me by attacking my reputation and testimony. Although physical harm might be an option, he finds greater satisfaction in damaging my witness through subtle means, allowing him to blaspheme. He studies us meticulously, waiting for the right moment to strike. For instance, he waited until Eve was alone before making his move, highlighting the significance of fellowship.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Being part of a community protects us from isolation, which the Devil exploits. Therefore, engaging in corporate worship and being active in various church ministries is vital. It not only helps us learn but also equips us to guard ourselves and support others against these spiritual attacks.

Talking at the Tree

Do you see where this conversation is happening (at least that is what I see here)? It's not just anywhere in the garden. Look closely, it's right at the base of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Eve ends up in front of this tree, perhaps just on a walk. Satan waits for her, knowing her routine, and asks, "What do you think about this tree?" As humans, we need to be cautious of tempting thoughts. I wonder, how often did Eve pass by that tree? Did she stop to look at it often? Was Satan exploiting her interest in the tree, knowing she was contemplating it? Maybe her initial thoughts were in awe of God's words, but perhaps her pondering ventured further.

I wonder why Eve would have done well to walk on the other side of the garden just a little word for anybody. There's places you need to walk on the other side of the garden if you would away from that tree that you keep contemplating whatever it is lust of the flesh lust of the eyes of the pride of life you need walk on the other side of the garden and not even anywhere near it and if it costs you a sacrifice whatever that may be, then so be it

Genesis 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; Genesis 3:3 but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

The Greatest Warning – Yes "Indeed" He Did

Here's the greatest warning for all of us today is when we encounter and engage on the questioning of the word of God. We live in a culture that is continually now greater than any other time in our life. Challenging questioning the word to God did God really say and once a Christian or a person for that matter enters into that place, they have entered into the most dangerous grounds because when you weaken the authority that God has said then you strengthen the position of the lie of the devil, even if the whole world will vote on it and cast a vote and make it the law of the land in the state it will not bring this place of power if we question only one sure thing that the devil cannot stand against is the word of God, when we shut that down, did God really say.

The answer is real simple. He did indeed

Satan Wants Us Throw Down the Sword

The word of God is a powerful weapon in our spiritual battles, and Satan seeks to disarm us by making us abandon it. Without this sword, we lack the means to achieve victory. Possessing a superior weapon, like God's word with its 31,102 verses, offers immense power, cutting through every deception from evil and the world.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Legalism

Here Eve treads into legalism by adding to the word.

Legalism can be harmful, and Satan would likely be pleased with Eve's initial response because she added to God's word. Legalism becomes damaging when individuals create strict boundaries and begin judging others based on their adherence to these self-imposed rules. Instead of showing compassion and empathy, they develop a rigid and judgmental mindset, thereby losing the essence of freedom and intercession.

I have personal beliefs that work for me, but when I try to impose them on others, it becomes judgmental. Have your own convictions, but don't force them on anyone else. Stick to the word of God and refrain from imposing your beliefs on others.

Genesis 3:4 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

Genesis 3:5 For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Now full on frontal attack – direct challenge to what God said

Satan, comes with the full frontal attack, a direct challenge to God's word. He softens the soil first by casting doubt on God's word, by questioning the word. Then he comes with the direct attack, he questions he ways of God.

Satan attacks God's Love / God is holding something back / something wonderful

For God knows that in the day - Satan attacks God's love, he tells Eve "God is holding something back from you." He is trying to keep you in the dark; he wants your eyes to be close. If you eat of this your eyes will be open to new and wonderful things. There is something wonderful that God is holding back from you, He is a cosmic killjoy, obedience to His word is bondage, and that is want He wants for you. No joy, just a boring existence.

Satan Twists again / In some areas God wants you blinded

Satan twisted the Scripture again, for truly God does want you to be blind in certain areas, He wants you to be innocent, and unknowing in the areas that will rob and destroy your life.

(Romans 16:19 NKJV) For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

(Romans 16:20 NKJV) And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Jesus Models

Jesus models it wonderfully when Satan approached him and tried to twist the scriptures. Jesus used the scriptures against him all from Deuteronomy chapters 6 through 8, which I believe was probably Jesus' morning devotion. He did those three chapters and they were baking and meditating in his heart when the devil comes, but Jesus has a word prepared because he prepared the word for his day and if he would consider it's like a sword, he stabs the devil once, the devil comes again and he slashes with another blow, and then here comes the devil a third time Jesus gives an overhand thrust, and there comes a point - where the devil can't take it any more, and he has to flee and here we see resist the devil, and he will flee from you

James 4:7 (NKJV) 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The Encounter in the Garden

The Serpent & Mankind (3:1-8)

There's Always an "Indeed" with the Devil (3:1-5)

There's Always a "Consequence" in Every Decision (3:6-8)

Genesis 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

walking in the garden, this delightful place

They enjoyed walking in the garden, this delightful place that God had created for them, so that they may enjoy the beauty of His creation and enjoy deep intimate fellowship and communion with God their creator.

But there had to be a choice

But for it to be love, for it to be their choice to walk with Him, God gives them a choice; the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. That tree wasn't about fruit, it was about choice. God was not going to force them into fellowship and communion with Him, He would not force them to love Him, and forced love is not love.

As it was in the garden, so it is today, a choice of who man will obey, a choice of who will I fellowship with.

As we said this Bible is His-story; and it is impossible to understand the rest of the Bible without understanding Genesis chapter 3. God's intricate plan of redemption fulfilled in Christ is meaningless if the events of Genesis chapter 3 were not told to us.

Flesh / Eyes / Life

Every sin will fall into 1 or all three of the following:

(1 John 2:15 NKJV) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(1 John 2:16 NKJV) For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world.

(1 John 2:17 NKJV) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Lust of the Flesh - Feels good, tastes good. She "**saw that the tree was good for food**"

Lust of the Eyes - looks good, plus it was encouraged by the one who was the most beautiful in the garden – satan. Looks can be so deceiving. "**that it was pleasant to the eyes**"

The Pride of Life - makes you wise, look at me! "**a tree desirable to make one wise**"

Pick a sin today, and you'll see it fit into one if not all three of these areas.

Eve was deceived

(1 Timothy 2:13 NKJV) For Adam was formed first, then Eve.

(1 Timothy 2:14 NKJV) And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

Eve was deceived, but Adam knowingly knew his wrong. Again, Eve never should have been seeking the spiritual things without her husband.

Adam knowingly chooses to disobey to be with Eve

But here we see Adam saying I knowingly am choosing to disobey Gods word to be with this woman. I want to be with her, more than I want to obey God.

Eve in fallen state / Adam lowered himself – rather than trust God

Consider this, Eve was in a fallen state, Adam and Eve were no longer on the same level. She had just doomed herself, yet Adam said I would rather lower myself, doom myself, than be without her. Rather than staying obedient to God and His word, rather than trusting that somehow someday God will work it out, Adam joined her, and doomed himself.

Singles take note

You singles take this example; you are not to be unequally yoked, your relationship with the Lord will suffer greatly, and so will your life. The moment you chose to disobey God's, just for the sake of not being alone, you will lower yourself and suffer the consequences.

They didn't immediately die / took Adam 900 yrs to die

I point out, that Eve ate, and she didn't die immediately. What did she think, Satan was right. God told me a story, for I didn't die. He feeds it to Adam, and he doesn't die either. For them, they think since there were no immediate consequences, they were ok. People do the same, we all do it, we disobey God and because there are no immediate consequences we think everything is all right. That His word was just a recommendation, a suggestion, or that it doesn't apply to us because we are special, or sometimes, people think God is blessing me, He isn't punishing me. It took Adams sin about 900 years to catch up to him, but it eventually did, and He died. Maybe it was decades before Adam started to notice the lines in his face, the aches in his joints. It has been said that: Time is the rate of decay, and the clock stated ticking in the garden. How long until Adam realized he was dying.

Sin fun for a season

It is true with mans sins. Sin is fun for a season. The parties are fun, for a while, and then they become empty. The relationships are fun until one day they notice something isn't right with their bodies, until the

reality of a lifetime responsibility is announced to them. The promotion was great, the money is great, until you lose your family because you were never there.

As we have said, your sin will never forget you, sin is patient, it will wait and as long as it has to, or a little as it may, but it will reveal itself, and you will have to live with it.

Always Consequence

There are consequences every decision there's consequences. The story of the garden isn't just a story from time's past. It's the story of time now and there's those here today you need to make a decision. and every decision's going to have a consequence. Even decisions that we wouldn't put into the sin category the transgression category it will still have a consequence in the question must be asked in every consequence, every decision how does this affect my relationship with the Lord God, will he be pleased with my decision? Will this decision lead me into a closer relationship with the Lord or a broken relationship with the Lord, and Lord, what is the greatest thing that I can do to glorify you? in this decision and a lot of times we just make decisions, and we move on because we believe they're everyday decisions.

I don't know if Eve considered how deep of the decision she was making at that moment. we would think so because we read in hindsight, but we don't know so because she may think she was just making one more decision of dinner lunch or breakfast that day. But of course, every decision that's a sinful decision has great consequences How does this decision affect my relationship with the Lord? How old does this decision affect my marriage? How does this decision affect my witness, my testimony before man? How does this decision? affect my children, and here we see in this decision a tremendous strain on a marriage. Evil still be a helpmate, but now she will be a helpmate to a fallen human being as to Adam, her decision just greatly increased the strain upon being a helpmate, and we need to recognize that ourselves. when we make decisions

Covered in Fig Leaves / Mans efforts to cover their sin

Covered themselves with Fig Leaves - ouch. That would be like wearing a burlap bag for underwear; a very rough and itchy material. What we have is Adam and Eve trying to cover their sin with their own efforts, it doesn't work. We say I'll just be a nice guy, do good works, serve at the church, donate to a good cause - but it is all Fig Leaves. Your works and efforts are all futile before the Lord; they can't cover your sin.

(Titus 3:5 NKJV) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

(Titus 3:6 NKJV) whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

(Isaiah 64:6 NKJV) But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

*(1 Samuel 15:22 NKJV) Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.***

Only God can Cover Us

Only the Lord can cover your sin:

(Genesis 3:21 NKJV) Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Look to the Other Tree!!!!!!!!!!

Mark 11 Fig tree

We always associate producing fruit for others, to bless others, but the first person wants to partake of the fruit you produce, is the Lord. In Mark 11 Jesus cursed the fig tree for not producing fruit. The leaves were there, but figs to satisfy the hunger of Christ. Our own works and efforts will never satisfy the requirement for sin, it will only leave us cursed.

(Mark 11:12 NKJV) Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.

(Mark 11:13 NKJV) And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

(Mark 11:14 NKJV) In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

It is my obedience that brings fruit for the Lord to partake in. Now if I am not satisfying and pleasing Christ first, then I'll never be able to satisfy my family. I have to satisfy Christ before I can feed another.

The Encounter in the Garden

The Savior & Mankind (3:8-24)

There's Always a "Searching" of God After a Sin (3:9-13)

Genesis 3:9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

Where are you / Greatest Failure / He still came – fellowship - florist

I am thankful for a God who says, "where are you?" A God who comes looking for man, even after his greatest failure. A God who still came to meet Adam just like they always did. Adam and God walked in the garden, they had sweet fellowship and communion. Adam would tend the garden, not as a laborer, but as a florist, to turn it into a sanctuary, a place he would worship and fellowship with his Creator. Even in Adam's sin, God still comes to meet him for their time of communion and fellowship in the garden.

Adam-bomb / all humanity plunged into darkness / Countdown

The Adam-Bomb had detonated, all of humanity would suffer from that moment on, yet God still comes looking for Adam; come walk with me. The countdown had begun for those 6 hours, those 6 cruel hours; the countdown had begun where the Creator would cry out, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? The clock had started, all of creation was plunged into the darkness of sin, yet God still comes to meet Adam for their daily communion, he still would love Adam to say, "where are you?".

Man would never seek out God

The Lord has to come to us, for man would never seek out God:

(Romans 3:10 NKJV) As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

(Romans 3:11 NKJV) There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

(Romans 3:12 NKJV) They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Horrible sin / Where are You / come walk / my creation

What you have done is horrible, yet I still come to you, and still say, "come walk with me in the cool of the day." I've created you Adam, you are mine, and some day I'll buy you back with my blood, and you will be twice mine.

Still says it today / bought with the blood / white as snow

The Father still says that today, to us here, "where are you?" Come walk with me. Yes what you have done is terrible, but I have created you, you are mine, and I bought you back with my blood, that makes you twice mine.

(Titus 3:4 NKJV) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

(Titus 3:5 NKJV) not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

(Titus 3:6 NKJV) whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

(Isaiah 1:18 NIV) "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

God comes to us / where are you / don't run / I can make all things new

God comes to us, like He came to Adam and says "where are you?", don't run, don't hide, I can, and I will make all things right, all things new, I am your Father, you are my child, I love you.

Never leave you / I've sought you out

God says 'I will never leave you, nor forsake you, remember you are twice mine'. I've come seeking you out, remember that, you did not seek me out, I was the one who said, where are you?

He kept His appointment garden / 6hours / meeting us

We can be thankful that just as He kept His appointment in the garden that day to meet Adam, just as sure as He kept His divine appointment for those six hours that Friday, He will keep His divine appointment to come get us or meet us.

Adams Story / your story/ where are you / come walk with me

The Garden was Adam's story, the thanksgiving story that He came and said, "where are you". Everyone has a thanksgiving story, a story of God saying to us, where are you, come walk with me.

take the example of the Father,

Christian, take the example of the Father, seek out those who are hiding. Don't be afraid to go look for a brother or sister and say, "where are you"? Where are you at with the Lord these days? Where have you been?, we haven't seen you at church. Satan's great lie to you will be, don't do it, people will accuse you of being a sin-sniffer. That is a lie from the pit, don't fall for it! Look at the Father; He is searching for them because of His love for them.

(Genesis 3:10 NKJV) So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

(Genesis 3:11 NKJV) And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

God starts a dialog / place of confession / lose its power over me

God starts a dialog with Adam to bring Adam to a place of confession. For when I bring my sin to God, confess it to Him, it is then and there that sin will lose its power over me, its grip that it has on me. The final forgiveness of sin has been given to us already, on the Cross. However, confession is for me, it keeps me in communion with the Lord.

1 John 1:9 - the Christian bar of Soap:

(1 John 1:8 NKJV) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(1 John 1:9 NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1 John 1:10 NKJV) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

"to agree with / to protect and to provide

The word "confess" means "to agree with." For when I come to the Lord, agree with Him that what I did was wrong, it is there that the Father can start to instruct me, talk with me, show me why these things are not good for me, and how to escape the snares of them. Remember God calls sin, sin because He hates what sin does to our lives, its destructive power. God calls sin, sin to protect and to provide for us. He wants to protect us from the pain that sin brings, and He wants to provide for us the wonderful things that come out of being obedient and not entering into that sin. Pick any sin, and you will see: Fornication; God wants to protect you from AIDS, STD, heartbreak, and He wants to provide you that joy that comes out of waiting for your spouse, enjoying that unity with no junk or gunk to defile it.

He disciplines us, instructs us

We agree with God, this is wrong, and He disciplines us, instructs us on how to live, and the power that sin has over us is diminished or utterly crushed, and we now have power over that area of our lives. If you do not confess, then sin keeps its hold over you and your life.

Genesis 3:12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

blame shifts / God is silent with Adam

Adam isn't agreeing here, instead he blame shifts. Adam blames Eve and God, but takes no responsibility in the sin - he plays the victim. It is important to note, God doesn't answer him back, God turns His attention to Eve (verse 13). God is silent with Adam. Anytime you are in sin, and God is silent, that is your place to speak, to confess.

ultimately blaming God

Now, anytime you blame another for your sin (your spouse, your parents, your pastor, your boss) you are ultimately blaming God. You are blaming God, for it was God who put that person in your life. Who allowed that person to be a part of your family, to be your co-worker, to come into your life, God did! So if

you are blaming someone else, saying I wouldn't have been in that situation if it weren't for them, I wouldn't have sinned if it wasn't for them, you are really blaming God for He allowed them in your life.

Free choice / escape temptation

God gives you free choice, for it to be love, there has to be free choice. It was called the tree of knowledge, for it meant that Adam and Eve knowingly chose to do their own thing, in direct rebellion to God's Word. God gives you that free choice, but He always give you a way out, He empowers you with His Spirit to escape the snare.

(1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

(Hebrews 2:18 NKJV) For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

(Hebrews 4:15 NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Victim / The "If Only" cry of the unrepentant / Perfect Environment

Temptation comes, man enters into it, knowingly (with his free choice), but then man wants to cry out and say he/she was a victim. If only my parents would have been better parents, if only I didn't live where I did, if only I was this, or wasn't this, If only you were there, or if only you weren't there - I would not have sinned. The "If Only" cry of the unrepentant, non-agreeing, sinner. Listen believer, Adam and Eve had the perfect parent, they had the perfect body and mind, they lived in the perfect environment, yet they knowingly chose sin, they knowingly chose to do their will, not the Father's will for their life. Each and every one of us could have all the so-called perfect situations, but it still comes down to, I knowingly chose to do this. For it is the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life:

Flesh / Eyes / Life

Every sin will fall into 1 or all three of the following:

(1 John 2:15 NKJV) Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(1 John 2:16 NKJV) For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world.

(1 John 2:17 NKJV) And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Lust of the Flesh - Feels good, tastes good. She "**saw that the tree was good for food**"

Lust of the Eyes - looks good, plus it was encouraged by the one who was the most beautiful in the garden – satan. Looks can be so deceiving. "**that it was pleasant to the eyes**"

The Pride of Life - makes you wise, look at me! "**a tree desirable to make one wise**"

Adam makes the "I'm a victim cry

Adam makes the "I'm a victim cry". If only it wasn't for her, if only it wasn't because of you - God. Nothing has changed in 6,000 years, except maybe for the fact that now there are millions of people and books that will support this deception and will say "its not your fault", "If Only.....".

Believer

Believer, you need to be entering into the dialogue of confession. The dialogue of I agree with you Father, your ways are true and right, I was wrong. It is in this dialogue that you can be freed from the power that sin has over your life, for it is in this dialogue that the Father can instruct and empower you on how to escape and overcome this sin. Don't hide in the bushes when you enter in sin, meet the Father and walk with Him at that appointed time, so that He may disciple you.

Church

Church, listen to me, don't play into another person's sin. Call sin for what it is, sin. Don't get sucked into their blame shifting. When you do, you enable them to continue in their unrepentance. You rob them from having to seek the Father, of coming before Him and starting a dialogue with Him that will lead them into discipleship and communion by the Father. You rob them from entering into the only power that can free them from their sin. You may help for a week or month, but eventually, unrepented sin will be

repeated again, and again, for it has never been dealt with in power, the power of the Spirit of the Living God.

Genesis 3:13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Eve Plays Blame Game

Eve plays the blame game. But notice here again, God doesn't respond, God is silent, we should be too, and like God only address the need of repentance and restoration.

The Encounter in the Garden

The Savior & Mankind (3:8-24)

There's Always a "Searching" of God After a Sin (3:9-13)

There's Always a "Covering" of God After a Sin (3:14-24)

Genesis 3:14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life.

Satan gets no say

I like this, Satan gets no say in the matter, he doesn't get to throw his comments in. Today he is the accuser of the brethren, but his inputs have no bearing on the matter, he may speak, but he really doesn't get any say in the matter. Satan accuses, God overrules, washed with the blood, spotless bride. Say another word about my bride and I will crush you right here!

Maddening for the Devil – eating Dust

You wanna see why the devil is mad and I mean in the mind is Adam was formed out of the dust of the earth and made into this beautiful amazing creature creation the image of God, the heart of God, and hear the devil even made down to the base molecules in your ground live in the dirt you live in the dust of the dirt you breathe it in and make you choke and you always remind you will never be that beautiful creation anymore of the angelic being that you were and you will surely never be. an image bearer of God, and thus the devil is mad in his mind.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

the greatest news / "protevangelium"

Right after the first and greatest failure, comes the greatest news. This verse is the first mention of the gospel. The theologians call this verse, the "protevangelium" which means the first gospel.

The good news, the Savior will come, and He will make things right.

Capital S

Notice the capital S in the word Seed? Jesus is the promised Seed:

(Galatians 4:4 KJV) But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (Satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (Satan) head, And you (Satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Head & Heel

Jesus will crush the head of the devil. The head in represents authority, and Satan's authority over man is based on sin, and it was crushed on the cross. But, the price to crush the power of sin was high, the only begotten Son paid the ransom.

(Isaiah 53:5 NKJV) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

(Isaiah 53:6 NKJV) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

relationships that were based on sin

It says there will be hostility between Satan and the woman. Eve and the serpent had this great conversation of enlightenment together at the tree, they hung out together, and now they are mortal enemies. I find that so true, relationships that were based on sin, relationships that are in direct violation to God's word, turn hostile. They turn bitter and resentful. Relationships steeped in sin, turn ugly at some point, because someone will be left hurt and empty, it is just a matter of time.

Genesis 3:16 To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Childbirth wasn't supposed to be this painful, thus it had to be entrusted to a woman.

Desire / Context of Curses / to Overflow / but will submit

Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." The root of this word desire means to "run after or over - to overflow". Some commentators say the desiring of the husband is a blessing to make-up for the pains of childbirth, but I don't see that. If we look at the curse upon the Serpent and Adam, there are no blessings imparted, just pure curse, and I believe the context stays the same of Eve, the desiring of her husband, is part of the curse. Her desire will be too great, and it will cause problems in the marriage. See the context, she will desire her husband, but he will rule. The woman's desire in the relationship is to control the relationship, to overflow it, to run after it or over it, to the point where she controls it, but God you will want to control it, but you will have to submit and let your husband lead it, for the woman can be easily deceived as she was in the garden. I always ask the husband, how would you like to be your wife, and have to submit to you? For most women, the pain of childbirth is nothing compared to the pain of submitting to their husband.

Establish order in the marriage / couldn't be left to itself

So God here is establishing the order in the marriage. God establishes it here, because it couldn't be left to itself. Put two sinners together and there will be problems. Both people will want to rule, lead the relationship, but God says the woman is to submit, and the man is to lead,.

Genesis 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

earth will not yield to the touch of Adam / mans protection

From paradise to prison. Adam goes from being a florist to a laborer. The earth will not yield to the touch of Adam like it did before the fall. The earth, and all of creation suffered in the fall also. This toil and labor is not just punishment, but it is also for man's protection. Too much time in the hands of any sinner is dangerous.

Sin of Sodom:

(Ezekiel 16:49 NKJV) "Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

(Ezekiel 16:50 NKJV) "And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

Genesis 3:18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

Crown of Thorns

The thorns, the same things our Lord would take, the crown of thorns. The crown of thorns represented that He took the curse upon himself, paying our price.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

God confirms death

God confirms His word to Adam, the day you eat it, you shall surely die. You may not feel it now Adam, but the decay has started, and someday your life as you breath it now will end. People may think they are getting away with their sin, but little do they realize their life is starting to decay, and their world beginning to crumble.

Genesis 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Eve Life Giver

Adam gives his wife a new name. She goes from "woman" meaning out of man, to "Eve" giver of life:

(Genesis 2:22 NKJV) Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

(Genesis 2:23 NKJV) And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

1st mention / "protevangelium" / the One who will crush

Adam sees that from Eve life will come. I believe that Adam doesn't just see childbirth, but he sees the first mention of the gospel, the "protevangelium". He sees that from Eve, the giver of Life will come. That from her, the One will come who will set all things right again. The One who will crush the serpents head, the authority of sin and death will be crushed. Adam looks at her and says in her is the ultimate giver of life, who we know His name to be Jesus. Maybe Adam didn't know His name would be Jesus, but he knew He would be the Savior. Adam now looks at his wife a whole new way, the Seed will come through her.

exceedingly respectful

Husband, do you see that, do you look at your wife and see Jesus in her? You, I, we, need to. We better be exceedingly respectful and careful with our relationship with her. Christ dwells in her, flows through her, has His hand upon her. When we see that Jesus is in her, it will change our marriage greatly, for the greater.

Genesis 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Adam Exercises Faith

So often missed because of chapter three as it's looked upon But Adam is actually exercising in his fallen state the first demonstration of faith that he believes even after his sin and his failing that God will still receive him, and that God will still walk with him, and that God will still be part of his marriage, and even after this fall, he exercises the faith. That God is still good. and that there is a future after sin after failing, and he calls his wife Eve, that there is still a relationship after the fall. He doesn't walk out on her. He stays with her so the two of them will walk together and be a helpmate together for one another.

Genesis 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" —

Genesis 3:23 therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

Adam saw the price of sin.

I wonder if Adam and Eve were there to see the death of the animal. If so, Adam saw the price of sin. God replaces the fig leaves, Adam and Eve's works to cover their sin, with the shed blood of an animal. As we have said before, only God can cover our sin; that day in the garden He cover it with a sacrificed animal, 4,000 years later He will cover man's sin once and for all with His own blood.

Genesis 3:24 So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

That tree is now in heaven (Rev 2:7 & 22:2), for the healing of the nations.

(Revelation 2:7 KJV) He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

(Revelation 22:2 KJV) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

two angels in this garden

Interesting there were two angels in this garden, and there were two angels at the garden tomb on the day of resurrection. In Eden, the way was closed to the tree of life, but at that garden tomb the way to the tree of life was opened to all that would receive it.

We now have victory over the curse, Ohh death where is your sting!

(1 Corinthians 15:55 KJV) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Imprisoned Forever

When I was growing up and there was a TV show that I probably wouldn't recommend today. But it was called The Twilight Zone. It was in black and white. I never remember it ever making it the color. That's how old it is. but it was the big hit show and yet interestingly to me, I only remember one, even though I probably saw them all. but ever fitting the one that I remember was about a man whom made a deal with the devil. and the devil told him I will give you eternal life and it will be that you will never die on this earth never only give me your soul forever to which the man took up the deal, and the man took up the deal, knowing that he would never die, and therefore he would never age. And so he took advantage of it in the fleshly way he'd walk in front of cars, and get run over, but not die so he'd foul laws suit and win. millions of dollars and he did all kinds of schemes like that that I don't remember all the ways, but he would set himself up for tremendous physical harm, never die, sue and win money.

And he thought that he had made the greatest deal because he would never die, and he' have all the wealth and riches of the world. He could use people and move on because they would eventually die, but he wouldn't.

But the twist as to show would always be as he entered into something that should have got him the death penalty, and he laughed about it the whole way until he went to court and instead of being sentenced to the death penalty, which he couldn't die and therefore he would not reap the consequences. The judge sentenced him the life in prison, and then it ends with them taken him into a little six by six prison cell, where he would spend for ever imprisoned, and then the door shuts.

And that's what would have happened here. man would be imprisoned in their sin, decay and wickedness, taken advantage of one another, destroying one another imprisoned in a living hell, never being able to change and always being wicked, and here in God's great grace, he takes this tree so the man would not live forever in this wicked state. P But he gives man hope that he can change, and he can be made new, and he can live forever, not on this earth, but in heaven, but for any man who rejects the covering they will face eternity in hell forever.

Nothing Would Make Sense – Now It All Does

Nothing will make sense in this whole world and in our whole lives personally, apart from understanding chapters 1, 2 and 3 Genesis. But when we look and understand chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Genesis, then everything in life will make sense even in so much senselessness that we see throughout the world,

In chapter 1 the mighty God creating a whole universe, with the crowning jewel, mankind. Chapter 2 we see we are fearfully and wonderfully made for fellowship with God. Chapter 3 the encounter in the garden, the fall of man, and all the consequences that came with it; and yet God is always searching out man, even after the greatest failing, coming with words of love, where are you? And then God provides a covering for sin. Now life makes sense, even with so much senselessness around us in a fallen world, life makes sense. I know why I do what I do, and yet I know who He is and what He does and what He can do in my life through the covering, in the communion and the fellowship with the one who created me for fellowship. Someday this world will be over. This life will be past; and I have a future of walking with Hm in the garden (perfect heaven) again in perfect, unbroken fellowship, in the cool of the day, because of the Lamb who is slain for me.

Outline: The Encounter in the Garden

The Serpent & Mankind (3:1-8)

There's Always an "Indeed" with the Devil (3:1-5)

There's Always a Consequence in Every Decision (3:6-8)

The Savior & Mankind (3:8-24)

There's Always a Searching of God After a Sin (3:9-13)

There's Always a Covering of God After a Sin (3:14-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

If I Was the Devil

If I were the Prince of Darkness

I'd want to engulf the

Whole world in darkness

And I'd have a third of it's real estate

And four-fifths of it's population

But I wouldn't be happy until I had seized

The ripest apple on the tree – thee

So I'd set about however necessary to

Take over the United States

I'd subvert the churches first

I'd begin with a campaign of whispers

With the wisdom of a serpent

I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve

"Do as you please"

To the young I would whisper that

The Bible is a myth

I would convince them that man created God

Instead of the other way around

I would confide that what's bad is

Good and what's good is square

And the old, I would teach to pray after me

Our Father – which art in Washington

And then I'd get organized

I'd educate authors in

How to make lurid literature exciting

So that anything else would

Appear dull and uninteresting

I'd threaten TV with dirtier
Movies and vice versa
I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could
I'd sell alcohol to ladies
And gentlemen of distinction
I'd tranquilize the rest with pills
If I were the Devil I'd soon
Have families at war with themselves
Churches at war with themselves
And nations at war with themselves
Until each in it's turn, was consumed
And with promises of higher ratings
I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames
If I were the Devil I would
Encourage schools to refine young intellects
But neglect to discipline emotions
Just let those run wild!
Until before you knew it
You'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and
Metal detectors at every schoolhouse door
Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing
I'd have judges promoting pornography
Soon I could evict God from the courthouse
Then from the schoolhouse
And then from the houses of congress
And in His own churches I would substitute
Psychology for religion and deify science
I would lure priests and
Pastors into misusing
Boys and girls and church money
If I were the Devil
I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg
And the symbol of Christmas a bottle
If I were the Devil
I would take from those who have
And give to those who wanted
Until I had killed the
Incentive of the ambitious what will you bet
I could get whole states to promote gambling
As the way to get rich
I would caution against extremes
In hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct
I would convince the young that
Marriage is old fashioned
That swinging is more fun
That what you see on TV is the way to be
And thus, I could undress you in public
And I could lure you into bed
With diseases for which there is no cure
In other words, if I were the Devil
I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing
(Speech was broadcast by ABC Radio commentator Paul Harvey on April 3, 1965)"

Passage: Genesis 4

Title: Your Offering

Summary: In our passage today, we study the story of Cain and Abel; and the whole matter was based on and began with Cain's wrong attitude and understanding of what God requires of a sacrifice/ offering. This passage is vital to our understanding of sacrifices and offerings made unto the Lord, because in Romans 12:1-2, we are called to be "Living Sacrifices/Offerings". Genesis 4 will lay the foundation for us so that we might be a pleasing sacrifice/ offering unto the Lord.

Outline: Genesis 4:1-26

- The Binding after Breaking in a Marriage (4:1)
- Your Offering (4:2-5)
- Sin Waits at the Door for You (4:6-8)
- The God who Searches for You (4:9)
- Owning Your Sin (4:10-15)
- The Family Lineage Starts with You (4:16-24)
- When Men Calls Upon the Name of the Lord (4:25-26)

Prayer

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- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Binding after Breaking in a Marriage (4:1)

Genesis 4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."

- Pray for marriages – they are worth fighting for.
 - You don't have to be married long to realize how flawed you are, how selfish, how words have meaning. If any couple could claim "irreconcilable differences" here is the couple (I cant believe you did that to me, to us, oh what you have done to this marriage). Here we see Adam and Eve did not let the fall, the failure, the lie be a death blow to their marriage. Here we see them coming together and..... moving on together.
- Move On Together
 - And, although the obvious, I wish more couples would enact the "Adam & Eve Principal", you hurt me, you failed me, you damaged our marriage, I am moving on to someone else. Hey when Adam said, this is bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, that was his marriage vow until death do them part (some 930 years), even if there was "no one" to move unto. Christian settle today, bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh, there is nowhere and no one else to go.
- What lie has devil told you about your marriage?
 - Satan has all kinds of lies to tell you after fail each other; after hurtful words, hurtful responses, hurtful actions or inactions. But unity can be had by coming to the Lord and

saying forgive me for not loving my spouse, not cherishing, not treasuring, taking them for granted, and then go to them and ask for forgiveness as well. I'm sure the Devil thought he had brought humanity to death through the fall not only spiritually, but physically..... because had Adam and Eve separated, so would be the end of humanity; but not at all, and they were fruitful and multiplied, and here we are today.

Your Offering 4:2-5)

Genesis 4:2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

Genesis 4:3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord.

Genesis 4:4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering,

Genesis 4:5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

- Must come to God on His terms
 - Whatever the case was, we can see that Cain sought to come to the Lord on Cain's terms, not God's term. As it was then, so it is today, man must come to God on God's terms alone, and those terms are clearly prescribed here in the Word of God.
- Respect – God would not even look at it
 - The word respect means “to look upon”, and so here we see the Lord won't even look at Cain's offering,
- Leviticus had meal (grain) offering
 - Many will say that Cain brought the wrong offering, that he should have brought the offering of an animal and not the ground, and then make the assumption that he was prideful and brought the works of his hands. Maybe so, however the issue there is that when the time comes for the sacrificial system of the Nation of Israel, a grain offering was acceptable.
 - *Leviticus 2:1* 'When anyone offers a grain offering to the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour. And he shall pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it.
- Do well - he knew what well was
 - Whatever the requirement was, Cain knew what it was to do well, because verse 7 we clearly see “if you do well”, meaning Cain knows what well mean, and there is no questioning or confusion of him asking the Lord for clarity. His offering was not faith based (like Abel's was), therefore it was self-based
 - *Hebrews 11:4 (NKJV)* ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
- Matthew 12:7 – I desire mercy - mercy and love are the acceptable sacrifice
 - I see at the minimum in this story, is that Cain has an issue of anger and resentment towards his brother Abel for whatever reason. We know Abel came by faith, his offering by faith was a “righteous one” (right before God). Why kill Abel because Cain's offering was rejected? I am reminded of Matthew 12 (context is Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, and relationship with Him supersedes all of man and his self-righteous rules), God says I want mercy well beyond whatever sacrifice you bring. Jesus would say if you have a problem with your brother and you know you caused it, leave you gift at the altar and go reconcile. God want mercy over any offering
 - *Matthew 12:7* But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless.
 - *Matthew 5:23–24 (NKJV)* ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.
- 1 John – If you say I love God yet hate brother you are a liar
 - The Word tells us, we deceive ourselves if we say we love God yet don't have love for one another. And so I believe God speaks a great message to us, that the offering He wants for us

- is that we are to love one another, and if we bring buckets of money, mop miles of floors in the church, and yet have not love for one another, all our offerings He can't even look at it.
- [1 John 4:20–21 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.
 - Hebrews 13:15 - sacrifice of praise - every sacrifice is meant to be an act of worship
 - Whether it is loving one another, serving in the body or at the home, giving to the Lord and the poor, leading worship, teaching a Bible study..... What our hearts should be, is that whatever we do and give, it is about the attitude of the heart, and that we are doing it with an attitude of worship unto the Lord..... because He is worthy.
 - [Hebrews 13:15 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
 - [Colossians 3:23 \(NKJV\)](#) ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,
 - [1 Corinthians 10:31 \(NKJV\)](#) ³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.
 - Revelation 4:11 – because we have been made for His good pleasure
 - [Revelation 4:11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
 - Rom 12:1-2 – We are called to be Living Sacrifices
 - [Romans 12:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
 - Tozer Quote
 - W. Tozer - The man whom God will use must be undone. He must be a man who has seen the King in His beauty. Isaiah 6:1–8; 1 John 1:1–3; Revelation 4:1–8 (Whatever Happened to Worship?, 78.)

[Sin Waits at the Door for You \(4:6-8\)](#)

Genesis 4:6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

Genesis 4:8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

- The hereditary disease
 - So sin is a heredity disease, and Cain inherited it from his dad Adam.
 - [Romans 5:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—
- Lie - crouching like a lion - roaring lion
 - The word "lie" is the word that means like a lion waiting to pounce on its prey. Of course, because the devil is like a roaring lion.
 - [1 Peter 5:8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
- Rule – sin is a cruel taskmaster
 - The word rule means to control, and sin is a cruel and brutal taskmaster.
- Speaking to all the generations to come
 - But the Lord is speaking to all of us, this is more than a story about Cain, but us as well. Be on guard, for sin is right at the door, meaning it is just waiting for us, to open the door and let it in.
- I can only rule over sin through power of Holy Spirit - for desire is not enough
 - Beloved, sin desires you, to destroy to you. But, us simply having a desire to overcome it, to not let it rule us, will never be enough. We must call upon the Lord, ask for the empowering of His Holy Spirit to help us overcome and be victorious. He will not violate our free-will and overcome sin without our say in the matter; how do I know that, because of our text before us God is offering Cain victory, but Cain gets to decide if he want that victory
 - [John 10:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

- [Ephesians 1:19–20 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

The God who Searches for You (4:9)

Genesis 4:9 Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?”

- If we confess gives God basis to forgive (escape foothold of sin ruling over us)
 - Here we see the God who searches us out after we fall. He is searching you out right now maybe after you fall. He is seeking a confession, so He has a basis to forgive us. Do you realize that? That is why He seeks us, so to forgive us, and then empower us through confession to live victorious over that sin and not let it rule us. To not confess, gives sin the upper hand, the foothold to “rule” over us.
 - [1 John 1:9 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- Who stands at the door and knocks – Revelation 3:20 present active verb - continually knock
 - We know the calling for us to keep ask, keep seeking, and keep knocking, until we get what we ask for, I love Revelation 3:20, as the Lord does the same, as He keeps standing, He keeps knocking, saying let Me in, so we can talk and restore fellowship
 - [Revelation 3:20 \(NKJV\)](#) ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.
 - [Matthew 7:7 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
 - [Isaiah 1:18 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.
- Salvation not far away- Romans 10:9-10
 - Maybe you are here today and you are wondering what you need to do to be saved from your sin. Well let me tell you that you don’t have to find a way to climb into heaven (because you can’t) nor some great works to do here on earth, because there are none (Ephesians 2:8-10). Heaven is not far away, not is God, He is just a confession away with your mouth, and belief in your heart (Romans 10:9-10)
 - [Isaiah 64:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.
 - [Ephesians 2:8–10 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
 - [Romans 10:9–10 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Owning Your Sin (4:10-15)

Genesis 4:10 And He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.

Genesis 4:11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.

Genesis 4:12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.”

Genesis 4:13 And Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear!

Genesis 4:14 Surely You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground; I shall be hidden from Your face; I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond on the earth, and it will happen that anyone who finds me will kill me.”

Genesis 4:15 And the Lord said to him, “Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the Lord set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.

- Cain you killed a man – (Lamech will be the same)
 - Do you notice that Cain cries about his punishment, not his murder. We see no repentance in his language, in fact he is making himself to be a victim in many ways with his “woe is me story”. We

do not see godly sorrow, because we do not see repentance, a change of heart and sorrow for what he did to his brother and the Lord. He takes no ownership of his sin, and therefore God can't set him free from his sin, and himself.

- [2 Corinthians 7:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.
- Builds city instead a vagabond
 - We will see in verse 17 that he builds a city, rather than become a nomad, a vagabond, a man without a country. Again, no sorrow, but defiance, and his children will pay for it.
- The Mark
 - We don't know what the mark was, but lots of strange doctrines have been made to make it clearly something that is was not. God set an identifying and protective mark upon Cain. Despite the speculation of some, nobody really knows what this mark upon Cain was.

[The Family Lineage Starts with You \(4:16-24\)](#)

Genesis 4:16 Then Cain went out from the presence of the Lord and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.

Genesis 4:17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. And he built a city, and called the name of the city after the name of his son—Enoch.

Genesis 4:18 To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.

Genesis 4:19 Then Lamech took for himself two wives: the name of one was Adah, and the name of the second was Zillah.

Genesis 4:20 And Adah bore Jabal. He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock.

Genesis 4:21 His brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the harp and flute.

Genesis 4:22 And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron. And the sister of Tubal-Cain was Naamah.

Genesis 4:23 Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me.

Genesis 4:24 If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

- Where did Cain get wife
 - Always the question where did Cain get his wife, and it is obvious from the birthing of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve, at this point, are about a hundred and thirty-four years old. If they had Cain and Abel in the first couple of years of their existence on the planet and if they had a child every two years after that there would have been at least seventy brothers and sisters. Those brothers and sisters that were born in the early years could have been married and if they had produced children at the rate of one every two years, there could have been several hundred people on the earth by this time (Pastor Chuck).
 - As we get into the genealogies, there is something very important to note. The Bible does not attempt to give us a genealogy of everyone. In fact they don't say how many sons and daughters there are, only that there are sons and daughters. Another presumption, as we read the genealogies, is thinking the first child named is the first born. This is not necessarily so. The reason that child was named first was that it was going to be in the lineage to bring us to Abraham and finally bring us to Jesus Christ. The Bible is only interested in tracing one family line and that is back to Abraham and from Abraham back to Noah and from Noah back to Adam. Many times it isn't the first born that comes into the genealogy line. David was the fifth child of his parents, but is named because he fits into the genealogy line of Christ. In the abbreviated account of the genealogy, it doesn't talk about David's other brothers, but only that Jesse begat David. That is why the Bible will say someone was a hundred and thirty-five years old and he begat, etc. It doesn't tell you how many children he had before because the Bible isn't interested in those lines. It is only interested in those lines which bring Jesus Christ into the world. So, Cain took a wife. Whether it was a sister, we don't know; but, this would be no problem. The blood

strain at that time was pure and close intermarriage would not produce the same problems as intermarriage today would produce (Pastor Chuck).

- Lineage - agriculture - music - ironworks before the flood –
 - Notice the intelligence and skills of these early people. Ironworks, agriculture, music.....they were not “caveman”.
- Lamech is not being honest about his sin, therefore he will never be delivered from his sin
 - Now we read of Lamech (not the father of Noah by the way), and like Cain he isn’t honest with his sin, and he doesn’t own it, thus he doesn’t repent with sorrow, in fact he makes himself a victim, and that he had to defend himself. I see this because he said God would avenge him just like He promised to do for Cain. He seems to correlate that Abel wounded Cain and hence why Cain killed Abel; and that as this man wounded him he had to kill him. Lamech adds a presupposition that he is right and justified in killing, and God will protect him because he is a victim. Again, no repentance or sorrow that he took a life, or two wives for that matter.
- Not one descendant of Cain survives the flood
 - As we follow the lineage of Cain, we will see not one of his descendants will survive the flood
 - To which I say and extend to all of us here today, the family lineage starts with you. You don’t have to follow the same lineage your father/mother started if it was a poor one; even if a good one (and I pray it was), you still get to start your lineage, and let your offsprings see a godly heritage that is and was, a Living Sacrifice, for God’s glory.
 - [Romans 12:1–2 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Lineage Jonathan Edwards & Max Jukes
 - An American educator, A.E. Winship decided to trace the descendants of Jonathan Edwards almost 150 years after his death. His findings are remarkable, especially when compared to another man from the same time period known as Max Jukes.
 - Jonathan Edwards’ legacy includes: 1 U.S. Vice-President, 1 Dean of a law school, 1 dean of a medical school, 3 U.S. Senators, 3 governors, 3 mayors, 13 college presidents, 30 judges, 60 doctors, 65 professors, 75 Military officers, 80 public office holders, 100 lawyers, 100 clergymen, and 285 college graduates.
 - How may this be explained? Edwards was a godly man, but he was also hard working, intelligent and moral. Furthermore, Winship states, “Much of the capacity and talent, intensity and character of the more than 1,400 of Edwards’ family is due to Mrs. Edwards.”
 - Max Jukes’ legacy came to people’s attention when the family trees of 42 different men in the New York prison system were traced back to him. He lived in New York at about the same period as Edwards. The Jukes family originally was studied by sociologist Richard L. Dugdale in 1877.
 - Jukes’ descendants included: 7 murderers, 60 thieves, 190 prostitutes, 150 other convicts, 310 paupers, and 440 who were physically wrecked by addiction to alcohol. Of the 1,200 descendants that were studied, 300 died prematurely.
 - These contrasting legacies provide an example of what some call the five-generation rule. “How a parent raises their child — the love they give, the values they teach, the emotional environment they offer, the education they provide — influences not only their children but the four generations to follow, either for good or evil.” What a challenging thought! If someone studied your descendants four generations later, what would you want them to discover? Do you want an Edwards’ legacy or a Jukes’ legacy? The life you live will determine the legacy you leave!

[When Men Calls Upon the Name of the Lord \(4:25-26\)](#)

Genesis 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.”

Genesis 4:26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

- Seth means compensation - God ministers to us in our pain

- Even after loss, God ministers to Eve by giving new life in this son called Seth, which his name means “compensation”
- Enosh means man - man Call upon Him and let him minister to You
 - This is the beginning of prayer, and God is moved by prayer, as prayer is the heart of man saying Lord, I am but a man, and I need You to move in my life, in my situation, in this place I am at. I rest in prayer, because I know God is moved with compassion when he sees my needs, in my weakness, of me crying out to Him, Lord help me! God wants to minister to you – call (to make request, appeal, ask for information) to Him. In Jeremiah (33:3), we are told to call so He can show us great and mighty things.
 - **Matthew 14:14 (NKJV)** ³⁴ And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.
 - **Mark 1:41 (NKJV)** ⁴¹ Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out *His* hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.”
 - **Matthew 20:34 (NKJV)** ³⁴ So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.
 - **Mark 6:34 (NKJV)** ³⁴ And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.
 - **Luke 15:20 (NKJV)** ²⁰ “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.
 - **Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV)** ³ ‘Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’

Summary: In our passage today, we study the story of Cain and Abel; and the whole matter was based on and began with Cain’s wrong attitude and understanding of what God requires of a sacrifice/offering. This passage is vital to our understanding of sacrifices and offerings made unto the Lord, because in Romans 12:1-2, we are called to be “Living Sacrifices/Offerings”. Genesis 4 will lay the foundation for us so that we might be a pleasing sacrifice/offering unto the Lord.

Outline: Genesis 4:1-26

- The Binding after Breaking in a Marriage (4:1)
- Your Offering (4:2-5)
- Sin Waits at the Door for You (4:6-8)
- The God who Searches for You (4:9)
- Owning Your Sin (4:10-15)
- The Family Lineage Starts with You (4:16-24)
- When Men Calls Upon the Name of the Lord (4:25-26)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Passage: Genesis 5

Title: The Family Album

Summary: Here we have the family album, that all of us are descendants of and from, and we will be blessed tremendously as we read not of boring genealogy, but God's amazing grace, all the way from Adam to you and me.

Outline: Genesis 5

- The Day God Created Mankind (You) – (5:1-2)
- Man Lives and Dies – (5:3-20)
- Enoch Walked with God – (5:21-24)
- As it Was in the Days of Noah – (5:25-32)

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In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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The Day God Created Mankind (You) – (5:1-2)

Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.

Genesis 5:2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

- As we deal with the genealogies of the Bible,
 - we find many interesting things. It is important to note that the Bible is only interested, at this time, in tracing the line from Adam to Noah. Later on it will trace the line from Noah to Abraham and from Abraham to David and then from David to Jesus Christ. We are only interested in one family and that is the one that will lead us to Jesus Christ.
 - In some places of the Bible it branches off into certain generations, but then is cut off. In chapter four, we just finished reading about seven generations of Cain's descendents and then it was cut off, because we are not interested in Cain's descendents. We are only interested in the line that brings us to Jesus Christ, thus here in the fifth chapter other sons and daughters are not named. To assume that one named is the first born son is not necessarily so. It is the one that will bring us to Noah and that's the line we're interested in, here in the fifth chapter of Genesis. When it says Seth lived a hundred and five years and begat Enos; it doesn't mean he didn't begat other children in this time, but only that Enos is the line to Noah and the one the Bible is interested in following.
 - Mind you, as we read the genealogy, we are on the path to the ark, to Shem, to Abraham, to Jesus; the comparison of chapter 4 and the genealogy of Cain, is a lineage that died, and not one person got on the ark, and all died in that ungodly line. What lineage will we leave and lead?
- Bara versus Asa
 - Bara (means to create out of nothing – thus a supernatural event); Asa (means to create out of existing materials). We saw in Genesis 1, God speak (bara) the world into existence out of nothing, and then begin to create somethings out of existing things (such as sun and moon,

animals large and small). Interestingly to me, is that God uses both words here in chapter 5, as He did in chapter 1. Some say that is confusing, but to me not at all. God created man out of the existing dirt that was first created out of nothing; a God who was willing to get His hands dirty for His treasure, man; but man is more than a clay vessel, to be the image of God man needs something that is outside this earth, outside this world, something that is created supernaturally, and that is the spirit and soul of man. Every one of us, created uniquely and intimately by God Himself. Oh beloved, you are not here by chance, you are no accident, and you not anything less than a masterful treasure created from the very heart of God! Live like it!!

- **Genesis 5:1–2 (NKJV)** ¹ This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created (bara) man, He made (asah) him in the likeness of God. ² He created (bara) them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created (bara).
- We were made for His good pleasure,
 - Revelation 4:11 and as Psalm 119:73 goes on to say, give me understanding that I might learn your commandments. And so the Lord speaks to us today that we might learn how to be living sacrifices, how to offer ourselves completely and holy to him, for in it is where we will find life in that more abundant in the lives of this world will not be able to imprison us and chain us and consume us into a life that's less than all that God has for us, and I pray that we may be open for God to do a work that he desires to do in us as he touches us to day again and he touches our hearts, calls us away that he might speak into our lives. The creator of the universe wants to touch you again.
 - **Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)** ¹¹ "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."
 - **Psalm 119:73 (NKJV)** ⁷³ Your hands have made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.
 - **Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)** ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- Family Tree
 - We're reading family tree here of us. Every one of us we know we are through the line of Adam, but we're also through the line of Seth. and then through Seth or through the line of Noah, so we have a family tree here that all of us are part of and you know what? you're in a room. We're all family. spiritually and through lineage. I'm not sure if you've ever considered that, but we have family here and you're welcome to make yourself comfortable here as family. to be loved and to love. to enjoy each other. as family. No one here has to be alone. No one here has to come and go like this isn't their home. I would just pray for you to make this your home. Get comfortable here. Make friends make family, meet your brothers and sisters, have some fun time as family, have some serious times as family have some time a fellowship as family, have some time of joy as family because we're all family Genesis chapter 5 wants to remind us of that

Man Lives and Dies – (5:3-20)

Genesis 5:3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

Genesis 5:4 After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:5 So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.

Genesis 5:6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh.

Genesis 5:7 After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:8 So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.

Genesis 5:9 Enosh lived ninety years, and begot Cainan.

Genesis 5:10 After he begot Cainan, Enosh lived eight hundred and fifteen years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:11 So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died.

Genesis 5:12 Cainan lived seventy years, and begot Mahalalel.

Genesis 5:13 After he begot Mahalalel, Cainan lived eight hundred and forty years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:14 So all the days of Cainan were nine hundred and ten years; and he died.

Genesis 5:15 Mahalalel lived sixty-five years, and begot Jared.

Genesis 5:16 After he begot Jared, Mahalalel lived eight hundred and thirty years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:17 So all the days of Mahalalel were eight hundred and ninety-five years; and he died.

Genesis 5:18 Jared lived one hundred and sixty-two years, and begot Enoch.

Genesis 5:19 After he begot Enoch, Jared lived eight hundred years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:20 So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.

- He died / the consequence of the Fall
 - Notice the thread woven through here, "and he died". We will read that eight times in this chapter. The curse and its consequences come to pass. Be sure Christian, you will reap what you sow. God's Word is true.
 - Every time we read that he died, it makes a liar out of Satan who says surely you shall not die. I love it when the Lord's word slaps down the devil puts his lies in place and lets the word of God elevate and rise above, and we can take that every word slaps down the lies of the devil that he says about you and your marriage and about your ministry and your children and your worth and all these things slaps down the devil's lies and elevates what God thinks of you precious in the sight of the Lord treasure worth the cross and going to it to buy you for his inheritance for the joy that was set before him despite the shame endured the cross. I love it when the word of God slaps down the lies of the devil.
 - Genesis chapter 5 gives a genealogy of Adam. It is no coincidence the each name has a meaning, and when you put the names together, it has a message for us. (Chuck Missler)
 - Adam --Man (is)
 - Seth --Appointed
 - Enosh --Mortal
 - Cainan --Sorrow (but)
 - Mahalalel --The Blessed God
 - Jared --Shall come down
 - Enoch --Teaching
 - Methuselah --His death shall bring
 - Lamech --The Dispairing
 - Noah --Comfort, Rest

Matthew 1:1–17 (NKJV) ¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. ⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. ¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. ¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. ¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Matthew 1:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

- **Tamar: Dispels Your Families Past**
- **(Matthew 1:2 NKJV)** Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.
- **(Matthew 1:3 NKJV)** Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.
- Tamar – Sons of Judah – Custom / Black Widow / Withholds 3rd Son / Prostitute - Perez

- The story of Tamar is told in Genesis 38. If you recall Judah's firstborn son married Tamar, but he died. So the custom was the next brother would marry her to carry on the other brother's name, so the 2nd son married her and he died. So now Judah is a little concerned thinking there is something wrong with the girl, the black widow story or something. So he says my 3rd son is still a youth, wait until he matures, and then he will marry you, but Judah had no intention of ever giving his last son to her. Tamar waited, but finally figured it out herself. So she heard Judah was on his way to town one day, she dressed like a prostitute, covered her face with a veil, and stood by the way waiting for him. Judah sees her, has relations, Tamar becomes pregnant with child – **Perez, who is King David's great times 8 grandfather.**
- Bible Reports the Truth / Be Real with Him!
 - This is a strange story, but I appreciate this about the Bible, it tells the story in its entirety, in full truth, not trying to hide or cover anything. These are real stories about real people, and we read about them and can relate to them. We see that if God forgives them, then He will forgive us. Beloved you can be real with Him, you can be honest with Him..... there is no need to hide anything from Him, and when you come and just fully "be real – be honest" with Him, then you are on your way to Him doing something about it.
- Proud of Family Purity Lineage / Blemish to Skip Over / God Lists Her
 - The Jews were proud, trusted in "Family Purity", the ability to trace their family purity, and tell who is in their lineage. Tamar takes care of that, they can't say they are perfect now, Tamar is a blemish everyone would rather skip over...but God lists her in the genealogy of the Messiah.....and God says to you.
- Let These Words Never / Family Messed Up
 - Let these Word's never past from your lips again: God won't receive me, God can't use me because.....my family's past is so messed up
- All Believers / Family Messed Up / God Can't Use Me
 - For all you who are believers, you may say I'm a little embarrassed with my families past, stuff went on that wasn't normal. God can't use me; He can't restore me because of my families past.
- Past Marriage – Relationships – Ashamed / No One Want Me /
 - Some of you who are from divorced families or divorced yourself, may say I will never be able to have another relationship, things happened in my past marriage that I am ashamed of...no one will ever want me. I've talked to so many people who said they were in abusive marriages, now have kids, they think no one would want to be with them, ...God says wrong...he proves it here with Tamar...messed up family past and everything, yet she is in the lineage of the Messiah.
- God Will Use You – Godly Marriage / Can Have Godly Relationship / Don't Settle for Less
 - God can and will use you to be that godly husband or wife that has a marriage that brings glory to God, and children who grow up knowing and loving him. So many people are deceived into believing that they can never have a godly relationship because their past family was messed up. And sadly, they settle for 2nd best, robbing themselves of all that God would have for them.
- Let these Words Never
 - Let these Word's never past from your lips again: God won't receive me, God can't use me because.....my family's past is so messed up.
- 2nd Wall
 - Matthew 1:5 Here goes the second wall

- **Rahab: Dispels Your Past Reputation**
- **(Matthew 1:4 NKJV) Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon.**
- **(Matthew 1:5 NKJV) Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,**
- Rahab – Card Carrying Prostitute / Joshua 2 / People Spoke about Her
 - Rahab was a prostitute a card carrying prostitute, everybody knew her. Her story is in Joshua chapter 2. If you recall she was the woman who hid the 2 spies as they scouted out Jericho for invasion and destruction. I need not go into the details of prostitution, but simply to say with every experience she would lose a piece of herself, become void and empty inside, and everywhere she went she knew what people were saying about her.
- Jewish Pride – Sexual Purity / Adultery Stoned in Manure Pit / King David Great Great
 - The Jews were so proud, took such trust, in their “Sexual Purity”. If someone was caught in adultery or pregnant out of wedlock they would take them to the town square, put them in a pit filled with manure up to their knees and then stone them to death so they would fall into the manure. The story of Rahab takes care of that... **Her son is the great-great granddad of King David.** She was a prostitute, yet she is in the lineage of the Messiah.. And God says to you today,
- Let These Words / Past Reputation
 - Let these Word’s never past from your lips again: God won’t receive me, God can’t use me because.....my past reputation is so bad
- God Cant Use Me / Rahab Hall of Faith / Risked Everything for God
 - You may say my reputation is so low, God can’t use me. Rahab is listed in the Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. A prostitute in the hall of faith, there is room for you and me. A tremendous woman, not because she was a harlot, but even with her limited knowledge and understanding she risked everything, believing the God of Israel was the True and Living God.
 - *(Hebrews 11:31 NKJV) By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.*
- Maybe You Say That / Promiscuous – Drugs - Alcohol
 - Maybe you say, my reputation is so low God will never use me in the ministry. See I was promiscuous before I was saved, I did drugs, alcohol, an adulterer. God can give you a new reputation.
- 15 Year Class Reunion / No Preaching
 - My 15 year class reunion I went. I woke that morning saying Lord I don’t want to go see people I haven’t seen in 15 years and say, you’re going to hell. I just didn’t feel like preaching. God said your testimony will be your witness. I said ok, not sure what that means, but ok. So I get up there, and they are giving out these nominations. My friend Bobby was voted most unlikely career profession. Bob was a great menace to the teachers, they hated him, and today he is a principle of a high school. I was picked greatest changed life. When I went up, I was asked to explain...I got to tell them about Jesus. God gave me a new reputation. Rahab’s new reputation is a woman of faith, she was a prostitute, yet she is in the lineage of the Messiah.
- Let These Words
 - Let these Word’s never past from your lips again: God won’t receive me, God can’t use me because..... my past reputation is so bad
- 3rd Wall
 - Matthew 1:5 Here goes the third wall

- Ruth: Dispels Your Religious Background
- **(Matthew 1:5 NKJV) Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse,**
- Ruth – Gentile / Toilet bowl / Can't enter Temple
 - Ruth: was a Moabite, a gentile, and Moab was God' toilet bowl. At Ruth's time there was a law which said a no Moabite or Ammonite could enter into the temple of God because they came against the children of Israel after they left Egypt.
- Jews Proud – Racial Purity – No Gentiles / Unclean – Burn Clothes / Ruth takes Care of that
 - The Jews were so proud, took such trust in their "Racial Purity", free of pollution, gentile free. Not only would a Jew not relate to a gentile, but if they accidentally touched a gentile they would go home and burn their clothes. Jews would say look at my lineage...Jew begets Jew. Paul talks about being a Hebrew of Hebrews in Philippians 3:5. Ruth takes care of that, her son Obed is King David's granddad, she was from God's toilet bowl, banned from the temple, yet she is in the lineage of the Messiah.... and God says to you:
- Let These Words / Religious Background
 - Let these Word's never past from your lips again: God won't receive me, God can't use me because.....I have no religious background
- You May Say / Not Raised in Church – Saved Late In Life / No Formal Training
 - You may say my background is terrible, I wasn't raised in the church, or I went to church but didn't understand it. God can't use me, he can only use people who were saved since they were three, or I have no Formal Training. Ruth takes care of that. She came from Moab, only thing she knew of God she learned from her mother in-law Naomi, yet it was enough to make her follow. She said your God will be my God:
 - (Ruth 1:16 NKJV) But Ruth said: "Entreat me not to leave you, Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.
- Not Lifetime of Church / Don't Let past Wipe out Future
 - It is not a lifetime of church, God says now is the acceptable time, today is the day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2) Don't let your past wipe out your future:
 - (2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
- I Didn't Know / Job – Malachi / God still uses Me
 - I didn't know anything about the bible and I went to church my whole life. Job was a job. Malachi the great Italian prophet. Never heard of Psalms pronounced. Thought Paul the apostle was the same man King Saul. Yet God chooses to use me. God used Ruth, no background, yet she is in the lineage of the Messiah.... and God says to you.
- Let These Words Never
 - Let these Word's never past from your lips again: God won't receive me, God can't use me because..... I have no religious background
- 4th Wall
 - Matthew 1:6 Here goes the fourth wall
- Bathsheba Dispels Your Past Sins
- **(Matthew 1:6 NKJV) and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.**
- Bathsheba / Adultery / Played Role of Fall of David / 10K to hiding in Caves

- Bathsheba: was Uriah the Hittites wife, and adulteress. She played a role in the bringing down of the great leader of the great nation Israel. King David the giant slayer, Saul killed his 1000 and David his 10,000. He goes from a king to a fugitive on the run, almost overnight. The enemies of God had reason to mock God:
- *(2 Samuel 12:14 NKJV) "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."*
- Jews Proud of Royal Purity / King David / Bathsheba takes Care of That
 - The Jews were so proud, took such trust in their 'Royal Purity'. Our king is the king...King David, he is the royal lineage forever. To the Jews so proud of their history and their great King David, Bathsheba takes care of that, this reminder of his affair with Bathsheba and then the murder of her husband must have been a particularly painful one, yet she is in the lineage of the Messiah. And God says to you.
- Let These Words / My Past Sins Terrible
 - Let these Word's never past from your lips again: God won't receive me, God can't use me because.....my past sins are so terrible
- Abortion / Drug Dealer – Addicted / Brent & Allen
 - Maybe you have had an abortion, sold drugs to someone who is now addicted, or just turned them on to them. Whatever it is God says he can still use you. Me, Brent, and Allen all played HS football together, Brent turned AL onto booze, and Allen has never stopped. Brent says he still has sorrow for that, but he won't allow it to stop him from preaching the gospel. Brent told the story of how one day, while playing football for the Penn State Lions, he was in the stadium with 80,000 fans, and as he stood on the sideline he received a vision of a man on standing on a wooden platform preaching the gospel to 10's of thousands, as the vision was closing in on the platform he said Lord who is that, and then the vision faded. Although he couldn't see the face, he knew in his heart it was him, and he said Lord if that is to be me, then it will have to be all you. And one day 5 years later he shows up at my house with a videotape, of him in Africa preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ to 100,000 people.
- Let These Words Never
 - Christian, Let these Word's never past from your lips again: the God won't receive me, God can't use me because..... my past sins are so terrible.
- God shows us from the beginning, He is starting something new, He is giving us "A New Beginning".
 - Tamar: Dispels Your Families Past
 - Rahab: Dispels Your Past Reputation
 - Ruth: Dispels Your Religious Background
 - Bathsheba Dispels Your Past Sins

[Enoch Walked with God – \(5:21-24\)](#)

Genesis 5:21 Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.

Genesis 5:22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:23 So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

- Enoch taken before the Flood
 - "And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters; and all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years; and Enoch walked with God; and he was not; for God took him." (Gen.5:22-24) So, Enoch was "raptured" before the judgment (flood) of God was visited upon the earth. He walked with God by faith and

was raptured. Enoch shares with Elijah the fate of not dying and because "All men are appointed once to die..." (Heb.9:27), many people believe that Enoch will be one of the two witnesses in Revelation, chapter eleven, during the first part of the seven year period that God has determined upon the nation of Israel. Two of the dominant prophets of the old testament, are coming back upon the earth, to prophesy to Israel during the first part of this seven year cycle. We know, from Revelation, that the antichrist will put them to death and their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three days while the whole world watches and rejoices; then God revives them and they ascend directly up into heaven with all the people watching. Since these are the two men, from the old testament, who did not make their appointment with death, there are many who believe that they will be the two witnesses that will come again. We do know that Elijah is one of the witnesses as proclaimed in the fourth chapter, verses five and six of Malachi, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD; and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Enoch, a very interesting person, is thought to be the other one.

- Enoch easily a picture of the rapture of the church before the Tribulation, and Noah the picture of Israel going into the Tribulation and coming out and through the Tribulation.
- How did he die?
 - The common question when someone passes we always ask what how did he or she die? But I think another question is, the question to be asked, how did they live? It's a question for all of us. We look at Enoch. They began to call on the name of God. We'd look at Enoch and he walked with God. We looked at Noah. He's a comforter. And should the Lord tarry I think it will all be asked of us. how did he die and made the conversation turn? How did he or she live?
- Abide
 - And we we look at Enoch, we see such a contrast because the devil's ultimate purpose as we read Genesis three and four, his ultimate purpose is to drive us from the presence of the Lord, his ultimate purpose is to drive us from the presence of one another, and yet here we see this beautiful picture of Enoch that he walks with God is in the presence of God, and we see the beautiful place of simply abiding We can get so wrapped up in how to be this and how to be that And God just makes it so simple in the picture of Enoch and he makes it so picture simple in the picture of John 15, simply abide rest in me, walk with me, sit with me, and I pray that your morning times aren't some laborious time, but your morning times are just a simple place of abiding. sitting with him walking with him, just like he knocked did. The devil, his ultimate purpose, is the drive us from the presence of the Lord and he'll do that through sin he'll do that through busyiness, he'll do that through pride, he'll do that through division. He'll do that through materialism. He'll do anything and everything to drive us from the presence of the Lord, and yet the God who searches us comes looks for us just like Enoch walk with me, let's abide together. Enoch walked with God and was not, for the Lord took him here we see the picture Enoch is taken before the flood. and we have the picture of Enoch. It's a picture of the church taken before the wrath of the flood will come the tribulation period. Methuselah in it he shall die and when he dies, Noah his wife and his three sons and daughter in laws enter the ark and their picture of Israel as we study through revelation, who will go into the tribulation period, but they shall come out of the tribulation Psalm 16:11 in his presence is fullness of joy. life forevermore.
 - *John 15:5 (NKJV) ⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
 - *Psalm 16:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

As it Was in the Days of Noah – (5:25-32)

Genesis 5:25 Methuselah lived one hundred and eighty-seven years, and begot Lamech.

Genesis 5:26 After he begot Lamech, Methuselah lived seven hundred and eighty-two years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:27 So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.

- Oldest man / God's Grace
 - Methuselah means "his death shall bring", the judgment will come. For after he dies, the flood would come. It is no coincidence that he is the oldest person ever to live, for we see God's grace and mercy wishing that none should perish, but that all should seek repentance.
- *(2 Peter 3:9 KJV) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- *(2 Peter 3:10 KJV) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*
- Enough / Today is the Day
 - But eventually God says "enough" and brings judgment on a God rejecting world. As it was then, so will it be again.
 - *(2 Corinthians 6:2 NKJV) For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

Genesis 5:28 Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son.

Genesis 5:29 And he called his name Noah, saying, "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed."

Genesis 5:30 After he begot Noah, Lamech lived five hundred and ninety-five years, and had sons and daughters.

Genesis 5:31 So all the days of Lamech were seven hundred and seventy-seven years; and he died.

Genesis 5:32 And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- Passed Down
 - Seth was not the first child of Adam. He had been married one hundred and thirty years so probably had many sons and daughters. They looked to Seth to take Abel's place, who was killed by his older brother Cain. "And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years; and he begat sons and daughters; and all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died." (Gen.5:4-5). Since Adam lived nine hundred and thirty years, it means that he was still alive when Lamech was born, who was the father of Noah. Adam lived almost up to the time of Noah's birth and died not long before. Adam and Enoch lived together on the earth at the same time. In fact Enoch was translated shortly after the death of Adam. We sometimes fail to realize that some of these people were contemporaries. Lamech, Noah's father, was probably about a hundred years old when Adam died; so, the whole story of creation could have been passed directly from Adam to Lamech. Lamech, in turn, passed it on to his son, Noah, and Noah could have passed it to his son Shem, who was still alive when Abraham was born. So Abraham isn't that far removed from the story of creation. The early generations of Adam were probably recorded by Abraham who heard them from Shem, who heard them from Noah, who heard them from Lamech, who heard them from Adam. (Smith)
 - Adam lived and walked with Enoch and Lamech. Adam could tell them the story of what it was like to walk with God, side-by-side, and face-to-face. I could picture them asking Adam, what did His face look like; what did it feel like to touch Him, to hold Him? Lamech would talk about it to Noah, who would preserve the story for us to hear about today as he would pass it down until it was recorded here in what we know as the Torah, most likely written by Moses.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 6

Title: Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of God

Summary: Even in the midst of the flood to come, God's grace abounds and extends and reaches to any and all who will receive it. God's heart grieves because of the flood to come, yet His grieved heart comes with compassion as He provides a way out for any willing to get on the Ark.

Outline: Genesis 6

- Now it Came to Pass When Men (6:1-7)
- Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of God (6:8-13)
- Make for Yourself an Ark (6:14-21)
- Thus Noah did Accordingly to All God Commanded (6:22)

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Now it Came to Pass When Men (6:1-7)

Genesis 6:1 Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them,

- 1600 Years
 - We are at about 1600 years of human history at this point as we calculate from Adam to Noah, as accounted in the genealogies of Genesis 5
- Men Began to Multiply
 - I have done in times past, add up the long lifespans, and the fruitful childbearing years with compounding factors of such long lifespans based off of Genesis 5, to determine what is the population of the earth at this time; interestingly I come to the same number, **several billion**. To me I think it is as easy as, Matthew 24, that as it was in the days of Noah so will be when the Son of Man returns, and being that we are in the last last days, and the earth's population today is 8 billion, so that is probably close to what it was in time of Noah.
 - *Matthew 24:37 (NKJV) ³⁷ But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*
 - Answers in Genesis Ministry, calculates that it could be **(750 million to 4 billion)** - <https://answersingenesis.org/noahs-ark/pre-flood-population/?srsltid=AfmBOorYTr422rAuTNFGGrk6ufhqqQzdAKD7UesdAjtV12yjoutEfIHcg>
 - Lambert Dolphin - Although it is difficult to obtain an actual value of world population at the time of the flood, **5 to 17 billion** people would appear to be reasonable populations, with an average of around 10 billion. The best ages for childbirth would be 80.8 to 92 years with 6 to 7 children per family. This would be 20 to 18 generations produced from Adam to the Flood in 1656. The Book of Genesis indicates (Chapter 5) that each family had at least 5 children. Adam and Eve had a total of 7 (including Abel). However, Noah apparently had only 3 children. (It is possible that he could have had sons and daughters that aren't recorded and who weren't on the ark.). Genesis Chapter 5 states that each person had "sons and daughters" in addition to the son whose

chronology is given. Since a plural is used to describe the number of sons and daughters, a minimum of two sons and two daughters are assumed. Therefore, a reasonable value would appear to be a range of 5 to 8 children per family. As previously stated, Adam and Eve had seven children. Using 5 to 8 children per family, the population falls within a range of ~2 billion to 11.5 billion (over the range of 16 to 22 generations). (Refer to last four tables at end of section.) It is interesting that today's population of approximately 6 billion fall within this category. (Lambert Dolphin – Tom Pickett - [https://www.ldolphin.org/pickett.html#:~:text=\(Although%2C%20scripture%20isn't,all%20cases%20may%20have%20been.\)&text=Although%20it%20is%20difficult%20to,average%20of%20around%2010%20billion.](https://www.ldolphin.org/pickett.html#:~:text=(Although%2C%20scripture%20isn't,all%20cases%20may%20have%20been.)&text=Although%20it%20is%20difficult%20to,average%20of%20around%2010%20billion.))

Genesis 6:2 that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

- Very Strange Passage
 - Hard verse / Line of Seth
 - This is a hard verse, what are the “son’s of God”. Two possibilities; Some think that it means people from the line of Seth, for they call Seth’s line the godly line because they began to call upon the name of the Lord. So Seth’s line began to marry with Cain’s line and became corrupted. That wouldn’t explain why there would be giants, and it doesn’t match up with expositional constancy.
- Fallen Angels / Book of Job
 - The other is that these are demonic beings, fallen angels:
 - “Sons of God” - ben: 'elohiym: when it is used in the Scriptures it is talking about angels, and more specifically we see them twice along side of Satan:
 - *(Job 1:6 KJV) Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.*
 - *(Job 2:1 KJV) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.*
 - *(Job 38:7 KJV) When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?*
- Don't Confuse Hebrew and Greek
 - But when it is spoken of in the New Testament, Sons of God refers to us, the children of God – so don’t confuse that, the Hebrew in the OT versus the Greek in the NT.:
 - *(John 1:12 KJV) But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
- Insight in NT
 - We are given more insight to these fallen angels as Scripture helps us to interpret Scripture. In the context of Jude, these angels were perverse just like the people of Sodom were. And we see in 2 Peter that these angels during Noah's day sinned against God and were punished.
 - *(Jude 1:6 NKJV) And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;*
 - *(Jude 1:7 NKJV) as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*
 - *(2 Peter 2:4 NKJV) For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;*
 - *(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;*

- Also in reference to those who perished in the Day's of Noah, Jesus after the cross went to these demonic spirits and said, it is over, your power over my people is done:
 - *(1 Peter 3:18 NKJV) For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,*
 - *(1 Peter 3:19 NKJV) by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,*
 - *(1 Peter 3:20 NKJV) who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*
- Angels can't Marry / Not Sexual
 - The word here for wives could also just mean woman, so it is not definite that they married. But note the angels in heaven are not given to marriage, but that isn't for sure about the fallen angels. Also, in every reference of the Bible it appears that every angel is male, so they are not sexless. We can't say for sure they are not sexual beings. Jesus didn't say the angels didn't have a capacity for sex. Those angels that appeared in the Old Testament did appear as men when they made an appearance in a human form. Remember when they came to the city of Sodom. The men of Sodom came and began to beat down Lot's door that they might know these men. They wanted to abuse them sexually, thinking that they were mortal men. (Chuck Smith)
 - *(Matthew 22:29 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*
 - *(Matthew 22:30 KJV) For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*
- Main Point - Bizarre Sexual Behavior
 - Whatever the case, the main point for us today is that there was strange and bizarre sexual behavior happening in the days of Noah I would also throw out there for consideration, that it is even possible that natural men opened themselves to demonic realm, and were demon possessed, and that is how this extreme perversion took place.
- Speaks of Depravity of the Woman
 - Romans 1 is a great expose in the times of the flood, for if Romans 1 speaks of post flood, we can only take it and amplify and multiple it pre-flood. In Romans 1, it gives an emphasis "that even the woman" became corrupted in sexual immorality. Paul under inspiration of the Holy Spirit is stating that when woman enter into extreme sexual behavior, you know the prevalence of immorality is abounding,
 - Regardless of how we interpret the "sons of God", we know that whatever the case is, the natural woman were extremely twisted and perverted in their behavior.
 - Romans 1 is a great commentary on times of Noah, as it speaks of creation testifying of a Creator, and a responsible to Him, and so the people at time of flood are not guiltless, because they have Noah preaching, and Creation speaking to them what is required of them.
 - **Romans 1:18–32 (NKJV)**¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Genesis 6:3 And the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

- Look at the Grace
 - Look at God's grace, even as wicked as man was, He still gives time for man to repent. Did he give 120 years so Noah had time to build the ark, no God could have spoke it into existence if He chose to. Rather the Lord would give man every opportunity to repent.
- Methuselah - Oldest man / God's Grace
 - As mentioned in last study: Methuselah means "his death shall bring", the judgment will come. For after he dies, the flood would come. It is no coincidence that he is the oldest person ever to live, for we see God's grace and mercy wishing that none should perish, but that all should seek repentance.
 - (Genesis 5:27 NKJV) So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died.
- Look in This Room Today
 - Look in this room today and see God's grace, desiring that none should perish but shall seek repentance. Had he come 2 years ago who would have missed it, 5? 15? Just as today, so He did the same for them.
- Compassion Must Get Involved
 - I think one of the missed and most missed points of this whole account is that people truly missed the grace and compassion of God, the for 120 years he sent a preacher to tell him there's a way out. And he doesn't just speak words, he does something about it. He prepares a way out. through the ark. I think one of the most heartbreaking pieces of this story is the people miss the compassion of God because compassion can't just walk by. Compassion has to get involved. and God doesn't just walk by and let it rain. God builds an ark. Sins a preacher of righteousness. declares there's a way out. And I think I learned something great in this story a grieved heart has to be a compassionate heart This compassion couples with the grieved heart when I see people suffering in my heart grieves may it be coupled with a compassion that I can't walk by. I have to get engaged for whatever they need to whatever I can supply. Maybe it's a word of comfort, because Noah's a comforter. Maybe it's like Enosh come alongside with the word of prayer. Maybe God calls me to supply something materially and physically to me that. But I'll say this. when God shut the door. Noah could live with no regrets.

Maybe You Need to Know Grace is Available to You

- Maybe for someone here today, you need to know this. that there's grace and compassion in the fall. in the flood. and you may not believe it, and that's why you haven't come to ask for your forgiveness. Beg God in his great compassion, he doesn't just walk by you. He provides a demonstration of his heart. as he extends the invitation to come be forgiven, come, start something new. I'm reminded of Ezekiel 43 the nation of Israel. because of their sin, their captivity in Babylon, the prophet speaks to them. speaks a word of why they are where they're at. Speaks a word. of a means back. And even though they're in captivity, God speaks of a new temple to be built. if you're in captivity as the nation of Israel and Babylon, all that distance away, and you read this and you're told this. you can only come to the conclusion either. It's all a lie. But it's pretty hard to say that when God sent the prophet to say, this will be the result of your disobedience, and there they are, exactly as the prophet Jeremiah said it would be. But now the step of faith is to believe that God will take us home even through our fall. because for there to be a temple, there needs to be a Jerusalem. And for there to be a Jerusalem, there needs to be a regathered nation. And so God speaks that to them. that he has taken them from ruin to renewal

You have to believe grace in the midst of your fall.

Genesis 6:4 There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

- Giants mean Mighty Ones
 - Giants could mean giants on physical stature, but is also means “mighty ones” or “fallen ones”, which speak of fallen angels. These fallen angels it appears could materialize in human form and impregnate woman. Again, lets not miss that the natural woman were twisted and perverted that they would enter into this extreme perversion.

Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- Always thinking Evil / Romans 1
 - The thoughts of the heart were continually evil. This is speaking of the thoughts in the mind, they were never on the things of God, but of evil and wicked things. Every here means every. Their minds never considered good, but for ever waking moment, it was thinking evil ungodly things. Ever meet someone like that today, all they want to talk about is filth, telling this filthy story, always looking for or talking about the next evil adventure. Their minds are vile, Romans 1 gives us the deeper description of these types of people: God calls their mind reprobate or debased depending on your translation:
 - If they physically were not doing evil, then all they did was think about it until they could act upon it.
 - As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be when Son of Man returns..... we are there

Genesis 6:6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Genesis 6:7 So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

- Some of your translations may say:
 - *(Genesis 6:6 KJV) And it **repented** the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*
- It doesn't mean that He changed His mind,
 - *(Numbers 23:19 KJV) God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*
- God Takes No Pleasure in Judgment
 - But that it grieved Him because of their wickedness. God never takes pleasure in judgement, but being a just and Holy God, He must judge:
 - *(Habakkuk 1:12 NKJV) Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction.*
 - *(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?*

Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of God (6:8-13)

Genesis 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

Genesis 6:9 This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Verse 8 is the first time grace is mentioned in the Bible.

- Testimony of Noah

- The testimony of Noah, a righteous man. A just man, a perfect man, a man who walked with God. We will talk more of Noah in future studies, but what we see is a man of faith who responded to God's calling:
 - *(Hebrews 11:7 KJV) By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*
- Righteousness Position/Relationship
 - We read, that He who knew no sin became sin for us, though we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21). Our righteousness is in Christ, not in ourselves, because if we want to somehow put that our righteousness has to be aligned like that of Noah's, then we sit and we go, I'll never be a righteous man, I'll never be pleasing to God. Can we just rest in the fact our righteousness is in Christ, and through that righteousness is because of his grace, and we can all sit here and rest in that this grace is made available to us today, continually flows from the throne of grace, and when we're falling short in the lifestyle of righteousness, we can always come and find help in our time of need. There's righteousness, the position, and that's what we have. as children of God, righteousness, the relation in our personal relationship with God.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)** ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
 - **Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)** ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
- I think one of the greatest strengths that we have as Christians to walk the walk. in holiness and righteousness above reproach, blameless till he comes is grace. and here we see Noah found grace in the sight of the Lord, and he was able to stay true to the Lord, even in the midst of a corrupt world. And we see that he was a preacher of righteousness, and he didn't withdraw. We see the Noah. did not cower in the face of the culture that was around him.
- Grace leads us to live differently than the rest of the world; so a good question for each of us today is how differently am I living from the world?
- What are we to do with this grace / Build a Lifeboat / Pillar in the Community
 - What are we to do with this grace? Noah built an ark, a lifeboat, and he invited the whole world to come aboard. May this church and our lives be a lifeboat to save people from the judgement to come.
 - *(Hebrews 11:7 NKJV) By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*
 - *(2 Peter 2:5 NKJV) and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly;*
 - The sad statement is that of several billion people, only 8 were saved.
 - We are the pillar and ground of truth in our community, we have the words of life, let us grab and bring as many in as we possibly can.
- Enoch - Rapture / Noah - Israel
 - A note, Noah is not a type of the church in the Rapture. Enoch is a type of church. Noah is going through the judgement but is being preserved, while Enoch was taken completely out of the judgement, and with God in heaven during the tribulation upon the earth. So the church is Enoch, for we will walk with God and then be not, for God will take us. Noah on the other hand he is a type in the Bible of Israel. During the tribulation, Israel will go to the mountains and be preserved and protected by God, while the tribulation is going on everywhere around them.
- Noah Was Perfect / He Died – How Did He Live

- Noah was perfect means that he was blameless if sixty minutes came to do a report on him they'd find nothing that they could write a documentary on to find fault. as we talked and we looked through the genealogy of chapter 5 it was always when he died and he died and he died, and that would be the great question when we should pass should the lord tarry and people save, and how did he die but I pray the spirit moves? and the question will come, but how do they live? and then we can tell they walked with God and was found pleasing and righteous before him.
- Enoch & Noah Walked with God
 - Hey let's not miss this that Enoch walked with God and was not, Noah walked with God and went through the flood. One is a picture to a world and so was the other. Beloved can you rest in that the gun may put you through a hard time so that you can be a witness to a lost and dying world whether that's one person or the whole earth. Couldn't have said what was me if I was the great man of God that I thought I was I'd be like Enoch and I would have been raptured before all of this or do you think Noah took the calling that God gave him and lived it out by faith? I think the scriptures clearly declare he lived by faith for what god had called him to do and i pray may we be the same period

Genesis 6:10 And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

Genesis 6:12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

Genesis 6:13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

- Most Violent Generation
 - We live in the most violent generation in the history of mankind. The average child will see 35,000 violent acts on TV by the age of 18. 1.2 million couples used a gun or knife on each other last year. Woman's rate of crime is growing at a rate 6 times faster than men.
- Look at the Signs of the Times
 - The signs of our times were the same as the times of Noah:
 - *(Matthew 24:37 NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*
 - *(Matthew 24:38 NKJV) "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,*
 - *(Matthew 24:39 NKJV) "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Make for Yourself an Ark (6:14-21)

Genesis 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch.

- So Noah is to build an ark that will cover and protect him and his family from the wrath and judgement that is coming upon the earth.
- Gopherwood / Incorruptible
 - Made of gopherwood, which is said to be incorruptible, meaning bugs and worms can not infest it. Imagine the wood rotting, on a journey that will last a year. Gopherwood in ancient times was used to make coffins because of its durability.
- Pitch / Rockefeller
 - But this pitch is petroleum based. JD Rockefeller 1st was reading this very verse, remembered the fire and brimstone at Sodom, and said I know the Bible is true, therefore that means there

must be petroleum in the Mid-East. He was the first to explore the region for oil and become a multi-billionaire. You see it pays to read your Bible, it will “enrich” you.

Genesis 6:15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.

- Dimensions / 450-75-45
 - A cubit was thought to be eighteen inches or the distance from your elbow to the tip of your finger. Now they had the span which was the length from your thumb to your finger; so, you would measure out so many span and so many cubits. That was a simple and quick way of measurement. Three hundred cubits would translate into about four hundred and fifty feet or about as long as 1 ½ football fields. It was to be fifty cubits wide or seventy five feet wide; the height, thirty cubits or forty five feet would be three decks in height and the height within each deck would be about fifteen feet. That is about the size of the Titanic. By the way, the 6 to 1 ration, width to length ratio, is the same ratio we use to make ships today.
- Floating Box
 - Now the ark wasn’t meant to navigate the sea, it was only meant to float, remember it was just a huge lifeboat. It was literally a floating box.
- Capacity / Used by Animals
 - The ark was 1.4 million cubic feet; that is equivalent to about 522 Boxcars of a train. Now consider this, there are 3500 species of mammal, 8600 species of birds, and 5500 species of reptile. That is 17,600 species, which you have to double to 35,200 to have male and female. If you take the average size of all the species, the average works out to be about the size of a sheep. I might note there would be no need to take full-grown dinosaurs, elephants, etc. Based on what they haul today, they estimate it would only have taken 150 boxcars of space up. Even if you doubled that for conservative reasoning, you still would have 40 percent of your space left to store food.

Genesis 6:16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.

- Recap of the Ark
 - So this ark only had one door, one window, rooms, and three levels. A lifeboat to save mankind, and the animal kingdom.
- But the ark also has a great spiritual illustration and application for us today, for our salvation. The ark is a Biblical type, it was a real event and a real object, but it had spiritual representation for us.
- - Shaped like Coffin / Death – where Life Begins
 - First of all it was shaped like a coffin, it was a barge, not a luxury liner; and it was made out of an incorruptible source, the gopherwood. The grave is where salvation begins for us, when we die to ourselves and say Lord I need you, I’m a sinner that needs a Savior. It is when I pick up my cross, it is when I die that I may live.
 - - *(John 12:24 NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."*
 - *(John 12:25 NKJV) "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."*
 - *(Luke 9:23 KJV) And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

- Pitch – Kopher / At-One-Ment
 - The ark was cover with pitch, inside and out. The word translated pitch is "kopher." It is the same word translated later as atonement. What does atonement mean, real simply, just what it sounds like – at-one-ment. Atonement will make us one with the Father. Seventy times in the Bible it is used to make atonement, only here is it translated and used for “pitch”. As the blood of the lamb will make a "Kofu" or covering for the sins, so the ark was to be covered inside and out with this "Kopher."
- One Door
 - We enter into salvation just as Noah and family entered into the ark, through the door. There was only one way into the ark, on the door on the side. Jesus says I am the door:
 - *(John 10:9 KJV) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*
- Pierced Side / Blood & Water
 - The door to the ark was on the side of the ark, where was Jesus pierced, on the side. And out of His side came what, blood and water, the two fluids that come in child birthing, in bringing new life into this world:
 - *(John 19:34 NKJV) But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*
- Only Way / A Narrow Way
 - There was only one door into the ark for salvation from the judgement to come, and there is only one door, one way for salvation from the judgement of God for our sin:
 - *(John 14:6 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
- The way is narrow, some complain:
 - *(Matthew 7:13 NKJV) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*
 - *(Matthew 7:14 NKJV) "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*
-
- But I praise Him and am so thankful that the way is narrow. It may be narrow, but God made it ever so simple; one way, not 12, 23, or 40, but just one. It is so simple, even I can't mess it up, all I have to do is receive Him. There aren't 3 doors and I have to pick one, this isn't Monty Hall, there won't be no clunkers behind door number one. There is only one door, one name, Jesus Christ:
 - *(Acts 4:12 NKJV) "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
- God Provides a Way
 - Make for yourself God provides a way for Noah. Out of this situation, and God will provide for you in the midst of whatever situation you're in. Whatever situation you're going through. God will give you a clear direction on how to find your way out of it. And we're gonna see a part where God supernaturally provides and works with Noah, but we're gonna see the part that Noah has to by faith. step into the waters. if you would start to build the ark. if no only went partial, if no Noah only did limited obedience, no one would have been washed out. Noah had to take full faith with full steps to fulfill what God has provided for him a means out of the situation that was coming upon the world, specifically his world, because he lived in it. He and his family. and yet God gives them a way out. specific instructions. Here's what you're to do. And so we get to decide by faith, to do it. fully, completely, or anything less will never fulfill the way out.

Genesis 6:17 And behold, I Myself am bringing floodwaters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die.

Genesis 6:18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 6:19 And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female.

Genesis 6:20 Of the birds after their kind, of animals after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the earth after its kind, two of every kind will come to you to keep them alive.

Genesis 6:21 And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them."

Detail by Detail

Thus Noah did Accordingly to All God Commanded (6:22)

Genesis 6:22 Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

- Noah does all God Commanded
 - Noah does all. We see a man here, a great man of God, who stands in the face of all adversity, challenges, ridicules, yet he stands, and he does all the Lord has commanded him to do. We see a man, who we can model Christian godly manhood as an example.
 - Noah did accordingly and we know the rest of the story before we read the rest of these chapters in the weeks to come where we pick up and we see Noah did everything not some things but all things
 - I believe that Jesus Christ challenges the manhood of a man. I think that one of the greatest challenges to any man to really assert the fullness of his manhood is to commit your life completely and fully to following Jesus Christ

Outline: Genesis 6

- Now it Came to Pass When Men (6:1-7)
- Noah Found Grace in the Eyes of God (6:8-13)
- Make for Yourself an Ark (6:14-21)
- Thus Noah did Accordingly to All God Commanded (6:22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 7

Title: Come into the Ark

Summary: For the Lord to tell Noah to “Come into the Ark”, could only mean that the Lord was in the Ark. In our passage we will look into all that meant to Noah and family in the midst of flood; and what it means to each of us in the trials of life we go through.

Prayer

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- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Genesis 7:1 Then the Lord said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

Verse one, the Lord says come in, and he invites them in. It's an indicator that he said come in, therefore he's inside the ark, if he was outside the ark, he would have said go in. and here the Lord, as we start this study, would speak to you, those two words come in and be warmed, come in from being outside in the cold and the rain. Come in from outside that world into a place of refuge and sanctuary, come in from being alone and loneliness, come into fellowship come in and just be loved on by me.

God says come in. God invites us in. God is in the ark, and God will go through this with you, whatever you're going through.

Noah it says was righteous. God will not judge the righteous with the unrighteous, he takes them out of the world before judgment comes, we see it here as Noah is righteous, we will see it in Genesis 18 as Abraham is righteous in the story of (if you were to find the righteous, would you withhold your judgment), and first Thessalonians God will not judge us (wrath) in his judgment of the wicked.

1 Thessalonians 5:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Verse one, the Lord says come in..... imagine those words after 120 years, come in here Noah; and you know it can seem like it's a long haul for us, but one day we too are going to hear these words Revelation 4, if we're the generation, “come up here”; and whether it's the rapture or just God calling us home, there's a day He will say, come up here!

Revelation 4:1 (NKJV) ¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

Genesis 7:2 You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female;

This will be like five times just in this chapter that God will make the point that the pairs are male and female. And I believe, of course, that is very specific wording for our time just it was for their time one of the judgments upon

the world was bizarre extreme sexual behavior. We see that with Sodom and Gomorrah, and we see the warning of it in the New Testament in places like Corinthians and Romans. And God's making it clear his definition of male and female, He's making it very clear his definition of marriage and procreation male and female. And Malachi 3 says, I am the Lord. I do not change, and Hebrews 13 tells us Jesus Christ is the same yesterday today and forever. The culture can try, but the Word won't be changed by it.

Malachi 3:6 *"For I am the Lord, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob."*

Hebrews 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

And, I am thankful He is a God of His Word, and is unchanging..... so I can rest in that He hasn't changed His mind about me, about wanting me, and that His blood cleanses me from all unrighteousness, and I like Noah am righteous in His sight because He said it, and that settles it, because His Word is unchanging. There is an offering of praise we can make unto the Lord (Hebrews 13:15)

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Genesis 7:3 *also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.*

In verses two and three we see the multiple "clean" animals because God is going to establish the sacrificial system and worship will be part of that sacrificial system. Noah will be making sacrifices and making worship unto the Lord, when the ark settles and God is preparing the sacrificial system before He even establishes the sacrificial system. Bring the animals for the sacrificial system because you will get through this and the sacrifices are to remind you of God's promise and covenant, and so too, as we offer the sacrifice of praise in our life, sacrifice is a reminder to us as our heart releases God's faithfulness and his goodness.

Genesis 8:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done."

Hebrews 13:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Genesis 7:4 *For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made."*

Genesis 7:5 *And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him.*

Verse five Noah did all according to the Lord called him to do; first he was told to do it then he did it and we see life of Noah was a living sacrifice. What has the Lord commanded of you that you need to do today? Change an action? Change an attitude? Change a heart? Change "of" heart towards someone? Living sacrifices do all the Lord commands.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Noah's a living sacrifice and he's literally here's my living sacrifice me Lord, hands lifted before you, Lord, I offer myself to you take me let my life be a sweet aroma to you in every action

Noah, the living sacrifice Romans 12, we can miss the point, and that's it that that God wants to enjoy the smell of the sacrifice that we bring him, joy and satisfaction. We miss that in the in this topic of being living sacrifices that we bring a joy and a satisfaction to the Lord. and here with Noah being a living sacrifice every morning, say here I am Lord, arms lifted high what would you like to do today?

And there was a pitcher that Noah didn't build the arc alone for the scripture says unless the Lord build the house thy labor in vain. Noah did not build this alone, nor his sons joining him, the Lord built this imagine the living sacrifice 120 years daily before the Lord. offered by faith and obedience of Noah and every day here I am, Lord, but

I believe without a doubt the seventh day was a day of rest, and no could easily have said hey lord, we got a whole bunch of work left to do, and the lord would say just rest Noah. it will get done. We'll do this together today we just rest tomorrow we work and the Lord speaks to us these same wonderful words.

Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Genesis 7:6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

Verse six we can look at the math here that will read that Noah died at 950 years we know that the flood began at 600 years old. We know that he was told it would be 120 years, therefore he started building when he was 480 years old, and you want to look at 480 divided into nine fifty, Noah started to build the arc around his midlife. For the average man today, if you live to let's just say 80,90, 100, we're talking somebody who's 40, 50 years old, that's what midlife is.

And you know what? If you're in your midlife, I pray that if you're even struggling with a midlife crisis, that you will just do something that's the easiest way out of getting sucked into the so-called midlife crisis and build something, build something great for the Lord. and build it in the name of the Lord. Because you know what? Man of God. And that's what you want to be known as how did he die? Oh, yeah, but then someone goes, let me tell you how he lived.

Your midlife can be your greatest life. You can use your midlife to be the greatest discipler of the next generation.

Noah, what a discipler of men, his wife, what a discipler of women as Noah would disciple his three children and his wife, the three daughters. we can see their lives invested in these younger lives and then, no doubt, no one ever quit when he got off that arc of preaching and being a preacher of righteousness because who wouldn't want to hear what Noah had to say, who here wouldn't want to be able when we get to heaven, sit with Noah one on one, sit with his wife, one on one, sit with the boys later, but say, tell me of what it was like when you built that arc. Tell me when you first heard it and you believed that it was the word of God, spoken directly to you. Tell me when you fell the first tree. tell me when you laid the first plank. Tell me when you drove the first nail. Tell me about how hard days were. Tell me what it was like to get the blueprint from the Lord. Tell me what every morning was like. Tell me how you, as we read in chapter six, walked with God and Mrs. Noah can tell the same thing would you tell me your story of how you stayed so strong for 120 years? Oh, your midlife can be your greatest life.

Your latter days can be your most glorious days. And I pray that not one of us will miss that before us. and you younger generation, trust me, you got a lot to learn. Go gravel someone who's been walking with the Lord for a while and say, tell me your story and glean from it.

Genesis 7:7 So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.

Genesis 7:8 Of clean animals, of animals that are unclean, of birds, and of everything that creeps on the earth,

Genesis 7:9 two by two they went into the ark to Noah, male and female, as God had commanded Noah.

Genesis 7:10 And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.

Whew, how many years before this day did God call the snails to start the journey. Thankful they didn't have kids with them saying, are we there yet.

Verses seven through ten, what we're witnessing here as we read is a seven day miracle of God calling these animals and bringing, but it's a seven day miracle that God is parading before the people because would you not be in awe, especially as you heard the story, maybe you were sitting on your front of your home and you see two giraffes walking side by side and behind them two rhinoceros beside them two chipmunks beside them two

raccoons, you would be like what in the world is going on? God is sending a parade of a miracle before man, a seven day witness to the world as they would watch the animal march to this ark that they would have to say whatever's going on we've never seen it before.

Genesis 7:11 In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

Thus begins Noah and family time on the ark, that will come to them exiting the ark on a specific day of the 27th day in the second month, which puts them on the ark for over a year. Scholars differ on the exact number of days because they debate over how days in a year (thus in a month), were they 360 day years, or 365.25 days years as they are now. A good debate by both sides. But, we can clearly see nonetheless, that they are on the ark for over one year, and ten days and that we know, 17 days if you count the first "7" days while the animals were boarding. So 370 or 377 days is the day count.

Genesis 8:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried. ¹⁵ Then God spoke to Noah, saying, ¹⁶ "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

Verse 11 the significance of the 17th day of the second month is God is making a point when the calendar will be reset and also making the point that God was a sure to his word down to the day when this flood would come and men can think that it will never come that they have 120 years and they'll take that length and that duration and that waiting and think it means to them that God is forgiving that God is allowing that God is not serious about his word and God is somehow just winking and saying I understand you can't help it, but God is a God of his word and he will bring his word to its fullness at the exact time at the exact moment.

Again, God is unchanging, and after 120 years He has not changed His mind about this judgement, and so after 2,000 years He has not changed His mind about the things we have studied in Revelation.

Verse 11 what we're reading here is a water canopy and water caverns. There was a water canopy that we read that was made in creation that blanketed the whole earth made a greenhouse effect, and then there was water caverns that were busting forth and that's what it means when the great deep broke open. But we also know this to be true because there was no rain on the earth until the time of the flood, and therefore, you can't have rivers, which we have read and running streams without rain and wind, unless it comes from what we know as an underground cavern that breaks forth and comes up through the earth, flows through the river and then returns. Eventually, somewhere back into an underground cavern and that very picture is found in Israel at the Jordan River that isn't just coming from the snow capped mountains of Mount Herman, but there's an underwater cavern source that breaks forth to see it.

Genesis 7:12 And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.

40 has been a number of testing as we see in the scriptures. Here's 40 days of the flood. Then there's 40 days Jesus in his wilderness trial, Then there's 40 years in the children of Israel wandering. So we see 40 as a number of testing working, purifying trial.

No one ever saw rain so therefore the word probably never existed and people said that's crazy talk when Noah did speak of it and the ridicule and the mockery to Noah of speaking such a word, but as our brother Peter would say in the last days, they will mock the last days and they will mock this rapture because people say never heard the word rapture and many will say it doesn't exist in the Bible, and that part is true, but at the time of Noah, the word rain didn't exist in that aspect either, but we get the word rapture from the Latin rapturus, which was the translation of converting the Greek, which is the word harposio. So if you want to get down to the nuts and bolts of it, people in the Greek would say, I'd never heard of a harposio.

1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

2 Peter 3:3–9 (NKJV) ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵ For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, ⁶ by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Genesis 7:13 On the very same day Noah and Noah’s sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them, entered the ark—

Genesis 7:14 they and every beast after its kind, all cattle after their kind, every creeping thing that creeps on the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort.

Genesis 7:15 And they went into the ark to Noah, two by two, of all flesh in which is the breath of life.

Genesis 7:16 So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

Verse 16 highlights the Lord keeping his promise to protect Noah during the judgment. The term used here is Jehovah, referring to the God of Israel in the first five books of the Old Testament and His covenant with Israel. This shows that our God is a covenant-keeping God. In chapter 6, He promised Noah a covenant, which He fulfills as His covenants are unbreakable.

Genesis 6:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.

The Old Testament means covenant, reflecting the broken covenant due to sin. In the New Testament, we have a new covenant delivering us from sin's judgment through our covenant God, who took our sin upon Himself on the cross, paying the full price so we can be free from sin's judgment.

Verse 16 the Lord shut them in and noticed that it wasn't Noah who shut the door. And can you just rest in that? Can we rest in that? God does not put the burden on us who gets shut out and who does the shutting out. God determines when the door closes and all that we have to do is preach until that day happens. And for us, we'll never know when the door closes on someone. So may we not determine when they have made their final rejection and may we have open hearts that we can preach to our last breath or their last breath that the door is open for them to come into salvation.

As we studied the size of the ark and the amount of space that would actually be used for the animals and even with a year's worth of food, there's still space left over. And I think there was a grieving of God's heart in that in these empty spaces very well were the empty apartments that were prepared that others refused to take and join.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- The ark was 1.4 million cubic feet; that is equivalent to about 522 Boxcars of a train. Now consider this, there are 3500 species of mammal, 8600 species of birds, and 5500 species of reptile. That is 17,600 species, which you have to double to 35,200 to have male and female. If you take the average size of all the species, the average works out to be about the size of a sheep. I might note there would be no need to take full-grown dinosaurs, elephants, etc. Based on what they haul today, they estimate it would only have taken 150 boxcars of space up. Even if you doubled that for conservative reasoning, you still would have 40 percent of your space left to store food.

Genesis 7:17 Now the flood was on the earth forty days. The waters increased and lifted up the ark, and it rose high above the earth.

Verse 17 mentions that Noah wasn't informed about the duration of the rain until he boarded the boat (7:4). The exact moment when this information was given is unclear. Additionally, it would have been difficult for Noah to ascertain the passage of days due to the lack of windows and the continuous dark skies caused by the rain. Even

though there might have been some form of timekeeping device, the main point is that Noah only learned about the duration of the flood once it started. During the flood, it would still be challenging to know exactly how long it would last. This highlights the importance of patience and trust in uncertain situations, as it is often unknown when they will end.

Genesis 7:4 (NKJV) ⁴ For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will destroy from the face of the earth all living things that I have made."

Genesis 7:18 The waters prevailed and greatly increased on the earth, and the ark moved about on the surface of the waters.

Genesis 7:19 And the waters prevailed exceedingly on the earth, and all the high hills under the whole heaven were covered.

Genesis 7:20 The waters prevailed fifteen cubits upward, and the mountains were covered.

Genesis 7:21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth: birds and cattle and beasts and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every man.

Genesis 7:22 All in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, all that was on the dry land, died.

Genesis 7:23 So He destroyed all living things which were on the face of the ground: both man and cattle, creeping thing and bird of the air. They were destroyed from the earth. Only Noah and those who were with him in the ark remained alive.

Fifteen cubits roughly 22 1/2 feet as a cubit is approximately 18 inches the length of a typical average man from elbow to the tip of the finger. And so what's being clearly said here is this was a global flood, not a localized flood as people would like to say because they can't put him in the God does the supernatural work. And so they want to just say it was a localized flood, which is kind of ridiculous because God could have just clearly said, hey, Noah, no need to spend 120 years in all those resources building an ark. um about 119 years from now and just pack up the family and start heading north and just keep heading north away from everybody and you'll be safe and then I'll just flood this area just doesn't make sense even from that space.

But God's making the point it is a global flood of the whole world. Now, Mount Everest may not have been established at the end specifically at this moment where the water is above the highest mountain by 15 feet because we start doing the math on then the flood would have been as high as Everest on the earth. No, Everest and the marina trench and the pikes peak and the mountains and glaciers of Alaska they could all been still pushing forward once the rain began and they could still continually push forward for as we said, the plates of this world are still moving today

But why 15 cubits why 22 1/2 feet why not just 6 feet? Why not just 2 feet? Why not 100 feet for good measure I believe there's a message here that is sent through this number of 15 and that is man can be so close to salvation and yet so far away 6 foot tall average man if it was 5 foot could say I'm just gonna stand on my tippy toes on the top of this mountain peak and keep my head above the water and I will survive in my works and my efforts and see how I climb the mountain and I've outsmarted the flood and I can escape God's wrath on my own efforts and even if you were a giant on the land because some people will say there's skeletal remains of nine and 10 foot people there's even stories of man who walked on this earth in historical writings, whether they were a mythical or not of being like 12 foot tall, but even that, they're not able to stand above the flood and it's still comes down to the length of days that the waters on the earth. 40 days of rain and then a whole another 150 before the water starts to subside, you could be the greatest swimmer, but you'll never outswim that length of time and so again, no man will be able to work themselves to God. No man will be able to rise above the judgment Every man will still drown in their sin and know man-made effort or work will rise above the flood of sin and the judgment that comes with it.

But the good news is salvation isn't that far away. We don't have to climb up into heaven as the tower Babel will try here later in a future study to build up into the heaven step in, figure out the heavenlies through their own man-made approach. We don't have to climb up into heaven and we don't have to dig and build here on the earth.

Heaven is as close as Romans 10 9 and 10 if we confess with our mouth, the Lord Jesus believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we shall be saved.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Genesis 7:24 And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.

As we observe the rising waters for 150 days in chapter 8, we note that they eventually begin to subside. The earth is undergoing significant upheaval, with tectonic plates continuing to move, causing earthquakes and volcanoes. During Noah's time, these movements were even more intense, leading to the formation of mountains like Mount Everest and valleys. This ongoing geological activity also created features such as the Mariana Trench and the Grand Canyon, as water settled and formed oceans, mountains, and dry land.

The rain lasted for 40 days, followed by 150 days of rising waters. Even after the rain stopped, underwater caverns continued to flood, causing chaos. Eventually, the water began to subside over an extended period. Noah and his family remained on the ark for about 370 days, just over a year.

40 has been a number of testing as we see in the scriptures. Here's 40 days of the flood. Then there's 40 days Jesus in his wilderness trial, then there's 40 years in the children of Israel wandering. So we see 40 as a number of testing working, purifying trial, but now this 40 days is over and we enter into this next period and we must know God is still doing something even though the 40 part is over now we enter into 330 days that God is very specifically working in the family of Noah, the future of the world.

After 40 days, one might expect that the rain has stopped, and judgment is over, ready to leave the ark. However, they will still spend nearly 11 more months aboard before setting foot on land with the animals.

One of the first points we'll look at is that when the anticrist turns his wrath against the nation of Israel, they are in the book of revelation, God is going to supernaturally sweep them away and tuck them away, and they will be safe for the last three and half years of the tribulation period. So we see that there's this immediate flood poured out against the nation of Israel when the antichrist comes and God will rescue them, but then there will be this again extended period of time where they will be tucked away, they will not be moving freely about the country nor the world, and they will be just in this place insulated from everything else that's going on. And then after that extended period of time, which we will know at the culmination of the tribulation period, all of Israel will be saved at some point whether it's from God's supernatural deliverance through the Magog invasion as Ezekiel 38 and 39 says, and all of Israel will be saved, or whether it's the supernatural protection that God gives them during this guarding from the Antichrist and then the guarding end protecting end providing for consider that for three and half years of food and shelter and clothing and medical care and health, however, all that looks. But in the end, there will be no doubt they'll say we know who the God of the Bible is, which, by the way, many people believe that Israel will be tucked away in Jordan in a place called Petra, which is an abandoned um rock and valley place quite interesting, and there's Christian groups that are putting Bibles in strategic locations knowing that if that is where Israel will be tucked away, then they'll have access to the Bible and they'll read all these events that are happening and come to the saving knowledge of who God is. But nonetheless Israel will be tucked away then they will be insulated. It will be an incubator to forge them into a nation that will follow after the lamb everywhere he goes and when they come to the millennial kingdom at the end of the tribulation period, we read that they are the people that immediately surround the temple where the throne of Jesus will be, and they will be the first layer of those who rule and reign with Jesus. And I find it interesting as I look at these things that they will need this time tucked away for 3 1/2 years on the back end of the tribulation so that they might become one with each other and one with Jesus before he gives them their assignment to be the ones who around the throne in Jerusalem because these Jews that we're talking of here, they will be in their mortal bodies and they will not receive their immortal bodies until they die if they die, during the tribulation post tribulation millennial kingdom.

Verse 24, see 40 days is not enough for what is next for these eight consider this the devil and his henchman fallen demonic beings the sons of God all their bodies that they've deceived inhabited possessed influence, oppressed, and the likes will all be destroyed. We read in Jude and in Peter that it appears many of these demonic beings will be imprisoned. We don't know what the totality of that is, but we know that many will still roam the earth post

flood because here they are all around us today and as we talk last week still on the move today very much so and the point that I make is instead of eight billion people for them to influence, deceive and destroy they now have a limited singular focus. There's only eight and that is now for their target of their target these eight and so God is far from done on what's needs to be done to prepare these eight to go forward and start a new world with still yet an old devil waiting devil surely isn't on that boat because God's on the boat. That's how I see it. now the flesh would still be on the boat and so I don't think it was all dreams and uh cuddly comforting continually moments because that's a long time to be cooped up if you would, but God is still on that boat. I do not believe there's a demon or devil on these boats, but he will be waiting for them when they get off this boat so that he can are the beginning of the new world

Now God never stops working in our lives, and we can be excited about that, and now he will work in those eight very specifically the six you are my plan for the future when you walk off this boat, you must be one with each other and one with me. and Christian, no matter the phase you may be in, remember this, the Lord said, come in. I'm in this boat with you. I said, come in I haven't left. I'm still on this boat. God is still in their presence, and sometimes that's all we know and that's all we need to know. I will never leave you so for us be settled with that I don't know all that's going on other than I know that the presence of God is here Psalm 130 says, I wait for the Lord. But the fact is, we never wait alone

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 8

Title: And God Remembered Noah

Summary: God of course never forgot Noah and family, nor will He forget you in the midst of your storm or trial. The word actually means, to “think upon”, and God was continually thinking upon Noah and family, just as He thinks upon you and your family. And this chapter 8, takes us into amazing depths of God’s thoughts for us, and the chapter closes with God “sharing His heart” with Noah; amazingly, God shares His heart with us as well. Join us as we see all these things and how they apply to us today.

Outline: Genesis 8:1-22

- Then God Remembered Noah (8:1)
- The Ark Rests (8:2-4)
- Land Ho (8:5)
- 40 More Days (8:6)
- The Olive Branch (8:7-11)
- Open the Roof (8:12-13)
- God Says Go (8:14-19)
- Noah Builds an Altar (8:20)
- The Soothing Aroma of a Sacrifice (8:21-22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Then God Remembered Noah (8:1)

Genesis 8:1 Then God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters subsided.

Satellite Photo

Could you imagine a satellite photo of the earth at this time? The photo would be all blue except on a zoom in, one little brown dot in all that blue. It may have taken some searching for a satellite to find Noah and family, but God knew where he was at all times. God never took His eyes from upon him. This ark was a picture of salvation, and God says nothing can pluck you out of my hand:

(John 10:28 KJV) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Ever feel all-alone in this world, Noah did, because the eight of them were, but know this story God hasn’t forgotten, and He knows exactly where you are.

Limited Vocabulary

"And God remembered Noah,..." which doesn't mean that God forgot Noah and suddenly remembered He had a guy down on the earth floating around on the water, but that direct activity with God began again. One

of the problems that we have with God is that we don't have divine terms with which to describe Him. There are probably terms that we will discover when we get to heaven, but we wouldn't even understand them now; because, they are terms that define the aspects of an infinite God. We are limited to our own vocabulary and therefore, we use human terms in talking about God

To Think Upon

This word remembered also means to “think upon”, I think that is the better translation. Psalm 139 tells us of God thinking upon us, and we know that He does not change (Malachi 3:6), therefore He never stopped thinking about Noah but it was now time to start direct activity with Noah again:

(Malachi 3:6 NKJV) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

(Psalms 139:1 NKJV) O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

(Psalms 139:2 NKJV) You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

(Psalms 139:3 NKJV) You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.

(Psalms 139:4 NKJV) For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.

(Psalms 139:5 NKJV) You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.

(Psalms 139:6 NKJV) Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.

(Psalms 139:7 NKJV) Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

(Psalms 139:8 NKJV) If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

(Psalms 139:9 NKJV) If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

(Psalms 139:10 NKJV) Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

(Psalms 139:11 NKJV) If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me," Even the night shall be light about me;

(Psalms 139:12 NKJV) Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

(Psalms 139:13 NKJV) For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.

(Psalms 139:14 NKJV) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.

(Psalms 139:15 NKJV) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

(Psalms 139:16 NKJV) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

God knows where you are at, and what is going on in your life, and He will speak and direct when He sees it best for your life.

God Not Silent

There are many who believe just based on God said come in and God said go out that God didn't speak to Noah any other time during the year plus on the arc to which I do not think that by any means because we were told back in chapter 6 that Noah walked with God, God would not have stopped walking with Noah just because the flood came, and when two people walked together, they have a relationship, and yes, there's moments of silence, and that's part of our Christian walk and way that God works. but no one's going to walk and have a relationship that is strong and sustaining that doesn't include communicating, which includes both speaking and hearing

Genesis 6:9 (NKJV) ⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Malachi 3:6 (NKJV) ⁶ "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hey now, God is silent if you won't repent. Let that be known. Some people need to evaluate. I don't hear God God's not speaking to me. It might just very be because you won't repent your rebellious. You're calling the shots. You just need to repent. because God's word doesn't change. He's unchanging. Jeremiah 33:3 he says called me and I will answer you show you great and mighty things which you do not know. from Noah to Moses, king David, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Peter and Paul, and me and you his word is unchanging, call me and I answer you and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.

God speaks and listens in the midst of our storm God speaks, Jeremiah 33, 29,, Matthew 7

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) ³ 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV) ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

So I show up every morning and part of showing up in the morning for a time with the Lord is believing that God speaks, and I show up with the open Bible, a piece of paper and a pen because I believe God's going to show something to me.

- He's going to show me something about His glory and I'll worship Him.
- He's going to give me something regarding His thoughts towards me, and I'm just going to meditate on and it's going to speak to my heart
- And then I'm going to have faith to boldly ask of him. what he wants me to do.
- I have faith to intercede. for those He lays on my heart
- but I also write down. There's a devil and there's my flesh, and I need to be on guard.

Our father who art in heaven, hallow be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven give us this day our daily bread. forgive us of our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NKJV) ⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

And my primary seeking is not His hand, it's His face, but when I see His face, then I'll be sure that I also will see His hand and He will lead me and guide me and provide for me. It's what we call scripture-fed, Spirit-led, worship-based prayer.

The Ark Rests (8:2-4)

Genesis 8:2 The fountains of the deep and the windows of heaven were also stopped, and the rain from heaven was restrained.

Genesis 8:3 And the waters receded continually from the earth. At the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters decreased.

Genesis 8:4 Then the ark rested in the seventh month, the seventeenth day of the month, on the mountains of Ararat.

270 Accounts of the Flood / Willfully Ignorant

Interesting note, there is an account of a global flood in every major civilizations writings. Indians, nomads, cave dwellers, early civilizations. Some 270 early civilizations tell the story of a flood that wiped out man and there forefathers passed the story of the flood down the line. These 270 accounts give credible evidence that a flood came upon the whole world. They confirm this story here in Genesis, just as the fossil evidence does, but people refuse to believe the evidence or else they would become accountable to what it all means, there is a God that we can know exactly who he is, and what He requires of us.

(2 Peter 3:3 KJV) Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

(2 Peter 3:4 KJV) And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

(2 Peter 3:5 KJV) For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

(2 Peter 3:6 KJV) Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

(2 Peter 3:7 KJV) But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

You can go on the web now and search for “Ararat Anomaly” and now because of the freedom of information act, see photos that are released from the CIA (from 1949) after a rare ice melt, and see an image that fits the exact length and width of the ark. It is very interesting indeed.

Proof to Believe

These men, with their scientific equipment and gear, hoping to find the ark and to bring back the actual evidence that the ark still exists; but, as yet, there is still no solid confirmation that the ark does exist, encased in ice, about the fifteen thousand foot level of Mt. Ararat. If they do discover the ark, it would be the greatest archaeological find in the world; but, would it make you more of a believer in God? Would that cement your faith? Wow! I guess so. No. Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus and the rich man wanted Father Abraham to send someone back to earth to testify to his brothers so that they wouldn't come to Hell.).

(Luke 16:27 NKJV) "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,

(Luke 16:28 NKJV) 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'

(Luke 16:29 NKJV) 'Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'

(Luke 16:30 NKJV) "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

(Luke 16:31 NKJV) "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

Your faith in God is a matter of choice and there is sufficient evidence already to cause us to believe in Him.

Rest in The Scriptures

We read of "rest" throughout the Scriptures.

- God rested after Creation,
- The Ark Rested after God safely delivers Noah and family through the flood,
- Jesus rested when he said "It is Finished",
- the book of Hebrews is about Jesus Christ Our High Priest is seated at the Right hand of the Father, His works are finished.
- Another interesting note is that Noah's name means "rest."

Silence & Brooding

But I do believe there was silence in this account and not necessarily the silence between God and Noah, but God in all creation, even the angels of Heaven because I see continually as I study the account of the flood, I see continually a correlation to the Book of Revelation. I think Revelation is insight into Genesis and Genesis flood account is insight into the Book of Revelation. And I believe what Malachi and Hebrews tells us that He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is a God that does not change.

And when We were studying the book of Revelation, there was 30 minutes of silence before God pours out this great culminating final wrath and judgment upon a sinful, perverse, unrepentant world, and as We studied Revelation, it was as if God's heart was brooding that it has come to this, and after all His pleading, after all His witnessing, as after all of His patience, man still rejects, and God has no choice now, but to pour out the final judgment. And I wonder as We see God brooding quietly and silently, in Heaven before that great pouring out during the tribulation. I wonder if God's heart is breaking, and I'm sure it is and there's a silence before God has to shut that door that it's come to this after 120 years of witnessing by the preacher of righteousness, after seven days of parading the two by two pairs coming to the ark. God's heart breaks when He has to shut that door because what is to come and the fact that no one did come to the invitation set before them to escape the wrath to come for the heart breaking God whose heart never changes wishes that none should perish that all should seek repentance. God takes no delight in the death of the wicked. And I can imagine just as in Revelation, there was 30 minutes of silence in Heaven as well before He had to shut that door and the flood of judgment begins.

Revelation 8:1 (NKJV) ¹ When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

The New Beginning

But.....HERE IS SOMETHING AMAZING, follow this through to the end of this section. When the ark rested, it was a new beginning for the world. The earth had ceased its upheaval, the judgement was over and after all these days of being on a rocking boat, the boat was at rest, on firm ground, it was a new beginning for the earth.

Peter says the Old World perished; what comes from here is a New beginning, a New Life.

(2 Peter 3:5 NKJV) For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,

(2 Peter 3:6 NKJV) by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.

(2 Peter 3:7 NKJV) But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The Date – God Records it

It is interesting when the New World comes, on the 17th day of the 7th month. No word in the scripture is without meaning. The ark rested on the 17th day of the 7th month. God wanted this day marked and recorded for the history of the world so we wouldn't miss the importance of this date

Passover – A New Calendar

Just as the end of the flood was the new beginning for the world, there was another day, so new, and so important to the nation Israel and us today, that God said throw away your old calendar and start a new one. We read about it in Exodus chapter 12:

(Exodus 12:1 NKJV) Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

(Exodus 12:2 NKJV) "This month shall be your beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year to you.

(Exodus 12:3 NKJV) "Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.

(Exodus 12:4 NKJV) 'And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

(Exodus 12:5 NKJV) 'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

(Exodus 12:6 NKJV) 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

(Exodus 12:7 NKJV) 'And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Overview of Passover

It was the first Passover, Moses was told to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, but first the night before they were to take the blood of the lamb and cover the doorpost of the home, and when God say the blood He would pass over the house, but if there was no blood over the door, then God would take the first born, in death. The Egyptians awoke to the horror of death, and begged Moses and the children of Israel to leave the land. That was the first Passover, and it was so the "center" of the Jewish faith, God said start a new calendar based on it, and observe and honor it every year on the exact same day.

Same Month

Chuck Missler and Chuck Smith have done the research, and they say through the ancient writings of the Jews, that this 7th month spoken of here in Genesis 8 can be traced what it changed to, when God said in Exodus 12, make this month the first month. Guess what, it was the 7th month of Genesis 8. So Genesis 8 and Exodus 12 are the exact same months, and obviously, the days of the month are the exact same day also.

Prophetic Picture / Our Faith Linked to Resurrection

Now, for the Passover was the prophetic picture of the perfect sacrificial lamb that was to come, Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). The Passover was on the 14th day of the month. Jesus was our Passover lamb, and He was offered on the 14th day of the first month, just as they

were killing lambs for the Passover that year, Jesus was being crucified on the cross at the same time. But the grave couldn't hold Him, and He rose again, on the 3rd day.

(John 11:25 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

Our faith is linked entirely on the resurrection.

(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

17th of the Month / New Beginning – New World

The 3rd day being the 17th of the month.....guess what, the exact same day that the ark rested on the mountain. The ark resting on the 17th was a picture in advance of salvation that would bring man through the judgment God, and bringing him into rest. It represents a new beginning in a new world for all those who will believe. This called the “Feast of Firstfruits”, as Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection, and we are the following fruits of resurrection.

Leviticus 23:9–14 (NKJV) ⁹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest to the priest. ¹¹ He shall wave the sheaf before the LORD, to be accepted on your behalf; on the day after the Sabbath the priest shall wave it. ¹² And you shall offer on that day, when you wave the sheaf, a male lamb of the first year, without blemish, as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹³ Its grain offering *shall be* two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil, an offering made by fire to the LORD, for a sweet aroma; and its drink offering *shall be* of wine, one-fourth of a hin. ¹⁴ You shall eat neither bread nor parched grain nor fresh grain until the same day that you have brought an offering to your God; *it shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings.

Inspired Book

Now you tell me this book wasn't inspired, that it was some accident. God foreordained the resting of the ark. 66 books by 40 different over thousands of years, all weaving together perfectly, and all pointing to one person - Jesus Christ.

Land Ho (8:5)

Genesis 8:5 And the waters decreased continually until the tenth month. In the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen.

Shocking View

Imagine the sight to Noah. He got on the boat and the last he saw was a tropical paradise, lush and green. A warm balmy climate due to the greenhouse effect caused by the water canopy. It was paradise, and now he sees floating carcasses, the waters littered with debris. It would be like us emerging from a fall-out shelter after a nuclear detonation, it would be utterly shocking.

But, God remembered (was continually thinking of) Noah, God is with Noah, and God is starting something new.

40 More Days (8:6)

Genesis 8:6 So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.

It Will Rain Again

Consider this, it will rain again rain is now part of the new world. The climate has shifted. We see that at the last verse (22) that we now read of winter and summer harvest time and the likes so it makes me wonder the first time it rained what did Noah think while God in his goodness gives him a promise that he'll never flood the earth again.

It would take a lot to “open the window”.

But when did he get that promise And I have to wonder still yet the first time it rained after he took the roof off the first time it rained when he was outside the arc distant from the ark. What did Noah think? What I know is

he would have to come back to the promise of God, even in what would be a great remembrance of a great trial that he would have to remember that God's word is true, and that he can rest in the word of God, and so too, you and I, no matter the trial we have to come to this word of God. That's why we have to study it. That's why we have to plan it in our heart so when the trial comes, we remember the promises of God and *don't let the circumstance stir us to anxiety, but let the scripture settle us as an anchor*

God is Not Judging Noah – but the World

God's not judging Noah. He's judging in the world. God was looking for a man, and he found one in Noah therefore I believe he said, come on that boat because he was on that boat, and he rowed that storm out with Noah on that boat, and when Noah would call, the Lord would answer, because Noah walked with God, God's not judging Noah, he's judging the world.

He was looking for a man after his own heart, and he found one in Noah, and so for you and I will he find one in us. I told you I thought my trial would end in 40 days. I stepped out in faith. left a space center, left all my security, my familiarity, my ease and my comfort.

When I came back, I thought, oh, it's a 40 day trial. I can do this. Then my 40 day trial turned into somewhere like two years before it was finally over.

But there was several months, I think even nine months of total unemployment. Then after that, another year plus of just temporary employment. But as I said, I thought oh, 40 days prune in me, purifying me. Prepare me I said I can do 40 days. I look forward to 40 days. But when that was over, then it turned into four months, eight months, then I'll say I'm not as strong as I think I am.

And I'll tell you this, because God wants you to know it and I won't be one who stands alone when I tell such a story. There was some point several months into it, unemployment, even the ministry. Nothing was happening in the ministry. So now I have no job. I have no ministry. people are starting to judge me and critique me for quitting my job. Even leadership would say, are you sure you heard from God? Even those close is there some sin in your life? Is that why God's doing this? And of course, I'd have to go back to the word God gave me to step out and go to Bible College, the word he gave me to come back to the east coast. This is where you will do ministry. but still yet it was hard and I know one day whatever it was I don't remember the specifics, but another job rejection, just another life rejection. And I remember shaking a fist at God, saying Am done. I just want to work and live. I don't care about serving. I don't care about ministry I'm done. and God spoke to me at that moment and he said Ray, I want you to see given the right circumstances, even you will shake your fist at me. and I knew at that moment, apart from him, I can do nothing. I knew at that moment.

Woe am I for I am a sinful man and God and his great grace still comforted me and still accepted my apology. Lord forgive me. you are Lord, and I am nothing apart from you. You talk about great grace what should have been what I should have expect because I put myself in how I think God would act if it was me in the role of God, I'm going to let you feel this pain. that's not God in his great grace.

I said, I'm just going to go for a walk. Just go for a walk with you, Lord. I was there in Florida. very busy area. A lot of people would come to this area for vacation and tourism. I remember stepping outside the door and my usual routine was to walk south for whatever reason, the loop was easier that way, walks south, make a right, make a right head north, make a right come home. I walked out the door as I usually did, started walking south and felt the pressing on the Lord. Now go north. and I knew the pressing of the Lord. I've heard it before so I turned and I head north. I wasn't even 100 yards and I'd look up. I see a little five year old filled with terror screaming, running down towards my direction and all the world's just watching. No one will engage. They're on vacations. They just think maybe he's a spoiled kid. but I knew this child was lost. So I step in front. I don't touch him, but I say, are you lost, little one? Crying he says yes, I says, where's your mommy and daddy? And he pointed south. twitch logically didn't make sense to me. Because the gathering

spot was north. I says, you know, I bet your mommy and daddy are that way. What do you say we turn around and head that way? And so he shakes his head, he turns, I don't touch him, I keep my distance. I'm 10 yards back, but I'm walking behind on guard for him and then take me long to see about 50 yards away, a frantic mother with the look of a face who just lost a child. And I steer that child into the mother's arms for sweet reuniting which, by the way, there was no thank you, because mother couldn't process anything else except my child that was lost has been found.

The God once again, just in a short moment, you shake a fist at me. given the right environment. You and any other man will. you got a lot to grow. You got a lot a lot of faith to mature in. But then he still showed me. I'll still use a flawed man because that's what I do. and I'll still show you that I can use you And I went from shaking a fist. The hands opened and arms lifted up. I praise you, you are good so good

The Olive Branch (8:7-11)

Genesis 8:7 Then he sent out a raven, which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.

Genesis 8:8 He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.

Genesis 8:9 But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.

Genesis 8:10 And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark.

Genesis 8:11 Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

Raven Picture of the World

The raven is a picture of the world, the flesh. A raven feeds off flesh. Imagine all the dead floating carcasses scattered through the world. The raven was categorized as an unclean bird, it never came back because it was filling itself full of flesh.

Now Noah sends out a dove, which are clean birds.

Raven has a Feast / Old nature -- The Dove found No Satisfaction

The raven went out into a judged world and had a feast on dead carcasses. The raven is a picture of our old nature. The old nature loves the things of the world and feasts off of them. The dove represents the new nature of man. The dove went out into a judged world but found no rest, no satisfaction, and she returned to the ark. The raven never came back because it thought it had hit jackpot, but the dove found nothing appealing in the old judged world.

Green Leaf – God Regenerating the Earth

But when the floodwaters receded, and the new earth was revealed, the dove came back with green vegetation, a freshly plucked olive leaf, and proof that God was regenerating the world.

Spirit like a Dove / 2 Choices

We see in Matthew that the spirit descended on Jesus like a dove. So we see here the Spirit of God is moving again across the earth. We have two choices; we can live a life after the Spirit, or after the flesh. The passage here makes the illustration so obvious to us. Living like the raven our life is feeding off of dead decaying things, or living like the dove we live off the things that show life, color, hope. It is true isn't it, once we are saved we go into the same world, but there is nothing there that brings us satisfaction.

Open the Roof (8:12-13)

Genesis 8:12 So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.

Genesis 8:13 And it came to pass in the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, that the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and looked, and indeed the surface of the ground was dry.

Noah Waits

After all this time, 371 days on this ark, Noah sees dry ground but he doesn't move, He waits for one thing, and one thing only, He waits to hear the voice of the Father again. What a man of faith. And the Lord speaks, and He says "go"

First Noah peaks out the window to dry land appeared, then he opens the window fully, and closes it again, but now he is opening the roof (removed the covering), there is no going back now.

God Says Go (8:14-19)

Genesis 8:14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dried.

Genesis 8:15 Then God spoke to Noah, saying,

Genesis 8:16 "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you.

Genesis 8:17 Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you: birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth."

Genesis 8:18 So Noah went out, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.

Genesis 8:19 Every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, and whatever creeps on the earth, according to their families, went out of the ark.

God Lost not a One

This may seem like redundant wording, but God is making a point to us; He is saying just as I said I would, I preserved everything that came into the ark, I lost none, every animal, every creeping thing, every bird, every person, came into the ark, a came through the storm.

God makes the point to us, stay on the boat, and you will be delivered through every storm, you will be preserved through the next judgment to come.

(John 10:28 KJV) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

First Come / then Go

First the Lord said to Noah, "come", and now He says go. God always says come first, and then after we come to Him, he sends us out. Go into the New World. For once you come to the Lord, the world around you is new, yes it is the same world, but it is all-new to you. You don't look at it the same anymore, and God says exactly the thing He said to Noah, now go.

(Matthew 28:18 NKJV) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

(Matthew 28:19 NKJV) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

(Matthew 28:20 NKJV) "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

You come into God's presence and then you go out in power. You can't go out in power until you've come into His presence.

I'm sure we all say after 40 days we'd be screaming get me off this boat after 150 days we'd be saying get me off this boat after a year we all sit here and go I'd be going stir crazy and get me off this boat. But for consideration there's security on the boat. There's familiarization and surety in the midst of uncertainty, and I believe it'll take as much faith to get off this boat as it did to get on this boat with their eyes would see as a planet wiped out by being buried in water for over a year. Imagine the sight of that. Their minds still had to

wonder and think, even though God said what he said, and just like all of us we say, I know he said it, but there's always this little place in the back of the corner of the recesses of our heart that we go. But maybe it's not exactly what I thought he said and Noah very well could have said but what if someone survived the wicked, the violent, the abusers, those tapping into sorcery, I get off this boat. I'm 600 years old. I don't know if I can stand toe to toe with a 300 year old who would be extremely upset that I didn't hold the boat for him. I got kids. I got daughters now. I got a wife What have they find me? What if they see them? What if they where 100 miles away from this boat? living in tents again and I see them coming over the horizon. I believe as much faith to get off the boat as it was to get on the boat.

I see something here for application for all of us for our sales personally and for those that we know and the application of life after a major life upheaval that somebody's been through a storm devastating storm. Everything in their world wiped out all that they knew is gone. All the familiar, all the surety all the safety and security wiped out by some life upheaval.

- and I believe there's a place for us that we can come and walk with them and be gentle and encouraging walk with them and be therefore them to encourage not to judge them, maybe even to help come alongside them and say let's open the window just for a time and look outside again.
- and then sometime thereafter come alongside them to stand with them, courage them. Let's remove the window. Let's let some light and fresh air back in.
- And then after a time, leading to the Lord, we come alongside of them. Let's open the roof. Let's open up and do more. and then finally, as we walk this out with them, because none of this is going to happen overnight, the upheaval doesn't come and the door opens and we walk off and out from that life event. There's a healing there's a period of time regathering strength, heart's wounding,
- we come alongside and go, let's leave the house. let's step out in faith. Yes, I know you're leaving. What is now your comfort and security and your familiarity because here nobody can touch you and here nobody can hurt you and here you feel the floods of the world can't touch you. but we come and say, let's leave this house. God's got a whole life of head of you. Yes, tell your heart to beat again step out because God's not done. God's gonna use you again to tell the world that there is life after the life event of a flood of an upheaval.

Who might God be speaking to you about it right now go in with them and simply start by saying, let's open the window, just for a time and look outside again.

Or just maybe that someone's you today. and you've come here because God drew you here. You're not sure you could ever leave again. Maybe you're listening online or the radio. I got speaking to you right now. Open the window. Let's remove the window. Let's open the roof. Let's leave this house and step out into this new day, a new beginning that God has for you.

Noah Builds an Altar (8:20)

Genesis 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

First Thing Noah Did

This all happened long before the Mosaic law (Levitical Law); before God instituted or codified the various types of sacrifices; before God had ever codified the clean and unclean animals. Yet, here was something that preexisted the Mosaic Law in that Noah offered the sacrifice of consecration. Just as Abel learned from Adam, so did the others would call upon the name of the Lord learn the lamb sacrifice.

The first thing that Noah did was to build an altar to the Lord and offer a sacrifice. After 371 days on the ark, cooped up with the stench and confinement, what does he do, he builds an altar to the Lord. He doesn't go for a walk, take a bath, start to build a house; the first thing he does is build and altar, and offer sacrifices to the Lord.

How often after a long trial, a long day, we look for relaxation, kick back and watch some TV, take some time off on Sunday and sleep in, Go to movies. Noah builds an altar and worships the Lord for bringing him through the trial.

Limited Resources / Worship Takes Priority

Today people would say to Noah, you can't be sacrificing these animals, we are on a limited budget, the resources are low, we have to make these resources go a long way. Please learn from Noah, worship always takes priority. We remember the story when the woman came to Jesus and poured 300 denari worth of perfume upon Him in an act of worship. But one of the disciples, we know as Judas, says that could have been sold and given to the poor, all the while he was skimming off the bag for selfish reasons. Nothing ever spent on Jesus is a waste if it is given in the adoration of worship.

(Mark 14:3 NKJV) And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.

(Mark 14:4 NKJV) But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted?"

(Mark 14:5 NKJV) "For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply.

Jesus Gives the Order

Worship first, and then service. Jesus said it to the devil, in that order, worship the Lord, and then serve Him:

(Matthew 4:9 NKJV) And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

(Matthew 4:10 NKJV) Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

This is the order God wants for us. We are to worship Him first and then serve Him. You may not do missions, you may not get your music released on the Christian radio, you may never preach in a stadium, but everyone of can do what blesses God the most, the highest ministry, the ministry of worshipping Him

Noah models it for us, it is the highest most precious ministry unto the Lord, and we are able to enter into this ministry. Noah gets off the ark and builds an altar.

The Soothing Aroma of a Sacrifice (8:21-22)

Genesis 8:21 And the Lord smelled a soothing aroma. Then the Lord said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

The Sweet Aroma / Fallen / Chp 9

Even though man is fallen and depraved, but he who worships the Lord blesses him. You may feel like you constantly blow it, but worship the Lord on the way today, tonight, tomorrow and He says ahh what a sweet smell, what a blessing you are to me. Unfortunately, chapter 9 our last account of this faithful and righteous man Noah, we see him in a bad light, surely not the last thing you want to be remembered as. But the story of Noah's drunkardness proves out this verse, God's grace, and His forgiveness, and how even as sinful man God still finds our worship sweet.

Noah, having descended from Adam, had a sinful nature. God recognizes and acknowledges now the sinful nature of man. Even though man does have the sinful nature, God is going to make a way of redemption for sinful man. God recognizes that man has this tendency towards evil, yet declares that He will never again destroy every living thing. There is an indication, in scripture, that during the Judgment of God that only two-thirds of the earth's population will be destroyed and one-third will live. So, it won't be a total extermination as it was in Noah's day. There will be that possibility that a person could survive the Great Tribulation Period, although it's not a possibility that I would want to gamble on.

We've read twice God spoke to Noah come in to the ark, then after a year plus go out of the ark, and yet here in this last verse God said in his heart I will never again. He literally told Moses excuse me Noah write this

down. I'm telling you what's on my heart. The creator of the universe, the one true living God, the only God, shared his heart with a man. Said I want to tell you what's on my heart. Write it down, let everybody know, and I will tell you this Christian God will share his heart with a man and woman who cares what's on his heart.

When we read sea time and harvest, we see the introduction of seasons from summer to winter, heat, hot and cold and we can see that the world has greatly changed, which tells me a green house had to be a perfect zero degree access tilt somewhere along the line here we are 23 1/2 that's what brings us in to our winter and summers. The world has changed. And so the result of this judgment and yet God puts a promise in it for us to day as long as you see winter and summer as long as you' have hot and cold as long as you have seed time and harvest as long as you have morning and night, you can rest in my promise. I will never flood this earth again, and for Noah, the next time it rains, he'll need this word. because the last time he faced rain life changed the whole world changed and now Noah has to take this word every sunrise, every sunset even in the cold, even in the heat, God's faithful to his word.

The word soothing, we get this word rest, and what we see here is god rest in the sacrifice. It's pleasing to him. It's the sacrifice of rest. It's a picture of Jesus. The sacrifice of Jesus was pleasing to the Father and we can rest in it and we can rest in the words it's done.

It's not only the physical on that is soothing to the heart of God that is pleasing that stirs and stimulates the heart of God because is that not what the sweet aroma of a barbecue does or your favorite food, your bread, maker, whatever that may be when you smell it, it just brings this warmth. It brings this joy and comfort and soothing to your very soul and your very being because you're looking forward to it and what it means and what it speaks and yet what a sacrifice is, it is about the spiritual things. The physical things represent the spiritual, this is a spiritual sacrifice.

It's a burnt offering. It's a whole offering. Everything and all is unto you, Lord, a burn offering was fully consecrated.

There was no part like other offerings that were taken by the person or the priesthood for a piece for themselves, a burn offering was fully consecrated completely unto the Lord. There is a spiritual principle that the person saying that everything I have I give to you. and being in my very being, I'm offering up to you. and Noah is taking limited resources and lifting them to the Lord saying, I trust you and I give myself completely into your hands for this next season, this next place in my life and what Noah's doing is he's making a spiritual sacrifice. And that's what's soothing to the Lord.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

That's what moves the Lord, that's what stimulates the heart of God when a person makes a spiritual sacrifice that is completely given to the Lord, and here we come back to Romans 12, one and two, the living sacrifice that we are completely His. Here I am, lord, arms lifted high, hands opened to you in warship saying here I am take me.

Outline: Genesis 8:1-22

- Then God Remembered Noah (8:1)
- The Ark Rests (8:2-4)
- Land Ho (8:5)
- 40 More Days (8:6)
- The Olive Branch (8:7-11)
- Open the Roof (8:12-13)
- God Says Go (8:14-19)
- Noah Builds an Altar (8:20)

- The Soothing Aroma of a Sacrifice (8:21-22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 9

Title: The Covenant with a Sign

Summary: God not only makes a covenant with mankind with words (never to flood the earth again with water), but He gives the rainbow to be the sign to remind us of His covenant. He does the same with the "New Covenant", that our sins will be forgiven and washed away never to be remembered by Him, and He gives us a sign to remember His promised covenant, and that is the fellowship of Communion with Him and each other. Join us as we walk through this great passage, verse-by-verse.

Outline: Genesis 9

- Shall be Food for You (9:1-3)
- The Life is in the Blood (9:4)
- The Sanctity of Life (9:5-7)
- God Speaks; to Noah & Sons (9:8-10)
- The Covenant with a Sign (9:11-17)
- Oh Noah (9:18-29)

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Shall be Food for You (9:1-3)

Genesis 9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

Genesis 9:2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.

Genesis 9:3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.

Fill the Earth – Not Subdue It

Notice that this call to be fruitful and multiply as it mirrors Genesis chapter 1 it leaves out the words and subdue it because Adam and Eve forfeited the title deed of the earth there in the garden at the fall and as we have studied Jesus purchased it back with his very blood not to get the field, the field with the treasure that is in it, and that's you and I (Matthew 13).

Genesis 1:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Ephesians 2:2 (NKJV) ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

John 14:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NKJV) ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Revelation 5:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

Vegetarian to Meat as Well

Prior to the "flood" man was a vegetarian, but here God allows man to eat meat.

(Genesis 1:29 NKJV) And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

(Genesis 1:30 NKJV) "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so.

Burnt Offering – Complete Offering

We closed out chapter 8 the first thing Noah did when he got off the ark was build an altar and make sacrifice unto the Lord and as we studied it was a burnt offering which was a full complete consecration offering that all of it was unto the Lord. I believe one of the reasons that man will move from vegetarian to meat as well it's not just for variety but for the fellowship with the Lord as well. God establishes the sacrificial system in Leviticus there will be the burnt offering which is a complete and full and whole offering unto the Lord but God will also establish other meat offerings (as well as meal offerings) That the person who makes the sacrifice will partake in a meal together with the Lord and it will be known as the fellowship offering and it is a beautiful thing. And today we have a fellowship offering to the Lord has established for us and it is communion.

The fellowship offering, also known as the peace offering, was a significant part of the Israelite sacrificial system. According to the articles, it was a voluntary sacrifice aimed at maintaining or celebrating communion with God[1][2]. This offering was unique in that part of it was sacrificed to God, while the remaining meat was eaten by the person making the sacrifice and often shared with others[2][3]. The fellowship offering could be made for various purposes, including as a freewill offering, a vow offering, or a thanksgiving offering[2]. It was frequently associated with covenantal meals and, after the establishment of kingship, sometimes recognized the role of the king in relation to God or the people[2]. The offering symbolized a positive, covenant-keeping relationship with God and was seen as a demonstration of God's desire for a covenant relationship with His people[4].

[1] Witthoff, D., ed. (2014). The Lexham Cultural Ontology Glossary. Lexham Press.

[2] Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000). The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament (electronic ed., Le 3:1–17). InterVarsity Press.

[3] World Bible Translation Center. (2012). Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version. WORDsearch.

[4] Mounce, W. D. (2006). In Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words (p. 247). Zondervan.

Genesis 8:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Leviticus 7:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ The flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day it is offered. He shall not leave any of it until morning.

The Lord calls us the fasting it's a biblical principle it's a means to separate the flesh and the spirit by giving opportunity to deny the flesh so the spirit can rise. I find it one of the sweetest moments as when you incorporate a meal with the Lord at the end of your fasting that the meal was actually part of your fasting if you would in that you're still in the attitude of prayer and separation onto the Lord but you sit down at that meal whether it be that burger or that bowl of soup whatever it may be and you invite the Lord the two of you to a special meal together as you continue that fellowship with him maybe as you continue to read the word while you eat or continue with your prayer journal or soaking in worship but you invite the Lord to the meal just like the peace offering as it was demonstrated to us in the scriptures.

The Life is in the Blood (9:4)

Genesis 9:4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.

Christmas Message

This is a great passage as we enter Christmas, God is making a covenant with man and mankind, and it is an everlasting covenant. He is establishing that life is in the blood. And He will use this theme from here until Calvary. Oh precious is the blood. For man, blood is life, and man is to reverence and recognize what blood is to every man. Because, God is establishing the sacrificial system, and He is establishing that life is in the blood of that sacrifice, and when the animal is sacrificed, the blood was the life of that animal; as God points to a future sacrifice of Himself, and that life is in His blood, and one drop of His blood can cleanse us from all our sin, and that through His Divine blood we will have "life".

Leviticus 17:11–12 (NKJV) ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.' ¹² Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'

The blood of Jesus Christ and believers

Manser, M. H. (2009). Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies. Martin Manser.

Believers are cleansed from all sin

Heb 9:14; 10:22; 13:12; 1Jn 1:6-9

Hebrews 9:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

1 John 1:6–9 (NKJV) ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Believers have a new confidence before God

Eph 2:13; Col 1:19-22; Heb 10:19-22

Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Colossians 1:19–22 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

The blood of Jesus Christ and the Lord's Supper Invitations to share in the blood of Jesus Christ

1Co 10:16 See also Jn 6:53-57

1 Corinthians 10:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

Warnings about sinning against the blood of Jesus Christ

1Co 11:27 See also Heb 10:28-31

1 Corinthians 11:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

Look to His Second Coming as Well

Speaking of Christmas, every year We look forward to Christmas and the special time that it brings a special time of looking back of when He first came but Hebrews Chapter 9 also gives Us that reminder that as We look back at His first coming We should use it to remind Us to look forward to His second coming as He's going to come for His children and take Us home

Hebrews 9:23–28 (NKJV) ²³ Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

The Sanctity of Life (9:5-7)

Genesis 9:5 Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.

Genesis 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

Genesis 9:7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; Bring forth abundantly in the earth And multiply in it."

Sanctity of Life – Because Sanctity of the Image

God establishes for clarity without a doubt why life is sacred..... because men are "image bearers" of God. That is anything but common. No life is common, for every life is a reflection of God, bears the image of God.

God is establishing capital punishment, a life for a life. Jesus will elevate this precept, which will become one of the ten commandments, thou shall not murder. Jesus will elevate it and say if you have hatred in your heart, I consider you guilty of murder; and here we see God looks at the heart because the heart is the genesis of the outward actions. God is establishing the sanctity of life, the taking of a life, to the hating of the life. His expectation how man is to live. And once again, as I read Genesis, I say thank God Jesus came into this world to die for sinners, and especially a sinner like me.

Matthew 5:21–22 (NKJV)²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

Here the Lord gives the call to be fruitful and multiply, and it's in contrast to the taking of life. And so we see God's great sanctity of life and the call to be fruitful and multiply, which totally counters the culture of today that literally don't be fruitful and multiply.

God Speaks; to Noah & Sons (9:8-10)

Genesis 9:8 Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:

Genesis 9:9 "And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you,

Genesis 9:10 and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the cattle, and every beast of the earth with you, of all that go out of the ark, every beast of the earth.

God Speaks to Sons

Notice for the first time we read of God speaking to Noah's sons. This is fitting because now it is their faith, it will be their faith that they fully own when they leave the ark, when they leave mom and dad, when mom and dad pass away it will be their faith. God will make a covenant with them personally. God will make a covenant with mankind (won't flood the world again); but He is also making a personal covenant with every person personally, that is not your parent's covenant, but yours personally.

Go Out

If the Son sets you free, then you're free indeed and so this Christmas from the Babe of Bethlehem to the Christ of the cross, that you hear the voice of God saying come in. May you hear the voice of the God as He says go out? It's a new beginning.

John 8:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

The Covenant with a Sign (9:11-17)

Genesis 9:11 Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

Genesis 9:12 And God said: "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

Genesis 9:13 I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

Genesis 9:14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud;

Genesis 9:15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Genesis 9:16 The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

Genesis 9:17 And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

There are 8 specific Covenants we see in the Scriptures:

Edenic Covenant: (Genesis 2:16-17). God declares to Adam and Eve, all of this is for you to enjoy, but if you eat of the tree of Knowledge and Evil, you shall surely die. This one is perpetual for we see man dying everyday as the result of the world being plunged into sin.

Adamic Covenant: (Genesis 3:14-19). Here is the result of the fall, the curse. Satan you shall slither on your belly, woman you shall suffer pain in childbirth, man you shall till the land in sweat. But there is hope, for a Savior will come through the Seed of the woman who will crush satan's head, but only after satan bruises His heel on the cross. This one is perpetual, woman still suffer in birthing, and man still sweats in the field. The Savior has come for sin, but next times He comes for His kids.

Noahic Covenant: (Genesis 8:21-9:17). We will look at that in this study. It is a perpetual covenant.

Abrahamic Covenant: (Genesis 12,15,17). God telling Abraham I am going to bless you, and the nations will be blessed through you. For through the line of Abraham the Savior will come, and all who will receive Him will be free from sin and death. It is a perpetual covenant for the Love of the Lamb is available to all who will receive, every tribe, nation, and tongue. I am also going to give you a land that will be yours forever.

Mosaic Covenant: (Exodus 19, 24, 34). Better known as "The Law". This is a conditional covenant for it is based on; if you will do this you will be blessed, if you will that, then you will be cursed. It is an if/then covenant. If you do right then you will be blessed, if you do wrong, then you will be cursed. This covenant is not perpetual for it was superceded by the New Covenant.

Palestinian Covenant: (Duet 30). This covenant deals with the land of Israel. It states that the land of Israel will be the Jews forever and ever. It is perpetual, forever and ever, regardless of what Yassar Arraft thinks or says, regardless of what the United Nations or the United States says, it is the Jewish peoples forever and ever.

David Covenant: (2 Sam. 7:12; 22:51) From King David's seed would come a ruler who would reign on the throne forever - King Jesus. This one of course is perpetual, forever and ever. This covenant agreement reached its highest fulfillment when Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of the line of David, was born in Bethlehem about a thousand years after God made this promise to David the king (Matt. 1:1; 2:4-6; Luke 1:29-33).

New Covenant: (Jeremiah 31:31-34 see also Heb 8:3). God says I will write my will on the tablets of your heart. Jesus would say His blood is the blood of the New Covenant (Matt 26:27-28). It is no longer an external covenant, but an internal covenant. It is Christ in you, the hope of Glory (Col 1:27). It is God Himself taking up residence in your body to lead you and empower you for your walk with Him.

(Matthew 26:27 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

(Colossians 1:27 NKJV) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

3 Components of the Noahic Covenant:

- Diet - 9:2-4 (The Foods given to Eat)
- Discipline - 9:5-6 (Punishment for Murder)
- Declaration - 9:7-17 (God will never flood the world again)

The Great Teacher

The great teacher gives us covenants with signs, the Noahic covenant comes with a rainbow, the Mosaic covenant comes with a Sabbath, the new covenant comes with communion. What beautiful pictures we see that the Lord speaks so that we can always remember His covenant.

Comfort to Noah / The Bow

God established His covenant with the Rainbow. After the flood the earth became watered by rain, but it did not rain prior to the flood. We know that the rainbows are caused by the prisms formed in the droplets of water with the background of a cloud and the sun shining on the water that is falling. It is a beautiful sight to behold and the rainbow should remind us of the faithfulness of God's promise to Noah. God has to give Noah this promise, for reassurance, 377 days watching the whole world get wiped out, that is a lot for a person to see. Can you imagine, every time Noah heard thunder he would have freaked out if it wasn't for God's promise here.

I like the interpretation of an ancient Rabbi. He points out that there is a bow, but no arrow, for the arrow of judgment has already been shot. The bow without an arrow represents never again a flood will wipe out the world.

God Became the Ark

Jesus said he would never flood the earth again with water, but we know according to Peter and revelation that he will judge the earth with fire and so here we are in Genesis looking forward to the next arc of salvation. In the Genesis flood the ark is made of wood and that man was invited to come aboard. In the next arc to come it was made of wood, but man didn't climb the wood, but God Himself put the wood on His shoulder and carried it up a hill on Mt. Golgotha, and He became the ark of salvation for anyone who would receive it and they would be saved from the fire of the judgment to come, whether on this earth and the tribulation or in the next world after death, to escape the fires of hell and damnation. How amazing, God did not build an ark, but become the ark of salvation.

2 Peter 3:10–12 (NKJV)¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Oh Noah (9:18-29)

Genesis 9:18 Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan.

Genesis 9:19 These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

Genesis 9:20 And Noah began to be a farmer, and he planted a vineyard.

Genesis 9:21 Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent.

Noah Didn't Know – Not

The defense always comes in defensive nowhere that he didn't know that the grapes would turn to wine and therefore he's not guilty but God here calls it wine he doesn't call it sour grapes and just from the agricultural principle wine is created when the skins begin to ferment (yeast occurs naturally on the skin of grapes – and wine is made when the sugar of the grape interacts with yeast), and that fermentation begins with decay and decay entered into the world at the time of the fall of Adam and Eve. So it's a great leap to say that wine came into being after the flood. Because it would have entered at the fall and therefore no doubt was a great contributor to the great wickedness and perversion of the world that would be judged in the flood.

Noah Walked with God

Again the verse clearly calls it line sour grape and I make the point Noah walked with God and God gave him every detail on how to build the ark and every detail how to weather this storm I find it highly doubtful the God wouldn't give him the details of how grapes turn into wine if God was teaching him how to be a farmer and one who plants a vineyard. I think sadly we see that Noah for whatever the reason found himself into comfort and ease because he's not building an ark weathering a storm he can kick back and relax, or maybe there was some other reason that he thought wine was worth it (because we do notice that Mrs. Noah wasn't in the tent yeah she could have been

visiting children and grandchildren you will have passed away and Noah was all alone and thought this is how he can soothe and comfort himself); and whatever the case what we see is that for this moment that we read Noah wasn't walking with God and he wasn't being just and he wasn't being perfect in this new generation of the generation after the flood. We can't take a day off as the devil never takes a day off and is always waiting the devil was waiting outside the yard for knowing his family and had no one else to focus on but no one his family he waited for his time to go after Noah and what appears to be he was all alone.

Genesis 6:9–10 (NKJV)⁹ This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ¹⁰ And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The Righteous May Fall

I am thankful for the promise that the righteous may fall 7 times but he gets up. Noah was called righteous, but even he falls. And I am so thankful that he has come it is he who lifts me up after the fall sin and puts my feet upon a rock solid and sure the rock of my salvation Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

Genesis 9:22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.

To Gaze

Much analysis and debate is put into this word saw as it is sometimes translated and rendered to gaze to stare which then causes all kinds of speculations and interpretations that may or may not be there and I do not wish to dismiss any of them because I find them all plausible but choose not to go over all of them in this study. What we see is Noah was in his tent and it's quite possible that ham came in and was totally taken back by what he saw as his father was laying there passed out and without his clothing on and whatever that site was it was not a pleasant sight.

Wine is a Mocker

Wine is surely a mocker

Proverbs 20:1 (NKJV)¹ Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

And whatever the case Ham had an opportunity to cover his father's failings and shortcoming at this moment but instead he goes and tells his brothers to now have this go further than just him and now outward to his brothers.

Genesis 9:23 But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness.

Conceal a Matter

We are to conceal a matter, and I think there's a place some of them we take to our grave with us. Yes, some need to be called out where judgment and correction needs to be made, but we better be filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit before we go that realm. But there's others that we just know this is their failing. They're shortcoming. It's not their life. It's not a habitual sin, maybe even just a bad moment. There's just beauty and compassion and concealing the matter.

Proverbs 11:13 (NKJV)¹³ A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

Love covers a multitude of sin. of transgressions.

1 Peter 4:7–8 (NKJV)⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Genesis 9:24 So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.

Awake from Wine

Hearing read that Noah is awakening from his wine, which we know is called a hangover.

Knew

Noah would have to start asking some questions to find out exactly what happened because it woke up without his regular clothes on and he would head some foreign garment that was not his to start with and he would have woke up with this hangover going what in the world happened and then we'd get to the bottom of it of what we just read.

Genesis 9:25 Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren."

Genesis 9:26 And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant.

Genesis 9:27 May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."

Why is Canaan Cursed?

So why is the son of Ham cursed rather than Ham himself the whole thing starts becoming rather confusing does it not. And you can read and I do not dismiss any of the ponderings of why, as some will say that the younger son Canaan became engaged in the matter somehow, others will say then we see the father passing on his fault and failure onto his son and his son becomes like him because of the upbringing. However the scriptures are very clear that the sins of the father will not be levied upon the children nor the children's sin upon the parents so there's an issue with that application in the matter here.

Deuteronomy 24:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ "Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

Some Say Noah Prophecies

Some will say that Noah is prophesying in fact most every commentary will say that Noah is prophesying the only issue I have with this is I do not see a complete fulfillment of this prophecy in the scriptures. Yes Canaan will be the father of the Canaanites and they will be driven out of the land when the children of Israel come into the land after Egypt. We can see partial fulfillment of the Canaanites serving the lineage of Shem and Japheth, however the problem with that is that God had given the command to totally and utterly destroy the Canaanites and so to make them servants is somewhat countering what the command God will give later when the children of Israel would come in to the land of Canaan so there is much problem with that position that this is fulfilled prophetically completely.

I'm Not Convinced

This is a very confusing passage in fact it has been used and many terrible ways in regards to racism. But again I just find the matter of the passage extremely confusing why ham is not directly cursed and why this falls on to his son without any type of clarity on the matter to which again it's a very confusing passage and it has been confused really overall the centuries since it's recording.

Here's one of my issues that it says that Noah woke up from his wine which would mean he woke up with a hangover and now here he is prophesying of the future which would mean he was be given a word from God himself to speak. Now I cannot dismiss that as likely to be. But here's what I know in all the confusion wine leads to much confusion. Can I trust a leader can I trust wisdom those under the influence of much wine I wouldn't today and hence my trouble with what I'm reading now of a hungover man speaking a prophetic picture that brings a curse upon a whole lineage

And I wonder, what if these are not inspired words from God and these words come to Canaan himself and he hears them what type of projectory of life with this send him on that the great preacher of righteousness the man who weathered the great flood spoke these very words against his grandson.

No matter what I know the take away is anyone here given too much wine you have to recognize the weight of your words because words will always matter. And you have to recognize your children are watching even when you think you're behind closed doors and more is caught than taught and what we know if Noah didn't have much wine we wouldn't be having this discussion today. Hmm

Be Influenced by Holy Spirit

Don't be under the control of wine and its influence but be under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit is what we're called to do. And the same power that rose Jesus from the grave he lives in us and gives us the ability to overcome all these things and strongholds in our lives such as alcohol. Holy means uncommon like no other and when the Holy Spirit is leading us and guiding us he has absolute control and influence over us we become uncommon we become separate and different from the world because anyone can get drunk with wine and be under its influence and become common like everyone else.

Ephesians 5:17–18 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Ephesians 1:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Emmanuel – God with Us – Then in Us

And of course the amazing Christmas parallel is did Emmanuel God with us would be the very God who was in the Manger becomes the very God who takes up residence within us and he takes our hearts those dirty old manglers and he turns them into a Tabernacle that he dwells in as he calls us the Tabernacle of God.

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) ²³ *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, “God with us.”

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

Genesis 9:28 And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years.

Genesis 9:29 So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.

Noah & Abe Contemporaries / First Hand account

An interesting fact is that Noah lived for 58 years of Abraham's life. It is quite possible that Abraham could have heard the story of the flood from Noah, himself. According to the scriptures, Noah was about the third in longevity of the antediluvians and even though he lived after the flood when the canopy was removed from the earth; the decreasing of longevity seemed to be a gradual decline in their life spans

350 Year Gap

350 years, what a large gap, I'd like to know what Noah did in those days, it is sad to leave him at story of drunkardness. But I'm glad that even in his failings, we still read about him for the way God sees him, a man of faith, a preacher of righteousness.

(Hebrews 11:7 KJV) *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

God does make all things new, He does forget, He does put our sins as far as the east is from the west. Praise Him that He doesn't keep reminding us of our sins, but accounts us righteousness.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Remember Your Salvation – not Your Sin

Jesus said, “I don't want you to remember your sin and failures. I want you to remember your salvation by continual celebration.” The price has been paid. The blood has been shed. The work is done. Jesus left us with Communion, not that we would say, “Oh, we're such sinners,” but that we would say, “Oh, what a Savior!”

“Do this in remembrance of Me.” In other words, He didn't say, “Remember your sin.” He said, “Remember your Savior” (see Luke 22:19).

End of the Flood Section

So ends this section of the major world event – the Flood. Next study we will study the tower of Babel. Unfortunately we will see it didn't take long for man to start his decline again. Thankfully, the we are not just studying history, but His-Story, and the New Covenant will come.

Outline: Genesis 9

- Shall be Food for You (9:1-3)
- The Life is in the Blood (9:4)
- The Sanctity of Life (9:5-7)
- God Speaks; to Noah & Sons (9:8-10)
- The Rainbow Covenant (9:11-17)
- Oh Noah (9:18-29)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 10

Title: The Table of Nations (Our World Today)

Summary: Although often skipped over because this chapter seems like a long list of names, this chapter is foundational and critical to understanding prophecies in the Bible, and the root of all false religions, while at the same time it gives every individual follower of Christ the challenge of how they want to be known as disciples of Christ.

Even Higher Critics

Even higher critics have often admitted that the tenth chapter of Genesis is a remarkably accurate historical document. There is no comparable catalog of ancient nations available from any other source. It is unparalleled in its antiquity and comprehensiveness.

Dr. William F. Albright, universally acknowledged as the world's leading authority on the archaeology of the Near East, though himself not a believer in the infallibility of Scripture, said concerning this Table of Nations:

It stands absolutely alone in ancient literature, without a remote parallel, even among the Greeks, where we find the closest approach to a distribution of peoples in genealogical framework.... The Table of Nations remains an astonishingly accurate document.¹

Here is the one link between the historic nations of antiquity and the prehistoric times of Noah and the antediluvians. The grandsons and great-grandsons of Noah are listed, each of whom is identified with the city or country established by his descendants. There is nothing in any other ancient writing discovered by archaeologists which is at all comparable in scope and accuracy. It gives every appearance of being a sort of family record, kept by a venerable patriarch of the family as long as he remained alive and could keep in touch with his descendants.

¹ "Recent Discoveries in Bible Lands"—article appended to Robert Young's *Analytical Concordance to the Bible* (New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1936), p. 25.

Morris, H. M. (1976). *The Genesis record: a scientific and devotional commentary on the book of beginnings* (p. 245). Baker Books.

Outline: Genesis 10

- The Sons of Noah (10:1)
- The Sons of Japheth (10:2-5)
- The Sons of Ham (10:6-20)
- The Sons of Shem (10:21-31)
- The Nations of the World (10:32)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

The Sons of Noah (10:1)

Genesis 10:1 Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

There is Life After the Flood

There is life after the flood; maybe you are in a flood of despair and pain, maybe your flood has passed, God sees you, God knows, and this verse is more than a passing along of information, but a declaration and demonstration, that with our God there is life after the flood.

No Sons Conceived – God’s Timing

No sons were born during the flood, nor on the ark as it says “after” the flood. God had a timing it appears for when conception would be, and His timing was after the flood for whatever His divine foreknowledge and wisdom was regarding the timing. Somewhat hard for those who are fertile and wanting the fruit of the womb, but I pray a peace for you in your time of wanting and desire, that God would meet you in a special way as you wait, and that in your time of waiting He will draw you and envelope you in His love. For He loves you, rest in His love.

Shem means Glory / Abraham-Issac - Jacob

Shem is the line we are most concerned with, for through his line will come Jesus. All the other genealogies will eventually drop off in the Bible for Jesus is the only we are concerned with – for this is His-story. Shem means glory, and God will reveal His glory through his line, for the Messiah will come through Shem's line, through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Also through his line, through Abraham will come Ishmael, the Arab people.

The Hebrew word "shem" has a broader meaning than simply a person's given name. While it can refer to a verbal label like "George" or "Mary", it more significantly encompasses a person's identity within their community. This includes aspects such as family background, education, job, status, reputation, and authority[1]. In biblical contexts, "shem" is closely tied to one's reputation and standing in society. For instance, to speak "in the name" of someone implies speaking with their authority[1]. This understanding of "shem" as a representation of one's broader identity and reputation helps explain its usage in certain biblical passages that might otherwise seem odd to modern readers[1].

[1] Tverberg, L. (2018). *Reading the Bible with Rabbi Jesus: How a Jewish Perspective Can Transform Your Understanding* (p. 137). Baker Books: A Division of Baker Publishing Group.

Ham

Ham means “hot”. Which is interesting considering the descendants are mainly in the African continent.

Japheth

Japheth means “open”. Interesting in that through Japheth, the descendants are mainly European, and how open Europe would be for the furtherance of the Gospel as it would travel the world.

None Perfect

None of these lineages and descendants will be perfect; they will have some good, not so good, some bad, some not so bad, and some nothing, no mention just existed and made no impact, no name, just merely existed.

How About You?

Somewhere on this map, in this lineage, is you. All of us go back to Noah, then our lineage was one of these three (Shem, Ham, Japheth). You are somewhere on this map. My question for you today is what do you want your name to be, to represent, the reputation in today's society you live in? It's a new year, and what a great passage God has ordained for us to end the year, and start a new year with, as we read through these table of nations, lineage of descendants, we too like them get to decide for ourselves which way will I go. We got on the Ark of Salvation (through Jesus Christ), and God sends us out, says go (Matthew 28:18-20), and we decide how far we will go, and what type of impact we want to make on the world we live, and what “reputation” we leave. I am reminded of the Kendricks Brothers movie, The Forge, which is about discipleship, and the mentor asks the young man..... what kind of man do you want to be, and when people see you coming what do you want them to think about you?

*Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV)*¹⁸ And Jesus came 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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Take What the Lord wants to Give to You

Zechariah 10:1 (NKJV)¹ Ask the LORD for rain In the time of the latter rain. The LORD will make flashing clouds; He will give them showers of rain, Grass in the field for everyone.

In Israel, there were historically two rainy seasons. The first was from October through December and was called the former rain. The latter rains fell in April and May. These rainy seasons caused Israel to be a land of lush vegetation. After the Jews were dispersed by the Romans in A.D. 70, the Turks gained control of the region and began to tax the people there according to the number of trees on their property. It didn't take people long to figure out that it was in their best interests to chop their trees down. As a result, the ecology changed. The soil eroded. There was no more evaporation. The latter rains stopped altogether and the former rains were so drastically diminished that the land became arid and dry. That is why, when they became a nation again, the first project of the Israeli government was reforestation. They still plant millions of trees every year. The ecology is beginning to change and the latter rains have returned.

Spiritually, the latter rain speaks of the outpouring of the Spirit that will take place in the last days (Joel 2:23–28). We are living in a time when the Holy Spirit is being poured out afresh. Yet, although we can observe this and study it, we will not experience it unless we ask the Lord to send the latter rain upon us personally.

I think of Noah. Talk about rain! For forty days and forty nights rain fell upon him. Wondering if the storm had abated, he let out a dove. Throughout Scripture, the dove is a picture of the Holy Spirit. When the dove found no place to land, it returned to Noah and in Genesis 8:9, we read that he pulled the dove in unto him. Noah didn't sit in the ark with folded hands saying, “Dove, if you want to land on me, I'm open.” That's the way some people approach the Holy Spirit. And then they wonder why the Holy Spirit never empowers or uses them. Noah reached out and grabbed the dove and brought it to himself. We must do the same. How? Simply by asking.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:13

When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples in the Upper Room, they had been praying and waiting for ten days (Acts 2). We no longer have to wait for the Holy Spirit. He's already been given. But we must wait on the Holy Spirit. That is, we must say, “Lord is there something in my life preventing You from pouring out Your Spirit upon me?” If you want a fresh anointing, a greater empowering for service, talk to the Lord about it—all you have to do is ask, and He'll take it from there (Matthew 5:6)

[Courson, J. \(2006\). Jon Courson's application commentary: Volume two: Psalms-Malachi \(pp. 902–903\). Thomas Nelson.](#)

The Sons of Japheth

Genesis 10:2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

The regions that we will say, as we try to dial them in a little more specific, are still somewhat speculative, as it is hard to dial in specifically, but I do believe we can get close in the general “larger” region. So the map enclosed is Holman Bible Publisher, but it is still general location, and is not meant to say exact location.

Through Japheth we have the European lineage. So if you have a European decent, you came through this line.

Russia / Ezekial 38-39 /

Magog, Tubal, and Meshech are the Russian people. These names are important to know for Bible prophecy. Ezekial 38-39 we read they will come from the north to invade Israel, but God will miraculously protect Israel and defeat Russia. Meshech is the ancient name for Moscow. Interesting, according to the historian Josephus the Great Wall of China, which is over 10,000 miles, was called the Wall of Magog, for it was to protect them from

their neighboring enemy of the north, which we see on our map today - Russia. So ancient history calls Magog, Russia.

Iran vs Iraq Reason

Madai is the Medes and the Persians, today what we know as Iran. Interesting to understand for today's newspaper headlines. Iran is a Muslim nation, but they do not come from the lineage of Shem through Ismael, but through Japheth. They technically are not an Arab ethnic group, but they are Muslim. Iraq on the other hand comes through the line of Ishmael and are Arab. That is why there is tension between Iran and Iraq. However they both have a common hatred for the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

Tiras – some believe this is modern day Italy, but probably closer to the Russian lands.

Genesis 10:3 The sons of Gomer were Ashkenaz, Riphath, and Togarmah.

Gomer – some trace this to modern day Germany, but probably closer to the Russian lands.

Ashkenaz - is in the area of present-day Eastern Germany and Eastern Europe. The Jewish people are divided into two groups: the Ashkenazi Jews and the Sephardic Jews. In A.D. 70, when the Romans crushed the nation of Israel, a great number of the Jewish people settled in Germany and Eastern Europe. These are the Ashkenazi Jews. The Sephardic Jews settled in the Mediterranean region. The Ashkenazi Jew has traditionally been the power broker, resulting in ethnic tension between the two groups.

Togarmah - modern day Turkey. They are from Japheth, therefore they are not an Arab people, that explains why they were willing to work with the US in the "Iraqi Freedom" war of 2003. But we see them as such a wildcard in biblical prophecy (especially Magog Invasion)

Genesis 10:4 The sons of Javan were Elishah, Tarshish, Kittim, and Dodanim.

Javan - is modern day Greece

Tarshish - is modern day Spain or England. It is not positive exactly which one it is, most likely England. Tarshish is where Jonah left from.

Genesis 10:5 From these the coastland peoples of the Gentiles were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

Japheth drops off at Babel

At this point Japheth's descendants are dropped when the gentiles are divided in their land. This took place at the time of the building of the Tower of Babel. Shem lost track of Japheth and his descendants once they were scattered and it isn't necessary to go further in that lineage. We are only interested in the line to Abraham, who comes through the line of Shem.

When God confuses the languages at Babel, he does it by family, not individuals, and that is why they will travel together, because they communicate with common language

Prepares us for next week's study on the Tower of Babel; but we see the beginning of the nations, and languages. God gave the command to be fruitful and multiple, and to..... fill the earth.

Genesis 9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth."

Interestingly there was one language in the Days of Noah, and the whole earth was wicked, violent, and perverse. There will be the one language at tower of Babel, and we will see wickedness again and they will be dispersed abroad before the become "Days of Noah" again. But, we will the common language again in the Last Days, as we will see a one world government, with a one world religion, lead by a dynamic charismatic leader the anti-christ,

and of course it must be one language for a one world (as it is largely as every nation today has its primary language for communication, such as English for America, Russian for Russia, Spanish for Mexico, etc), and that common language in the Last days, will be the language of (1 and 0), the computer language that makes the world talk regardless of the verbal language. Jesus said as it was in the Days of Noah, so will it be when the Son of Man returns.

Matthew 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Interesting that only Gomer and Javan are taken lower in the breaking down of the lineages, and not (Magog, Madal, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras). Especially since these names are mentioned in Ezekiel 38-39 invasion of Israel.

Ezekiel 38:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ² "Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him, ³ and say, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. ⁴ I will turn you around, put hooks into your jaws, and lead you out, with all your army, horses, and horsemen, all splendidly clothed, a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords. ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; ⁶ Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops—many people are with you.

The Sons of Ham

Genesis 10:6 The sons of Ham were Cush, Mizraim, Put, and Canaan.

Ham's line is what we see today as the African continent.

Ham - settles in the African region. His name means "hot, dark".

Cush - settles in the area of Ethiopia. Jeremiah 13:23 speaks of them having distinctive skin, and Isaiah 45:14 speaks of them being very tall.

Mizraim - modern day Egypt

Put - modern day Libya

Canaan had to be Wiped out

Canaan - is the area of Israel, but they were not a Jewish people for they are from line of Ham, not Shem (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). They are past tenses, because God gave Joshua the command to totally wipe them out of the land when the children of Israel took the Promised Land. They had to be wiped out because of their wickedness and horrible immorality. They had child sacrificing rituals, sexual immorality, and worshipped strange gods. God said they must be wiped out so they don't infect and pollute the children of Israel. Man today must not forget that God is also a God of wrath, and that His judgement will come upon those who reject His ordinances.

(Deuteronomy 7:1 NKJV) "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,

(Deuteronomy 7:2 NKJV) "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

Genesis 10:7 The sons of Cush were Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabtechah; and the sons of Raamah were Sheba and Dedan.

Saudia Arabia / Ezekial 38-39

Sheba and Dedan - this is modern day Saudi Arabia. They too will pop up again in Ezekial 38-39 for they will protest against the Russian invasion, but will do nothing to stop it. Some believe Russia will be coming through Israel to acquire it for a strategic military position so they can continue on to take Saudi Arabia for its oil.

No Mention of USA

There is no mention of a nation like USA in Ezekial 38-39 so the question is where are they? A couple thoughts: a revival happen before the rapture and America becomes a 3rd world nation overnight. Or, America crumbles from within due to her immorality and is no longer a world player. America becomes an isolationist due to the fears and threats of terrorism. I'm living for option 1, and praying for a great revival in our day.

Genesis 10:8 Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

Genesis 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

Nimrod means Rebel

The word Nimrod means "rebel." The mighty hunter, before the LORD is not in a good sense. It is in a rebellious sense, against the LORD. Nimrod hunted the souls of men, he was wicked and evil. Nimrod is the founder of the Babylonian Religious System and he became a dictator of the civilization that he established.

Nimrod picture of Anti-christ / Establishes 1 world govt, religion, economy

Nimrod is a picture of the anti-christ, (2 Thess 2:8). The anti-christ is a yet future world leader who will establish a one-world government, a one-world economy, and a one-world religious system. He will be a powerful and charismatic leader. He could be alive today but he will not be revealed until after the church is raptured. Now the world won't see him as the anti-christ, but as a savior, an answer to the world's problem. He will come in peace, promote peace, but then turn on the world with war.

Anti-Christ will perform signs and wonders

Mighty one - doing things that amaze people. The anti-christ will work signs and wonders with the power of satan, and the world will be amazed and marveled. Nimrod was such a man.

(Revelation 13:13 NKJV) He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

Genesis 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

King of Babylon / Saddam Hussein

He was king of Babel, which is Babylon, so Saddam Hussein was the last known king, and Nimrod was the first – hopefully you have a better insight of who Saddam really was. Babel originally meant gateway to god, later after the dispersion it became to mean "confusion". We will see in chapter 11 he is building a tower into the heavens. We read about this Babylon in Revelation 17 and 18, it is in rebellion to God. All false religions and self-efforts have roots in Babylon.

Story of Queen of Heaven / Tammuz / Christmas & Easter

Here is an interesting story, do you really want to know where Easter and Christmas came from. Nimrod had a wife whose name was Semiramis and she became known as "The Queen of Heaven." She had a son, which she claimed to be virgin born (which a can't figure out if she was already married) and she named him Tammuz. He was being groomed to be the center of worship by the people. One day while hunting, a wild boar gored him; he lay dead for three days and when he was found he revived. They celebrated his birth on the 25th of December. They would burn a Yule log on the fire until it was completely consumed, but in the morning a tree would appear, brightly decorated in the home (the parents would bring it in after the children fall asleep). It was an evergreen tree, which was a symbol of perpetuated life. To celebrate his resurrection from being gored by the boar, they began to decorate eggs and to have a celebration in the springtime, which later became known as Ashtar, the Greek for Semiramis. The egg, again, is a symbol of continued life. Does all this sound familiar? These are the true roots of these holidays, and they were thousands of years before Christ.

Satan's Counterfeit Plan / But how?

Their story was first, before the birth of Jesus, how can that be? It is quite fascinating to realize that Satan developed his own counterfeit to God's Plan, which he knew. Of course some people use this story to say that Christianity is a copy of this story. Truly if you don't think it all the way through, it could cause you to question. But as always, let the Scriptures be the anvil that breaks all the hammers that come against it.

Signs in the Stars

Here are two solid reasons for how the counterfeit superceded the original. It would seem that God had set His plan in the stars, which were set for signs and for seasons:

*(Genesis 1:14 NKJV) Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be **for signs** and seasons, and for days and years;*

The Scriptures can lead us to believe that the Gospel is really there in the signs of the Zodiac; but, Astrology has become a perversion of that. This all came about at the time of Nimrod, who was one of the instigators of building the Tower of Babel to reach into Heaven. You may say I am stretching the Scriptures there in Genesis, but the Book of Matthew concurs:

(Matthew 2:1 KJV) Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

*(Matthew 2:2 KJV) Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? **for we have seen his star in the east**, and are come to worship him.*

When the birth of Christ took place there were still men in the East, who could read the stars and they were brought from afar, to worship the child that was born, by these signs. There are many interesting books on the Zodiac and the message of the gospel in the Zodiac. If you are interested in a more detailed study of the origins, that we find in the 10th chapter of Genesis, there is a book "The Genesis Record" by Dr. Henry Morrison. It traces each one of Noah's sons' national roots.

2ndly / Satan goes to and Fro

Secondly, Folks, Satan inspires people. He is the prince and power of the air, he fills and energizes people who are tuned into his station. Now Satan knows the story, he goes before the throne, he has been able to come and go. He knows enough of the details to create a counterfeit.

He knew back in the garden what it meant, he knew that he would hurt Jesus (gore Him):

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

How did he know the resurrection after 3 days, because the story of the resurrection was laid out before the foundations of the world:

(1 Peter 1:18 NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers

(1 Peter 1:19 NKJV) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot

*(1 Peter 1:20 NKJV) He indeed was **foreordained before the foundations of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you*

(1 Peter 1:21 NKJV) who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

*(Revelation 13:8 NIV) All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to **the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.***

And we know that Satan has access to come and go before the throne as he desires (but that will come to an end in the Last Days). We read this in the story of Job. Satan comes and makes accusations against you and me, and he comes and hears all that the Lord is doing:

(Job 2:1 NKJV) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

(Job 2:2 NKJV) And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

(Job 2:3 NKJV) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

The death and resurrection of Christ was told before the foundations of the world, and Satan knew enough of the story to build his counterfeit. It wasn't hard to find a willing participant in the Nimrod family, for they were rebellious against God, and was looking for the souls of men. Nimrod is still stealing the souls of men today in a sense, for those that will use this story as justification not to follow the real-thing, Jesus Christ.

He energizes people, and people will follow his lie. Joseph Smith is a modern day example:

(Ephesians 2:1 NKJV) And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

(Ephesians 2:2 NKJV) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

Jesus not born on Dec 25

Jesus was not born on the 25th of December, for the shepherds do not have the flocks in the fields at that time of year. Our Christmas truly is celebrated at the same time as Pagan celebration. Why?

Our Christian Celebration Today / Babylon Seeped into the Church

We are shocked as we realize that these celebrations resemble very strongly those holidays that we hold year after year. The shocking thing is that we have no biblical base for our celebrations, but there is a very strong pagan base. We find that Satan established his counterfeit very early in the history of man there in Babylon and that is why Babylon has become synonymous with the false religious system in scripture typology. We realize that these Babylonian practices have become inculcated deeply within the structure of the church. The church has carried and promoted these practices. When Jesus addresses the church of Pergamos in Revelation; he declares his displeasure with some of the practices of the church. When he gets to Thyratira, who has fully incorporated these practices, Jesus comes down heavy upon them.

Early Persecution / Constantine

In the early days of the Christian Church they wanted to celebrate the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Of course there was great persecution going on in those days, and many underground churches. So they said let us celebrate at the same time as the pagans do, and nobody will know that we are celebrating Christ rather than Tammuz. Now it was during the period of Constantine (313AD) that the church became the state religion; but, he sought to bring the pagan practices along with it and so, created the marriage of paganism and Christianity. Constantine took the practice of "Saturnalia" and incorporated it with the Christian calendar, calling it Christmas and celebrating the birth of Christ.

God warns them in Revelation

This is what brought Babylon into the church. When Jesus speaks to the church of Sardis His complaint was they didn't pull completely away from the Babylonian practices. "...I have not found thy works perfect before God." (Rev.3:2b). Yes, you've pulled out of a system deeply steeped in Babylonian practices, but you didn't come all the way out. The Lord comes down heavy, in Chapter (17) of Revelation, on the Babylonian System that has invaded the church and he speaks of God's coming judgment against this system.

God warns in the OT

God warns of following the Queen of heaven (Jer 7:18, Jer 44:18-25). God warns not weep for Tammuz (who is also known in false religions as Astoreh, Venus, and Jupiter):

(Ezekiel 8:13 NKJV) And He said to me, "Turn again, and you will see greater abominations that they are doing."

(Ezekiel 8:14 NKJV) So He brought me to the door of the north gate of the Lord's house; and to my dismay, women were sitting there weeping for Tammuz.

(Ezekiel 8:15 NKJV) Then He said to me, "Have you seen this, O son of man? Turn again, you will see greater abominations than these."

In Jeremiah 10, we see God's warning against this pagan practice. They are told not to study the stars (astrology), we see a picture of the Christmas Tree:

(Jeremiah 10:1 NKJV) Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

(Jeremiah 10:2 NKJV) Thus says the LORD: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed at them.

(Jeremiah 10:3 NKJV) For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax.

(Jeremiah 10:4 NKJV) They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple.

Should We Celebrate Christmas / Easter?

Should we as Christians celebrate Easter and Christmas if they have roots and origins in Pagan celebrations. Truly that is for every man to decide, and be at peace with, but let me share a point with you on this matter. But I say don't burn your Christmas ornaments yet, don't throw eggnog in Uncle Harold's face, don't send your families tracts on why Santa Claus is the anti-christ, for if you do you will alienate yourself from them, they'll think you're nuts, and you will lose your chance to witness to them. Consider this first

Jesus at the Festival of Lights

In John 10 we read the story of Jesus being in Jerusalem, teaching in the temple, during the "Feast of Dedication" also known as the Festival of Lights, more commonly today - Hanukah. This festival is not an established Fest for the nation Israel. You will not read about it in the OT.

Background of Feast / Antiochus / Macabees / Historical

The story of the Feast of Dedication is that in 165BC, Antiochus Epiphany came into Jerusalem and said he was the "glory of god". He was a madman and kills thousands of Jews. He is another picture of the anti-christ. He goes into the temple and places a statue of the Greek god Jupiter in there, and he sacrifices a pig on the altar. But Judas Macabees, who came from a family of priests, launched a guerrilla warfare against Antiochus army and won. So he freed and liberated the Jewish people - the Jews still celebrate this victory today. It is recorded as a historical factual event, not a legend.

Rededication of the Temple / Non-Historical

Now as the story goes, and this part is Jewish traditions and writings (it may be historical, it may not be), is that when they went in to clean the temple and set it up for worship again, when they went to light the Menorah, they found that they only had enough oil to burn for one day. For the menorah to be lit, and then go out would be terrible. The oil that was to be used for the temple menorah had to go through an eight day ceremonial preparation before it could be used. Now as the story goes, it did not go out on day one, nor two, nor three, but it lasted the whole eight days until the fresh batch was prepared properly. Today the celebration is known as Hanukkah (Feast of Dedication, sometimes also called the Feast of Lights), and they light one candle a day.

Jesus Maximizes the Opportunity

The point, Jesus in John 10, is in Jerusalem, during a time of celebration that isn't even an event that is Biblical. What we notice first is that He is there, He is not up at the Sea of Galilee saying I staying away from this celebration. But what does He do at this Festival of Lights? What he always does, He seizes the opportunity to turn the people to the truth. Lets look at the passages leading up to chapter 10 to see Him at work:

During the Festival of Tabernacle (in the fall), He proclaims He is the Light of the world:

(John 8:12 NKJV) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "**I am the light of the world.** He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

He lets them know what the important truth is:

(John 8:32 NKJV) "**And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"

He opens the eyes of a blind man:

(John 9:5 NKJV) "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

(John 9:6 NKJV) When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay.

(John 9:7 NKJV) And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

(John 9:25 NKJV) He answered and said, "Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see."

Then chapter 10, He says I am the Door, and the Good Shepherd:

(John 10:9 NKJV) "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

(John 10:10 NKJV) "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(John 10:11 NKJV) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Jesus makes these statements, and then returns about 2 and a half months later during the Feast of Dedication/Lights to reiterate who the "True Light" is, and who is the truth, who can open the eyes to the truth, as He reiterates, He is the true Light of the World.

(John 10:22 NKJV) **Now it was the Feast of Dedication in Jerusalem, and it was winter.**

(John 10:23 NKJV) And Jesus walked in the temple, in Solomon's porch.

(John 10:24 NKJV) Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly."

(John 10:25 NKJV) Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me.

(John 10:26 NKJV) "But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.

(John 10:27 NKJV) "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

(John 10:28 NKJV) "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Jesus turns them to Him

Man hasn't changed I know this, so that holiday would have become a ritual, the meaning would have been lost after the couple hundred years, and it would be like our Christmas today - Jesus is lost in the shopping and decorating. But what does Jesus do, He takes a celebration, and relates it back to the true meaning, He is the Light of the World, he then uses the season to open blind eyes, and show them the truth, He is the Good Shepherd.

For Us / the Gift / The Tree of Life

For us, at Christmas, do what Jesus does, point people from the celebration to the Christ. We should turn people from the carnal worldly ways, to the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of their Savior. If they want to talk about gifts, tell them about the greatest gift, the gift of salvation. If they want to talk about the Christmas tree, tell them about the tree that brings life, the cross of Christ.

St Nick

How about Santa Claus. Well do you know that saint Nicolas was a preacher in what we know as modern day Turkey. He had a heart for the poor people. He would bring them food and fuel in the cold winter months. He is a true historical person who reached out to those in needs and gave them gifts, Be a Saint Nicolas to be people, reach out to their needs and give them the ultimate gift, the free gift from the father, the gift of eternal life.

The World Craves A Good Father

Christmas in the world around us proves what the world is really craving. They are craving a Father figure who will love them and come to them. Use Christmas, like Jesus did, point them to Savior. Don't let it take you to where the world is going. We always look forward to Christmas as an opportunity to reach the world, but I also worry about the already saved, because I watch over and over, how they get caught up and distracted, and some of them never return.

Don't Confuse your Heavenly Father

As a side note, for you here today that your father hurt you, wasn't there for you, was a poor or terrible father, Listen! Don't confuse the Heavenly Father with your earthly father. Your Heavenly Father is always there for you with loving open arms, ready to receive you and give you His greatest gift, His Gift of love.

Genesis 10:11 From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah,

He went out and established the Assyrian empire, which one day would carry-off Israel

This verse literally begins, "He went out..." Who went out? Nimrod.

Nimrod not only founded Babylon, but he also is the founding father of the Assyrian Empire, whose capital was Nineveh. It was the Assyrians who carried away the ten northern tribes of Israel into captivity in 722 B.C. And it was the Babylonians who destroyed Jerusalem one hundred and thirty-six years later in 586. Babylon and Assyria both figure greatly in Bible history—and both were founded by a rebel named Nimrod.

Genesis 10:12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).

Genesis 10:13 Mizraim begot Ludim, Anamim, Lehabim, Naphtuhim,

Genesis 10:14 Pathrusim, and Casluhim (from whom came the Philistines and Caphtorim).

Philistines - is where Goliath came from

Genesis 10:15 Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth;

Genesis 10:16 the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;

Genesis 10:17 the Hivite, the Arkite, and the Sinite;

Canaan had to be Wiped out

Canaan - is the area of Israel, but they were not a Jewish people for they are from line of Ham, not Shem (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). They are past tensed, because God gave Joshua the command to totally wipe them out of the land when the children of Israel took the Promised Land. They had to be wiped out because of their wickedness and horrible immorality. They had child sacrificing rituals, sexual immorality, and worshipped strange gods. God said they must be wiped out so they don't infect and pollute the children of Israel. Man today must not forget that God is also a God of wrath, and that His judgement will come upon those who reject His ordinances.

*(Deuteronomy 7:1 NKJV) "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the **Canaanites** and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,*

(Deuteronomy 7:2 NKJV) "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

Sinite - where the Chinese, Japanese, and Asian people came from.

Genesis 10:18 the Arvadite, the Zemarite, and the Hamathite. Afterward the families of the Canaanites were dispersed.

Genesis 10:19 And the border of the Canaanites was from Sidon as you go toward Gerar, as far as Gaza; then as you go toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, as far as Lasha.

Genesis 10:20 These were the sons of Ham, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands and in their nations.

These families of Ham were dispersed during the time of the Tower of Babel when the gentiles were divided, then Shem lost track of these particular descendants of Ham

The Sons of Shem

Genesis 10:21 And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder.

Eber - is the root of the word Hebrew. Hebrew means "crossing over". They will cross over into the Promised Land.

Genesis 10:22 The sons of Shem were Elam, Asshur, Arphaxad, Lud, and Aram.

Elam was an ancient geographical area encompassing parts of modern southwest Iran and southeast Iraq, with its capital at Susa

Genesis 10:23 The sons of Aram were Uz, Hul, Gether, and Mash.

Genesis 10:24 Arphaxad begot Salah, and Salah begot Eber.

Genesis 10:25 To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg, for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.

The Earth Divides

In *Peleg's* day it says the earth was divided. The word for earth here is "ertes". It is a reference to the earth itself, not the people on the earth. The world looks like a puzzle that can be fit into 1 piece. This is known as the "Pangue theory". We know scientifically today what is called the "continental drift", which is the land masses drifting apart from each other, this evidence would support the Pangue theory. It is quite possible that one land mass could have become fractured during the flood with all the upheavals going on (as previously studied). When God sends them out from Babel, it would not have taken much, maybe an earthquake at some point to break the land into pieces, and the Continental Drift could have taken them apart.

Where did the Races come from?

The question asked so often is where did all the races come from, how can we have the Negro, the white, and the Asian if man all came from Noah? The answer is found in chapters 10 and 11.

The land and people will be dispersed to various regions, regions (continents) that we know today as Asia, Europe, and Africa. Once on these continents, man will adapt, not evolve, to his environment. Simple example, today you see me before you totally different from what I looked like ten years ago. Today I have darker hair and light skin, which show my families European decent. But twenty years ago I had light (almost blonde) hair, with darker tanned skin, why? Because I lived in Florida for 20 years. What happened was that my body adapted to the environment that I lived in. The melanoma in my skin produced pigments that rose to the surface of my skin to protect me from the harmful UV and IR rays of the sun.

Product of our Continent

Imagine if generation after generation, for hundreds of years my family line would stay in Florida, eventually dark skin would be a dominate gene that would be passed on from child to child. Today we can see the racial characteristic of people for the region they live in (North America excluded, for since 1500 it is a mixing and melting pot of the world - that s what makes it so great). The hot intense sun of the African continent produces the dark skin Negro. The mild, colder climate of Europe produces the lighter skin race. The in-between climate of Asia produces the medium skin of Asian race.

So there is an easy, acceptable answer to the racial difference challenge

Genesis 10:26 Joktan begot Almodad, Sheleph, Hazarmaveth, Jerah,

Genesis 10:27 Hadoram, Uzal, Diklah,

Genesis 10:28 Obal, Abimael, Sheba,

Genesis 10:29 Ophir, Havilah, and Jobab. All these were the sons of Joktan.

Genesis 10:30 And their dwelling place was from Mesha as you go toward Sephar, the mountain of the east.

Genesis 10:31 These were the sons of Shem, according to their families, according to their languages, in their lands, according to their nations.

Notice here Christian, God loses track of not one person. He sees to it that it is recorded for eternity. Know that the same is true for you, He knows exactly where you, today, tomorrow, and forever.

Here the table of Nations, yet here a God who knows the number of hairs on our head, catches our tears in a bottle, and a God who sings over us.

***Matthew 10:29–31 (NKJV)**²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.
³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

***Psalms 56:8 (NKJV)**⁸ You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?*

***Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV)**¹⁷ The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."*

***Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)**²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*

The Nations of the World (10:32)

Genesis 10:32 These were the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.

Nimrod vs Abraham

And here we have this great comparison between Nimrod who's trying to build his own Kingdom one Kingdom under him one world government under him one religion under him all to draw people to himself and then the comparison is the lineage of Shem that will go to Abraham and Abraham will simply be known as a friend of God. Abraham wasn't looking for a city made with hands but one that was eternal in the heaven Abraham was just a sojourner looking through and he found the ability to pass through regardless of the riches and the power that the

world could offer that he would trade simply for the one thing that he desired most and that he was a friend of God.

James 2:23 (NKJV)²³ *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.*

The Friend of God

Hey don't miss, that God called Abraham His friend as well. I think we know as believers that God loves us, but we can forget that God likes us, enjoys us and the friendship we have together.

2 Chronicles 20:7 (NKJV)⁷ *Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?*

Isaiah 41:8 (NKJV)⁸ *"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.*

Outline: Genesis 10

- The Sons of Noah (10:1)
- The Sons of Japheth (10:2-5)
- The Sons of Ham (10:6-20)
- The Sons of Shem (10:21-31)
- The Nations of the World (10:32)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*



Passage: Genesis 11

Title: One Language and One Speech

Summary: In our passage at the Tower of Babel, we see a whole world with one language and one speech, and they totally mispend it on self and self-serving purposes, all of which crumbles and goes off into confusion. For us as believers in Christ, we have a chapter filled with great application to abundant life, with clear focus and direction. Join us!

Genesis 11:1–9 (NKJV) ¹ Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top *is* in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Outline: Genesis 11

- One Language – One Speech (11:1)
- One Purpose – One Mess (11:2-4)
- One God – One Grace (11:5-9)
- One Lineage – One Savior (11:10-26)
- One Call – One Response (11:27-32)

Prayer

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- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

One Language – One Speech (11:1)

Genesis 11:1 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech.

Language and Speech

How interesting that it separates language and speech. Language is the means of communication, and speech (which means lips) is the means of forming and speaking the words using the lips.

Not Chronological Order

The Bible does not always tell things in chronological order. It often finishes one account and then goes back and give further details about a particular aspect, just as chapter 2 went back to explain the details of the sixth of creation.

Chapter 10 finishes the account of Noah and his sons and tells where their descendants were scattered in Moses' day. Now, chapter 11 goes back and tells what initially brought about the scattering. and the condition of multiple languages and cultures, as Israel was experiencing and for which they needed an explanation.

The whole earth, all the descendants of Noah, continued to speak the same language, even the same types of words (not even dialectical differences had developed).

Maybe only Several Thousand People / 100 years

Noah had come forth out of the ark and it is now about four generations after the "flood." The population of the earth was not, as yet, very great; it was probably not more than about eleven hundred adult males, (estimated from the genealogy records here in chapter 11), so add woman and children and we are at only several thousands people. So the building of the Tower of Babel (mans attempt to reach the heavens on their own) is just a little over a hundred years after the "flood." Sadly God's Words of Genesis 8:21 ring true, and ever so soon:

(Genesis 8:21 NKJV) And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

I think of the church of Ephesus, lost their first love less than a hundred years after the resurrection of Jesus and Pentecost:

*Revelation 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.*

We will see very early man starts moving away from God's plan for his life, and starts building a future own his own, which as always will lead to confusion.

How Quickly Man Forgets

Only 100 years after the flood, the greatest judgment the world had ever seen, and yet man starts moving away from God. 6-10 billion people perished in the flood, and yet man is bold enough to turn and forget the Lord. You still have eyewitnesses to the events, retelling the story, and yet people turn. I wonder if they had heard the promised covenant to never flood the world again and figure they are safe, what could possibly come against them if the flood would never come again. What we see in this story is God's grace being misunderstood; God's grace being taken as a license to sin. You would think after hearing the story of the flood, maybe remnants still visible (homes and city piled in heaps), man would say this is a God of grace, but also of wrath, I better walk according to His ways. We can read the story and say how can only 100 years from the flood could they turn, amazing. But consider out today (and I do not mean any of these things are the judgment of God) a little over 20 years ago the US cried out to God on 911, and only shortly thereafter the attacks the Supreme Court was put to task if "in God we trust" should be removed from our pledge. Victory in Iraq and Afghanistan may be the reason. A flood never again, terrorism on the run, all is well.

Question: When was Noah's flood?

Answer: around

Answer: Genesis 6-9 records the events of Noah's flood, also called the Great Flood. If the genealogy provided in Genesis 5 is intended to be comprehensive, we can determine the dates of various events by simply adding up the time spans between fathers and sons, given in Genesis 5:

Adam to Seth—130 years
Seth to Enosh—105 years
Enosh to Kenan—90 years
Kenan to Mahalalel—70 years
Mahalalel to Jared—65 years
Jared to Enoch—162 years
Enoch to Methuselah—65 years
Methuselah to Lamech—187 years
Lamech to Noah—182 years

According to this method, the time from Adam to Noah was approximately 1,056 years. These are approximate times because we don't know if the years are counted from conception or birth; also, it is obvious that the years

are given in whole numbers but no doubt included (or excluded) partial years. (For instance, Adam was 130 years old when Seth was born, give or take a certain number of months and days.)

So we have Noah's birth, which occurred about 1,056 years after the creation of Adam. Then, in Genesis 7:11, we are told that the flood came in the 600th year of Noah's life, so that would mean the Great Flood came approximately 1,656 years after Adam was created in Eden. Using a similar method places the creation of Adam and Eve at around 4004 BC. So, doing the math, Noah's flood occurred in approximately 2348 BC.

Similar genealogies are found throughout the Old Testament. Using the same method places Abraham's calling at 228 years after Noah's flood or about 1,884 years after the dawn of humanity. We can also use the genealogies to count backward from other dates that we know, such as the fall of Jerusalem. Using this method, Abraham was born about 2166 BC, and the exodus during Moses' time would have happened about 1446 BC.

Some scholars believe that the genealogies are not intended, and were never understood by the original audience, to be exhaustive. It could be that generations were skipped, as we know happened in the genealogy of Jesus recorded in Matthew. If this is the case in the Genesis 5 genealogy, and there are years unaccounted for, then we really have no idea when the Great Flood took place.

The actual year of the flood is less important than the meaning of the flood, which is that God punishes sin but also provides a way of salvation.

Got Questions Ministries. (2014–2021). Got Questions? Bible Questions Answered (Vol. 2). Faithlife.

One Purpose – One Mess (11:2-4)

Genesis 11:2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there.

How interesting that we are given travel direction, which was from the east

Moving Eastward

We see that people moved eastward we see them moving away from the Lord.

- *(Genesis 3:24 NKJV) So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*
- *(Genesis 4:16 NKJV) Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD and dwelt in the land of Nod on the east of Eden.*
- *(Genesis 13:11 NKJV) Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.*

Nimrod and his followers are moving away from God's plan for their life, saying we have a better way, my way. They are repeating the "way of Cain."

The Land of Shinar

The plain of Shinar is located in present-day Iraq.

It's the story of the garden all over. Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. They saw this beautiful plain that would satisfy their needs. It was pleasing to their sights, and then they could build a city and a tower. It's the pride of life and make a name for themselves.

1 John 2:16–17 (NKJV)¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

What is a plain, but the land looked good to the eyes. Lot will follow the same error by looking at the lush land of Sodom.

Genesis 13:10–11 (NKJV)¹⁰ And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. ¹¹ Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.

SPECS

Babel, to Lot, and may it not be us who let our eyes lead us to what looks good, rather than asking the Lord to lead us through His Word and Spirit. When I launched rockets and the Space Center, it wasn't liftoff unless all things and everything we tested were within "SPECS" specification. Same Word is good when we are reading the Word day, and looking for application in our lives. Here Babel and Lot are great examples for us to look at and say.... Bad example being led by the eyes rather than the Word of God.

- S – Sins to Forsake
- P – Promises to Keep
- E – Examples to Follow
- C – Commandments to Obey
- S – Stumbling Blocks to Avoid

Genesis 11:3 Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.

Industrious and Intelligent – Baking Bricks

How interesting we are given the recipe for bricks, as the word for "bake" is to burn, that takes us beyond sun-dried, but fired in an oven. The industrious effort that it will take to build this tower should not be missed. They have to gather mud (water and clay), gather wood, and then lay the bricks.

Satan & Bricks

Satan will use bricks again to enslave and keep Israel down for 400 years of slavery as they will tread through making bricks for Pharaoh in slavery

*Exodus 5:6–9 (NKJV)*⁶ So the same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their officers, saying, ⁷ "You shall no longer give the people straw to make brick as before. Let them go and gather straw for themselves. ⁸ And you shall lay on them the quota of bricks which they made before. You shall not reduce it. For they are idle; therefore they cry out, saying, 'Let us go *and* sacrifice to our God.' ⁹ Let more work be laid on the men, that they may labor in it, and let them not regard false words."

Asphalt for mortar

Asphalt is a petroleum based substance

(Genesis 11:3 KJV) And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and *slime* had they for mortar.

The slime was a tar-like substance or asphalt. This asphalt for mortar is what triggered the brain of John Rockefeller in thinking, "If there is asphalt, there must be oil." That is why Standard Oil Company began exploring for oil in the region of Iraq and tremendous oil deposits were found in the Middle East. So again, reading your Bible will enrich you in more ways than one.

Genesis 11:4 And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

Ziggurat / Communication Towers

It was a ziggurat, which is, an ancient Mesopotamian temple tower consisting of a lofty pyramidal structure, built in successive stages with outside staircases and a shrine at the top. The intention was to follow the Zodiac and to communicate with heaven or have understanding of the heavens. It was really a perversion of the astrological message that God had placed in the stars.

Their Leader was Nimrod / Rebel

Genesis 10 tells us who is leading this company of people.

(Genesis 10:8 NKJV) Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

(Genesis 10:9 NKJV) He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

Their leader of this building project was Nimrod, and his name means "rebel." The mighty hunter, before the LORD is not in a good sense. It is in a rebellious sense, against the LORD. Nimrod hunted the souls of men, he was wicked and evil. Nimrod is the founder of the Babylonian Religious System and he became a dictator of the civilization that he established. Nimrod wasn't trying to get the people closer to God though this tower, rather he was trying to pull them away.

In chapter 10 we read that Nimrod was a hunter of men, particularly we saw the souls of men. He was infused and fueled by none other than the devil who had been waiting for man to get off the ark and here as he builds his kingdom and his power for his glory through Nimrod, he hunts the souls of men, and that is what we have here as we studied last week the tower of Babel is the beginning of all world religions, and you can trace all the false religions and their precepts and principles back to here that they want to build a name for themselves, not for the Lord, they want to be self serving, and they want the religion to serve them not to glorify the one true and living God.

Babylon – roots of all False Religions

But sadly, soon after the flood, they had degraded into the worship of false gods. Babylon was the source of all false religions. As a result, the term Babylon is synonymous with a false religious system. In Revelation, Babylon is called the "mother of harlots." God saw that their minds were against Him and that they were seeking other gods.

The ancient practices of the Babylonian religion involved child sacrifices, prostitution, and drug usage (they thought the drugs would make them more spiritual by opening their minds to the spirit world).

(Galatians 5:19 KJV) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, (Galatians 5:20 KJV) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

The word used in Galatians 5:20 for witchcraft is "pharmakeia, far-mak-i'-ah;" it is where we get our word "pharmacy", the word for drugs. Nimrod is leading the people into these abominations, and away from God's plan for their life.

Nimrod picture of Anti-christ / Establishes 1 world govt, religion, economy

Nimrod is a picture of the anti-christ, (2 Thess 2:8). The anti-christ is a yet future world leader who will establish a one-world government, a one-world economy, and a one-world religious system. He will be a powerful and charismatic leader. He could be alive today but he will not be revealed until after the church is raptured. Now the world won't see him as the anti-christ, but as a savior, an answer to the world's problem. He will come in peace, promote peace, but then turn on the world with war.

First Gov't Project / Rockefeller

*(Genesis 11:3 KJV) And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and **slime** had they for mortar.*

I like the KJV of verse 3, they used slime as mortar. It is interesting that the first government-building project was held together by slime.

Come Let Us

Last time we heard "come let us", it was God saying come let us make man in our image, and here we see they say come let us make a city in our image (glory).

They are not just building a tower, but notice they are building a city as well. They're gonna build a city and they're gonna build a tower. They're not that far removed from the flood. I wonder if they're going to build the city with flood diverting methods. It was just an elegant city. and it seems to me they're building big, huge underground tunnels at the top of the hill that when the floodwaters come, they will divert into the tunnels and divert around the city rather than down through the historical city and into the waters, pretty smart, and I wonder if that's what's going on here. in Babel. I wonder if the tower is there floodline We can climb this tower, escape any flood to come.

Religion builds and creates and establishes escape routes so it thinks. but they can save themselves. They think in their means and methodology, they can create their own righteousness and right standing. notice the city is before the tower. It seems so seared and spiritual, but they build the city. They build their comfort, they build theirselves first before the tower. They don't build a place of worship first. even though they want to seem so spiritual, they're building their self-comforts first.

Here they have one purpose to make a name for themselves. They're going to build a city. They reflect their genius, they're going to build a tower. They can be seen from afar in all the world to wonder. But it's to make a name for themselves so that they might not be scattered.

Their purpose was not to be scattered abroad over the face of the earth. They rejected God's Word to "fill the earth".

Genesis 9:1 (NKJV) ¹ So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

Satan wants to finish what he started in Babel, Babylon, and Revelation.

Genesis 11:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Daniel 3:1 (NKJV) ¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ So at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, harp, and lyre, in symphony with all kinds of music, all the people, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the gold image which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

(Revelation 14:8 NKJV) And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Revelation 18:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come.' ¹¹ "And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore:

The difference between followers of Nimrod and followers of Abraham, as Nimrod was looking for city where he was the builder and maker, and Abraham was looking for a city not made with hands, but whose builder and maker was God.

Hebrews 11:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

What city am I looking for, and what city will I invest in this year?

What tower will I build?

Great Prayer

This is a great prayer because we already know what God doesn't want and God doesn't like so it's easy for us to know what He does and so I can be a man after God's own heart and I can pray for a city not made with hands eternal in the heavens and then I can be a watchman on the wall the tower and warn people of the coming judgment to come and me from the tower I can lift up the name of Jesus who said if I be lifted up I will draw all men to myself and I won't live a life to make a name for myself is if a person goes through the hole life never meets me they missed nothing but they go through their whole life and miss meeting Jesus they missed everything and so I can live a life that lifts the name of Jesus who will draw him into himself and then lastly with those things rather than scattering I can gather people who are lost and wandering confused and I can draw them to the throne of grace that they may find help in the time of need what a great ministry we have in these four things

Hebrews 11:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Ezekiel 33:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.' ⁷ "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 12:32 (NKJV) ³² And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

One God – One Grace (11:5-9)

Genesis 11:5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

God Not threatened / It's His Mercy

God isn't threatened by them, for who can overthrow Him, but He is causing them confusion rather than condemning. We see God's mercy here, as he disrupts their sin, causes confusion. Has God ever done that to you? You were well on your way to sin, you had the plan and everything, and then your car won't start, someone calls you on the phone. It's His mercy.

Today the Computer Language

Their minds were on thoughts of evil continually, and they had one language, so nothing could stop them from continuing in their evil. There are an estimated 3,000 different languages and dialects in the world today, but for the first time since Babel, the world is speaking the same language, it is the language of 1's and 0's, it is called the computer. We can type into a computer English, and the output will be Spanish. It is not that the internet is evil, but the one world language has caused an increase in evil. Man's mind is continually on evil, and the internet puts it at the touch of his finger, 24/7. Pornography, pedophiles, prostitution, all at an all-time high, as the internet is the avenue to meet and engage. Also up is STD and HIV. As knowledge increases, it is only limited by man's imagination, which the word tells us is continually upon evil. So not only do we live in the day's of Noah, we also live in the day's of pre-Babel.

Knowledge will Increase / Anti-Christ

(Daniel 12:4 NKJV) "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

In the last days knowledge will increase, and with man having one language again, the stage is set for the anti-christ to deceive the world again, just like Nimrod did at Babel.

Every Thought of Evil

God said, even thought never flood again, man's heart will remain the same, evil imagination...

Genesis 8:20–21 (NKJV)²⁰ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. ²¹ And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

Same as before the flood.

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

It is truly God's grace that He scatters them in confusion, for they would quickly have been on the path to total destruction; not with fire, but whatever means God would have chose, but in grace He scatters them rather than destruction.

Speaking of 1 Language & Souls of Men

One language, but only if you spoke the same words as this one world government and leader. Mind you, Nimrod was a hunter of men's souls.

(Genesis 10:8 NKJV) Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth.

(Genesis 10:9 NKJV) He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD."

The Tongue Screw

Travel brochures of the Netherlands tell of windmills, dikes, and boys named Hans with their silver skates. But the years 1531 to 1578 were not so peaceful. Hundreds of Protestants were slaughtered, including a young man named Hans.

Hans Bret supported his widowed mother by working in a bakery in Antwerp. The two belonged to a Protestant group there, and in his spare time Hans studied the Bible and taught new converts in the church, preparing them for baptism. One evening a knock sounded on the bakery door. Hans opened it to find a delegation of officers. The house was surrounded and Hans was arrested. For the next several months, authorities alternately questioned and tortured him. From his dark isolation hole, Hans managed to smuggle letters to his mother.

From him alone we expect our strength to withstand these cruel wolves, so that they have no power over our souls. They are really more cruel than wolves—they are not satisfied with our bodies, tearing at them; but they seek to devour and kill our souls.

Hans's treatment worsened, and when intense torture failed to break his spirit, he was sentenced to the stake. Early on Saturday, January 4, 1577, the executioner came to Hans's cell and ordered him to stick out his tongue. Over it he clamped an iron tongue screw, twisting it tightly with a vise grip. Then he seared the end of Hans's tongue with a red-hot iron so that the tongue would swell and couldn't slip out of the clamp. The officials didn't want Hans preaching at his execution. The young man was taken by wagon to the marketplace, secured to a post with winding chains, and burned alive.

In the crowd, another Hans watched in horror—Hans de Ries, Bret's pastor and friend. After the ashes cooled, he sifted through them and retrieved a keepsake—the tongue screw that had fallen from Bret's consumed body. Shortly after, Hans de Ries married Hans Bret's mother, and the tongue screw became a symbol of faithfulness that has passed from generation to generation.

Each generation will announce to the next
your wonderful and powerful deeds.
I will keep thinking about your marvelous glory
and your mighty miracles.
Everyone will talk about your fearsome deeds,
and I will tell all nations how great you are.
Psalm 145:4-6

Morgan, R. J. (1997). On this day: 365 amazing and inspiring stories about saints, martyrs & heroes (electronic ed.). Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Genesis 11:7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

Genesis 11:8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.

Genesis 11:9 Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

God Plural / To Undo

God, plural (a verse for the Trinity), comes down to undo the works of Nimrod. Nimrod as we studied in the last chapter is a picture of the anti-christ. God will come done again, and undo the work of the anti-christ as we have studied in the Book of Revelation.

God comes down, but they didn't hear him back in Genesis 38 when God enters the garden, they heard him and they hid and they were afraid. Can I say to anyone here today? It's a scary place when you're no longer afraid. I've God showing up when you're no longer afraid of your sin before the holy God

Imagine the Moment it Happens

I wonder if when we get to heaven there will be some type of video system that will replay moments in history. I'd love to watch this one. They are all working together, each day saying look at our accomplishments, won't be long now. But then in a moment, the language is confused. Several, a dozen, who knows. At that moment Joe says Pedro throw me that 2by4, perdonome', uno, dos, tres! Joe says whats up with that, Pierre come help me - Wee! Utter confusion

Apart from God - Confusion

Originally the word Babel meant "gateway to god". What they thought was going to be their gateway to god, by their efforts, turned into confusion.

(Psalms 127:1 NKJV) Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

Anything apart from God's way will cause confusion in your life. If you have confusion in your life, if it is mixed up, then I recommend you take a close look at your life and see if there is a tower of Babel in your life somewhere. If there is a tower of Babel in your life, then confusion will follow, and dispersion and scattering will be your life.

The Earth Divides

The word "babel" has come to mean "confusion," for the Lord confounded their language and scattered them over the face of the earth. There are those who believe that it is quite possible that at this time the earth was divided or that the continental separation happened at this time. It is commonly called the "continental drift." We know that shortly after this period, many advanced forms of civilization sprung up, all over the earth, and varied techniques of building were used that are still a marvel today. The pyramids of Egypt were built shortly after this time and are still an engineering marvel. Experts have figured that the great pyramid was built about the time of Abraham. About this same period of time, the Indians were building pyramids over in Central America and Southern Mexico and their architectural style corresponded somewhat with those in Egypt. These engineering marvels have created great curiosity among scholars. Each of the nations, as they were scattered, carried their own stories of the flood and thus you find records of a great flood, universally throughout the world.

One Lineage – One Savior (11:10-26)

Genesis 11:10 This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood.

The Story Shifts

Verse 10 the story shifts and God starts the story of Abraham. God is saying I am not going to leave the world left in confusion. I am going to start a line that will lead up to the one who will set all things straight - that one will be my only begotten Son. The line will start through the man Abraham, and it is through him all the nations of the world will be blessed.

Add the ages up and it is about 340 years from the flood to Abraham. The tower of Babel was only about 100 years past the flood.

There are ten generations from Shem to Abraham and we find that Shem lived up to the time that Abraham was approximately fifty-eight years old. One interesting fact is that Shem lived to see his children to the ninth generation.

We have no real interest in the list of names in verses 12-25, until we get to verse 26 we read of Abraham's father.

Genesis 11:11 After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:12 Arphaxad lived thirty-five years, and begot Salah.
Genesis 11:13 After he begot Salah, Arphaxad lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:14 Salah lived thirty years, and begot Eber.
Genesis 11:15 After he begot Eber, Salah lived four hundred and three years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:16 Eber lived thirty-four years, and begot Peleg.
Genesis 11:17 After he begot Peleg, Eber lived four hundred and thirty years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:18 Peleg lived thirty years, and begot Reu.
Genesis 11:19 After he begot Reu, Peleg lived two hundred and nine years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:20 Reu lived thirty-two years, and begot Serug.
Genesis 11:21 After he begot Serug, Reu lived two hundred and seven years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:22 Serug lived thirty years, and begot Nahor.
Genesis 11:23 After he begot Nahor, Serug lived two hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:24 Nahor lived twenty-nine years, and begot Terah.
Genesis 11:25 After he begot Terah, Nahor lived one hundred and nineteen years, and begot sons and daughters.
Genesis 11:26 Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.

Noah had Shem @ 502 Years Old

Noah had Shem when he was 500 or 502 years old. This is deduced from the Bible in Genesis 5:32, which states that Noah was 500 years old when he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Additionally, Genesis 11:10 clarifies that Shem was 100 years old two years after the flood, indicating that he was born when Noah was 502. Note: It appears the Ham is the youngest son based on (Gen 9:24). Although the order usually in genealogy is oldest to youngest; if Ham is youngest then (Gen 10:1) is not in order, and thus Shem may not be the oldest, but second son, thus Japheth was oldest (birthed at 500), Shem second (birthed at 502), and Ham the youngest birthed sometime thereafter. Shem could be listed first in genealogy not based on age, but significance, as he is the lineage to the Messiah.

Genesis 5:32 (NKJV) ³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 7:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

Genesis 9:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him.

Genesis 10:1 (NKJV) ¹ Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.

Genesis 11:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. ¹¹ After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters.

Noah built the ark for 20 years by himself

Genesis 6:3 (NKJV) ³ And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

Genesis 5:32 (NKJV) ³² And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Genesis 7:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth.

Abraham died at 175

Genesis 25:7–8 (NKJV) ⁷ This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years. ⁸ Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Issac born when Abraham was 100 and died at age of 180

Genesis 21:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Genesis 35:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.

Jacob was born when Issac was 60 and died at the age of 147

Genesis 25:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

Genesis 47:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.

Lines Drop / Genealogy of Messiah

Earlier, we read some of the genealogies of Ham and Japheth and they had nothing to do with the coming Messiah. Now we are going to narrow down our genealogical trail and follow the family of Shem from which will come Abraham, from which will come the Messiah. The Bible was not intended to be a genealogical record of all the various tribes and families. It follows some of them for a few generations and then drops them. We are only interested in the line which leads us to Jesus Christ and all of the others can be set aside. Later on God tells us the Messiah will be from the line of David, the line of Judah, etc. God keeps narrowing down the line so that we don't have to trace a lot of genealogies.

It would be difficult for a person to lay a claim to being the Messiah, today. He would have to prove that he was of the tribe of Judah, the family of Jesse and that he was from the house of David, in order, to have a legitimate claim to being the Messiah. Since the time of Christ, there have been no genealogical charts kept; so, they can not really trace their roots. It would be impossible for someone to prove that he was from the tribe of Judah and the house of David; therefore, he could not lay an indisputable claim to being the Messiah. God didn't see any need to keep the records once Christ was born.

Fast Food Deception / Acts 17:11

However, because of our fast-food information age we live in, many people will just blindly accept the anti-christ when he comes, because people today have lost the drive to dig into things and ask the questions why and how. Such as; how will we know the Christ if we can't prove out his lineage. For us Christians, the same holds true, we need to search out all things told to us:

(Acts 17:11 NKJV) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

The Blood Curse

DID YOU KNOW?

Though the genealogical requirements of the coming Messiah were specifically outlined in the Old Testament and carefully documented in the Temple archives, teachers in the years leading up to Jesus' birth had a problem. While 2 Samuel 7:12–17 clearly indicated that the Messiah must (1) come from David's own body, and (2) inherit the throne of Israel through Solomon's line, God's curse on wicked King Jeconiah (also called Jehoiachin and Coniah) in Jeremiah 22:30 seemed to indicate that no one in the royal line of David through Solomon actually could rule as Messiah over Israel.

That's why God provides for us two genealogies of Jesus. The one in Luke 3 traces Jesus' physical line through Heli (Mary's father) back to David's own body, not through Solomon, but through David's son, Nathan. And the one in Matthew 1 traces Jesus' legal right to the throne through his legal adoptive father Joseph, who was in the legal line of Solomon—but who, by virtue of the virgin birth of Jesus, did not father Jesus, and thus did not violate God's curse on Jeconiah's physical descendants.

Complicated? A little—but (wonder of wonders!) it shows that Jesus was the only Person in all of human history who could fulfill the genealogical requirements of Messiahship!

Jeremiah, D. (1999). Celebrate his love: Study guide (p. 60). Thomas Nelson Publishers

Matthew 1:1–17 (NKJV)¹ *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. ⁸ Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. ⁹ Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. ¹⁰ Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. ¹¹ Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. ¹² And after they were brought to Babylon, **Jeconiah** begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. ¹³ Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. ¹⁴ Azor begot Zadok, Zadok*

begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. ¹⁵ Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. ¹⁶ And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations.

Jeremiah 22:24–30 (NKJV) ²⁴ “As I live,” says the LORD, “though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off; ²⁵ and I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, and into the hand of those whose face you fear—the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of the Chaldeans. ²⁶ So I will cast you out, and your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born; and there you shall die. ²⁷ But to the land to which they desire to return, there they shall not return. ²⁸ “Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol— A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? ²⁹ O earth, earth, earth, Hear the word of the LORD! ³⁰ Thus says the LORD: ‘Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.’ ”

One Call – One Response (11:27-32)

Genesis 11:27 This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot.

Genesis 11:28 And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans.

Genesis 11:29 Then Abram and Nahor took wives: the name of Abram’s wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor’s wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and the father of Iscah.

Genesis 11:30 But Sarai was barren; she had no child.

She is barren, but her barrenness will get her into the “Hall of Faith”. Shortcomings and faults leave you hopeless according to this world, but in God’s world, they are places for Him to prove His glory.

Genesis 11:31 And Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram’s wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.

Genesis 11:32 So the days of Terah were two hundred and five years, and Terah died in Haran.

Before the flood we saw people living on the average of 800-900 years; but post flood we start watching the life spans drop, as we see Terah dying at 205. the average life span today is 70-75 years. The longevity of life drops to the collapse of the water canopy that surrounded the earth before the flood. It would filter out and/or diminish the harmful UV and IR radiation that cause cellular degeneration in our bodies.

Halfway

Abraham's father was Terah, his name means "delay", and we will read the significance of that in the next chapter.

Located halfway between Ur and Canaan, Haran was the border town of the Babylonian region. The modern-day equivalent of this event would be God saying to us, “I want you leave Oregon and meet Me in Mexico City,” and us stopping in San Diego.

Abram, Sarai, Lot, and Terah traveled to Haran—adjacent to, but not inside the Promised Land—and stayed there until Terah died, which was a minimum of fifteen years later. No wonder Terah’s name means “Delay.”

“Follow Me,” Jesus said.

“Let me first go and bury my dad,” answered the young man. This didn’t mean his dad was awaiting burial. It meant after his dad died, he’d be free to follow Jesus.

“Let the dead bury the dead,” Jesus replied. In other words, “I understand family obligations. But obeying Me has even a higher priority” (Matthew 8:18–22).

Matthew 8:18–22 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. ¹⁹ Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.” ²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

When Terah dies, Abram gets going again—and we’ll follow his story in chapter 12.

Courson, J. (2005). Jon Courson’s application commentary: Volume one: Genesis–Job (p. 58). Thomas Nelson.

Outline: Genesis 11

- One Language – One Speech (11:1)

- One Purpose – One Mess (11:2-4)
- One God – One Grace (11:5-9)
- One Lineage – One Savior (11:10-26)
- One Call – One Response (11:27-32)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 12

Title: Nothing

Summary: The title of this study is “nothing”, and when asked what we studied, we will say “nothing”. And the “nothing” that we will study and apply to our lives personally is that Abraham did “nothing” to be chosen and called by God. There was “nothing” in or about Abraham that made him chosen; it was all God’s grace to call him. Therefore, as we study the life of Abraham in the chapters to come, and we see time of great faith, along with times of great failings, we can remember that “nothing” can keep us from the love of God, because “nothing” was the reason God called us to Himself except His great love.

Genesis 12:1–9 (NKJV) ¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan. ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land. ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Outline: Genesis 12

- Abraham – Receives the Promise of God (12:1-4)
- Abraham – Responds to the Promise of God (12:5-9)
- Abraham – Retreats from the Promise of God (12:10-20)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Abraham – Receives the Promise of God (12:1-4)

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.

Had Said

“Had said”, past tense; when did God say that to him? About 25 years prior when Abraham was living in Ur of the Chaldeans which is in Babylon. Abraham was about 50 years old and apparently had done pretty well for himself.

Luxury Life / American Dream / Get out of There

Ur of the Chaldeans was an advanced civilization. Archeologist have uncovered in the area advanced medical center, advanced uses of metal, they found in a house a trigonometry problem that was being worked on, that still mathematicians in Oxford University haven't solved. He had the best of the world, yet he left it, not even knowing where he was going. Ur was where the bathtub/hot tub was invented. Abraham lived in wealth it appears from the Scriptures, he had a beautiful wife we know from the Scriptures, and he was a religious man (but not follower of

God). He basically was living the American dream. I'm sure the world would say to him "you got it made." But read God says get out from there, and come with me.

Abraham's Choices / Idol Worshipper

Abraham had a choice to make at this point, the riches of this world, or to step out in faith and follow God, not even knowing where he was going. The world may say that Abraham had it all, but we know that he was lost.

Abraham wasn't always a follower of God, he first worshipped false gods and idols:

*(Joshua 24:2 NKJV) And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; **and they served other gods.***

(Joshua 24:3 NKJV) 'Then I took your father Abraham from the other side of the River, led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants and gave him Isaac.

Human Sacrifice / Temple Rituals

Rabbinic tradition says that Abraham's father (Terah) was an idol maker, which was possibly his livelihood. Abraham followed false gods. Archaeological discoveries say that idol worship in the area of Ur included human sacrifices. We know many of these Babylonian religions included the use of drugs. Some of them included prostitution - their ritual included going to the temple and having paid sex with the woman there. It was a sick religion. Now, how far Abraham went in this religion we do not know, other than he served other gods and was an idol worshipper.

God Seeks him Out

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country - Abraham was worshipping idols with the rest of the people of Babylon, following the false religions that Nimrod devised to rebel against God and lead people away from God. But notice, in the middle of his idol worship, God reaches out to him. Abraham didn't seek God, but God sought Abraham:

(Romans 3:10 NKJV) As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

(Romans 3:11 NKJV) There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

Genesis 12:2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.

Genesis 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Nothing

The title of this study is "nothing", and when asked what we studied, we will say "nothing". And the "nothing" that we will study and apply to our lives personally is that Abraham did "nothing" to be chosen and called by God. There was "nothing" in or about Abraham that made him chosen; it was all God's grace to call him. Therefore, as we study the life of Abraham in the chapters to come, and we see time of great faith, along with times of great failings, we can remember that "nothing" can keep us from the love of God, because "nothing" was the reason God called us to Himself except His great love.

Something

Don't change nothing into something and that you feel it's something that you must do you have to rest that you have been made righteous through the finished work of Jesus Christ and it is not your works but it's his works.

Titus 3:4-7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Galatians 3:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ² This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—³ Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

Chief Characteristic was Righteousness

When we read the life of David we read the life of Abraham we will read that the chief characteristic of their lives was righteousness even when they retreated from the promise of God and failed in obedience and faithfulness.

Pastor Chuck – 1 Chronicles Study

And God was displeased with this thing; therefore he smote Israel. And David said unto God, I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing: but now, I beseech thee, do away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly (1Ch 21:7-8).

So after having insisted overruling Joab, God was displeased. And David immediately confessed his sin unto God and his own folly. Now it is interesting that the Bible-and I'm glad that it does-relates to us the sins and the failure of the great men, as well as their successes. So often when we are telling stories about our accomplishments, we don't like to include in our stories our failures. We like to sort of tell of our successes, and make it appear that everything we do is successful. But if we were perfect, then how discouraging it would be for those who are not perfect.

If David was a perfect man, if he never did anything wrong, then we would all of us be prone to say, "Yes, but David was perfect. I can see why God would use David. I could see why God blessed David, because he was such a perfect man. But God can't bless me and God can't use me, because I'm so imperfect." So God is very careful to record for us the mistakes and the sins of these men that He used in such a mighty way in order that we would not be excusing ourselves and saying, "Well, God can't use me." For God can use you and wants to use you in spite of the fact that you have failed, and in spite of the fact that you're far from perfect.

Abraham, the man of faith, had great lapses of faith. There were times when he sought to take things into his own hand. Deceiving the kings concerning Sarah, his relationship. "She's my sister." He didn't trust in the Lord to be able to preserve him from Abimelech or from the Pharaoh. Taking things into his own hands as far as an heir because he didn't trust God to give him a son through Sarah. The man of faith.

Elijah, the great prophet of God, the man of faith, hiding in a cave clear down in the Sinai, mount Horeb because Jezebel had threatened his life. Here is the guy that had upset all the prophets of Baal, took them down to the river and wiped them out, and now he's running because some woman is threatening to get him.

And so the Bible records these for us so that you'll know that though Elijah was a man of great dynamic power, great faith, a prophet of God, yet he had these times where he ran and failed and was fearful and the whole thing. In order that, as James said, Elijah was a man of like passions, even like you and me. And yet, he prayed and it rained not for the space of three years. Now he wasn't some super saint. He wasn't some Clark Kent. He was a plain ordinary person just like you and me. And yet, God was able to use him because God uses plain, ordinary people. And God uses people who make mistakes, and God uses people who fail. And God uses people who sin.

Because sin was not the chief characteristic of David's life; righteousness was the chief characteristic of his life, though he did sin.

Now it is possible for us to love the Lord, to be living for the Lord, to serve the Lord, and still be guilty of sin. David was such a man. He loved the Lord. Now as soon as he realized God's displeasure, and though he had been warned by Joab, "Don't do this thing," as soon as he, it was brought to his attention, this has displeased God, David repented. He confessed. And that's what sets David apart. So many times when we are faced with our guilt, we try to justify it. We try to give the explanations. "Well, I did it because." We're so often like Adam. "Well, Lord, the woman that You gave me to be my wife, she did tempt me and I did eat." And I'm trying to explain to God my reason for doing it, rather than just confess and say, "God, I sinned. I was wrong."

Now God doesn't want an explanation. God doesn't want you to justify your position. All God wants you to do is confess it so He can forgive it. As soon as you confess, then God has the grounds for forgiveness. And that's what He's seeking, just a confession of guilt. And so David confessed his sin. He said, "Lord, I've done foolishly in doing this thing." And David recognized and acknowledged his sin before God. That ugly, horrible sin of pride that all of us find so difficult to deal with in our own lives. The sin by which Satan fell. It was a Cromwell flee pride, for by this sin the angels fell. Flee ambition. The idea of pride.

Thus, David was called the man after God's own heart, because he was a man, when he realized his guilt, was willing to confess and seek the forgiveness of his sin.

Faith Is

- Faith is believing and allowing God to do the work.
- Faith is where I end (my works) and God begins (His works).
- Faith is God I can't, but You can.
- Faith is, Lord there is "nothing" here, but You!

3 Promises

Do you notice something here? God is promising Abraham three very specific things here:

- The making of a great nation.
- The giving of a name
- Protection (bless those, curse those)

Notice Comparison

Notice the comparison that Nimrod wanted to build a city and here God offers to build a whole nation and notice Nimrod wanted to make a name for himself but here's what God says to Abraham I'll make you a great name.

What God gave Abraham, is exactly what they were looking for at Babel:

(Genesis 11:4 NKJV) And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

What are the Blessings to Us

What are the blessings for us:

- through Abraham and his descendants, we've been given this word of God
- through Abraham and his descendants, we have been given the Messiah for the forgiveness of our sins
- through Abraham and his descendants, we have been blessed as a nation of America because we bless the people of Israel

(Romans 3:1 NKJV) What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

(Romans 3:2 NKJV) Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

Nations Blessed / Nations Cursed / Arab – US relations

United States of America, heed these words here. God said He would make Abraham's name great and to this day Abraham's name is great to the Jew, the Mohammedan and to the Christian. We all look back to Abraham as our father and the greatness of this man who believed and trusted in God. The three major religions of the world all honor and respect the man, Abraham. It is interesting that every nation that has persecuted the Jew later goes into a decline. Spain, after the Inquisition, was reduced to a fifth rate nation; Rome soon fell after beginning to persecute the Jews; the Greek civilization, after defaming the temple, fell; and of course, Germany, of more recent history, fell from being a great power as a result of persecuting the Jews. I believe part of the blessing of the United States is that we have become a refuge to the persecuted Jew. The blessing of Abraham is to come upon all the families of the earth and we are blessed today because of Jesus Christ, who was born of the seed of Abraham.

The Arab nations in the Mid-East that want to be friends with us only do so that they might influence us to pressure Israel to give up more land, or weaken their military. They don't like us any more than they like Israel.

Abraham – Responds to the Promise of God (12:5-9)

Genesis 12:5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

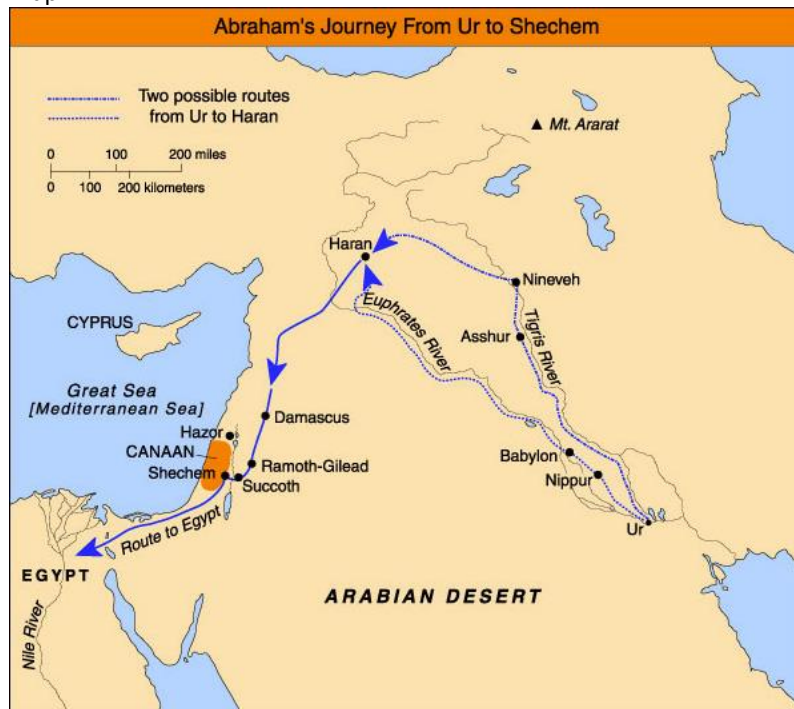
Genesis 12:6 Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

Genesis 12:7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Genesis 12:8 And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 12:9 So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Map



Altar was Bold

You got to remember the Canaanites wicked and perverse and for Abraham to build an altar and worship before them this is pretty bold faith.

This isn't a mom and pop caravan moving through the land Abraham as we read has multitude of servants we will read later that he can put together A 300+ man fighting force so that's just his fighting force he may had close to 1000 people (we don't know) with him, with herds of animals, so they would be seen moving through the land they wouldn't just pass through they would have stood out.

Discipleship Disciplines:

As we study the life of Abraham and many of these Bible characters we will see that after their calling they became followers and responded to the call of God because the disciple of God is a follower of God. And here are disciplines of disciples of God and we will see them continually in our studies in the weeks and months to come.

Discipleship Discipline - Memorization

The Word of God.... Is God, His very heart leading and guiding us. God's word will either separate you from the world or the world will separate you from God's word

Psalm 119:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Hebrews 4:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

The verse I will meditate on this week and commit to memory is: _____

Discipleship Discipline – Prayer

The greatest disciple of all (Jesus who said My will is to do the work of the Father) showed the life of prayer.

Luke 11:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” ² So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Luke 18:1 (NKJV) ¹ Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

John 5:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

The name of the person I will be prayerfully interceding for this week is: _____

Discipleship Discipline - Evangelism

The heart of God..... seeking and saving that which is lost.

Romans 10:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Matthew 28:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And Jesus came 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 of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

The name of the person I feel led to share Jesus with this week is: _____

Discipleship Discipline - Generosity

Generosity and giving detaches us from the world and its grip, and attaches us to the Lord and His presence. Giving gives us an opportunity to do weekly, monthly, etc steps of faith before the Lord that we trust Him enough to give.

Matthew 25:35–36 (NKJV) ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

Malachi 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.

Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV) ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Corinthians 9:6–9 (NKJV) ⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. ⁹ As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”

The person or ministry I plan to generously support this week is: _____

Discipleship Discipline - Fasting

Fasting detaches us from the world and its grip, and attaches us to the Lord and His presence.

Matthew 17:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. ²¹ However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

During this week's fasting time I plan to abstain from the following: _____

Discipleship Discipline - Service

Serving is my opportunity to be “an Image Bearer” of God

John 13:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

In my service to the Lord this week I plan to accomplish: _____

Discipleship Discipline – Exercise

Man is body, spirit, and soul.

1 Timothy 4:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV) ²³ *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

My exercise goals for this week are: _____

Discipleship Discipline – Fellowship

The calling to keep each other strong

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

The names of the persons I plan on spending time with this week are: _____

Discipleship Discipline – Worship

He is worthy to receive the praise of our lips.

John 4:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

I will set aside time on this date to enjoy intimate fellowship with Jesus: _____

Discipleship Discipline - Reading

Spurgeon: **Visit many good books, but live in the Bible.** The writings and examples of others that have gone before us, is like the sharpening of our swords.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV) ¹ *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

Proverbs 27:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.*

The inspirational Christian book I will begin reading this week is: _____

Discipleship Discipline – Encouragement

Oh the power of encouragement in another person's life. What a gift to be able to encourage someone.

Acts 4:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ *And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,*

The person I will contact to encourage this week is: _____

Abraham – Retreats from the Promise of God (12:10-20)

Genesis 12:10 *Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.*

Holding on to the Promise

Hebrews 10:23 *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.*

In John Bunyan's best-selling book, *Pilgrim's Progress*, the central character, Christian, begins his journey leaving the city of Destruction and ventures on his way toward the Celestial City. Early on his journey, Christian decides to depart from the narrow path onto an easier one which leads him to the territory of Despair and its stronghold, Doubting Castle.

There, Christian is captured, overwhelmed, and locked in a dungeon until his faithful companion, Hope, arrives to remind him of previous victories. As the saint prays throughout the night, he remembers a key in his possession called "Promise", which will open any lock!

At this moment, believers may be tempted to stray from the narrow path and onto an easier one shaped by worldly hopes and expectations. Doubts and uncertainties could lead to being trapped in the dungeon of Despair. However, we hold the same key of "Promise," which opens the dungeon gate at Doubting Castle, leading us to a Kingdom that is unshaken and eternal.

Like Christian in Pilgrim's Progress, we may find ourselves tempted to leave the narrow path, only to face the overwhelming grip of despair and doubt. Yet, just as Christian discovered the key of "Promise" that unlocked his freedom, we too possess this key—a reminder of God's faithfulness and His unshakable Kingdom. Let us hold fast to His promises, staying on the narrow road, encouraged by hope and prayer, as we journey toward the eternal Celestial City.

Genesis 12:11 And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.

Genesis 12:12 Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live.

Genesis 12:13 Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

Genesis 12:14 So it was, when Abram came into Egypt, that the Egyptians saw the woman, that she was very beautiful.

Genesis 12:15 The princes of Pharaoh also saw her and commended her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken to Pharaoh's house.

Genesis 12:16 He treated Abram well for her sake. He had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

Genesis 12:17 But the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife.

Genesis 12:18 And Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife?

Genesis 12:19 Why did you say, 'She is my sister'? I might have taken her as my wife. Now therefore, here is your wife; take her and go your way."

Genesis 12:20 So Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him; and they sent him away, with his wife and all that he had.

Father of Faith

The father of faith has a lapse of faith as he doesn't trust that the Lord can provide. Don't let fear drive you to the wrong place Christian and at the same time don't let fear keep you in the wrong place in that you can't move on because you're afraid to step out.

Famine Happens to the Faithful

But don't miss this that famine happens to the faithful and sometimes we can think why are these things happening to us and it is often because we live in a fallen world but it can be as often that God is showing us where we are in our faith great or not so great he is using us to strengthen other people's faith but in all of these famines we have to trust that God has allowed the famine in our life.

Pathetic

This is one of the most pathetic displays of faith in all the Bible. By none other than the Father of Faith, so be encouraged that God doesn't call the perfect, be thankful for "nothing".

Example

And we will see that his son Isaac will follow his very example. Disciples return but nonetheless the consequences will always be left.

Do you realize that the father of faith jeopardized the promise that the Messiah would come through his seed?

But God took care of Sarah and covered for Abraham's failure in faith. That was a long ride home from Egypt 😊

Disciples Return

Disciples may retreat but they always return. Those who don't return have to evaluate themselves very honestly am I a disciple, was I ever a disciple.

Proverbs 24:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.

Be Doers

We're told to be doers of the word and not hearers only. And it's easy for us to hear the word of God agree with the word of God and then somehow justify disobedience to the word of God. As we said one of the disciplines of discipleship is scripture memorization and you will find very often the very word that you're memorizing is the very word that will save you from that place of compromise maybe even that place of absolute implosion. If Abraham would have hid the word in his heart then maybe he might not have sinned not only against God but against his wife. What word is the promise that he was given that he obviously forgot.

James 1:22–25 (NKJV) ²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Closing Thought

So closing thought for us all what did Abraham do to get out of this mess that we look at right here right now? The answer is nothing, for the Lord took care of him. What did Sarah have to do to be covered from the failings of the poor decision of her husband? And the answer is nothing, for the Lord took care of her. There was "nothing" either of them could have done to change and get out of the situation.

Faith Is

- Faith is believing and allowing God to do the work.
- Faith is where I end (my works) and God begins (His works).
- Faith is God I can't, but You can.
- Faith is, Lord there is "nothing" here, but You!

What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing!

Romans 8:31–39 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion

So what did you guys study today? "Nothing", aren't you glad!

Outline: Genesis 12

- Abraham – Receives the Promise of God (12:1-4)
- Abraham – Responds to the Promise of God (12:5-9)
- Abraham – Retreats from the Promise of God (12:10-20)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 13

Title: The Place of the Altar

Summary: Even after Abram's failing of faith down in Egypt, God meets him at the altar he had built in the Promised Land before the failing. God is so gracious, kind, and longsuffering with us; and is always ready to meet us to fellowship and commune together with Him in love. Maybe you need to come back to the altar of His promises today for a fresh reunion and restoration. Join us as we see the heart of God to us even after a failing of faith.

Genesis 13:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South. ² Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Outline: Genesis 13

- Abram's Altar (13:1-4)
- Lot's Altar (13:5-13)
- The World's Altar (13:14-18)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Abram's Altar (13:1-4)

Genesis 13:1 Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South.

You always go up from Egypt which is a picture of the world and then vice versa you always go down to Egypt which is a picture of the world.

Genesis 13:2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

Let's not forget where he got all that wealth as he acquired so much of it in Egypt when he said she's my sister and the reason pharaoh gave the wealth to Abraham was because they were making a deal for Sarah. Surely one of the most pathetic and the father of faith accounts in all the Bible did it.

But God intervened and there was surely nothing of Abrams faith or faithfulness but God's goodness to protect Sarah and deliver them from pharaoh Hiram. And as we said. I'm sure that was one long ride home from Egypt.

Genesis 13:3 And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai,

Genesis 13:4 to the place of the altar which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

In the land which God had called him and promised him.

One of the most beautiful phrases in all the Bible as far as I'm concerned, "The place of the altar".

What is an altar?

We're told right here and therefore we need not make it complicated it's the place that a man or a woman calls upon the name of the Lord

And therefore based on that definition of what an altar is I can build an altar anywhere at any time and turned it into a beautiful altar between me and the Lord where I call upon the name of the Lord and you and I can do that right here and right now we can turn this place into a beautiful altar where we call upon the name of the Lord we praise him for who he is we give him glory for his greatness and the name of the Lord is a strong tower and the righteous run into it and they are saved at the name of the Lord Jesus Christ every knee will bow and every tongue will confess it is the name above all names and I make it into an altar right here and right now because I'm speaking calling upon the name of the Lord for there is none like him.

Jeremiah 10:6 Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might),

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The altar is a place that I can praise him and say Lord you are and then fill in the blank whatever that may be the altar is a place of praise that I can say your name is and fill in the blank whatever that may be and God will meet me and meet you there and the spirit of the living God will move because God shows up at his altar to meet with us regardless of what yesterday may have been the failing may have been whatever the situation may be the altar is about right here and right now it's a beautiful place to look back to it's a beautiful place to look forward to but the most beautiful place to the altar is right here and right now.

- Lord You are _____
- Your Name is _____
- I praise You because _____

Ohh that his name there at the altar is worship as we are saying Lord you are who you say that you are and you will do what you say that you will do and at the altar as my place of faith that I say regardless if the world is swaying or moving then the earth is in upheavals and the political system is unraveling and evil may seem to be triumphing I come to the altar and it is an immovable place because it is the place that I meet God and call upon the name of the Lord.

All those genealogies had the one thing in common it was the name their name their association to who they were and God here at the altar is a place of his name because it associates who he is and what we identify with him when we call upon the name of the Lord because his name means something.

We can build an altar anytime and anywhere and there are these special altars where we know God has met us we know that there was a moment like no other time even though every time I come and I worship him maybe a place like this maybe my morning devotion maybe a time out on a walk or in the wilderness looking up at the stars camping beholding his glory but there's certain times of altars that truly alter us that we know God has met us and he's marking this place that it's something special and it's a place that we can always come back to and go I remember that altar at that time where I had met the Lord and I can come back to that altar just like Abraham came back to the altar and he comes after a long ride from Egypt thinking ohh how I blew it ohh what my wife is gonna think of me for the years to come all my servants are gonna question my leadership and all the questions will come every time I make a major decision as it will come into question and how Abraham must have felt so overwhelmed until he turned that corner and he saw this altar which he had built I wonder how long he had been

thinking of the altar in his mind on that ride and then he came and turned and saw that altar was still standing and it's a pitcher for us that the altar stands regardless of what may seem to have imploded around us and God uses it. They remember this was a place that I met with you. They remember these stones. It's a place of remembrance to come back and remember the commitment that we made towards one another. Me towards you and you towards me and remember just the beauty when your hands imagine Abraham. He took those stones and he was building that altar. He was doing something with the Lord. He was connecting with the Lord and there was something beautiful just between him and the Lord and he probably wondered why did I ever leave this altar. Why would I ever think there was some other place to go beside this promise that I had with God. Me to him and him to me and when he turned that corner ohh the move of his heart to see that altar still standing.

I'm thinking of the tower of Babel. They tried to build a tower into the heaven. I'll tell you it came crumbling down the heap of ruin and yet here comes Abram. Turns the corner and there was an older although not high in stature truly taller than any tower of Babel as he was reminded with the place that he met the Lord and the promise of God that was made to him through the word of God.

And of course you can be sure that the devil told Abram you can't come back to this altar. God's not going to receive you after what you've done and that will always be what the devil wants to do is to condemn us but the Lord never condemns us and there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. Will the Lord convict us absolutely and I thank him that he does so that I don't have to stay the man that I am but I can become the man he wants me to be. The righteous man full of faith. And so may we know the devil wants to keep us away from the altar but God invites us to the altar and calls us to the altar and meets us at the altar and if need be he will take us to the altar if we simply say lead the way.

[**Romans 8:1 \(NKJV\)**](#) ¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

Lot's Altar (13:5-13)

Genesis 13:5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents.

Genesis 13:6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together.

Genesis 13:7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land.

Genesis 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren.

Genesis 13:9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

Look at Abraham. He chooses peace over personal prosperity.

And here we see the beauty they can come out of a failing as it breaks our will that we have to have things our way to protect our way in our right and our desires. Here we see Abraham simply yielding himself to the Lord and trusting that whatever way Lot goes he knows the God will go with him regardless of Lot's choice.

And you know there's something that's so significant here in this story that it's OK for believers to separate from one another and not have any hard feelings or tell stories about the other person of why they had to separate as if they have to justify why they separated from that brother or sister in Christ and I'm not talking about marriage. I'm talking about relations that we have with each other here in the church in various ministries.

Genesis 13:10 And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar.

Genesis 13:11 Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other.

Lot is making the decision based on what looks good and looks right he is truly following after the error that he didn't learn from his uncle what he saw looking towards Egypt because there was a famine in the land and all that Abraham saw was barrenness around him and so he thought Egypt must be the place to go. But here Lot he's not seeing barrenness he is seeing bountifulness and going that's the place to go and therefore there I shall go totally making a decision on what he sees and what he thinks is the right thing to do. It is truly the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Do you have any decisions to make today? What will they be based on?

In that culture to which I would say and in our culture today Lot is making a selfish decision because he is not respecting the elder who has been good to him taking care of him extending himself to him and yet when it comes time rather than not saying whatever you choose Uncle that's good enough for me but instead Lot chooses what's best for him not for the elder which is an indication of Lot's heart It's selfish and self-centered.

Genesis 13:12 Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom.

Genesis 13:13 But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

We will talk more about Lot's decision next week but let us not miss we're being told how wicked Sodom is and I believe the point being made is that it was well known how wicked they were and so Lot is not making an ignorant decision he's making a decision that he thinks he can handle and somehow keep himself and his family from the air and the danger that would come with the wicked and sinfulness of the place he's choosing to take his family.

Lot is literally repeating the journey to Egypt that his uncle took him on and now he is taking his wife and we will read daughters into a place that might be great for raising cattle but lousy for raising children.

So the question is where is Lot's altar? And we see Lot's altar is the altar of the world and it's not the altar of God.

Be careful about the decisions that will put your family in wicked places even as prosperous as that place may be financially and materially because in the end Lot lost everything and ended up in a cave and a horrible testimony.

Ask God what is the best decision lead my family closer to you make it a spiritual decision not a financial and material decision.

Arthur Blessitt

Arthur Blessitt, an evangelist who famously carried a large cross over all seven continents and earned the Guinness World Record for longest pilgrimage, has died at the age of 84.

A post on his Facebook page, written in the first person, announced that Blessitt passed away on Tuesday. He is survived by his wife Denise, seven children, 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

"Thank you to all who have loved and helped me and this ministry take the message of Jesus and the cross to the world," stated the post. "Thanks to all of you that I met along the way of my life and crosswalk."

"For the love, food, drink and welcome from the cities to the jungles and wars and deserts. You welcomed the cross and this walking pilgrim. I leave thinking of you all. True treasures. Great thanks to you who have supported us with your gifts of finances. You have been a vital part of my life and this mission as you covered us with prayer and support."

According to the announcement, Blessitt requested "that there be no funeral or memorial service for me," adding that the "greatest thing you could do would be to go out and lead one more soul to be saved."

Matt and Laurie Crouch of Trinity Broadcasting Network, which produced a film about Blessitt's carrying of a cross throughout the world, released a statement giving their condolences.

"His legacy is not in the estimated 86 million footsteps he took but in the countless hearts he changed, the lives he touched, and the love he tirelessly spread," stated the Crouches.

"How do you live a life of purpose and destiny? Arthur would answer, 'One step at a time!' This seems even more appropriate as he has taken his final step into the arms of Jesus!"

Born in October 1940, Blessitt came to faith when he was 7 years old, preached his first sermon at age 15, and was ordained a minister when he was 20.

Blessitt is best known for carrying a 12-foot-tall cross throughout the world and preaching the Gospel at numerous locations, having reportedly walked with the faith symbol throughout virtually every sovereign nation on earth.

In April 2013, Guinness recognized Blessitt as having "the greatest distance claimed for a 'round the world' pilgrimage," having walked 40,235 miles beginning on Christmas 1969.

"Arthur is one of the most humble, kind, warm and inviting evangelists I have ever met," wrote Greg Stier, founder and leader of Dare 2 Share Ministries International, in 2017.

"He has shared the Gospel with politicians like George Bush, leaders like Yasser Arafat and musicians like Bob Dylan and Jannis Joplin. ... He has been hit by a car while carrying a cross, worn out countless shoes and seen an amazing number of people come to Christ (he stopped counting a long time ago)."

The World's Altar (13:14-18)

Genesis 13:14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

Genesis 13:15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

Genesis 13:16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

Genesis 13:17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Eyes of the World / Eyes of the Lord

The eyes of the whole world are upon the land of Israel, pick-up the newspaper and you will see and hear about this land daily. Why? Because the eyes of the Lord are upon this land (as we'll see), the land is God's (as we'll see), and it is God's prophetic end-times timepiece (as we'll see).

It's a Dot

The whole world has their eyes upon a land that is little more than a dot on the map:

There are only 6 million Jewish people in Israel, compared to 300,000 million Americans. Israel population is about the same as the Greater Baltimore Metropolitan.

- Israel is only 250 miles long and 75 miles wide
- Israel is 8,020 sq. miles
- New Jersey is 7,787 sq. miles
- Maryland is 10,500 sq. miles
- Texas is 266,807 sq. miles
- Look at the map and compare it to the rest of the Arab nations in the Mid-East like Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iran, Jordan, and Syria; it is a dot.

Unlike Texas, or any of the Arab nations, there is not a drop of oil to be found.

Study Outline

We will look at the land of Israel from three aspects:

- Scripturally – What the Bible says about the Land
- Historically – The 4,000 year history of the Land
- Spiritually – The spiritual aspect of the Land
 - Anti-Semitism / Muslim Faith
 - End Times

Caveat

Being Bible-believing Christians in no way requires us to support every secular policy of Israel's government, but simultaneously compels us to stand firmly against both anti-Semitism and racial or ethnic prejudice against Arabs (many of whom are Christian), and to desire peace, dignity and self-determination for all Middle Eastern peoples. Moreover, our Biblical faith requires us to support the existence of Israel as an independent democratic nation, to recognize that the land of Israel belongs eternally to the Jews by divine covenant, and to recognize that all Jews are God's chosen people, destined to receive the blessings of His promises.

Scripturally – What the Bible says about the Land

God Owns it All

All Land belongs to God, and the people too, and He can give that land to whomever he chooses because first He is God, and secondly all of the land is His to give:

(Exodus 19:5 NKJV) 'Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine.

(Psalms 24:1 NKJV) The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.

(1 Corinthians 10:26 NKJV) for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."

God Chooses Israel / Jerusalem Specifically

Out of all the earth, God chose Israel specifically for Himself (He has the power and authority to do so because all of it is His), and He narrows it down specifically to Jerusalem. God's eyes are on Israel forever, and that is where His heart is. He said these things 3,000 ago:

(2 Chronicles 6:5 NKJV) 'Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel.

(2 Chronicles 6:6 NKJV) 'Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there; and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.'

(2 Chronicles 7:12 NKJV) Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice.

(2 Chronicles 7:13 NKJV) "When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,

(2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV) "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

(2 Chronicles 7:15 NKJV) "Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place.

(2 Chronicles 7:16 NKJV) "For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

The Cup of Trembling

God says He will use the Land as a "Cup of Trembling" to all nations.

(Zechariah 12:1 KJV) The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

(Zechariah 12:2 KJV) **Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about**, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

(Zechariah 12:3 KJV) And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

(Zechariah 12:4 KJV) In that day, saith the LORD, I will smite every horse with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse of the people with blindness.

(Zechariah 12:5 KJV) And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, The inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.

(Zechariah 12:6 KJV) In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem.

(Zechariah 12:7 KJV) The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem do not magnify themselves against Judah.

(Zechariah 12:8 KJV) In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them.

(Zechariah 12:9 KJV) And it shall come to pass **in that day**, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

This was written 2,500 years ago, but notice that throughout the passage it says, “in that day”. What day is that referring to, it is referring to the Last Days, when Messiah will return – Jesus. Here God is saying He will use Israel in the days preceding His return, before His Second Coming.

When Zechariah wrote this, 2,500 years ago, Israel was barren, yet God says keep your eye on Jerusalem. People would have had to laugh when they read this, saying keep your eye on a wasteland that is barren, (50 years ago – with no oil). But 2,500 years later the whole world is watching. The name Zechariah means “God Remembers”. God never forget Jerusalem, and today the whole world watched on, looking at Israel and Jerusalem.

Who Did God Give the Land To

Whose land is it, it is God's and He can give it to whomever He pleases. This special dot the size of New Jersey, this place that is special to the Jew, the Muslim, and the Christian. Specifically Jerusalem, for to the Muslim it is the third most holy site behind Mecca and Medina. The Muslim believes at the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is where Muhammad ascended into heaven, and the Dome of the rock was the spot where Abraham offered Ishmael (not Isaac).

Who Did God Give it To? / 8 Covenants

But who did God give the Land to 4,000 years ago? He gave it to, Abraham; right here in Genesis 12. So quickly let's recap the 8 specific Covenants we see in the Scriptures:

Definition of Covenant

"a sovereign proclamation of God, from the lips of God, that puts Him in a relationship of responsibility with a man, a family, a nation, and/or the world. It is a proclamation of God saying this is what I am going to do.

Sometimes these covenants are:

- Conditional
- Unconditional
- Perpetual (Forever)
- Expire.

Edenic Covenant: (Genesis 2:16-17). God declares to Adam and Eve, all of this is for you to enjoy, but if you eat of the tree of Knowledge and Evil, you shall surely die. This one is perpetual for we see man dying everyday as the result of the world being plunged into sin.

Adamic Covenant: (Genesis 3:14-19). Here is the result of the fall, the curse. Satan you shall slither on your belly, woman you shall suffer pain in childbirth, man you shall till the land in sweat. But there is hope, for a Savior will come through the Seed of the woman who will crush satan's head, but only after satan bruises His heel on the cross. This one is perpetual, woman still suffer in birthing, and man still sweats in the field. The Savior has come for sin, but next times He comes for His kids.

Noahic Covenant: (Genesis 8:21-9:17). Included the Diet (The Foods given to Eat); Discipline - (Punishment for Murder); and the Declaration (God will never flood the world again). It is a perpetual covenant.

Abrahamic Covenant: (Genesis 12,15,17). God telling Abraham I am going to bless you, and the nations will be blessed through you. For through the line of Abraham the Savior will come, and all who will receive Him will be free from sin and death. It is a perpetual covenant for the Love of the Lamb is available to all who will receive, every tribe, nation, and tongue. God also is going to give Abraham a land that will be his forever.

Mosaic Covenant: (Exodus 19, 24, 34). Better known as "The Law". This is a conditional covenant for it is based on; if you will do this you will be blessed, if you will that, then you will be cursed. It is an if/then covenant. If you do right then you will be blessed, if you do wrong, then you will be cursed. This covenant is not perpetual for it was superceded by the New Covenant.

Palestinian Covenant: (Duet 30). This covenant deals with the land of Israel. It states that the land of Israel will be the Jews forever and ever. It is perpetual, forever and ever, regardless of what Yassar Arraft thinks or says, regardless of what the United Nations or the United States says, it is the Jewish peoples forever and ever.

David Covenant: (2 Sam. 7:12; 22:51) From King David's seed would come a ruler who would reign on the throne forever - King Jesus. This one of course is perpetual, forever and ever. This covenant agreement reached its highest fulfillment when Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of the line of David, was born in Bethlehem about a thousand years after God made this promise to David the king (Matt. 1:1; 2:4–6; Luke 1:29–33).

New Covenant: (Jeremiah 31:31-34 see also Heb 8:3). God says I will write my will on the tablets of your heart. Jesus would say His blood is the blood of the New Covenant (Matt 26:27-28). It is no longer and external covenant, but an internal covenant. It is Christ in you, the hope of Glory (Col 1:27). It is God Himself taking up residence in your body to lead you and empower you for your walk with Him.

God gives the Land to Abraham

God gives Abraham the Land of Israel:

*(Genesis 12:5 NKJV) Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. **So they came to the land of Canaan.***

(Genesis 12:6 NKJV) Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem, as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh. And the Canaanites were then in the land.

*(Genesis 12:7 NKJV) Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, **"To your descendants I will give this land."** And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

(Genesis 12:8 NKJV) And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

Given Forever

God adds to the giving of the land – He says it is yours forever:

(Genesis 13:14 NKJV) And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

*(Genesis 13:15 NKJV) **"for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.***

(Genesis 13:16 NKJV) "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.

Shows the Boundaries

God shows Abraham how large the given land is:

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

*(Genesis 15:18 NKJV) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, **from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates;***

Passes to Isaac – Not Ishmael

It is passed to Abraham's son Isaac (not Ishmael as the Muslim will claim).

(Genesis 26:1 NKJV) There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

(Genesis 26:2 NKJV) Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

(Genesis 26:3 NKJV) "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; **for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.**

(Genesis 26:4 NKJV) "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

(Genesis 26:5 NKJV) "because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

Passes to Jacob

From Abraham, to Isaac, then to Jacob the Land will always be Israel. God changes Jacob's name to Israel (Gen 32:28)

(Genesis 28:10 NKJV) Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

(Genesis 28:11 NKJV) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; **the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.**

(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "**Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.**"

Genesis 32:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." ²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Not because of Israel's Righteousness

God is not giving the Land to Israel because they are righteousness, but because of the witness of His Word:

(Deuteronomy 9:1 NKJV) "Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven,

(Deuteronomy 9:2 NKJV) "a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?'

(Deuteronomy 9:3 NKJV) "Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.

(Deuteronomy 9:4 NKJV) "Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you.

(Deuteronomy 9:5 NKJV) "It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

(Deuteronomy 9:6 NKJV) "**Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.**

3 Reason Israel the Chosen

God say's to Israel don't get puffed up. Why is the nation Israel a chosen nation, why are they a chosen people? It is important to know and understand, so we can piece together our Old Testament history leading up to Jesus Christ, and so we can understand why things are as they are in the Middle East and world today.

3 Reasons:

1. To be a Witness of God's Ways.
2. A Keeper of God's Word
3. A Channel of God's Wonder

1.) To be a Witness of God's Way

God glorifies Himself through Israel. The world may be confused and in chaos, but God wants the world to see Him clearly:

(Isaiah 44:23 NKJV) Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel.

The Jewish nation was to be a light unto the world. The Jews were to show the world what it was like to have God as the Leader of their nation. Israel was to make the whole world crave to follow the God of the nation Israel (remember Rahab).

(Isaiah 49:6 NKJV) Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

(Psalms 33:12 NKJV) Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Unfortunately, turned it from being a missionary/witnessing calling to the world, to a self-righteous chosen election. It reached the point that the Jewish people believed that all that a Gentile (anyone not a Jew) was good for was to fuel the fire of Hell. They would walk down the street and when they saw a Gentile yell, unclean, unclean, and cross over to the other side. If their clothing brushed against a Gentile they would go home and bathe, and burn their clothing. Sadly, we can see some of that same mentality in the church today, a loss of love for those who are perishing, refusing to get dirty to snatch them from hell.

2.) A Keeper of God's Word

We all should be deeply grateful to the Jewish people, for they were meticulous in maintaining the purity of Gods Word, and we are blessed and benefit greatly from it today:

(Romans 3:1 NKJV) What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

(Romans 3:2 NKJV) Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

3.) A Channel of God's Wonder

Through the Jewish nation, specifically Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would come the Messiah. The promised Seed of Genesis 3:15:

(Genesis 12:3 NKJV) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Israel's Witness / Dispersed / God's Word

Israel is a witness to the whole world. The whole world looks on and says how do they survive. How could a nation survive, even when they didn't have a homeland. For 2,000 years Israel kept their national identity, without a homeland, without a capital city. The fact that Israel exist today is a witness to God's Word. God said they would be dispersed, God said they would be without a homeland, but God said even when you are out of the land, it's still your land, and it will be waiting for you when I bring you back.

Palestinian Covenant

The Palestinian Covenant: (Duet 30). This covenant deals with the land of Israel. It states that the land of Israel will be the Jews forever and ever. It is perpetual, forever and ever,:

(Deuteronomy 30:1 NKJV) "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you,

(Deuteronomy 30:2 NKJV) "and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul,

(Deuteronomy 30:3 NKJV) "that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.

(Deuteronomy 30:4 NKJV) "If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you.

(Deuteronomy 30:5 NKJV) "Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.

The David Covenant: (2 Sam. 7:10-12; 22:51). Even the Davidic Covenant included that the land was theirs, and that the Messiah would come through King David.

(2 Samuel 7:10 NKJV) "Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously,

(2 Samuel 7:11 NKJV) "since the time that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

(2 Samuel 7:12 NKJV) "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

Brief History

Abraham inherits the land and lives in it, it passes to Isaac and then Jacob. They go into bondage in Egypt for 400 years, come back to the land led by Moses and then Joshua. They have judges, then King

Saul, David, and Solomon. The kingdom gets divided, they reject the warnings of the prophets, live in disobedience, then are taken captives by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar. So for 70 years they are in captivity, but then return, and the land is still theirs, just as the Palestinian Covenant said it would.

God used the Babylonian kingdom for His purposes of disciplining Israel. God lets other nations control the land in order to work His will for Israel and His Witness to the world.

(Jeremiah 27:4 NKJV) 'And command them to say to their masters, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; thus you shall say to your masters:

(Jeremiah 27:5 NKJV) 'I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.

(Jeremiah 27:6 NKJV) 'And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him.

(Jeremiah 27:7 NKJV) 'So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them.

(Jeremiah 27:8 NKJV) 'And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,' says the LORD, 'with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

Starting with Babylon / 2000 Years under someone's Yoke

It is from that time, from the time of Babylonian Kingdom, Israel will dwell in the Land, but they will never possess it. It will always be in someone else's ownership, someone else's yoke and bondage. Again, no nation has ever survived 2,000 years without a homeland that they controlled, but Israel did, and it can only be attributed to God.

Nation Born in a Day

After 2,000 years, after millions of Jews being killed. 1 million by Titus in 70AD, and 6 million by Hitler in WW2, the most amazing Scripture is fulfilled:

(Isaiah 66:1 NKJV) Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"

(Isaiah 66:2 NKJV) For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist," Says the LORD. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

(Isaiah 66:3 NKJV) "He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have chosen their own ways, And their soul delights in their abominations,

(Isaiah 66:4 NKJV) So will I choose their delusions, And bring their fears on them; Because, when I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight."

(Isaiah 66:5 NKJV) Hear the word of the LORD, You who tremble at His word: "Your brethren who hated you, Who cast you out for My name's sake, said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, That we may see your joy,' But they shall be ashamed."

(Isaiah 66:6 NKJV) The sound of noise from the city! A voice from the temple! The voice of the LORD, Who fully repays His enemies!

(Isaiah 66:7 NKJV) "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child.

*(Isaiah 66:8 NKJV) Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? **Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.***

(Isaiah 66:9 NKJV) Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God.

(Isaiah 66:10 NKJV) "Rejoice with Jerusalem, And be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her;

(Isaiah 66:11 NKJV) That you may feed and be satisfied With the consolation of her bosom, That you may drink deeply and be delighted With the abundance of her glory."

May 14, 1948

May 14, 1948, in one day, the nation Israel was recognized as a State, as a Nation. Exactly what God had said in Isaiah 700 hundred years before. No nation has ever been born in a day, especially after all the persecution and attempts to wipe them off the face of the earth. Israel truly is a witness of God's wonder and His Word. He proof the Israel exists, should be proof that God exists.

Dry Bones / The Regathering

If that wasn't enough, in Ezekiel 37 we read the prophecy of "Dry Bones" coming to life; it is a picture of God regathering the children of Israel from all over the world back into Israel. It is the predecessor of Russian invasion that will happen in the end times (more on that in part 3). Amazingly, but 10's of thousand Jews immigrate from around the world every year to move to Israel. We truly are living in the Last Days:

(Ezekiel 37:21 NKJV) "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;"
(Ezekiel 37:22 NKJV) "and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.

The Fig Tree has Blossomed

Just as all these Scriptures have come to pass and remain true, there is one that we all must grab hold off and live for:

(Matthew 24:32 NKJV) "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

(Matthew 24:33 NKJV) "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near; at the doors!

(Matthew 24:34 NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

(Matthew 24:35 NKJV) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

(Matthew 24:36 NKJV) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

(Matthew 24:37 NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

We are the generation that has seen the fig tree blossom, and therefore the return of Christ is near. As I say if He doesn't come today, then He is coming tomorrow. Ask me tomorrow and I'll tell you the same thing.

Fulfilled the Messiah Promise

Just as the Lord has fulfilled everything concerning the Land and the People, He has fulfilled everything concerning the Person – the Messiah Jesus Christ who came to be the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.:

(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Historically – The 4,000 year History of the Land

Abraham / Issac / Jacob / Famine to Egypt / Slavery

The history of ancient Israel is available for all to read in the Bible and secular history, and rightly begins with Abraham's call by the one true and living Creator-God to leave his ancestral home in the Tigris-Euphrates Valley and follow the Fertile Crescent in a counter-clockwise arch until he arrived in what is now Israel - a beautiful and fertile land that was at that time unsettled and occupied only by occasional wandering nomadic tribes of herdsman. There, God told him to mount a hill and look about him in all directions, promising to give him and his descendants the land forever. The promise to Abraham was renewed to his son Isaac, and later to his son Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel, then to Jacob's twelve sons and their descendants. The twelve sons of Jacob are, of course, the patriarchs of the tribes of Israel, and their physical descendants are the Jews. God reiterated on several occasions throughout the Old Testament that His promise of that particular locality was eternal. Because of a severe famine, Jacob, his sons, and their families migrated to Egypt where they were nourished and fed for several centuries under a series of friendly Pharaohs until a cruel king ascended to the throne who enslaved the Jews and subjected them to brutal task-masters.

Moses / Joshua / Judges / Kings

Moses, born of devout Jewish parents but raised in the courts and learning of ancient Egypt, was expelled from the land after intervening physically on behalf of his countrymen, spent the next 40 years as a shepherd in the desert, then returned to lead the children of Israel out of their bondage by the miraculous hand of God. Although Moses died in the wilderness, the Jews, now several million in number, reclaimed their God-given land under the leadership of Joshua, a land that had in the meantime been occupied by violent and debauchorous city-states and tribes. For several centuries, the 12 tribes of Israel were governed rather informally by a series of judges including Samuel, Deborah, Gideon, and Samson. About a millennium before the birth of Christ and about a millennium after the time of Abraham, the people of Israel demanded a king like the pagan nations around them and wound up with King Saul, whose rule was oppressive and at times disobedient to God. Saul in turn was replaced by David, the

sweet psalmist, the shepherd king of Israel, and the author of many of the Psalms in the Bible. David was a man after God's own heart, and God again reiterated the promise of the land to him and his descendants, and additionally promised that the ultimate deliverer and redeemer, the King of all kings, the divine ruler of all creation, the Messiah, who would usher in everlasting peace and prosperity, would be one of David's descendants.

Solomon / Kingdom Splits / Babylon - Nebuchadnezzar

After the death of David, his son Solomon continued and expanded the empire, making Israel the wealthiest and most powerful kingdom on earth until his death, after which a civil war ripped the nation in two - Israel to the north with its capital city of Samaria, and Judah to the south with its capital city of Jerusalem. The northern kingdom had no godly kings although some were worse than others were, while the southern kingdom had a mixture of good and bad rulers. In 721 BC, the Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, but were unable to take Judah or Jerusalem. They in turn were conquered by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, who successfully conquered Judah and destroyed Solomon's temple and Jerusalem in 586 BC.

70 Years / Medo-Persians / Rebuild the Walls / Grecian / Roman

Seventy years later, Babylon in the meantime having been itself conquered by the Medo-Persians under Cyrus the Great, the Jews repatriated their homeland and reconstructed the temple in Jerusalem under the leadership of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel. At this point, it should be emphasized that the Jews have maintained a continual presence in the land of Israel from the time of Joshua's conquest until the present. Even under foreign rule and occupation, even during the times of exile, some Jews were left in the land, and Jewish settlements continued. Medo-Persia was later conquered by Alexander the Great (330BC) and Israel became a part of the Greek empire, which in turn was conquered by Julius Caesar, making Israel a part of the massive Roman Empire. It was into a Roman-occupied Israel that Jesus was born 2,000 years ago.

Days of Jesus / 70AD – Titus / 1 million Killed

Many Christians mistakenly believe that Jesus cursed His fellow Jews because they rejected Him, and that therefore Israel no longer has a place in God's plan. The promise of God to the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob called Israel, however, was an eternal promise, the basis of an everlasting covenant, the promises of which will yet be fulfilled. Jesus wept over the unbelief of Israel and prophesied of the destruction of Jerusalem, but nowhere ever implied any rejection of His own countrymen as a whole. In 70 AD, Titus led the infamous 10th Roman legion on an invasion of Israel and utterly destroyed Jerusalem just as Jesus had predicted. Over a million Jews were slaughtered, Jewish blood flowed like rivers through the streets of the Holy City, and the Romans changed the name of the country to Palestine - an anti-Semitic slur taken from the Philistines, who were a primary enemy of the Jews in ancient times. Resistance fighters held out for three more years until the last of them were destroyed at Masada in the Negev desert of southern Israel. Many of the remaining Jews were deported to various nations in the Roman Empire; nevertheless, Jewish settlements continued in the land, albeit in a minority.

Emperor Hadrian / Phillistine – Palestine / 313AD

In 132 AD, the Jews revolted against Roman occupation under the leadership of Simeon Bar Kochba - an uprising that was crushed by the emperor Hadrian, who subsequently rebuilt Jerusalem as a pagan city, forbade the Jews from entering it, outlawed the practice of the Jewish religion, renamed the area of Judah "Syria Palaestina", and settled gentiles in the area. Consequently, more Jews left Israel and the principle Jewish settlements in Israel moved to the region of Galilee in the northern part of the country. In 313 AD, Constantine issued an edict of toleration that officially allowed the practice of hitherto forbidden Christianity, which was later adopted as the state religion of Rome, and Israel and the Jews were subjected to the rule of a series of Byzantine emperors. It was during this Byzantine period when the Mishna and the Jerusalem Talmud, two primary Old Testament Jewish commentaries, were written.

Islam & Muslims

In 620AD, Mohammed is a nomad. He like many others is wondering who should he worship. In Mecca there in a temple were 360 gods you could chose from. He picks 1, and that one represented Allah, and he said this is god. Now Islam already existed, but Mohammed starts a movement. He closely mirrors

Judaism, desiring that Jews would follow his religion. Instead of temple he has mosque, instead of fasting he has ramahdan, instead of Abraham and Isaac he has Abraham and Ishmael, and it was Ishmael to be sacrificed not Isaac. He pens the Koran, their holy book, which by the way doesn't mention the word Jerusalem or love in it. The Jews won't follow, and so an all out war begins. Here are some excerpts from the Koran:

Do Not take the Jew or Christian a Friend

5.51: O you who believe! do not take the **Jews** and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people.

Fight against the Friends of Satan - till death if need-be

[4.74]

Therefore let those fight in the way of Allah,
who sell this world's life for the hereafter;
and whoever fights in the way of Allah,
then be he slain or be he victorious,
We shall grant him a mighty reward.

[4.75]

And what reason have you that you should not fight in the way of Allah and of the weak among the men and the women and the children,

(of) those who say:

Our Lord!

cause us to go forth from this town,
whose people are oppressors,
and give us from Thee a guardian and give us from Thee a helper.

[4.76]

Those who believe fight in the way of Allah,
and those who disbelieve fight in the way of the Shaitan.
Fight therefore against the friends of the Shaitan;
surely the strategy of the Shaitan is weak.

Jews and Christian are the Most Violent of People

5.82: Certainly you will find the most violent of people in enmity for those who believe (to be) the **Jews** and those who are polytheists, and you will certainly find the nearest in friendship to those who believe (to be) those who say: We are Christians; this is because there are priests and monks among them and because they do not behave proudly.

May Allah destroy the Jews and Christians

9.30: And the **Jews** say: Uzair is the son of Allah; and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah; these are the words of their mouths; they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before; may Allah destroy them; how they are turned away!

Rome Falls / Islam Rises

In the seventh century, after the fall of Rome, the Arabs established an empire extending from Persia (modern Iran) to the Atlantic Ocean and built only one city in Israel - Ramle, their administrative capital for the area. Although the Islamic regime was tolerant at first to both Christians and Jews, it later subjected both groups to harsh restrictions, and as a result, many Jews left the villages and countryside and resettled in cities, including Jerusalem, which replaced Tiberius as the center of learning and Jewish culture.

Crusader Period / Then Back to Muslim Army

In 1066, the Crusaders from institutionalized "Christian" Europe invaded the Holy Land to "liberate" the sites they considered sacred to Christianity from Moslem rule, captured Jerusalem and slaughtered most of the Jews and Moslems they found. As the crusaders marched across the European continent, they systematically murdered and pillaged Jewish settlements along the way, which, parenthetically, is why even today many Jews are reluctant to accept the witness of Christians. In the following century, Moslem armies led by Saladin recaptured Israel and Jerusalem and forced the crusaders to retreat, thus ending their rule. Later in the 13th century, the Mamelukes, a military caste of former slaves, rose to power in Egypt, advanced into and conquered what was left of Israel from the remaining crusaders. The last crusader stronghold, Acre, fell in 1291. Because Mameluke rule was centered in Egypt, Israel was mostly neglected and Jewish communities continued relatively unmolested in the ancestral homeland.

Ottoman Empire – Turkey / 1900's Immigration

In 1516 Israel was conquered by the Ottoman emperor Selim I, who later turned rule over to his son Suleiman the Magnificent, who was tolerant towards Jews and Christians for the most part, allowing Jews fleeing persecution in Spain, where the throne had ordered all of them expelled from the country, to resettle in Israel, an immigration that revitalized the Jewish community in Jerusalem. The Ottoman Empire slowly declined as Turkey grew politically weaker, and Bedouin marauders took advantage of the lapses of security to prey on Jewish settlements. In the 18th century, there was an influx of Jews from Eastern Europe and the Jewish population of Israel doubled. Waves of "aliyah" (immigrants) swept into the land in 1882 and again in 1904 for the specific purpose of building a Jewish national presence in the ancestral homeland. This was the beginning of the Zionist movement - a series of immigrations by dispersed Jews back to Israel, most for secular rather than religious reasons.

Ottoman Empire falls in WW1 / Great Britain Controls

After the defeat of Germany and the Ottoman Empire in World War I, Palestine fell under the control of Great Britain. In 1917, after conquering Jerusalem without firing a shot, Lord Balfour issued his famous "Balfour Declaration" which proclaimed Palestine as the a national home for the Jewish people. The newly formed League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, confirmed the British Mandate over the area, and Jewish immigration increased, resulting in the foundation of numerous Jewish settlements and the establishment of modern Jewish cities such as Tel Aviv. Meanwhile, Arab leaders fomented anti-Jewish riots, which resulted in the British limiting immigration of Jews into Israel.

Hitler / Nazi's / WW2 / UN Enters

It was at that time that Hitler was pushing his way across Europe in pursuit of his two-fold goal - world domination and Jewish extermination. Six million Jews, one out of every three, were slaughtered under the terror of the Third Reich. Fleeing from Nazi Europe, many Jews attempted to enter their ancestral homeland only to be turned back by the British, resulting in Jewish resistance to the British occupation coupled with Arab terrorism against the Jews in Israel. In April of 1947, the British relinquished their mandate of Palestine to the United Nations, which issued a complex partition plan in November of that year, effectively dividing Israel into a Jewish and an Arab state. The United Nations Partition Plan divided Palestine into six parts - three Jewish and three Arab - linked at two crossing points, and Jerusalem was declared to be a separate enclave under international control. Although the plan was accepted by the Jews in spite of the fact that it left them with mostly uninhabitable desert, it was rejected by the Arabs, but passed into international law anyway by a 33-10 vote (with 10 abstentions) in the UN General Assembly on November 29, 1947.

A Nation in a Day / Next Day Invasion

The British began an unilateral pullout from Israel, and hostilities broke out immediately between Arabs and Jews - hostilities that reached a crescendo on May 14, 1948, when the British Mandate expired and the modern State of Israel was proclaimed. The next day, the armies of Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq invaded Israel, and were miraculously held off by an ill-equipped, poorly trained volunteer Israeli army, which used picks, shovels, hoes, hunting rifles and homemade armored cars to repel the invaders. A series of armistice agreements were signed between February and July of 1949, which gave Israel sovereign control of all of Galilee, the coastal plain, the Negev, the Jerusalem corridor, and the Gaza strip. Jerusalem was divided between Israel and Jordan. Most of the Arabs living in the areas assigned to Israel left and moved into neighboring Arab countries, expecting to be absorbed into the populations by their Arab brethren, but instead were interned in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt, and not allowed to become citizens. Jordan then annexed almost all of the land allocated by the UN as an Arab Palestinian state, and Egypt took control of the Gaza Strip along the southern Mediterranean coast.

No Such thing as Palestinian

Remember back to Emperor Hadrian when he renamed the land Palestine, it is important to recognize that there really is no such thing as a Palestinian. They are Arab people living in a land that was renamed Palestine. Palestine was named after the Phillistines, and there are no Phillistines alive today. The secular media and world leaders give them this name as to assign ownership to the land, but the land is truly Israel and the Israeli people.

Arabs Won't Absorb Them / Washington State

The surrounding Arab nations will not absorb into their land their fellow Arab brothers. The reason being is that if they did that, then the tension in and against Israel would go away. The Muslim nations know that if the Arabs in Israel could immigrate into their land, then there would be peace against Israel, and they do not want that. An example of that would be if we had to give the State of Washington to Canada. That state has about 6 million residents living there, the same size of Israel. Now we recognize the people of Washington as Americans, and surely we would absorb them into the rest of America; but the Arabs nations refuse to do that, even though they are so-called brothers in the faith, because they want them to fight and kill the Israeli in order to have a place to live.

Immigration to the Land

So, when Israel was established in 1948, Jews from Nazi-torn Europe immigrated in massive numbers - 700,000 between 1948 and 1951. In 1949, the dictator of Yemen ordered the expulsion of all Jews and the entire community moved to Israel; in 1950, 90% of the Jewish community left Iraq and headed for Israel. Immigration from Europe was the primary source of Jews moving to Israel until the 1970's, when Russia permitted its Jewish population to leave and move there. Today there are still planes landing weekly with immigrants move back to Israel.

Homocide Bombers Begin / 1967 – 6day War / Expanded Borders

After the War of Independence, the neighboring Arab nations, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, signed armistice agreements, but considered themselves to be at war anyway, sending terrorists and suicide bombers across the borders regularly. In 1956, Egypt, equipped with the latest Soviet weaponry, attacked Israel from the south, but Israel overran the Sinai Peninsula within a few days, and then withdrew under pressure from the United States. Terrorist incursions continued from Egypt, Jordan, and Syrian controlled Lebanon through the 1960's until May of 1967, when Egypt and Jordan, invaded Israel intent on destroying it. The war lasted six days (June 5-10, 1967), and the Golan Heights, all of Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, the Western Wall of Solomon's temple compound, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula were captured and held by Israel. Jerusalem was annexed into Israel and the remaining areas were placed under military administration.

1973 Yom Kipper War

The Soviet Union rearmed Syria and Egypt after the Six-Day War, and on Yom Kippur, the Great Day of Atonement in the Feast of Tabernacles, on October 6, 1973, Israel was simultaneously invaded from the north by Syria and the south by Egypt. After bitter fighting, the Israeli defense forces drove back the invading forces and were within striking distance of both Damascus, the capital of Syria, and of Cairo, the capital of Egypt. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger negotiated a cease-fire, and Israel pulled back under pressure from the United States. On March 16, 1979, a peace accord fashioned by President Carter was signed between Israel and Egypt at Camp David, Maryland.

The Oslo Accord

The Oslo Accord signed by Rabin and Arafat in Washington on September 9, 1993 after being negotiated in Oslo, Norway - an accord in which the Israeli government agreed to recognize the PLO as a negotiating party for the Palestinians in exchange for the PLO's recognition of Israel, and begin plans for placing portions of Judea and Samaria, otherwise known as the "West Bank" of the Jordan River, under the control of a self-governing Palestinian group. In spite of continued terrorist attacks by Hamas, Palestinians took control of Gaza and Jericho on May 4, 1994.

Spiritually – The Spiritual Aspect of the Land

1.) Anti-Semitism / Muslim Faith

The Palestinian Authority

The Muslim Palestinian Authority remains committed to anti-Semitism and to the destruction of Israel. The Koran forbids any peace treaty with non-Moslems except for the purpose of deceiving them into a false sense of security.

[9.4]

Except those of the idolaters with whom you made an agreement,
then they have not failed you in anything and have not backed up any one against you,
so fulfill their agreement to the end of their term;
surely Allah loves those who are careful (of their duty).

[9.5]

So when the sacred months have passed away,
then slay the idolaters wherever you find them,
and take them captives and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush,
then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate,
leave their way free to them;
surely Allah is Forgiving,
Merciful.

That these modern peace accords have been entered into less than candidly by Arab nations should be obvious from the statements of the Arab leaders themselves:

The Palestinian Deception

"The Palestinian people accepted the Oslo agreements as a first step and not as a permanent arrangement, based on the premise that the war and struggle on the ground [i.e., locally against Israeli territory] is more efficient than a struggle from a distant land... for the Palestinian people will continue the revolution until they achieve the goals of the '65 revolution..." (P.A. Minister of Supply Abd El Aziz Shahian, Al Ayaam, May 30, 2000.)

"Our people have hope for the future, that the Occupation State ceases to exist, and that it makes no difference [how great] its power and arrogance..." (P.A. Minister of Communications, Amad Alfalugi Al-Hayat Al-Jadida, November 18, 1999)

"I want to say that this is our Palestine, from Metulla [Israel's northernmost city] to Rafiah [Southern border] and to Aqaba [Israel's southernmost point], from the [Jordan] River to the [Mediterranean] Sea; whether they want it or not." (Dr. Jareer Al-Kidwah, advisor to "President" Arafat P.A. TV broadcast, November 29, 2000)

Dr. Ahmad Abu Halabiya, a member of the Palestinian Authority appointed "Fatwa Council" said: "Have no mercy on the Jews, no matter where they are, in any country. Fight them, wherever you are. Wherever you meet them, kill them. Wherever you are, kill those Jews and those Americans who are like them and those who stand by them they are all in one trench, against the Arabs and the Muslims because they established Israel here, in the beating heart of the Arab world, in Palestine."

"Allah willing, this unjust state...Israel will be erased; this unjust state, the United States will be erased; this unjust state, Britain will be erased...Blessings to whoever waged Jihad for the sake of Allah...Blessings to whoever put a belt of explosives on his body or on his sons' and plunged into the midst of the Jews..." (Sermon by Sheikh Ibrahim Madhi a few days after Yasir Arafat's cease-fire declaration P.A. Television, June 8, 2001)

2.) End Times

God won't allow it for Israel His chosen people and His prophetic Timepiece to be wiped-out, it is obvious from History.

Always Outnumbered

Israel has always been outnumbered and outgunned since being birthed in a day, but God has always allowed them to prevail.

Consider this, the surrounding Muslim nations military might compared to Israel:

Israel 500,000 man army / Arabs Nations combined 2.5 million

Israeli tanks 3580 / Arab 15,000

Israeli Missles 1 for every 20 Arab

Israeli Aircraft 1 for every 3

Saddam Hussein said, "if we unite we can eliminate the Israeli problem in 24 hours.

The Cup of Trembling

Israel has always been outnumbered and outgunned since being birthed in a day, but God has always allowed them to prevail. Why? Because they are God's prophetic timepiece, and in the Last Days they will be a "Cup of Trembling" to all the nations:

(Zechariah 12:2 KJV) **Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.**

God Not Done with Israel

It is important to understand this Christian, God is not done with Israel, or turned His back on them. Many Bible teachers and World Leaders have been wrong on that, and it has lead to much anti-Semitism against the Jewish people. They are wrong, and God says don't be ignorant about this:

(Romans 11:25 NKJV) *For I do not desire, brethren, **that you should be ignorant of this mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

(Romans 11:26 NKJV) *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) *For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."*

Satan wants to Stop the Clock

Understand this, if Israel is wiped out, then prophecy can't be fulfilled, which means God's Word would fail, and we know that His Word never fails. Israel will never fail because they are the key player in the End Times prophecy once the Church is raptured. I personally believe that Satan believes that if he can wipe-out Israel and the Jews, then he can stop the prophecies from coming to pass (remember Satan knows the Scriptures). Satan believes if the prophecy can't be fulfilled, then Jesus can't come back. I believe this because Satan believed if he killed the Jesus when He was born, then Jesus couldn't redeem the world. Satan still thought he had a victory on the cross, that he had won.

Satan has tried in the past to eliminate the Jews. Killing all the male child in Egypt, but Moses was delivered. Trying to kill all the Jews under the Persian Empire but Esther and Mordecai were used by God. King Herod tried killing all the male children to stop the Messiah, Titus slaughtered 1 million in 70AD, Hitler if not stopped would have killed them all, but he couldn't because God never fails, neither shall His Word.

Must Be Present For End Times / Their Role

Israel must be present in the End Times, and therefore they will. Here is how they will play in according to the Scriptures:

After the Rapture (1 Thess 4:16) the Anti-Christ comes on the Scene (White Horse – Rev 6:2). There will never be peace in Israel with this type of spiritual warfare, and thus it sets the stage perfectly for the Last Days, as the Anti-Christ will come on the scene and give Israel what they have so longed for, Peace! He will broker 7 year Peace Agreement in Israel (Dan 9:27). During this time or before the half way point of the Peace Agreement, the Temple will be rebuilt (Rev 11:1). At some point Israel will be attack from the North by Russia (Ezk 38-39), but God will supernaturally protect them and a Revival will happen in Israel (Ezk 39:22). The Anti-Christ won't be able to stand that they are saved, and will go out to kill and slaughter the rest of the world (Rev 12:17). The Anti-Christ will go into the temple and proclaim he is god (Dan 9:27). God will rush the nation of Israel into the desert for safety for the rest of the Tribulation period (Rev 12:13). At the end of the 7 year period, Jesus Christ will return with His saints and Satan will be bound for 1,000 years.

You see if there is no Israel, then there is no fulfilling these prophecies, but God's Word never fails, so Israel will here for all them to happen.

The Fig Tree has Blossomed

Saints these things will happen because Israel is still standing today, after all Satan has thrown at them, therefore the Second Coming will happen. Just as all these Scriptures have come to pass and remain true, there is one that we all must grab hold off and live for:

(Matthew 24:32 NKJV) "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near."

(Matthew 24:33 NKJV) "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near; at the doors!"

(Matthew 24:34 NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place."

(Matthew 24:35 NKJV) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

(Matthew 24:36 NKJV) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

(Matthew 24:37 NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

The Fig Tree is Symbolic of Israel Throughout Scripture

The Fig Tree is Symbolic of Israel throughout Scripture. In Matthew 21 we see Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This was the first time Jesus allowed public worship of Him as the Messiah. Jesus then goes to the Temple, and cleans house, "you've made my Father House a den of thieves"! Now, the next morning as Jesus was returning to the city, He sees a Fig Tree that had leaves, but no fruit, and He curses the tree (Matt 21:18-22). God doesn't take precious space in His word to curse a fruitless tree, he uses it to make a spiritual application, and we see what that application is in the context of the rest of the chapter. In the rest of the chapter, Jesus' authority is questioned by the Jewish leaders, and then Jesus gives the parable referring to Israel's blindness to Him being the Messiah. The parable is the parable of the Vineyard owner sending his servants his vineyard (land) and the workers of the land killed them. Then the Landowner sent his son, and they killed him also (representing God sending Israel first prophets, and then His Son - but the people of Israel killed them both). The Lord ends that chapter by affirming to them that He is the Chief Cornerstone that the builders rejected. In this whole context of this chapter, Jesus is making the point that Israel has missed their Messiah. The point for the Jewish reader is unmistakable, because a Jew would know from the Old Testament Scriptures that the Fig Tree represents Israel.

The fig tree was often employed in Scripture as a symbol of Israel (1 Kings 4:25, Hosea 9:10, Joel 1:7, Nahum 3:12, Micah 4:4, Zechariah 3:10), and the barren fig tree often symbolizes divine judgment on Israel because of her spiritual fruitlessness despite an abundance of spiritual advantages (Jeremiah 8:13, Joel 1:12).

Ezekiel 37 – The Rebirthing of Israel

The rebirthing happened just like it was prophesied in the Book of Ezekiel;

(Ezekiel 37:1 NKJV) The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.

(Ezekiel 37:2 NKJV) Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.

(Ezekiel 37:3 NKJV) And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know."

(Ezekiel 37:4 NKJV) Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!'"

(Ezekiel 37:5 NKJV) 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live."

(Ezekiel 37:6 NKJV) "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."

(Ezekiel 37:7 NKJV) So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone.

(Ezekiel 37:8 NKJV) Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

(Ezekiel 37:9 NKJV) Also He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."'"

(Ezekiel 37:10 NKJV) So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

(Ezekiel 37:11 NKJV) Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'"

(Ezekiel 37:12 NKJV) "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel."

(Ezekiel 37:13 NKJV) "Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves."

(Ezekiel 37:14 NKJV) "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD."

(Ezekiel 37:15 NKJV) Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

(Ezekiel 37:16 NKJV) "As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: 'For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.' Then take another stick and write on it, 'For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.'"

(Ezekiel 37:17 NKJV) "Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand."

(Ezekiel 37:18 NKJV) "And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, 'Will you not show us what you mean by these?';"

(Ezekiel 37:19 NKJV) "say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand."'"

(Ezekiel 37:20 NKJV) "And the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes."

(Ezekiel 37:21 NKJV) "Then say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;"

2000 Years Without a Homeland

2000 years without a homeland, but May 14, 1948 Israel was re-birthed. How long is a generation? We can speculate on that, 40years, 50 years, 60 or 70, 100? No matter how you look at it, it is soon.

Nobody knows, but we are told to look at the signs:

(Matthew 24:36 NKJV) "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

The signs of our times were the same as the times of Noah:

(Matthew 24:37 NKJV) "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

(Matthew 24:38 NKJV) "For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,"

(Matthew 24:39 NKJV) "and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."

We are the generation that has seen the fig tree blossom, and therefore the return of Christ is near. As I say if He doesn't come today, then He is coming tomorrow. Ask me tomorrow and I'll tell you the same thing.

I Come Quickly

(Revelation 22:20 NKJV) He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Genesis 13:18 Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

What a gracious God and look at the promise after the failing of Egypt even though Abraham could have destroyed the promise that the seed Messiah would come through him God still meets him and promises him the land before him.

What can separate us from the love of God and the answer is nothing.

Romans 8:31–39 (NKJV) ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? *It is* God who justifies. ³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Outline: Genesis 13

- Abram's Altar (13:1-4)
- Lot's Altar (13:5-13)
- The World's Altar (13:14-18)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 14

Title: The King of Righteousness – Who Sees me Righteous

Summary: What a golden nugget of a chapter as we will read that after Abram rescues his nephew Lot who was taking captive; that on his return Abram will meet the King of Salem (whose name is Melchizedek), who very well could have been the appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament. Absolutely an amazing passage as it will speak volumes of not just tying the Old Testament to the New Testament (as we read of Melchizedek again in the Book of Hebrews), but an amazing account about how God meets with each and every one of us.

Genesis 14:13–24 (NKJV)

¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. ¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. ¹⁷ And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. ²¹ Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'—²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

Outline: Genesis 14

- Gone in a Day – Seeking First (14:1-12)
- The Heart of a Warrior – Fighting for Each Other (14:13-16)
- The King of Righteousness – Who Sees Me Righteous (14:17-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) *¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) *¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Gone in a Day – Seeking First (14:1-12)

Genesis 14:1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations,

Genesis 14:2 that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

Genesis 14:3 All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

Genesis 14:4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Chedorlaomer was apparently the leading king of the four-king confederacy. Sodom and the other four cities of the plain served him, that is they were his subjects and sent him tribute or taxes every year for 12 years. But Elam was far away, and in the 13th year they rebelled, which means they sent no tribute, and paid no taxes.

Lint, G. A., ed. (1994). Genesis (Ge 14:4). World Library Press.

Genesis 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him came and attacked the Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim, Genesis 14:6 and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far as El Paran, which is by the wilderness. Genesis 14:7 Then they turned back and came to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt in Hazezon Tamar.

So Chedorlaomer and the three kings allied with him had to deal with the rebels.

On the way they had to fight and defeat the Rephaites ("giants," a tall people who were remnants of early inhabitants of Canaan) at Ashteroth Karnaim (named for the two-horned image of the goddess Astarte or Ishtar) about 20 miles east of the Sea of Galilee in Bashan.

Then they fought the Zuzites at Ham in Ammon, the Emites ("terrors") at Shaveh Kiriathaim in Moab, and the Horites (remnants of the ancient Hurrians who moved into the Middle East about 2400 B.C.) in Mount Seir (Edom). They continued south as far as El-paran ("the terebinth of Paran") on the border of the Sinai desert. Then they circled back west to En-mishpat ("the well of judgment"), later called Kadesh ("holy"), an oasis about 70 miles southwest of the Dead Sea. They also conquered the territory that later belonged to the Amalekites, which extended from Beersheba to Mount Sinai and defeated the Amorites ("mountaineers," who dominated Palestine for a period beginning about 3,000 B.C.) at Hazezon-tamar ("sandy place of palms"), an oasis on the west side of the Dead Sea.

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 14:5–7\). World Library Press.](#)

Genesis 14:8 And the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim

Genesis 14:9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five.

Genesis 14:10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains.

It is 4 kings verse 5, going to war in the area of the Salt Sea (Dead Sea).

The king of Sodom and his allies set up battle lines in the valley of Siddim to try to stop Chedorlaomer and his allies, but they were forced to flee. Some fell into tar or asphalt pits, others fled into the hills that flank the Dead Sea. (Asphalt lumps still float in the south end of the Dead Sea.)

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 14:8–10\). World Library Press.](#)

Genesis 14:11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.

Genesis 14:12 They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

Lot was no longer living in tents. The temptation of city living was too great. He had moved into Sodom, undoubtedly using part of his wealth to buy a fine house there. As a foreigner he was not required to join Sodom's army, but when the four kings looted the city, they took him captive and took all his possessions.

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 14:11–12\). World Library Press.](#)

Lot – From Tent to Dwelling / Lost his Covering

Last time we saw Lot in chapter 13 he pitched his tents facing Sodom, and now it is only a short time later he is living in Sodom. What looked like a good business opportunity (green plains), turns out to bring him to a place where he is left unprotected. He left the covering of his uncle Abraham, and ends up in a vulnerable place. This happens so often to Christians as they leave a place of spiritual covering, in order to advance in the material things of this world. Don't be a Lot!

Lost All his Stuff

Notice, not only did they take Lot, but all his stuff. All that work to get his stuff and maintain his stuff, gone in a day.

(Matthew 6:19 NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

(Matthew 6:20 NKJV) "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Goes Back

Amazingly, even after being rescued we will read in the chapters to come that Lot will return to Sodom.

The Heart of a Warrior – Fighting for Each Other (14:13-16)

Genesis 14:13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

One of those who fled into the hills reported Lot's capture to Abram. Possibly because of the threat of the invasion by the four kings, Mamre, the owner of the great terebinth trees, his brother Eshcol, and Aner had joined in an alliance with Abram. Abram is identified as "the Hebrew," which may refer to his descent from Eber (Gen. 11:14–17), or may have identified him as an immigrant from the other side of the Euphrates River (since "Hebrew" is derived from the verb `abar, "to pass through, to cross over")..

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 14:13\). World Library Press.](#)

Genesis 14:14 Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Genesis 14:15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

Genesis 14:16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

First Mention of War / Justified

This is the first mention of war in the Scriptures. In the study of the Bible there is what is called the "principle of first mention" and it so often gives us a key to understanding a subject/topic as it is used throughout the whole Bible. What we see here is the answer to question, is war justifiable for the believer. We see here that war is justifiable when it is for the purpose of liberating family. Abraham frees Lot and the other people, but he does not take material gain from his victory.

Abraham is marching close to 100 miles which would mean he may have been doing this forced march for a whole day before he finally got there to fight but as we read he waited to strike at night.

Abraham Father of Covert Ops

This is just interesting to note, Abraham was a bad dude, he is probably around 75 years old, and he is mounting up for war against four kings armies who had just defeated 5 kings armies. Abraham at 75 comes with only 318 of his trained servants. He launches a covert operation, striking at night using the cover of darkness to his advantage. It is still today, Israel has quite possibly the greatest Special Ops forces in the world (right there with the USA). It is in their blood.

Israel, back in the 80's launched a covert operation that went and took out Sadaam's nuclear power plant that he was building, which would have been used to make nuclear weapons. Who can forget the raid on Entebbe airport?

Raid on Entebbe Airport

The Entebbe Rescue Mission: On June 27, 1976, four terrorists forced an Air France Airbus to land in Uganda, in the heart of distant Africa. They quickly demanded that Israel release 53 convicted terrorists (PLO). The hijackers freed the French crew and non-Jewish passengers, while retaining 105 Jewish and Israeli hostages. A 48-hour deadline was set before executions would begin.

Faced with little choice, the Israeli government announced that it would enter into negotiations. This bought the precious time needed to consolidate a seemingly impossible military option. A new ultimatum was issued for 13:00 on Sunday, July 4.

The only airplane capable of a rescue operation was the C-130 Hercules. On July 1, the mission's overall commander, Brig. General Dan Shomron (later to become the IDF Chief-of-Staff), presented his plan to the IDF Commander and Israel's Defense Minister. The next day they all witnessed a full-scale dress rehearsal. The incredible was deemed possible.

Shomron's plan was based on several advantages that the Israelis had over the terrorists. The Entebbe airport at which the hostages were being held was built by an Israeli construction firm, which was able to provide Shomron with blueprints. Moreover, the released, non-Jewish hostages were able to describe the terrorists, their arms, and their positioning. As a result, the IDF decided to send in an overwhelmingly powerful force: over 200 of the best soldiers the army had to offer participated in the raid, all of them heavily armed.

Finally, the element of surprise was probably the biggest edge that Israel held. According to Shomron: "You had more than 100 people sitting in a small room, surrounded by terrorists with their fingers on the trigger. They could fire in a fraction of a second. We had to fly seven hours, land safely, drive to the terminal area where the hostages were being held, get inside, and eliminate all the terrorists before any of them could fire." The fact that no one expected the Israelis to take such risks was precisely the reason that they took them.

The aircraft took off at 13:20 on July 3 and headed south. Only then was the plan revealed to the Israeli Cabinet, which decided to let the operation continue. The lead Hercules carried the rescue force, led by Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu. It also held two jeeps and the now famous black Mercedes, a perfect copy of dictator Idi Amin's personal car. Two additional Hercules carried reinforcements and troops assigned to carry out special missions, such as destroying the Migs parked nearby. A fourth Hercules was sent to evacuate the hostages.

The air package also included two Boeing 707's. One acted as a forward command post. The second, outfitted as an airborne hospital, landed in nearby Nairobi, Kenya. The Hercules was escorted by F4 Phantoms as far as possible-about one-third the distance.

Skirting thunderstorms over Lake Victoria, the Hercules transports neared the end of the 7-hour, 40-minute flight. A surprise awaited them: the runway lights were on! Despite this, they landed undetected at 23:01 (local time), only one minute past their planned arrival time.

The soldiers freed the hostages in a lightning attack, killing all eight terrorists in the process. Tragically, force commander Yoni Netanyahu was killed as he led the hostages toward the safety of the aircraft; additionally, two hostages were killed in the crossfire inside the airport. The other squads accomplished their missions in virtually the same time as during the "dry-run." By 23:59 the planes were on their way home. The operation, which was predicted to last one hour, in fact took only 58 minutes.

The mission struck a blow at international terrorism. "It resonated far and wide," Shomron later commented. "It showed that you could counter terrorism, and that it was worth cooperating to do so." As America celebrated its Bicentennial, the world was reminded that freedom is a value which must be fought for in every generation.

Abram was 75

Got to love Abraham at 75, getting the sword out. He dispels anyone that says they are too old for missions, if God is in it, He will supply all your needs.

Peace on the Other Side of War

Last week we saw as Abraham told Lot you take the left I'll take the right and if you take the right I'll take the left because Abraham was choosing peace over prosperity. But now we see him choosing war over peace even at the risk of his prosperity. Sometimes there is a peace that only comes on the other side of war. And here we see Abraham willing to fight for his family and the question for us are we willing to leave our peace to go fight for someone who needs rescued period

And I like this and then Abraham is the father of faith but he still knows there's a place in faith that we have to fight that we can't just say let's pray about it but there's a time that there's a calling to the action to fight and get involved. And I like what I see here in that Abram he trained his sons to fight they were ready to fight when the time came to fight he didn't have to train them to fight in the middle of a fight. It's been said the way you train in peace time is the way you will fight in wartime

We are in a spiritual war right now in the midst of a great fight and we as believers need to train and be ready to enter into the fight when called.

Ephesians 6:10–18 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—

2 Timothy 2:2–4 (NKJV) ² And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. ³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Nugget of Gold - Melchizedek

Now, for a passage of the Word, that seems to mean nothing, until we read the Book of Hebrews. The appearing of Melchizedek:

The King of Righteousness – Who Sees Me Righteous (14:17-24)

Genesis 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.

News of the victory reached the king of Sodom and he went north to meet Abram in the King's Valley near Jerusalem. (Shaveh may be another word for "king."

Lint, G. A., ed. (1994). Genesis (Ge 14:17). World Library Press.

Genesis 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

Salem is Jerusalem

Psalms 76:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. ² In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion. ³ There He broke the arrows of the bow, The shield and sword of battle. Selah

Genesis 14:19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Genesis 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

Abraham meets Melchizedek

So here in Genesis fourteen, we read that as Abraham was returning from the victory over the five kings, that had taken his nephew, Lot as a hostage, he had conquered over the five kings, chasing them all of the way to the gates of Damascus. He had defeated them and taken much spoil. And as he came back the king of Sodom met him to show his appreciation. But then in Genesis 14:18, and Melchisedec, the king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine and he was the priest of the most High God. And he blessed him and said, blessed be the God of Abraham, or blessed be Abraham of the most high God, possessor of the heaven and the earth. And blessed be the most high God, which has delivered your enemies into your hands. And Abraham gave him tithes of all that he gained.

Salem – Peace / Righteousness / Melech - King

The word, Salem, means "peace", so he is the "king of peace". He was the priest of the Most High God. This is the first mention of a priest in the Bible, and it is used in reference to this mysterious man, Melchizedek. Melchisedec, means King of Righteousness. *Melech* is the Hebrew for king, and "tsehdek" means righteous.

About a 1,000 years later we read of this mystery man again in Psalms

Psalms 110:title–7 (NKJV) A Psalm of David. ¹ The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." ² The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! ³ Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. ⁴ The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." ⁵ The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶ He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. ⁷ He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.

Book of Hebrews

We get a commentary on this mystery man in the Book of Hebrews:

(Hebrews 6:19 NKJV) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, (Hebrews 6:20 NKJV) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 7:1 NKJV) For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

(Hebrews 7:2 NKJV) to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"

(Hebrews 7:3 NKJV) without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

(Hebrews 7:4 NKJV) Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

No Genealogy

This mysterious Melchizedek has a unique genealogy. We follow the genealogy from Abraham on through to Joseph and to the twelve sons of Jacob, in the Book of Genesis. And over and over again we have the genealogies. It was very important in the Book of Genesis to list the genealogies, to list their births and of course we read, and he begat sons and daughters and he died. And he begat sons and daughters and he died. So it records the birth as well as the death of those important characters in the Book of Genesis. But suddenly, here we have a man that comes on the scene. He is called the king of peace. His name means the king of righteousness. And Abraham received a blessing from him. And Abraham pays tithes to him. And yet no genealogy. We are not told who his parents were. We're not told when he was born. We're not told when he died. So from this, the writer of Hebrews draws out the fact that he is without the genealogy, without any background, he suddenly comes on the scene. He is without generation. He is without descent. That is, we hear nothing of the descendants of Melchizedek. Nothing is told of his birth or of his death.

Theophany / Shows Up with Bread & Wine

Why I believe there is no genealogy is because this is one of the manifestations of God in the Old Testament. I believe that Melchizedek was Jesus Christ Himself. A theophany, is what the Theologians call this. I find it ever so interesting in that Melchizedek shows up with what when He meets Abraham, "bread and wine", the elements of the Lord's Supper, the elements that represent Christ's broken body and poured out blood.

John 8 / Abraham saw my Day

In the eighth of chapter of John, when Jesus is disputing with the Jews, Jesus said to them, your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day and he saw it and he was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, You are not fifty years old. And have You seen Abraham. And Jesus said unto them, verily, verily I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am!

(John 8:56 NKJV) "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

(John 8:57 NKJV) Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

(John 8:58 NKJV) Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Recap Melchizedek

So the reference to Abraham seeing His day, is a reference to Melchizedek, meeting Abraham when he was returning from the battle of the five kings with the spoils. The interesting thing is he is called the king of peace. He is called the king of righteousness. There is no genealogy. There is no descent. There is no record of his parentage or of the descendants. And the interesting thing when He appears to Abraham, what did He offer him? Bread and wine, the elements of communion. And so there are many who hold to the idea that Melchizedek was actually one of the Old Testament appearances of Jesus Christ.

OT Saints / They Look Forward / We Look Back

The question is asked, was Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, and the others like them saved? Yes, they were saved, as we read in Hebrews 11, because they had faith in the promise of the Messiah to come. They were saved by looking forward, just as we are saved by looking back. Abraham broke bread with the Messiah, 2000 years before Jesus said do this in remembrance of me.

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Luke 22:19 NKJV) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Abraham looked forward with anticipation, as we look back with remembrance; as we all met at the cross, by faith.

Abraham Tithed / Before the Law

And he gave him a tithe of all. - notice Abraham tithed Melchizedek. Gave a tenth of all. This is the first mention of tithing in the Bible. I note that because it was before the Law of Moses. People will say we are not under the Law, therefore tithing is not applicable today. Wrong, Abraham tithed Jesus several hundred years before the Law. But notice, Abraham gave freely, the Lord never asked it of him, Abraham offered out of a cheerful loving heart:

(2 Corinthians 9:5 NKJV) Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.

(2 Corinthians 9:6 NKJV) But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

(2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV) So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:8 NKJV) And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

The Contrasting Kings

Now comes a contrasting king, the king of Sodom, who is the complete opposite of Melchizedek.

Genesis 14:21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

Genesis 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,

Genesis 14:23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'—

Genesis 14:24 except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

Verse 24 – the men mentioned here take us back to verse 13, and these are the allies of Abram, and they joined in raid probably covering the flanks.

Genesis 14:13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

King Sodom – Type of Satan / Souls & Stuff

The King of Sodom is a picture of Satan in the Scriptures. Notice what he says, give me the people, and you keep the stuff. Satan is always after the souls of people, but always wants us to keep the stuff, more stuff, in hope to weight us down with them. He says you keep the toys and trinkets, enjoy them and play with them, just give me the souls.

Satan today offers, give me your soul, and take the stuff (pornography, lust, greed, kingdom, power, glory, and the likes). Remember where we ended last week, the description of the wickedness of Sodom.

Genesis 13:13 (NKJV) ¹³ But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.

The Big Picture

Now catch what's going on here is this isn't just as some present Abraham with this mysterious Melchizedek and it's just the two of them, no it's much more than that in the midst of them is the king of Sodom and the allies that had joined Abram and Lot who was rescued and all who were rescued in Lot's family.

- As we said the king of Salem is a picture of Satan and this Melchizedek, who I believe it's none other than Jesus Christ based on the details of Hebrews chapter seven but nonetheless this Melchizedek represents Jesus Christ at the minimum and notice here God doesn't even acknowledge the king of Sodom who is standing right there, he doesn't rebuke him he doesn't revile him, he says nothing to him.

- And add the insult to the injury of just getting whipped, and not being able to do what Abraham did with only 318 of his servants, Jesus is taking communion with Abraham right in front of the king of Sodom a picture of Satan in the scriptures.
- And also if you notice this the king of Sodom doesn't try to lay a charge against Abram and go this man's no man of faith he went down to Egypt nor does the king of Sodom try to throw up lots failing by saying look at him down in Sodom he has to remain silent because he's in the presence of the king of the universe and he can say nothing unless the Lord would allow him to speak. Ohh what a slap down
- And now to keep playing out the big picture Satan tries to broker a deal after Jesus leaves. Jesus leaves Abraham to face the king of Sodom without Him staying. Because they just met at the place of the altar, Abraham knew who is the King of heaven and earth, and Christian when you can come to the place of the altar, come to the place where you call upon the name of the Lord, come to the place and acknowledge who is the possessor of heaven and earth, and who it is that brings you victory and who it is that fights for you and who it is that meets you at the altar and breaks bread and the communion cup with you, then you will have everything you need to stand before the king of Sodom this devil, and you will be able to make wise decisions and you'll be able to go in right directions and you will be not sucked into the deception of the evil one because you have just met the great one at the place of the altar.

Additional Thought

Abraham says No Way / No Hook in Me

What does Abraham say, no way, I will take nothing from you, lest you have a hook in me, lest you have some say in my life, lest you take credit for what god has done, no way I will take nothing from you.

I love that Abraham testifies as the man after God's heart and he's testifying before the king of Sodom and all their wealth and gain that he's making the point I don't chase after the material things I don't sell out for gain even though Lot would be standing right there and the testimonies not just to the King of Sodom but it's the testimony to his nephew Lot as well. You know once you compromise you make yourself vulnerable and you can't speak out against the wrongs if we compromise in the smallest way, when the time comes to judge Sodom, Abraham and his hands are clean I didn't wink at your riches and I didn't take gain from your riches I stood by myself and did not associate with you and receive anything from you.

How do you Say no to Satan / Communion / Tithing / The Formula

Beloved, how do you say no to Satan, and yes to Jesus? We see the way right here in this story. What did Abraham do, He communed/fellowshipped with Jesus, and gave tithes to Jesus. We are to remember what Jesus has done for us (we do that in communion of breaking bread and juice), we fellowship with Him in our prayer time, study time, and just talking to Him throughout the day, and then give back to him a portion of what he gives us. The communion keeps fixed on the altar, and the tithing keeps us in that tent mentality, that mindset that we are just passing through, and not to hold on to anything too tightly. Our giving unto the Lord places our heart in heaven, where He is and where we are going:

(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

This formula gives you the power to say no, why, because I have just communed with the King of Salem, the Prince of Righteousness, and nothing can draw me away from Him, from His love for me. And I have sent my treasures ahead. For where your treasures are, so will your heart be.

Back to Chapter 13 / Defined His Life

Lets flip back to chapter 13, verse 14. We see that Abraham's life was defined by pitching tents and building altars. It was this life, this mindset, that gave Abraham a blessing beyond measure, he got to break bread with God himself, 2000 years before Jesus would say do this in remembrance of me:

(Genesis 13:14 NKJV) And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are; northward, southward, eastward, and westward;

(Genesis 13:15 NKJV) "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever."

(Genesis 13:16 NKJV) "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered."

(Genesis 13:17 NKJV) "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

(Genesis 13:18 NKJV) Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD.

Lift Eyes / Now - Please / I Called You

In verse 14 the Lord says Abraham "Lift up your Eyes **now**", look what I am giving you. This word "now" in the Hebrew is also used for "please". The Lord is saying Abraham please lift up your eyes and look at what I've given you. I called you out of the land of UR, out of idol worship, you came, although you came the long way via Hebron. You went to Egypt, but I preserved you, and now you are back where you started, back where you are suppose to be.

Abraham Looks Back / Lord's Hand Every Step

No doubt Abraham would look out over the land and see where he first entered the land, see where he left the land and went to Egypt in a lack of faith, and he would see where he came back into the land. He would see the long journey he had been on, and look back and see how the Lord's hand had been upon him every step of the way - even when he wasn't where he was supposed to be.

We Can Do that Today - Look at Our Journey / Knew About Him

We can all do that today, and should do it often, we can look back at the long journey we have been on, we can look back at how far He has taken us, how His hand has been leading and guiding us, even when we weren't where we were supposed to be at the time. We see His calling of us out of this world, out of a futile and empty life, how He brought us into a new place prepared by Him for us. We see how He was at work in us before we even knew it. I grew up with no one ever sharing the gospel with me. I knew about Him, but never knew Him, I just practiced religion.

Abe's Journey / Goodness - Grace-Faithfulness / My Journey

Abraham's whole journey of life was marked by God's goodness, grace, and faithfulness. I can look back and as I life up my eyes, that is all I can see He has ever given me; His goodness, grace, and faithfulness. So too can you when you lift your eyes up.

Look East - West / Can You See Anything Else / Fading World

God says to us, lift up your eyes, look as far as the east, west, north and south; and tell me if you can see anything else besides my faithfulness. I see a world that is fading away, a generation that is hopeless, and it makes me see that such was I had it not been for His faithfulness and love for me. Had it not been for His call to me, I love you, come walk with Me, fellowship with Me, commune with me.

Lift Up Your Eyes - PLEASE!

Abraham, pitched tents and built altars, it defined who he was. So let it be for us.

Outline: Genesis 14

- Gone in a Day – Seeking First (14:1-12)
- The Heart of a Warrior – Fighting for Each Other (14:13-16)
- The King of Righteousness – Who Sees Me Righteous (14:17-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)

- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 15

Title: The Word of the LORD Came to Him/Her

Summary: Abram is fearful, a great high moment comes with a new reality that there are things outside his control. In the midst of his fear a beautiful phase appears for the first time in the Bible, "The word of the LORD came to Abram", and it becomes the foundation not just for his fear, but his faith as well. Whether it is fear or faith, the Lord has a "Word" for you in all your questions. Join us for a "Word" from the very heart of God.

Recap 14 / Rescue Lot

There was a northern confederacy of very powerful kings, from the area of Babylon, who had invaded toward the south and had conquered many cities. Five kings of the Jordan Plain confederated against them but were defeated by them. The northern kings took the city of Sodom and Gomorrah and they sacked the cities and took hostages and among them was Lot, the nephew of Abraham. When Abraham received word that Lot and his family were taken hostage, he armed three hundred and eighteen of his servants, trained in his own house, and pursued them and caught up with them at Dan. In a surprise raid at night, they attacked them from two sides; and defeated them; and pursued them all the way to Damascus.

2 Kings / Melchizedek

Abraham was able to take Lot and deliver him with his family and the other hostages. He also took all of the spoils that they had taken in their whole sortie, south. As Abraham was returning and passing by Jerusalem, the King of Righteousness, Melchizedek, came out to meet him; gave him bread and wine and blessed him. Abraham gave him tithes of all that he had. There the King of Sodom expressed to Abraham his appreciation for what he had done. He told Abraham to keep all the spoil and just to give him the hostages back. Abraham declared that he would not take so much as a thread or a shoelace, because, he had made a vow to the LORD, possessor of heaven and earth.

Outline: Genesis 15

- Answer - I Am Your Shield & Exceedingly Great Reward (15:1)
- Question 1 – What Will You Give Me (15:2-6)
- Question 2 – How Shall I Know (15:7-21)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Answer - I Am Your Shield & Exceedingly Great Reward (15:1)

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

God Gives Answer – Before the Questions

So we already know the rest of the chapter, haha, even before Abram does, haha. How interesting that God gives the answer before the question. Christian you can rest in the same. God knew the fear, the ponderings, the questions on Abrams heart and mind before he even spoke them.

After these things refers back to chapter 14. Then the Lord appears to Abraham with a word of comfort and encouragement, He says to Abraham – Don not be Afraid.

When God gives “His Word” He is giving Himself to us.

John 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Impulse / House Fire / Realization / What if they Regroup

Maybe Abraham had started to fear. A lot of times we do things on an impulse. There is a need and we don't really stop to think of the danger involved. We are responding and acting upon the need. If a house is on fire and you hear someone calling, you run into the house not thinking of the danger, but, only of the call for help. Afterwards you stand outside and shake and say, "that was a foolish thing to do." You begin to be frightened after your actions and this is probably what happened to Abraham. Suddenly, he realized what he had done. With three hundred and eighteen armed servants he pursued after these powerful kings, who had defeated the whole area towards the south, west, and east of him. Now, he starts thinking, what if they regroup? What if they come back to get revenge? Abraham probably became a little fearful as he began to think about all these things; so, the LORD spoke to him in a vision and told him not to be afraid.

First Mention – Fear / Its Night & All Alone in Tent – Quiet Enough

The first mention of the word fear. in the Bible is here and Abram, he's all alone now. The fight's over, the adrenaline has subsided. It appears from the context because it later he's gonna be told to come out and look up and see the stars. So it tells me that he's back on his home ground. Everybody has gone back to their tents, him as well and he's laying in this tent It's the night and then these thoughts must start coming upon him. What if and what if and what if what if they regroup what if they counterattack what if the king of Sodom gathers his allies or what if this king that was victorious gathers his allies and he's sitting there realizing he can be hit from every area and he can sense and realize he's only got 318 trained servants. He can sit and go gorilla warfare, special ops. That's all me, but here I am. How do I live? How do I tend to my crops and my herd and keep an eye out for what could be coming over the valley and these type of things I don't have the resources to have outposts and maneuvers and all these type of things. and he's sitting there and coming to the realization of just how vulnerable he is at this point, considering how few he is in reality to what he has just faced in the word of the Lord will come and speak to him, fear not, for I am thy shield and thy great reward. I think the most significant part of chapter 15 is this one phrase that will bring peace and provision in your life and it starts here in verse one, the first time that it's used and the word of the Lord came to him.

Took Booty – Bought Protection

Hey, if I took all this money, I could go hire the Egyptians to protect me if these other kings launch a counterattack. No, maybe that's not the best idea. I don't think the Egyptians want anything to do with me since that whole she's my sister thing but hey I could take the money and hire the Chaldeans to come down and help fight um or even just stand guard, hire some mercenaries. That's their whole job is just to be ready for the attack, go do forward looking to give me enough warning to be able to get ready. I need money to do maximum military defense type stuff

Sacrificial Living Makes One Vulnerable / Satan Whispers

Sacrificial living by the way, when you live sacrificially unto the Lord, you will face fears, because sacrificial living:

- Makes one vulnerable as you lay down your life to the Lord's hand
- And Satan will love to speak to us, are you sure you can trust Him, don't you think He wants you to do something “tangibly” on your part like build a bunker, store us resources, and the likes.

High Highs – Low Lows / Jesus for 40days

Isn't that the way it so often is in our life, after a great victory, a great high (Abraham just dined with Melchizedek), then comes the spiritual low, or a whole new battle. Well we are not alone, Jesus Christ Himself experienced that Himself. The Spirit falls upon Him during baptism, then immediately the Spirit leads Him into the wilderness for 40 days of trials and temptations.

This phrase, "fear not" is used over one hundred times in the scriptures. We have a tendency towards fear, but it is interesting that God so often addresses his servants, "Don't be afraid." Jesus told his disciples many times, "fear not." Here the LORD appeared to Abraham in a vision. A vision is spiritual insight. We're surrounded by spirit beings and the spirit world is real. Once in a while, God will open a person's eyes to behold the spirit realm and this is called a "vision." It is while a person is in a state of being awake that he suddenly sees the spirit realm.

I'm Your Shield / Reward / We have it All – Need Nothing Else

God spoke to Abraham and told him not to be afraid. Abraham was probably thinking that he had no defense against these armies, if they came back; so, God said, "I am your shield." He could have been remorseful that he didn't take some of the spoil and the LORD declared to him, "I am your exceeding great reward." You've got me Abraham, you don't need anything else. How true that is. The Lord is the inheritance. If we would only understand that the person who possesses the Lord, possesses the resources that can never be diminished. How sad, the person who relies upon his own strength. Though he be the strongest man in the world, his strength is still limited. How blessed the man, who is going to trust in the strength of the Lord, no matter how weak he is. He is never without strength if he is trusting in the Lord. That's the whole idea: The Lord is my strength, The Lord is my keeper.

Not Something From – But the Lord / Bread – Way - Truth

You know what everybody is truly desiring, it isn't something from the Lord, but it is the Lord. We think we want something from Him, but in reality we just want more of Him. The doesn't say I am going to give you bread, He says I am the Bread. He doesn't say I am going to show you the way, He says I am the way. He doesn't say I going to tell you the truth, he says I am the truth. When you have the Lord, you have it all. We equate having something by what we can see, feel or touch, but we as Christians live in a different realm, that of seeing what can't be seen, and believing it is so.

Biblical Counseling

This is so important for us in Biblical Counseling. People will come to us with their problem, and we want to help them, we want their problem to go away because we love them. So we work on helping the problem go away, but we miss giving them Jesus. We as Christians can get wrapped up in feeding the hungry, clothing the cold, housing the poor, drug addiction help (all good things, but!) then miss giving them Jesus. The Lord doesn't say Abraham I am going to build you a fort, instead He says Abraham I am your Shield.

Note: Being Mad at the Lord

I think it is also important to add here, if you are mad at God for something, something you want but don't have, then you have missed it, you have misses that He is your Great Reward. People say why don't I have a spouse, why didn't I get that job, why didn't I get that house, and they are angry with God, then they have truly missed it - God says I am your Exceedingly Great Reward.

I Am Thy Shield

The Lord is making a definite statement by saying He is the "shield" meaning if you want to get to Abram you have to go through the Lord first to do it. I love the peace of this in that I know my position of strength in this world and life, is behind the Lord.

Question 1 – What Will You Give Me (15:2-6)

(Genesis 15:2 NKJV) But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

Abraham Getting Old – A Son will Fight – Hireling will Run

Abraham is about 80ish here, and that age makes him vulnerable in the he cant fight the way he did at 40, and at 100 not fight the way he did at 80 (whooping multi-nation confederation), and if he doesn't raise up a son (heir), who will be there to fight and protect him as he ages. For a hiring will run when times get hard, and necks are on the line. But my son, he stays to fight because he is fighting for his family, and his blood.

For Abram to have all the wealth and not be able to pass it on to a son from his own that would have been weighing heavy on him. He still struggling with how am I gonna be a great nation that you said I'm gonna be if I don't have my own son and children to build this great nation, but secondly, there's a vulnerability in that when you have your family as part of this shield and you go down in battle you become very vulnerable to what my servants going to do to me. Can I trust them fully? Will they take the opportunity to make a move and take my whole empire here when it's your son that you've raised from the youth and you developed him, yes, there's betrayal where you read in the Bible. But I think that's not Abraham's sad. It would be my son's going to be loyal to me and he'll have my back even whenever I'm old or I'm down and out in the middle of a battle. And so there's a struggle here for Abram going on, not just from the passing of wealth, but very much the shield of protection of this military to have his second in command be his very own son who can take up the battle when the day comes that he can't, whether that's age or accident or a circumstance

(Genesis 15:3 NKJV) Then Abram said, "Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!"

(Genesis 15:4 NKJV) And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir."

Abraham still doesn't Get it / God so Patient / I'm gona Give You a Son

Abraham says, "Yeah, but what good is that?" "I don't have any heir to pass it on to and I have more than I can ever spend." "I'm childless and my heir is my servant, Eliezer of Damascus, who was born in my house. I'm not sure Abraham gets it, because he says so what are you going to give me. We are such Abraham's, the Lord speaks and then we quickly forget, or question His word. But notice here, God is so patient with Abraham, as he is with us. He answers him. God doesn't bop him on the head here and say, didn't you just hear me fool? Instead the Lord says I'm gona give ya a son.

The Lord is ever so kind and patient with us.

(Genesis 15:5 NKJV) Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

Look Now – Please!

Verse five the Lord says look now and in the Hebrew it's an appeal and and it's form, the Lord is literally saying look now, please look up, please to see what I am showing you. The Lord is making an appeal to Abram to lift his eyes up from where he's currently looking to where God is pointing him to so that he can get the right perspective and get the right context of who he's talking to and who has the power to give and perform what he is speaking and the Lord is literally pleading with Abram to look up, please, and focus on this power that can do what he promises to do, and the Lord would say that to you to day and say that to me to day. Please look up, please look at the promise of my word please the only hope for you to receive this is to look up, to look out, the look away from your current vision so narrow and short sighted to see the broadness and the greatness of what I am offering you and promising you. the Lord is pleading because he knows if we stay focused on our narrow vision, we will never be set free to walk in the faith in the power of the god who is able.

Greatest Laser Show

So the Lord takes him outside and as much as pastors and teachers love their little laser pointer and show that thing off, boy, the Lord comes with the ultimate laser pointer. It's the whole universe with the bright stars and galaxies and supernovas and all these type of things and he's bringing him beyond just look at the stars in the sky, that's hum big. nation, great name shall be, but you're looking at the god who

spoke these things that you're looking at, the stars that I use as my illustration as my laser pointer are the very stars that I can just speak into existence with the power of who I am in the same power that protected you and gave you victory over these four kings is the same god now who's standing before you, who spoke the worlds into existence. and is now as well the same god who's standing before you to say, surely I can do what I said and I can do. Look up, you see more than a number. You see a demonstration of power. How about you?

You ever look up in the the sky at night and see power of his demonstration declared the might and the mightiness of who he is

Naked Eye / Exceedingly Abundant

With the naked eye, Abraham would probably see around a thousand stars and go Wow. But the Word says God will do exceedingly abundant over what we can ever think. The naked eye, 1000 stars, but with a Hubble telescope, about a billion. What we can see so small to what god is doing in our lives, for He is doing exceedingly abundant what we can think or ask for:

(Ephesians 3:20 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Expands to Sands / God Thinks of You / The Silicon Chip

Interestingly God expands this to Abraham in Genesis 22:

(Genesis 22:17 NKJV) "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies."

Interestingly scientist now estimate that the sands of the sea are equal to amount of stars in the universe (science always confirm what the Bible already says). But if you want to be blown away, God says the sands of the sea are how much he thinks of you, a billion times. But if you want to really be blown away, and know how much God loves you, so much that He can't stop thinking about you, that the silicon chip that are in computers are made of sand, and they can now do a trillion calculations a second. That is how much God is thinking about you. I love telling children about how much God thinks of them:

(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

(Genesis 15:6 NKJV) And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Context is Believing Supernatural Birth

Verse six it says that it was accounted on to him for righteousness because he believed and Paul tags on for this and speaks of the means of salvation through belief one is made unto righteous its significant in the context of the first time the word believe is used in the Old Testament in all the Bible is here in Genesis 15 first time the word righteousness is used in all the Bible is here in this passage as well, and the significance of it is the context is Abram believing the promise of God for a birth that is totally outside of his ability that he cannot perform himself that he needs God to do for him because he cannot do it for himself.

It's a beautiful divine weaving that God always does. And that's why Paul would be inspired to use this by the Holy Spirit because it speaks of our salvation and Jesus would say, unless a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God, and the parallelism and the demonstration that's being spoken to us is it is impossible for us to birth our new life in anything in and of ourselves. There's no way for us to have new birth. except God does something super naturally, super miraculously through, him and him alone. Jesus would say unless a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. We get confused on what that word born again means, but it simply means to be born from above. We need a birth that's outside of this earth, and it can only come from heaven through and from the throne of God that we can be born again through God's miraculous work through his son, Jesus Christ, and that we can have a new life to overcome the forgiveness of sin that separates us from the holy God. and is by God and God alone, and we receive it simply by believing, and when we believe it, then we become accounted for

righteous that we are right with God, because we believe he did what we couldn't. we believe none of our works could ever accomplish this try as we may, it will always fall short. We can't go get the bond woman and or the easier the servant and say here, use this instead, or take my great works, we have to come and say, I have nothing unless you do something I remain nothing, and that's where faith comes in on to salvation is that we believe that God and God alone rescues us from our sin as he gave his only begotten son that whoever should believe in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life that god put the sin of the world that he who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness right before God, because our sin has been dealt with through Jesus Christ thereupon the cross, and that's why it's accounted to righteousness when we believe God and God alone can do this impossible for us.

John 3:3 (NKJV) ³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Dead in Trespasses and Sin (Body)

Ephesian says that we were dead in our trespasses in sin our bodies were dead in our sin. And that's what's happening here with Abram and Sarah. Their bodies at this age are dead. They probably have been trying to have children for 60 years now and whatever it is, it's not going to happen apart from at this age, a supernatural work of God

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NKJV) ¹ And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Bases of Salvation / Galatians / Romans

Verse 6 is the bases of all salvation, both Old Testament saints and New Testament Saints. Galatians and Romans are commentaries on this verse:

(Galatians 3:5 NKJV) Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?;

(Galatians 3:6 NKJV) just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

(Galatians 3:7 NKJV) Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.

(Galatians 3:16 NKJV) Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

Please Read all of Romans chapter 4 on your own tonight.

(Romans 4:3 NKJV) For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

Seed Singular / The Messiah Will Come Through Him / Not Existed / Promises True

God said, "So shall thy seed be." The word for seed is singular "sperma." Paul picks this up in the third chapter of Galatians and Romans 4 as he talks about this experience of Abraham looking up into the stars and receiving the promise of God. It is important to note this because the verse tells us, "And he believed in the LORD; and He counted it to him for righteousness." (Gen. 15:6). It isn't that he just believed that God was going to give him a lot of kids or descendants. It wasn't seeds, plural. It isn't that he just believed that God existed. Just faith that God exists does not save; just faith that the promises of God are true does not save; but it is the faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, that brings salvation. The faith that He died for my sins. So, Abraham by faith believed this promise of God that his "seed" would come. We read in Romans, concerning Jesus, that He was of the "seed" of Abraham. This is important, because, He was the "promised seed," the one that Abraham believed in and because of this, God declared him righteous.

Our Faith / Not Works / Not Law / Not Circumcision

God declares us righteous by the same action of believing in Jesus Christ. Abraham looked forward and believed the promise of God. We, now, look back at the fulfillment of the promise in the coming of Jesus

Christ. By our believing that Jesus died for our sins, paid the penalty for our guilt, took our place and was a substitution for us in His death upon the Cross; our faith in His death and resurrection is accounted to us for righteousness by God. Abraham was not accounted righteous because of his works, though he had many good works; nor by his keeping of the law, because it wasn't given yet. He was not accounted righteous by the act of circumcision because that was not given yet (today's circumcision is water baptism). We are not accounted righteous because we keep the rituals of the church or the laws of the church or have good works. We are accounted righteous when we believe the promise of God through his Son. Salvation would come to man and that belief in the promise of God concerning the seed that would come, was the thing that accounted for righteousness.

Nor Perfect Faith / Hagar / Sister

Abraham's faith was not perfect. There were many failures. Even after he believed and God found him righteous, we find Abraham lapsing in faith when Sarah suggested that he might take her handmaiden, Hagar, that he might have an heir of his own body. In a few chapters, Abraham lies to Abimelech about Sarah being his sister and yet, God accounted his faith for righteousness; even as He accounts your faith for righteousness though it also may be imperfect.

Definition of Righteousness / Clothed Rightly / Fig Leaves / Filthy Rags

Righteous simply means: Right Standing with God. Biblical, we see that it also means "Rightly Clothed". Do you remember back in the garden, after Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to cover their guilt and shame with their own works and ideas, they grabbed the Fruit of the Loom Fig Leaves. They were wrongly clothed, clothed in their own works. But God comes by and takes life, a lamb, and covers them.

What works does God ask of us for our salvation:

(John 6:28 NKJV) Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

(John 6:29 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Believe on Him who He sent and we will be Rightly Clothed, we will be clothed with the Robe of Righteousness;

(Isaiah 61:10 NKJV) I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

What does God consider our works, our designer covering, filthy rags. The word used their for rags were the one that women used during their menstrual cycle, that is what God likens our works of salvation.

(Isaiah 64:6 NKJV) But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

To my Jewish Friends

Let me make a couple points here to my Jewish friend and that is at the time of Jesus could you say, don't receive Jesus but the religious leaders at the time said that you were made righteous by keeping the law of Moses. Well, here in our passage before us, righteousness was imputed through faith that God would do something that man can't, and this was 400 years before the law. The Jewish people would also say that you needed the right of circumcision.

Well, circumcision is not gonna come to Aram and his descendants until we read here a few more chapters in front of us, so not behind us, not at this time. So at this spells, those two key points that they would hold to of how a man, a person is made righteous before God, the keeping of the law and circumcision. I was recently sharing the gospel down at the nation's capital and reached out to a man walking by, said, no, and he said, no thanks. to my invitation for discussion, because he was Jewish.

And so I asked him about the Passover how he was gonna keep it without a temple. He corrected me with some type of what he felt was a legal ease, but it still was enough to begin this conversation. And at the end, my summation that he and Jewish people today believe they have no sacrificial system.

They know that they can't keep the law. The point was made to him very clear without the shedding the blood. There is no forgiveness a sin, that is Old Testament law.

Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV) ²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

So if you want to keep the law of Moses, you have to keep the law of the sacrificial system, the passover, sacrifice the day of atonement sacrifice atonement, meaning at onement, to which after we went through all those things came to the place, I said, how do you then be righteous before God? And he says that my good works outweighed my bad works and that as we know, is adding to the scripture, as we read revelation 22 and we're told not to add to or take away from the word to God, in the Old Testament, Deuteronomy chapter 4 clearly declares you cannot add to or take away from the scriptures, and that is what the Jewish people today are doing is they're making their own form of atonement through their own means rather than looking and saying, what is before us is impossible. We have no temple, we have no sacrificial system. We have no priesthood. It is impossible for us to be right with God. because if they would come to that one place, then they would come to maybe the one that we've rejected was the one who became the Lamb of God who took our sin away, the Passover sacrifice, and all I have to do is put my hand on the head of Jesus Christ and transfer my guilt and shame, and he will be my sacrifice, and the blood will be sprinkled upon me for the forgiveness of sin, and then there is the shedding of blood, there is the forgiveness of sin, and therefore I have been made righteous through a work of God that I could never do that only he could do because everything else was dead.

Deuteronomy 4:5 (NKJV) ⁵ "Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess.

Revelation 22:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Question 2 – How Shall I Know (15:7-21)

(Genesis 15:7 NKJV) Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."

(Genesis 15:8 NKJV) And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?"

Abram is Prayer Journaling

I think Abram has total boldness here people will question and go God just told you he was going to give you something and then here you are coming back with a counter to a question saying that he's lacking faith. I do not see that at all. You know what I see? It's almost as if I see Abram journaling as we call it he is asking for a very specific request and he's going to mark it in his journal and he's going to record the day that God answers his question and there will be a time between the asking and the fulfilling, and that's why we need to write these things down so when they come to pass, we go just as he said he would do he did, and what's God's done in the past, he will do in the future for my God is faithful, even when I'm not faithful, and he will accomplish his will for my life all that I need to do is attach to the vine and say here I am, lord, I have nothing. and that's a good thing because you have everything

Still Needs More Assurance / Help my Unbelief / Let Us be Patient

Abraham still wants more assurance, again we can see it wasn't his perfect faith that accounted him righteous. Again so much like us. We can take encouragement that even the giants of the faith, had their struggles and doubt. SO don't get down on yourself when you have your weak moments of faith. Like the father whose son kept throwing himself in the fire, Jesus said if you believe all things are possible, and the father said I believe Lord, just help our unbelief:

(Mark 9:22 NKJV) "And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

(Mark 9:23 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

(Mark 9:24 NKJV) Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Learn this example from the Lord, notice His grace. He doesn't say that is it, I am done with you Abraham, how much more do I have to put up with. The Lord is ever so patient with Abraham, ever so

kind, ever so loving. We need to be that way with others, be patient with them as they grow, be kind even when they fail, be gracious and open armed for them, just as the Lord was with Abraham. Spiritual greatness doesn't happen overnight.

(Genesis 15:9 NKJV) So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

(Genesis 15:10 NKJV) Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

Customary Covenant

The cutting of the animals in half and laying out the carcasses opposite each other was a method by which a covenant was made. People would make a covenant and to seal it they would cut an animal in half and lay it out opposite each other and pass between the pieces in a circle eight. This bound them to the covenant that was made. There is a reference in the 34th chapter of Jeremiah and the 18th verse, of this covenant that was established by passing through animals. Abraham is saying, "How shall I know that I shall inherit it?" God says, "I will make a covenant with you and seal the promise I gave you."

(Jeremiah 34:18 NKJV) 'And I will give the men who have transgressed My covenant, who have not performed the words of the covenant which they made before Me, when they cut the calf in two and passed between the parts of it;

(Genesis 15:11 NKJV) And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Satan Attacks the Word / Mark 4

The fowls were vultures which are always a sign of evil in the scripture. Remember the seed that was sown by the wayside and the birds came. We are told in Mark, chapter four:

(Mark 4:14 NKJV) "The sower sows the word.

(Mark 4:15 NKJV) "And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

(Genesis 15:12 NKJV) Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.

(Genesis 15:13 NKJV) Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.

(Genesis 15:14 NKJV) "And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

Prophecy of Egypt

The LORD is telling Abraham that his descendants are going to go down to Egypt and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. We know, from the Book of Exodus, that the sojourn in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. There are those people who are always looking for some contradiction in the Bible. Aha! I found one. Read carefully and it says they will be afflicted four hundred years. The first thirty years they had good treatment because Joseph was next to the Pharaoh in command. It wasn't until after Joseph died that they began to be afflicted.

(Genesis 15:15 NKJV) "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.

(Genesis 15:16 NKJV) "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

After Joseph 400 years of Slavery

We know that it wasn't long after Abraham died that Joseph was sold by his brothers and then he brought the family of seventy souls down into Egypt. During that sojourn they multiplied and became a nation in Egypt before God brought them out with a heavy hand into the land.

How Long is a Generation

How long is a biblical generation? Here, in this passage, it is one hundred years. In other passages we see it as 40 years (Israel in the wilderness), and 70 years in Psalms.

(Numbers 32:13 NKJV) "So the Lord's anger was aroused against Israel, and He made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation that had done evil in the sight of the LORD was gone."

(Psalms 90:9 NKJV) For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh.

(Psalms 90:10 NKJV) The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Why Important / May 14th / The Fig Tree

So why is this important, on May 14th 1948 Israel was rebirth (see Genesis 12 notes). Read through the whole Bible and you will see that the "Fig Tree" is a reference to the children and nation of Israel, and for 2000 years they were without a homeland, but in one day they were born. God has given us a general time of when He will return, but not a specific year, by doing so, that was to keep us remaining watchful, that if He doesn't return today, then He will return tomorrow, and if you ask me tomorrow, I'll say the same thing.

(Matthew 24:32 NKJV) "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near."

(Matthew 24:33 NKJV) "So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near; at the doors!"

(Matthew 24:34 NKJV) "Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place."

If you go to the genealogical records, you will find that Levi, one of the sons of Jacob, was in Egypt. Moses is the fourth generation from Levi and so, just as the LORD said to Abraham in the fourth generation; they shall come back into the land again. As they come back, they are going to wipe out the Amorites; but, the time for the judgment of the Amorites was not fulfilled at the time of Abraham.

Why 400 Years / Long Suffering / 400 Years of Amorites

Why 400 years, why would God allow the Amorites 400 years before He judges them. God is so long suffering as He deals with man, I can't understand it. He is so patient that I get upset with Him sometimes. So often, I say, "Oh Lord, how long are you going to put up with this stuff?" You read about these people who are exploiting children. You can buy child pornography videos for three hundred dollars. You can even buy "snuff" videos. These people that do such things and the people that buy them makes you wonder how long God is going to put up with them. How violent and wicked can man become before God steps in and judges? Know this that the judgment of God is coming, though it may seem to be delayed. Here God was patient with the Amorites, saying, the children of Israel wouldn't come back from Egypt for four hundred years; because, the iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full.

Cup Being Filled / Misinterpreted / Sodom Saved

We are told in the Book of Revelation that the cup of the indignation of His wrath finally overflows. The cup is being filled, but, man thinks he is getting by with his wickedness because God has not intervened. They tragically misinterpret that as: God doesn't see; or God doesn't care; or the most blasphemous of all, God approves. In one of the parades of the Gay Community, they had a banner which read, "God is gay." Boy! I'm surprised that God let them get to the end of the parade. He's so patient and He was giving the Amorites time, another four hundred years in the land, in order that they might continue until the cup of indignation was full and then His judgment and His wrath was poured out. As the children of Israel came into the land, they were ordered to utterly destroy the Amorites. Up until this moment, the iniquity of the world is not yet complete; but, I don't see how it can go much further. When the cup is full, God will exercise His powerful judgment on an unsuspecting world.

I might note, who did Abraham rescue besides Lot? All the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. God in His mercy gives them more time to repent. He is so merciful

(Genesis 15:17 NKJV) And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

(Genesis 15:18 NKJV) On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates;

(Genesis 15:19 NKJV) "the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites,

**(Genesis 15:20 NKJV) "the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,
(Genesis 15:21 NKJV) "the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."**

Disposing the Land

To drive out the Amorites and those living in the land of Canaan, they will prove themselves out of their wickedness unwilling to change. God's given them opportunity they will not move to it. Then, as the children of Israel will come in to take the land, what is happening here is that Joshua will drive them out and dispossess the land meaning driving out these squatters who have reached their fulfillment that they must leave the land because the children of Israel are coming to possess the land now, and that's what we read in the book of Revelation when God starts driving out through plagues and bulls and all the judgments is he is driving out the people who are possessing what is his land. He is dispossessing them from his land of ownership. And so that's what we see when we watch Joshua and the children of Israel come in Old Testament, and that's what's happened in the time of the tribulation period and interestingly, the major years that it took for Joshua to drive out was seven years and that's what we see there in the Book of Revelation.

God Expands His Covenant / 10%

God expands His covenant with Abraham, the land will be from the Nile river in Egypt, all the way up to the Euphrates that is in the Iraq and Iran area. Israel at its zenith under King Solomon, still only held 10% of the land. And today they are being asked to give up more.

Unconditional

God makes His covenant with Abraham, while he slept, and only the Lord walked through it. Why, because this covenant wasn't predicated on anything that Abraham had to do. It was unconditional and all based on what God would do.

As it got dark, Abraham saw this burning torch and smoking oven passing between the pieces, as the covenant was being established. Later on God manifested Himself to the children of Israel in the "cloud" and the "pillar of fire."

Exodus 33

I am reminded of Moses when leading the Children of Israel, and he in essence says Lord if your presence doesn't go with me, I am not going. And the Lord not only says I will go with you, My Presence shall be with you, but He adds in that He will give them "rest" as well. For..... His Presence will always bring us rest.

Exodus 33:13–15 (NKJV) ¹³ Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." ¹⁴ And He said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." ¹⁵ Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.

The word "rest" as it was used in the culture meant

- To draw breath from
- A place for camels to lie down
- A place to pitch tents

It makes me think of Psalm 23, as the Lord makes us to lie down in green pastures, prepares a place in presence of our enemies, and we can rest in that because He is our shield and great reward.

Psalm 23 (NKJV) A Psalm of David. ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. ³ He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

And the "rest" He gives us, is Himself, and Isaiah 11 He says His Spirit will "rest" upon Him, and therefore in His Presence are the attributes and supply of the Spirit

Isaiah 11:2 (NKJV) ² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

So rest in what He rests in Beloved.

Zephaniah 3:17 (KJV 1900) ¹⁷ The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Did you catch that? The Lord rests in His love for you—not in your love for Him. That’s why John described himself not as the disciple who loved Jesus, but as the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7). Jesus has washed us in His blood (Revelation 1:5), robed us in His righteousness (Isaiah 61:10), and chosen us before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). Devotional life says, “It baffles me completely, Lord, why You’ve chosen me to be Your bride. But You have, and I want to honor You.” (Courson)

John 13:23 (NKJV) ²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 20:2 (NKJV) ² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

John 21:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea.

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV) ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

1 John 4:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him because He first loved us.

God came to Abram in the midst of the night, when all the world had slowed down, and “the Word of the Lord came to him”, and a great summation of the visit was:

Psalms 46:10 (KJV 1900) ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Outline: Genesis 15

- Answer - I Am Your Shield & Exceedingly Great Reward (15:1)
- Question 1 – What Will You Give Me (15:2-6)
- Question 2 – How Shall I Know (15:7-21)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 16

Title: The God Who Sees Me In My Hurt

Summary: Time has a way of erasing the promises of God that He has given us but have yet to come to pass. And Abraham and Sarah have forgotten His promise, so they try to put human logic into the middle of faith, and it just never works out, other than a mess in the flesh. But the story in this chapter comes one of the greatest stories in the Bible as we see that God sees Hagar who is mistreated and cast off and in a place of hurting, and the Lord comes to her an Egyptian bondswoman and reveals Himself in a special way; and so the Lord seeks all the outcast and hurting today for He is the same yesterday today and forever.

Outline Genesis 15

Scene 1: Sarai, Abram, and Hagar (16:1-6)

- The Family Dilemma (16:1)
- The Fleshly Response (16:2-3)
- The Fleshly Result (16:4)
- The Fleshly Regret (16:5-6)

Scene 2: Hagar and the Lord (16:7-14)

- God Meets Hagar Where's She At (16:7-8)
- God Gives Hagar Direction (16:9)
- God Names Ishmael (16:10-12)
- The God Who Sees (16:13-14)

Scene 3: Hagar Tells Abram the Story of the Well (16:15-16)

- Abram's Son Ishmael (16:15-16)

There's healing and there's health and there's hope in this chapter for anyone and everyone in this room and reading this word today

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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Scene 1: Sarai, Abram, and Hagar (16:1-6)

- The Family Dilemma (16:1)

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Genesis 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

This was Common Practice of Day – Surrogate Mother

Abraham was eighty-six years old and Sarah was seventy-six years old. Remember when Abraham went down into Egypt because of the famine in the land? He shouldn't have done that, because, it was a lapse of faith. He didn't

have confidence that God could sustain him in the land; so, he went down to Egypt. He came back stained and marked. One of the things that they picked up in Egypt was a handmaiden for Sarah, Hagar, the Egyptian

As strange as this may sound, this was a common practice in that day. It is the equivalent of a surrogate mother today.

Scene 1: Sarai, Abram, and Hagar (16:1-6)

- **The Fleshly Response (16:2-3)**

Genesis 16:2 So Sarai said to Abram, “See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her.” And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 16:3 Then Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan.

Here Comes the Mess

Anytime we try to help God out with the work of the flesh it simply turns into “the mess of the flesh”. Quite interesting, humorous, notice twice the Spirit makes sure that it's called out the Egyptian (v.1 and v.3) and we know that Egypt is a picture of the flesh and the world and what we're seeing here is the work of the flesh and the world (even if it is culturally acceptable).

Time has a Way of Erasing God’s Promises

Time has a way of erasing diminishing the promises of God things that we were so sure of, start to fade with the memory, fade with the hourglass. Oh the power of journaling, the write this down. though I don't see it, I believe it someday I'll see it for time the eraser so often of the promises of God because the promise doesn't come in the timetable that we set and we begin the question if we heard from God or we begin the question of God changed His mind, this chapter's great for us because it speaks to us. I never changed my mind. My word never changes that I promised you. The only thing that has changed is you and your belief that I said what I said and that I will do what I will do.

What Does the Word Say

Here's something that we can see easy application, but so easy to miss applying, we don't see Sarah and Abram having conversation that starts with ends with has in it that great question that every husband and wife should be asking when making decisions and the question is, and what does the word of God say? What word has the Lord spoken to us regarding the matter? and if it wasn't clear, then there's a wait upon the Lord and say, Lord, we're confused, give us clarity on this matter before we step in to make a decision that leads to an action that could lead to a mess.

Scene 1: Sarai, Abram, and Hagar (16:1-6)

- **The Fleshly Result (16:4)**

Genesis 16:4 So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes.

Sarah Despises

Verse 4 - her mistress became despised in her eyes. - Hagar became despised, maybe Sarah became jealous, or insecure (worried that Abraham would be drawn to Hagar instead). Maybe Sarah had been blaming Abraham, saying he was too old, but when Hagar conceives it is clear, it wasn't Abraham, but her barrenness. Sarah misses the point, she was barren by the choosing of God for His purposes.

In verse 1 and in verse 3 the word is wife and it's the same word that goes back to Genesis 2 speaking of man and woman, husband and wife. Understand the minute Hagar was given to Abraham in this intimacy she is no longer truly the handmaiden slave but now the wife of Abraham and has just been elevated to equal.

Genesis 2:24–25 (NKJV)²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Seeking Natural Means / Always a Mistake

Sarah suggested the use of Hagar, the handmaiden, as a means by which they could help God perform His promise. They find themselves in the position of seeking natural means to accomplish the purposes of God. That is always a mistake. How many times we have sought by natural devices to accomplish the purposes of God and with the same kind of results. We end up making a total mess out of everything.

Scene 1: Sarai, Abram, and Hagar (16:1-6)

- **The Fleshly Regret (16:5-6)**

Genesis 16:5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “My wrong be upon you! I gave my maid into your embrace; and when she saw that she had conceived, I became despised in her eyes. The LORD judge between you and me.”

Can you picture Abraham here, whaaat? I was just listening to you, why are you upset with me?

The Embrace

Do you notice here word embrace as we go from take her and make a child in this physical act, but now Sarah looks upon the whole situation and now sees that there was an intimacy and an embrace and she starts coming to the realization of what she has done and now the threat that Hagar will threaten her position as the love of Abrams life. The two of them have something together that she and Abram do not.

Sarah is like you should have said no why did you let this happen: and for Saria’s defense I would say that day Abraham was not ministering to her need and he was not sensitive to the sensitivity she was under after all the years of the promise not being fulfilled, that there must be something wrong with me, maybe God's upset with me and that was very much in the culture a barren woman was viewed upon that she was in some type of sin and the hand of God was upon her and here Sarai is being very insecure

So I agree with her that Abram was not leading and meeting her needs; but it's important to note that there's a need that no person can fulfill whether it's a spouse fulfilling the need for companionship or whether it's the child fulfilling the need of completeness and of family. Now not to diminish loneliness and desire for those things, but there's a place that our deepest need can only be met by Jesus the Lord God himself and I would encourage you if you're in that place today and you think if only I had, and you fill in the blanks, I would tell you that God sees you and He sees the desire of your heart but I would encourage you to simply sit before the Lord and say you will have to be my portion in this time and season as I know that only You and You alone can feel my ultimate desire, and Lord I will rest in you that you will do what you desire to do in accordance with Your will for my life in your timing of my days.

Result – Problem Family & for History

Now the resultant of listening to Sarah instead of waiting upon the Lord, a problem for the family, and a problem for history. From Hagar Ishmael will be born, and become the father of the Arab people who will be a thorn in Israel's side forever. Just this week 13 Israeli soldiers were killed by Arabs in the Gaza strip.

Expedient – not - Obedient

Sarah's proposal was expedient, but it wasn't obedient:

- It was logical,
- it was culturally acceptable,
- it even had merit intellectually,
- but ultimately it turned out to be a mess.

You will always produce an Ishmael when you try to help God out in the flesh

Didn't Seek / If Don't know then Don't

They didn't seek the Lord, ask the Lord, is this the right thing to do. This is obvious application for all of us, take everything to the Lord in prayer and ask Him what does He want for you in this situation. And as I always say, be

willing to wait for your answer; if you don't hear, then don't (of course if the Word says to do something, then do it).

Abe had Grown / Forgot Egypt / Shield & Reward

Abraham had shown such signs of growth and maturity in your dealing with Lot (knowing you'd get the best no matter what), but Abraham quickly forgets, or should I say 13 years allows him to forget the promise of God - Fear not Abraham for I am your shield and exceedingly great reward. Abraham forgets the last time he didn't seek the Lord, he ended up in Egypt almost killed by the Pharaoh. And now here he is ready to make the same mistake.

Genesis 16:6 So Abram said to Sarai, "Indeed your maid is in your hand; do to her as you please." And when Sarai dealt harshly with her, she fled from her presence.

Same Word for Harshly

The same word that we read that the Egyptians will afflict the Israelites when they go into bondage, it's the same word being used here of how Sarah treats Hagar. So we can gather the severity of the harshness, not some passive aggression. This is full-on, no doubt aggression against Hagar, who really had no say in the matter.

Scene 2: Hagar and the Lord (16:7-14)

- **God Meets Hagar Where's She At (16:7-8)**

Genesis 16:7 Now the Angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, by the spring on the way to Shur.

Genesis 16:8 And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."

The Angel of the Lord – A Theophany

Verse 7 - "And the angel of the LORD..." Now this is the first time the angel of the LORD is mentioned in the Old Testament. We will find the angel of the LORD appearing many times in the Old Testament and many bible scholars believe that this reference to the angel of the LORD is a Theophany (or Christophany). In most cases the angel of the LORD is none other than Jesus Christ appearing in a form to man. In this first mention of the "Angel of the Lord" here, it is clearly God who is the Angel of the Lord. Verse 13 is indisputable, the God who sees.

God Seeks Her

It's not that she's lost and then she's found the word that is being spoken is God comes to her. God seeks her out and God comes to where she's at.

God Reveals Himself to an Egyptian Woman

And isn't this amazing up to this point that Adam walked with God. Enoch walked with God. Noah walked with God. And here we come God shows himself. to an Egyptian woman who is pregnant and cast out and we can look and we can say how amazing, of course he walks with Adam. his creation, Enoch, the righteous Noah, man of faith, even Abram, the story of Melchizedek after the great warrior and fight. But here He shows himself, to the weak to the cast out, to the cast off, to the unloved, to the rejected, to the vulnerable and one who has nothing and nowhere to go. And He shows up to her and she gets to do what none of these others have done, she gets the name God and his nature and his character, because so often when we're in the weak and the vulnerable in the cast off state is when we see God in a way we've never seen before, and no one has ever seen before, even the great-greats of faith. God puts Hagar in the category with them, an Egyptian bondswoman. What does that speak to you about? What can you take from that into your heart today that relates Hagar to you and your Lord?

Timeless Two Questions

I think these two questions are timeless question no matter where you're at and the things of the Lord of where are you coming from? aka, where have you been and where are you going? Where you've been will greatly determine where you're going. Where you're going, will greatly define where you've been because it will determine where you are right now and what your heart is for the future. And God comes, He asks a question, but

she can only answer one where she came from. She is not certain where she's going next, even though her body direction from what we see in this passage is on its way back to Egypt.

Maybe That's You / As Long as You go With Me

Maybe your "where you've been" is drugs and alcohol, immorality, pride, injustice, prejudice, maybe it's selfishness and self-absorption, is where you've been. but in your heart, not where you want to go. I pray where I/you want to go doesn't matter, as long as you go with me/us Lord. And wherever I go, that I'm pleasing unto you. Will heat well done, good and faithful servant, this is My beloved son/daughter, in whom I'm well pleased. That my life would be a testimony of glory that I brought God glory with the way that I lived. And it won't matter anything else the man will deem successful. The ultimate success is I live/lived a life, that glorified God, and He is well pleased.

Scene 2: Hagar and the Lord (16:7-14)

- **God Gives Hagar Direction (16:9)**

Genesis 16:9 The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."

Great Faith

And when the Lord tells her to go back and submit yourself to your mistress, that's hard to hear because she was brutal. She was harsh, as harsh as the Egyptians would be to the children of Israel, and yet the Lord would say, go back there and there is great faith. And it's a funny chapter because here we're seeing the father of faith and the wife of the father of faith failing in faith, and here we see a cast off a bond woman cast out exercising the great faith that she's willing to go back because the word of God told her to and the exercising the faith that because He said to go that He would go with her demonstrating the faith there's nothing in Egypt for me to go because the Lord's not going to go with me. I'll be going by myself on my own and I will be doing my own thing and what a contrast because Sarah and Abram did their own thing in the flesh and it became a mess and here's this (probably young girl) exercising extreme faith to say, although this doesn't make sense, fleeing to Egypt seem like the thing to do, but the Lord has spoken and said it's not, and she will exercise faith to the word and promise of God and go back and submit herself in a hard environment.

And you know, maybe the Lord's saying that to you

- go back to a hard environment in a workplace. You really don't want to be there, but you know he spoke to you. That's where he wants you.
- Maybe it's to go and see somebody in the way the Lord sees them even though they've been harsh to you.
- Maybe you'd just like to get out of that relationship you're in because you're not receiving the love that you desire and the attention you desire and the respect you desire and yet the Lord is telling you'd go back there

That will take great faith, but when you step into that great faith, the Lord will go with you, and you will see him in a way that you would never see him going your own way.

Scene 2: Hagar and the Lord (16:7-14)

- **God Names Ishmael (16:10-12)**

Genesis 16:10 Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

Genesis 16:11 And the Angel of the LORD said to her: "Behold, you are with child, And you shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, Because the LORD has heard your affliction."

Genesis 16:12 He shall be a wild man; His hand shall be against every man, And every man's hand against him. And he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

Angel of Lord is God – For Only God can fulfill "I Will"

We know the Angel of the Lord is none other than on for only he can fulfill the promise of "I will" (verse 10).

So the Promise of God to you today where He says I will as only I can.

Through Hagar – Arab nation / God Preserves Hagar

Through Hagar came Ishmael, through Ishmael (verse 12 he will be a wild man) comes the Arab nation. Do you see a major point here? God could have let Hagar die there in the wilderness, and let the Arab nation never begin, prevented the people who would torment God's chosen people, the children of Israel, but He didn't. Why didn't, because He is God, and that is His character of love. He seeks to save the lost, He wishes that none should perish but all seek repentance. Before God there is neither Jew nor Gentile.

None Perish / Neither Jew nor Greek

(2 Peter 3:9 NKJV) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(Galatians 3:28 NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(Galatians 3:29 NKJV) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

God Loves the Arab People

Nothing has changes in these 4,000 years. God loves the Arab people. How I wish they would read this chapter and consider it. That they would see a God who loves them, who came to seek out the mother of their nation, and called her to himself.

The Name Reminds (The Lord Hears)

Ishmael means "the Lord hears" and it would be a testimony to Ishmael. This is your heritage. This is your story and I have a plan for you. Oh the calling to live up to the heritage and the plan. but as equally so He gave her a name to remind her of his promise and every time she would say Ishmael she would be reminded of the Lord hears. And so as life would get harder in the camp, they'll be there for 13 years before the separation happens between Ishmael and Isaac still 14 years off from birth, she will hear in the hardest times when she calls to her son the reminder that God hears her and takes her back to that place that He came and found her and spoke to her these promises.

Scene 2: Hagar and the Lord (16:7-14)

- The God Who Sees (16:13-14)

Genesis 16:13 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, **You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees**; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"

Genesis 16:14 Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

God Sees – All Along from Egypt to the Well

God sees what no one else sees and God hears what no one else hears, His eyes have been upon Hagar from the beginning. all the way back in Egypt. His eyes have been upon her. And when she left the camp, the eyes of the Lord were upon her then, this is when she comes to the realization here at this well that God sees her, but all along, God has seen her. God sees her when no one else does. God hears her when no one else does. And so too, the Lord sees what's going on in your life, even when no one else does. And God hears your cry, even when you're not crying out to him. He hears your cry for He's the God that hears and He's the God that sees, and He sees and hears you today, He is the God that is "HERE" with you right now!

Living Water

God meets her at the well, and John seven let all who are thirsty. He's going to give living water. Here's the first picture of it in a great way. with Hagar, the living water

John 7:37–39 (NKJV) ³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Well – Place of Refreshment

She gives this name at a well because this is where the Lord intersected their meeting and the well is a place of refreshment, a place of vitality, of life's essential need of water, and here is the correlation the refreshment, the vitality, and the necessity in her life, in our life, is here at the well where the Lord would meet us and reveal Himself. And it will be interesting when she is sent off as determined by the Lord 13 years from now she will be sent off with simply a pouch of water and when it's gone, she will sit and believe she's come to the end of life and that she's going to die, but the God of the well is going to show up to her and supply her and provide for her the essentials of life and the vitality of life, a beautiful weaving of the well and the word of God and the God who sees us and the God who hears us.

Hagar Only OT Person to Give God a Name

Hagar will be the only person in the Old Testament to give God a name, all the other times God will reveal himself and Hagar gives God a name and it goes in the books as recorded of. That's right yes and amen that is true. That is who I am and that is what I do. This is remarkable because it's a Egyptian woman who's been cast out, forgotten, burdened, and all alone and here's the honor that the Lord gives her, and I believe it's an honor meant to speak of the heart of God to us as his heart is for us as it is for Hagar

Same Experience of Moses

A truly remarkable story when you consider this cast off Egyptian bond woman use this property not as a human because of someone else's work in the flesh she ends up the recipient of affliction and heartache and yet this Egyptian woman gets to experience and be equal with the same experience that Moses did and she gets to see the Lord, what a truly remarkable story that we're reading about the God who sees us when no one else does.

Exodus 33:17–23 (NKJV) ¹⁷ So the LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name." ¹⁸ And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." ¹⁹ Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." ²⁰ But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live." ²¹ And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. ²² So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. ²³ Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

Don't Forget Hagar in this Story/Scene

So much of this story is to focus on Abraham and Sarah's lapse of faith falter of faith and so often what is missed is the story of Hagar and what this must have been like for her. She's brought up from Egypt and becomes a servant by sale or by giving of pharaoh and she is taken away from her family in Egypt her surrounding in Egypt she becomes this bondwoman to these people she does not know, and she becomes a piece of property to them with no rights, and then one day she has told you're going to become this man's wife but you won't be equal in my eye you just have a purpose to conceive a child that I will call mine. It's hard for us to put our mind around this story in many ways I think we miss so much the story what life is like for Hagar and the vulnerable place she's put in, uncomfortable place, and then the end of a lonely place. We will read in some chapters to come if I were being cast out very much because of Ishmael and his lineage she will in a way become villainized and forgotten. We can forget that she's a human and has human needs, she wants just what everyone else wants to be loved and accepted, to be equal, not looked down upon. And we can look at the story around Hagar regarding Sarai and Abraham (and Isaac to come) and forget the story of Hagar, a person who will be outcast and put away and villainized and easy to take the story and accept the story because so often we don't know the back story of a person's life.

Christian do we ever consider the backstory of people's life? Would not today Hagar be viewed as a mother out of wedlock, a trouble maker in a marriage, a person of questionable character.... Until we would stop to take the time to hear her story.

Remember Michal?

Remember the story of David's wife Michal, and David cursed her for cursing him for dancing before the Lord in his undergarments when bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem?

2 Samuel 6:20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

2 Samuel 6:21 So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

2 Samuel 6:22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor."

2 Samuel 6:23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Michal's Window of Superiority

I like how Spurgeon describes Michal - that she looked down upon David from her window of superiority. Imagine David, after the failure at Nachon, the humiliation before the people, a Gentile (possibly) gets the blessings he was desiring as king for his people, to then hearing the voice of the Lord, to understanding why he had failed, and to receive God's grace that he would be forgiven (because that is what the mercy seat of God represents, and does), David brings the ark of God into Jerusalem, has this amazing worship conference, amazing mountaintop experience with God and His Church (if you will), and then he walks into his home and here is Michal, she has left her window of superiority and opened the door of criticism and unleashed the full torrent of it upon David.

Want to Divide and Distance Your Marriage – Challenge Devotion / Be Curious – Curiosity Unites the Heart

Attacking and challenging David's relationship with the Lord, challenging David's worship and devotion to the Lord. Let me tell you, if you want to divide your marriage, distanced and drive away your spouse (although they may still be in the home - they are a million miles away) - criticize and challenge their devotion to the Lord. But what is they are being a religious nut (so you may be feel) - what do you do? Be curious about them, explore their heart, hear their heart, become one with them, not one against them. What if they are lukewarm or even cold and dry - same thing. be curious, explore their heart, come alongside them, not against them. Do not judge their heart, they will know it immediately, a person knows when they are being judged, even if you "conceal it", and they will distance themselves from you, and the thing you thought you could fix with critique to bring them back to you, will turn out for the complete opposite, and drive them further away from you.

David Say I Don't Care

Verses 21-22: David's wife mocks, ridicules, demeans him. David says, "I don't care what anyone thinks, including you. You know what? There's a place, even if it is your very spouse, I'm going to love Jesus, sold out and all out, regardless of what you think."

Easy to Villainize Michal

So easy to villainize Michal. She attacks our brother and hero David, she has zero spiritually, and she is antagonistic against the things of the Lord. Until I think of what kind of life she has had. What was it like to grow up in house of Saul, an egotistical madman. Totally dysfunctional home. Man I would hate having Thanksgiving over his house. She loved a man as a young girl, his name was David. Her love had to leave her, she would be pitted between her father and husband, she would never know is the love of my life dead or alive, has he found love in the arms of another woman. She would then be given to another man by her father. She would then lose her father and 3 brothers all in a day. Then be taking by her brother who made himself king, and brought back to David, to join his other 7 wives, and 10+ concubines. We never know what is going on in someone's heart, their lives. they can look like they have it going on, married to the king and living in his wealthy home (made by Hiram), and it is Michal David comes home, not the other woman. It could seem Michal has it all, but we can see she is absolutely spiritually empty, there is nothing there. People, they are all around us, they are sitting among us. And David just spent wonderful time in the presence of the Lord, but walks in his house and totally misses it - that his very wife does not have the experience and joy of the presence of God in her life. And to which i would say regarding David, he was 100%, unequivocally, absolutely, wrong on how he handled this. It is easy to villainize Michal, until you remove her from being an object of a story, and make her a human with feelings. She reminds me of the woman at the well as I think of her, looking so full, but absolutely empty, and God doesn't meet her at her blanket store, or fish market she works at, but where she needed it most, at a well, where rivers of living water could be poured out to her.

John 4:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

David had Greater Calling than King - Husband

David, you went and got her, you brought her back to your palace, you declared her to be your wife. You were and are the spiritual leader in your home, and there was something greater in your life than being the King of Israel, the Warrior General, the politician, the statesman, a priest of Israel, a psalmist, and that was..... yes even above being king of Israel, it was being Michal's husband. To know your wife's heart, to protect your wife's heart, to cherish your wife's heart - and to lead your wife into the presence of God.

Ephesians 5:25–28 (NKJV) ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

God Sees Hagar – Do We?

God sees Hagar we'll see as we finish the chapter God saw Mical and knew her story as well, and the question for us do we see the Hagers around us the cast off the forgotten the judged and do we have a heart for them like the heart that God has for them

Scene 3: Hagar Tells Abram the Story of the Well (16:15-16)

- **Abram's Son Ishmael (16:15-16)**

Genesis 16:15 So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.

Genesis 16:16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Abram Hears

The fact that Abraham names this son Ishmael clearly tells us that Hagar returned and told the story and Abraham believed it and therefore that's why he called the son Ishmael.

Can imagine what it was like when they came to the realization hagar's gone and Sarah I may have been good riddance problem solved Abraham may have come to the place I got off easy and did not have to face this head on, but then here comes Hagar back into the camp and now they'll have to face the consequences of their fleshly decision.

The Lord is given Sarai and Abram a second chance to love upon and minister the Hagar and she deserves to be

The Law of the Leper

In my studies this week of my through the Bible reading as I was in Leviticus chapter 13 and 14 and it deals with the law of the leper, and it was first how to diagnose if someone had leprosy a picture of sin and that they were then to be put out of the community to stop the spread of the highly contagious disease but it also covered the sacrifice that the priest was to do when somebody was healed of leprosy. But the fact is no one was being healed of leprosy as we read in the scriptures (part from the story we read of Naman who wasn't even Jewish). But the part that fascinates me as I ponder it was all the lepers that Jesus was healing in his ministry and that all of them would have to go to Jerusalem and present themselves to the priest and present the sacrifice that was required after the priest pronounced them clean of leprosy and that they could return to the community. And we read it was the ministry of Jesus that he was healing lepers and so there's this stream of lepers heading to Jerusalem and anyone would think after 2000 years of this law of leprosy being on the books no one was coming to get pronounced clean and now here comes a stream multitudes coming would not common sense say what is going on after all this time we're seeing all these clear cases of months they had leprosy and now they are clean and they all keep coming with the same story a man named Jesus touched me and I have been made clean

Luke 4:27–28 (NKJV) ²⁷ And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian. ²⁸ So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Matthew 8:2–4 (NKJV) ² And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." ³ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴ And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Matthew 11:4–6 (NKJV) ⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: ⁵ The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

Luke 17:11–14 (NKJV)¹¹ Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. ¹³ And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

With the part that is so interesting to me is that according to the mosaic law the priest there at the temple to declare to declare them clean he had to touch them and dip the blood of the sacrifice on there your hand and toe as a pitcher of complete healing and I just wonder did they have enough faith to touch them to declare them clean were they willing to touch these lepers that Jesus had touched?

But I think for me and you today there's lepers all around us there's Hagar's with stories we'll never know unless we reach out to them and get to know them and ask them their story rather than looking right past them thinking that we know their story and there's the Michal's around us we can hear about their spiritual position but do we really know what their life was liked being raised in the family they came from the marriages and relationships that they were in and came out of or are still in

and the question is like the priest were they willing to touch the leper that Jesus cleansed the question for us are we willing to touch and hear their story as well.

We are a Kingdom of priest, and we have to see them before we'll ever be able to touch them.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Conclusion

There's healing and there's health and there's hope in this chapter for anyone and everyone in this room and reading this word today

Outline Genesis 15

Scene 1: Sarai, Abram, and Hagar (16:1-6)

- The Family Dilemma (16:1)
- The Fleshly Response (16:2-3)
- The Fleshly Result (16:4)
- The Fleshly Regret (16:5-6)

Scene 2: Hagar and the Lord (16:7-14)

- God Meets Hagar Where's She At (16:7-8)
- God Gives Hagar Direction (16:9)
- God Names Ishmael (16:10-12)
- The God Who Sees (16:13-14)

Scene 3: Hagar Tells Abram the Story of the Well (16:15-16)

- Abram's Son Ishmael (16:15-16)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?

- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 17

Title: He is God Almighty

Summary: When Abram was 99 God appeared to him telling him I am “God Almighty” (Heb. El Shaddai). Shaddai comes from an old word meaning “mountain” and refers to His mighty power that is high and unshakable. And, if Abram wanted to know God’s power, he had to walk, that is live, close to the Lord. So too the passage before us speaks the same unto us. How can we do it? Join us for Genesis 17 to for the “how to”.

He is a “Covenant” (agreement making) God. Covenants are relationships God establishes with people on the basis of his promises. What a wonderful fact, promise, that God makes covenants/agreements/relationships with us. We are not a number, some insignificant person, but someone so valuable to God Almighty, King of the Universe, that He “wants” to make covenants/agreements/relationships with each and every one of us.

Outline: Genesis 17

- The Covenant Commitment (God’s Promise) - (17:1-8)
- The Covenant Condition (Circumcision) - (17:9-14)
- The Covenant Couple (Abraham and Sarah) – (17:15-22)
- The Covenant Cost (Discipleship) – (17:23-27)

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- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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The Covenant Commitment (God’s Promise) - (17:1-8)

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

99 Years Old

So, from Genesis chapter 12, to verse 1 of this chapter, is 24 years that Abrams been in the land. It has been 13 years since the last verse of chapter 16. So 24 years the promise that he would be the father of many nations, and yet here is 24 years later it still has not come the pass. Last chapter we read the mess of the flesh as him and Sarah tried to help out the Lord, but now we come to the passage that there is no way of helping because both of their bodies are physically in the terms of child bearing reproduction, physically dead as even the new testament, the best commentary on the Bible confirms they cannot produce children because the flower has faded.

Genesis 16:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Romans 4:19 (NKJV)¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb.

Christophany

The LORD appeared to Abram: Undoubtedly, this is another appearance of God in the person of Jesus, who took on a temporary human appearance before His incarnation on earth.

This word here, the Lord appeared the Abram, it's a word that means to be physically seen will only find it one other place and it's when the Lord appears to Jacob so this is more than a vision this is again a theophany, a physical manifestation in some form that was physically able to be seen by a human, even though the one appearing was none other than God who is Spirit; its deep, its marvelous and its mighty.

Genesis 35:9–10 (NKJV)⁹ Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him. ¹⁰ And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.

God is wanting to make a point to Abram listen to what I'm going to say because this is very important. It was like taking him out and looking up into the stars and the Lord using the Word look that has the inference of a pleading of a please look. I want you to slow down. I want you to see the God who's speaking to you and the promise that he makes to you is the one who created the world by speaking it into existence, and I am going to speak a promise to you. Please look and see what I'm saying to you in the power of He who says it

Genesis 15:5 (NKJV)⁵ Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

El Shaddai (Almighty God)

I am Almighty God: First, God told Abram who He is. By this name El Shaddai, He revealed His Person and character to Abram. However, there is some debate as to what exactly the name El Shaddai means.

- Kidner: "A traditional analysis of the name is 'God (el) who (sa) is sufficient (day).'"
- Clarke: "El shaddai, I am God all-sufficient; from shadah, to shed, to pour out. I am that God who pours out blessings, who gives them richly, abundantly, continually."
- Barnhouse: the Hebrew word shad means "chest" or "breast." It may have in mind the strength of a man's chest (God Almighty) or the comfort and nourishment of a woman's breast (God of Tender Care).
- Leupold: Shaddai comes from the root shadad, which means "to display power."
- We do know the Septuagint translates the word with the Greek pantokrator "Almighty," the "One who has His hand on everything."
- Guzik, D. (2013). *Genesis (Ge 17:1–2)*. David Guzik.

God is sufficient. God who pours out abundantly. The God who is Genesis 15, I am your shielding exceedingly great reward. The word also means bosom. I think a John resting his head on the bosom of the Lord, leaning and hearing the heartbeat of God at the Last Supper. The word also means to display power the Septuagint says the word means the one who has his hand on everything

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

John 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

Psalms 61 – Lead to Rock Higher Than I

When Abram was 99 God appeared to him telling him I am "God Almighty" (Heb. El Shaddai). Shaddai comes from an old word meaning "mountain" and refers to His mighty power that is high, invincible, and unshakable
Lint, G. A., ed. (1994). Genesis (Ge 17:1). World Library Press.

The Lord God Almighty; in Psalm 61 verse 2 David says, lead me to the rock higher than I.

David was a man who knew how to pray. We think of him as a person of worship. And he was that. But he was also a warrior in prayer. Psalm 61 is a psalm in which we can hear the heart of David expressed in this prayer to his Father. It was written as he fled from Jerusalem, following his son, Absalom's, insurrection.

Add maybe you've been betrayed, maybe you've been attacked. Maybe the devils laying lies upon lies of who you are and you're all alone.

There's a calling to be led to the rock that's higher than you, to get up and out of the valley and get to the mountain and see the Mighty God. I read and meditate a Psalm a day because I always see a mighty, faithful God, and I

always see a limited man. In Psalms so many times it starts with darkness and gloom, but somewhere in the Psalm it turns to light and glory. And maybe that's you today, darkness and gloom is how you are feeling, and I pray may you get to the Rock that's higher than I, may you get to the Mighty God, El Shaddai

Psalm 61 (NKJV) To the Chief Musician. On A Stringed Instrument. A Psalm of David. ¹ Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. ² From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. ³ For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. ⁴ I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah ⁵ For You, O God, have heard my vows; You have given *me* the heritage of those who fear Your name. ⁶ You will prolong the king's life, His years as many generations. ⁷ He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, *which* may preserve him! ⁸ So I will sing praise to Your name forever, That I may daily perform my vows.

I find it interesting looking at Numbers 2, as it gives instruction how the Children of Israel were to camp when in the wilderness, and then how they were to break camp Numbers 2:3-9). The first group to break camp was Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun.

- Judah means praise,
- Issachar means there is recompense (to compensate),
- Zebulun means exalted,

And I find it ever so interesting how we won't break camp, how we will stay so often paralyzed because the devil

- will attack, praise on our lips that gives the Lord the glory due to Him, to keep us from moving out,
- he will attack that there is no reward for doing good and being faithful to the things of the Lord that's recompense, or the recompense that were stuck in damage done to us by the wrongs of others,
- devil will attack the "Exalted God of the mountains, the mighty God who sees me,

and we can see these three that he will attack that keeps us from breaking camp and moving where God has us and called us to move to. Christian, we must get to the Rock that is Higher than I, we must get to the God of the Mountain, the all sufficient one.

Walk Before Me

God says walk before Me. If Abraham or I, or you, want to know God's power, we have to live close to the Lord and walk closely with him.

Before / With / After / In

There are four different prepositions used for the walk of God.

- Here in Genesis 17:1 God told Abraham to walk "before" Him.
(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.
- We read earlier in Genesis 5:22, that Enoch walked "with" God:
(Genesis 5:22 NKJV) After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters.
(Genesis 5:23 NKJV) So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.
(Genesis 5:24 NKJV) And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.
- In Deuteronomy 13:4, God told Israel to walk "after" the Lord:
(Deuteronomy 13:4 NKJV) "You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.
- In Colossians 2:6, Paul says, walk "in" Him:
(Colossians 2:6 NKJV) As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

There are four different prepositions used for the walk of God.

- Walking "before" God is walking in His presence, conscious that God is watching me, looking out for me, and caring for me.
- Walking "after" God is the position of the servant. When God tells Israel to walk after Him, He is actually telling them to serve Him.
- Walking "with" God, as Enoch and Noah, indicates that beautiful communion and fellowship as we walk with God.

- Walking "in" Him signifies that complete union and oneness that is ours with God. Christ in me, the hope of glory!

Blameless

Walk before Me and be blameless: Then God told Abram what was expected of him. We can only do what God expects of us when we know who He is and know it in a full, personal, real way.

- The word blameless literally means "whole." God wanted all of Abram, wanting a total commitment
Guzik, D. (2013). *Genesis* (Ge 17:1–2). David Guzik.

Blameless isn't perfection as there are none perfect, no not one. But I always liken blameless to.....If 60 minutes came in and did an exposé documentary on our life, would they find anything to put on the air? That's what it means to be blameless. to live without hypocrisy to live outwardly the way you live behind closed doors, to live out what we say we are and believe.

Genesis 17:2 And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

Genesis 17:3 Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

Genesis 17:4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

Abram Does Nothing / Personal Pronouns

God commits to him based on nothing. Abram has done nothing that qualifies him for the Covenant. It is God making the covenant based on His good, mercy, and grace.

In versus 2 through 16 it's some two dozen times we're going to read the personal pronoun that the Lord uses such as I and me, to make total clarity that the ultimate fulfillment of the covenant is through the Lord. and what he promises and what only he is able to do through his promise.

Genesis 17:5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

A Simple "Breath"

In verse 15 and then back in verse 5, it's a simple breath an "h" that changes the nature; and what a great contrast the circumcision is the cutting away of the flesh, and the changing of the name is receiving of the holy spirit.

God changes the name (the spirit with him) before the covenant of circumcision; God's Spirit is what gives us the ability to walk blamelessly, live a victorious Christian life in the spirit, and to overcome and cut away the things of the flesh. God will always supply us with what is needed, to fulfill His word and calling He gives to us.

5th Letter / No longer Walking After the Flesh / New Dimension of Life

God inserts the 5th letter of the Hebrew alphabet in the middle of Abram's name (Sarai also), the letter "H". As He changed the name of Abram to Abraham, He made a new covenant with him (Genesis 17:10), the Covenant of Circumcision; whereby, the cutting off of the flesh signifying that Abraham should no longer walk after the flesh but that he might be a spiritual man and walk after the Spirit. So, the change of Abraham's name was very significant. He added the "H" or the Spirit and thus God brought them into this new dimension of life. The Lord adds a simple "h" to the name, insignificant at first glance, but powerful at second.

Ruach / Said with a Breath / Spirit

God inserted the Hebrew Letter "H" into the name of Abram and the letter "H" is made with the sound of breath. The word "ruach" means "breath or spirit" and so God inserted the spirit into the name of Abram. The Hebrew word for Spirit is ruwach, roo'-akh; it meant wind; by resemblance breath. ruwach in the Hebrew is a word spoke with just a breath, the "h". When God breaths His breathe in you, it's just a breath, an "h" that changes you forever.

Also a Fire

This wind, is also a fire; that when allowed will consume all those things that keep us from setting our mind on the things above, that allow Christ in us, the hope of glory to rule and reign in my life in all situations and circumstances.

Search for Him / We Search our Heart

I like what Herod said in Matt 2:8 Go and search carefully for the child.

(Matthew 2:8 NKJV) And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When man searches for Christ, he is not seeking Him like a lost coin, rather what he is searching is his very heart, and he sees a need for a Savior, and it is there that we find life.

God With Us / God in US

Immanuel, "God with Us". For God with us - Immanuel, becomes God in us, as the Spirit of the living God takes residence in us:

John 20:22 (NKJV)²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

A New name in Heaven

We will receive a new name in heaven, I wonder if it our name now, with an "h" added to it.

(Revelation 2:17 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."

When God Breathes - We are Changed Forever

When God breathes His Spirit into us, we are changed forever. We need this "h", this Spirit in our life so we have the power to walk the walk He has called us to. Like Sara and Abraham, we are barren and impotent without the "H", the Spirit of God living in us.

The Response to the Covenant – The New Name

The response to God's calling, God's covenant, is to be holy, blameless, to be uncommon. The covenant makes us different from the rest of the world, and that's why God gives him the call to be holy, be blameless, to be set apart.

And Abram gets a new name, It's a new name because it's a new identity

Imagine people, "hi Abram",.....to which Abraham would say, ... No, it's Abraham. God gave me a new name.

And so too for us no, don't call me by my old name (my old nature), I am a new creation in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Genesis 17:6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Genesis 17:7 And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Everlasting Covenant

And notice, the multiple times that the promise is clearly defined as everlasting (verses 7, 8, 13, 19).

I'm making the covenant, and therefore the covenant can stand and will stand for everlasting because the covenant's not going to be up to you, Abraham to keep, but for me even when you blow it.

King of Kings

Kings will come out of you..... talk about kings, kings of Israel, but greater than that through king David, an offspring of Abraham will come the King of Kings and the lord of Lords. Imagine the depth of this promise that he has no idea that God is speaking on to him, but God does It's marvelous!

Genesis 17:8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Great Faith to Use New Name

Abraham means, father of multitude.

What's your name 99-year-old man? My name is Abraham, and everybody would know that mean father of multitude/nations? How many kids you got old man? Which Abram would say just one, so took great faith to tell people this is what God says my new name is Abraham, and that is what you shall call me.

Land Covenant is Everlasting

Notice the covenant of the land is everlasting. perpetual never ends the land this in the center of the news is given to Abraham then his offspring, as we will see in chapters that come Isaac and Jacob, who will be renamed Israel, the land is everlasting given to them not Ishmael and not Esau Jacob's brother; so the President of the United States must be prayed for. It is not our land to take and own and possess its Israel, and even if they wanted to give it to us, it's not for us to take because God said it is Israel's.

The Covenant Condition (Circumcision) - (17:9-14)

Genesis 17:9 And God said to Abraham: "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.

Genesis 17:10 This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised;

Genesis 17:11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

Genesis 17:12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

Genesis 17:13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Genesis 17:14 And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

Another Cutting Covenant

So back in chapter 15 we saw what we call cutting the deal as the sacrifices were cut in half and Abram just watched from the side and the Lord walked down the midst, making the point I will do and fulfill the whole covenant with you. Well, the covenants being strengthened, renewed, deepened, and once again it's going to be a cutting of a covenant and this time Abram's more than just watching he's a participant he has been given the clarity that it's not on him to do the miracle for the fulfillment, but it is on him to do the blameless and committed to the covenant so once again it's another covenant that is involving cutting the covenant here of circumcision *Genesis 15:8–10 (NKJV)* ⁸ And he said, "Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?" ⁹ So He said to him, "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.

Genesis 15:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.

The New Covenant will be a "cutting" covenant as well, as Jesus will be pierced for our sins, so that we might be forgiven of our sin.

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV) ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

John 19:34–37 (NKJV) ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Continual Reminder

So circumcision, it will be a continual reminder (we're all adults here) of being separated to the covenant that was made by God.

A Sign - A Token / Not My Choice

God is saying to Abraham, now I am going to give you a sign, a token, of the covenant. I would have been thinking something along the line of a bright burning star in the heavens, or something like it would rain on the first Monday of every month followed by a rainbow, I wouldn't have been thinking circumcision, especially at 99 years of age.

Signifies Cutting Off the Flesh / Live a Life After the Spirit

God established this covenant with Abraham. It was to be marked by circumcision, which signified not to live or walk after the flesh. The cutting off of the life of the flesh in order that you might live the life of the Spirit. God said if they would not have the rite of circumcision then they were to be cut off from being the people of God. You cannot be a man of God and walk after the flesh. It is only as you walk after the Spirit that you are truly a man of God.

In Time to Come - National Life

In time to come, the child that was born was not considered a Jew until he was circumcised. You weren't a Jew by natural birth, but became a Jew the day you were circumcised. That was the rite by which you entered into national life. It indicates that you are to walk after the Spirit

Why Circumcision / Very Delicate

But why did God choose circumcision? Because God wanted this covenant (this cutting off the flesh and living after the Spirit) to be very sensitive, very delicate. Obviously this is the most sensitive and delicate area of the flesh.

Be Ye Perfect / Be Sensitive of Every Sin / No Sin Ranking

The Lord was saying to Abraham, I've given you a new name, I placed my ruach (spirit) within you, now walk before me, be ye perfect, no longer live after the flesh, but the Spirit, for I am Almighty God. God wants the things of the flesh to be very sensitive to us. The Lord is saying every work of your flesh is to be sensitive to you as you walk before me. Let everything of your flesh be a big deal, there is no ranking of sin in your life (see study in James on The Test of the Law). God is Holy, and His Holiness is too pure to look upon wickedness (Hab 1:13). Abraham! I am Almighty God, Walk Before Me, Be Ye Perfect

Works of Flesh

What are the works of the flesh:

(Galatians 5:19 NKJV) Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

(Galatians 5:20 NKJV) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

(Galatians 5:21 NKJV) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Works of Spirit

What are the works of the Spirit:

(Galatians 5:22 NKJV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Galatians 5:23 NKJV) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

(Galatians 5:24 NKJV) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

(Galatians 5:25 NKJV) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Continual Reminder

Circumcision was to be a continual reminder to the Jewish people that they were different from the rest of the world. It was a continual reminder to be pure and holy before the Lord. To live a life after the Spirit.

Baptism - The Sequel / Burying the Flesh / Beginning a New Life in the Spirit

The sequel of circumcision in the New Testament is water baptism and the significance is the exact same thing. Water baptism signifies the death of the life after the flesh and a life governed by the flesh. There is the burying of everything that was done in that life of the flesh and the beginning of the new life in the Spirit. The resurrection and the newness of life in Christ Jesus to walk now after the Spirit as you come up out of the waters or out of the grave

Wasted Ritual

Both baptism and circumcision can just become a ritual, and both would be a waste if the heart isn't right. When we get to the New Testament, Paul begins to show the folly of trusting in a ritual. He says in Romans, Chapter 2: *(Romans 2:25 NKJV) For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.*

(Romans 2:26 NKJV) Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

(Romans 2:27 NKJV) And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?

(Romans 2:28 NKJV) For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

(Romans 2:29 NKJV) but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

God Interested in Your Heart / Rite into National Life / Christian Life

God is interested that your heart is after the Spirit and not after the flesh. Circumcision doesn't avail a man anything if he is not walking and living after the Spirit. If God accounts the walk after the Spirit as true circumcision, then it isn't the fleshly rite that does anything; therefore, the gentiles, who are not circumcised, are considered the people of God because in their heart there is that circumcision and walking after the things of the Spirit. It is a rite of the Jews by which they entered into the national life and became a Jew. Many Christians think the same about baptism, that it is rite which they enter into Christian life.

Abraham Righteous because he Believed

It is important to note that Abraham wasn't accounted righteous before the Lord because of circumcision, but because he believed:

(Romans 4:10 NKJV) How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.

(Romans 4:11 NKJV) And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,

We are Righteous By Faith

The same is true for us, and we are sealed not by baptism, but by the Holy Spirit when we believe on the Lord for salvation:

(Ephesians 1:13 NKJV) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

Note

Interesting Notes:

Verse 12 - performed on the eighth day: No explanation was given why the eighth day was specified for circumcision, but medical research now shows that the blood-clotting element Vitamin K rises to an adequate level at the 8th day.

Back in the turn of the 19th century, in NYC they noticed that Jewish woman had a lower rate of cervical cancer than non-Jewish woman. Upon further study they found it was because Jewish woman only married Jewish males and the males were circumcised and carried less bacteria than the uncircumcised.

Does a Christian need to be circumcised today, No, and praise the Lord:

(Philippians 3:3 NKJV) For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

Now – Its Freewill Choice

Now regarding the picture and type of the covenant agreement for Abraham and his descendants, as we see in verse 14, that if anyone chose not to be circumcised, that was their choice, but if that was their choice they had no part in the inheritance, in the promise of God. Because it is free-will, you can have all of God you want, but not bit more.

So for those who want to follow the Lord, its your choice how far and how deep, how much you are willing to cut away, and how much of God you want to “wholly” give yourself to.

The Covenant Couple (Abraham and Sarah) – (17:15-22)

Genesis 17:15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

Changed by the “breath of God”. Oh how easily our lives can be changed!

Genesis 17:16 And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her.”

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

You Can Laugh Again

By the way, God can do this for any marriage. You can laugh again. Maybe you feel it's too late. Maybe you feel always be the same maybe you feel you can never laugh again, but that's not so. 24 long years since Genesis 12, but here they are they laugh again.

It only takes that you will believe the promise of God that He can! And then He will!

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said to God, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!”

Genesis 17:19 Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

Genesis 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 17:21 But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.”

Genesis 17:22 Then He finished talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

“Although the covenant will not be established through Ishmael, I have heard your prayer, Abraham, and he will become a great people,” said God. And Ishmael, father of the Arab nation, did just that

God loves Ishmael, the father of the Arab people, and therefore we see in this passage again, that God loves the Arab people.

Don't let the culture, media, so-called influencer turn you into a hater against the Arab people. Hate terrorist, yes, but hate the people who have nothing to do with terrorism, no.

The Covenant Cost (Discipleship) – (17:23-27)

Genesis 17:23 So Abraham took Ishmael his son, all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham's house, and circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him.

Genesis 17:24 Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Genesis 17:25 And Ishmael his son was thirteen years old when he was circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin.

Genesis 17:26 That very same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael;

Genesis 17:27 and all the men of his house, born in the house or bought with money from a foreigner, were circumcised with him.

Very Same Day

Very important to see it says on the same day God gave the command expected a faithful response from Abram and on very day he comes back and circumcises Ishmael, all of his male servants, and himself as well.

This is where people go that's zealous and probably religious fanaticism, but you know if you can recount the time that God has spoken to you, you know when he has spoken and God is clearly shown and the time to respond is immediate.

There's nothing to go pray about and that's what we'll always do I don't know this sounds crazy. Let me pray about it God's like there's nothing more to pray about next is action you know you've heard and now it's time to respond

Parents Cut the Same

So Abram, he cuts the flesh he cuts it out and he goes down his son to the thing Parents we can't expect them to cut out what we're not willing to cut off ourselves personally

Makes Self Vulnerable

Let's not miss the faith to become vulnerable. He doesn't do this in waves and stages. He does it all at once meaning his whole army, his whole military defense is down for the period of time to heal, and he's trusting the Lord to protect him from his enemies, and we have to do the same in our faith. Stepping out in faith will make us vulnerable, and we have to be ready to trust the Lord to defend us when we become vulnerable, and He will. Christian, truly, If He said, do it, that's not vulnerability, that's mighty, that is....., I am your shield and exceedingly great reward.

Genesis 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

Discipleship is Costly

Salvation is free, but discipleship (to follow) is costly. Because it is free-will, you can have all of God you want, but not bit more.

Sometimes it cuts sometimes it will be uncomfortable. Sometimes it will just hurt, but God is cutting away the old man, woman, breathing in His Spirit into the new man and woman to walk closely with him and to bring others in and along

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

Look at Abraham, a leader that:

- His children will follow
- His servants will follow

A leader who would be willing to be cut himself, for its costly faith to lead others as you have to be the one who gets cut first before you can lead others into the cutting and the change as you bring them along into the presence of the Lord

Conclusion

Outline: Genesis 17

- The Covenant Commitment (God's Promise) - (17:1-8)
- The Covenant Condition (Circumcision) - (17:9-14)
- The Covenant Couple (Abraham and Sarah) – (17:15-22)
- The Covenant Cost (Discipleship) – (17:23-27)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 18

Title: Dining, and Delighting, and Declaring

Summary: In our chapter today, the Lord will “dine” with Abraham because He's a God of intimacy and fellowship with His people. God will “delight” Sarah as He tells her of the promise of the child she will have even when she's having a hard time believing. And thirdly, the Lord “declares” to Abraham what's on His heart because God tells those that care. The question for all of us today, “what can God tell us”?

Outline: Genesis 18

- The Lord Dines with Abraham - (18:1-8)
- The Lord Delights Sarah - (18:9-15)
- The Lord Declares what is Coming - (18:16-33)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

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The Lord Dines with Abraham - (18:1-8)

Genesis 18:1 Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

Lord / 2 Angels

The Lord is on His way to destroy Sodom, there are three men, but verse one makes it clear that one of the three is the Lord God Himself.

Entertain Strangers

It could be a reference to this scripture, when Abraham is entertaining these three men:

(Hebrews 13:2 NKJV) Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.

Genesis 18:2 So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground,

Genesis 18:3 and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant.

99 Can still Kick It / Don't Pass By

Age 99 and the man can steal kick it out and get up and running. I love it.

I love it “don't pass by”, stay here with me and fellowship and meet with me. I will be the first to admit, transparent, how I so often approach my fellowship with the Lord as..... no hurry, I know He will be there waiting for me, so I can check the news, take care of some details of life, and then swing over and sit with the Lord. Abraham ran, at his age, and said come on over, come on in, right now as I don't want You to “pass” me by.

Great picture for us. But how do I personally apply this (surely not perfectly), but I expect God is the same yesterday, today, and forever..... and have to remind myself the Creator of the Universe, wants to meet with me. And so I have found great blessing in that when I close out my day, I know that tomorrow the Lord wants to meet with me, and I tell myself that when I go to bed, and when I awake..... God is downstairs awaiting to have coffee and fellowship with me.

If you have sleeplessness I present to you the possibility that isn't because you have sleep issues it may very well be that the Lord is awoken you so that he can fellowship with you and a special time everything is quiet and everything is still and even the light is dim to diminish the distractions so that you can enter into what the scriptures call the night watch. I go back and forth with distractions with all the blessings when I just go you know what I think this there's a special wakeup call from the Lord for the two of us to fellowship in a sweet way. And so I will trying to recall a scripture pray over it and ponder over it and turn it into scripture fed spirit lead worship and prayer with the Lord. And sometimes simply pick back up in one of the Christian books that I'm reading and read a little and let it ponder and wash over me. Or sometimes turn back on an audible book that I'm listening to and let it speak to me then I pause it and meditate over it and enter into prayer.

Psalm 63:6-8 (NKJV) ⁶ When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. ⁷ Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. ⁸ My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

Whether it's morning whether it's evening whether it's the night watch when I put in to my mind set that there's a God who wants to be intimate with me and meet with me and share his heart and hear my heart it changes my whole mindset on meeting and getting to even in the beautiful picture of a 99 year old man running because he's going to meet the Lord.

Genesis 18:4 Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

Genesis 18:5 And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.” They said, “Do as you have said.”

Genesis 18:6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.”

Genesis 18:7 And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.

Genesis 18:8 So he took butter and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree as they ate.

Fellowship Under the Tree

Do you notice where the fellowship is? It is under the tree. I see this as a picture, a type, for us. That true fellowship with the Lord, only begins, and only continues, under the tree of the cross.

The Lord Delights Sarah - (18:9-15)

Genesis 18:9 Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” So he said, “Here, in the tent.”

Genesis 18:10 And He said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)

Hospitality – Brought News

One of the reasons people loved hosting hospitality was because there was no Facebook and there was no social media apps and there was no news sites and there was no newspaper and the way people would get information about what was going on around the world was when travelers came they would take them in and they would share the meal and often the lodging and then they would enjoy the fellowship of the travelers and hearing what news they had heard as they have been moving and traveling through various parts of the land and the world.

Well here's for Sarah's sake Abraham as well they're going to get some amazing news from a far off land called heaven that they're going to be parents. And of course the next part that we read the news from heaven regarding the news that's coming out of Sodom

Genesis 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

Genesis 18:12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

Genesis 18:13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'

Genesis 18:14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

So – The Question Before You Today – Is there Anything Too Hard for the Lord?

So the question is asked is there anything too hard for the Lord? Answer the question is relevant and applicable to you today how would you answer that according to the hard situation you currently are in and facing?

If you answer yes as in there is nothing that is too hard for the Lord then the next question is Part 2 of faith as Part 1 is do I believe he has the power to do this impossible thing because He is the Lord of the impossible thing and thus the Part 2 is the back end of verse 14 at the appointed time, to which do I have the faith to wait for the fulfilling of the impossible thing, do I have the faith to wait for Him and His timing.

I think for most all of us here today Part 1 is the easy part because we all know His power we all believe His power but I think Part 2 is the hardest part for most all of us here today because the waiting takes a greater faith for us. It's not that he can't do it, but somehow we start to question and wonder, but is he willing to do it for us personally. We question that we are some special exclusion we wonder if maybe we are personally excluded because of who we are and what we've done and that we've excluded ourselves from such blessings because past or present failings or just the fact that we don't view ourselves as worthy to receive such great promises.

Christian you can make Part 2 place of weakness, or you can make it pure power and strength. It's a place of weakness when we enter into the questioning of maybe we qualify for some exclusion from all the promises of God; but it's a place of great strength when we say and believe and live that He's going to do it, but in His timing not ours, and so we give Him praise in advance for what He's going to do in the very thing that we have asked.

So maybe right now at this moment may be a great time that you just say, "you know what Lord I picked that promise back up that you promised me and I'm going to praise you in advance believing that you're going to do what you said you were going to do and Lord yes give me strength while I wait but let the waiting be my strength as I say to you and I remind myself you will do what you said you will do and I will see it with my own eyes and I give you glory now for what you'll do then".

Genesis 18:15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh!"

Sarah Doesn't Immediately Own It / But Mary Did

I didn't laugh she says, and God says no you did laugh. Sarah is not owning it, and 89 years of seeing God's faithfulness but there's this one thing that is too hard for her to see and believe. But let's not be too critical of her because we've all been there and I'm thankful that I can read it myself throughout the scriptures and be reminded God's faithfulness even when I'm not faithful

2 Timothy 2:13 (NKJV) ¹³ If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Of course, I love the comparison and contrasting of an 89 year old woman who saw mighty acts of faith over her years..... to a young girl, early adulthood woman (maybe still in her teen years based on the culture of that day), and we know her as Mary.

Luke 1:37–38 (NKJV) ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Ohh the releasing of power and faith and the strength that comes as Mary would not say, not so this can't be, instead her response is "here I am let it be according to your word Lord". And the releasing of that very statement by Mary let it be according to your word became the releasing of power and it became the releasing of peace that she could rest that God said what He said and he will do what He said when His timing determines it but for now here I am your maid servant completely yielded to you. Can you imagine the heart of God when He heard those words from Mary. Can you imagine the heart of God and how it moves and warms Him when we say the same type things here I am Lord your maid servant your man servant ready to do Your will, ready to be part of something great that You want to do and I just wait for You to do it

The Lord Declares what is Coming - (18:16-33)

Genesis 18:16 Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way.

Genesis 18:17 And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

Why in Same Chapter?

Why here in this same meeting? The chapter break is right because this is all the same scene as they came to Abraham's tent, dined and fellowshiped, revealed the promise to Sarah, and now are at the door of the tent on their way to leave, but still at Abraham's tent and in the presence of Abraham.

Chapter breaks in the Bible were put in by man so that we could reference and move through the scriptures and quote them for ease and although they were put in by man I say the men who were commissioned to do this did a great job for the most part and surely this was accurate in this chapter for sure.

- Chapter breaks in the Bible were created in the 13th century by Stephen Langton, an English cardinal and Archbishop of Canterbury. Langton's chapter divisions were widely adopted and became the standard used in nearly all modern Bible translations.
- Later, in the 16th century, a French printer named Robert Estienne (Stephanus) introduced the verse divisions we use today, first appearing in his 1551 edition of the Greek New Testament and fully applied in his 1555 Latin Bible.
- These divisions help with referencing but were not part of the original biblical manuscripts

But I find it interesting that the promise of Isaac and We know his name means laughter is in the same chapter in the same scene as the revelation of the destruction that is coming. Imagine after the Lord leaves Abraham and Sarah have tea and fellowship and They would discuss the promise that was just made in the mighty visitor and no doubt Ohh that was amazing. Ohh wow We had the vine guest for dinner now that's not something that happens every day and Ohh what a day it was. But somewhere Abraham would say in the midst of the joy and the laughter God told Me Sarah that He's not pleased with what's going on in Sodom their wickedness had come up before Him and He's come to do judgment against them. I interceded I know He's righteous, but I also know that He's holy and that He's serious.

Their conversation would be joyous but it would also have a period of somberness and especially our nephew he lives in that town, Abraham he knows some of the very lives that live in that town because he freed them in his daring special operations rescue and so he knows some of these very faces that he was interceding for.

Joyous with the goodness of God but somber speaking of how sin destroys. And I think it's a great demonstration that it's all in the same passage I think it's a demonstration for pastors and Christians alike that we can't just preach to feel good sections of the Bible but we also you have to preach the hard sayings as well. And there's a place for all of us who are hearers of the word of God to have ears to hear all of the word of God. I think Christians and pastors and churches they're afraid to teach the whole council of God because they're afraid people will be offended and leave.

I think the timing has a great message to us as well hey Sarah haven't forgot the promise of Isaac I know it's been such a long period of waiting for you I haven't forgotten my promise. And equally so his great patience and long-suffering with Sodom he hasn't forgot and because of time doesn't mean acceptance. the United States of America didn't apply that greatly today.

Genesis 18:18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Genesis 18:19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”

New Revelation / For Communication / To Teach the Kids

Abraham receives new information and revelation from the Lord. This information is given to him not for self-knowledge, but for outgoing communication. The Lord says I am going to tell Abraham what I am doing because he is a man who is going to teach his wife and children. Abraham gets new revelation and understanding of where God is going, and what He is going to do; let that sink in mom and dad, for when you do you will see God is looking to give you the revelation of where He is going, where He is moving, what He is doing, so that we might teach it to our kid. God is saying if you will be a teacher to your kids, I will constantly give you a fresh revelation from me.

Don't Let Sodom Into Culture Abraham

and God is telling Abraham I'm making a nation out of you and you're going to teach your sons and your sons are going to teach their sons and a great nation's going to arise and let this personal conversation that I'm having with you Abraham is that Sodom will never have any part and should never have any part of your nation and your family you have to tell them I forbid this. I've made them male and female and I've made marriage between a man and a woman and that intimacy is intended for the marriage bed only and I do not bend my law on that matter.

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Genesis 2:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

2 Corinthians 6:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." ¹⁷ Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." ¹⁸ "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Genesis 18:20 And the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,

Genesis 18:21 I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”

Judgement that is Earned

So, with the Lord saying I'm going to go down or send the angels down to investigate; obviously He can hear and internal laugh through a tent obviously He knows what's going on in Sodom as the wickedness has ascended. What He's saying is that he does not bring any type of judgment upon anyone without a thorough investigation and the fullness of what is warranted based on that investigation. And even as much He sends these two men (angels) down who are angels and the story that we read in chapter 19 confirms and convinces to us the state that Sodom was in. So if God had sent judgment before what we read in 19, we would always question what was what is their depravity. Why did this warrant such a response from the Lord and for us, we have no wonderment of why it is laid out in the story to prove why God did what he did

God is Holy

Look, listen..... God is holy.

Isaiah 59:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

Habakkuk 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV) ¹⁰ As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Day of Vengeance

God is holy, and His holiness brings judgement. The Word of God says God will have a “day of vengeance”. Some have a hard time with that statement, but only if they don’t recognize and accept that He is Holy (as well as loving). His holiness brings judgement, and His love traded places there on the cross to take the judgement, but the pardon for sin is an offer that must be received. Did you know there are actually accounts of people who refused a pardon from a Governor to be saved from the death penalty, but they actually said no and died by the law that sentence them to the death penalty. Amazing! Well as I only found a couple historical accounts of that, sadly the multitudes of people who reject Jesus offer of a pardon from sin are more than I will ever be able to number, and that is just today.

Isaiah 63:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— “I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.” ² Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? ³ “I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. ⁴ For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

The Holy Spirit

I also add to you an interesting thread of the Scriptures and we look Isaiah 63 in context, and we read of the work of the Holy Spirit to convince of the holiness of God and the judgment to come (John 16). But Isaiah unfolds for us that the pillar of fire and the cloud by day in the Israel 40 year wandering was actually the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 63 and Numbers 9). And that Israel “grieved” the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7–13 (NKJV) ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Isaiah 63:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the Angel of His Presence saved them; In His love and in His pity He redeemed them; And He bore them and carried them All the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.

Numbers 9:15–19 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. ¹⁸ At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey.

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Gospel of Good News

Now what is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that saves us, brings us a pardon from our sin against the holy God. We see the Gospel very clear and simple in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4:

- Jesus died for our sins (all are guilty – Romans 3:23) -
- Jesus was buried in the grave (our sin and judgement buried)
- Jesus rose again on the third day (sacrifice and substitution accepted)

1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (NKJV) ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Isaiah 53:5–12 (NKJV) ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalms 16:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. ¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Jonah 1:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:40 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Acts 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

It's a New Day

And we talked about Mary back in Luke 1, so while in the heart of that chapter what a beautiful word spoken regarding the remission (forgiveness, pardon) of sin. It speaks of the “Dayspring” (dawn, rising sun), it is a new day. It is a new day that brings us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Oh Praise the Lord!

Luke 1:76–79 (NKJV) ⁷⁶ “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, ⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, ⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; ⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Isaiah 9:2 (NKJV) ² The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

The Holy Spirit was There

Hey listen the Holy Spirit was there at creation, the Holy Spirit was there at the incarnation, the birth of Jesus, the life of Jesus with the teaching and the miracles of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was there at the cross, the Holy Spirit was there at the death and burial of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit was there for the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. That Holy Spirit was there to witness, and now testify all these things that I just said, as the Holy Spirit lives in us to testify of all these things and the Holy Spirit will flow from us when we speak and witness these things to the world. If we will let Him speak and just be the vessel that He will flow through it will be the Holy Spirit speaking through us and testifying of the power of God and of the love of God and of the gospel of God. We are not alone when we speak the gospel Jesus Christ.

Matthew 10:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Genesis 18:22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

Genesis 18:23 And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?"

Genesis 18:24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it?

Genesis 18:25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

Genesis 18:26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

God Tells Abraham and not Lot

Just an interesting note that what we see is the Lord appears to Abraham to engage and draw in the intercession and the interesting part about that is Lot is the one who is living in Sodom and the Lord doesn't approach him to engage him into the intercession.

And I think I see a really simple, base point of it all, when we read of Lot, he's sitting in the town square of Sodom. He's some man of recognition, man who finishes his work and then he moves on to sit in the town square as leader and recognized as authority, respect. But here's Abraham where's he sitting? He's just sitting in his tent in the cool of the day, the heat of the day trying to get cool. His wife's in the tent. He's just sitting and it's clear that he's available for the Lord to appear to him and speak to him..... and so too with us, just the word for us. do we sit and be still in a place where the Lord can appear to us and literally share his heart with us about the people and the culture and the day that we live?

Genesis 19:1 (NKJV) ¹ Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

Psalms 46:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Look at Heart of Abraham

God tells Abraham because God tells those that care because God knows those that care will do something about it and in this case Abraham is going to intercede for the people of Sodom. God tells people who care about those that are perishing because they may just get on a plane or cross the street we'll go to the park and share the gospel of Jesus Christ so that people can be saved. And look at this heart of Abraham the man that cares he's not owed to bad for them all as well for me he doesn't sit and go ohh they have it coming those wicked people. But look at his heart of Abraham he had great news for the day reaffirming and the joy that he and his wife can enjoy about the promise of their son Isaac but he doesn't sit there and go it's all about me his heart was for people as well as we see him having a heart to intercede not just for Lot but for the people of Sodom because he could have easily hit the Lot number he could have easily just said please protect a Lot but he's interceding for a whole city that they may not perish.

God tells Abraham because God tells the man or woman who cares and we'll do something whether that be intercession prayer or go in and tell someone the gospel that saves.

What can God tell you today Christian?

I'm thinking back in numbers 14 one of the greatest pictures of intercession in the Bible along with Abraham here is Moses interceding for the stiff necked people of Israel 2.5 million people who refused to go into the promised land for their lack of faith and Moses intercedes for them and God withholds judgment from them. Did Moses change God's mind absolutely not. God was prompting Moses because he was just looking for a reason to be merciful and that is the power of intercession prayer God won't violate people's free will but he will honor our heart as we intercede for those whose free will is offending and breaking God's holy law.

That is pure power.

Genesis 18:27 Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

Genesis 18:28 Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it."

Genesis 18:29 And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty."

Genesis 18:30 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."

Genesis 18:31 And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty."

Grace Displayed / Judgment Delayed by Abraham's Rescue

God came down, so that His grace may be displayed. God demonstrated His grace on the people of Sodom (Genesis 14) in that He gave Abraham and only 300 men a mighty victory over the kings that had taken them captive. God allowed Abraham to free them along with Lot, yet rather than repent, they continued in their sin. Maybe they repented for a while, but we see that Abraham didn't stop at 50, for he was unsure at that. He went all the way to 10, and that wasn't enough.

[Genesis 14:16 \(NKJV\)](#)¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

[Genesis 14:21 \(NKJV\)](#)²¹ Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

Genesis 18:32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

George Mueller

George Mueller the man of faith God raised up and used greatly as we read his life biography he's gone laid it on his heart to build orphanages in the past century and he was such a man of faith he would never ask anyone for a penny he would only ask God to provide. We shared the story before that they had no milk and he told all the orphans at breakfast go to the breakfast table and get your milk glasses out and let's pray. That sounds like absolute absurdity of course but as the story goes then I knock on the door it was a milkman who said my milk truck just broke down and all this milk is going to go sour by the time I can get someone out here to fix it so can you use all the milk that I currently have.

But George Mueller said he learned his power of prayer to be such a man of faith by reading genesis 18 and watching how Abraham interceded with the Lord and he used God's character to speak in the terms of intercession by asking God to fulfill his character. And he said he would pray continually and accordingly for all of his prayers reminding God of his word and his promises and he said that is what he felt was the power of intercessory prayer that he had and lived. And so too can we Christian

Genesis 18:33 So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Communing with God / God's Perspective

I like the KJV of this verse:

[\(Genesis 18:33 KJV\)](#) And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

Isn't it interesting of God's perspective of this meeting? God doesn't see this as Abraham trying to bargain Him down to 10. But God sees it as He met with a friend who was like-minded, who was concerned for the righteous and their well-being.

A Friend of God

Back in verse 23 - KJV, it says that Abraham drew near to God:

(Genesis 18:23 KJV) And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

Abraham is known as a friend to God:

(2 Chronicles 20:7 NKJV) "Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?"

(Isaiah 41:8 NKJV) "But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend."

(James 2:23 NKJV) And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

A Life Defined

Abraham's life was defined by pitching tents and building altars. Abraham knew this wasn't his home and kept a light touch on the things of the world. He would build altars to worship God, he knew that it was something about the lamb, placing it on the altar, that would bring him near the God that had called him out of Ur. Here we see the God he had sought to draw near to, was now communing with Him. They would have fellowship together, they would dine together, and God would share His heart with Abraham. Imagine Abraham as He would reflect on this, that God was sharing His heart with Him, that God trusted him enough with things of life and death. That God would consider him, a friend enough, to share things of this magnitude.

We Are A Friend of God

Today the Lord says to us:

(John 15:15 NKJV) "No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

Today the Lord is looking for people that are like-minded with Him, that draw near to Him, that He can call friend, so that He might give them fresh new revelations of Himself, so that they may commune together.

Back to the Tent

So back to the tent Abraham goes and I close with the thought did Abraham sit at the table and dine with the Lord in fellowship in 2000 years later God in the flesh, Jesus Christ will dine with his disciples as well. He is a God of intimacy the God of holiness but let's not miss God invites us to intimacy.

Revelation chapter 3 Jesus says I stand at the door knock and if anyone lets me in I will come and dine with him. I pray you have wonderful devotions with the Lord today tomorrow.

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Conclusion

Outline: Genesis 18

- The Lord Dines with Abraham - (18:1-8)
- The Lord Delights Sarah - (18:9-15)
- The Lord Declares what is Coming - (18:16-33)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 19

Title: God Knew Where to Find Lot

Summary: Although the focus of the chapter is on Sodom and Gomorrah, the chapter in whole tells a broader story that goes beyond just what the chapter is known for. It speaks of the warning to believers that even the righteous can compromise. But God knew where to find Lot, and us, and He comes, and He speaks to us (any and all who are willing to hear). Join us as we study this story that is both historical, and personally applicable.

Perfect love has written the Bible that we hold in our hands today.

Outline Genesis 19:

- God Knew Where to Find Lot (19:1-3)
- Blinded by the light (19:4-11)
- The Great Escape (19:12-17)
- It's Just a Little City (19:18-22)
- Don't Look Back (19:23-26)
- Prayer Worked (19:27-29)
- God Tells It Like It Is (19:30-38)

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God Knew Where to Find Lot (19:1-3)

Genesis 19:1 Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground.

Genesis 19:2 And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way." And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."

Genesis 19:3 But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

City Hall / Lot's Progression / Be careful For Us

Verse 1 - and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. The gate of the city was the equivalent to our "city hall" today.

What is says is that Lot had become a leader in the city, a sinful city. We have studied Lot's progression before, but lets recap it,

- It all started when he lifted his eyes and saw the lush green land before him (Gen 13:10). He didn't look up, to the Lord, he didn't consider how it would affect him or his family, but just how green it was. Again, be careful about that today, the jobs you take, or moving to an area where your spiritual life will be affected.
- Look at Lot. He looks at the lush land, then next we find him pitching his tent facing the land of Sodom (Gen 13:12),

- then next we find him living in the city of Sodom (Gen 14:12),
- and now here in chapter 19 we see him being a leader in this wicked and perverse city. And have no doubt about it, Lot was saved (2 Peter 2:7-8):

(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);

Did he just like sitting in the place of honor? Did he use it as a means to be recognized? Did he use it as mean to extend business? But here he is living out Psalm1 in the wrong direction.

Psalm 1:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

So the elders of the city would sit at the gate and so here we see Lot is one of the elders of the city; shortly they'll accuse him, are you to judge us and the reference is that Lot is a judge. In that time culture that if you had some dispute with another person, you would come to the judge, the outer at the city gate, and you would say, well, this is what happened. I loaned him my coat and when he returned my coat, uh, it was burned and because he got too close to the fire, I think he should replace the coat. And the other person says, not my fault that his coat's flammable should have told me before I borrowed it, and the outer would say well, here's what's the right thing to do, and then that's how it was to be settled. It might be a land issue. It might be a financial business decision. uh issue. And so we find a Lot. He's a leader. He's at the gate. He's passing judgment and making determination.

This makes me wonder what basis Lot used for his judgment. The whole city was wicked, unable to find ten righteous people despite having nearly 50% in his household. What did Lot rely on when he made decisions? Did he use God's innate moral standard in man, despite no evidence of it in the city's behavior? Did he try to convince them about God or tell stories like Melchizedek's? He wasn't preaching judgment because they laughed when he told them not to sin. It seems he didn't establish any standards they accepted.

Lot is in the wrong place.... God knew where to find him, and God still comes for him..... even in the midst of his wrong and compromise. God knows where you are you today, so why not just invite him in and have a conversation, especially if you are in the wrong place doing the wrong thing, in totally compromise.

Some Ponderings

All pondering questions that lead me to I do not see that Lot was the light in the darkness. Christian, in the workplace, school, ballfield, neighborhood – minister Light in the darkness.

Lot Strongly Insists

Verse 3 - Lot strongly insists. He doesn't explain why, but it's because he knows what would happen to these two men and that depravity of the city is probably very much what Peter in his second epistle is referring to when he speaks of righteous lot with a vexed soul continually that there's this moment that he becomes vexed, knowing what's coming. and he insists, but then it goes downhill from there as the story reads what he's going to say to do with his two daughters.

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God Doesn't Enter Sodom

Notice that the Lord Himself doesn't enter into Sodom and Gomorrah.

Nor – did the Lord evangelize Sodom

God's grace has expired; He will remove His righteous, and bring His judgment. So too will it be in the Tribulation Period.

Today we live in the period that is theologically called the "Dispensation of Grace". It is when all and any can come to God and be because of Jesus' finished work on the cross for the forgiveness of sin. But no man can come before God, until they first go through Jesus. The access to the throne of God can only come via the cross. If sinful man came into the presence of the Holy God without first be cleansed of their sin, then they would immediately be consumed by His Holiness, because His Holiness must consume any and all impurity before Him. This is important to understand theologically; even in the period of the Dispensation of Grace, man has no personal fellowship or relationship with God until they first accept Jesus as their Savior from the judgment of their sin. In layman terms, unsaved people don't have a relationship with Him. Unsaved people cannot have a conversation of prayer with God, for if they could, His purity would have to consume them. In His grace He turns His face and ear from them: *(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?*

(Isaiah 59:1 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. (Isaiah 59:2 NKJV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

The End of His Mercy / Rescued but no Repentance

God does not enter Sodom, God's mercy has now come to its end, and now it is time for God's judgement. I again remind you, God miraculously rescued all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah through Abraham and his 300 men, He freed them from the 4 Kings that had taken them captive (Genesis 14), yet they did not repent, they had 13-24 years to repent, they did not turn God's grace and mercy into a relationship of love and obedience.

Blinded by the light (19:4-11)

Genesis 19:4 Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house.

Genesis 19:5 And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."

Holy Spirit was There

So we're going to study today and I'm going to teach on I remind of that the Holy Spirit was there witnessed all these things. The Holy Spirit second three inspired recording of what we read right now. The Holy Spirit was heir to witness, and I pray now will testify this is what I saw. This is why God did what he did. And I don't think you can get a better source than an eyewitness account of the Holy Spirit, God, what he saw and now what he writes and what he's trying to convey to us

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Look at the Perversion / Gang Rape / Death

Look at the perversion of this city. It says both young and old the youth were raised up in this perversion. Tell me that morals can't be passed on to our youth, whether good or bad. Notice also that this isn't homosexuality that is feminine, but one that is animalistic. This is gang rape, unrestrained perversion. As I look at the amount of men wanting to rape these two men, I have to be led to think that the two angels (had they been men) would not have survived the repeated raping and sodomy. The wording also leads me to believe that others from the city (women) came to watch - this city was rotted all the way through.

Romans 1 Debased Mind

We have both young and old, totally out of their mind. This is the debased mind (void & worthless, corrupted) that is spoken of in Romans 1.

Romans 1:26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

Romans 1:27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Some will say it's just natural it feels natural but the word of God will always reign supreme as Romans one says it is unnatural in regards to homosexuality

Where Wrong in the Scriptures / Genesis 2 – the Model

The question can be asked, show me in the Scriptures where God says homosexuality is wrong up to this point. How did they know it was wrong, and why should they be judged for it. We need to go back to Genesis 2:23-24, and it is there we see God's model for intimate relations:

(Genesis 2:23 NKJV) And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."

(Genesis 2:24 NKJV) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

(Genesis 2:25 NKJV) And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Law Written on Heart

God writes His law on every man/woman heart

Romans 2:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

Even Lot was Blinded

Lets not miss, that even Lot was blinded by the light (the light of wealth, and comfort, and ease, and recognition), but the Lord knew where to find him and rescue him; and he will to all who are willing to heed His voice, and escape that which blinds.

Genesis 19:6 So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him,

Genesis 19:7 and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!

Genesis 19:8 See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."

Genesis 19:9 And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

V7 – Sad Statement - Brethren

Verse 7 - and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!" One of the saddest statements in the Scriptures, Lot calls these wicked and perverse men - brother. I by no means am saying he should call them wretched dirt bags, but his calling them brethren shows how they brought him down to their level, instead of Lot bringing them up to the level he should have been at.

Lot / Defile Daughters but not my Name / Moral Compass Broken

Lot says go ahead and do to my daughters as you would. Rape them, defile them, do your horrible deeds to them, but don't these men and disgrace my name.....brothers. Lot's moral compass is broken, and we will see that not only can he not lead himself, nor his family, he can't lead the lost unto salvation.

Lot was Blinded

Lot himself is blinded by the light of greed of foolishness, it's not even a word that I can gather to explain how any father any man could offer such a thing can to know what would become of them He's blinded because he spent too much time in Sodom. He's numbed. If I was to say that he said at the gate and tried to witness that would hold up until I got to this verse to which I would just have to come and go. I see nothing of strength. Nothing of spirituality to the living God who rescued him up there and day and maybe 20 years prior But he's forgotten who can deliver. So he tries to use his means that he be willing to sacrifice these two daughters. Lots blinded as well as these men and boys grasping, trying to find the door rather than trying to turn and go home and just say, this is a bad scene. I'm out of here. But instead, they're trying to push through. whole story. Just shocking.

Genesis 19:10 But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door.

Genesis 19:11 And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

Talk About Consumed Mind / Christian Risk it All

Talk about blindness, talk about a mind consumed with perversion, they couldn't even see yet rather than go home, their perverted sexual desire would keep them feeling around in an attempt to satisfy their lust. Reading this we say how sick they must have been, but a step back and we see that many Christians themselves do things as foolish. There are Christians willing to risk marriage and family for a moment's pleasure, we see Christians willing to risk their salvation for a lifestyle of fornication. They are willing to risk that they are right about once-saved always-saved, in order to satisfy their sexual appetite. As a teacher of the Word of God, I cannot guarantee that person that they are guaranteed eternal life with God in heaven. There are too many Scriptures that support both side of the argument that all I can tell them is the guaranteed way - repent!

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Such were Some of You – You Can Change

1 Corinthians 6, but such were some of you God's declaring I can change you so if you're here you're reading this. You're listening to this. You're watching this and you can say I can't change. historically the New Testament version of this chapter in Genesis is the city of Corinth and yet they committed their life to Christ and he changed their life and he gave them the power to live an obedient and faithful life to what God called him doesn't mean it'll be without temptation and struggle for he who began a good work will be faithful to complete it, but it surely means God has the power to change you if you're in this place today and it all starts with the first step given your life to Jesus Christ. asking for the forgiveness of sin transferring your guilt unto him, letting him take the punishment thereupon the cross, and then he will say, to those who will be disciples, followers of him to pick up your cross now and follow him. He's done the sacrifice part. Now we do the discipleship following part. Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life and the promise of acts 3:19. Repent means to turn, be converted, means to change from an old to anew. that your sins may be washed away. It means to be made cleansed and new for the forgiveness of sin.

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

The Great Escape (19:12-17)

Genesis 19:12 Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place!

Genesis 19:13 For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”

Genesis 19:14 So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

Other Sons & Daughters

Some take this to mean that Lot had other children and that he went out and talked to his son-in-laws and they take it that he was therefore had others daughters who were already married, not counting these daughters who were the virgins in the house, but I don't necessarily think that, I believe more so that they were betrothed and they would have been marrying these daughters, as was the custom of the culture within the next year period. And therefore he went out and he talked to the son-in-laws. They thought he was joking, but notice there's no conversation that he went and talked to his his daughters if they were the ones already married to these men. Therefore, I don't necessarily think that they had multiple daughters. I think it's just these two that we are see in this story. Joseph was betrothed to Mary, but scriptures call him her husband

Matthew 1:18–19 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

No Witness / Parents Must Remain Consistent

The reference to son-in-laws could refer to Lot's other married daughters (if he had them), or most likely, this refers to the same two daughters that were being offered, and they were betrothed to be married.

In any case they laugh at him, thought he was joking. Lot had no witness, no credibility before his family. Dad's our children cannot see inconsistency in us, we must stay solid, live a continual witness before them. As for Lot, he allowed what was culturally acceptable to creep into his life, his moral compass was broke, and he lost his witness, how sad. Let us learn from Lot.

Genesis 19:15 When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, "Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city."

Genesis 19:16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Genesis 19:17 So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Escape the Mts / Mount Moriah

Escape to the mountains: a picture for us today, for all who will escape God's judgment, His wrath to come, you must go to the mountain, Mount Moriah, Calvary. It is there and there only that you will find safety. The mountain demonstrated both God's love, and His wrath. The wrath of sin before a Holy God, and the love of a God who would take man's wrath for that sin, to all who will receive place their hand upon the Lamb and transfer their guilt and shame upon Him.

Our Intercession – Is for More Time

I think there's a place of clarity for understanding. God tells those that care so that they might intercede. yes, the intercession can stay hold off, hold back, a judgment that's due more time to repent. And I think there was a time for the people of Sodom to recognize the situation they were in after they were taken captive by the four kings. and the five kings Sodom being one, couldn't protect them, and it was Abraham with 318 of his servants is what would set them free, yet in the end, they all go back. They all willingly go back. It's bewildering why you would go back. knowing that you weren't in a secure place, but they did because they loved their sin.

And again for the clarity has been said Abraham should've went lower than 10 and if you follow that logic out, then it was really Abraham's fault that the judgment came and we know that everyone pays their own wages when it comes to sin. Roman 6:23, the wages of the sin is death, the gift of God is eternal life. Psalm 49 says, no man can redeem his brother nor give a ransom. So when we consider those things it's not that Abraham intercession failed and therefore the judgment came rather what we see is,

God shares his heart with someone who cares, who will intercede, do something, I believe clearly it can delay a judgment, but ultimately there is a judgment to come, for those that don't redeem that delay that's been offered to them, but also the point of the intercession is that God is making the absolute clarity, the judgment came because there was not found 10. If there was over 10, if it was 10 and 11, God would had to stay his judgment, but the fact that there wasn't even 10 in this multitude is a declaration, so there's no misunderstanding of the unrighteousness and the wickedness and the depravity that was in Sodom and Gomorrah, that's the ultimate moral of the story. because if we did not have that story of intercession, and we simply went from the tent or the promise of the child, and then we didn't have the rest of those verses of intercession and we went right in to chapter 19 We'd all be wondering. Wow. What was that all about? Wow. God has snapped to judgment. Wow. Could God have a bad day? And just on a turn on a dime and bring judgment? If that be the case, if we didn't have the second half of chapter 18, I think all of us could sit here today and go, could that happen today? Could it happen to me? Could it happen in a snap of a moment and all of us can sit here and go, no, this story tells us of his patience, of how he would love to delay it even longer but the fullness had come, and now the time had come

Psalm 49:7 (NKJV) ⁷ None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him—

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

It's Just a Little City (19:18-22)

Genesis 19:18 Then Lot said to them, "Please, no, my lords!

Genesis 19:19 Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die.

Amazing Lot / Lingers - Questions / The World Clouds the Spirit

Lot amazes me. These two angels yank him out before destruction, and then he disagrees with them and questions their direction of where he should go from there. Back in verse 16 it says he lingered there, unto the point the angels had to grab his hands and his families and lead them, maybe even drag them, out of the city. Destruction is coming, yet he lingers. Destruction is coming, yet he is questioning the mountains are the best place for him. Truly Amazing. Gang, don't spend time in the world, and you will constantly be missing the Lord's spiritual guidance, and you will constantly be questioning God's Word.

Just Like Lot / Saved - Questioning / New Believer take Note

But I shouldn't be that amazed with Lot, for I see a lot of me, in Lot. How many good words the Lord has given me, and I end up questioning if that is the best for me. Lot got the first part - finally, ok got to go, but then he questions the second part - I don't know about the mountain thing. I remember when I totally got the meaning of the cross, I was walking on a cloud, saved from destruction and I knew it. But then came the second part, what's that, quit the party scene. I'm not sure I like that part, not sure if I agree with that interpretation. Does that really apply to me, and then the reasoning and the negotiations begin, I/Lot we are going to find something more suitable to our lifestyle. I'm going to be saved from destruction, but still live my old lifestyle. Lot was a city boy; he didn't want to go live in no mountain, so he is going to say how about this city over here. New believer, salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you your life. Trust me/us, the second part through the millionth part is just as perfect and true as the first part; here is how you escape the destruction, and here is how I want you to live, for I only want the best for you.

So Lot begins negotiations, we have all been there.

Genesis 19:20 See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live."

Genesis 19:21 And he said to him, "See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken.

Genesis 19:22 Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there." Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Just a Little City / Little Detour / The Struggle

Lot says it is just a little city, a little-whittle city, send me there. It's just a little detour from where you told me to go God. So funny, right now as I study this passage I am being pulled to go "relax" and watch a little television. All day I've just want to check-out and have a no brainer, but all day God has been calling to me, come spend some time with me in the word and prayer. He was calling me out for some sweet one on one time. But I found that struggle going on, ok I'll just cruise the news for 15 minutes, its just a little time Lord, a little -whittle time. But I know it won't be for a few minutes, I app surf for 30 minutes, then the next thing you know it is 10 o'clock, bedtime. The Lord said Ray, come on up to the mountain, spend time away with me:

(Isaiah 56:7 NKJV) Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

Lot Went Where he Thought Safe / Nicaragua / In God's Will

Lot went to where he thought he would be comfortable, it would be safer. Believer the safest place in the world, is where God has called you to be. Someone asked me if I am worried about the dangers of Nicaragua, I told them I would be more worried about being someplace where I am out of God's will. I know it is God's will for me to be

there, therefore I can rest and relax in that, no matter what happens. God told me to go, and for me to know to do good and not do it, now that would be sin, and then I would need to worry.

Don't Look Back (19:23-26)

Genesis 19:23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar.

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

Genesis 19:25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

Cities of the Plain

Sodom and Gomorrah were ancient cities mentioned in the Old Testament, known for their notorious wickedness. They were part of the "cities of the plain," which also included Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar (Bela). These cities were believed to be located near the Dead Sea, possibly now covered by its shallow waters. According to biblical accounts, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with "brimstone and fire" due to their sinfulness, an event estimated to have occurred around 1900 BC. This destruction may have been caused by a geological upheaval, possibly an earthquake accompanied by the ignition of petroleum and gases in the area. Before their destruction, the region was described as fertile and well-watered

Dead Sea / Waste Land / Life is a Vapor

Sodom and Gomorrah, the region known today as the Dead Sea, also called the Salt Sea by the people who live in the land. If you travel to Israel and see the area, you will see that the area is very dry and arid. The Dead Sea is so full of salt that nothing can survive in it. Imagine that at one point, it was lush and beautiful, so beautiful it drew Lot right in. Then in one evening it was turned into wasteland, and so it still is today. The world, our life, is just a vapor, and it fading away. Lot invested his whole life in Sodom, and then it all went up in smoke. The statistics are in, 10 out of every 10 people, will die, what are you investing in:

(James 4:14 NKJV) whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Trinitite

Trinitite is a glassy substance formed from sand and soil exposed to extreme heat, originally discovered at the Trinity nuclear test site in New Mexico[1][2]. It has also been found at archaeological sites such as Tall el-Hammam (TeH), where pieces of pottery were melted into glass on one side, identified as trinitite through blind testing at the U.S. Geological Survey Laboratory[3][4]. The formation of trinitite requires temperatures exceeding 6,000 degrees Celsius, indicating an incredibly violent destruction event[3][4]. The Trinity nuclear test in 1945 created a green, glass-like substance at ground zero, covering an area approximately 400 yards in radius[1][2]. Trinitite has become a symbol of nuclear testing and its environmental impact, with some writers and researchers drawing parallels between irradiated landscapes and the effects of nuclear weapons on human bodies and ecosystems[5].

- [1] Garrett, B. C. (2017). Historical Dictionary of Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- [2] Gregory, T. (2020). Meteorite: How Stones from Outer Space Made Our World (p. 257). Basic Books.
- [3] Graves, D. E. (2018). The Location of Sodom: Key Facts for Navigating the Maze of Arguments for the Location of the Cities of the Plain (Second Edition, p. 151). Electronic Christian Media.
- [4] Graves, D. E. (2018). Biblical Archaeology: An Introduction with Recent Discoveries That Support the Reliability of the Bible (Vol. 1, p. 142). Electronic Christian Media.
- [5] Ach, J., Reger, G., Ach, J., Barrera, C., Broglio, R., Dawes, J., Formisano, P., Grover, Q., Hamilton, A. T., Hernandez, Z. R., Lynch, T., Matsunaga, K., Osuna, C., Reger, G., & Richard, H. J. (2020). Reading Aridity in Western American Literature. Lexington Books.

Genesis 19:26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Longing

The word here for “looking” is to look with a longing. I believe she looks back longing, and therefore it adds that I don’t think Lot and wife had other sons and daughters, because if that was so I would be looking back as well to see if they changed their mind and were coming. And the fact that Jesus references her in Luke 17 as an example of loving the world, confirms to me she is longing for the life of ease in Sodom. Ezekiel tells us it was a life of plenty.

[Ezekiel 16:49–50 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴⁹ Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. ⁵⁰ And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit.

Not Looking in Curiosity / Heart Never Left

It wasn't a look back in curiosity of what was happening, but a looking back in longing. She loved Sodom, she probably was well respected there because of Lot, because he sat at the gate of the city, a leader in prominent position. She was probably a member of the country club, the sewing club, and the Shakespeare club, maybe even a religious club. Her heart was in Sodom, her body walked out, but her heart never left. She was still wanting to be a part of Sodom and all her luxuries.

It's an obvious observation. It's the most commented observation that Lot's wife was still had a heart back in Sodom. She had a divided heart, but I think one of the biggest takeaways I see is that her husband and daughters are in front of her. They're heading out of Sodom. She's lagging and lingering behind and then eventually looks back longingly to what she's leaving, but how significant it is to me that she's looking back at Sodom and not forward to her husband and children in the care and concern of their wellbeing in a place. I'm just happy that I'm escaping and I get to keep this relationship with my husband and my daughter's. So she's not looking what is her future, but she's looking at what is to her not going to be in her future and the riches and wealth of Sodom as we know from Ezekiel of how wealthy and ease of life it was there Sodom.

She Didn't Believe God's Word

She didn't believe God at His Word:

[\(Genesis 19:17 NKJV\)](#) So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Fail to believe His Word, and you will lose, it is a guarantee. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible, and so Jesus gives us the clear word on what is going on in her heart by saying remember Lot's wife" (just one clear verse I might add), and don't lose your spiritual life for this worldly life.

[\(Luke 17:28 NKJV\)](#) "Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

[\(Luke 17:29 NKJV\)](#) "but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

[\(Luke 17:30 NKJV\)](#) "Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

[\(Luke 17:31 NKJV\)](#) "In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back.

[\(Luke 17:32 NKJV\)](#) "**Remember Lot's wife.**

[\(Luke 17:33 NKJV\)](#) "Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.

Looking Back Will Paralyze You

Desiring to look back on the old life will paralyze you, looking back will keep you from progressing

[\(Luke 9:61 NKJV\)](#) And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house."

[\(Luke 9:62 NKJV\)](#) But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Prayer Worked (19:27-29)

Genesis 19:27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD.

Genesis 19:28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

Genesis 19:29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

God Remembered Abraham – The Sweetness of Communing with God

And I love just a beautiful phrase and God remembered Abraham and therefore that's why he remembered Lot He doesn't address that and God remembered Lot. Of course he did. There's a poetic word that's being spoken of as God remembered the sweetness of the fellowship that he had with Abraham, and Abraham's intercession for Sodom for the people that he knew of Sodom because he met them when he rescued them. And of course, the tenderness that Abraham's heart was to his nephew Lot. And there's just a sweetness in this story of God remembered the sweet communion that he had with Abraham talking about Lot. And he came up before Him during this whole event.

And I think there's something we can all rest in be blessed by, be warmed and be energized by Those people that we love and we intercede for in our heart is moved for, and then we go and we talk to the Lord about it, and we commune together, our hearts for the people that He loves and we love, because He loves them more than we do, but He loves it when we love him. And we have this sweet communion, and God's remembering the communion that he had with lot, and the honors it. I don't know the depths of it. Yeah, it's beyond me. But I know I can't tread to however, deep this goes.. because it's way over me, I sink in the love of God and warmed that I get to have this fellowship with him in this intimacy in the place of prayer intercessor prayer.

Lot Devastated / Abraham Not

Lot and wife were devastated over the destruction of Sodom, but as for Abraham I am sure He was sad for the people, but not for the material loss, for Abraham's life was defined by two things, he pitched tents and built altars. Abraham had not invested a dime in Sodom, and when judgement came it did not disturb him because there was nothing in Sodom that attracted him.

Remembered Abraham / Power of Intercession / Lot Woke Up

God remembered Abraham, the man who had a heart like the Father, a man that would intercede on behalf of man, and God rescued Lot. You parents with wayward children, for every one of us who have loved ones who we just don't know about.....God remembered Abraham! Your prayers are heard, God lays them upon your heart so that you may intercede for them when they are to weak or blinded to do so for themselves, so that He may pour His love out upon them. Intercessory prayer is something I don't understand, it just something I am thankful for. God remembered Abraham, and when it was time for Lot to wake up, he did. Never, never give up on that person, and heed this story that God is merciful; more merciful than our finite minds will ever know.

Living in the State of Hope

If we don't live in the state of hope, we will be hopeless, and though we see those around us rejecting breaking our hearts perishing, yet we still need to embrace the hope that God will break through, our intercession. It's a privilege to be part of it that God would share His heart and His burden with us, but even in the end, it doesn't come down to us. We just get the joy of being part of it. We get the hope that we're talking and that He hears but in all, we have to approach hope or else we'll be hopeless.

Zoar – Spared

Speaking of Abraham's intercessory prayer that said if there was 10 would you spare the city and God said if there's ten I will spare the city and the fact is Zoar is spared so it must mean there were seven other righteous people in the city of Zoar and that made 10, so Abraham's prayer did work. If God spared Lot because He had sympathy on Lot, He could have just done the same at Sodom like He did Zoar.

[**Genesis 18:32 \(NKJV\)**](#)³² Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

God Tells It Like It Is (19:30-38)

Genesis 19:30 Then Lot went out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave.

Life Caves In

So now Lot heads for the hills, not to seek the Lord, but out of fear. He dwells in a cave, and then things are going to start caving in for him.

Lot has nothing and ends in a cave, he parted from Abraham because of his great wealth and it started this whole projection that brings him all the investment into the things of the world and here they are gone in a moment lost his wife as well because he went to Sodom but even sadly though he still has his daughters but we see him with nothing

Genesis 19:31 Now the firstborn said to the younger, "Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth.

Genesis 19:32 Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

Upheaval / DANGER

Lots life had just been thrown into an upheaval. In one day he lost all his wealth, his home, his wife, maybe other children, his position of prominence in the city, all gone in one day. And now after all this, a time when he could seek the Lord on the mountain top, draw near to God and have God draw near to him; but what does he do? He draws near to alcohol. Dangerous, dangerous, dangerous. How many times I have watched Christians come upon hard times, and rather than turn to God, they turn to drugs or alcohol (some turn to sex). Christians when hard times come, don't put yourself in a cave, in the darkness, get out of the cave and up to the mountain top. If you stay in the cave then depression will follow, and then the alcohol and drugs will be there to make matters worse. How could it get any worse for Lot, well here it is.

Genesis 19:33 So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Genesis 19:34 It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, "Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father."

Genesis 19:35 Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

Genesis 19:36 Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.

Genesis 19:37 The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

Genesis 19:38 And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

Education of Daughters / No Mountain Top

Lot chose to live in Sodom, and here we see the education that his daughters received there coming out. If the girls would have left the cave and went to the mountain top, then they could have seen it wasn't as hopeless as they thought, for there god could have spoken to them that Uncle Abraham was just over the hill, they could have had husbands and children from his sons and they would have been in the same family line.

Here again with these two daughters, you were just led out by the hand two angels miraculously delivered and now here you are thinking that you need to figure something out on your own that he's not the same god that delivered you out of Sodom that can't be the God who delivers you out of the barren situation you're in. And I think there's a place for us God rescues us out of the world. And then we get in this world place we feel barren and we're like I got to figure something out because it doesn't seem like God can figure it out and as we call it the mess of the flesh.

Immoral Decision / Fueled by Alcohol

They came to their own immoral decision, but ultimately we have to look at Lot, and see the damage he cause his family by taking them down into such a wicked and perverse city. And to make matters worse, he lets the alcohol have its way with him, and allows him to be brought into this sordid story.

The Moabites and the Ammonites would become perpetual enemies of Israel as we will read throughout the OT.

Ruth a Moabitess

And so as we read here now the origin of the Moabites and the Ammonites. And stories we will be reading through the Old Testament, the oppression, the immorality, the leading into idolatry and these type of stories that we read about them to come. It's not good. It will always be an oppression and hardship that these two nations born out of these two women will bring upon the nation of Israel. And so the constant thorn, and here is its origin. And yet as I read the word Moab, I think of the Moabites all that history as hard and harsh as it is, my heart becomes warm because I remember and I think of the one Moabite who comes out of this nation and her name is Ruth. It's the story of Ruth. She will be in the lineage to the Messiah. She will be a great, great great. She will be the wife who marries Boz. It's just one of the ultimate most beautiful stories in all the Bible. And here we have this story yet only in God's economy can He take and turn ashes into beauty

Ruth 1:4 (NKJV)⁴ Now they took wives of the women of Moab: the name of the one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth. And they dwelt there about ten years.

Matthew 1:5–6 (NKJV)⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife of Uriah*.

No one has to live the destiny of their lineage and heritage. No one has to live in the shadow of their lineage and heritage and Ruth is the story that declares that with the a great exclamation

Lot a Righteous Man – But Still Compromise – Seek First

Yet, God calls this man righteous, because even through it all, he still believed that God would make him righteous through His work, and not Lot's

(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

You can be righteous and still compromise so there's something in this chapter that truly speaks to all of us. You can be righteous and still be in the world, even though you're not

The theme we have looked at for the last two chapters righteousness and unrighteousness, and as we close and we see Lot has lost it all It makes me think of Matthew 6:33 seek first the king of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you and I would just encourage may we not compromise for the things of the present may we seek first beyond what the world says is foremost May we seek first the kingdom of God and is righteousness and in the promise of God will fulfill itself fully in your life all these things will be added unto you. God will provide your need

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Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

God is forewarning..... this day will come again, so how then should we live?

2 Peter 3:8–9 (NKJV)⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:10–13 (NKJV)¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God,

because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

His love is amazing, He is a merciful, gracious God, who loves you, and considers you righteous in His sight.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 20

Title: Written for Our Example

Summary: In our study Abraham will repeat the same failing of faith that he did almost 25 years prior. We can poke at the Father-of-Faith and ask how could you? But the Lord reminds us that these Old Testament stories were written as examples for us. So here we find several examples “for us”, and in each of them we will explore if we too are repeating the same failings time and time again..... and maybe not even realize that we are.

Outline: Genesis 20

Not Again (20:1-2)

- Yet There I am Again and Again

But God Came (20:3-6)

- He Sees You Woman

God has a Prophet Problem (20:7-8)

- But He is Still God

Because I Thought (20:9-13)

- Rather Than Sought

But We Can Still Pray (20:14-18)

- Even After a Bad Witness

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Not Again (20:1-2)

- **Yet There I am Again and Again**

Genesis 20:1 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar.

Genesis 20:2 Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Here We Go Again

I thought we covered this already ohh yes we did and so here we are once again.

Genesis 12:10-13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, “Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. ¹² Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, ‘This is his wife’; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you.”

Would have loved to know the formula of the facial cream Sarah was using; 90 years old and still have to worry about this.

A Border Town

Gerar was an ancient city located in the southern border of Canaan, in the western Negev region. It is situated between Gaza and Beersheba, approximately 15 miles northwest of Beersheba and 12 miles southeast of Gaza

Why Go There

We're not sure why Abraham would go down to Gerar; maybe left the region because there literally was some fallout smoke and sulfur smell up the whole land made it hard to breathe. Maybe he didn't want to see the memory; whatever the case Abraham is on the move and moving in the wrong direction.

But he knew going down there that it was entering into a place this came with great risk and he took his wife and his servants and their kids and teenagers and he goes to a place that's just he knows is not a good place and yet he still enters into it.

Not to mention above all he is putting in jeopardy the promise of the Messiah would come through him and Sarah together.

The Prudent Man

The prudent man flees from trouble.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; The simple pass on and are punished.

Abraham gets as close to the world as possible he's down here at the border town dangerous town we lay a lot on the lot pitching his tent toward Sodom I'm wondering if we have the same story here the day Abraham pitched his tent towards Gerar and then next thing you know he's in Gerar. Lots of people they want to live as close to the world as possible and they get to the border town rather than living as far away from the world as possible and therefore many people find themselves being drawn back into the world because they were living way too close to it and for some just on the border and for some 1 foot in and one foot out but eventually you can't live like that long without being taken in.

The Father-of-Faith brought His Faults into the Marriage

Let me say that to any married or looking to be married when you become married, Abraham is the father of faith, He does great exploits of faith and that cannot be denied, but what also cannot be denied is that he had his faults and his failings.

He brought them into his relationships and very specifically the relationship with his wife. And I say to those that are married, you can be married to a wonderful person of faith, but they're still going to have their faults and their failings. And you can't put upon them the expectation of perfection but of course there should always be the striving and the pointing and the seeking to walk in the faith in the Lord, the ways of the Lord seeking first the king of God and his righteousness, which will should lead you to seeking first of what's best for my spouse and my children and putting yourself last, but of course, everybody in the family needs to do that or else things get out of the whack as some people just want to receive rather than give. But the father of faith had his faults and his failings, and so too, will that person that you're married to or will be married to someday And so keep that in the perspective when those days come that just aren't good days in the home in the marriage in the family.

FB Myers

FB Myers says the best of men are men at best.

But God Came (20:3-6)

- **He Sees You**

Genesis 20:3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

Genesis 20:4 But Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a righteous nation also?"

Genesis 20:5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she, even she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this."

Genesis 20:6 And God said to him in a dream, "Yes, I know that you did this in the integrity of your heart. For I also withheld you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her."

Touch Her- Sin Against Me

Hmm catch this if you touch her, you're sinning against God is the very word the Lord says. That's good word for anybody who wants to touch one of God's daughters it's not yours to touch.

Sarah means Princess. That would make her the King's daughter.

I think the first time we read this story it was shocking and to read it again makes it twice as shocking. We focus on Abraham and his lack of faith for right now I want to focus on Sarah what it must have been like for her to be put into this situation again what does it feel like to her what does it mean into her that her husband would take his personal protection over her protection putting her in this vulnerable place for the sake of his safety.

Of course, we see that God sees women it's a beautiful picture he saw Hagar and he saw the heartache he sees the woman at the well he sees the woman with hands full of rocks ready to stone her, and He see Sarah and once again he protects her

I knew I'd have to teach chapter 19. and I knew it would come with warfare because of the cultural sensitivity that it brings to day but I almost missed how much the devil would have loved for me to just relax and not lean hard in the calling on the Lord, seeking the Lord, asking his heart on the matter of chapter 20 because it could be so easy just to hammer away at Abraham the whole chapter. Shake head in disbelief make some jokes and pokes at him and a few of these things here and there, but God is so good revealed that Satan hates this chapter because he doesn't want it to be discussed to be addressed. about speaking about when a woman is in a hard relationship.

How do we address women of not being treated right by the man they are in a relationship with whether married or dating. I think one of the dangers here for Sarah is it this is how Abraham is, this is who Abraham is this is what Abraham does she has reached the point that this just now seems normal. And I pray that the Holy Spirit would speak to the woman he sees today that maybe you're not being treated right and you've been mistreated so long you just think that it's normal maybe you're even in a place that you don't even recognize it anymore because it has become such a part of your everyday life that you think this is how life is.

Let me address the women who are unmarried and are in a dating relationship and he doesn't treat you right he doesn't speak to you right he has his moments of course but you overlook a lot of things because you think maybe they'll change or you look over a lot of things because you think maybe when you get married things will be better;

Daughter of God, my precious sister, listen to the still small voice, and leave and when he's ready to become the man of God then just maybe there may be something there, but until he's ready to be the man of God separate because you are God's treasure and you should be treated like a treasure.

Psalm 81:10 – Open Thy Mouth Wide & I Will Fill It

And if you're the man and that voice of God is speaking to you, stop. recognize that it's you and there's something about you that hasn't been broken or yielded to the Lord that needs to be dealt with that you would seek the Lord above all things get on your knees and cry out to him change me, lord, make me the man o God make me the husband of God that you desire me to be

There's a beautiful promise in Psalm 81. where the Lord says, open thy mouth wide, and I shall fill it. God's promising the children of Edri Israel, I brought you out of Egypt. I'm taking you into the promised land, open thy mouth wide. I'm going to feed you. I'm going to give you all that you could ever ask for. You need only step in faith and walk the life of faith and obedience, and I look at these things and I just say for us live like the purchase price.

May we live like the purchase that we are infinite I value that can't be placed cause the price of the purchase for us was the very blood and life of God. Ask Him, God make me the man of God You desire me to be!

Psalm 81:10 (NKJV)¹⁰ *I am the LORD your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt; Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.*

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)²⁰ *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV)¹⁸ *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,* ¹⁹ *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

Psalm 81:16 – Honey from the Rock

Psalm 81 ends with the beautiful word I'd give you honey from the rock. Only God could bring honey out of a rock. Only God could bring oil out of a rock. Only God could bring water out of a rock. He speaks his promise. of what he can do and what is the impossible situation and maybe you feel your heart is hard as a rock, maybe you feel you're as callous as a rock that this is so hard there's a rock of a ceiling that you can't break through, but there's a God who can bring honey, oil and water from a rock, and he can break forth and break through all these things in your life because we're told in 1 Corinthians that Jesus is the rock. that's what breaks forth and just call upon him and say Jesus break forth in my life take me out of this hardness that I am. I know that I'm doing wrong, and I want to do right. Please break through Lord and make me the man O' God you desire me to be

Psalm 81:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; And with honey from the rock I would have satisfied you."*

Job 29:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *When my steps were bathed with cream, And the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!*

Exodus 17:6 (NKJV) ⁶ *Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink."* And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Numbers 20:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ *Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.*

1 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

Don't be Unequally Yoked – You will Lose Ground

Don't be unequally yoked.

2 Corinthians 6:14–16 (NKJV)¹⁴ *Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?* ¹⁵ *And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?* ¹⁶ *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

Reminds me of the daughters of Zelophehad. They didn't want to lose ground

Numbers 27:1–4 (NKJV)¹ *Then came the daughters of Zelophehad the son of Hephher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, from the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph; and these were the names of his daughters: Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.* ² *And they stood before Moses, before Eleazar the priest, and before the leaders and all the congregation, by the doorway of the tabernacle of meeting, saying:* ³ *"Our father died in the wilderness; but he was not in the company of those who gathered together against the LORD, in company with Korah, but he died in his own sin; and he had no sons.* ⁴ *Why should the name of our father be removed from among his family because he had no son? Give us a possession among our father's brothers."*

"You've raised a valid point," Moses said to the leaders of Manasseh. "And here is what the Lord says: If a woman receives the inheritance of her father, she can marry whoever she wants as long as she marries within her tribe."

This is an important principle, for as we come to the final chapter of the Book of Numbers, the final word is simply this: **Marry within your tribe or you'll lose ground.**

Numbers 36:2–3 (NKJV)² *And they said: "The LORD commanded my lord Moses to give the land as an inheritance by lot to the children of Israel, and my lord was commanded by the LORD to give the inheritance of our brother Zelophehad to his daughters.* ³ *Now if they are married to any of the sons of the other tribes of the children of Israel, then their inheritance will be taken from the inheritance of our fathers, and it will be added to the inheritance of the tribe into which they marry; so it will be taken from the lot of our inheritance.*

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? 2 Corinthians 6:14

As parents, make sure your kids know that it's non-negotiable, not open for discussion, not even a consideration that they marry outside of the tribe of those who believe in God.

Even more, the daughters of Zelophehad weren't only to have no dealings with pagan men—but they were to marry within their own tribe (as they were of the tribe of Manasseh). I would say to both women and men, not only should you not marry an unbeliever, but don't get married to someone who is spiritually weaker than you, and does not have the same hunger and thirst for the things of the Lord as you do, for they will not take you to higher ground, they may even take you to Gerar, and you for the sake of not being alone marry someone who is not on the same spiritual plain/desire as you and you will find yourself losing ground, and not being satisfied in the deeper things of the Lord, because they are spiritually shallow.

God has a Prophet Problem (20:7-8)

- But He is Still God

Genesis 20:7 Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

God Doesn't Disown Him

Here is something great and powerful that God is speaking to the unbelievers yet still speaking to the believers, for Abraham this is rather humbling, and yet God doesn't disown him or cast him away So Abraham can definitely claim the future verse because he's living it then what can separate me from the love of God. And we see nothing even in our failures,

Romans 8:33–34 (NKJV) ³³ Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV) ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How could the children of Israel in their wilderness wandering believe God would be gracious unto them? I'll tell you how in the same way we can looking back to Abraham and for us looking back to the children of Israel in Psalm 78 We read the Lord, he speaks as it recounts and retells their failings, and yet he comes with verse 38 that great word but, and then it's followed with he being filled with compassion, he remembered that they were but flesh. So how could the children of Israel in the wilderness wandering believe that God would be gracious with them, they could look back at Abraham and see God's gracious dealings with the father of faith, and how too can we not only do we look back at Abraham we can look back at the wilderness wandering and know how gracious God is

Psalm 78:40–43 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert! ⁴¹ Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel. ⁴² They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy, ⁴³ When He worked His signs in Egypt, And His wonders in the field of Zoan;

Psalm 78:36–37 (NKJV) ³⁶ Nevertheless they flattered Him with their mouth, And they lied to Him with their tongue; ³⁷ For their heart was not steadfast with Him, Nor were they faithful in His covenant.

Psalm 78:38–39 (NKJV) ³⁸ But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, And did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, And did not stir up all His wrath; ³⁹ For He remembered that they were but flesh, A breath that passes away and does not come again.

Abraham Tells it Like it Is

In Genesis 18, the Lord said he's going to tell Abraham because he'll teach his kids and that was regarding to Sodom, but I believe it goes much further God would share other things that he would share write down, pass along we call it the oral word as he would tell story to story, and eventually Moses would put this to pen and paper, ink and quill, and here we are today reading it the words that were reading are inspired yes, and you have to consider that Abraham this is a horrible statement that's being made. He's a prophet. Oh, he's failed. He's not a great prophet at that in this very moment and wouldn't you think that Abraham would love to just pass it over and

not retell the story and leave this part out of history? but he does. The words are inspired yes, but Abraham, when he's passing down this oral word so that it could be shared and passed on to others. He didn't skip it. He spoke it because he wanted people to hear how gracious God was, and how forgiving God is, and how God never disowned him, and even in all of his faults and failings, God steel kept him and what a promise to us Christian brothers and sisters

Genesis 18:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."

The Root of Gerar

You know the root of Gerar means:

- to turn aside,
- it means to tarry,
- it means to sojourn,
- it means to dwell.
- to fear,
- to be a stranger.

and here he is God has brought him so far and yet here he is he's turning aside. He's going backwards in his faith. It reminds me of Deuteronomy chapter 1, because, boy, you want to hear words that hurt when God says he's a prophet and everybody has to go, "I thought she was married to Abraham", and here God means that's the guy

Well, here's one that hurts the words of Moses in Deuteronomy chapter 1. It said that the journey to the promised land was only 11 days. The distance may be when you draw it on a map 150 miles 200 at the most 11 days of travel, and yet it would take them 40 years to get there when Moses said those words people must have said Ouch well when God said he's a prophet, Abraham probably had to say ouch, and here we see Abraham going back the long way in his faith and journey and marching direction of faith he's going the wrong way. But God gets him there, and God doesn't disown him, and God doesn't disown you for all of your trips to Gerar where you went the wrong way he still calls you his

Deuteronomy 1:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ These are the words which Moses spoke to all Israel on this side of the Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain opposite Suph, between Paran, Tophel, Laban, Hazeroth, and Dizahab. ² It is eleven days' journey from Horeb by way of Mount Seir to Kadesh Barnea. ³ Now it came to pass in the fortieth year, in the eleventh month, on the first day of the month, that Moses spoke to the children of Israel according to all that the LORD had given him as commandments to them,

Genesis 20:8 So Abimelech rose early in the morning, called all his servants, and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were very much afraid.

Fear Wasn't in Abraham

Surely the fear of God is not in the place: This was Abraham's excuse for his sinful deception, but the real problem was that the fear of God wasn't in Abraham. If he really respected the LORD, His commandments, His promises, and His protection, then Abraham would have never trusted in his own efforts to keep his family together

God has a Prophet Problem

Remember when the prophets would go and speak to kings and you think of Elijah, Nathan with David and the boldness that they speak.....You are the man. You would think God would love to send a prophet to speak to this king in Gerar. But the problem is the prophet of God is Abraham, so he can't send Abraham because he's the prophet, so God has to show up in the dream himself and say, hey, you're a dead man. Imagine that coming in your dream.

God Will Reach in a Dream

And we can take a comfort that even the people we can't reach we can't say to ourselves that God's not willing to reach them. God reaches the highest king in the land through a dream. And I have to believe that even the people I can't reach because I'm blocked out from them or they're blocking me out for whatever the reason I can't reach them, that God can't show up and speak their hearts, even in a dream in the midnight, watch, whatever it may be.

And so that gives me a bunch of freedom. Not that I should just walk away and go, well, God, you'll do what you want to do. Your sovereign, but I can still be like what God's directing right here he's calling the prophet to pray for them. and I believe he calls us to pray for the people we can't reach so that we can have the heart of God. God showed his heart before Sodom. Here's the great grace shown his heart. His holiness that he given grace to this king, he could have just took him out anyways, make it easy enough, but He shows Himself, extends Himself, and here offers Himself a relationship with him when He says, my prophet will pray for you.

World Watching – The Servant doesn't Determine the Character of God

But God is sending a message to Egypt Pharaoh and everybody who's watching because this is more than just the king. This is all the other people that are watching this and God is saying you cannot base your opinion your decision and your position with me as God the one true and only king based on my servants, my servants do not determine my character and surely not my holiness because my holiness and my character are inseparable so even with the bad witness that has been put before you, king of Egypt, you still have to make your decision. Will you yield will you bow? To me as lord and king of the universe despite the witness of my people

It's a Message of Grace

If you truly get down to, God is speaking a message of grace to the king of Egypt and all the people who are watching because they can sit and go hypocrisy. That's why I don't follow God or if they're truly honest, they can look and they can go grace. This is an amazing God. that he still accepts the flawed, the failings of man and he doesn't put the requirement of perfection upon them, even though he clearly demonstrates his perfection. What a picture of grace that's being spoken to these people and the people today, but once again, you have to make the decision for God who we have the full picture Jesus Christ based on Jesus Christ and not his people God said to follow me he did not say to follow my people and people who used the caveat and the excuse of the hypocrisy of the Christian, they're just using as an excuse to not repent and turn to what they know the law is speaking to the law of God to their heart because it's written on every man's heart.

But Maybe You Today

Maybe you're here today you came because you were asked and you responded or maybe you came because you're interested and there's something that you feel just drew you here. And there's a word that the Lord would speak maybe you said I really don't want anything to do with this Jesus stuff because I grew up in a Christian home and my parents were horrible witness they were hypocrites and I don't want anything to do with their Jesus. Maybe it was some church you went to you said they're all hypocrites maybe it's some pastor or church leader that you met that you said they're all hypocrites maybe it's someone in your very near family and you say they're all hypocrites. May you see here in the story that even is horrible as a witness that Abraham was and the ultimate utterly hypocritical man of faith God doesn't disown him but God doesn't say follow my people he says to follow me and sometimes that even means in spite of his people. God is speaking to you personally it's just about you and him the other people have no bearing about the relationship between you and him and he's calling you into a personal relationship it doesn't have any bearing on the other people that he has relationship with God's relationships are with persons individually and he wants a personal individual relationship with you today.

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Because I Thought (20:9-13)

- **Rather Than Sought**

Genesis 20:9 And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done."

Genesis 20:10 Then Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you have in view, that you have done this thing?"

Genesis 20:11 And Abraham said, "Because I thought, surely the fear of God is not in this place; and they will kill me on account of my wife.

Genesis 20:12 But indeed she is truly my sister. She is the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother; and she became my wife.

Genesis 20:13 And it came to pass, when God caused me to wander from my father's house, that I said to her, 'This is your kindness that you should do for me: in every place, wherever we go, say of me, "He is my brother." ' "

½ Truth = Total Deception

Because Sarah was Abraham's half-sister, Abraham had told a half-truth. But a half-truth is a complete lie. "Thou shalt not bear false witness," thundered God from Mt. Sinai (Exodus 20). What is a false witness? A false witness is the right information with the wrong implication. In other words, it's saying the right thing, but using it in the wrong way. Abraham gave the right information for, technically, Sarah was his half-sister, but he gave it with the wrong implication, because he failed to tell Abimelech that she was also his wife.

Really the more he talks the worse the witness becomes. They all have to say, that is ridiculous. Sometimes Christian it is just best to shut up, and say..... i was wrong.

WOW – He's Been Doing this for 25 Years!

But did you catch verse 13.....Did you catch that? Abraham said he's been doing this since he left his father's house. What we're reading here is this is what he had said this is how we will handle the situation all the way back from when they first left Babylon. He's been doing this for 25 years. We know of at least two occasions. Maybe there is more and it is an amazing thing when we look at this and we try to comprehend what it is that's going on with him that this is what he does and this is the plan that he has of how to handle it when it does happen.

Abraham is going back the long way in his walk journey march direction of faith. You had thought he would a learned lesson the first time this has happened. but he has and he still just go in the same way And you know Christian there are just some things that we bring in from before we were saved and they are just so embedded they are just so accepted that we don't even recognize. how contrary they are to the life of faith and the life of obedience. Sometimes it's a learnt behavior, and we learned it, watching our family, and then we just think it's normal. We just think that's part of being human.

We can live a whole life just repeating the same errors over and over again because we think that's the way it shall be in certain situations however it has been instilled or embedded into our beings we just think this is how we handled as Abraham would say I thought and there was his problem.

Written for Our Example

As we have said the scriptures are written for our example and I believe there's power in systematically reading through the Bible in our daily reading and God will reveal and speak things to us as we do. And of course God does something special in the gathering of the Saints for Bible study to speak something that maybe we would never have considered because we are somewhat singularly focused on what we think and can easily miss what the Lord thinks. And as we read through today there's another story like so many other stories their stories are often our stories that we read about I think there's a power that I would encourage all of us to meditate before the Lord and say am I in this story and we wait upon the Lord and then we asked the Lord how would I have handled this situation, and then slowing down enough and saying if this is written from my example we asked the Lord am I in this situation in any way and Lord am I doing something just like they were doing and I don't even recognize it as maybe it's something I have brought in from before I was even saved and just thought this is the way it is and should be and always will be and I thought rather than sought you Lord.

[1 Corinthians 10:11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

[Romans 15:4 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

But We Can Still Pray (20:14-18)

- **Even After a Bad Witness**

Genesis 20:14 Then Abimelech took sheep, oxen, and male and female servants, and gave them to Abraham; and he restored Sarah his wife to him.

Genesis 20:15 And Abimelech said, "See, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you."

Genesis 20:16 Then to Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver; indeed this vindicates you before all who are with you and before everybody." Thus she was rebuked.

Here's Your Brother – Ouch!

Here's your brother, ouch slap slap slap humbled Abraham before his very wife. Can you imagine some of the conversations of the two of them together? Abraham, hey, do you remember when I took those 318 servants and we went and whooped up on those four kings. Yeah, you're a modern day Rambo. Remember the time you took me down to Gerar. Ouch. That's a long ride home from Gerar?

Genesis 20:17 So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children;

Genesis 20:18 for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

We can still pray even after a lousy witness, maybe we don't get to speak with our tongue because we lost that opportunity because of a bad moment and a bad witness but here another great example still nonetheless we can pray for them.

Here is a Great Prayer

Here is a great prayer you can pray for anyone, in their presence, or in your prayer closet.

Numbers 6:22–27 (NKJV) ²² And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ²⁴ "The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." ' ²⁷ "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Outline: Genesis 20

Not Again (20:1-2)

- Yet There I am Again and Again

But God Came (20:3-6)

- He Sees You Woman

God has a Prophet Problem (20:7-8)

- But He is Still God

Because I Thought (20:9-13)

- Rather Than Sought

But We Can Still Pray (20:14-18)

- Even After a Bad Witness

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 21

Title: All the Promises of God are Yes and Amen!

Summary: It is 25-years later, but here is the promise given to Abraham and Sarah fulfilled with the birth of Issac. The child of promise is Issac, and his name means laughter. Surely people laughed at the impossibility of having a child at such an age; but now we will read they laugh with them, in the amazement of what only God can do. He is the same God today.... And people may be laughing at what you say God is going to do in your life, but someday they will be laughing with you in amazement saying He did it!

Genesis 21:1–8 (NKJV) ¹ And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken. ² For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. ³ And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac. ⁴ Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵ Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶ And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me.” ⁷ She also said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age.” ⁸ So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

Outline: Genesis 21

- All the Promises of God are Yes and Amen - (21:1-8)
- Cast Out the Bondwoman - (21:9-10)
- God Sees Hagar (and You) – (21:11-21)
- He Is the Everlasting God – (21:22-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Made Up

Abraham and Sarah have made up since their trip to Gerar last chapter 😊

- A good husband always forgives his wife when he's wrong.
- I once gave my husband the silent treatment for an entire week, at the end of which he declared, “Hey, we’re getting along pretty great lately!”
- A married couple was celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. At the party everybody wanted to know how they managed to stay married so long in this day and age. The husband responded "When we were first married, we came to an agreement. I would make all the major decisions, and my wife would make all of the minor decisions. And in 60 years of marriage, we have never needed to make a major decision."

All the Promises of God are Yes and Amen - (21:1-8)

Genesis 21:1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

Lord Wants to Visit You Today

The Lord wants to visit you today and he wants to let you know that he will do what he has spoken to you through His Word. Lord, we invite You here today, to visit us, and to speak to us, Your Word that will not return void and will come in due season.

*Isaiah 55:10–11 (NKJV)*¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Genesis 21:2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

Conceived & Bore

God purposely specifically uses this word conceived before the word bore because He is recognizing that life begins at conception. May we be a people of God who pray for the sanctity of life, and not let the culture change us to be numb or indifferent to the fact that every life is a treasure, because every life “conceived” and then born, is an image bearer of their Creator, and they are precious in His sight. If you are pregnant, alone, afraid, confused..... call us and we can talk; God will show up for you just like He did for Sarah and Abraham.

Genesis 21:3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him—whom Sarah bore to him—Isaac.

Genesis 21:4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

Day 8

Notice he doesn't circumcise him on the 7th day nor on the 9th day but exactly on the 8th day as the Lord had says. And we would all do well to not interpret or fit into our personal life or say what's the better day for convenience or maybe what day can I get the whole family together to do this ceremony, but he does it on the eighth day exactly as the Lord said he would and I think that's a powerful witness for all of us to observe **Genesis 17:10–13 (NKJV)** ¹⁰ This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. ¹² He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. ¹³ He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

Genesis 21:5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Genesis 21:6 And Sarah said, “God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me.”

Laughing With Us

Here they are they were probably laughing at him when he would tell the promise that God had given him and now here they are everybody is laughing with him an amazement of God's faithfulness. And you might experience that in your life and you might be experiencing it even right now people are laughing at you of what you said God is doing in your life the word of God in its promise to change your life and they're laughing that it could ever come to pass but Christian you keep obeying the word of God believing that it will not return void and when God delivers what he said he would do in your life they will go from laughing at you to laughing with you going only God could do this.

Genesis 21:7 She also said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Genesis 21:8 So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

All The Promises

All the promises of God are yes and amen as Abraham and Sarah have waited 25 years for this promise and it has come to pass so is the fulfillment of all the promises of God are yes, and Amen, and Amen's means, so be it and in many cases, it means, and so be it when I determine that it's time. I promise would be based on my time and the amen so be it part is probably the hardest part of any of God's promises that we are waiting for.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Just Think

Just think if Sarah had said after the second trip of “she’s my sister”, that’s it I’m so done with you. Just think if she would have packed up her tent, put shrimp in his curtain rods (some woman actually did that to her husband on the way out the door), and hid the remote. But she stayed and here she is, here they are, having the greatest days of their marriage in the latter years.

Keep Reaching for the Prize

You know Abraham could have become the paralysis of analysis as he kept looking back at all of his failures and looking at all of God's promises and saying I don't qualify I'm a failure everybody can see it especially my wife and yet there was something in this man of faith that didn't let failures quench his faith.

Like our brother Paul says forget the things of the past and just keep reaching for the things ahead keep pressing towards the goal for the prize and the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. There's a place never turn around when you're winning never take your eyes off the prize or the goal. When I was in high school, I ran on the track team and I ran the 440 yard Sprint which today is the 400 meter race which is one lap around the track (the metric system and the Dewey decimal system.... Why?). We ran in the State Championship, but back then everybody ran in the championship, but word-play is a beautiful thing is it not, hahaha. But I was told never turn around to see who's behind you but to continually look forward to the finish line because when you look behind you it throws off your pace and your rhythm and it also can even cause you to stumble and fall. And when you keep your eyes on the finish line that's all you see and that will become your focus, and so the words were never turn around when you're winning. It's a great analogy and it was a true statement in track it's a great picture for us in this great race of faith that we're in. But it is kind of funny in that I never had to turn around and see who was behind me when I ran track if you know what I mean ha ha. Probably good I didn't run in the 800-meter race (that's 2 laps around the track), because I might have been looking behind me to see if I was getting ready to be lapped.

[**Philippians 3:12–14 \(NKJV\)**](#)¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Psalm 87 – The Foundation / 30 Minutes to the Mountain

Genesis 20 would have been one of lowest point in his life. God's foundation is in the holy mountain, and everything is based on that mountain in Jerusalem which is the foundation and bedrock of all things of our faith. Jerusalem is about 2500 feet in elevation, and I find it interesting when I consider that the Dead Sea is about 1500 feet below sea level. The Dead Sea is actually the lowest point on the earth. But I have driven from the Dead Sea to Jerusalem and the whole drive is about 15 miles and the whole time it takes it's about 30 to 40 minutes. And I find it such a pitcher of God's grace mercy and love where he takes our hand he lifts us out of the miry clay and sets our feet upon the rock and that I can go from the lowest point of my life to a firm foundation not in days weeks or months but in mere minutes that can be established back on the rock and have firm footing and a solid foundation.

[**Psalm 87:1 \(NKJV\)**](#) ¹ His foundation *is* in the holy mountains.

Genesis 20 would have been one of Abraham's lowest points in his life and yet here we see God's Amazing Grace in our story that he's not put away or disowned or forgotten but all the promises of God are yes and Amen and he puts Abraham on the solid rock of grace by fulfilling his promise regardless of Abraham's faults or failings.

[**Exodus 34:5–7 \(NKJV\)**](#)⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation.”

Maybe you need that today just remember he's the same yesterday today and forever and he simply says come, come to the mountain come to the altar and find help in time of need.

[**Hebrews 13:8 \(NKJV\)**](#) ⁸ *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

[**Hebrews 4:14–16 \(NKJV\)**](#)¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

Cast Out the Bondwoman - (21:9-10)

Genesis 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

Genesis 21:10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

The Egyptian

We continually see when Hagar is mentioned that it's made with the identification, the Egyptian. I believe that's purposeful to continually pull out the work of the flesh Egypt being a picture of the world, the work and the way that the world does it. And so it's a continual reminder of the outcome when we do the things, the way of the world, or the way of our flesh.

Ishmael is Scoffing (Mock – Ridicule – Disbelief)

It is Ishmael that is scoffing for whatever the reason is here he is about the age of 14 years old at this time and for whatever reason he is scoffing and so there's an indicator of what is in his heart and that's something of a contention is beginning even at this young age between Isaac and Ishmael, and it has continued on all these years as well.

Ishmael was 14 years old when Isaac was born. This is based on biblical chronology:

- Abraham was 86 years old when Ishmael was born (Genesis 16:16).
- Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born (Genesis 21:5).
- So, Ishmael would have been $100 - 86 = 14$ years old at the time of Isaac's birth.

It says that Ishmael scoffed and the word scoffing means to mock and to ridicule, but one of the key meanings there is "disbelief" I think there might be a deeper thing going on here in that it would have been told, it would've went beyond Sarah and Abraham, it would have been communicated because we're reading it today therefore it was spoken and passed down orally, that the promise that was given by God was that through Abraham and Sarah would be the promised seed who would make the great nation. And I think we're reading here Ishmael in his teenage years, the mocking and the ridicule and the disbelief is that Isaac would be the promised heir, maybe even to the point that Ishmael feels that he is the ultimate promised heir and he's looking at Isaac and said, how could this child be the promised heir..... and possibly looking at himself, considering himself to be superior in greatness.

Genesis 21:10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

Sarah's Day – Rain on the Party

But on another note, I think it's worth recognizing here is Sarah's day. It's her day of joy. She waited 25 years for the promise. She waited close to 70 years for the joy of a child. Here she has her child, here is kind of the celebration that the child is of age. That's what the word ween means, that he's off the mother's milk and the child now is beyond a baby and it's a day of joy and then it is totally quenched by this moment here with Ishmael scoffing, ridiculing, mocking the child.

And I find it interesting. It's a tactic of the devil that we see so often where he simply loves to show up at your day of joy and quench it comes and throws some water on the joy and to take what was once this great moment and turn it into a total forgetful of everything else that was wonderful and all that can be remembered is that sour moment. And he does it at your birthday parties or at your celebrations that you have. Someone comes with some loose word, or someone even comes because they can't stand the thought that you're having joy.

And I think there's a place that we always recognize. It's stirred up by the flesh. We resist letting it get to us and getting into the flesh ourselves, and then we rejoice the Satan would hate us that bad that he wants to show up at our birthday celebration or whatever that celebration is and try to quench it. I love it because that means that he knows your name.

James 4:7 (NKJV) ? Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Cast Out the Scoffers

Now.... Remember that the devil may flee, but that person will still be there. But you know, speaking of the mockers, Jesus gives us the great example when He raised the ruler of the synagogue daughter from the dead....., you got to put them out. There's going to be people who come in and you're going to be high on your salvation and that God's doing something that you're having victory, your moving towards the victorious Christian life, and then there's going to be these mockers scoffers, and I'll tell you what they even come in the form of professing Christians and they want to critique and knock down and tell you that it's not possible for you. They want to come and cast a disbelief on you that you have the hand of God working and moving in your life and there's just a place what Jesus did. He kicked them out. He said, get out. You're not going to be part of the faith, then leave. And I think you need to do that in many ways to the people that are mocking and scoffing in your walk of faith.

Mark 5:35-43 (NKJV) ³⁵ While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." ³⁷ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." ⁴⁰ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. ⁴¹ Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement. ⁴³ But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.

Scoffers about the Last Days

Here is one, and it isn't just the unbelievers, even believers scoff those who study end times, last days, and live looking for his soon return.

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NKJV) ³ knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

God Sees Hagar (and You) – (21:11-21)

Genesis 21:11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.

Genesis 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

God confirms to Abraham that he is to harken to the voice of his wife this time. It's good to hear, then take to the Lord, and say what do you say to this Lord?

Genesis 21:13 Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed."

Genesis 21:14 So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water; and putting it on her shoulder, he gave it and the boy to Hagar, and sent her away. Then she departed and wandered in the Wilderness of Beersheba.

Genesis 21:15 And the water in the skin was used up, and she placed the boy under one of the shrubs.

Genesis 21:16 Then she went and sat down across from him at a distance of about a bowshot; for she said to herself, "Let me not see the death of the boy." So she sat opposite him, and lifted her voice and wept.

Hagar Weeps / How Could Abraham / Encoded 4000 Yrs Ago

This wilderness area of Beersheba is mostly a desert area. Ishmael is about 14 years old, Hagar sets him under a tree as they both are out of food and water, and appears to have reach the point of dehydration that comes right before death. She weeps, she can't watch him die. The question has to be asked how could a dad as wealthy as Abraham send his son off with literally nothing. We will see a couple interesting reasons, and one of them is that God was sending us a message, in this event, encrypted 4000 years ago, and decoded 2000 years later in the New Testament (Book of Galatians).

Indication of Faith: / Gods Word / Gen 20 – God will Preserve

Indication of Faith: First, before get there, we see something happening in Abraham. He is growing deeper in faith, and he is exhibiting his faith here, and he will exhibit next chapter as he takes Isaac up to the hill outside Jerusalem called Mount Moriah. Notice Abraham sends him out, and it is an indication of Abraham's faith. God said I will

bless Ishmael, and Abraham believed what God said He would do, He would do. Just maybe what he learned in chapter 20 of God protecting Sarah to preserve the "Seed" was the final proof he needed that God's word will come to pass, no matter what.

Good Word for Parents / Prvb 22

This is a good word for us parents. Train up a child in the way he shall go, and when he is older he shall return. God will do what He says He will. God will keep that which is committed to Him, we need to call God on His Word. God has made a commitment to you:

(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

Doesn't Rally a Caravan / Don't Over Insulate a Child / Kids Can go Crazy

Abraham doesn't rally a caravan to go with them. Parents take note of that. Parents be careful that we do not over insulate our children from the world. We can't be afraid to let them go here, or do this, because there is that possibility that something bad may happen to them. If you are an overprotective parent, it could be an indication that you lack faith in what God says He will do, if you do what you are called to do, and that is train up a child in the way he should go. I've watched parent's shelter kids from everything, and then when those kids finally get out of the house, they dive headfirst into all the carnality they can. Parents be careful about being overprotective and overbearing, it could drive your kids away.

Split Family

I might also note here those of you living the split family life. We have to train-up our children and then trust and commit them to the Lord that He will take care of them when they are out of our care. We invest in them, and when they are gone we intercede for them, and believe God on His Word, that He will take care of them. It won't be perfect, there will be some pains, split families brings troubles to the kids, look at Ishmael.

Illustration / Allegory / Make no Provision for the Flesh

Secondly this story is an illustration, an allegory, and illustration of how we are to treat the flesh. As we have studied in the past Ishmael is a picture of the flesh, and Isaac is a picture of the Spirit:

(Galatians 4:22 NKJV) For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

(Galatians 4:23 NKJV) But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

*(Galatians 4:24 NKJV) **which things are symbolic.** For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar;*

We are to starve the flesh, make no provision for the flesh:

(Romans 13:14 NKJV) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

Make no provision for the flesh, don't send it out with a bunch of stuff to feed the flesh. Our flesh will never be satisfied, it will always be crying out for more. Just a little, will never be enough, cut it off whatever it is that you are feeding to your flesh, whether it is gossip, drugs, illicit sex, just cut it off, starve it out. It is possible that we feed the flesh to the point that the Spirit is the one that is starving, therefore make no provision for the flesh.

Illumination / 4000 yrs Ago / The Law – Gal 4 / It has Got to Go

This event happened 4000 years ago, God has it recorded for us, and He encodes it with a beautiful message of freedom for us. He reveals the code to us 2000 years ago through the Apostle Paul in Galatians 4. Hagar we are told represents the Law, and Sarah represents grace. Galatians 4 tells us that the Law has got to go, for we are not under the Law but grace. Jesus brought that message to us:

(John 1:17 NKJV) For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Schoolmaster

The was to show us our need for a Savior:

(Galatians 3:24 KJV) Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

(Romans 3:20 NKJV) Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Galatians 4

But Paul in Galatians 4 says this picture of Hagar and Sarah was an illustration, symbolic of how we are to not live under the Law, but Grace. Don't put yourself under bondage or legalism:

(Galatians 4:22 NKJV) For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

(Galatians 4:23 NKJV) But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise,

(Galatians 4:24 NKJV) which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar;

(Galatians 4:25 NKJV) for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children;

(Galatians 4:26 NKJV) but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

(Galatians 4:27 NKJV) For it is written: "Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband."

(Galatians 4:28 NKJV) Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

(Galatians 4:29 NKJV) But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

(Galatians 4:30 NKJV) Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

(Galatians 4:31 NKJV) So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

We Can't Keep the Law – Need Help / Self-Righteous to Self-Condemning

It is amazing that we are dealing with the flesh, yet we are told the Law, the rules and regulations have got to go. Why, because we can't keep the rules in and of ourselves, we need the help of the Spirit. When we are able to keep the rules and regulations, we become self-righteous; but eventually we will fail, and then be devastated, and we go from self-righteous to self-condemning. The resultant of that is we will quit our prayer time, our study time, and give up.

Regulations Produce Rebellion / Grace allows the Spirit to Move

Regulations will always produce rebellion. Don't put the regulation trip on people or yourself. Teach and give them grace, and let the Spirit of the Living God work those things out in their lives.

(Romans 12:1 NKJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

(Romans 12:2 NKJV) And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

It is through the study of the word, fellowship of prayer, service unto the Lord that a person allows the Spirit to move and work in their lives.

Genesis 21:17 And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, "What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.

Genesis 21:18 Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with your hand, for I will make him a great nation."

God Told Hagar

The Lord says why are you wailing, didn't I say to you before Ishmael will be a great nation:

(Genesis 16:10 NKJV) Then the Angel of the LORD said to her, "I will multiply your descendants exceedingly, so that they shall not be counted for multitude."

Take his Hand

God tells Hagar to take the boy's hand and it is really to bring a reassurance to the boy because it said in verse 17 that God heard the voice of the lad crying out and maybe even crying out to God is it only takes a day three at the most when you're in the wilderness desert to be without water to come to the point of death and God has responded to the boy's groan he tells Hagar to take his hand for reassurance even before the provision is made in the next verse where we'll see the well.

God is speaking to Ishmael and showing him that he is good and even if he's been cast out for an action that was displeasing to the family that was providing for him and even this pleasing of mocking God's chosen air of grace God is still showing him grace.

Genesis 21:19 Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink.

Supply Before Our Eyes

You know sometimes the supply and provisions of God is right before our eyes the trowel that we're in can cloud our spiritual vision

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Ask God to Open Your Eyes

If you are in the desert than maybe you just need to ask God to open your eyes, for the spring of water may be right before your eyes, something that flows right from the hand of God, a well that springs right from the heart of God, then you can drink and partake with your lord and your Love.

Genesis 21:20 So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

Genesis 21:21 He dwelt in the Wilderness of Paran; and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Took a Wife of Egypt

So Ishmael grows, and he will become the Father of the Arab Nation. Do you notice Ishmael marries a woman from Egypt, which Scriptural is a picture of the flesh and the world.

He Is the Everlasting God – (21:22-34)

Genesis 21:22 And it came to pass at that time that Abimelech and Phichol, the commander of his army, spoke to Abraham, saying, “God is with you in all that you do.

Same Abimelech

Abimelech could just be a Title for the King of this area, but I have no reason not to believe that this is the same Abimelech we just studied in chapter 20; the one Abraham lied to and God intervened before.

Genesis 21:23 Now therefore, swear to me by God that you will not deal falsely with me, with my offspring, or with my posterity; but that according to the kindness that I have done to you, you will do to me and to the land in which you have dwelt.”

Genesis 21:24 And Abraham said, “I will swear.”

Genesis 21:25 Then Abraham rebuked Abimelech because of a well of water which Abimelech’s servants had seized.

Genesis 21:26 And Abimelech said, “I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, nor had I heard of it until today.”

Genesis 21:27 So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a covenant.

Genesis 21:28 And Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock by themselves.

Genesis 21:29 Then Abimelech asked Abraham, “What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs which you have set by themselves?”

Genesis 21:30 And he said, “You will take these seven ewe lambs from my hand, that they may be my witness that I have dug this well.”

Genesis 21:31 Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because the two of them swore an oath there.

Genesis 21:32 Thus they made a covenant at Beersheba. So Abimelech rose with Phichol, the commander of his army, and they returned to the land of the Philistines.

Clarity / Make Covenant – Won’t happen Again

Clarity: Look at Abraham’s Clarity and Wisdom. He makes a covenant, an agreement, so that it doesn't happen again. It is wise in a confrontation to be clear what needs to happen in the future so that this doesn't happen

again. Just because a person talks a lot, doesn't mean they are a good communicator. Talk, and be sure that everyone involved understands.

Genesis 21:33 Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God.

Not Ashamed to Worship Presence of Neighbors / New Name to Worship

You could follow Abraham's journey by looking for the wells he dug and the altars he built (Gen. 12:7-8; 13:4, 18). He was not ashamed to build his altar in the presence of his neighbors and offer his worship to the Lord.

- A new name for God is introduced here: El Olam, "the Everlasting God."
- Abraham already knew El Elyon ("God Most High"—14:19, 22)
- and El Shaddai ("God Almighty, the All-Sufficient One"—17:1);
- but now he had a new name to use in his worship. It is important as we go through life that we learn more and more about God so we can worship Him better.

All These Will Pass / Not the Everlasting God

What an encouragement to know "the Everlasting God"! Wells would disappear, trees would be cut down, ewe lambs would grow up and die, altars would crumble, and treaties would perish; but the Everlasting God would remain. This Everlasting God had made an everlasting covenant with Abraham and his descendants (17:7, 13, 19), and He had given them the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession (17:8; 48:4). As Abraham faced the coming years, he knew that God would not change and that "underneath [were] the everlasting arms" (Deut. 33:27).

Plants a Tree / Form of Creative Worship

Abraham plants a tree as a form of worship. It was his form of creative worship. This is my express of love to you. Don't limit yourself on your express of worship to the Lord. It isn't just limited to here in the sanctuary during our time of singing. You can express your worship to the Lord through writing poetry, writing and playing a song just to Him, creative dance, paint a beautiful sunset to Him, or write Him a letter telling Him of your love and adoration for Him. God gives these gifts, these creative abilities that you may express your love to Him. And as you do, God will reveal Himself to you in new ways; as for Abraham he saw and called upon the Everlasting God.

Genesis 21:34 And Abraham stayed in the land of the Philistines many days.

I'll Wait

Finally we see Abraham waiting (21:34). "And Abraham sojourned in the Philistines' land many days." It was really his land, yet it is called "the Philistines' land." Abraham was content to patiently wait until God was pleased, in His own time and way, to give it to him. One day all would be his. Abimelech had no interest in that kind of thing.

30 Years / Great Happiness / Training Up Isaac

The many years is probably about 30, Isaac will be about 33 years old, the same age as Jesus was when he makes the walk up Mount Moriah (Gen. 22). It must have been a peaceful time for Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, and a time of great happiness as they watched their precious son grow up. Little did they know the great test that lay before them, but God was preparing them, and they would be ready. Abraham will spend the next 30 years training Isaac up, telling him about the God Most High, the Almighty God, the Everlasting God, and we will see Isaac submitting himself to the will of his father.

Outline: Genesis 21

- All the Promises of God are Yes and Amen - (21:1-8)
- Cast Out the Bondwoman -(21:9-10)
- God Sees Hagar (and You) – (21:11-21)
- He Is the Everlasting God – (21:22-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 22

Title: After These Things

Summary: My hope is always hopeful because my God always has an"after these things" for me. Always a tomorrow, always a day after, whether after a failure or fault, a mountain high or a valley low, there is always an... "after these things" because there is a cross, a resurrection, by the God who provided all these things, including Himself upon the cross for me. And He is always on the move in my life and your life!

Genesis 22:1–19 (NKJV) ¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." ⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." ¹² And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." ¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Outline Genesis 22:

- After These Things (22:1)
- Take Now Thy Son (22:2-6)
- God Will Provide Himself The Lamb (22:7-14)
- Because You Have Obeyed My Voice (22:15-19)
- There is Always an "After These Things" (22:20-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap / Abraham's Life Defined / The Promised Seed

Chapter 22 is truly one of the most powerful chapters dealing with His-Story. In past chapters we see Abraham whose life was defined by pitching tents and building altars. God had given him the promise of a child, and that through his child all the nations of the world would be blessed. So now it is about 25 years after the promise, Isaac is born, the promised Seed.

Message Outside our Time

Genesis 22 is a message given to us from outside our time domain, written 4000 years ago, and fulfilled 2000 years ago on the cross.

Where 3 Days Prophesied / 1 Cor 15

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, speaks of the gospel that he had preached to them. He said the gospel that he had preached to them was that of Christ, who died, and was three days dead but who rose on the third day. He speaks of it like it was from the Old Testament. Now, where does the Old Testament scriptures teach that Christ died for our sins and was resurrected on the third day? As I look at the Old Testament scriptures, this must be the reference to which Paul was referring:

(1 Corinthians 15:1 NKJV) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand,

(1 Corinthians 15:2 NKJV) by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you; unless you believed in vain.

(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Jonah – Jesus

Jesus Himself tells us that Jonah is a picture of Him spending 3 days dead so that is a given:

(Matthew 12:39 NKJV) But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

(Matthew 12:40 NKJV) "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Gen 22 / Hosea 12

Here in Genesis 22, is another. The Prophet Hosea said:

(Hosea 12:10 NKJV) I have also spoken by the prophets, And have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets."

(Romans 15:4 NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Picture Perfect / Similitudes

This study we will see that it is picture perfect. It is a picture of the One who loves you, and would die for you. We will see all the similitudes of the gospel right here in Genesis 22.

Issac a Type of Jesus

Before we get into the text let's look at some comparisons of how Isaac is a picture, a type of Jesus Christ:

- Isaac was a miracle birth in that he was born to man and woman past childbearing age. Jesus was born a virgin birth.
- Isaac was promised a long time before his birth, 20 years. Jesus was promised 4000 years before His birth (Genesis 3:15).
- God named both of them before their birth.
- Both Son's delighted their Father.
- Both of them were obedient to their Father, even to the point of death. Genesis 22 / Philippians 2:8.

Isaac is a type of Jesus Christ; Jesus is the fulfillment of the type.

After These Things (22:1)

(Genesis 22:1 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

After these Things

Verse 1 - Now it came to pass after these things: Probably a period of about 30 years or so after the weaning of Isaac.

I love that there's always an after these things - that I don't live a static life. I don't live a life that has some end point. - but there's always something after the last thing there's always something, there is before me because I have a God that is always on the move

I'm thankful there's always an after these things after a low point of a failing in life, I'm always thankful there's something to look forward to even after a disaster even after a tremendous hardship, that I have a God that's always on the move

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard all the things God has for us

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Maybe you're here today and you think there's nothing more you've had hardship you've had loneliness you've had bitterness. Maybe you've had betrayal you think there's nothing more that God always has for us and after these things.

And I pray my Abraham you have an ear to hear

That God

Verse 1 – that God: The word here for God is Elohim, first used in Genesis 1:1, "in the beginning God..... and for Abraham now it's greater than the first time he met. God, it now has all these additional words from the last chapter. The Almighty God, God Most High, and the Everlasting God

This is the God who is speaking to him now, and this is the God that he will respond to in faith, and it is not faith in himself, but faith in the God that has revealed himself over all these years, being faithful to him

- El Elyon ("God Most High") —(14:19, 22)
- El Shaddai ("God Almighty, the All-Sufficient One")—(17:1)
- El Olam, ("the Everlasting God.") – (21:33)

Tested

Verse 1- tested: There are multiple test and in one circumstance, there may be a testing of something to determine its quality and it's purity and it's strength such as the testing of a metal to see and how pure it is and equally how impure it is, is it a high strength and can it withhold High stress or is it low quality and therefore weak in its ability to stand against what comes against it?

And then there's the testing that all of us are familiar with And that's that personal testing such as when we were in high school or college and we were tested.

The testing of that manner is the testing of the individual to know how well they know the subject, maybe it was the subject of English, the subject of history, the subject of math, but it was a testing to see to reveal to us how well we knew the subject.

In this case Abraham, the testing is how well he knows the subject and the two subjects are

- how well he knows himself
- and how well does he know his God who called him out of Babylon to follow him in faith

And Said

Verse 1 – and said: You read many commentators, and they believe God hasn't spoken to Abraham for 30 years. I don't believe that. I believe what the scripture says that Abraham walked with God. I believe what the scripture saith that Abraham was a friend of God. And I don't see a friendship relation that doesn't speak for 30 years. I believe he's walking with the Lord. I believe he has friendship with the Lord and an intimacy and oneness and a communion, and when God can speak, he is so attentive and in tune to what the Lord has to say, he can immediately respond to it. He doesn't have to go back and process all these things his walk with the Lord, and this is the key is daily a walk with the Lord is daily, that's what Abraham has as he walks with God and as a friend of God

Isaiah 41:8 (NKJV) ⁸ "But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.

James 2:23 (NKJV)²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

Abraham

Verses 1 – Abraham: God calling him by his new name, not his old name. He's calling him by the name that has the breath of God that Ruwach for he's been a changed man and that he is a new man and that is the man that he is calling on.

I think there's a power in our lives that we always recognize that God calls us by the new person not the old person. He doesn't identify us who we were before we came to Him and gave our life to Him. He identifies us as of now it's the new person we are in Christ Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered by the spirit to obey and to do all that He would ask us to do for his glory and good.

Here I am

Verse 1 and he said here I am: We'll see multiple steps that Abraham is going to take to fulfill this life of faith in this calling of God but the first step I believe is the only step we truly need to take and God will do the rest and simply be like Abraham. We say here I am Lord

What a way to start every day - here I am Lord

Verse one where he says here I am has such a deeper meaning as we look into it; in its verb structure and its meaning, it's more than here I am, what would you like to talk about? It is here I am, I'm all here. I'm fully present and my ears are ready to hear what you have to say to me, and along with it whatever you say, then becomes my action, whatever your will is, becomes my will to do what you're about to tell me to do. We think that faith is this great step out and many times it is a demonstration of great faith to step out and go into the mission field or to step out and take that teaching role in the Sunday school or to plant a church or you know, fill in the blank, but great faith is the maturity that you step into to whatever

Lord says, and we say here I am, not just to hear and to think if we want to respond and do what we're being asked to do, but the great faith is that we say here I am ready to do what you've asked me to do. You want me to call that person, you want me to take them out the lunch? You want me to minister to them with some type of love and generosity. You want me to go talk to that clerk? Here's a smile tract for you, Jesus loves you. You want me to do the dishes.... that's great faith.

Take Now Thy Son (22:2-6)

(Genesis 22:2 NKJV) Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

God is Communing with Abraham

Take now your son, your only son. It's way beyond that the Lord is not recognizing the work of the flesh. with the work there of Hagar and Ishmael. This is the promised son. This is the son in whom he loves. And he's going beyond just a picture perfect of what is the come prophetic portrait of Jesus, but he's communing with Abraham. When he says, take thy son, thy only son, I want you to just ask yourself every parent.

He's communing with Abraham. He is bringing him to a place, I'm going to share my heart with you of something that's going to rip My heart apart when I take My Son, My only Son, and He goes to the cross of the sacrifice

When I read this and God would speak to Me, take Thy sons, or to You, take Thy daughter, and You picture what that would be like to do it grips My heart and I immediately start to relate to Him of what God the Father endured and experienced on the cross. What a sweet picture the God says I want to share My heart with You, Abraham, so that You would know My heart and He does it to You today. He's doing it right now. He wants to share His heart with You. to know what it grieved Him and pained Him to put His Son upon the cross, but then, of course, for all of Us, what the treasure the worth is that He was willing to do such that You and I might have life and that more abundant, everlasting eternal in the heavens with Him redeemed, made perfect and pure, incorruptible and that this life isn't all that there is, that there's more and especially in the midst of the pain of today world, a promise of a future in heaven with Him and His presence with Us here now today. What a beautiful picture has God communes with Us today

Burnt - Total

Verse two a burnt offering was a total complete consecrated sacrifice. There was nothing left for it was all sacrificed nothing held back. And here we see Abraham being asked to hold nothing back. Isaac will join in as well to hold nothing back. And so it makes me ask myself, Romans 12 verses 1 and 2, How much of a living sacrifice have I given on to the Lord? And I ask myself, how much am I holding back? How much in my reserving for myself or am I simply saying, I'm trusting you Lord, for all. And I give my all to you. holy consecrated set apart here I am, Lord. all of me

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Young Rich Man

It's a story for the Rich Young Man

Matthew 19:21-22 (NKJV) ²¹ Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

It's the story for each and every one of us will win and can we interested in Lord that thing that means the greatest thing to us

Oswald Chambers said never allow anything to deflect you from insight into Jesus Christ it is the test of whether you are spiritual or not to be unspiritual means that other things have a growing fascination for you

God Forgets Our Sin

Verse 2 - Take now your son, your only son Isaac - Here is a blessing encoded here, God forgets our sins, He doesn't remember them. God, here, does not recognize Ishmael. Ishmael was the work of the flesh and God refused to recognize him. He is not the child of promise or the work of the Spirit.

We often try to offer to God the works of our flesh and God will not accept them. So much of the endeavor for God is done in the flesh. That is one of the weaknesses of the church today. We are endeavoring, in the ability and energy of the flesh, to do the work of the Spirit. The Psalmist said, "Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain who build it; except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Ps.127:1). We're going to be surprised when we stand before God and our works are then tried by fire; because, so many of them will be burned. The works of the flesh will all burn. I've tried for years, in my flesh, to do the work of God and to build the church of Jesus Christ, but it was all for nothing. I spent a lot of years laboring in vain. God doesn't recognize the work of your flesh, He wants the work of the Spirit in your life.

God is Love

Verse 2 - whom you love: Love is probably one of the most important words in the Bible, for it is the very essence of who God is, God is love:

(1 John 4:8 NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

First Mention / Father & Son

Our Similitude, interestingly this is the first time love is mentioned in the Scriptures. There is a study of the Bible which takes the first use of a word and usually sets a pattern for it's use throughout the Bible. This is called "First Mention." When you are studying a certain word or subject, you should always go back to the first mention of the word to get some light upon its meaning. This is the first mention of "love" and what is interesting is that it is the love of a father for his son. We hear a lot about mother love, but the first mention of love in the Bible is not about a mother for her child or a husband for his wife; but, of a father for his son.

First Mention in NT

What is the first mention of love in the New Testament?

- In Matthew's Gospel, we are told that when Jesus was baptized that the voice of God spoke from heaven saying, "This is my beloved son." (3:17)
- In Mark's Gospel the first mention of love is also at the baptism of Jesus where Mark records the voice from heaven saying, "This is my beloved son." (1:11)
- In Luke's Gospel, the first mention of love is again at the baptism of Jesus when God said, "This is my beloved son." (3:22)
- The Synoptic Gospels all agree, but what is the first mention of love in the Gospel of John? John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son..." God's love for the world in that He gave His only son.

Area of Jerusalem

Verse 2 - and go to the land of Moriah: The land of Moriah was the area of Jerusalem. Abraham lived down by Beer-Sheba, about thirty miles away from Jerusalem. You could make about ten miles a day walking and so, it was about a three-day journey.

Offer – Lift Up / Moriah – Foreseen of God / Sneak Preview 2000 Years Early

Verse 2 - and offer him there as a burnt offering: Offer means to "lift up, and Moriah means "foreseen of Jehovah". Jesus said:

(John 12:31 NKJV) "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

(John 12:32 NKJV) "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

(John 12:33 NKJV) This He said, signifying by what death He would die.

Moriah you see is a sneak preview of the coming attraction. God is sending mankind a message, a message of His love and mercy. God is against human sacrifice, He never would ask Abraham to do something that is contrary to His ways. God is allowing Abraham to play a part in presenting the gospel

2000 years before it happens. Did Abraham know it, I don't know, all I do know is that he was faithful in his role, and so was Isaac.

(Genesis 22:3 NKJV) So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

No Hesitation

Verse 3 - So Abraham rose early in the morning - Abraham doesn't hesitate he awakes early in the morning and goes. When the Lord speaks to us we do well not to hesitate or we may miss out what He wants to show us or use us for.

Lad – Young Men / Maybe 33 / Forget Sunday School

Verse 3 - and took two of his young men with him: The word, in the Hebrew, for young men is the same word used for "lad" in verse five, speaking of Isaac. So, Isaac was about the same age as these young men that went along with them. Based on the time passing, Isaac was probably about 25-33 years old. Forget the Sunday school pictures, Isaac was a full grown man. Based on the sum of all the other parts, of how each point is clearly a symbol of Jesus, I have no problem believing that Isaac was 33, the same age Jesus was when He went to the cross.

2 Men / Via Delrosa / Thief of Hearts

Our Similitude, When Jesus would walk the Via Delrosa on His way to the Cross, he had two men with Him. Two thieves, which I think is a good picture for Jesus is the greatest thief of all, for He will still your heart with His love.

That Place

Verse 3 - and went to the place of which God had told him: to the place, it will be mentioned again in verse 4 and 9; this isn't any ole place, this is a very specific place.

The Temple Mount / 2 Chron 3

This is another marvelous prophecy by Abraham. The mount of the LORD is Mount Moriah and today is known as the Temple Mount. In II Chronicles we read:

(2 Chronicles 3:1 NKJV) Now Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David, at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

NT / Calvary

In the New Testament we read of "to that place":

(Luke 23:33 NKJV) And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Look at Geography / Golgotha

If you will take a careful look at the geography of mount Moriah, you will note that the Temple Mount is at the side of the mountain and not at the top of mount Moriah. Mount Moriah continues on a gentle slope from the Temple Mount up to the top. However, when Solomon built the temple and the walls and many of the buildings, he did it on the north side of the city where the rock is perfect for building. It lays in stratas and all they have to do is cut it. That is where they quarried the stone and so on the north side, mount Moriah has had a great chunk taken out of it. Originally at Abraham's time this stone had not been quarried and so from the temple mount, the gentle slope would have come all the way up to the top of mount Moriah which is now across some sort of valley from the wall of Jerusalem. If you stand near Herod's Gate on the top of the wall of Jerusalem, though you are standing nearly sixty feet from the ground down below, the wall is only twelve feet high, because of the bedrock. As a result of quarrying the stone, there are caves which resemble a skull. Thus the name of the place became Golgotha which means, "the Place of the Skull," or in Latin is called, "Calvary." Above the skull, Golgotha or Calvary, was originally mount Moriah and no doubt when Abraham went to the mount, he went to the top which was customary in those days when you built an altar. So, on the top of the mountain where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac, some two thousand years later; because, God so loved the world, he gave his only

begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sins. Interesting, I was looking at a topography map, and the one I was looking at said the peak of Golgotha is 777 meters.

Exact same Place

In the same place where Abraham built his altar, God would sacrifice His Son and the prophecy of Abraham was fulfilled when he said, "God will provide Himself a sacrifice." In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen and it was, two thousand years later. The picture of Abraham sacrificing his son is a foreshadowing of that which God would do for love of the world in sacrificing His only begotten Son.

(Genesis 22:4 NKJV) Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

3 days Dead / God Got a Problem / Heb 11 / Abraham Believed the Ress

Verse 4 - Then on the third day: For three days, as they journeyed, Isaac was as dead in the eyes of his father, Abraham. Nonetheless, Abraham, the whole while, was believing in the resurrection. He could not understand what was going on nor could he understand the command of God. He saw a real dilemma, God's dilemma. God had said that through Isaac would his seed be called and Isaac was not married nor did he have any children. The "seed" has to come through Isaac, but God is saying to offer him as a sacrifice and the only way this can happen is for Isaac to be resurrected. In Hebrews it says, *(Hebrews 11:17 NKJV) By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, (Hebrews 11:18 NKJV) of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," (Hebrews 11:19 NKJV) concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

Hebrews chapter 11 tells us that Abraham knew that God would raise him from the dead speaking of Isaac, even if the life of Isaac was taken Abraham would believe that Isaac cannot die because that would end the promise of God to make a great nation out of Abraham, Isaac, and his offsprings. And so Abraham by faith, though he doesn't understand all these things, knows that the promises of God cannot fail and that takes us back to the study we did just last week, all the promises of God are yes, and amen.

And that even brings me to the promise about myself, the promise about you, that God has to complete what he said he was going to do, or else he would not be faithful. He who began a good work, or be faithful to complete it. He has to deliver me through all my trials. He has to be the God who answers me in all of my situations call to me, and I answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know. all these promises of God, I will give you life, eternal life, that he who believes in me shall not perish, but have everlasting life, for God so love the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting time. All these promises of God, He must fulfill or else that verse would be a lie that all the promises of God are yes, an amen. So I do well to simply in all my situations, say, I don't understand what and how and where and why, but here's what my response to You is here I am Lord.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV) ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) ³ 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NKJV) ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

(Genesis 22:5 NKJV) And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

First Mention of Worship / To Bow Down – To yield my Will

Verse 5 - the lad and I will go yonder and worship: This is the first mention of worship in the Bible. Sometimes as we sing praises to God and lift our hands, we say that we have been worshipping God, but technically that is not what the Bible terms as worship. The word worship means "to bow down." It is a

reference to the "bowing down" of my will to God. You can lift your hands and sing with your eyes closed, but you may be resisting God in your heart. What Abraham is really saying to these young men is, "We're going to go up to that mountain and bow down our will to God."

We Will Come Back - Plural

Verse 5 - and we will come back to you: So, Abraham declares that they're going to worship and they will come again. The word "come" here is a plural verb. We will go and we will come back again to you is what Abraham is saying. He doesn't know how they will both come back, but he believes God's promise that his seed will be called through Isaac.

(Genesis 22:6 NKJV) So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

The Wood – The Cross / The Government

Verse 6 - So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son: Even as Jesus had the cross laid upon Him and He bore it toward Golgotha. In Isaiah 9:

(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The government is upon His shoulders, that is the Cross; that is why He has the right to rule over me, reign over me, because He alone was the sacrifice, He alone is the substitute.

Fire – God's Judgement / Holy God / Ish 59 – Hab 1

Verse 6 - and he took the fire in his hand: Notice that the Son carried the wood, but that the Father carried the fire. Fire represents judgement, as God the Father would hurl His wrath for man's sin upon His Son Jesus Christ. God is too Holy to wink at sin, He must judge it:

(Isaiah 59:1 NKJV) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

(Isaiah 59:2 NKJV) But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

(Habakkuk 1:13 NKJV) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, And hold Your tongue when the wicked devours A person more righteous than he?

The Knife

Verse 6 - and a knife: The Knife - Jesus would be pierced on His side.

The 2 Together / The Separation / If Only I could Get This

Verse 6 - and the two of them went together: The two of them walked together, they were in agreement on what had to be done. For Jesus, this would be the hardest part, the separation from the Father:

(Psalms 22:1 NKJV) My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

Jesus was terrified to be out of commune from the Father. The Father and Son always walked together, they never knew separation, yet for those 6 hours on the cross that one Friday, the Father would have to turn His back on sin, for He is too Holy to behold it. I believe Jesus sweat drops of blood in the Garden not because of the pain of the Cross, but because the pain of being separated from the Father. If only we could see the way Jesus saw, for if we could we would be terrified to be out of commune with the Father.

God Will Provide Himself The Lamb (22:7-14)

(Genesis 22:7 NKJV) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

(Genesis 22:8 NKJV) And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

Provide Himself / Old KJV / Lamb Not a Ram / Prophetic

Verse 8 - My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering: Not that God will provide for Himself, as you read in the New King James translation, but God will provide Himself (Old King James gives better translation):

*(Genesis 22:8 KJV) And Abraham said, My son, God will **provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*

Here is a very important point to catch, in verse 13 it will be a ram caught in the thicket, not a lamb. It is a huge difference to the story. They are two different words in the Hebrew. (The word for Lamb here is the same one used in Exodus 12:3-5 for the Passover Lamb, and the same word used for Lamb in Isaiah 53:7). This is a prophecy of Abraham concerning Jesus Christ, God the Son, who was provided as a lamb slain for our sins, the substitute for our sins:

(1 Peter 1:18 NKJV) knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

(1 Peter 1:19 NKJV) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

John 1:29

And John, the Baptist, cried, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). Marvelous prophecy that God would provide Himself as the lamb for the burnt-offering:

(John 1:29 NKJV) The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Isaiah 53

Isaiah the substitute Lamb:

(Isaiah 53:4 NKJV) Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

*(Isaiah 53:5 NKJV) **But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities;** The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

(Isaiah 53:6 NKJV) All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

*(Isaiah 53:7 NKJV) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; **He was led as a lamb** to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

(Genesis 22:9 NKJV) Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

Isaac had the Power / Submitted to Father

Isaac was approximately twenty-five to thirty-three years old at this point. The next advent that we read of is the death of Sarah and Isaac was about thirty-seven when his Mother died. Surely Isaac could have overpowered his Dad, approximately one hundred and thirty years of age; but, he submitted instead.

Jesus in the Garden / Cords of Love

Even as Jesus, when going to the cross, submitted to the will of the Father but could have escaped it. In the Garden, He prayed:

(Luke 22:42 NKJV) saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

When the soldiers came to arrest Him and Peter pulled out his sword, "Then said Jesus unto Peter:

(John 18:11 NKJV) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?"

Jesus was submitting to the Father by going to the cross and Isaac was submitting to his father by being bound on the altar. Jesus could have called fire from heaven to escape the cross if He so chose, but he didn't. He was not bound by the cords, but by the cords of love for you and for me.

(Genesis 22:10 NKJV) And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Look at the progression of Abraham's faith. Our faith is a work in progress.

Imagine Abraham's Tears

I imagine, at this point, that Isaac was looking up at his Dad and saw the tears rolling down Abraham's cheek. This was the hardest test, Abraham ever had. He believed that somehow God was going to bring Isaac back to life. He didn't know how, but God had promised that through Isaac would Abraham's seed be called and he believed God. It would be hard to imagine whether Isaac or Abraham suffered more. When Jesus hung on the cross, who suffered the most? We don't often think of the pain of the Father's heart when the Son was being sacrificed for our sins. I would have to say that the Father was suffering the most.

(Genesis 22:11 NKJV) But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 22:12 NKJV) And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

I Know What is In You – And Now so Do You

And the Lord responds and says to Abraham now I know since you have done what you've done and was willing to do, these words for us have such meaning, but the word now the Lord saying Abraham, I know what's in you (obviously Lord didn't need a test to know what was in Abraham). He knew, He's all knowing and were told in Hebrews that the word of God searches us and knows us is the thoughts and discerners of what's in the heart of man. The Lord knows he already knew, but he's confirming to Abraham I know what's in you. Abraham's not gonna leave here and wonder should I have not gone at all? Should I have gone all the way through it? Should I have stopped when I stopped? There will be no doubt in the mind of Abraham because God's gonna confirm everything you did was perfect. I'm confirming of what's in you and now Abraham, you can walk away, knowing that God knows what's in you and he as well pleased with you.

And there's a place for each and every one of us. the power and the strength when we know that God knows what's in us and he confirms it and he speaks to our heart that he's well pleased with us that we can walk in the boldness of strength that we hear from the Lord, we respond to the Lord, we follow through with the Lord, and therefore whatever is the next thing, we know we can do because we have the faith and the confidence that we have been changed by the Lord, we have been moved by the Lord. We have been matured by the Lord. We can see that he who began a good work will be faithful to complete it.

[**Hebrews 4:12–13 \(NKJV\)**¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.](#)

James 2 / Faith Without Works

James gives us a very interesting commentary on this particular passage of scripture:

[*\(James 2:21 NKJV\) Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?*](#)

[*\(James 2:22 NKJV\) Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?*](#)

[*\(James 2:23 NKJV\) And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.*](#)

James uses this as part of his argument that faith has to produce works that are in harmony with what you declare that you believe:

[*\(James 2:17 NKJV\) Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*](#)

The faith of Abraham was demonstrated in the fact of his willingness to offer his son.

(Genesis 22:13 NKJV) Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

(Genesis 22:14 NKJV) And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The LORD it shall be provided."

Only 1 Sacrifice Ever Rose From Dead

It's important to see as we look at the Old Testament and we look at all the sacrifices spoken of in all of the Bible only one sacrifice ever rose from the dead as we see every sacrifice was dyed, every sacrifice was only for the moment as every sacrifice was looking forward to the one and only final sacrifice, the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who had take away the sins of the world. and there we have everything hinges on the resurrection and the resurrection proves that God accepted the substitution.

Lord Will Provide / God's Provision Found at the Cross / HIMSELF – NOT FOR HIMSELF

Verse 14 - The-LORD-Will-Provide – In the Hebrew, Jehovah-jireh. The Lord will provide, and a Name for all of us to draw into our hearts and minds. Whatever you want to see of God's provision in your life will always be found on the Mount. When you doubt God's love for you, His care for you, His provision for you, then go back to the Mount, and lift your eyes up and you will see His provision. Back in verse 8, Himself will He provide. God will provide Himself, not for Himself. Here it was a ram, the Lamb was still yet to come.

Man – Lamb - Worm

God became a man, the man became the Lamb, and then "catch this" the Lamb became the worm.

Psalms 22 the great Messianic Prophecy concerning Jesus:

(Psalms 22:6 NKJV) But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

(Psalms 22:7 NKJV) All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

(Psalms 22:8 NKJV) "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

(Psalms 22:14 NKJV) I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

(Psalms 22:15 NKJV) My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

(Psalms 22:16 NKJV) For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

(Psalms 22:17 NKJV) I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

(Psalms 22:18 NKJV) They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

Tolaf / Scarlet / Red Spot / Reproduction

I've become a worm, the word there is "tolaf". Back in the days of Jesus if you wanted to make a scarlet garment, you would get these worms and grind them up into a solution, and then dip the garment in the solution and it would become red/scarlet. These worms, these Tolafs, when they would reproduce they would climb to the limb of a tree, then during reproduction it would die. As it dies it would leave a red spot on the tree limb. So it was during reproduction that it would die. Psalm 22, I am a worm, not a man, so that I might die for Ray and the church of Anne Arundel County, and Christians everywhere.

White as Snow

Then according to Zondervan Pictural Enclopedia, after 3-5 days the red spot dries up and turns white and then flakes off and falls to the ground:

(Isaiah 1:18 NKJV) "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

From King to Worm – For Me

God became a man, the man became the Lamb, the Lamb became the worm. From the King of the Universe, to the worm of the earth. He became like me, so He can take my sin, die in my place, pay my price for offended the Holy God. God provided Himself the Lamb.

Because You Have Obeyed My Voice (22:15-19)

(Genesis 22:15 NKJV) Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

(Genesis 22:16 NKJV) and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son;

God's Oath

Going back to verse twelve, the angel of the LORD said, "...thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from "me." The angel of the LORD is none other than Jesus Christ.

The Book of Hebrews talks about the problem that God has when he wants to make an oath to man. When you make an oath, you swear by something greater; but, God can't swear by anything greater so He swears by Himself. There is nothing higher to swear by. God wanted to establish the promises by two immutable things. Number one It is impossible for God to lie.

(Genesis 22:17 NKJV) "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

(Genesis 22:18 NKJV) "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Proof What God Can do in a Man

Abraham is proof and demonstration of what the Almighty God can do in a man's life

All Nations Blessed

Verse 18 - In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice. - So, we become the beneficiaries of the obedience of Abraham. Blessed because of Jesus, who was born of the "seed" of Abraham

For many years it was thought that there were only three thousand stars in the sky. Before the age of telescopes, guys would sit out and count the stars at night. Several Astronomers of ancient times, counted the stars and came up with numbers in the area of three to six thousand that are visible to the naked eye; so, the early skeptics cast doubts on the Bible being inspired by God. God made a severe mistake here by indicating that the stars were too numerous to count but then along came the telescope and it has been estimated that the number of stars, in our universe, are ten to the twenty-fifth power. It has also been estimated, by the number of cubic feet of sand that exist, that there are probably ten to the twenty-fifth power grains of sand on our earth.

(Genesis 22:19 NKJV) So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose and went together to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.

Where is Isaac

Now, Where was Isaac? It doesn't mention him coming back with Abraham, although we're sure he did. The Spirit does not mention it deliberately, because Isaac was a type of Christ.

Jesus Will Return For His Bride

After Christ's death, he was taken up into heaven and will not appear again until the Holy Spirit brings back the "bride" for the Son. Today the Holy Spirit is gathering, from among the world, a "bride" for the Son. When the "bride" is gathered, the Holy Spirit will bring "her" to the Son and He shall arise to meet them in the clouds of the air and so shall we ever be with the LORD. Isaac doesn't appear on the scene again until the time when his bride is brought to him by Eliezer, servant of Abraham who is a type of the Holy Spirit in Genesis 24.

There is Always an "After These Things" (22:20-24)

(Genesis 22:20 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that it was told Abraham, saying, "Indeed Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor:

(Genesis 22:21 NKJV) "Huz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram,

(Genesis 22:22 NKJV) "Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel."

(Genesis 22:23 NKJV) And Bethuel begot Rebekah. These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother.

(Genesis 22:24 NKJV) His concubine, whose name was Reumah, also bore Tebah, Gaham, Thahash, and Maachah.

Strange Way to End / After these Things / Lord Provide – Rom 8:32

Seems like a strange thing to add on to the end of this amazing story, but look at this. Whose mentioned in verse 23, it is Rebekah, Isaac's wife. Verse 20 starts with "after these things", after what things? After 3 days of being dead, after the resurrection, the Bride is brought forth to the Son. This is a picture of you and me. Jesus become a worm for me, so that I might become His Bride. Jehovah Jireh, the Lord provides.

(Romans 8:32 NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

What is it that you need today? Jehovah Jireh the Lord will provide.

Outline Genesis 22:

- After These Things (22:1)
- Take Now Thy Son (22:2-6)
- God Will Provide Himself The Lamb (22:7-14)
- Because You Have Obeyed My Voice (22:15-19)
- There is Always an "After These Things" (22:20-24)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 23

Title: The Death of Sarah (Abraham Loses His Princess)

Summary: In our chapter today, we will read of the death of Sarah (Abraham's wife), whose name means "princess". As Abraham weeps, we will see the heart of God who says He catches and keeps all our tears in a bottle. And through all the tears, the passage gives a beautiful picture, and promise, of the resurrection.

Genesis 23:1-4 (NKJV)¹ Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ² So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ³ Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying, ⁴ "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

Outline Genesis 23:

- Sarah's Life (23:1)
- Sarah's Death (23:2)
- Sarah's Burial (23:3-20)
- Sarah's Resurrection

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
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- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Sarah's Life (23:1)

Genesis 23:1 Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah.

Interestingly, enough in the Sarah is the only woman mentioned in the Bible who we know the age of her child birthing and the age of her death and the place of her burial

Sarah's age is given so we can see how short of a time she had with Isaac and her age is given so we can see how long of a time Abraham had without her. and one of the things we also notice is the first mention of mourning in the Bible is here of Abraham weeping for the loss of his wife.

Hebron / Died in Fellowship / Stuck it Out

Verse 2 - So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron): Hebron means fellowship; Sarah died in fellowship. She was in fellowship with her husband and in fellowship with the Lord. They had their challenges as we have studied, they had personal failings, they lived the split family, they had problems with their kids, but they stuck it out, they stayed by each others side.

Peter Says to Study Her / Nothing More Beautiful / Madison Avenue

Peter says for us to study this woman, for she is the picture of the woman men are to marry, and woman are to be (1 Peter 3:6). She was in fellowship with her husband and the Lord. Nothing is more beautiful about a woman, than a woman in fellowship with the Lord. A woman who is in fellowship with the Lord radiates Jesus Christ, her beauty cannot be denied. How sad it is for the woman today who are consumed with Madison Avenues

description of beauty, it is a fleeting and fading beauty that eventually will leave them depressed. The beauty of a woman in fellowship with the Lord, is a beauty that is a living hope.

1 Peter 3:1–6 (NKJV)¹ Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, ² when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. ³ Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—⁴ rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. ⁵ For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶ as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

*(1 Peter 1:3 NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
(1 Peter 1:4 NKJV) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*

Sarah had been a good wife to Abraham and a good mother to Isaac. Yes, she had her faults, as we all do; but God called her a princess (Gen. 17:15) and listed her with the heroes and heroines of faith (Heb. 11:11). The Apostle Peter named her as a good example for Christian wives to follow (1 Peter 3:1–6), and Paul used her to illustrate the grace of God in the life of the believer (Gal. 4:21–31).

Hebrews 11:11–12 (NKJV)¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

Galatians 4:21–31 (NKJV)²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. ²⁷ For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.” ²⁸ Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. ²⁹ But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. ³⁰ Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” ³¹ So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Sarah's Death (23:2)

Genesis 23:2 So Sarah died in Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

Verse 1 - Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years: This is the only woman in the Bible whose age was given, I believe it is here by Holy Spirit design to give us an understanding of Isaac's age. If Sarah was 127 years old when she died, that means that Isaac was 37 years old at this time. That is a hard number to consider she only got 37 years with Isaac and Isaac only got 37 years with her.

According to the Bible (specifically in the book of Genesis):

- Sarah died at 127 years old (Genesis 23:1–2).
- Abraham died at 175 years old (Genesis 25:7–8).

When Sarah died, Abraham was 10 years older than she was (Genesis 17:17 says Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born and Sarah was 90). So, when Sarah died at 127, Abraham would have been 137 years old.

Since Abraham died at 175, he lived $175 - 137 = 38$ years after Sarah died.

First Mention / No Tears Garden - Flood

Verse 2 - and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her: This is the first mention of mourning in the Bible. The Holy Spirit reserves it for this moment. We read of no tears falling in the garden when Adam and Eve sinned, nor when the flood came, but here when a husband loses his wife.

God Stores Them

God stores our tears in a bottle:

(Psalms 56:8 NKJV) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Weeping in the Bible

In the Bible, there are a few notable instances where Jesus is described as weeping or expressing deep sorrow. Here are the key passages:

1. John 11:35 – At Lazarus’ Tomb

- Verse: “Jesus wept.” (John 11:35 – the shortest verse in an English Bible)
- Context: Jesus arrives at the tomb of His friend Lazarus, sees the mourning of Mary and others, and is deeply moved. Though He knew He would raise Lazarus, He still empathized with the sorrow of those around Him.

John 11:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ Jesus wept.

2. Luke 19:41–44 – Over Jerusalem

- Verse: “As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it...” (Luke 19:41)
- Context: As Jesus approached Jerusalem for the last time, He wept over the city’s impending destruction and the people’s failure to recognize “the time of God’s coming.”

Luke 19:41–44 (NKJV) ⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴² saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³ For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴ and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

3. Hebrews 5:7 – In Prayer and Agony (Implied)

- Verse: “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears...” (Hebrews 5:7)
- Context: This is likely referring to Jesus’ agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (see Luke 22:44), where He prayed in anguish before His crucifixion. Though it doesn’t use the word “wept,” it clearly depicts Him crying out with tears.

Luke 22:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Hebrews 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

These passages show Jesus’ deep emotional life—His compassion, sorrow, and love for humanity. Now let’s break down the Greek terms used for “wept” in these verses too—it’s pretty insightful.

Here’s a breakdown of the Greek words used for “wept” or “weeping” in the passages where Jesus is described as crying. There are different words used, each carrying slightly different nuances.

1. John 11:35 – “Jesus wept.” (when Lazarus died)

- Greek word: ἐδάκρυσεν (edakrysen)
- Root verb: δακρύω (dakryō) – “to shed tears,” “to weep quietly”
- Nuance: This word suggests a quiet, gentle weeping. It’s not loud or dramatic—more of a soft, sorrowful release of emotion. It shows Jesus’ personal grief and compassion.

John 11:35 (NKJV) ³⁵ Jesus wept (dakruon).

Interesting point: The mourning of Mary and the crowd in the same chapter (John 11:33) uses a different Greek word, which we’ll get to next.

John 11:33 (NKJV) ³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

2. Luke 19:41 – “He wept over [Jerusalem].”

- Greek word: ἐκλαυσεν (eklausen)
- Root verb: κλαίω (klaiō) – “to weep aloud,” “to wail”
- Nuance: This word means loud weeping—a kind of sobbing or wailing. Jesus isn’t just shedding a tear here; He’s deeply distressed over the fate of the city. It’s more intense than dakryō.

Luke 19:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept (klaiō) over it,

3. Hebrews 5:7 – “with loud cries and tears”

- Greek phrase: μετὰ κραυγῆς ἰσχυρᾶς καὶ δακρύων (meta kraugēs ischyras kai dakryōn)
- κραυγή (kraugē) – a loud cry or scream
- δακρύων (dakryōn) – tears (plural of dakryon, “tear”)
- Nuance: This verse emphasizes both the volume (kraugē) and intensity of Jesus’ emotional state,

combined with literal tears (dakryōn). It paints a vivid picture of deep anguish, especially in the context of Gethsemane. Regarding weeping over Lazarus, Jesus was sorrowful, but knew the resurrection power. Regarding Jerusalem, He cried with great sobbing because He knew the impending destruction to come upon them for rejecting their King (Messiah) and forty years later the Romans will utterly destroy the city and inhabit. In the Garden we see the merging of the two, as He knows the resurrection power that comes through the cross, but also the impending destruction to come upon all who reject the cross and face eternal damnation.

Hebrews 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears (dakruon) to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

Luke 22:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Others Who Wept

Here’s a breakdown of the Greek words for weeping used when other people are described as weeping in the Gospels, especially in key emotional moments around Jesus.

1. Mary (Lazarus’sister) and the Jews – At Lazarus’ Tomb

- John 11:33: “...Mary was weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping...”
- Greek word: κλαίω (klaiō) – same as in Luke 19:41
- Form: κλαίουσαν (participle form of klaiō)
- Nuance: This refers to loud lamentation or wailing, typical of Jewish mourning customs. It’s a communal,

expressive grief.

John 11:33 (NKJV) ³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping (klaiō), and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

Luke 19:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

Contrast: Jesus’ edakrysen (quiet weeping) stands apart from the public wailing of Mary and the others.

2. Peter – After Denying Jesus

- Luke 22:62: “And he went out and wept bitterly.”
- Greek word: ἐκλαυσεν (eklausen) – same as Jesus over Jerusalem
- Phrase: ἐκλαυσεν πικρῶς (eklausen pikrōs) – “wept bitterly”
- Nuance: Klaiō again—deep, emotional sobbing, and the adverb pikrōs adds intensity, meaning with

bitterness or deep regret.

Luke 22:62 (NKJV) ⁶² So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Luke 19:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

3. The Women at the Tomb

- John 20:11: “Mary stood outside the tomb crying...”
- Greek word: κλαίω (klaiō)
- Form: κλαίουσα (present participle)
- Nuance: Again, klaiō shows open, audible weeping. Mary Magdalene is grieving deeply at Jesus’ tomb.

John 20:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept (klaiō) she stooped down and looked into the tomb.

Luke 19:41 (NKJV) ⁴¹ Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept (klaiō) over it,

4. The Daughter of Jairus – Mourners

- Mark 5:38–39: “People were crying and wailing loudly.”

- Greek word: κλαίω (klaió)
- Phrase: κλαίοντας καὶ ἀλαλάζοντας πολλά – “weeping and wailing greatly”
- Nuance: This is ritual mourning, with both klaió (weeping) and alalazō (wailing or crying out loudly), often done by professional mourners.

Mark 5:38–39 (NKJV)³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in, He said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep (*klaiō*)? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”

Septuagint

How do these words show up in the Septuagint (Greek Old Testament), where prophets like Jeremiah or David weep—lots of thematic connections there.

Let’s into the Septuagint (LXX)—the Greek translation of the Old Testament—and see how the words δακρύω (dakryō) and κλαίω (klaió) appear. These deepen the emotional and prophetic context of Jesus’ weeping.

1. κλαίω (klaió) in the Septuagint

This word shows up very often in contexts of public grief, mourning, or national tragedy.

Examples:

Genesis 45:14–15 – Joseph and his brothers reunite

“He fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept...”

Greek: καὶ ἔκλαυσεν ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτοῦ

- Nuance: Reunited family, joyful-yet-sorrowful emotion—deep familial bond.

Genesis 45:14–15 (NKJV)¹⁴ Then he fell on his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. ¹⁵ Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

2 Samuel 1:11–12 – David mourns Saul and Jonathan

“And they mourned and wept and fasted...”

Greek: καὶ ἔκλαυσαν

- Nuance: National mourning, especially for a fallen king—very similar to Jesus weeping over Jerusalem.

2 Samuel 1:11–12 (NKJV)¹¹ Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and *so did* all the men who *were* with him. ¹² And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

Jeremiah 9:1 (Jeremiah as a “weeping prophet”)

“Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears...”

(Not using klaió directly in this line, but he uses it often throughout the book.)

Jeremiah’s tone of prophetic lament links directly with Jesus’ lament in Luke 19:41, when He weeps over the coming destruction of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 9:1 (NKJV)¹ Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of my people!

2. δακρύω (dakryō) in the Septuagint

This word is much rarer in the LXX. When it appears, it often implies personal, quiet, or internal grief.

Example:

Job 16:20 (LXX numbering might vary slightly)

“My friends scorn me; my eyes pour out tears to God.”

Greek: ἐκχεῖται δάκρυόν μου πρὸς θεόν

- Nuance: Personal suffering—Job weeps quietly in prayer. Echoes Hebrews 5:7.

[Job 16:20 \(NKJV\)](#)²⁰ *My friends scorn me; My eyes pour out tears to God.*

Psalms 39:12 (LXX 38:13)

“Hear my prayer, O Lord... hold not your peace at my tears.”

Greek: εἰς τὰ δάκρυά μου μὴ παρασιωπήσης

- A cry of deep, personal distress—again, this links beautifully to Jesus’ quiet tears at Lazarus’ tomb.

[Psalm 39:12 \(NKJV\)](#)¹² *“Hear my prayer, O LORD, And give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a stranger with You, A sojourner, as all my fathers were.”*

Revelation

How do these themes (tears, grief, lament) show up in Revelation or prophetic visions of healing, where God wipes away every tear. The arc from weeping to restoration is beautiful.

Love it—this is where the theology and poetry of Scripture really shine. Let’s trace the arc from weeping to restoration, especially how the Bible ends the story of grief.

Tears in the Book of Revelation: God Wipes Them Away

Revelation 7:17

“...and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

- Greek: καὶ ἐξαλείψει ὁ θεὸς πᾶν δάκρυον ἀπὸ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν

- Word: δάκρυον (dakryon) – singular form of “tear”

[Revelation 7:17 \(NKJV\)](#)¹⁷ *for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear (dakruon) from their eyes.”*

Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more...”

- Greek: καὶ ἐξαλείψει πᾶν δάκρυον ἀπὸ τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν

- Same phrase repeated—but now in the context of the New Heaven and New Earth.

Verb: ἐξαλείφω (exaleiphō) – “to blot out,” “wipe away,” or “completely remove”

•Used in Greek literature for wiping ink from a scroll, or erasing something permanently. It’s not just drying a tear—it’s removing the source of sorrow.

[Revelation 21:4 \(NKJV\)](#)⁴ *And God will wipe away every tear (dakruon) from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”*

First Mention / No Tears Garden - Flood

Verse 2 - and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her: This is the first mention of mourning in the Bible. The Holy Spirit reserves it for this moment. We read of no tears falling in the garden when Adam and Eve sinned, nor when the flood came, but here when a husband loses his wife.

God Stores Them

God stores our tears in a bottle:

(Psalms 56:8 NKJV) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

I pray for anyone and everyone here who is hurting and shedding tears with the God of all comfort comforts you and that you know that he catches your tears every last one of them and stores them in a bottle

Sarah's Burial (23:3-20)

Every word of God is pure, he is a shield to everyone who puts their trust in him, and we clearly see the tying of the word of God to the protection of God to our place of faith and trusting in God. And here we come to chapter 23 and in between 22 and 24 is this chapter 23. Genesis 22 is the high water mark of Genesis, as I say, a picture foreshadowing 2000 years later, God himself, providing himself to be the lamb of God, who would take away our sin fully consumed so that we might be forgiven, and then next week study, chapter 24 is an unnamed servant, a picture of the Holy Spirit, going to seek a bride for the Son, as will see the introduction to Rebecca with Isaac. and Genesis 22, Take now by son thy only son, whom thou love, the picture of Jesus, and of course John 3:16. And so with that said 23 isn't just filler of 50 chapters to take up this much space that tells a story about buying a piece of land. God has something deep and rich here. and what we need is to spend time to search it out and to dig it out as a treasure of what God is trying to speak to us in this chapter

Proverbs 30:6 (NKJV)⁶ Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Genesis 22:1–2 (NKJV)¹ Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

² Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Genesis 22:7–8 (NKJV)⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Genesis 23:3 Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, saying,

Genesis 23:4 "I am a foreigner and a visitor among you. Give me property for a burial place among you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight."

Genesis 23:5 And the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him,

Genesis 23:6 "Hear us, my lord: You are a mighty prince among us; bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places. None of us will withhold from you his burial place, that you may bury your dead."

Genesis 23:7 Then Abraham stood up and bowed himself to the people of the land, the sons of Heth.

Genesis 23:8 And he spoke with them, saying, "If it is your wish that I bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and meet with Ephron the son of Zohar for me,

Genesis 23:9 that he may give me the cave of Machpelah which he has, which is at the end of his field. Let him give it to me at the full price, as property for a burial place among you."

Genesis 23:10 Now Ephron dwelt among the sons of Heth; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the presence of the sons of Heth, all who entered at the gate of his city, saying,

Genesis 23:11 "No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field and the cave that is in it; I give it to you in the presence of the sons of my people. I give it to you. Bury your dead!"

Genesis 23:12 Then Abraham bowed himself down before the people of the land;

Genesis 23:13 and he spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, saying, "If you will give it, please hear me. I will give you money for the field; take it from me and I will bury my dead there."

Genesis 23:14 And Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him,

Genesis 23:15 "My lord, listen to me; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver. What is that between you and me? So bury your dead."

This is the price haggling of the culture even if you go there today no price is the set price all prices are negotiable. The 400 shekels of silver is clearly not a low ball or a offer that was meant to be generous it was meant to be an

over the top probably doubled or tripled the actual price so then when they settled on an agreeable price one looks like they were generous and the other walks away feeling like they got a deal.

My wife Renee when we we're in the mission field and we go to the markets I don't haggle I say hey how much for this hat and whatever they say I just pay it because that's just me that's what I do but not Renee Nope she will haggle them back and forth even if it's just for a buck. I'll say why do you haggle with them and she'll save because that's the way it is here in this culture. To which I say you just like the art of haggling haha.

Genesis 23:16 And Abraham listened to Ephron; and Abraham weighed out the silver for Ephron which he had named in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, currency of the merchants.

Genesis 23:17 So the field of Ephron which was in Machpelah, which was before Mamre, the field and the cave which was in it, and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all the surrounding borders, were deeded

Genesis 23:18 to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the sons of Heth, before all who went in at the gate of his city.

Genesis 23:19 And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 23:20 So the field and the cave that is in it were deeded to Abraham by the sons of Heth as property for a burial place.

Machpelah / Double Doors

Verse 9 – Machpelah: means "double doors". There is a way in and a way out. How poetic of this picture of death. Sarah is passing through one door and out the other. The grave won't hold her, and she knew because she knew the promised Seed (the Messiah) would come through her, and He would bless the nations.

As we'll read on Abraham will be buried here then Isaac will be buried here and then Rebecca will be buried here and then Jacob will be buried here and then Leah will be buried here as well. This will be the only piece of property that Abraham we'll buy and all the other time he will just be a sojourner in tents, moving from place to place never building a house but building plenty of altars and planting trees. He wasn't looking for a city on this side of heaven, and his life declared that on what he did and did not purchase.

Hebrews 11:8–10 (NKJV)⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

For them, it was bury me where my heart is; for I know that this land is where my promise will be fulfilled, where my redeemer will come and fulfill the promise He made to me. By the way, Hebron is about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem, and would later become a city of refuge that a guilty (unintentional/accidental manslaughter) person could flee to in order to escape death, and would be set free from their guilt after the High Priest would die. It was where the 12 spies gathered the cluster of grapes to show the land truly flowed with milk and honey. (The regulations concerning these cities are found in Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 19:1–13, and Joshua 20)

Deuteronomy 4:41–42 (NKJV)⁴¹ Then Moses set apart three cities on this side of the Jordan, toward the rising of the sun, ⁴² that the manslayer might flee there, who kills his neighbor unintentionally, without having hated him in time past, and that by fleeing to one of these cities he might live:

Hebrews 6:18 (NKJV)¹⁸ that by two immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

Romans 5:9 (NKJV)⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Weep – With Hope

Bury me where my heart is, where my hope lies. We weep, but not as those who have no hope. One of the hardest things to do in the ministry is the funeral of someone who had no relationship with Jesus Christ. But, one of the most blessed, is to be able to proclaim to those who are weeping, we have hope.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13 NKJV) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

(1 Thessalonians 4:14 NKJV) For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

(John 11:25 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

(John 11:26 NKJV) "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

When the people of Canaan will look on they'll see what was important to Abraham and that it will be the only place that he would purchase and he would not haggle over the price he would pay full price because it was worth the price to him.

Of course in that same land of Canaan, there is a tomb, that is empty, that declared how a man lived, and how he died, and to the best we can tell..... never owned anything in this earth.

Matthew 8:20–21 (NKJV)²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." ²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

Matthew 28:6 (NKJV)⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

The way we live and the way we die and what we put in to what we consider precious and of great value is what the world will watch because I truly believe the world is watching and God's put it in their heart to 1 to see Jesus and they'll see him through us and how we lived and how we died. A great and mighty impactful and reminding passage that I always put before me is the Greeks who came to Philip and then they Andrew and they simply said Sir we wish to see Jesus. And I'm reminded all that we have to do is show them Jesus and let them decide what they'll do with Jesus, all that we have to do is take them to Jesus whether it's true or words or whether it's through our actions or whether it's through our life or whether it's through our death.

John 12:20–22 (NKJV)²⁰ Now there were certain Greeks among those who came up to worship at the feast. ²¹ Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip came and told Andrew, and in turn Andrew and Philip told Jesus.

Missionaries

Here are a few moving stories of missionaries whose bodies or hearts were buried in the mission field—symbolizing their deep love and lifelong commitment to the people they served:

1. David Livingstone (1813–1873) – Africa

- Heart buried in Africa, body in Westminster Abbey
- Livingstone, a Scottish missionary and explorer, devoted his life to the African people and the abolition of the slave trade. When he died in present-day Zambia, his African friends and servants buried his heart under a tree in Chitambo village (now Zambia), saying, "You can have his body, but his heart belongs in Africa." His embalmed body was carried over 1,000 miles to the coast and eventually shipped back to England, where he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

2. Jim Elliot (1927–1956) – Ecuador

- Body buried in the mission field
- Jim Elliot, along with four other missionaries, was killed by the Waorani people of Ecuador while trying to share the Gospel. The story of their sacrifice later led to widespread mission work and eventual peace with the tribe. Jim's body was buried near the Curaray River, close to where he died.

3. Ann Hasseltine Judson (1789–1826) – Burma (Myanmar)

- Body buried in the mission field
- Ann was one of the first American women to serve as a foreign missionary. She and her husband, Adoniram Judson, worked in Burma despite immense suffering. She died of illness while serving in Burma and was buried there. Her letters and story inspired generations of missionaries.

Sarah's Resurrection

Where Did Sarah's Soul Go Upon Death

So where did Sarah's soul go when she died?

The Old Testament believers went to a place of comfort and rest called “paradise” when they died. The Old Testament taught life after death and that everyone who departed from this life went to a place of conscious existence. The general term for this place was Sheol, which could be translated “the grave” or “the realm of the dead.” The wicked were there (Psalm 9:17; 31:17; 49:14; Isaiah 5:14), and so were the righteous (Genesis 37:35; Job 14:13; Psalm 6:5; 16:10; 88:3; Isaiah 38:10).

The New Testament equivalent of Sheol is Hades. Luke 16:19–31 shows that, prior to Christ’s resurrection, Hades was divided into two realms: a place of comfort where Lazarus was (Abraham’s bosom or Abraham’s side) and a place of torment where the rich man was (hell). Lazarus’s place of comfort is elsewhere called “paradise” (Luke 23:43). The place of torment is called “Gehenna” in the Greek in Mark 9:45. Between paradise and hell (the two districts of Hades) there was “a great chasm” (Luke 16:26). The fact that no one could cross this chasm indicates that, after death, one’s fate is sealed.

Luke 16:19–31 (NKJV)¹⁹ “There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ “Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’ ²⁷ “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

Luke 23:42–43 (NKJV)⁴² Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

When Jesus died, He went to Paradise and, upon His resurrection and ascension, took the souls of the Old Testament saints from Paradise to Heaven

Ephesians 4:8–10 (NKJV)⁸ Therefore He says: “*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*” ⁹ (Now this, “*He ascended*”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Today, when an unbeliever dies, he follows the Old Testament unbelievers to the torment side of Hades. At the final judgment, Hades will be emptied before the Great White Throne, where its occupants will be judged prior to entering the lake of fire (Revelation 20:13–15).

On the other hand, when a believer dies today, he is “present with the Lord” in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:6–9). There, he joins the Old Testament saints who have been enjoying their reward for thousands of years.

A resurrection awaits everyone—either a resurrection to eternal life or a resurrection to “shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2). The Bible clearly states that New Testament saints who have died will be resurrected at the event we call the rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). The Bible is less clear about when the Old Testament saints will be resurrected. It is our view that Old Testament believers will be joined to their resurrected bodies at the end of the tribulation period when Jesus returns to earth to set up His millennial kingdom (Isaiah 26:19; Hosea 13:14).

Appointment

It is appointed for man to die once, and then stand before the Lord. How will you stand when you stand before Him?

Hebrews 9:27–28 (NKJV)²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Outline Genesis 23:

- Sarah’s Life (23:1)

- Sarah's Death (23:2)
- Sarah's Burial (23:3-20)
- Sarah's Resurrection

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 24

Title: Here Comes the Bride

Summary: This chapter is the longest chapter in the Book of Genesis, and that is not surprising considering the whole chapter is a picture of God's Bride..... you! Join us as the Lord says to us..... to take a good, long, lingering look at how I feel about you.

Genesis 24:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ² So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, ³ and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; ⁴ but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Types and Shadows

Through the Scriptures there is a study called Types and Shadows. We see in the Old Testament, types which would be fulfilled in the New Testament. When you begin to study, in the Old Testament, about the tabernacle, different sacrifices, and the various feast days; you will find that they were all types of things to come in the New Testament. The Passover Feast was the foreshadowing of the death of Jesus Christ and so it was significant that He died on the day of the Passover. The Feast of Pentecost foreshadowed the birth of the "church," and so, the pouring out of the Spirit and the first fruits of the harvest among the gentiles, were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.

In the History of Abraham, we have a type of God the Father, and his son Isaac as a type of Jesus Christ. So, in the story (Genesis 22) of Abraham, being called upon by God to take his son, his only son Isaac, and offer him for a sacrifice on a mountain that God would show him; you have a foreshadowing of the event that would take place some two thousand years later on the same mount Moriah in Jerusalem. God gave His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our sins. It is significant in the story that once Isaac was offered, God provided the substitute. Abraham prophesied, "...God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt-offering" and "In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen."

We do not read of Isaac again until we get to the 24th chapter of Genesis and we do not see Isaac, in the picture again, until the "bride" for Isaac has been brought from a far land and he rises up to meet the bride. Once Jesus died and was our sacrifice, He was received up into heaven and does not appear on the scene again until the Holy Spirit, of which the servant of Abraham is a type, brings his "bride" to Him and He rises up to meet His "bride." We, the church are the "Bride of Christ" (Revelation 21-22), therefore Isaac is a type of Jesus, and Rebekah is a type of the Church (us).

Genesis 24 is the longest chapter in the Book of Genesis. The Holy Spirit says to us to take a good long, lingering look at how I feel about you.

Outline Genesis 24:

- The Desire of the Father (24:1-9)
- The Sending of the Servant (24:10-17)
- The Response of the Bride (24:18-65)
- The Rejoice of the Son (24:66-67)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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The Desire of the Father (24:1-9)

Genesis 24:1 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things.

Old

So we know that Abraham's gonna live to be 175 years old and Genesis 25 tells us that Isaac is 40 years old when he marries and we know that Abraham had Isaac at the age of 100 so that puts Abraham at the age of 140 years old And he will live 35 more years, but he's getting his house in order and the number one concern of his house in order is not prosperity, but his son, his children, his child and their spiritual care and well-being as we'll see he doesn't want his son being sucked into the world, but to be set apart from the world with a godly wife with him

Regarding the mathematical estimation, we would be approximately seven years from Genesis 22 when Isaac was depicted as a type of Christ being offered on Mount Maria. It is believed that, to accurately represent every detail, Isaac would have been 33 years old at the time of that event.

Sarah died at 127 years old in chapter 23. Abraham lived 38 years after Sarah's death and 35 years after Isaac's marriage. This chapter is roughly three years after Sarah's death.

God Adores You

One of the meanings here for blessed is adored in the Lord adored Abraham. He truly just adored him as we know called him friend. Enjoyed the friendship and adored him as a friend and so too we are God adores you just let that sink in. I don't know what your days like. Know what your weeks like I don't know what This season of life is like Abraham an infected man as we are still the suite adoring of us. And as we develop the chapter, we'll see why how he views us based on his desire for us. What a Beautiful Picture, God adores us God adores you.....thank you Lord for adoring me. Adore means to love and to cherish and to treasure..... sound familiar, sound like a wedding vow? But in our case, there is no "until death do apart", for death has been conquered by the one who conquered our heart.

James 2:23 Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God.

Genesis 24:2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh,

Holy Spirit – God is My Help

This oldest servant was probably Eliezer. He was named for us in chapter 15, when God promised that He would be to Abraham his exceeding great reward and bring to him great riches. Abraham told God that all of his wealth was of no value because he had no heir but his servant Eliezer, who was born in his house. The LORD gave him the promise that Eliezer would not be his heir, but he would have a son.

Genesis 15:2 (NKJV)² But Abram said, "Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer (God is Help) of Damascus?"

The name Eliezer, in Hebrew, means "God my help" and is a type of the Holy Spirit who goes to get a bride for his master's son. His job was to woo and to win the bride and bring her back that the master's son might marry her.

As a type of the Holy Spirit, his name is significant. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Comforter, which in Greek is "Paracletes" and it means literally, one who comes along side to help.

Eliezer is not named in chapter 24, and I believe that it is a deliberate omission by the Holy Spirit, who inspired the text. Jesus said, speaking of the Holy Spirit:

(John 15:26 NKJV) "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

The witness and work of the Holy Spirit, in the world today, is not to magnify himself, but to magnify Jesus Christ. I wonder how the Holy Spirit feels when people seek to magnify him, when his duty is to magnify Jesus. So important is his magnifying the name of Jesus that even though he inspired the text, he leaves out the name in chapter 24 of the oldest servant.

Face-to-Face Hear What My Heart Is

We might think this odd but not so at all of course it's even deeper than a cultural thing put your hand sometimes both hands under my thigh because the average arm length 3 feet and when a person would put their hands under another person's thigh, they are now forced face-to-face. You better be comfortable with the face that you're faced with.

Part of the covenant, the swearing that you shall do and so your face-to-face, there will be no mistake. What is being said the person who speaks is looking face-to-face therefore I die into the person who's hearing and receiving face-to-face eye to eye. Let there be no mistake. What I'm telling you and I will not lift my thigh and let your hand therefore your person your body step away from me without us being sure that you fully understood what I'm telling you to do.

Am reminded of my nephew when he was just a little lad, even though now as I write this, he's a full grown man and a major in the military but when he was just a little lad two years old, three years old, he wanted me and all of me and all of my attention he would throw up on my lap and put my face in his two hands, and he would turn me to his face and he would speak to me because he wanted all of my attention and he didn't want me distracted with the television or the newspaper. Thankfully, you didn't do it while we were in the car and I was driving, but he would look Uncle Ray and then he would talk, and I'll say it was precious. I'm telling you something that's well over 30 years ago and it was precious wonderful memory.

Maybe you feel you don't hear from the Lord maybe today he wants you to take this word picture put your hands under his thigh and just look into his face and hear what he has to say no phone or Facebook no remote maybe no fork just look into his eyes and hear what the Lord would say hey Ray Love Your wife today OK Lord, Ray I want you to spend time with your boys today a full attention hear what's on their heart look into their eyes OK need to tell you something about yourself. I know it'll be hard to hear but you need to hear this from me so that we can talk about it. OK Lord, how can I say no to he adores me and has nothing but thoughts of peace for me put your hand on my face Lord put your thighs on my hand, look into my eyes and speak to my heart who adore me.

Genesis 24:3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;

Progressive Revelation

Abraham would've been telling his progression of who the God of heaven and earth is. He would've gone over this progressive revelation as he grew in the knowledge of the Lord through the word of God spoken to him and by the experience that he witnessed of God being who He said that He would be. As we would see, the Almighty God, the All-Sufficient God, the Everlasting God, and the God who will provide—this is who He is telling his servant. God is more than a title but a whole character and nature behind Him.

And we do well when we do our morning devotion. We do well when we speak to people, and we don't just say, "Hey, God said," or, "Remember God." Whether it's as you speak to yourself or you're telling others, fill in some blanks and some details. And remember: the sufficient, Almighty, everlasting God, who will provide—even all the way to providing Himself—is saying to me, "Here's what I want of you." Or it's you reminding somebody that you're sharing with, "This is who the God is in your life." It's easy to forget in the midst of a circumstance. It's easy to forget in the moment, so we need to be reminded, and we need to remind.

Because many times, in the moment, the past is hardly remembered; therefore, we need to make the remembrance a continual thing in our lives so that we never forget, especially in the moment. That's why He calls us to communion on a regular basis. That's why we don't make communion a ritual. We do communion as the Lord leads us: sometimes just once a month, sometimes eight weeks in a row. It's all what the Lord would have for us, but we do this in remembrance of Him.

- El Elyon ("God Most High") —(14:19, 22)
- El Shaddai ("God Almighty, the All-Sufficient One")—(17:1)
- El Olam, ("the Everlasting God.") – (21:33)
- Jehovah-Jireh (God Will Provide) – (22:14)

A Sojourner

Abraham lives in the land but understands its promise will be fulfilled in the future. Thus, he journeys through it without setting down roots, searching for a city built by God. The only property Abraham bought was a burial cave, showing no interest in lavish investments. This serves as a reminder for us to avoid getting entangled in earthly concerns that may become stressful.

Desire – A Wife for the Son

Abraham is concerned about providing for his son Isaac and his future, particularly in spiritual matters. The person whom Isaac marries will be part of the seed of the promise. They will not only inherit God's promise to become a great nation, but through Abraham's lineage and Isaac's offspring, the deliverer and sacrificial offering for the sin that entered the world as described in Genesis Chapter 3 will come.

As parents, it's important to leave an inheritance for our children, whether large or small. Supporting their chosen path, be it education, career, military service, or trade, is valuable. However, raising them in faith and knowledge of the Lord should take precedence. When we pass away, we can find peace knowing we've entrusted them with the greatest treasure: a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Don't Be Unequally Yoked

So, while we're here passing through the passage, we see a clear calling of the Lord to not be unequally yoked. He's given the call that his son is not going to marry some woman of Canaan, as history tells us in the scriptures, revealing to us the depth of their wickedness and immorality—everything from child sacrifice to extreme sexual behaviors.

The Lord gives a word: my son's not gonna marry a woman from Canaan. Go to my brother's family to find him a wife, and we can see that whatever was going on with his brother—as we don't have much detail—we can gather a very great detail in that Rebecca is a virgin, and that is such a contrast compared to the history of the women of Canaan.

Genesis 24:4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac."

Genesis 24:5 And the servant said to him, "Perhaps the woman will not be willing to follow me to this land.

Must I take your son back to the land from which you came?"

Genesis 24:6 But Abraham said to him, "Beware that you do not take my son back there.

No Easy Task or Journey / 500 Miles

The servant realized that what Abraham was asking of him was not an easy task. He has to go back to Mesopotamia, which is about five hundred miles away. There he has to coax a young girl to get on a camel and ride five hundred miles across a desert area to meet and to marry a man she has never seen before. All she knows of him is what the servant has told her. She'll never see her parents or her home again. The servant could see the difficulty of talking a pretty young girl into such an adventure. He really didn't have much hope for the success of the trip and so he asks if he fails in the venture, should he take Isaac back to the land of Mesopotamia.

Jesus Never Left the Country

For the Bible passages regarding Issac, I have never found a place that he ever left the Promised land, he never went down to Egypt land Abraham or Jacob. When we read of him going to Gerar, that is a land in Caanan, (a Philistine land but still in Caanan). Interesting as we look at Isaac being a type of Jesus, in that, Jesus never left the country of Israel, his whole life he changed the world his impact impacted the whole world every piece of soil on the planet, and yet he never left Israel. If you want to meet Jesus, you have to come to the Land (Israel) where He was born, walked and taught, was crucified for your sin, died, buried, rose again, and ascended into heaven and is now seated on the Throne of God. It is the same land He will return again to.

I love it in that Abraham learned from his Hagar experience, and didn't try to work the flesh into the situation

Beware

Beware means to be vigilant and retain knowledge like a treasure. Just as we remember where we keep our valuables, we must keep important words in our minds. When faced with challenges, remembering these treasured words will help prevent failure.

Genesis 24:7 The LORD God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' He will send His angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

Genesis 24:8 And if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be released from this oath; only do not take my son back there."

Genesis 24:9 So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Mind you, this is a picture of the Holy Spirit drawing a person to the Lord. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. John 16 describes the Helper as the one who makes a person aware of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Holy Spirit will convict a person that their sin is offensive to the holy God, that they are not right with Him because of their sin, and that there is a judgment to come for their sin—which is eternal separation in the place known as hell. In hell, the fire is not quenched, and the worm does not die. The phrase "the worm does not die" emphasizes that there is a continual consciousness in hell. A person doesn't die and cease to exist; they live on forever. I think the greatest dread of that consciousness is all the opportunities that God put before them, as well as all the excuses, pride, and self-reliance that led them to reject the plea of God.

John 16:7–11 (NKJV) ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Mark 9:47–48 (NKJV) ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—⁴⁸ where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'

He is a God who wishes that none should perish, that all should seek repentance. Part of free will isn't just acknowledging the need for a Savior, but also accepting that need. The Scriptures say godly sorrow produces repentance—that when a person truly sees the offense of their sin, the price that was paid, and the sorrow that God experienced by sending His only begotten Son to trade places and be the perfect substitute and full payment, they will come to the place of repentance, turning from their sin.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

So accepting Jesus is Lord, and Savior is more than a mouth action for what happens in the heart will transition into a life and a lifestyle

And although a picture of the Holy Spirit, it's the Holy Spirit who comes alongside us as He uses us in the ministry of drawing, wooing, and bringing people to the Son. We can rest assured that it's up to Him and onto Him to

convince, and we don't have to put that pressure on ourselves. We simply need to be faithful to the calling of going to make disciples.

Why does God call us? Because He wants us to be part of what He's doing. When you go to make disciples—whether it's the first step of evangelism or the second step after they've come to Christ, and you grow them and mature them, such as teaching Sunday school or talking to them on the phone, mentoring them, just being there for them—you become this partner and conduit with God. He gives you His heart, and therefore, the great reward is having the heart of God and not being focused on the heart of self all the time, but looking to that person whom the Lord adores greatly.

It's Free-Will

And here we see the choice is a free-will choice, she had free-will to accept or not to accept.

And so is the gospel to you today just cause your family may be Christians or believers doesn't mean that makes you a Christian and believer and just because you go to a certain church or live in a certain country. Does that make you a believer in Christ and equally as wonderful as You can take that the other way regardless of what your family believes in regardless of where they live and what country you'll still get your free wheel choice to accept his offer and it won't be based on anyone else, but your free will choice

And so is the gospel to you today. Just because your family may be Christians or believers doesn't mean that makes you a Christian and believer. And just because you go to a certain church or live in a certain country doesn't make you a believer in Christ. Equally as wonderful, you can take that the other way: regardless of what your family believes in, regardless of where they live or what country they're from, you still get your free will choice to accept His offer. It won't be based on anyone else, but your free will choice.

The Sending of the Servant (24:10-17)

Genesis 24:10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, for all his master's goods were in his hand. And he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.

Holy Spirit – All Riches at Disposal

This does not mean that all of Abraham's riches could be placed on 10 camels, because we've read about all of his herds, servants, and abundance. What is being said here is that this servant, who is a picture of the Holy Spirit, has all of Abraham's possessions at his disposal.

Once again, this is a great picture: the Holy Spirit is not inferior. He is the third person of the Trinity, and He is a person with equal supply, just as the Father and the Son have. He has full authority to distribute the gifts, wealth, and treasures as He sees fit for the mission and the cause that He is going out into the world to accomplish.

You never have to do ministry alone. Ministry is not just evangelism, teaching, witnessing, and missions, but also the need to see people as God sees them. It involves ministering to them as God ministers to them—whether that means washing the dishes, saying, "Lord, join me in prayer," or better yet, "Let me join You in prayer." God will speak to you and give you the supply you need for the moment and for what He is calling you to do. This could be at home, in the workplace, in the church, within the community, or even reaching as far as the ends of the Earth in missions.

What do you need? Just ask him.

He says whatever you ask in my name I will give you so ask him. What do you need today? Ask him.

Genesis 24:11 And he made his camels kneel down outside the city by a well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.

The Well of Gathering

The well was a central gathering place for all, as there weren't many in the area. People would draw water early in the morning or evening when it was cooler due to the labor-intensive nature of the task. Women typically fetched the water, likely because men were busy tending fields and herds.

Genesis 24:12 Then he said, “O LORD God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham.

Genesis 24:13 Behold, here I stand by the well of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water.

Genesis 24:14 Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, ‘Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,’ and she says, ‘Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink’—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac. And by this I will know that You have shown kindness to my master.”

Appointed - Chosen Before Foundations of World

Verse 14 - let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac: The servant sets up a condition, a sort of fleece, that the girl he asks for a drink will also give his camels water. The servant knows God has already chosen a bride for Isaac. The scripture speaks, in the New Testament, concerning the church of Jesus Christ; that, we have been chosen in Christ before the foundations of the world. The servant realized that the bride for Isaac was already appointed by God. God had already appointed Rebekah to be the bride. Even as God has already chosen the "bride" for Christ. Those who have received Jesus as Lord and Savior are a chosen generation. Chosen before the foundations of the world that we should bring forth glory and praise unto God as the bride of His Son, Jesus Christ. [Ephesians 1:4–6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Why people argue and divide over this is beyond me.....I am just happy to be chosen, to be loved and adored, and yes given the choice and invitation..... I took it. Thank You Jesus! For which you may ask, appointed or free-will, to which my answer is “YES”.

Genesis 24:15 And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder.

Genesis 24:16 Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

Genesis 24:17 And the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher.”

Rebekah Means Ensnare / God’s View of Us

Not only was she from Abraham’s relatives, but she was also beautiful, and was a virgin. Her (Rebekah) name meaning “ensnare, captivate” was a figurative term for a fascinating beauty that traps and entrances.

Rebecca means to ensnare and we see it’s a beautiful and wonderful context she and snares the heart of others through her character. That’s beautiful from the inside out, and what a target to observe for any male and female to be.

Psalms 45 is how God sees His bride:

[Psalm 45:11 \(NKJV\)](#)¹¹ So the King will greatly desire your beauty; Because He is your Lord, worship Him.

[Song of Solomon 7:10 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ I am my beloved’s, And his desire is toward me.

This is how God sees us. This is how God sees me, regardless of how I see myself in regardless how someone else sees me. God looks at us through His "Lens of Love", that is through His Son. He sees us perfect, pure, clean, fresh, spotless, and without blemish.

The Response of the Bride (24:18-65)

Genesis 24:18 So she said, "Drink, my lord." Then she quickly let her pitcher down to her hand, and gave him a drink.

Genesis 24:19 And when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, "I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking."

Genesis 24:20 Then she quickly emptied her pitcher into the trough, ran back to the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels.

Servant's Heart As Well

She runs back as the verb gives us the action of her very heart, and therefore her character that she doesn't consider this man in his 10 camels and later will read this man had servants with him as well so she's doing a lot of work here and what we see is, she doesn't consider serving a stranger an inconvenience. She doesn't even know that their family shouldn't even know that this man represents her uncle. She's just serving a stranger and her actions are proving that she doesn't consider it an inconvenience and she doesn't say get your own or I'll be done here in 20 minutes and you can get in here. She's just greatly a servant. A camel can drink up to 40 gallons at a fill-up.

We read of her purity, we read of her being a servant we read of her being respectful we read of her being a worker. What a beautiful picture of a beautiful person.

Singles – At the Well

Single men, single woman, you will do well to find your spouse at the well. In the Scriptures we see that Isaac's wife was found at the well, Jacob found his wife at the well, and Moses found his wife at the well:

(Isaiah 12:2 NKJV) Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.'"

(Isaiah 12:3 NKJV) Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation.

Don't settle for, well at least he/she are saved, or they make Sunday often. Look for them at the place of refreshing; the Bible study, the mission trip, serving at the soup kitchen, involved in ministries. You will find the best brides at the well.

Genesis 24:21 And the man, wondering at her, remained silent so as to know whether the LORD had made his journey prosperous or not.

Genesis 24:22 So it was, when the camels had finished drinking, that the man took a golden nose ring weighing half a shekel, and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels of gold,

Genesis 24:23 and said, "Whose daughter are you? Tell me, please, is there room in your father's house for us to lodge?"

Genesis 24:24 So she said to him, "I am the daughter of Bethuel, Milcah's son, whom she bore to Nahor."

We learned in Genesis 22 that Nahor married Milcah. His name means snorting, and her name means queen. I think we can see who got shorted in the deal

Genesis 24:25 Moreover she said to him, "We have both straw and feed enough, and room to lodge."

Nahor's Family Was Wealthy

So the "enough" word here is very fitting because what we can see is that Rebecca's family is well off. She is surely not leaving for a better offer or for riches she's leaving for love.

I remember when the Lord drew my heart, I surely didn't come for wealth and prosperity even though I was bankrupt, but I wasn't bankrupt in material possessions. I was bankrupt in spirit and I was bankrupt in that this world had nothing to offer me and I did not find it, satisfying or fulfilling, and I knew in my heart That more wealth and riches was not gonna satisfy me and that is when the Lord started to draw me and call me, and then I saw his

beauty and it was his love for me that made me fall in love with him that made me leave this world and my family and all the things of it as I left for love as well

Genesis 24:26 Then the man bowed down his head and worshiped the LORD.

Genesis 24:27 And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

Being On The Way

Here's a great ministry principal the servant had to put himself in the place for ministry to happen. It's easy and we can convince ourselves Lord if you want to bring somebody to me I'm open and I'll minister; but I think a great ministry principal is we put ourselves in the way for ministry to happen, because many a time if we think we just wait for the Lord, we really have to question the call of "go therefore".

I am reminded of leading the mission team over 20 years ago, before I stepped into pastoral ministry. We were in Ireland, having met no one, but we had taken this old small building and cleared all the overgrown vegetation so it could be seen from the road out front. We painted it bright white, completely cleared out the inside, painted it, put in furniture, and turned it into a coffee bar.

I still remember saying, "We can't make ministry happen, team. We just need to put ourselves in the place of ministry. So tonight, we're going to turn this coffeehouse into a house of worship. Regardless of whether anyone comes, it will become a house of worship. We invite the Lord, and we'll put ourselves in the way, and we'll see what the Lord does."

It was an amazing moment as worship filled the space, and the beauty of the place emanated the presence of the Lord. Someone came walking up and said, "Can I go in there?" That was one of the first people to receive Christ on that mission trip. Before the week was over, though we didn't know anybody, we saw well over 100 people each day coming to the coffeehouse. And I say it's because we put ourselves in the way.

If you put yourself in the way, God will honor you all the way and along the way

Genesis 24:28 So the young woman ran and told her mother's household these things.

Genesis 24:29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban, and Laban ran out to the man by the well.

Genesis 24:30 So it came to pass, when he saw the nose ring, and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, saying, "Thus the man spoke to me," that he went to the man. And there he stood by the camels at the well.

Here comes bling-bling. Laban, who knows where to find a buck, and knows how to exploit it so he thinks. We will study more him later as Jacob enters the story

Genesis 24:31 And he said, "Come in, O blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels."

Genesis 24:32 Then the man came to the house. And he unloaded the camels, and provided straw and feed for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

Genesis 24:33 Food was set before him to eat, but he said, "I will not eat until I have told about my errand." And he said, "Speak on."

Genesis 24:34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

Genesis 24:35 The LORD has blessed my master greatly, and he has become great; and He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys.

Genesis 24:36 And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and to him he has given all that he has.

All Things Given / Servant Wooing

Verse 36 - *and to him he has given all that he has*: All things have been given to Isaac by his father:
(John 3:35 NKJV) *"The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand."*

Seeing the picture of Eliezer as the Holy Spirit, he is now wooing the bride for the son as he testifies of the glory of his master's kingdom. His master has a son and all that he possesses; he has given to his son. We begin to hear the witness of the Holy Spirit with the glories of God's Kingdom: the beauty, the glory, and the riches of the Kingdom of God and God has a Son, whom He has appointed "heir" of all things. The Spirit is here to woo us to Jesus Christ to be the bride of Christ that we may be joint heirs with him of the wealth of the Kingdom of God. So you see the picture begin to come together here as the servant describes the wealth and glory of his master's kingdom. I would imagine that he describes the son in glowing terms and Rebekah is listening, I'm sure. She probably figures, at this point, there is something very interesting going on.

He will get to tell more and more to Rebekah on their 500 mile journey, which could have taken over a month to cover. That seems like a long wait, and long journey, but in the end worth it all. And maybe you are feeling the same as we journey to Him, that sometimes it seems long, sometimes dry and weary, but keep telling each other His stories, how He adores us, and in the end it will be worth it all.

Now the servant recaps the calling and events leading up to this moment.

Genesis 24:37 Now my master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell;

Genesis 24:38 but you shall go to my father's house and to my family, and take a wife for my son.'

Genesis 24:39 And I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.'

Genesis 24:40 But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house.'

The LORD Before Whom I Walk

The phrase "The Lord Before Whom I walk" relates to the biblical concept of walking before God, which signifies living one's life in God's presence and according to His will. This idea is exemplified in Genesis 17:1, where God commands Abram to "Walk before me, and be thou perfect".

- Walking before the Lord implies living under God's watchful eye, maintaining a close relationship with Him, and conducting oneself in a manner that pleases Him.
- This concept is closely tied to the idea of walking in God's ways, which refers to following His commandments and living according to His standards.
- The Bible emphasizes the importance of this spiritual walk, with promises of blessings for those who faithfully walk before God.
- It is seen as a way of life that requires trust in God's almighty power and grace, especially in times of difficulty.
- Ultimately, walking before the Lord is understood as living a life of faith, integrity, and obedience to God's will.

Genesis 17:1 (NKJV) ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

Abraham is 140 years old at this verse, and was given the specific call in verse 1 of chapter 17 at the age of 90. But he started his walk with the calling at age 75. He has been walking "before the Lord" for 65 years now; that's amazing.

Genesis 12:4 (NKJV) ⁴ So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Genesis 12:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷ Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸ And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. ⁹ So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.

Genesis 24:41 You will be clear from this oath when you arrive among my family; for if they will not give her to you, then you will be released from my oath.'

Genesis 24:42 "And this day I came to the well and said, 'O LORD God of my master Abraham, if You will now prosper the way in which I go,

Genesis 24:43 behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass that when the virgin comes out to draw water, and I say to her, "Please give me a little water from your pitcher to drink,"

Genesis 24:44 and she says to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,"—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

Genesis 24:45 "But before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah, coming out with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down to the well and drew water. And I said to her, 'Please let me drink.'

Verse 45 - But before I had finished speaking in my heart: This is interesting; he was speaking in his heart. We think we always have to articulate our prayers, but that's not so. God can hear the prayer of your heart. He was just saying a prayer in his heart that God would point out the woman who was to be Isaac's bride.

Genesis 24:46 And she made haste and let her pitcher down from her shoulder, and said, 'Drink, and I will give your camels a drink also.' So I drank, and she gave the camels a drink also.

Genesis 24:47 Then I asked her, and said, 'Whose daughter are you?' And she said, 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.' So I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists.

Coincidence

What a coincidence huh (That's a joke).

If you just wanna do mathematical probabilities and you consider that he's traveled 500 miles and he's picked the first well of that travel and here comes Rebecca Kinsman of the family of Abraham and I think we come to a mathematical probability that would categorize as possibility

Can you believe that for yourself especially as I talk to singles can he do the same for you as he did for Isaac and you know the answers of course but I also know that it's a long wait but let's not miss Isaac had a long wait himself, the age of 40

Genesis 24:48 And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

Retell Your Story

I spent all this ink to retell the story. We already know it could've just been one line where the servant could've said, "I was sent here," or the scripture passage simply could've said, "And the servant recounted everything that had just transpired." But instead, we have this ink on a page to retell the story that we already know. The takeaway is that the retelling of the story—and God's greatness, God's moving, and God's arranging of the pieces in this amazing literal miracle and move of God—is meant to show others the greatness of God.

You know, Christian, one of the greatest things you have is your testimony of how God moved the pieces, arranged the world, and brought you to see Him as your Lord and Savior, leading you into a personal relationship with Him. Yet, we also walk before Him daily and have testimony after testimony of His goodness, faithfulness, and presence in difficult times, as well as in great times. We've seen Him move pieces, arrange worlds, and perform wondrous deeds. These testimonies of His greatness give us the privilege to retell them to others in this world. Let us not miss the glory of this opportunity to recount the great things God has done—things we have witnessed with our very eyes.

Genesis 24:49 Now if you will deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me. And if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left."

Genesis 24:50 Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you either bad or good.

They said, obviously the thing is from the LORD. We cannot object to it. I love it when you see those things that are so the Lord, you just go – that is so the Lord!

Genesis 24:51 Here is Rebekah before you; take her and go, and let her be your master's son's wife, as the LORD has spoken."

Genesis 24:52 And it came to pass, when Abraham's servant heard their words, that he worshiped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth.

Abraham's faith in God has certainly influenced his household. The servant is following the example of Abraham by worshipping God on these different occasions.

Genesis 24:53 Then the servant brought out jewelry of silver, jewelry of gold, and clothing, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

Genesis 24:54 And he and the men who were with him ate and drank and stayed all night. Then they arose in the morning, and he said, "Send me away to my master."

Genesis 24:55 But her brother and her mother said, "Let the young woman stay with us a few days, at least ten; after that she may go."

Genesis 24:56 And he said to them, "Do not hinder me, since the LORD has prospered my way; send me away so that I may go to my master."

Genesis 24:57 So they said, "We will call the young woman and ask her personally."

Genesis 24:58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

Go – Is Now

I love it. I will go she says because you know what when you know it's time to go. It's time to go even if the world says let me throw you a party. Let me just adore you and love on you, but God says it's time to go you get up and you go and don't let nothing stop you from going.

I'll do that mission trip next year right now I'm gonna fellowship. I'll start teaching Sunday school next year right now. I wanna enjoy the fellowship you fill in the blank and if there's a place that God says it's time to go you go even if it means leaving your family and that's not gonna be easy for her, but she knew what love was calling, and she responded and followed after it.

Delay her going. They're a type of the world that is always seeking to cause you to delay your commitment to Jesus Christ. Everybody wants to be saved someday. They all want to die the death of the righteous. No one wants to die the death of a heathen or sinner. I want to be righteous, but later. I want to live a little first. Oh, what a wrong statement that is. You're dead in your trespasses and sins and what you are really saying is that you want to stay dead a little longer. You don't know what living is until you live in Christ. Paul said,
(Philippians 1:21 NKJV) For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(1 John 5:12 NKJV) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

The world, our family and friends tell us chill out, don't get so radical. Once a week is enough, or Christmas and Easter should do it. What is up with this twice a week, mission trips, daily devotions of study and prayer? Come on and hang out with us, lets do brunch; Wednesday is movie night or stupid family sitcom night. The world always wants to delay, keep you from growing and developing in the Lord. Why, they are afraid to lose you, they like their life as it is, and it includes you being in it exactly as they want you to be. Whether that is lost like them, a party buddy, or someone they can say at least I'm better off than he is. The world wants to delay us because they don't want to lose us.

The Spirit Asks You / Will You Go – Start this Journey

The Spirit asks you the big question. Will you commit your life to Jesus Christ? Will you begin the journey towards Him. That journey that will, one day, lead us into His presence and the glory of His kingdom. Will you consent? Will you go? It always comes to the personal application. They asked Rebekah, personally, if she would go and she said, "I will go."

Genesis 24:59 So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham's servant and his men.

Genesis 24:60 And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: "Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them."

Genesis 24:61 Then Rebekah and her maids arose, and they rode on the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

Followed the man / Lead by the Spirit

Verse 61 - and followed the man: They followed the man (the Spirit), until they/she saw Isaac (the type of Jesus) face-to-face. Let the Spirit of God lead you until that day.

Rebekah had a nurse and she had maids. That tells us the family was well-to-do and she could have stayed there and lived in comfort; but, she gets on a camel (an awkward uncomfortable beast) to ride some 500 miles that she might meet the man she is to marry and become with him the heir of the kingdom. Riding a camel is a trial and the only way you can ride is to relax and move with it.

We begin our journey through life the same way. We have many trials. Peter says:

(1 Peter 4:12 NKJV) Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

We are encouraged to endure hardness as a good soldier; but, always in trials, we are pointed ahead to the rewards that lie ahead of us. We are pointed to Jesus, as our example, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross and says to us, "Take up your cross." Paul said

(Romans 8:18 NKJV) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

In Corinthians, Paul says:

(2 Corinthians 4:17 NKJV) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

So the LORD points us ahead and I'm sure that as they were riding along and Rebekah began to get weary that Eliezer rode along side and told her of Isaac and his gentle nature and the wealth and glory of his master; so that Rebekah would be encouraged and strengthened. Even so the Spirit watches over us carefully and when he sees us getting discouraged he comes and relates the glories of the heavenly kingdom that await when we arrive.

It is interesting that when Paul was going through the severest trial of his life that the LORD came to him and ministered and encouraged him. The LORD told him that he would bear witness of Him at Rome, just as he had in Jerusalem:

(Acts 23:11 NKJV) But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."

Every trial that Rebekah was going through was bringing her closer to her destination. God uses the trials and testings in our lives for the purpose of bringing us closer to that desired destination when one day, we will no longer see through a dark glass but we will see Him face to face:

(1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV) For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

So in Rebekah's heart was the anticipation of the meeting of this man she was to marry. She hadn't seen him, but the things that the servant told her were glorious. Already she was in love with Isaac from the descriptions that the servant had given her, even as we are already in love with Jesus from the descriptions of the Holy Spirit, "...Whom

having not seen, ye love." And so you don't curse the trials, but you rejoice and count it all joy; because, these are the instruments that are drawing us close to Jesus. God's purpose in every testing and every trial is to force us closer to Jesus. God doesn't want me to become independent of Him and so He will send a trial to force me closer to Him:

(1 Peter 1:8 NKJV) whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

(1 Peter 1:9 NKJV) receiving the end of your faith; the salvation of your souls.

Genesis 24:62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.

Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming.

Isaac Praying / John 17

Isaac is out in the field meditating, praying. A picture of Christ:

Mark 1:35 (NKJV)³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

(John 17:9 NKJV) "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

(John 17:10 NKJV) "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

(John 17:24 NKJV) "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

We Watch / Jesus Watches for Us

We always say that we are watching for the Lord, but really the Lord is watching us, longing for us, to be united with us. He waits for His bride. I remember waiting for my wedding day. Me and Renee lived 40 miles from each other. I couldn't wait for my bride. I couldn't wait for the day when I would come home to my bride every day, no distances between. To see here face-to-face everyday. Jesus is watching you, and longing for you.

Genesis 24:64 Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel;

Genesis 24:65 for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself.

Picture Perfect

So the amazing precision of the type the servant is a type of the Holy Spirit, bringing the bride to the Son, and it's fascinating in that through this chapter the servant has simply been called, the oldest servant, and no name was given. And that aligns perfectly with John chapter 16, that the Holy Spirit does not draw attention to himself, but is always pointing to the father and the son.

But when we read and pass chapters, interestingly Abraham's chief servant, his name meant comforter, which also means helper and again Picture Perfect in the book of John chapter 16

Interestingly, but of course in the picture perfect we did not see Isaac since Genesis 22 and when Abraham returned to the men who were waiting, Isaac wasn't with him and so we see the picture of Isaac and Genesis 22 to be sacrificed, but God provided himself, but then we don't see the picture of the son again until he meets his bride. Oh, how picture perfect again

The Rejoice of the Son (24:66-67)

Genesis 24:66 And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

Genesis 24:67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Jesus goes and prepares a place for us. Isaac did not and so we say that is not so picture because in the Jewish culture the son would build a room on to his father's house, as they lived on the inherited land as given when they came into the Promised Land. Isaac doesn't build on to his father's house, because they did not build houses but

lived in tents, because they were looking for a city whose builder and maker was God. So actually, picture perfect indeed.

John 14:1–4 (NKJV):¹ “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

Hebrews 11:9–10 (NKJV)⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

The Question

And so we close with the question what did Rebecca do to become the bride?

Nothing, she simply had to receive the marriage proposal.

Outline Genesis 24:

- The Desire of the Father (24:1-9)
- The Sending of the Servant (24:10-17)
- The Response of the Bride (24:18-65)
- The Rejoice of the Son (24:66-67)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 25

Title: The Days of a Full Life

Summary: In our passage today, we say goodbye to a dear friend (Abraham). We get to know Isaac his son in a deeper way, and are introduced to Jacob, who will become the Father of Israel. We will also come to know Issac's brother Ishmael in a deeper way and introduced to Jacob's brother Esau. All these men will live life, but not all will live "full satisfying" lives. Join us as we study..... "how to live and have a full and satisfying life".

Outline Genesis 25:

- The Son's of Keturah (25:1-6)
- The Death of Abraham (25:7-11)
- The Son's of Ishmael (25:12-16)
- The Death of Ishmael (25:17-18)
- The Son's of Issac (Jacob & Esau) - (25:19-34)

Prayer

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Son's of Keturah (25:1-6)

Genesis 25:1 Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah.

Genesis 25:2 And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

Genesis 25:3 Jokshan begot Sheba and Dedan. And the sons of Dedan were Asshurim, Letushim, and Leummim.

Genesis 25:4 And the sons of Midian were Ephah, Epher, Hanoch, Abidah, and Eldaah. All these were the children of Keturah.

Now that Isaac was married Abraham was alone. Probably, with the promise of Genesis 17:4 in mind, he proceeded to take another wife, Keturah (a name related to the word for incense). She, like Hagar, was a secondary wife or concubine (1 Chr. 1:32). She bore Abraham six sons. These became ancestors of tribes that lived in the area east of the Dead Sea and in Arabia. The Midianites later joined with the Ishmaelites, and Midian's territory was primarily on the east side of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Lint, G. A., ed. (1994). Genesis (Ge 25:1-4). World Library Press.

Genesis 25:5 And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.

Genesis 25:6 But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.

Sheba and Dedan are sent east, which turns out they inhabit the area of Saudia Arabia. They got the oil, Isaac got the rocks.

Abraham lived to see the birth of Jacob and Esau. Here's a breakdown of the timeline from the Bible:

- Abraham lived to be 175 years old (Genesis 25:7).

- His son Isaac was born when Abraham was 100 years old (Genesis 21:5).
- Jacob and Esau were born when Isaac was 60 years old (Genesis 25:26).

So, at the time of Jacob and Esau's birth, Abraham would have been:

- 100 (Abraham's age at Isaac's birth) + 60 (Isaac's age at Jacob and Esau's birth) = 160 years old
- Since Abraham died at 175, he lived for 15 years after Jacob and Esau were born.

Therefore, Abraham was alive when Jacob and Esau were born and would have seen them. And these boys would have been around each other for these years.

Pentecost

Imagine the moment that... Abraham calls the boys together, the families. and says, I'm sending you east. I'm sending you well supplied because This is what needs to be done. And we can read that and think how shocking it is, and especially these boys would have known the story of Ishmael being sent away. But I think there's more here that is often missed in that Abraham would not have kept this promise the God had given him of not just the land, but the seed that would redeem through Isaac, and he would have been telling these boys that story. And I believe we see that in Acts chapter 3, the story being told since the world began, in your seed will the Promise come. And Abraham would have been telling his sons that this story because we're told that the story was repeated over and over. So we can see that Jacob. Isaac from Abraham would be the promised seed and the promised land.

*Acts 3:21–26 (NKJV)*²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.' ²³ And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. ²⁵ You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' ²⁶ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."

And so when they were sent away,. they would have known. And here's what's fascinating is when you look at the Book of Acts, Chapter 2, Day of Pentecost. Look who is there. We see the representation of these sons there at the day of Pentecost and the significance of it is, yes, there's a war that's going on. in the Middle East. But what we see here is there's always been a thread of the faith. Even through the Middle East, the Arab countries, we call them the Saudi Arabia, regions, as we know also today that this promise was made through into Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and we see these nations, these boys (at least some) coming to Jerusalem.

*Acts 2:11 (KJV 1900)*¹¹ Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

God loves the people of the Middle East, and invites them to the Banquet He offers all to come into. The devil stirs the conflict between them (more to see with Ishmael) because he does not want people to see the promise of redemption through the Messiah, and His great love and blood poured out on the Cross at Calvary. When see the conflict in Middle East, the antisemitism, the hatred for the Jewish people it is because there is a demonic realm stirring up the hatred, because the devil doesn't want anyone to remember the Promise, and the Price Paid, by the God of Love!

*John 10:10 (NKJV)*¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

The Death of Abraham (25:7-11)

Genesis 25:7 This is the sum of the years of Abraham's life which he lived: one hundred and seventy-five years.

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people.

Sum of Days

KJV of these verses:

(Genesis 25:7 KJV) And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.

The "days" - 175 years times 360 (360 is length of years in OT) equals 63,000 days. The days of Abraham's life, for life is made up of days, individual specific days, Abraham had 63,000 individual days of his life.

We read that Abraham walked with the Lord, was a friend of the Lord.

(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

(James 2:23 NKJV) And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.

The Christian walk is just that, it is walking daily, step by step. The Christian walk is not leaps and bounds.

Christian, your Christian tomorrow will be dependent on your Christian today. So often a Christian thinks someday I am going to be on-fire, spiritually mature, a man/woman of God; but right now I do not have the time to devote myself to becoming that. Next week, next month I am going to pour myself into it, but we know next week, next month comes, but we don't.

What you will be tomorrow as a Christian is based on what you do today. Age doesn't bring maturity, but wisdom and knowledge does. Abraham had lots of days, and as we read he walked with God, was a friend of God.

Died Full

That word "years" is not there in the original. The passage simply says:

Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full

Abraham died full. How do you die full, by living "days", not years. Living everyday individually, set apart for the Lord. By walking everyday with Him:

(Psalms 16:11 NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16:11 in your presence is fullness of joy when you go through the scriptures and you find the word joy and full, in the same verse. It's always in the context of the presence of the Lord, being brought into the presence of the Lord. And as we read back in Genesis 17, Abraham was called The Walk Before the Lord, as we saw last week, the servant speaks of Abraham, the God before whom I walk, and what a life, all these years of walking, what the Lord, 100 years. And here it comes to die, and it says that he was full, he was satisfied. And that will be because he walked in the presence of the Lord.

- Do you want a full life walk in the presence of the Lord?
- Do you want a full marriage? Walk in the presence of the Lord?
- You singles, do you want to be full and satisfied? Walk in the presence of the Lord?

For in his presence his fullness a joy, Whatever the state and whatever the condition!

(Psalms 16:11 NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Genesis 17:1 (NKJV) ¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

Genesis 24:40 (NKJV)⁴⁰ But he said to me, 'The LORD, before whom I walk, will send His angel with you and prosper your way; and you shall take a wife for my son from my family and from my father's house.

Abraham, a life defined by pitching tents, and building altars. The God he worshipped, he will see, but not at his last breath, for he and the rest of the people he was gathered to, will have to wait until the fulfillment of Genesis 22, God providing Himself a Lamb. For no man can come into the presence of the Holy God until they have been washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Abraham would comfort the people with his words, the story of Genesis 22, he would tell them to take heart, the Lamb of God is coming, and He will break open this grave, and we will see him face to face:

(Luke 16:22 NKJV) "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.

And so too are we comforted with that same message. We look back at the cross, just like they looked back at Genesis 22, the Lord will provide Himself a Lamb, who will take away our sins:

(1 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV) For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

(1 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

(1 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV) In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Lamb

We say we live in years. Those years are broken down the days. In Israel, there was a morning sacrifice of a lamb and then the evening the sacrifice of the lamb and we would do well to start our day remembering there was a sacrifice of a lamb for our sin so that we can live today and then when we lay our heads down, we can remember the evening sacrifice of a lamb and say it was a good day as the Lamb sustain me kept me walked with me before me all the day and it was a good day

Going to Miss Him

Well, in this study we see the death of Abraham. We have followed him all the way from God calling him out of his land, the Ur of the Chaldeans which is in the Babylon region, to a place that God would show him, which we know as the Promised Land. Abraham starts his venture in Faith, being led by God. God brings him up to a mount and shows him, all this land I give to you, and God gives him a promise of a son - Isaac, God gives him the promise that all nations will be blessed through him. We saw his failings in Egypt to his triumph in rescuing his nephew Lot. We saw him in the role of intercessor before God, to an offering up of his son Isaac before the Lord.

Abraham grew in his faith, as he grew so did his God, as every revelation of God would reveal how awesome his God was. He saw God as:

- El Elyon ("God Most High"—14:19, 22)
- El Shaddai ("God Almighty, the All-Sufficient One"—17:1)
- El Olam ("the Everlasting God." 21:33)
- JovahJireh - (the Lord Will Provide Gen 22:14)

Abraham's life was defined simply as a man who pitched tents, and built altars. A man who was not looking for his place on earth, but a place whose builder and maker was God:

(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

In a way this passage of Abraham's death kinda feels like we are losing family. This study of Abraham's life has been one of richest studies I have had in my Christian walk.

Genesis 25:9 And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, which is before Mamre, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite,

Genesis 25:10 the field which Abraham purchased from the sons of Heth. There Abraham was buried, and Sarah his wife.

Brought Together at Death

Ishmael and Isaac are brought together again through the death of their father. These two who were estranged from each other, at odds with one another, are brought together at death. How many times I see that in my life, people who haven't spoken in years, been at odds with each other over the years, yet they come to a funeral and speak and healing happens. Reconciliation is always accomplished one-way, and one-way only, through death. Whether it is reconciliation between a husband and wife, brother and sister, boss and employee, the only way reconciliation can happen is that someone dies. Someone has to let go, do what Jesus said and die to self. Christian it is better to reconcile than be right. Choose your battles wisely, sometimes - most times, it is better just to let it go. I am not saying to compromise, but sometimes it is better to just let it go, die to yourself, so that there can be reconciliation.

Genesis 25:11 And it came to pass, after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac dwelt at Beer Lahai Roi.

God Buries His Workman

God buries His workman, but the work goes on. Abraham dies and is buried. That chapter closes and then immediately we move on, and see God working through Isaac, and then Jacob. God buries His workman, but His work goes on. 2 things here:

1. One, ministry must be pushed down. There is a great danger in the Church when Pastors or ministers become territorial. It is a great danger when people want to be the sole-source; where they want people to come though them only with their needs and questions. Ministry must be pushed down in the church. You will find that the less you hold on to in your ministry, the more ministry God adds to you. Push it down, try to work yourself out of a job and watch what God does. You will never be out of work for we live in a world that is lost and dying. I love watching what is going on here, as people are assuming ministries, stepping into ministry, starting new ministries. It is exciting to watch the Lord's work expand.
2. Secondly, we see here the son carrying on the work of the father. Parents invest, sacrifice, defend your child's spiritual growth and development, so that when you breath your last, God will bury the workman, but the work will go on.

Meet His Bride at the Well

We read of the place "Beer Lahai Roi" when Rebekah was brought to Isaac back in chapter 24. It was the place God met Hagar when she ran away from Sarah, but God saw her, and she knew it, and she named the place and the well (The God Who Sees Me).

Genesis 24:62-67 (NKJV) ⁶² Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South. ⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. ⁶⁴ Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; ⁶⁵ for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Genesis 16:13-16 (NKJV) ¹³ Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?" ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer Lahai Roi; observe, it is between Kadesh and Bered. ¹⁵ So Hagar bore Abram a son; and Abram named his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Digging Wells

Isaac, son of Abraham, is portrayed in the Bible as a figure associated with wells, which carry both literal and symbolic significance. In Genesis 26, Isaac is described as re-digging wells that his father Abraham had originally dug, but which the Philistines had stopped up

- This act of reclaiming wells symbolizes the rediscovery of spiritual truths that may have been buried or forgotten over time
- Isaac's life is said to revolve around five specifically named wells, each representing different aspects of a believer's experience
- One of these wells, called Lahairoi, means "The living one who sees me," symbolizing God's watchful presence
- Isaac's character is described as quiet and retiring, in contrast to his more active father Abraham
- The repeated association of Isaac with wells (mentioned seven times) is seen as significant, with wells representing sources of "living water," symbolizing spiritual nourishment
- In Christian interpretation, Isaac's experiences at wells are also seen as prefiguring baptism and the person's union with Christ

His life revolved around five wells. These five wells are specifically named because they stand as types of the experiences of every believer in this world. Here are five wells from which all believers drink:

1. The well called 'Lahairoi' (Gen. 24:62) means 'The living one who sees me'. What joy and comfort we have in the midst of our trials, when we realize that he who is the living God has his eye upon us at all times!
2. Esek (Gen. 26:20) means 'strife'. In this world, every child of God lives in unceasing strife, strife from the world without and from his own flesh within.

3. Sitnah (Gen. 26:21) means 'hatred'. It may well represent the world's hatred for Christ and his people.
4. Rehoboth (Gen. 26:22) means 'spaciousness and abundance'. 'Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.'
5. Shebah (Gen. 26:33) means 'good fortune'. All things are ours in Christ, and all things work together for our good in him and by him.

Genesis 24:62 Now Isaac came from the way of Beer Lahai Roi, for he dwelt in the South.

Genesis 26:20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.

Genesis 26:21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

Genesis 26:22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Genesis 26:32–33 (NKJV) ³² It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water." ³³ So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

Spiritual Wells

The first thing we are told about Isaac, after his redemption which stands as a type, is this: 'Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi' (Gen. 24:62). This well is intended to draw our attention to God the Holy Spirit and his gracious operations in the hearts of men (John 7:37–39). In God's works of grace, election is followed by predestination, predestination is followed by redemption, and redemption is followed by regeneration (Gal. 3:13–14). Redemption is portrayed in Isaac on Mount Moriah. The sure result of redemption is regeneration, the washing of the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Scriptures, the Holy Spirit is symbolized by a dove, by oil and by water. As Isaac's well was 'a well of springing water' (Gen. 26:19), 'living water,' so the Holy Spirit springs up in the hearts of God's elect as a well of living water.

As water is necessary for all natural life, so the 'living water', the Spirit of God operating through the Word, is necessary for our spiritual life. Without water any plant will wither and die, even if it has the best food packed around its roots. So, too, without the operations of God the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we would wither and die. We must have the food of gospel doctrine. But doctrine alone is not enough. We must have the living Spirit of Christ. Like Isaac, God's saints are people of the well, people who live and walk in the Spirit (Rom. 8:5–17). Isaac's experiences provide us with some very important lessons about ourselves, about the life of faith and about the grace of God.

Fortner, D. S. (2002). *Discovering Christ in Genesis* (pp. 237–239). Evangelical Press.

Unblocking Wells

Last time we saw Isaac, he was at the well, and the unnamed servant brought Rebecca to him, and he loved her

The well was the same well that Hagar meant the Lord it was called the God who sees me in here when Rebecca has brought to Isaac, surely a fulfillment as his heart would be comforted with her love that God saw him

Interestingly, as we study Isaac, we'll see him seven times at a well, and we see him continually unblocking and unstopping the wells that were filled back in by the enemies, such as the Philistine's - I think there's a place for us as we have some great spiritual fathers through the years of this country in that the last revival was well over 50 years ago. In the world, for very large part, has failed for the wells that they have dug (the spiritual fathers), through this nation, through this world, such as Abraham and I think there's a place for us. We need to unblock those wells and let the living water flow for like it once did

Very much today no one wants to talk about living water. Talk about information. but rarely transformation, information that is interesting but not the thirst for the information that brings the transformation. We say how do I get this Living water again like the woman at the well in John 4, and let it break forth overflow us then overflow from us

Today wells that brought life to the American church is just filled up with foolishness, rubbish, debates, and nonsense. Social gospels, good works, criticism, but missing the baptism empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (We will talk more about this in the studies to come as it becomes a theme in the chapters to come).

The Son's of Ishmael (25:12-16)

Genesis 25:12 Now this is the genealogy of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maidservant, bore to Abraham.

Genesis 25:13 And these were the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, according to their generations: The firstborn of Ishmael, Nebajoth; then Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam,

Genesis 25:14 Mishma, Dumah, Massa,

Genesis 25:15 Hadar, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, and Kedemah.

Genesis 25:16 These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations.

Ishmael is a type of the flesh in the Scriptures. Notice verse 17, Ishmael he dies, his years were 137. He did not have days like Abraham did, he had years and died. Did he die full like Abraham did? No he just died. Why? Because he is a man that lived after the flesh, for the flesh, he is a picture of the flesh, and he just dies and leaves a legacy of these 12 sons. The flesh just dies, period, only the Spirit lives on.

From Ishmael comes Islam, we live in a world that feels the effects of this man of the flesh. Islam is an idolatrous and false-religion. It is hard to trace Ishmael as "starting a religion", but in Galatians he is used as example of someone working his way to salvation through religious excursion, and not receiving it by grace. Islam is a works based religion, and do these "religious things" and "may" possibly be accepted into the presence of God.

Galatians 4:21–26 (NKJV) ²¹ Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not hear the law? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³ But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴ which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar—²⁵ for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—²⁶ but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

In around 600AD, Muhamed did not try to start a "brand new" religion, he tried to make one religion out of Judaism and Christianity. He tried to merge the two in his form and way, not according to the way of God laid out in the New Testament. He thought he would be well received by both Judaism and Christianity, but was flat out rejected. And after a few years of trying, he turned Islam into a war against both Judaism and Christianity, and here we are 1400 years later with a world on-fire.

But God gave witness to Ishmael, and it was Machpelah, which means double-door and when he came with Issac to bury dad, the witness was there (as we studied last week), that the only property Abraham purchased in the land, was a burial cave that would become the witness to the world that this world wasn't it, and I am just passing through.

Hebrews 11:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

2 Corinthians 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

So, In Islamic tradition, Ishmael (Ismail) is regarded as a prophet and an important ancestor of the Arab people[1][2]. The Qur'an mentions Ishmael several times, describing him as a worshiper of Allah and one of the founders of the Kaaba in Mecca[1]. Islamic tradition differs from the biblical account in that it portrays Abraham as binding Ishmael, not Isaac, to the altar[1]. According to Muslim belief, Hagar and Ishmael settled near Mecca, where they discovered the spring of Zemzem, which became significant for Muslim pilgrims[1][2]. Ishmael is said to have learned Arabic and married into the local tribe[1]. In post-Qur'anic traditions, Abraham is believed to have accompanied Hagar and Ishmael to Mecca[3]. The story of Hagar's search for water is commemorated in the Hajj pilgrimage[2]. While the Qur'an itself contains limited information about Ishmael, later Islamic traditions have expanded his role and significance in Muslim history and practice[3].

- [1] Merrill, E. H. (2003). Ishmael. In T. D. Alexander & D. W. Baker (Eds.), Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch (p. 451). InterVarsity Press.
- [2] Towner, W. S. (2001). Genesis (P. D. Miller & D. L. Bartlett, Eds.; p. 181). Westminster John Knox Press.
- [3] Maalouf, T. (2023). Ishmael in the Shadow of Israel: God's Prophetic Plan for Abraham's Firstborn (p. 47). Kregel Ministry.

Mecca, located in western Saudi Arabia, is the holiest city in Islam and the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad[1][2]. Situated in a narrow, barren valley surrounded by rocky hills, Mecca lies about 65 miles east of Jiddah, a port on the Red Sea[3][4]. The city's most significant feature is the Great Mosque, which houses the Kaaba, a cube-shaped structure considered the most sacred site in Islam[2]. The Kaaba contains the famous Black Stone, believed by Muslims to have fallen from Paradise[2]. Mecca attracts millions of Muslim pilgrims annually, who perform rituals such as circling the Kaaba and kissing the Black Stone[2][3]. The city's population, estimated at around 45,000 to 60,000 permanent residents, largely depends on the pilgrimage economy[2][3][4]. Non-Muslims are prohibited from entering Mecca, making it one of the most exclusive religious sites in the world[2]. While Islamic tradition traces Mecca's history back to Abraham, some scholars debate its historical significance before the rise of Islam, noting its absence from early maps and questioning its role as a major trade center[1].

[1] Ibrahim, A. S. (2020). A Concise Guide to the Quran: Answering Thirty Critical Questions (p. 155). Baker Academic.

[2] Schaff, P., & Schaff, D. S. (1910). History of the Christian church (Vol. 4, p. 156). Charles Scribner's Sons.

[3] Oussani, G. (1907–1913). Mecca. In C. G. Herbermann, E. A. Pace, C. B. Pallen, T. J. Shahan, & J. J. Wynne (Eds.), The Catholic Encyclopedia: An International Work of Reference on the Constitution, Doctrine, Discipline, and History of the Catholic Church: Vols. I–XV. The Encyclopedia Press; The Universal Knowledge Foundation.

[4] McClintock, J., & Strong, J. (1894). Mecca. In Cyclopædia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature (Vol. 6, p. 9). Harper & Brothers, Publishers.

The Death of Ishmael (25:17-18)

Genesis 25:16 These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations.

Genesis 25:17 These were the years of the life of Ishmael: one hundred and thirty-seven years; and he breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:18 (They dwelt from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt as you go toward Assyria.) He died in the presence of all his brethren.

Verse 16 - These were the sons of Ishmael and these were their names, by their towns and their settlements, twelve princes according to their nations. See they had towns and settlements, princes have palaces, they had nations which history tells us are and were powerful. Ishmael's offspring's; people, places, power, possessions, and all the good things of the earth, but God ends him here for in light of eternity he is not worth another thought, it is the end of the story of Ishmael, he dies and goes off the scene. The word in verse 18 for died is not the same one used for Abraham dying, this one means he fell. That is the truth of the things of the world, they will always fall away. Princes, power, palaces, and possessions they will all fall away and we will be standing before God naked: (Matthew 16:26 NKJV) *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

(1 Corinthians 3:11 NKJV) *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

(1 Corinthians 3:12 NKJV) *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,*

(1 Corinthians 3:13 NKJV) *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*

(1 Corinthians 3:14 NKJV) *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*

The Son's of Issac (Jacob & Esau) - (25:19-34)

Genesis 25:19 This is the genealogy of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham begot Isaac.

Genesis 25:20 Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padan Aram, the sister of Laban the Syrian.

Genesis 25:21 Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Rebekah is Barren

Isaac's wife was barren. Rebekah remember, she is a type of the Church, she is the bride of Christ for Isaac is a picture of Jesus Christ. Rebekah was taken out of a foreign land, wooed by the Holy Spirit, and then she says I will

marry Him, and she gets saved if you would. We can get saved, called out of the foreign land, say I do to Jesus Christ, but we still have growing to do. Isaac's wife was barren, men how about your wife, is she barren? I don't necessarily mean reproduction, but is she saved but maybe barren in some area, dry? Well what does Isaac do, he doesn't get angry at her, he doesn't chastise her for being barren, rather he entreats the Lord (he prays) for her. Isaac is a type of Jesus Christ, who lives to intercede for us, his bride. But guys, we get to pray for our wives, we are to pray for our wives. If your wife is barren, or if you don't like her attitude, her behavior, then you need to consider this:

(1 Corinthians 11:7 NKJV) For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man.

If your wife is lacking in spiritual things, you may want to look at yourself.

He prays for her barrenness, and she conceives. The best thing we can do for someone who is barren is to pray. But husband if there was a timecard recording the time you spent praying for your wife, what would it say? Know this, I can't explain it, I just believe it by faith, prayer has the power to change the course of nature, nations, and individuals. Believe that and start applying to the barren situations in your marriage, you family, nation, and all other areas that need touched by God.

20 Years

So they will go 20 years before they have a child and this is hard on a woman and the husband desiring the child and not having a child and of course, the same repeat would be that the promise was given to Abraham that he would tell Isaac of the promise to be a great nation and here they are 20 years later still childless and bear

What would Isaac comfort his wife with? He would comfort her with the story of his mother that he is the proof of the miracle of being born when she was 90 years old well beyond the age bearing years

If we simply go, the promise given to Abraham to be a great nation given that promise with the age of 75 but that did not come to pass until he was 100 so that was 25 years and if you would consider it here, Rebecca is at the 20 year mark being told God was faithful to Mom and he will be faithful to you and we see the continual blessing of knowing the stories of God and telling the stories of God to one another and reminding each other in the hard times of the stories that we study as we were told in Romans 15, they are an example for us and we use them to strengthen our faith

Genesis 25:22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If all is well, why am I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

Notice Struggle / Who She Inquires

Notice there is a struggle in her life, and look where she seeks counsel, of whom she inquires. It isn't Tony Robbins, or the 150/hr guy, Oprah, or Dr.Phil, she inquires of the Lord. Christians, our first place of inquiry needs to be the Lord:

(Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV) 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

People have a tendency to run everywhere first, and then as a last resort, inquire of the Lord. Is there something wrong, is there something stirring inside you, something troubling you, is there a struggle with in you? Then seek the Lord, and He will direct you from there.

Look here she goes from barren, but if you would at peace, but once she conceives now there's a war and you know Christian you could be sure that the day you say I want a bear fruit for the Lord I wanna do something in accordance with his word to fulfill the promises that he gives I'm going to step out and take it. You can be sure this a war will begin against you it might even begin in you through the attack of a spiritual attack.

Don't think it's strange counted all joy the trial, the fire, the struggle becomes against you

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NKJV) ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

You may say when it's not worth it I don't want a battle. I just want peace. The Lord will hear an honor that but the other resulting of that is the difference of we read the life of Abraham and he died full and for you and for me, I have to decide how do I wanna live the days given to me and then I might die for satisfied I did what he called me to do with her hard or easy I stepped out and was willing whether a war ensued in a battle rage, but I but I live my life to the full and I was satisfied

Genesis 25:23 And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Please note the sanctity of life that the Lord recognized Jacob and Esau as souls inside the womb, and not only that, they're whole lineage of becoming nations. So God recognizes the life inside the womb.

2 Nations (Edomites & Israelites)

Because twins were pushing each other around in an unusual way in her womb, Rebekah sought the Lord in prayer and worship. She knew God's promise, and wanted to know what God had planned. The two nations God told her about are the Edomites and Israelites. From her womb, that is, from the time of their birth, they would be separated, divided, even hostile, for they would have nothing in common, and the elder people (descended from the one born first) would serve the people descended from the younger son. This had a fulfillment when the Edomites were made subject to King David (2 Sam. 8:13–14). See also Malachi 1:2–3; and Romans 9:11. Again, we see that the chosen line was not merely one of natural inheritance, for neither Abraham, Isaac, nor Jacob were firstborn sons, but God gave them the place of "firstborn" in His eyes. In each case the ones carrying on the line eventually responded to God's grace by their faith

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 25:22–23\). World Library Press.](#)

2 Nations in Us

Two nations are warring in us too - the flesh and the Spirit, and that is why there is turmoil and struggle within sometimes. The flesh and the Spirit are at war:

[\(Galatians 5:17 NKJV\) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.](#)

[\(Romans 8:5 NKJV\) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.](#)

[\(Romans 8:6 NKJV\) For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.](#)

What can you do about it, decide which one will be the stronger. Are you going to feed the flesh or feed the Spirit? I'll tell ya, if you want a bellyache then feed them both. Go to church on Sunday and do the things of the world the other days, go hang out with your old pals and have a few and talk about the carnal things. You be miserable as both will grow, Jesus warns us of this:

[\(Revelation 3:16 NKJV\) "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.](#)

Genesis 25:24 So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb.

Genesis 25:25 And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau.

The first to be born came out reddish (or reddish-brown), so that he was later called Edom ("Red"). But because his whole body was covered like a robe of hair, they named him Esau ("hairy one").

Genesis 25:26 Afterward his brother came out, and his hand took hold of Esau's heel; so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

The second son came out holding tight to Esau's heel, which he grasped before he himself came out (Hos. 12:3). So they named him Jacob, meaning "Heel-catcher," from the Hebrew root `akev, "heel." Later on Esau connected it with a similar root, `akav, meaning to cheat or deceive (27:36).

2 Kids / Flesh & Spirit

So Rebekah has these two kids, Jacob and Esau. Now Jacob his name is going to be changed as God will eventually change his selfish nature, his new name will become Israel, which means governed by God. Jacob represents the Spirit in our lives, and Esau represents the flesh. And notice that Esau comes out first; that is the way it, we were all in the flesh first and then God opened our eyes and we received Him and were born again.

Genesis 25:27 So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field; but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents.

Esau Outdoorsy / Jacob - Starbucks

Esau, the outdoorsy type, Jacob is the city boy type; I'll stay in the tent. Esau liked hunting and fishing, had the subscription to Outdoor Life and probably had the gun rack in the rear window of the pickup, which had an 8inch lift kit. Jacob, he probably sipped lattes at Starbucks, had the tent networked for wireless internet, and could actually tell you who the Pharaoh in Egypt was.

Nothing wrong with being either of those types, or a mixture of them.

When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, that is, of the open country (outside of the cultivated areas) where he loved to roam. In the Hebrew, a beast of the field means a wild animal. A plant of the field means a wild plant. Thus, Esau was a wild, undisciplined man who lived a wild life seeking sport and adventure. In contrast to him, Jacob was a quiet (or mature) man. The Hebrew tam also means he was sensible, diligent, dutiful, and peaceful. He could be counted on to carry out the duties of life. He was also a characteristic, or we might say, an ideal tent dweller. He was orderly, paid attention to business, and was everything a tent dweller ought to be.

[Lint, G. A., ed. \(1994\). Genesis \(Ge 25:27\). World Library Press.](#)

The same word for mild was used regarding Job. The Hebrew word for mild has the idea of “wholeness” instead of someone who is weak or effeminate. The Hebrew word tam (mild) is used of Job in Job 1:8: Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a **blameless** (tam) and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

[Job 1:8 \(NKJV\) ⁸ Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none* like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”](#)

Genesis 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Isaac was a godly man, but he developed a love for Esau's wild game. This became a blind spot that made him prefer Esau. Rebekah, however, preferred Jacob, a son that was always there when she needed him, a son who could be counted on to keep the business of these tent dwellers going smoothly and prosperously! Moreover, Rebekah had made a choice for God and she saw in Jacob a concern for spiritual things as well. He needed to be changed, but he was the kind of person God could work with.

God loves Period

Then we see, Isaac loved Esau (because he hunted), but Rebekah loved Jacob. Esau is a type of the flesh, and the flesh always tries to give you reasons to like it, to love it. But Rebekah she loves Jacob, period, no reasons, just I love you, period. Jacob represents the Spirit, and the love was, period, I love you, period. That is how God loves you, it is unconditional. He doesn't love you because of you, because of your prayer life, ministries, your knowledge of the Word, or even how how much or how less of a sinner you are. God loves you, period. His love is unconditional. He sees you perfect and blameless, a spotless bride before Him, washed white as snow through the cleansing power of the Blood of the Lamb. No matter what you have done, or will do, His love for you in unchanging, it is unconditional, it I love you, period.

Genesis 25:29 Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary.

Genesis 25:30 And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom.

Esau came in from a day of hunting to find Jacob boiling something (not until v. 34 does the Bible state it was lentils). Because he was famished Esau asked excitedly and repeatedly for some of "that red." This was another reason that he was later called Edom ("Red").

Edomites

The Edomites are decedents of Esau, we will see them throughout the OT, and they will bring much pain to the children of Israel.

(Malachi 1:2 NKJV) "I have loved you," says the LORD. "Yet you say, 'In what way have You loved us?' Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" Says the LORD. "Yet Jacob I have loved;

(Malachi 1:3 NKJV) But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness."

(Romans 9:13 NKJV) As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."

Why would the Lord use such strong language of (hate and love), we have the reason in these next verses, that if the Bible scholars would come as the context, it would bring an end to lots of arguing and confusion over the matter of God's election and "predestination" of choosing. The bottom line up front is..... Esau rejects God and the spiritual things, and seeks after the things of the world with no regard to God; thus the rejection from God. Love and Hate are Hebrew idioms, to draw contrasts, and thus the contrast to receiving and rejecting God's gift of spiritual things, which at the very core are a relationship with Him.

Genesis 25:31 But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day."

Genesis 25:32 And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?"

Genesis 25:33 Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob.

Genesis 25:34 And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Sell Birthright

Esau sells his birthright. In the OT the eldest gets a double portion of the Father's wealth:

(Deuteronomy 21:17 NKJV) "But he shall acknowledge the son of the unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his."

But also, here is the important part to see here, the eldest will be in charge of the welfare and spiritual leadership of the family once the father passes. He will be the priest of the house once his father dies.

Esau despises his birthright; he doesn't care about his birthright, the spiritual leadership. All he cares about is his stomach, the fleshly things. Hebrews says he was a profane person:

(Hebrews 12:14 NKJV) Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

(Hebrews 12:15 NKJV) looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Profane means outside the temple. He had no inclination for the spiritual things. He was out there hunting away, going to the game, just feeding the flesh, he had no time for the things of God.

Jacob we will see had all kinds of problems, but we will also see that he hungered and thirsted for the eternal things, and eventually he will be governed by God.

Outline Genesis 25:

- The Son's of Keturah (25:1-6)
- The Death of Abraham (25:7-11)

- The Son's of Ishmael (25:12-16)
- The Death of Ishmael (25:17-18)
- The Son's of Issac (Jacob & Esau) - (25:19-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 26

Title: When Life's Famines Come, Where Do You Go?

Summary: Famines in our spiritual lives come from time to time. The question for us is, "where do You go, what do You do when they come?" In our passage today we will see Isaac enter a famine, and God will give us many great spiritual lessons from his life to apply to our lives in our time of need. Join Us!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Genesis 26:1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

Abimelech is Title

Abimelech king of the Philistines is probably not the same Abimelech we saw in the story of Abraham and Sarah for he most likely would be dead by this time (about 100 yrs has passed). Abimelech is a title for the king of the Philistines so this is his son. You recall the story back in Genesis 20, Abraham goes down there to this exact location, he fears for his life, so he tells Sarah to say you are my wife so they don't kill me, so she does, but God intervened so no one touched her. Abimelech rebukes Abraham, but lets him leave.

Genesis 20:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. ² Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

Famines Come

So we find Genesis 12 Abraham went through a famine and then here Genesis 26 that Isaac will go through a famine and then of course we know the end of Genesis there's gonna be a great famine on the land in the time of Jacob, which will ultimately be a Passing point to them going to Egypt

Genesis 12:10–13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹ And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. ¹² Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³ Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

It will be interesting that we do not see that God gave the go Abraham to go to Egypt here he's gonna tell Isaac don't go to Egypt not to leave the land but then when we get to Jacob, the Lord will tell him go down you and your family to Egypt

I think that's significant in all of our lives. When every famine in our life is different, my famine may not be your famine and your famine may not be my famine, and therefore I can't look to your famine and you can't look to my famine on this is what we should do

We see Isaac hears from the Lord does not go and it fares well for him, except for "like father, like son, saying she's my sister

And we see Jacob's famine, that God's doing something when they go to Egypt in the time of Jacob and we will study that when we get there

Genesis 41:53–57 (NKJV)⁵³ Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended, ⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵ So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do." ⁵⁶ The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷ So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy *grain*, because the famine was severe in all lands.

But it truly did not go and fair well for Abraham in the sense. It was Hagar that he brought out of Egypt with him and started a mess that was studied of the work of the flesh in the picture of Ishmael.

Start Digging Wells

When there is a famine in the land, that is not the time to going anywhere for Isaac this is the time to dig well no matter how dry it is you dig until you find that living water. It will be talking about Wells of living water in this passage today.

Genesis 26:2 Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

Do What He Says

I think the greatest advice I can give myself and anyone else asked God to speak to you then read his word and then what he tells you in his word do it. I love the story of the Wedding Miracle, the water into wine, and Mary says to the servants (her last words by the way), and she says.... Do whatever He says. What has the Lord been telling you to do? Then just do it.

*John 2:4–5 (NKJV)*⁴ Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Genesis 26:3 Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

I Will Bless for Staying

Notice the I will.... I will be with you..... and I will bless you..... and that is a promise if when you're in a famine, you'll stay where He tells you to stay, and He will bless you and He will be with you; and as we said last week, then you will find joy and satisfaction in his presence is fullness of joy.

*Psalms 16:11 (NKJV)*¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

And Descendants Blessed

And your descendants..... will be blessed! Notice that you leave because of the famine you miss His presence and His blessing and not only you.... you will see that you will miss passing on the blessing to your children for staying

Notice all the wills in this passage of what God will do, and then notice the "I will perform". The performance is not on Isaac, but the Lord, and God is giving him rest in the midst of the famine, saying you simply "do what I call y to do", and I will take care of the rest.

Genesis 26:4 And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

The Seed

Once again, notice seed is in the singular form as it was with Abraham as it will be with Jacob, a very direct seed from a very direct person. Praise God for the Seed that came to set me free from the curse of Genesis 3.

*Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)*¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

*Galatians 3:19 (NKJV)*¹⁹ What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.

Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Genesis 26:5 because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

What Grace!

What a passage of grace, that God views Abraham in this light, even though we know his lapses and failings and faults of faith. God sees him as obeyed "My voice" and "kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws". So.... Do you think God sees you today? Do you think Abraham was someone God viewed differently? Or someone that God holds up for us to see His grace and how He see us.

Romans 15:4 (NKJV)⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV)¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Because Abraham obeyed my voice: see Genesis 22:18.

The wording in this verse with **charge, commandments, statutes, and laws** occurs nowhereelse in the stories of the patriarchs. This vocabulary reflects a usage from a much later period, when obedience to the **law** was the center of Israel's relationship to God. All of these nouns overlap in their meanings.

- **My charge** means what I charged, ordered Abraham to do. **Charge** translates a noun whose verb form means to "guard," "watch over." Its noun form is used, for example, in Deut 11:1; Josh 22:3; 1 Kgs 2:3, with the sense of "command," "law," "regulation." Speiser translates "mandate," "orders." In some languages it will be more natural to express this as a clause; for example, "and did what I told him," "did what I ordered him to do."
- **My commandments** is also used in Lev 26:14. It translates one of the common words in this group and is almost always used in the plural in Psa 119. Translators should refer to the discussion in the introduction to Psalm 119 in *A Handbook on Psalms*, and to the discussion of Psa 1:2 and 19:7 in the same volume. In cases where "my laws" may be misunderstood, it will probably be better to say "my teaching" or "my instruction." Often a clause is preferred; for example, "what I taught," "the things I instructed Abraham to do." See also **my laws** below.
- **My statutes:** the same Hebrew word is translated by rsv as "decree" in Psa 2:7. **Statute** refers to an authoritative statement of some kind. As a clause it may be rendered, for example, "The words I have spoken," "What I have declared."
- **My laws** translates the Hebrew word *torah*, which refers to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible. The word itself means "teaching," "instruction," or "guidance." According to Psa 1:2 obeying the *torah* of the Lord is the source of joy.

As many languages will find it more natural to translate some of these noun-like words as verbs, here is a suggested model:

- ... because Abraham obeyed me. He did what I told him to do. He followed my instructions, the words I spoke, and what I taught him.

Reyburn, W. D., & Fry, E. M. (1998). [A handbook on Genesis](#) (pp. 592–593). United Bible Societies.

Genesis 26:6 So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.

Border Town

Isaac went to the border town. Gerar is on the border of Egypt; it is as close to Egypt as you can get without being in it. It is a border town.

Romans chapter 12 verses one and two we can see a good, we can see an acceptable, and we can see a perfect will of God

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Of those three, which one would you want?

Here's Isaac is he still in the will of God? Yes, he did not leave the land, but is he in the perfect will of God?

I think it's easy for us to settle for good and acceptable because we're not in a habitual sin but there's a place for us that we won't take ourselves to the place of asking the Lord..... am I in Your perfect will is this where you want me and this is what you want me to be doing?

Any places like that in your life? I think it may not be an answer that you can give without literally stepping away applying Psalm 46:10, and being still before the Lord and saying, these areas of my life am I in your perfect will? Lord how I am investing presently in my marriage, with my children, in the ministry, you've called me to, the place of employment I'm in?

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

I might be afraid to ask that question because we might be afraid of what the answer is because sometimes good and acceptable is comfortable and the perfect will shakes the bottle that we like to remain settled

As Isaac goes to the border town, he's still in God's good and acceptable will because he's still in the land, but God might've sent him the opposite direction deeper in to the land further away from the border town, and that would've been quite challenging in the midst of a famine.

Sons Will Follow

Hey dads, your sons will follow you to Gerar. They are watching you.

Genesis 26:7 And the men of the place asked about his wife. And he said, "She is my sister"; for he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," because he thought, "lest the men of the place kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful to behold."

Genesis 26:8 Now it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the Philistines looked through a window, and saw, and there was Isaac, showing endearment to Rebekah his wife.

Genesis 26:9 Then Abimelech called Isaac and said, "Quite obviously she is your wife; so how could you say, 'She is my sister'?" Isaac said to him, "Because I said, 'Lest I die on account of her.' "

Die for Wife

Isaac regarding Rebekah, he would put her in a vulnerable harmful place and yet ever so interesting it is Rebecca will be the one who will die to herself for the sake of Isaac that he's not the one who's killed, even though what it will mean to her.

If you recall when she was brought to Isaac, she was a virgin so here she is a life of purity jeopardized because of Isaac, not willing to die - she's only known Isaac intimately, and here he has put her in this place to be shamed before the Lord for the sake of his safety

Not Picture Perfect – How Might I Glorify You

Isaac is surely not picture perfect but I doubt there's a marriage that has been picture perfect but God gives us a word so that we can make that return to the Lord, even if I die and all is taken away from me, even if I was to lose it all from possessions to prosperity to my very life of dying in a famine, I will trust in you to provide so that you might be glorified of how you provided

Do you realize how God shows up in the famine how good God shows up in a hard time is definitely a place that he puts us in so that he can show how he provided in the impossible situation so that he might be glorified

I pray that whatever decisions whatever things you were in the midst of, you would take a word like this and pondered long and hard and deep say Lord, how might I glorify you in this situation so that you might be glorified how you provided in the end?

Isaac, you were there, the very name of God, one of the greatest names, Jehovah Jireh, and here you are totally forgetting that you were the middle of that great declaration of how God provided a ram out of nothing as the sacrifice rather than you Isaac

Genesis 22:14 (NKJV)¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Husbands Die

What does the Word say to us husbands?

(Ephesians 5:25 NKJV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

We are to die for our wives, we are to die to ourselves, desires, our wants, our dreams, we are to die for our wives. I will ask men who want to get married, are you ready to die to yourselves? If not then stay single.

The question is asked I thought Isaac was a type/picture of Jesus, what gives? Yes he is a type, but a type can only take you so far, for there is only one perfection - Jesus Christ, and no type in the flesh can perfectly portray Him.

Genesis 26:10 And Abimelech said, "What is this you have done to us? One of the people might soon have lain with your wife, and you would have brought guilt on us."

Genesis 26:11 So Abimelech charged all his people, saying, "He who touches this man or his wife shall surely be put to death."

You know if Isaac knew they felt this way about him from the beginning, he could have came into town and simply and clearly said..... she is my wife, and knew that God was going to protect him and her.

Some scholars will say that adultery was frowned upon in this culture, and so they would simply kill the man so to take the wife and be that he was dead. They were not guilty of adultery.

This king knew guilt would be upon him not because of his local law saying you can't commit adultery, but because he knew the universal law of God regarding adultery (at least with God's chosen people) as it was told to him by his father

That may be so, but the Canaanite culture was wicked the things we read about child sacrifice their depths of their depravity and debauchery. I kind of struggle with that in this scenario.

Psalms 105. The stories being told Abraham declaring the promise of God and Psalm 105. There's a law of God, the spiritual, even before it would be written, and it is do not touch my Lord's anointed the prophets

Psalms 105:14-15 (NKJV)¹⁴ He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, ¹⁵ Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

Genesis 26:12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.

Genesis 26:13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;

Confession and Prospering

When did Isaac receive a hundredfold? After he said, "I made a mistake, Abimelech. I told you Rebekah was my sister because I'm a chicken. I didn't want to die." That's all confession is, gang—simply admitting the real deal. Isaac's sin was exposed; confession was made; and now he can go on.

1 John 1:9 - is freedom. Why are pastor, churches, us as Christians, afraid to declare it as such!

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 139:23–24 (NKJV) ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; ²⁴ And see if *there is any wicked way in me*, And lead me in the way everlasting.

(Psalms 103:12 NKJV) As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

A careful study of Scripture reveals how important confession truly is. Those most mightily used of God were also those most willing to confess their weaknesses.

- Only after Isaiah cried, “I am undone,” did the Lord invite him to serve.
- When Job confessed his sins and prayed for his friends God changed his circumstances and gave him more blessings than during his greatest days of prosperity.
- Daniel is another example. His life was so godly that the evil princes could find no fault in him (see Dan. 6:4). But note Daniel’s awareness of personal sin. He wrote, “And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God ... even the man Gabriel ... touched me about the time of the evening oblation” (Dan. 9:20–21, italics added).

These godly servants of ancient days had learned an important secret of power. The Holy Spirit works best through a clean vessel, and confession begins the process of cleansing.

Eastman, D. (2002). *The hour that changes the world: a practical plan for personal prayer* (p. 48). Chosen.

Isaiah 6:5 (NKJV) ⁵ So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

Job 42:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Therefore I abhor *myself*, And repent in dust and ashes.”

Daniel 9:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ Now while I *was* speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, ²¹ yes, while I *was* speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

Genesis 26:14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

Many Servants – Many Witnesses

Isaac already had a great number of servants. He’s just multiplying at this point but for the point, it goes back to the witness that all the servants that went down with him witnessed his weakness and his lie, and you could pretty much be sure it was a public rebuke when he was called out by the king

Genesis 26:15 Now the Philistines had stopped up all the wells which his father’s servants had dug in the days of Abraham his father, and they had filled them with earth.

Genesis 26:16 And Abimelech said to Isaac, “Go away from us, for you are much mightier than we.”

Throwing Dirt

The Philistines saw how blessed he was, and they envied him. They knew he wasn’t faultless, they saw his failings, yet they see him prospering. It caused them to envy him, and not in a good way. What do they do, they start digging up dirt, throwing dirt Isaac’s way, trying to stop the flow of water. People see us being blessed by the Lord, and they want to see it stopped, they want to see us fail, for they just don’t understand God’s grace and mercy, and it frustrates them. They may even try to dig some dirt up on you to try to make you look bad. I like what Isaac does, he just departs from them, doesn’t get bogged down with them digging up dirt and throwing dirt, he just departs.

Genesis 26:17 Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.

Genesis 26:18 And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

The Fight

Isaac encountered a well known for its water but found it filled with dirt. Rather than doing the hard work of digging it up or going to war with the Philistines, he chose to go down to Gerar instead.

Hey Christian, it's always easier to go the easy route rather than stand up to the enemy that's pressing in against you rolling up some sleeves and doing some hard work and sometimes it's dirty work. It causes a sweat and the greatest warfare is prayer and battling it out in the spiritual realm against the demonic entity, full of evil trying to push you out what was rightfully yours and where God wants blessed but now it's filled in by the dirt of the devil **Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV)** ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

2 Corinthians 10:3–6 (NKJV) ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

Genesis 26:19 Also Isaac's servants dug in the valley, and found a well of running water there.

An equally correct translation is "living water"

Unblocking Wells

Interestingly, as we study Isaac, we'll see him seven times at a well, and we see him continually unblocking and unstopping the wells that were filled back in by the enemies, such as the Philistine's - I think there's a place for us as we have some great spiritual fathers through the years of this country in that the last revival was well over 50 years ago. In the world, for very large part, has failed for the wells that they have dug (the spiritual fathers), through this nation, through this world, such as Abraham and I think there's a place for us. We need to unblock those wells and let the living water flow for like it once did

Very much today no one wants to talk about living water. Talk about information. but rarely transformation, information that is interesting but not the thirst for the information that brings the transformation. We say how do I get this Living water again like the woman at the well in John 4, and let it break forth overflow us then overflow from us. She was sick and tired of being sick and tired, and said give me this living water!

John 4:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 7:37–39 (NKJV) ³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Today wells that brought life to the American church is just filled up with foolishness, rubbish, debates, and nonsense. Social gospels, good works, criticism, but missing the baptism empowerment of the Holy Spirit. (We will talk more about this in the studies to come as it becomes a theme in the chapters to come).

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Living Water Found in the Valley

Take note Bible students, you will often find living water in the valley. See there it says the servant's dug in the valley and found living water.

Don't despise those times in the valley. Those times when things don't seem to be going well, like everything is going wrong - the job, the kids, your ministry. Whatever the case, here is the beauty of the valley, it takes you to that place of I need the living water. I need a fresh touch of the Holy Spirit upon my life. I find so often in my life, when things are going well that I pray for the touch of the Holy Spirit upon my life, but it is times in the valley I don't just ask for it, I wait for it, I say Lord I'm not leaving here until I get it, I actually dig for it, plead for it. It is

there God refreshes me and gives me power to continue on, and the confidence also. Yes I am still in the valley, my situation hasn't changed, but God has changed me, and the living water is flowing and I am lifted up in my soul.

Genesis 26:20 But the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, "The water is ours." So he called the name of the well Esek, because they quarreled with him.

Genesis 26:21 Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that one also. So he called its name Sitnah.

Genesis 26:22 And he moved from there and dug another well, and they did not quarrel over it. So he called its name Rehoboth, because he said, "For now the LORD has made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land."

Genesis 26:23 Then he went up from there to Beersheba.

Genesis 26:24 And 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 descendants for My servant Abraham's sake."

Genesis 26:25 So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

God Waits for Back on Track

Now God speaks to Isaac again. He first spoke when Isaac left the land and now the first night that he is back God speaks to him again. It is almost like God was waiting for him to get back on track. We find this is true in our own life when we get off track, suddenly we don't hear the voice of God. We don't feel the presence of God in our lives. It isn't that God has moved, but that we have moved from the place of blessing.

The moment Isaac came back to Beer-sheba God spoke to him. He said do not fear for I am with you. That is always the answer which dispels fear, the presence of God with you. David said in the Twenty-third Psalm: *(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

(Isaiah 41:10 NKJV) Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

What words of strength and comfort.

God establishes His covenant with Isaac now here in chapter 26. Back in verse 4:

(Genesis 26:4 NKJV) "And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;

From your seed will come the Messiah, Jesus Christ. So, the LORD affirms the promises that He gave to Abraham and are now passed on to Isaac.

Notice, Isaac builds the altar first, and then he pitches his tent:

(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Desire Wisdom

People, Christians, lives are crashing and crumbling all around us, because they mess this order up. Ok, ok, I'm going take care of my finances, my house, my stuff, etc, etc, and then I'm going to get into the Word and the things of the Lord with whatever time is left. A man came to one of the great philosophers and said sir I desire wisdom, what must I do to gain it. The philosopher took the man down to the river, took the man by the collar and plunged in under the water, the man wrestled and wrestled to get up, then quite a few seconds later he let him. The man gasping for air, sucking air in, and the philosopher said when you desire wisdom, the way you desired that breath of air, then you will begin to find wisdom.

(Proverbs 3:13 NKJV) Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;

(Proverbs 3:14 NKJV) For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.

(Proverbs 3:15 NKJV) She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.

(Proverbs 3:16 NKJV) Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor.

(Proverbs 3:17 NKJV) Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.

(Proverbs 3:18 NKJV) She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.

In your life, when you desire the things of God, the way you desire your workouts, your time in front of the television, your overtime, your hobbies, then you will find yourself into a whole different realm of the things of God.

Genesis 26:26 Then Abimelech came to him from Gerar with Ahuzzath, one of his friends, and Phicol the commander of his army.

Genesis 26:27 And Isaac said to them, "Why have you come to me, since you hate me and have sent me away from you?"

Genesis 26:28 But they said, "We have certainly seen that the LORD is with you. So we said, 'Let there now be an oath between us, between you and us; and let us make a covenant with you,

Genesis 26:29 that you will do us no harm, since we have not touched you, and since we have done nothing to you but good and have sent you away in peace. You are now the blessed of the LORD.' "

Genesis 26:30 So he made them a feast, and they ate and drank.

Genesis 26:31 Then they arose early in the morning and swore an oath with one another; and Isaac sent them away, and they departed from him in peace.

Genesis 26:32 It came to pass the same day that Isaac's servants came and told him about the well which they had dug, and said to him, "We have found water."

Genesis 26:33 So he called it Shebah. Therefore the name of the city is Beersheba to this day.

Equate My Life – God is With Me

The Philistines tell Isaac get away from us, and now they come to him, why? Verse 28, we see the Lord is with you. My hearts desire is that when people speak of me, whether friend or foe, that they equate my life to my relationship with the Lord.

Attend the Feast

I'm not totally sure who made the feast but it appears to be the king and not Isaac - I find it interesting in the story that Isaac accepts the dining with someone who basically would be viewed as an enemy, and at least someone not to be trusted

But he dines with them that would put him in a seated position. Maybe the culture the lying on the side position, putting themselves in a very vulnerable position. As he could easily be attacked and killed him and his man and his wife.

He's just been given the promise that the land is his so he can surely rest in that that God didn't mean but for a day

This little passing passage has so much vitalist to it, not just in the moment that we read, but in the moment we are here today, but if Isaac had rejected the meal, it would be a tremendous insult to the king as a culture was huge on fellowship over the meal

If he had rejected, there would be no peace and reconciliation, and the war tension and contention would've never stopped, and he would never have had peace always knowing it have to be looking over her shoulder at this king

How about you?

I don't think we have to worry about being chopped up physically if we're invited to the fellowship reconciliation meal yes there's the possibility you may get chopped up with tongues like swords and knives

How do you know whether to go or not? I think the offer for reconciliation should always start with a yes, in our plan unless the Lord would speak a word and give us a no don't go.

And I would say the person who doesn't go, can spend the rest of their life in a bitterness and a poison because they always be holding that division- and if you're the other person, you can just have peace I offered reconciliation and was rejected. Lord I can do no more now it's up to you and go away in peace.

Romans 12:17–21 (NKJV)¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*” says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore “*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Genesis 26:34 When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite.

Genesis 26:35 And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

Here is the establishing of Esau’s heart, and that sets us up for our next study.

Conclusion

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Passage: Genesis 27

Title: Which One Are You?

Summary: In our study we will see Jacob and Rebekah deceive Isaac to pass the spiritual blessing unto Jacob rather than Esau. Each of us can be one of these four, so the question before the study, which one are you, and what can you do about it? Are You:

- Isaac – Who spiritually went from on-fire, to slow-fade, to a vapor?
- Esau – Who chose the things of the world and flesh, over the things of the Spirit?
- Jacob – Who recognized the things of the Spirit, but tried to obtain through the flesh?
- Rebekah – Who went from person of prayer, to I will do it my way?

Going to Ask

Before we begin I would like to ask you a question, and then at the end I will ask the same question. Who are you more like in this story, who are you most relatable to.

Are You:

- Isaac – Who spiritually went from on-fire, to slow-fade, to a vapor?
- Esau – Who chose the things of the world and flesh, over the things of the Spirit?
- Jacob – Who recognized the things of the Spirit, but tried to obtain through the flesh?
- Rebekah – Who went from person of prayer, to I will do it my way?

Outline: Genesis 27

- The Ask (27:1-4)
- The Hear (27:5-10)
- The Switch (27:11-29)
- The Regret (27:30-40)
- The Revenge (27:41-46)

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The Ask (27:1-4)

Genesis 27:1 Now it came to pass, when Isaac was old and his eyes were so dim that he could not see, that he called Esau his older son and said to him, “My son.” And he answered him, “Here I am.”

4 Characters - BLUF

In times of Israel, there was the blessing of the father unto the children before his passing - the first blessing (usually intended for the oldest) was the passing of the spiritual leadership unto the son who was then required to diligently lead and carry on the spiritual heritage of the family; he was to be “priest” (if you would) of the family.

The four players in our passage and each one will have a failing in the story - its questionable to give any the benefit of the doubt that there was some underlying good intention, but we will try

- Isaac - was told that the older would serve the younger (thus Jacob would be over Esau); therefore Isaac is wrong in giving the “greater” blessing to Esau because God already declared in chapter 25 that the older (Esau) shall serve the younger (Jacob).
- Rebekah is wrong because she tries to bring the fulfillment through deception of this lie. How could she think a lie will fulfill the Declaration of God
- Esau is wrong in asking for the blessing, because he already despised it by selling to Jacob back at the end of chapter 25
- Jacob is wrong, in as much he is trying to get the blessing of God though lying and deception.

What a mess of a chapter before us today

Context

Genesis 26:34-35 are context for our study today; as we see the heart and soul of Esau, in that he doesn't seek to please the Lord like his father did, and not take a wife from the land (Gen 24), but takes women from the land who are spiritually wicked and adulterous. Esau has displayed not desire for the spiritual things by first selling his birthright, and now marrying these women.

Genesis 26:34–35 (NKJV) ³⁴ When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite. ³⁵ And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

Getting Old

You know I find that I'm starting to take these verses that say this thing about getting old starting to take it personally

Jokes

- I Saw 3 hangars on floor in my closet and said i should pick them up but that's a lot of work for just 3 hangars, I think I'll wait until there's at least five.
- You know when your shoes are untied, you ask you ask yourself what else can i do while I'm down here
- A few weeks ago someone told me I look the same since I first met them 20 years ago. So when I went home and looked in the mirror I said O my goodness, you mean I have looked this bad for 20 yrs!

Isaac is Feeble

Isaac is blind

Isaac will live 43 more years from this day as he is right now the age of 137 years old he is probably thinking death because his brother Ishmael died at 137 and remember he was born about 14 years earlier than Isaac

So Isaac has 43 more years to live in this state that he's in which is blind cannot see to the point that he cannot recognize the difference between Jacob and Esau, which would tell us he's living in a nomadic tent life without the ability to see and move like he once did as a young strong man. This must be very hard upon him.

43 years is a long time to live in that state, and it arises the question. Why does God allow a person to live in such a state for such a period of time and not just call them home and the question gets deeper when someone has lengthy earthly battles, such as cancer or dementia and their believers and yet their life continues and we ask the question why

To which the answer is, we don't know the ways of God and why some things are the way they are such as a topic, such as this

I can only control what I know: God loves me and can end my pain with a word. As long as I'm enduring, I'm here because God wants me to be.

Every day, we should ask how we can glorify the Lord while we're here. Despite any hardships, we should praise Him and not question His character, knowing that Calvary shows our worth to Him.

A friend from Bible college shared a story about his mother, who endured a lengthy and painful struggle with cancer. Despite her condition, she consistently expressed her faith to the medical staff. During her six months in the hospital, she reportedly influenced 22 doctors, nurses, and other staff members.

Joni Eareckson Tada

I read an amazing quote from our dear friend Joni Eareckson Tada. What she says transcends her own personal struggle with quadriplegia and chronic pain, and applies to every circumstance in our lives—whether painful or joyful. She said,

- “I realized that the stakes were far greater, far more immense and cosmic than merely my satisfaction with a wheelchair and its unpleasant baggage. I shifted my focus onto God. His glory was at stake, and that made my satisfaction in Him (not satisfaction with ‘the way things were’) the real issue. It was no longer a matter of being content with His plan for my life; it was a matter of finding Him utterly and supremely the source of all contentment. This, much to my delight, would give Him the greatest glory.”

[Chan, F., & Chan, L. \(2014\). You and me forever: marriage in light of eternity. Claire Love Publishing.](#)

Word Given Me

I know the word the Word the Lord gives me, that no matter the situation, all lost, betrayal, discouragement, faults and failings..... he says to me.....**You Just Keep Being the Man of God, and God Will Take Care of His Man.**

And if I “haven’t been the man of God I should be then it’s a call to “become” the man of God He has called me to be.

Genesis 27:2 Then he said, “Behold now, I am old. I do not know the day of my death.

House In Order

I will give this to Isaac, and say to us today, we never know what tomorrow may bring, and we would do well to make sure our house is in order. Making sure your documents are in order so the stress is minimized for the other to carry on

Although old, he will live another 43 yrs

After Isaac blessed Jacob (mistakenly thinking he was blessing Esau), he lived for quite a long time afterward.

Here’s a breakdown from the biblical timeline:

*

Isaac was 60 years old when Jacob and Esau were born (Genesis 25:26).

*

Jacob received the blessing and fled to Haran when he was about 77 years old (based on calculations from events and ages in Genesis).

*

* That would make Isaac about 137 years old at the time of the blessing.

* Isaac lived to be 180 years old (Genesis 35:28–29).

So, Isaac lived approximately 43 more years after blessing Jacob.

Even though Isaac thought he was near death when he blessed Jacob, he actually lived for several more decades.

Genesis 27:3 Now therefore, please take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me.

Genesis 27:4 And make me savory food, such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, that my soul may bless you before I die.”

Behavior Follow the Word

We will see that Isaac is making decisions and actions based on feelings, not on the word to God that has already been spoken

And it has been said, for I surely can't make these statements up on my own

- If you bring your behavior into submission to God's word, then your feelings will follow
- My behavior will follow the Word, not the Feelings

If I wake up feeling good because it's a beautiful day, I slept well, had good coffee, and the sun is shining with \$20 in my pocket, I'll have a great day and feel Christian. But if I wake up tired, with a headache, cranky, and the coffee grinder broke, I might be less Christ-like and react poorly to everyone I meet. But If I begin my day with God's word, it will guide my actions, even when I'm not feeling well.

See Colossians

[**Colossians 3:15–17 \(NKJV\)**](#)¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Why This Food Thing?

There's a part of me that always asked the question when I read this passage of why the special meal that needed to be prepared before the blessing came, but when you read it and the context, this wasn't something that was a one time deal and request of make me this food we can see that it was something that they enjoyed many times he saw would hunt come back prepare the special food from the wild game and tell a story about the hunt.

It's obvious that they had flocks and herds that we were gonna see. They could've easily been the meal, but he saw like the outdoors he liked the hunting and him and his father must've enjoyed the stories of the hunt because sometimes the story of the hunt is I got shut out and didn't see anything or I missed and therefore I'm going hungry

It appears that Esau hunts for the joy of hunting and the taste of the difference of the Wild game because as we see, they did not need to hunt to sustain themselves because they had plenty of food already flocks in the herds that will be part of the story that they go and get That are right there before them

So there's this commonality that the two of them enjoy together and it appears to have caused them to have a deeper bond and that is Isaac's request here let's have a special dinner together and I will bless you in a special way

But what is odd Rebecca and Jacob we're not invited to the special meal and special blessing ceremony

And though Isaac and Esau have this special bond regarding the things of the body and the soul, do you notice what they don't have, and we'll see it as we know this chapter already is there is no mention at all, and there's no indication at all of a spiritual connection between the two of them

We see them still bonding over the things of the body and the soul, but read nothing of Isaac saying I saw you married these two heathen women son they're gonna take you down we see and read nothing of anything of a spiritual connection or investing from Isaac into Esau other than their love for the hunt and the gain food together

To which I say every dad, we must connect with our children on the body spirit and soul, and that come alongside the things that make them who they are that's what we call. The soul come alongside and tend to their needs bodily with provisions but invest, even if it's with tears and sorrows and long nights of prayers and long walks, pleading with the Lord for the spiritual investing into your child, each one individually and each one equally.

Where is the Man from Genesis 24

God's already spoken from the womb the blessing is to go to Jacob

Genesis 25:22-23 (NKJV)²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all* is well, why *am* I like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her: "Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Isaac, what are you doing?

Isaac God has spoken there is nothing left to do but to obey his word

Question of chapter is why is Isaac doing what he is doing?

Where is the man from Genesis 22 who is willing to lay his life down even to the point of death

Genesis 22:6-8 (NKJV)⁶ So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. ⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

We are about 100 years after that moment, and we are watching a heartbreaking scene before us that Isaac is not that man that he once was, somewhere along the way he went from the fire of God that he was what we see before in this chapter

It's a sobering picture regardless of our age. For the younger hear today warning of one that we can't leave our first love and for the older here today, maybe it's a calling to remembrance of where you once were on fire willing to do anything for the Lord, and now hot have turned into dry coals

Revelation 2:4-5 (NKJV)⁴ Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

So we noticed that the blessing is gonna come at a dinner table, but you notice where it never even occurred because it wouldn't for the first priestly blessing, but Isaac still could've took Isa and gave him a blessing and had a moment with him and imparted spiritual words of wisdom and power onto him in the place for that to happen would've been what we finished at an altar

Genesis 26:23-25 (NKJV)²³ Then he went up from there to Beersheba. ²⁴ And 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 descendants for My servant Abraham's sake." ²⁵ So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

Verse 4 – Before "I" die - The "I" word, it's no longer about the Lord and what's best for Him, but it's about eating in restaurants and ease and comfort and about what's best for my flesh and not what first and foremost and that is seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness that He might be glorified, even if I have to die to the world, even if it makes the family situation hard. O'Lord, that your word may lead me into forever obedience and submission.

For Isaac, we see the continual growth stopped somewhere long ago..... his well got blocked up!

Genesis 26:18 (NKJV)¹⁸ And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.

Isaac – Who spiritually went from on-fire, to slow-fade, to a vapor?

The Hear (27:5-10)

Genesis 27:5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt game and to bring it.

The Game Freezer

It's a good thing I didn't have to rely on a hunt to get a blessing because the story would be greatly different than that. It would read something and six years later Ray showed up with deer meat and his father bless him.

I bought a special freezer for the garage small but still yet its purpose was the hold the wild game brought in from hunting. And this past birthday we had ice cream cake to which the next day I wanted the piece of the ice cream cake and I went into the freezer in our kitchen and it wasn't there then we have another freezer in the garage and I went to that one and it was not in there, so I sent Renee a text and said hey where's the ice cream cake to which she replied it's in the deer freezer because that one has the most room in it ouch.

On another note, I am so thankful to not be "a Bible Guy", and my life story is recorded for all of mankind to read and know about..... especially my faults and failures.

Genesis 27:6 So Rebekah spoke to Jacob her son, saying, "Indeed I heard your father speak to Esau your brother, saying,

Genesis 27:7 'Bring me game and make savory food for me, that I may eat it and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.'

Genesis 27:8 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to what I command you.

Not Equal

So here's the problem if you notice (verse 5) when it was a reference to Isaac's child it is Esau, and here when it is referring to Rebecca she calls Jacob, her son.

Takes us back to Body-Soul-Spirit we just discussed, and may we invest equally in each of our kids.

Genesis 27:9 Go now to the flock and bring me from there two choice kids of the goats, and I will make savory food from them for your father, such as he loves.

Genesis 27:10 Then you shall take it to your father, that he may eat it, and that he may bless you before his death."

No Prayer

Notice, No prayer just the work of the flesh gonna go do this because we have to beat them to it. We have to go do this our way.

Do notice what is missing in Rebekah? The woman of prayer. Back in the womb we see her a woman of prayer, hey lord what is going on? But rather than prayer of hey Lord what is going on, how do I respond to this, she just jumps into "I will do it my way".

Genesis 25:22-23 (NKJV)²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all* is well, why *am I* like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her: "Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

Here they are scheming and conniving, and you know the anxiety is rushing to beat the clock in all the while there was a piece waiting for them. If they would simply say Lord, you gave a promise and I'm gonna rest in your promise that you're gonna do what you said you're gonna do and I don't have to do anything other than rest

How about you is there something you need to rest in right now? Is there something that's stirring you that you're trying to make happen even though God gave a word but you can't rest that he will complete it. I pray the Lord will just speak to you today and give you a peace that will bring you into a rest. They will bring you to a place that you'll see. Take care of this Lord.

You may have to die that dream you have to die to yourself, but that is where faith is birth when we die to our control and just let the Lord control and supply

Rebekah – Who went from person of prayer, to I will do it my way?

Prayer - Lord would you do that for my brothers and sisters to do that for myself today? I'm trying to hold onto whatever I'm trying to manipulate or swinging into place even though I know it's what you want. I'm trying to make it happen and I have no peace so I'm asking you to help me lay this down and give it to you and trust in you to do What you promised to do in my life

The Switch (27:11-29)

Genesis 27:11 And Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "Look, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth-skinned man.

Genesis 27:12 Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be a deceiver to him; and I shall bring a curse on myself and not a blessing."

Genesis 27:13 But his mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me."

Genesis 27:14 And he went and got them and brought them to his mother, and his mother made savory food, such as his father loved.

Genesis 27:15 Then Rebekah took the choice clothes of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

Genesis 27:16 And she put the skins of the kids of the goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

Genesis 27:17 Then she gave the savory food and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

Goat Skin

Goat skin? Ever see a goat? Can you saw Chewbacca (from Star Wars).

I'm thinking if his clothes were still in the house, then Esau was living at home (with his two wives).

Genesis 27:18 So he went to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?"

Genesis 27:19 Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done just as you told me; please arise, sit and eat of my game, that your soul may bless me."

Genesis 27:20 But Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God brought it to me."

Lies Need Lies

Lies need lies to support themselves. Here's the thing with lying, as one lie is never enough and it's gonna take multiple lies to keep the story alive

Our Lord says if we walk in the light to see in the light, we will have fellowship one with another

1 John 1:7 (NKJV) But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Life is really easy just do what God tells us to do and we'll have peace with God in peace with one another

No Fear of Lord

The Lord brought it - Here he has no fear of the Lord as he is using the Lord's name in vain to build his lie

Jacob – Who recognized the things of the Spirit, but tried to obtain through the flesh?

Genesis 27:21 Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come near, that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not."

Genesis 27:22 So Jacob went near to Isaac his father, and he felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

Genesis 27:23 And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

Genesis 27:24 Then he said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He said, "I am."

Genesis 27:25 He said, "Bring it near to me, and I will eat of my son's game, so that my soul may bless you." So he brought it near to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank.

Genesis 27:26 Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near now and kiss me, my son."

Genesis 27:27 And he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his clothing, and blessed him and said: "Surely, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field Which the LORD has blessed.

Genesis 27:28 Therefore may God give you Of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine.

Genesis 27:29 Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you!"

Verse 28 - The first part is the place of material prosperity

Verse 29 – the second part is the spiritual blessing

Issac here, his blessing counters and contradiction to the very word of God that said the older shall bow down and serve the younger

Genesis 25:22–23 (NKJV)²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If *all* is well, why *am I* like this?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her: "Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; *One* people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."

May we remember, there is no adding to or taking away from the Word of God, else we bring a curse upon ourselves, and that curse is that God's Word is His way, and His ways are perfect, and when we follow His Word, we have a shield to protect us from going the wrong way into the wrong things that can and will hurt us.

Proverbs 30:5–6 (NKJV)⁵ Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. ⁶ Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

Deuteronomy 32:3–4 (NKJV)³ For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. ⁴ He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

But still yet, Here's the Genesis 12 blessing passed on to Jacob. I love it, even in the mess of man's flesh, God's Word cant be stopped by devil.

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Lyrics of "The Lion and the Lamb"

- Who can stop the Lord Almighty
There is no one
Who can stop the Lord Almighty

Do you believe that for yourself today?

The Regret (27:30-40)

Genesis 27:30 Now it happened, as soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, and Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

Genesis 27:31 He also had made savory food, and brought it to his father, and said to his father, "Let my father arise and eat of his son's game, that your soul may bless me."

Genesis 27:32 And his father Isaac said to him, "Who are you?" So he said, "I am your son, your firstborn, Esau."

Genesis 27:33 Then Isaac trembled exceedingly, and said, “Who? Where is the one who hunted game and brought it to me? I ate all of it before you came, and I have blessed him—and indeed he shall be blessed.”

Isaac has a literal physical reaction to the emotional effect upon his body

Imagine if this is how he viewed losing the spiritual when asked to trade it for a bowl of lentils

*Genesis 25:29–34 (NKJV)*²⁹ Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. ³⁰ And Esau said to Jacob, “Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary.” Therefore his name was called Edom. ³¹ But Jacob said, “Sell me your birthright as of this day.” ³² And Esau said, “Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?” ³³ Then Jacob said, “Swear to me as of this day.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 27:34 When Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me—me also, O my father!”

He’s not crying about the spiritual things he’s crying about losing the physical blessing of the inheritance

Which again went to the first son because the double inheritance was so that he would be more freed up to serve the family as the new spiritual priest of the home

He doesn’t care about the spiritual things who he cares about the fleshly things

And we need to understand this when we read the book of Romans, and it seems so contrasting that God just says that he hated Esau and he loved Jacob and it seems that God was picking and choosing always see in our passage reason history ends of the statement regarding Jacob and saw is that the Lord hated That he saw rejected the spiritual things of God, the spiritual birthright, and then he chose the carnal and fleshly things over the spiritual

*Romans 9:10–13 (NKJV)*¹⁰ And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac ¹¹ (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹² it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

Genesis 27:35 But he said, “Your brother came with deceit and has taken away your blessing.”

Genesis 27:36 And Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright, and now look, he has taken away my blessing!” And he said, “Have you not reserved a blessing for me?”

Genesis 27:37 Then Isaac answered and said to Esau, “Indeed I have made him your master, and all his brethren I have given to him as servants; with grain and wine I have sustained him. What shall I do now for you, my son?”

Genesis 27:38 And Esau said to his father, “Have you only one blessing, my father? Bless me—me also, O my father!” And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.

Look at this, this mighty Outdoor hunter, the manly man weeping like a baby

But still yet could’ve repented and God could’ve still did great things in his life, but will read that he’ll go on and continue on in the path of carnality and selfishness, and his tears were for physical and material loss, not the loss of what he could have had with God.

*Hebrews 12:16–17 (NKJV)*¹⁶ lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Esau – Who chose the things of the world and flesh, over the things of the Spirit?

Genesis 27:39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him: “Behold, your dwelling shall be of the fatness of the earth, And of the dew of heaven from above.

Genesis 27:40 By your sword you shall live, And you shall serve your brother; And it shall come to pass, when you become restless, That you shall break his yoke from your neck.”

Blessing

Still, the blessing is bestowed in that they will become a great people known as the Edomites

1000 yrs later Israel will weaken, and other nations would break free from them, and the Edomites being one of them.

The Revenge (27:41-46)

Genesis 27:41 So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, "The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob."

The only comfort he has is revenge

He who says he loves God he hates his brother is a liar, and the truth is not in him We should all examine hatred in our heart and see what God says. It means to him and our relationship with him.

1 John 4:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

But here is a word by the last week's message this week's message when we talked about the fellowship meal that Isaac had with Abilimech, and here Esau and how he feels about Jacob

And that is if you were waiting for someone else to settle something you will never find peace. You have to find your peace before the Throne of God, in His presence, for that is the only true place for true peace.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (NKJV)²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

Genesis 27:42 And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother Esau comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you.

Genesis 27:43 Now therefore, my son, obey my voice: arise, flee to my brother Laban in Haran.

Genesis 27:44 And stay with him a few days, until your brother's fury turns away,

Genesis 27:45 until your brother's anger turns away from you, and he forgets what you have done to him; then I will send and bring you from there. Why should I be bereaved also of you both in one day?"

Rebekah will have her on regrets as she will never see Jacob again.

No sin and deceit is only a few days long - its ramifications are lingering and long, and a lifetime.

Jacob will not see his mother alive ever again. What is profit a man to gain the whole world - yet lose his family in the end?

These few days turned into 20 years

Genesis 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

Rebekah

She acts like she is requesting that Jacob goes away to find a wife, but she is continuing her manipulation in that she is sending him away so that he saw it doesn't kill him

In the story, we never see the Rebecca was found out by Isaac that she was the one who caused and brought about this deception

And here we see Rebecca has no repentance before Isaac of her deception in her lying and everybody will pay the price

If Humbled Self

If Jacob would've said the Esau and Isaac, I was wrong for what I did, if he would've said I was wrong for asking for what was not mine, if Isaac would've said to the boys, I was wrong given what was wrong to give after the Lord had spoken

If just one of them would've humbled themselves and made themselves slowly who knows how the story could've changed in this family could've stayed as a family but instead the splintering has happened in every last one of them will pay for it and right now.

Rebecca, you'll pay the most for it because you got involved against what God had already promised there was no need for you to help but now you will never see your son again because of what you've done

That is a painful story

But – still yet God's Word could not be stopped!

But our takeaway from this story.....if only one of them would have been humble, had humility, just one could stopped the other three's pride and selfishness in its tracks.

Jesus had many great natures and characteristics emanating from Him that He displayed for us His heart for us, and the heart we should have and be..... one of those was "humility", being lowly and humble.

Philippians 2:1–11 (NKJV)¹ Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ² fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. ³ *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴ Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. ⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 11:28–30 (NKJV)²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden *is* light."

Matthew 21:4–5 (NKJV)⁴ All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: ⁵ "*Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'*"

In the Bible, humility is not self-deprecation or weakness, but a posture of the heart that acknowledges God's greatness and our dependence on Him. It includes:

- Recognizing God as supreme and ourselves as His creation (Psalm 8:3–4).
- Putting others before ourselves (Philippians 2:3–4).
- Being teachable, submissive, and obedient to God's will (James 4:6–10).
- Serving rather than seeking status (Matthew 23:11–12).

Going to Ask

Before we begin, I would like to ask you a question, and then at the end I will ask the same question. Who are you more like in this story, who are you most relatable to.

Are You:

- Isaac – Who spiritually went from on-fire, to slow-fade, to a vapor?
- Esau – Who chose the things of the world and flesh, over the things of the Spirit?
- Jacob – Who recognized the things of the Spirit, but tried to obtain through the flesh?
- Rebekah – Who went from person of prayer, to I will do it my way?

Outline: Genesis 27

- The Ask (27:1-4)
- The Hear (27:5-10)
- The Switch (27:11-29)
- The Regret (27:30-40)
- The Revenge (27:41-46)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 28

Title: Do We Truly Understand Grace

Summary: In our passage today, we read of one of the greatest accounts of grace and Jacob is on the run from his brother Esau for deceiving him and his father Isaac regarding the family blessing; yet God shows up and pours grace out upon him. We don't understand grace and that's the point, for if we could, it wouldn't be grace. We can only stand on the promise of grace, and receive it, though never fully understanding it. Maybe you need some grace, or need to give some grace, join us God pours out His grace.

Outline: Genesis 28

- Isaac Steps Up (28:1-5)
- Esau Steps Lower (28:6-9)
- Jacob Steps Out (28:10-11)
- God Steps Down (28:12-22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do His mighty work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Isaac Steps Up (28:1-5)

Genesis 28:1 Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

Genesis 28:2 Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

Finally godly Counsel / Isaac Steps Up

So Isaac steps up here and now gives godly counsel; the same counsel he should've given to Esau. But here he is giving counsel to Jacob regarding do not take women from this wicked land. Do not marry with them but go to your mother's family.

And although there are some issues with Rebecca's ways nonetheless, she gave counsel to Isaac and he heeded it and gave it to Jacob, and we see there is wisdom husbands, in listening to your wives as they can give you wise counsel that you may not see because you're so into tending to your garden or your field or your hobby or whatever but they can be a breakthrough

Genesis 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife of the daughters of Heth, like these who are the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"

And so to wives, a husband can speak into your life if you will allow it.

That is why we are helpmate, to help each other grow in the ways and wonder of the Lord.

Genesis 2:18 And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up. ¹¹ Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

And if you are single.....God will be your helper, His Spirit will speak to your heart.

John 14:16–18 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Genesis 28:3 “May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;

Genesis 28:4 And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham.”

Genesis 28:5 So Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Syrian, the brother of Rebekah, the mother of Jacob and Esau.

The Genesis 25 Blessing

Now come the “true” blessing Jacob was to receive as the Promise of God given regarding of him.

Genesis 25:22–23 (NKJV) ²² But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If all is well, why am I like this?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ And the LORD said to her: “Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”

Isaac submits to God’s word in Genesis 25, that Jacob is to receive the blessing. So Isaac blesses him again. Notice, again the confirmation of the Abrahamic Covenant, the land is passed to Jacob, whose name will be changed to Israel. This covenant is perpetual, and still stands today.

Genesis 15:18–21 (NKJV) ¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—¹⁹ the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰ the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹ the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

Genesis 26:3–5 (NKJV) ³ Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. ⁴ And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; ⁵ because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Genesis 28:3–4 (NKJV) ³ “May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples; ⁴ And give you the blessing of Abraham, To you and your descendants with you, That you may inherit the land In which you are a stranger, Which God gave to Abraham.”

Which by the way, the promise in Genesis 15 says from the river in Egypt (Nile) to the river Euphrates (that is Iraq). That is way more than they ever obtained, and that is a spiritual picture of we the believers not taking all the spiritual blessings God has promised us, and sometimes we just live on a sliver of all the Promises made to us. And secondly it is something that all God said is Israel’s regarding the land, they possess only a sliver, and the world is still trying to carve them down even more with this two-state solution stuff. I believe the full fulfillment of this promise will occur during the Millennial Kingdom.

Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV) ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Life Altering Experiences

I love what Pastor Joe says about this. Isaac is speaking to his son to great truth, and that is marriage and worship are life altering experiences.

Choose wisely for both of them

For the person who you marry may be your ministry for life or may assist you in ministry for life

And worship is a life altering commitment of who you will serve for your life

Oh worship, the Lord and the beauty of holiness of the beauty, stepping away, adoring his beauty, knowing that he loves knowing that he's called knowing that he wants a relationship with you, knowing for you ahead of you today, fellowship all day along the way

Esau Steps Lower (28:6-9)

Genesis 28:6 Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"

Genesis 28:7 and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.

Genesis 28:8 Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.

Genesis 28:9 So Esau went to Ishmael and took Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.

Interesting

This is very interesting in that he saw sees that it pleased his mother and father that Jacob would go to her Ron to marry on Rebecca's side of the family and here we see that he then feels taking a wife from Isaac's brother Ishmael must be the equivalent and that would please Family. I don't necessarily think he's doing this to spite them but very well could be trying to please them.

But hey Esau, could've told his two wives we're gonna turn and follow the Lord and start going to church every Sunday and I'll tell you what, they would have either been converted wives or he would've had departed wives. It didn't have to be that he was stuck with their lives as they were and surely not his life as it was, he could have called upon the Lord and said you still blessed me, You still see me therefore I can turn this around and start living a life for your glory.

Esau Goes Deeper / Buys the Lie

Esau goes deeper into the folly of his flesh. First he goes to marry the Caanite woman, now he goes to Ishmael for a wife. We see his mind is carnally motivated. Youth, singles, there is a dangerous picture here. There is a thought that once we blow it, then we might as well continue down that path. We say what is the use, I've gone this far, I've gone too far, what's it matter now, Satan cast those lies and deceiving thoughts into your mind. Ahh what's it matter, I've already blown it, I've lost my purity, I engaged in this or I engaged in that, I have already blown it, it will never be the same, that area is soiled, what's the use.

Esau, he hears Isaac say don't marry outside the family, and what does he do, he runs off and do it. It's never too late to repent, it's never too late to repent. What we see here is a continual spiral downward for Esau. He could have said alright I blew it with the birthright, I blew it with taking Caanite wives, but now I see God's work, by God's way, by God's word - I see God's way for marriage, I can change my marriage; but instead he buys into the lie, what does it matter now. Don't buy that lie. Don't buy that lie or your life will continue that downward spiral. It will continue until you say "no more". God cannot change your heart until you change your mind, you must say – no more.

Made for More

Hey listen you were made for so much more and no matter what the past decision you can still have more by turning and repenting and coming back to the Lord.

But I also want to say the gospel of Jesus Christ is not just to make your life better though it will it is about eternity and it is about the holy God and being right with Him.

Jacob Steps Out (28:10-11)

Genesis 28:10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

Not Mom & Dad Relationship

Here we will see Jacob will have his first real and personal encounter with the Lord for up to this point he had been living off of his mother and father's heritage and relationship with the Lord, but today in this moment, he will have his first personal and real encounter with the Lord

Today, the message is that your relationship with God must become personal. You might have been raised in a Christian home and followed your parents' faith, but now you need to claim it as your own. Regardless of your parents or the world around you, it's time to establish a personal bond with the Lord—accepting Him as your savior and committing to follow Him independently, even if others falter.

Perhaps your parents were once devoted to their faith, similar to Isaac in Genesis 22 who showed willingness to follow his religious calling. Your mother might have been committed to prayer before adopting a mindset focused on personal preferences. The story of Isaac and Rebecca shows how their spiritual fervor transitioned into actions driven by practical interests. Isaac was ready to sacrifice his son, but later seemed guided by immediate gratification. If you feel disheartened by this, wondering if maintaining faith is worthwhile, know that perseverance is possible. Those who seek a connection with God can find it, regardless of their parents' current level of devotion. This is an opportunity to draw near to God, and he will support you throughout your journey.

You can hope that your parents receive new inspiration and motivation, along with support. If you do not hope for their improvement, who else will?

If you feel that you've lost your passion, remember that it's never too late to reignite it. Today is a new day to reconnect with God and seek the joy of intimacy with Him. I ask for a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to guide me back to His grace, helping me live as the Christian I've been called to be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jesus said in John 14 and 15 and 16, "Whatever you ask the Father in my name, I will give you." This prayer aligns with God's wishes for us to seek His kingdom and righteousness, ensuring all other things will be added to us.

John 14:12–14 (NKJV)¹² "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³ And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

John 15:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

John 16:23–24 (NKJV)²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Now It Will be His Story

We have read the history of his father's history. We have read the history of his mother's history, but now today he goes out and begins his own personal history with the Lord.

And so once again, the question is if you were to tell your history, we also called a testimony, what would that look like? How would that record on paper?

Why not write that down today where your history began and where it is today and then from time to time to time add to it as you build on the history of your personal relationship with the Lord

Jacob is gonna build on a lot of history starting here. It'll be his personal history truly apart from his mother and father. He will get more print time in the book of Genesis, which is the beginning than anyone else in the book of Genesis except Joseph.

I think there will be power in writing down your history, especially with these digital devices we all have and it's easy to write it in and save it and then add to it and then what you have is recorded words that you can come back to and remember your history may be in dark times when you forget what God's done in your life and where he's

taking you and how he's been with you and how he has never left you or forsaken you and maybe you'll take your same digital history and pass it on to someone else and say this is my history and it will encourage them and it might just be that you pass it on to your children and say this is my history and now it's time for you to write your own history

Genesis 28:11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

Jacob Running / Safari - Cooker

Jacob is running for his life, Esau wants to kill him (Gen 27:41). Picture it, it is safari hunter verse Betty Crocker boy. Jacob is outmatched, he is no fight against Esau. God will put you in no win situations, so you have no where else to go, but to Him.

Pillow

It has been said a clean conscience makes a soft pillow. How fitting Jacob sleeps with rock pillows. A liar, cheater, schemer, and God says I love him. He says to you today, I love you.

This is literally one of the greatest passages on Grace in all the bible when you think of it. All he has done, with lying and cheating and stealing, and here God shows up with Grace unto him.

God has Been Waiting Here

This is the place the Lord has been waiting to meet Jacob. All the conniving has the mind always thinking and processing now the running and all the noises he's finally come to a place of silence, and God has him in a place where he can speak to him.

There's definitely places for us in our lives. We just need to go to a quiet place whatever that looks like in your life the best it can be in your life in a quiet place of just being still letting God speak, breaking through all the noise of the world in the day and the rush and the waves, and just silence

Old Puritan

Practically speaking, I love the way one Puritan writer from the 1600s stated it: "Our worship is sometimes with the Father and then with the Son, and then with the Spirit. Sometimes the believer's heart is drawn out to consider the Father's love in choosing, and then the love of the Son in redeeming. And sometimes His heart is drawn to the love of the Holy Spirit that searches the deep things of God and reveals them to us...We should never be satisfied with our worship until all three persons lie level in us and we sit in the middle of them while they all manifest their love to us.

God Steps Down (28:12-22)

Genesis 28:12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

Spiritual Realm

A very intriguing, passage of angels, ascending and descending

This has been called Jacob's ladder, but is it actually in the language stairs so if you can picture it, the stairs are wide enough for a continual flow down in the continuous flow upward no one's waiting till one finish finishes the stairs or wide enough for two way traffic

I think the takeaway here is that there's a spiritual realm going on around us that we don't recognize but even still, though we don't recognize it it's always moving. These are spiritual beings, angels, angelic, beings coming and going from the Earth to do the work of God, what these angels are doing and what their mission is, we don't know, but God open the window for Jacob to understand there's a spiritual realm that you live in. It's greater than this world that you can physically see.

Hebrews 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Luke 22:42–44 (NKJV) ⁴² saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” ⁴³ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

And we would all do well to remember that remember that when you're in a spiritual war that we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and power, but remember that when you think you walk it alone and go it alone, the angels are ascending in descending

Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Remember this that I'll never leave you no forsake you. I will always send a ministering angel to see and comfort you.

And when you go do that ministry angels are sending and descending when you go do that mission trip when you go to the feeding ministry when you go to the soul winning outreach, angels are sending in descending and are all about us

We saw ministering angels when Jesus was in the garden. I don't understand all of it other than ministering angels came administered to Jesus, and we are told that we live around that we have ministering angels to us, and therefore I can wrap my mind around this I can actually see this physically and give thanks to the Lord to know what it means spiritually and I can take comfort that I have ministering angels to me

And comfort me like they did Jesus in the garden when I maybe weeping the hardest cries of my life for whatever the situation is, but I take a great power in this picture of angels, ascending and descending that I can ask the Lord to send ministering angel to that person who may be in a desert on the run, tired, looking over their shoulder, fearful of what's behind them, fearful of what's in front of them, the unknown and they lay their head down on a hard rock and they're so tired and worn out from the world that is pounding on them that they can actually sleep and considered a comfortable pillow, and I can ask the Lord to send ministering angels down to them and come around them and minister to them and comfort them, protect them guard them with flaming swords like in the garden And be their hedge while they can just rest and the devil can't get a word to them and the devil can't move and bloop his lies and vomit onto them, but they can rest and be ministered to wake up fresh and have a sharp mind and a clear mind to seek the Lord and ask him for help in time of need

Genesis 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: “I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

Amazing Grace

Amazing when God give his this promise, amazing when God appears to him - it is right after he lies and deceives his father Issac.

What amazing grace

Jesus and Nathanel

Jesus will tell Nathaniel that you'll see the angels ascending and descending to minister to the son of man

But this goes even deeper and that there's the golf between earth in heaven, and Jesus is saying I am that bridge that stairway that mediator between God and man

And first Timothy, he'll say there is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. As Jesus prepares a way, that man can have a bridge to God the bridge needed because sinful man separated from holy

God cannot climb his way in the heaven cannot work his way in he must have a way provided and it's true the son of man Jesus Christ, who came fully God, fully man took on my sin, your sin The ladder is across the bridge across that he provided for man so that they can come into his presence cleansed of sin

(John 1:49 NKJV) Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

(John 1:50 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

(John 1:51 NKJV) And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

1 Timothy 2:3–6 (NKJV) ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Genesis 28:14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 28:15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Based on Word

Wasn't based on Jacob - but what God had promised, what God had spoken, God's word and promises are one in the same.

All Earth Blessed / Messiah

All the earth will be blessed through the Messiah, who is to come from Jacob. Abraham was promised that through his seed all the earth would be blessed. This is "seed" singular as of one and not of many, for it is a reference to the Messiah. Now the promise is repeated to Jacob and will later be repeated to David.

Galatians 3:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though *it is* only a man's covenant, yet *if it is* confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "*And to your Seed,*" who is Christ.

Vow of God

Notice the four things that God vows to Jacob in Verse 15:

- Presence - I am with you.
- Protection - and will keep you wherever you go
- Preservation - and will bring you back to this land
- Promise - for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you

In Matthew Jesus says I am with the even to the end of the earth

Matthew 28:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

Jude tells us now that him who can keep you from falling and present you faultless before his throne in exceeding joy before the only wise God

Jude 24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Jesus says I could prepare place for you and if I would go, I will come and receive you bring you to myself there where I am you may be also

John 14:2–4 (NKJV) ² In My Father's house are many mansions; *if it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know."

In Hebrews, he tells us I'll never leave the nor for sake us

Hebrews 13:5–6 (NKJV) ⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" ⁶ So we may boldly say: "*The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*"

And Philippians, I will not leave you till I complete that's what I started in you

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

The Ladder / The Bridge / Jesus / God Loves Jacob

Back in John 1 Jesus is saying I am the ladder, stick around Nathaniel and you will see. You will see that I am the ladder that bridges the span, the gap between heaven and earth, between God and man. Notice that God appears to Jacob not while he was working, but while he was resting. What we see here is that it is all grace, Jacob the liar and schemer, God shows it is all grace

Genesis 28:16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”

Jacob Didn't Know It / What can Separate Us

Not was in this place (past tense), but is in this place (present tense), yet he knew it (past tense) not. He didn't know it, because he knew who he was and where he was, a schemer in a rocky place. We may feel I'm in a rocky place, my marriage, my job; I've blown it again and again, yet God is in this place. What can separate us from the love of the Lord:

(Romans 8:35 NKJV) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

(Romans 8:36 NKJV) As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

(Romans 8:37 NKJV) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

(Romans 8:38 NKJV) For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,

(Romans 8:39 NKJV) nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No Condemnation / The Ladder took all Condemnation

Nothing can separate us because of verse 1:

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Beloved there is no condemnation because Jesus, the ladder, took all our condemnation in the cross that Friday on that hill in Palestine.

God Brings us to Places like This

The night before Jacob had no consciousness of God. His heart was filled with fear and uncertainty about the future. He was tired and lonely and had no thought of God until after this dream and he realized that God was in this place. Many times we find ourselves in a place of anxiety, pressure, trouble and not knowing what the future holds for us. We know what is behind us but not what is in front of us. We can't go back, but we're afraid to go on. In that point of anxiety and concern we're not aware of God's presence. We're not aware of the Plan of God in our life. We can't see His hand on us in these circumstances. It seems that we're desolate and that God has left us. Not so! Just as the LORD revealed himself to Jacob, that He was in that place; surely, the LORD is with us. He has said that He would never leave us or forsake us.

Next time you think you God is nowhere, just move the “h” over, God is now here.

Genesis 28:17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

Genesis 28:18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

Jacob Worships

So he poured oil on the rock, which is interesting because there's been no establishment of significance and picture of oil in the worship system that won't come until the mosaic law after 400 years of slavery

Why the oil I think it's just a picture that Jacob wants to give something to the Lord something of a sweet sacrifice cause oil has a sweet fragrance to it. I think as well he's on a 500 mile journey that oil sure would come in handy when you're trying to cook Make some flatbread over a fire

Jacob wants to offer something costly and meaningful to the Lord, expressing his heart to God, who he now knows personally, rather than just his parents' God.

I would encourage you go for walks with the Lord. Just tell him you love him. I would encourage you to have a time of fasting and then break the fast with just a meal between you and the Lord I would encourage you to take some communion elements and have communion just you and the Lord, where you're praising him you're adoring him, worshiping him simply for who he is

Genesis 28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

Fantastic Revelation / Bethuel / The GATE

Jacob has this fantastic revelation, and he was in awe (that's what the word means there). He pours oil over the stone and calls it Bethuel, which means house of God. Jacob seen the ladder, he seen the way to heaven, the gate to heaven. So too do we, Jesus is the ladder to the Father

Signal Strength

This is an amazing statement Jacob is leaving the land and in that culture they believe that the deities were just local so when you left one region and went to another, you went from one DT to another, and you wouldn't know necessarily how kind or how evil generous how spiteful that DT was that you were leaving

A great analogy that I read was like a radio station. Hope FM and you would be driving and have a strong signal, but the further you got away from the main source of that signal the weaker the signal would get until you transferred into the next radio. Proximity and found another Christian radio station, but it was a transfer because one diminished and the other was gaining strength as you drove towards it.

But the Lord is speaking to Jacob the signal is never gonna diminish wherever you go. I'm with you if you would he's not gonna have to search the radio dials to try to tune in a stronger signal or even the possibility that you lose the signal God saying everywhere I go I will have full signal full strength full contact with you and I will bring you back From the land. You're going to the land that you're leaving for I am the Lord of all the land and I travel with you and therefore you need not fear I am with thee

Do you believe that will you receive that? Do you feel that the radio signal maybe is getting weak where you're going and traveling Lord would speak to you today. I'm with you anywhere and everywhere you go even after a conniving deceptive poor display of faith I'm not gonna leave you. I'm gonna travel with you Because that's the God that I am. I will never leave you know forsaking You

Genesis 28:20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

Genesis 28:21 so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

Genesis 28:22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

Not Bargaining / Since

Jacob sounds like he is bargaining, but the word for vow there is promise, so Jacob is making a promise. And that word for "if" also means "since". Inverse 21 the word "so" is not there, and the word "then" and "shall" are not there. In a literal translation is says there in verse 21:

I come back to my fathers house (cause God promised him he would – and does in Gen 31:13), the Lord my God.

Jacob Converted / Happy Feet

Jacob the schemer has been converted. Verse 29:1 the word for journey according to “Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary” is “euphemism”, literally means happy feet, walking ten feet off the ground. Remember what it was like that day you got saved.

3 Characteristics

We see 3 characteristics of conversion here of Jacob:

1.) **Seen in his Worship:** He builds an altar and worships the Lord. Worship, whatever way that is, will naturally flow from you.

2.) **Seen in his Work:** I will give you a tithe. Faith without works is dead, it is faith that works, trusting in the promises of God

Loosens Grip on Earth / Can Send it Ahead

Tithes loosens your grip on the earthly things. You can send it ahead:

(Matthew 6:19 NKJV) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

(Matthew 6:20 NKJV) "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Command / Test Me

But most importantly, it is commanded by the Lord, in fact it is the rare place God will say test me this:

(Malachi 3:8 NKJV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings....."

(Malachi 3:10 NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

To not teach on tithing would be to rob the people. Some teachers are afraid to teach on this matter because they don’t want to upset people, but it is the person who ends up getting robbed because they miss the spiritual enrichment that comes with tithing.

Jesus Confirms it

Jesus confirms it in the New Testament while talking to the Pharisees, He says yes this you should have done.

Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount that He did not come to destroy the law or the Prophets:

(Matthew 23:23 NKJV) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

(Matthew 5:17 NKJV) "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

(Matthew 5:18 NKJV) "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Seek Yours not You

As a Pastor I can say what Paul said:

(2 Corinthians 12:14 NKJV) Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; for I do not seek yours, but you. For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

(2 Corinthians 12:15 NKJV) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

He Doesn’t Need It / It is For Our Sake / Cattle on Hills

God is not seeking yours, but you. Realize this, God doesn’t need our money, He is God. The giving of money is for our sake, for our enrichment. Yes giving money, makes us rich – only in God’s economy. I use to say I’m sorry Lord I missed my prayer time, as I spiritually matured, prayer was for me, it attached me to the Father, it empowered me. God’s power is not dependent on my prayer, my power is. So too with tithing, it isn’t to enrich God, but to enrich me spiritually.

God owns the cattle on the thousand hills, He is fine without us:

(Psalms 50:7 NKJV) "Hear, O My people, and I will speak, O Israel, and I will testify against you; I am God, your God!

(Psalms 50:8 NKJV) I will not rebuke you for your sacrifices Or your burnt offerings, Which are continually before Me.

*(Psalms 50:9 NKJV) I will not take a bull from your house, Nor goats out of your folds.
(Psalms 50:10 NKJV) For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.
(Psalms 50:11 NKJV) I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.
(Psalms 50:12 NKJV) "If I were hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is Mine, and all its fullness.
(Psalms 50:13 NKJV) Will I eat the flesh of bulls, Or drink the blood of goats?
(Psalms 50:14 NKJV) Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.
(Psalms 50:15 NKJV) Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."*

Provides the Church for Us

It was in the Old Testament God's way of providing for His ministers, the people are blessed by having a place to worship and teachers to teach them:

(Numbers 18:21 NKJV) "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting."

Lost Job / Can't Afford

People lose their job or are struggling financially, the first thing I ask them, have you been faithful with your tithe, if so, God will be faithful to you. People say they can not afford to tithe, I say you can't afford not to tithe.

Money where Mouth Is

Tithing is putting your money where your mouth is. Do you trust Him? You trusted Him with your eternal life, will you trust Him with your earthly life. I can speak from personal experience, test Him in this area, and watch Him show His glory.

Jacob Greedy / Letting Go – Trusting God

Notice Jacob, he steals to get the blessings and the stuff, he was a greedy man, but after meeting the Lord at Bethuel, he is letting go of what he trusted in, and trusting the Lord will do what He says He will, the four things that God vows to Jacob in Verse 15:

- Presence - *I am with you.*
- Protection - *and will keep you wherever you go*
- Preservation - *and will bring you back to this land*
- Promise - *for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you*

3.) **Seen in his Walk**: Jacob has seen God, heard from God, he is no longer shuffling his feet, he starting a new walk, a new journey. He has a new thing going on, his thing is God.

What Grace

When does God appear after? Jacob literally could've sent. He said I ruined my life. I turned my family against me and each other. I have to leave everything. It was dear to me. I'm on the run and you hear. God appears and shows himself and shows his grace.

We don't understand this do we? We wonder how this can be don't we? We truly don't understand grace, because we don't live in a world that is gracious. You blow up a bridge with someone, don't even bother coming back, You'll be cast away. Majority of the world lives with no graciousness, and yet here, God builds a bridge, and that bridge is called Grace. It says you can come back and find help in your time of need.

Maybe you need some grace today this chapter is about grace

Maybe you need to give somebody some grace, to rebuild a bridge, and be like Jesus invite them back all on grace

We don't understand grace and that's the point, for if we could, it wouldn't be grace. We can only stand on the promise of grace, and receive it, though never fully understanding it.

I also think because we don't understand Grace, we don't receive grace we don't think we deserve grace, which we don't and that's what we don't understand is that Grace is unmerited favor on the undeserving - and we never

think we will get it because we're so undeserving but the fact this that's who he gives grace to or else it wouldn't be grace

Would you receive his grace today as a gift just like salvation, which you know that he loves you and he wants you to walk in the freedom of grace, knowing that that grace will change your life and make you the man and woman of God that he desires you to be because you will be living in freedom, not guilt and shame

Outline: Genesis 28

- Issac Steps Up (28:1-5)
- Esau Steps Lower (28:6-9)
- Jacob Steps Out (28:10-11)
- God Steps Down (28:12-22)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 29

Title: Jacob Went on His Journey

Subject: The passage begins by saying that “So Jacob went on his journey”. Jacob’s journey, is so much like our journey in this world with high and lows, hopes and dreams, joys and sorrows. Jacob is going to find some of all these in this chapter; but most importantly, God is going to show him himself, so God can do something about the things that need changed in him. God will do the same for all of us. Join Us.

Outline Genesis 29

- Jacob’s Journey (29:1-8)
- Jacob Meets Rachael (29:9-11)
- Jacob Meets Laban (29:12-19)
- Jacob Meets Himself (29:20-35)

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Jacob’s Journey (29:1-8)

(Genesis 29:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.

Began Journey

Jacob is on his journey, and God is with him, and working in his life. He left Beersheba and will now arrive in Haran (about 500 miles away), but along the way he had a personal encounter with the Lord, and God will walk the journey with him as he continues on.

Genesis 28:15–17 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.” ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” ¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

The journey Genesis through Revelation, Genesis the heart of God from the beginning and Revelation, the heart of God to the end

The heart of love, the heart of grace, the heart of forgiveness, the heart of mercy from Genesis to Revelation, a tremendous book of grace and love and mercy and truth.

We are all on a journey, and we journey not alone, but none other than God Himself, with His heart towards us walking along with us on this journey, isn’t that wonderful and beautiful.

God Knows What He is Getting

Jacob begins his journey with the Lord, and God knows exactly what he’s getting. when he got Jacob, called Jacob. chose Jacob. And God knows exactly what he’s getting in you. when he got you, when he called you, when he chose you. And we need to rest in that. that he knew that. And that he gladly. received it, all of us. For the joy that was set before him. is what we are to him. And he begins the journey

with Jacob. Knowing, the highs, the lows, the valleys, the mountains, the victories, the failures, the triumphs, the tears. And he knows that. And may you not look back and think, "It was great the day we began the journey, but I'm five years, ten years, 30 years into the journey, and he is probably so hurt and disappointed, and I would say to you, not at all. He knew the journey. He's in your journey, and he will complete your journey. And today he wants to minister to you in the middle of your journey.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NKJV)¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

God is with Jacob (as you) on his journey, and He will speak to Jacob (as to you), and even all the faults and failings of Jacob, God speaks to him and we must keep that in the mind of all of studies going forward, God is intimate with Jacob and speaking to him:

Psalms 147:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹He declares His word to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel.

²⁰He has not dealt thus with any nation; And as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the LORD!

(Genesis 29:2 NKJV) And he looked, and saw a well in the field; and behold, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks. A large stone was on the well's mouth.

The Well

Jacob no doubt heard the story many times of how the servant of his grand-father Abraham was sent to find a bride for his dad Issac, and at the well came Rebekah.

Genesis 24:15–16 (NKJV)¹⁵ And it happened, before he had finished speaking, that behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her pitcher on her shoulder. ¹⁶ Now the young woman was very beautiful to behold, a virgin; no man had known her. And she went down to the well, filled her pitcher, and came up.

We see the mention name of wells and throughout the history of mankind we see the necessity of wells for the life-giving water to sustain man. It is by design the scriptures weave the story of wells into this Bible so that we can relate to the wells of the life. I'd like to just take a minute to look at the analogy of wells that we have read up to this point in our study and the picture that they give to us. I start with the beautiful picture that we are the woman at the well and Jesus goes out of His way to meet us and find us and has for her even when she had to come in the middle of the day because she could not bear to be in the presence of all the criticality and judgment that was cast to her because of her life past and present and surely no future except one of judgment and leery eyes critiquing her. That is why Jesus "needed to go through Samaria".

John 4:1–4 (NKJV)¹ Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), ³ He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. ⁴ But He needed to go through Samaria.

John 4:10 (NKJV)¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

And has that beautiful place of meeting her as he does us then those amazing words that he would speak just those few verses later all who are thirsty come to me and I will give you waters of life and so the promise to each and every one of us today living water none other than the spirit of God coming alongside of us to call us into this personal relationship and showing us the need for a savior and then the living water taking up residence within us as a down payment the wedding ring of our love relationship with him and then the living water overflowing from us to refresh you can give a drink to those who are thirsty and then need as well.

John 7:37–39 (NKJV)³⁷ On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Maybe today Jesus needed to go through "your path", so to offer you this Living Water, and maybe today you need to say to Him, Please, give me Your Living Water.

Here are some ponderings about our spiritual living water, and the analogy of wells that we have read to date in this Book of Genesis (Beginnings):

Finding

- First you have to find the living water. Just ask. The Lord said you will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart.
- [Jeremiah 29:13 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹³And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Digging

- And then you have to start digging and rarely we'll find you water in the shallow earth you have to dig deep and sometimes digging can be tiring, and just now of course because our flesh doesn't always wanna go after the deep things of the Lord. But you dig and you keep seeking after the Lord and you will strike the living water (prayer and the word and fellowship).

Guarding

- we'll see in our study they cover the well with a big rock and that's the key things that can fall in like an animal from poisoning it and rotting it and contaminating it and so there's a place for us that we need to guard our hearts from the dead things that can poison the well of life that the living water those from

Unstopping

- and as we seen the Philistines came and they would throw dirt back in the well that was dug and producing life giving water because it was an attack upon the people of Abraham to drive them away and to diminish the life giving water to sustain them and grow them and expand them and multiply them.
- They stopped up the wells descendant Abraham then Isaac to put them on the run keep them from the land that was promised to them you know Christian every one of you have a call in upon your life and therefore every one of you the devil wants to put you on the run from what God has intended for you and made you for and there will be a time you're going to have to stand the ground and fight for the living water and not allow the devil the plug up your well
- The beauty of the stopped up well is that you know there's water there for you have already drank all the water and tasted and seen that is good (Psalm 34:8) and therefore digging may be long it may be deep but the beauty of it all is you know there's water at the end of the digging.
- The story of Elisha and the lost axe head is found in 2 Kings 6:1-7. It occurred when Elisha was overseeing a school of prophets, likely near the Jordan River. The prophets were building new accommodations due to overcrowding, and during the construction, one of them lost a borrowed iron axe head in the muddy waters. When the distressed prophet reported this to Elisha, he asked, "Where did you lose it?" The man showed him the exact spot. Elisha then threw a stick into the water, causing the iron axe head to miraculously float to the surface, allowing the prophet to retrieve it. This event is seen as a demonstration of God's power and concern even in mundane matter. It also serves as a metaphor for spiritual restoration, emphasizing the importance of retracing one's steps to recover what has been lost in one's relationship with God

[Psalm 34:8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

[2 Kings 6:1–7 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, "See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us. ² Please, let us go to the Jordan, and let every man take a beam from there, and let us make there a place where we may dwell." So he answered, "Go." ³ Then one said, "Please consent to go with your servants." And he answered, "I will go." ⁴ So he went with them. And when they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. ⁵ But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed." ⁶ So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. ⁷ Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it.

(Genesis 29:3 NKJV) Now all the flocks would be gathered there; and they would roll the stone from the well's mouth, water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the well's mouth.

(Genesis 29:4 NKJV) And Jacob said to them, "My brethren, where are you from?" And they said, "We are from Haran."

(Genesis 29:5 NKJV) Then he said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" And they said, "We know him."

(Genesis 29:6 NKJV) So he said to them, "Is he well?" And they said, "He is well. And look, his daughter Rachel is coming with the sheep."

(Genesis 29:7 NKJV) Then he said, "Look, it is still high day; it is not time for the cattle to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go and feed them."

(Genesis 29:8 NKJV) But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and they have rolled the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep."

Know Laban

Either these guys are not much on conversation, with their short answers, or they do know Laban and they just don't like him

Advice Givers

I love Jacob. You got these guys in your life. They always want to give you your advice how to do something. Why do you do it that way? You should do it this way. And we go, okay, yeah, thanks.

Typical Man Eliminate Competition / Rachel Real Looker

Here is Jacob being a typical single man here, he is trying to eliminate all of competition, he is trying to get some undivided one-on-one time. Rachel was a real looker we are told in verse 17, I think the other guys didn't want to start watering until Rachael showed up so they could enjoy her beauty:

(Genesis 29:17 NKJV) Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

Jacob Meets Rachael (29:9-11)

(Genesis 29:9 NKJV) Now while he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

(Genesis 29:10 NKJV) And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

Macho Man / Betty Crocker Boy / Never Again / 5-10-15

Macho, macho man, I want to be a macho man. So here is the Betty Crocker boy, the guy who got his tent set-up with wireless internet, he sips coffee at Starbucks reading the Babylon Street Journal, but all of a sudden he is a Gold's Gym man - I'll roll it away, I don't need any help. I bet when Rachel looked away Jacob was grabbing his back, ohhhh my back. I am also sure, that Jacob being a typical man, never rolled the stone away by himself again. Once he got Rachel it would be ohh its too heavy, lets wait for the others to help, I'll get it in the morning, or worse.....Rachel, grab a side. Single men, again, don't do anything today for that girl that you won't be willing to do 5-10-15 years from now, for they will take that as you are not as in love with them as you first were.

Rachael the Shepherdess

The fact that Rachael is bringing the flock would indicate that Laban has no sons, nor heir.

(Genesis 29:11 NKJV) Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice and wept.

Was Doing so Well / High Maintenance

Then he wept, ohh Jacob you were doing so well. Single men it might have worked for Jacob, but I would not recommend this action for you if you are trying to impress the girl. I wonder what Rachel thought when he started to blubber; I'd be like, "high maintenance" here.

Jacobs 1 Liners

I wonder if Jacob used any one-liners:

- Did it hurt when you fell from Heaven?
- The word says "Give drink to those who are thirsty, and feed the hungry." How about dinner?
- Is it a sin that you stole my heart?
- Do you believe in Divine appointment?
- Excuse me, I believe one of your ribs belongs to me.

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Jacob Meets Laban (29:12-19)

(Genesis 29:12 NKJV) And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's relative and that he was Rebekah's son. So she ran and told her father.

(Genesis 29:13 NKJV) Then it came to pass, when Laban heard the report about Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. So he told Laban all these things.

Remembers the Servant of Abraham

Now Laban is not being Mr. Family Man here, he is a schemer and conniver. Remember back when Abraham's servant came to get a bride for Isaac, Rebekah (Laban's Sister) the servant came bearing expensive gifts. Laban knows Abraham's family is rich, and Laban is thinking Lexus when he sees Jacob.

(Genesis 29:14 NKJV) And Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh." And he stayed with him for a month.

(Genesis 29:15 NKJV) Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my relative, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what should your wages be?"

(Genesis 29:16 NKJV) Now Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

(Genesis 29:17 NKJV) Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

Delicate Eyes – Generous Translation / Rachel Beautiful & Shapely

Now saying that Leah's eyes were delicate is hard to tell fully what it means, but as it compares to Rachel being beautiful of form and appearance, seems to lend to that Leah was not all that Rachael was whatever however that may apply. I feel for Leah.

(Genesis 29:17 NKJV) Leah's eyes were delicate, but Rachel was beautiful of form and appearance.

(Genesis 29:18 NKJV) Now Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for Rachel your younger daughter."

(Genesis 29:19 NKJV) And Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to another man. Stay with me."

Uncle Laban / Jacobs Match

Laban is Rebekah (Jacob's mother) brother, so he Uncle Laban to Jacob. Laban is a real character, and Jacob the schemer and conniver has met his match, for Laban has years more experience on Jacob. He makes Jacob look like the farm league player.

Sadly if you notice here that it's been close to 80 years since Rebecca Laban's sister left to go to the land and be married Isaac and yet here we see Laban doesn't even ask about her the best we can tell he immediately gets into negotiations because he sees an opportunity here that he's gonna prosper himself from. He sees Jacob's situation that Jacob didn't come with a bunch of wealth like the servant did when he came for Rebecca, so he can pretty much deduce Jacob is here on the run for his life or he's desperate for a wife and then Jacob's case both are true and so here Laban we'll seize on that opportunity advantage of it. It's truly a picture of the devil don't want to start comparison to our Lord Jesus who doesn't seize saves he doesn't manipulate he ministers. The devil went people he pulls the puppet strings of season opportunity for self-gain and glorification. But the Lord what he puts in our hearts is that beautiful picture what can I do for you in this situation that you are in the thy conserve you and how can I comfort you and bring you into a deeper relationship with the Lord by bringing you into his presence before the throne of God. We surely see none of that in Laban, but we can look deep within ourselves and say "here I am Lord, send me, use me, to meet the needs of that person who is in need.

Laban's name means:

- White – which is fitting in he seems so genuine on the outside, but his selfishness and greed was dark and dirty on the inside.
- To make bricks – interestingly his name in root form mean "to make bricks", which I find interesting because he is going to enslave Jacob for some 20 years.

Jacob Meets Himself (29:20-35)

(Genesis 29:20 NKJV) So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her.

Work 7 Years / Worth!

Jacob will work seven years for her. In 1 Peter 3:7 it says to honour your wife, the word honour means to put a value on her, consider her of worth. Jacob considers Rachael of such worth he was willing to work 7 years for her. So the average income today is 50 thousand dollars, so Jacob is paying about a cool quarter-million for her:

(1 Peter 3:7 NKJV) Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

So if you're Rachel, when you heard, I work seven years to have her. How much did she think she was worth? What he was willing to work, to have her must have moved her heart.

Value of Your Wife? / But only Few Days

Men what value would you put on your wife? Imagine this, they didn't get weekends off, they worked 7 days a week, so that is about 2555 days he would wake up and work for his bride, and the Scripture says it only seemed like a few days to Jacob, talk about worth, value.

And I think one of the beautiful things we see here is that love is patient, and Jacob loved her, but he was patient. A dowry in that time. If you gave one year wages, that was a great dowry. He's giving seven times because to him that's what she's worth, that had to move her heart, and it's a picture for us. And it's a picture for all those anxious to get married. You don't have to do a seven year engagement, but you do well to be patient, that things reveal themselves and know that this is truly the heart love, and not an emotional physical only, because the heart love is what will carry the relationship into the deep years.

(1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

(1 Corinthians 13:5 NIV) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

(1 Corinthians 13:6 NIV) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

(1 Corinthians 13:7 NIV) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(1 Corinthians 13:8 NIV) Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Love versus Lust

Love is patient, lust is impatient, Love gives, Lust takes, Love waits, Lust wants. Young ladies, guys too, know the difference.....he doesn't love you, he lust you if he is not willing to wait. I can say this with the Scriptures backing me, you may say he wants me because he loves me; but the word says he wants you because he loves himself, and wants to satisfy himself. Love waits, Lust takes. Love will lead closer to the Lord, Lust will take you away from the Lord, and if he truly loves you and has you in mind, he will not lead you into sinning against your Lord.

To Know His Heart – Say No

You know woman, do you really want to see what is in his heart, say no, and say no again and again, and you will see what is really in his heart. A man who loves you will repent, a man who is just after yours and not you, eventually he will turn on you, and you will see the yuck that is truly in him.

Jacob work 2520 / Ladies Don't Sell Short

Jacob, he will wake everyday and go tend to dumb helpless sheep. 2555 days, days he is tired, days he is sick, days with no vacation, he will work for she is worth the work, and she is worth the wait. Ladies how much is he willing to sacrifice for you, how long will he wait for you, don't sell yourself out, don't settle for anything less than God's best for you.

(Genesis 29:21 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in to her."

(Genesis 29:22 NKJV) And Laban gathered together all the men of the place and made a feast.

(Genesis 29:23 NKJV) Now it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her.

The transcribers left the verse out that Laban put a goat skin on Leah's hand and neck before he sent her into the dark room

(Genesis 29:24 NKJV) And Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as a maid.

(Genesis 29:25 NKJV) So it came to pass in the morning, that behold, it was Leah. And he said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?"

Evening Wedding / Ahhh

Here we have an evening wedding, the bride's face would be veiled in those days, and right after the pronouncement, off to the tent they go. The marriage is consummated, and then the morning comes and you can hear the scream from the mountains to the valley, ahhhhhh

Rebekah says, Isaac did you hear that? (haha because Beersheba is 500 miles away)

(Genesis 29:26 NKJV) And Laban said, "It must not be done so in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

First Born Honored / Jacob is Silent

Laban says hey Jacob the first-born is to be honoured first. Jacob it is no different here than where you came from, you should know that. Notice, Jacob has no response. What he had done seven years ago to his brother and his father has now happened to him. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he reap:

(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Seeing Self – Revealed in Another – Being a Victim

So Jacob has been out manipulated, maybe for the first time in his life by another master manipulator. And it's interesting how God uses the very thing that is ugly, distasteful, displeasing to the Lord. And he uses the same thing that's in us, but in this case, we receive it. because the repulsion of it reveals the depth of it, and it hits home. When you see yourself... revealed in another person, and you became the victim because of what they've done, and it brings you to the realization of how many victims you have created by doing the very same thing. So don't despise it. Look at it and ask yourself, Is what I'm experiencing right now as a victim, something that's in me that I actually do to other people. And God's using this to prune me, to shape me. He's bringing out a chisel. He's gonna do a lot of chiselling on Jacob. He has to do a lot of chiselling on Jacob, because he's got a lot of chiselling that needs to be done, and maybe that's you. Look at it embrace it and be thankful for it. And then ask the Lord, "Make me humble in it, not to seek revenge, but let me see what you're doing in me so that I can praise you even in the pain, that you're working these ugly things out of me so that I can become a trophy of grace and glory before you and man around me.

Reap & Sow

Hey, by the way, let's not miss this that Jacob was on the run last chapter. God meets him, promises him life and blessings and love and presents. But God didn't let him get away with his deceit. God didn't just overlook it, and go, "Let's just forget about that." "The Lord's gonna deal with what's in Jacob until he chisels that out of him. And here he's gonna use this situation with his uncle to do just that. And so there's a place for us. God appears to us, speaks his love, but it doesn't mean that there isn't a reaping and a sowing that still has to play itself out because it's a spiritual law you reap what you sow if you sow the bad fruit, you're gonna harvest bad fruit, but the good news, Christian, you sow the good fruit, you're gonna sew good fruit. And so let's be looking to sow to the good things, so that we can reap and take God at his promise, to reap what we sow. But let's never think that grace will give us the ultimate escape of the things that we did that they don't come back and we have to pay for them

Galatians 6:7–10 (NKJV)⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Positionally, with Christ, that's sealed that's done, nothing can undo that. But relationally, we do have to reap the spiritual consequences of our actions, and God will use them to conform us into his image, Romans 12:1-2.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

(Genesis 29:27 NKJV) "Fulfill her week, and we will give you this one also for the service which you will serve with me still another seven years."

(Genesis 29:28 NKJV) Then Jacob did so and fulfilled her week. So he gave him his daughter Rachel as wife also.

Fulfill Honeymoon / Give Rachel

Fulfill her week - meaning the 7 day honeymoon period. They would have a wedding feast for 7 days, and the bride would always stay in the room and the groom would go out to the wedding feast, say hello, etc, grab food and drink and take them back to the room. So Laban says fulfil her week (Leah's) these 7 days, and I will give you Rachel if you agree to serve me for 7 more years.

Laban Does this to His Kids

He had seven years to bring this up, just conveniently forgot it now, didn't he? What an amazing, evil, heartless man. And then what he did to these girls. I mean, I don't think this is something new. I think this is what they've experienced their whole life. I don't think this was an opportune moment they took it. I think this is who he is. And he.. just does this. It's part of him. It's who he is, and we'll see it through the chapters, the comments, just who he is, and it's not that he's doing it the foreigners. I believe he's doing it inside his very home for our lifetime. And what these girls must have went through, and it tells us something that they were willing to go through this. Rachel knew what was going to happen. She was there to wedding. I can't imagine that. She stood there in the wedding. and then.. Leah knew and the whole night, she knew what tomorrow would bring.

I wonder how Leah felt about this whole thing, she goes along with the con, she marries a man she knows does not love her, and now she knows that in 7 days Jacob will marry Rachel. She must have figured it out, Jacob loves Rachel so much that he is willing to work 7 more years for her, that is 14 years total, and a half-million for her. My heart really breaks for her.

Kids Here Today – Oppressed by Parents

Hey. If this is you, Dad, Mom, there's still time to turn it around. I pray that the Spirit of God would speak to you. But probably more so, I'm gonna talk to the kids who have endured this and are enduring it. But there's a recognition of something's not right, the way Mom, Dad treat me, there's something ill here, and you need to get away, you need to get time with the Lord. You need to look at the Scriptures and compare it to what's happening to you and making evaluation of, is this scriptural, the way I'm being treated? Because I think there's a place that you can be so far down into the manipulation, the mental oppression that's put upon you by another person that you can come to a place and not even realize what's happening and this is where you take the scriptures and then maybe you need to talk to somebody who can speak into your life that you can trust, that can say, no, this isn't right, what's going on here, in your life. And you want to do it so that you don't do it to your kids.

Leah's all Around Us

You know what church, there are Leah's all around us, some of us are Leah's; outcasts, unloved, overlooked, and outsiders because of their looks or attributes. People with hearts that want to love and be loved. Paul says there is no Jew or Greek, slave nor free, no beautiful or delicate eyed:

(Galatians 3:28 NKJV) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Looks Opens Doors / Whole Life Unnoticed

We live in a world, now more so than ever, that looks open doors. Looks get you special favour, special treatment. On the other side of that are people who go through their whole life lonely and depressed because everywhere they go, they go unnoticed.

Youth / Look no Control Over / Who we Love

It can be such a cruel world, especially in the case of youth. You youth look for the Leah's around you; invite them to join you for lunch, say hello in the halls to them, ask them how their weekend was. When you speak to them look them in the eyes. Leah was unloved because of something she had no control over, but we have total control over whom we love.

Something Special of Leah – Inward Beauty

And guess what, there was something special about Leah, there was something about her inward beauty that eventually would bind Jacob's heart to her. When Jacob would die, he would say bury me next to Leah, not Rachel the one whom he worked 14 years to get (Rachel buried in Bethlehem Gen 35:19):

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

Go Deep to hit the Well

You have to go deep to hit the well. You singles, look deep within when you are looking.

Periods of Seven

By the way, this is a great key to unlocking the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation in that full her week, it's a seven year period (shabua). we see it's a set of seven and in Daniel chapter 9, the missing week is a seven-year period as the tribulation therefore when we count in the 69x7s being seven-year periods, we get 483 years and buy a 360 day calendar equals 173,880 days from the time given to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem would come Messiah the prince, and exactly to the day. Jesus Christ rode the donkey into Jerusalem was heralded the Messiah. And if you wanna argue the point you still have to come to the point that if Jesus wasn't the Messiah then whoever else rode in that day or came in that day would have to be on the Messiah!

Daniel 9:25–27 (NKJV)²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times. ²⁶ "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

John 12:12–16 (NKJV)¹² The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, ¹³ took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" ¹⁴ Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: ¹⁵ "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt." ¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.

(Genesis 29:29 NKJV) And Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as a maid.

(Genesis 29:30 NKJV) Then Jacob also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with Laban still another seven years.

Polygamy

Again, the Bible just tells it like it is, covers it like a newspaper, polygamy is not how God planned it for man. From the beginning, one man and one woman:

(Matthew 19:4 NKJV) And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'

(Matthew 19:5 NKJV) "and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'?"

(Matthew 19:6 NKJV) "So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."

2 Masters

You see you cannot serve two masters (haha), you just can't, you will end up loving one and hating the other:

(Matthew 6:24 NKJV) "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Where Treasures Are

True love is giving one person your undivided attention. Obviously that is why adultery destroys marriages, and be wise and know that the special friend of the opposite sex that you share lunch with or coffee at work or ball field, be careful, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be:

(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Satan's Lie – You meet my Needs

Let me also dispel a lie of Satan, you met that married person and tell you they don't get what they need at home, things don't bind at home like they do with you, understand this, the reason that the binding and needs are not being met at home is because that person is giving their treasure to you and not to their spouse. You are taking treasures away from the marriage, you are adding and abetting in a robbery because you are taking a treasure away that was meant for their spouse. You are a robber, you are robbing their marriage, which makes you a thief, not the special friend you thought you are.

If You Really Care

If you are a friend, and really care, then send them home - with their treasures. When you are lonely, especially in the matters of the heart, you want to believe Satan's lie, because you want to be wanted. That is why you need to stand on the Word, for the Word will withstand your feelings.. The word will not deceive you, but your feelings can:

(Psalms 119:11 NKJV) Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

(Psalms 119:12 NKJV) Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes!

(Genesis 29:31 NKJV) When the LORD saw that Leah was unloved, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

(Genesis 29:32 NKJV) So Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben; for she said, "The LORD has surely looked on my affliction. Now therefore, my husband will love me."

Leah's Mistake / Children won't Fix Marriage / Communication – Death / Promised Child

Leah makes the mistake that so many woman make, if I have a child with him, then he will love me. Many woman, men too, think that having a child together will fix their marriage problems, heal their marriage; it doesn't work that way, it just doesn't. Marriage problems are corrected and healed through the ministry of the Word, through communication, through dying to self, but not through a child. That is quite a burden to put on a child; there is only one promised child that will heal the broken hearted and set straight a man and woman's path, and that is the Christ Child.

(Genesis 29:33 NKJV) Then she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Because the LORD has heard that I am unloved, He has therefore given me this son also." And she called his name Simeon.

(Genesis 29:34 NKJV) She conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now this time my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." Therefore his name was called Levi.

(Genesis 29:35 NKJV) And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah. Then she stopped bearing.

She Was Hoping – Not Happening

Child one did not make Jacob love Leah, nor did child two, three or four. She was hoping, but it wasn't happening.

Leah Wants to be Loved – So Sad

And so here we see each of these names mean something. She's hoping that a son, especially in that culture, was gonna draw love to her by Jacob, but it doesn't. We see her go through just a sad situation that she wants to be loved and she's trying to be loved, but she's not being loved. It's really sad, and I feel for Leah. I feel for anyone who wants to be love, extends themselves, offers themselves, tries to be drawn near to their spouse, and yet is rejected. It's heartbreaking the whole story.

Last Son Judah / God Drawn to the Down-Trodden

Dinner last son is Judah, which means praise and she's just gonna in the midst of her heartache and not being wanted, she's gonna praise the Lord and she's gonna find no doubt the peace which will pass understanding. And that's what happens when we praise the Lord, as we're drawn away before Him, He meets us, especially the down-trodden, the downcast and the broken hearted. He's drawn. to those in this condition. When Jesus would walk into a room, we see, "What did he always do?" He looked for the most needy hurting person, withered hands, bent back. And all the likes. That's who he draws to. And that's you today in this place that you're at. I pray that you know he's drawing to you.

Guard your heart for out of it flows the issues of life. It's a beautiful word. We use it so much in the protectiveness of guard your heart so people don't hurt it. But there's also the beauty of it is God your heart. So nothing can be stolen from your heart, such as your love that you have for another person, other people, the lost, and of course, the Lord. So we guard that, we protect that from what we want to keep out, but also what we want to keep in. Oh, the dynamic of the Lord's Word and promises out of it flows, the issues. The causes, the life, from our heart.

Proverbs 4:23 (NKJV)²³ Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

Leah Stays Faithful

And notice, even in being rejected and the work that god does miraculously through her, let's make sure that we see that Leah does not leave Jacob for another man saying he doesn't love me, but I find somebody who will she stays faithful to the calling and she was married to this man regardless of the whole scam of the matter. if you're even thinking about turning to another person, don't do it turn to the Lord honor him and he will honor you. Just look at Leah.

God Works in Broken Hearted (Levi & Judah)

But now isn't this interesting though how God definitely meets her in that Levi is where the Levitical priesthood would come. Ultimately, Jesus will be our high priest, even though he will not be through the lie tribe of Levi with a representation of the greatest high priest will come. through Levi. And then through Judah will come the king and the kings and the ultimate king of kings. So even with the heart broken, God does the great work.

Praise Him

Praise Him, for He worthy of praise, and praise will lift you before Him and His throne of love as we remember who He is, and what He thinks of us.

Psalms 145 (NKJV) A Praise of David. ¹ I will extol You, my God, O King; And I will bless Your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever. ³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable. ⁴ One generation shall praise Your works to another, And shall declare Your mighty acts. ⁵ I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works. ⁶ Men shall speak of the might of Your awesome acts, And I will declare Your greatness. ⁷ They shall utter the memory of Your great goodness, And shall sing of Your righteousness. ⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. ⁹ The LORD is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works. ¹⁰ All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power, ¹² To make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, And the glorious majesty of His kingdom. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations. ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall, And raises up all who are bowed down. ¹⁵ The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. ¹⁶ You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. ¹⁹ He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them. ²⁰ The LORD preserves all who love Him, But all the wicked He will destroy. ²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, And all flesh shall bless His holy name Forever and ever.

Outline Genesis 29

- Jacob's Journey (29:1-8)
- Jacob Meets Rachael (29:9-11)
- Jacob Meets Laban (29:12-19)
- Jacob Meets Himself (29:20-35)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 30-31

Title: Jacob Moves On

Summary: It is time, as God has appointed the time for Jacob to move on from his Uncle Laban, and back to the Promised Land, and start God's work on what will be the Land, and the Messiah to come and provide Himself the sacrifice for sin. Even with a great calling upon his life it appears that Jacob is getting comfortable in his good life, so God has to stir things up to get him moving in the right direction. Maybe that is where you are at, and God is stirring your life through some hard or uncomfortable circumstances; Good word for all of us in this passage. Join Us!

Outline: Genesis 30-31

- Rachael and Bilhah (30:1-8)
- Leah and Zilpah (30:9-13)
- Mandrakes for the Man (30:14-18)
- Leah's Hurting Heart (30:19-20)
- Leah Births Dinah (30:21)
- God Remembers Rachael (30:22-24)
- Jacob Names His Wages (30:25-43)
- Laban and Sons Turn Against Jacob (31:1-2)
- God Tells Jacob it is Time to Go (31:3-21)
- Laban Pursues Jacob (31:22-43)
- Jacob and Laban Make a Covenant (31:44-55)

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Rachael and Bilhah (30:1-8)

Genesis 30:1 Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"

Genesis 30:2 And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Realistic Expectation

Rachel's going to lay upon Jacob a demand that only God can answer. And that's going to make a problem. We're going to see him become very angry over the matter. And there's a place that we must set realistic expectations. of what each person can fulfill in a relationship, otherwise there will be frustration and contentions. And if you read it and think it all the way through what she's really saying to him is, if you do not give me children, I'm going to be miserable, and my marriage with you will be miserable and unfulfilled, and it will be because of you that you're not given me what I want and what I must have even though what she doesn't have only God can give. And so something for every marriage in here to consider for themselves.

So wives just a little inside from a husband who can tell you about a husband, a man, takes great satisfaction, that at the end of a day, at the end of a week, just a season of looking back that he provided and supplied for his wife, that she was content and pleased with him. And so with that said comes a frustration level that even though Jacob's wrong for anger, there's a frustration level of being asked to do something that is outside of his ability, and I think a frustration level is being a man who would understand of Jacob probably thinks that he is being a good husband and that he's given her everything, that he could give that's within his means, but to then hear that she's discontented with him. would cause this contention, and then it begins a circle of stirring, that can turn into a spinning as it just keeps increasing as the frustration responds with frustration, that frustration then responds to the other, which is increases the frustration and then you just have this continual looping that happens that you can look back and go, no one even knows what was the beginning of this and why. But here they are. And so this is a crucial moment with Jacob and Rachel in their relationship as it can so often be, of course, in any marriage relationship.

Genesis 30:3 So she said, "Here is my maid Bilhah; go in to her, and she will bear a child on my knees, that I also may have children by her."

Genesis 30:4 Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her.

Genesis 30:5 And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son.

Genesis 30:6 Then Rachel said, "God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son." Therefore she called his name Dan.

Genesis 30:7 And Rachel's maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.

Genesis 30:8 Then Rachel said, "With great wrestlings I have wrestled with my sister, and indeed I have prevailed." So she called his name Naphtali.

We Never Learn

Even after hearing the Sarah Hagar story seems like we never learn rather than sitting and trusting in the Lord we think we have a special situation or we think our situation is unique and different from everybody else's and therefore doesn't apply to what we know wisdom says is not the way to go and wisdom says is the way to go what faith says is not the way to go and faith says this is the way to go. In those situations can carry over that we think we have a unique situation because of this or that reason and therefore we enter into an intimacy that is not for us to have or some emotional response which is not set in faith or that we need to have some reason to relax ourselves through drinking this or popping that or smoking this because our situation is unique.

Dan = Judge

Naphtali = Wrestling

In naming the baby Dan, or "Judge," it was as if Rachel said, "God has seen my situation and has ruled in my favor."

In naming her second son Naphtali, or "My Wrestling," it was as if Rachel said, "I'm catching up with my sister in the child-bearing contest."

Leah and Zilpah (30:9-13)

Genesis 30:9 When Leah saw that she had stopped bearing, she took Zilpah her maid and gave her to Jacob as wife.

Genesis 30:10 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a son.

Genesis 30:11 Then Leah said, "A troop comes!" So she called his name Gad.

Genesis 30:12 And Leah's maid Zilpah bore Jacob a second son.

Genesis 30:13 Then Leah said, "I am happy, for the daughters will call me blessed." So she called his name Asher.

Gad = Troop

Asher = Happy

In naming the son conceived by her handmaid, Gad, or "Troop," it was as if Leah said, "Reinforcements are here!"

In naming Zilpah's second son Asher, or "Happy," Leah expressed her joy in having so many children—a cultural sign of sure blessing.

Mandrakes for the Man (30:14-18)

Genesis 30:14 Now Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them to his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

Genesis 30:15 But she said to her, "Is it a small matter that you have taken away my husband? Would you take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes."

Genesis 30:16 When Jacob came out of the field in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You must come in to me, for I have surely hired you with my son's mandrakes." And he lay with her that night.

Genesis 30:17 And God listened to Leah, and she conceived and bore Jacob a fifth son.

As a Man Thinks

What is up with these mandrakes and all these type of things there were reading here, and they believed that the mandrakes were like an aphrodisiac that would enhance intimacy, fertility, and produce offsprings and you can read all kinds of books and commentaries that we'll see so but if that was so they would clearly be selling off the shelves today. I think simply it's what they believed and therefore they would take and hope what they believe would come true.

I think a key word here in verse 14 is "some", as Leah still had "some" mandrakes herself (the word some is not in the original manuscripts, but mandrakes is in the plural). Rachel believes it and I believe Leah believes it and I think both of them applied what they believed about the mandrakes to themselves. Rachel would think there was something wrong with her because she was barren and then she would think that there was something disconnected of how Jacob connected to her. Leah would feel the same way though we don't read of her taking the mandrakes, what it appears is they were common enough that when they found them they knew what they had found based on what people said, and Leah would be taking her share of mandrakes when opportunity came and the son brought them to her. What I believe for Leah she would feel that even though she was unloved and unwanted that the mandrakes taken between her and Jacob would make her desirable to Jacob And thus Jacob would want her.

It is sad for both these woman that they would believe that some outside source would make them desirable and answer their hearts desire.

The Bible says as a man thinks, therefore he is.

Proverbs 23:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, But his heart is not with you.

In Hebrews, it says, keep the marriage bed undefiled, and it speaks about not just the purity, but the sanctity of the marriage bed. So, yeah, a place to make a bunch of jokes. I'm just gonna keep the marriage bed undefiled and honor it. And so what I'm gonna say, I'm gonna say in accordance with supporting passage of Hebrews. keeping the marriage bed undefiled, and guarding it, and the sanctity of it.

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV) ⁴ Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

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How you think of your spouse will determine your intimacy and desire for them and even yourself.

- Are you thankful for them do you give thanks for them
- Do you pray for them for where your treasures are there your heart will be and as you pray your heart will follow
- if your heart is hardened you'll never be softened to them so if your heart is hardened ask the Lord to soften it because a hard heart will block and be a barricade to any intimacy

- and you must keep your mind pure and undefiled because the impurity it comes with thinking in all these impure things that the world throws will surely polite how you think of your spouse

Genesis 30:18 Leah said, “God has given me my wages, because I have given my maid to my husband.” So she called his name Issachar.

Knew the Times

What I love about is Issachar as we will read of them in the time of David when the Kingdom is united and that is that it says they had understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do. And I love that say look and consider that for myself the great compliment that was given to them and that they knew they needed to unite the Kingdom after it was divided between Saul and David but for us that we would be a people who know the signs of the times and understand the times that we live and I'm talking prophetically so that we know what we ought to do, and that means with the time that we have the understanding that we have where do I invest my energies and my time for the Kingdom of God.

1 Chronicles 12:32 (NKJV)³² of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Leah's Hurting Heart (30:19-20)

Genesis 30:19 Then Leah conceived again and bore Jacob a sixth son.

Genesis 30:20 And Leah said, “God has endowed me with a good endowment; now my husband will dwell with me, because I have borne him six sons.” So she called his name Zebulun.

This will be Leah's final son, six of the twelve:

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and now Zebulun.

Zebulun knew War

And the next verse there in first chronicles speaks of Zebulun who I love they were experts in war and when they went out they could keep ranks and what that meant is that they didn't flee and disband and scatter when the battle got hot and heavy they kept marching towards the fight and so once again the great application and picture for us in the spiritual warfare that we're in together facing the evil one in his plans that still kill and destroy period *1 Chronicles 12:33 (NKJV)³³ of Zebulun there were fifty thousand who went out to battle, expert in war with all weapons of war, stouthearted men who could keep ranks;*

Heartbreaking of Leah

Very heartbreaking again for Leah thinking that now after six children, Jacob will come and dwell with her, which lends me to think that Leah spent all the nights together, except for those moments and how lonely she would be yet once again, the Lord sees her, and the Lord will bless her, and the Lord will keep her, as to you,

Isaiah 54:1–10 (NKJV)¹ “Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the LORD. ² “Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. ³ For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited. ⁴ “Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. ⁶ For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused,” Says your God. ⁷ “For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. ⁸ With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,” Says the LORD, your Redeemer. ⁹ “For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth, So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. ¹⁰ For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV)⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God's Greatest Desire is to Love You / Leah – It was Painful, Now Look at Glory

Leah experienced the mercy and love of God. God is aware of our needs, **and His greatest desire is to love you and fill you with His love.** He aims to encourage you, be your companion, friend, and partner. As El Shaddai, He is the one who meets every need we have. Despite being rejected by Jacob, who was more attracted to physical beauty, Leah found solace in God's unwavering love.

El Shaddai- means mighty God, but it also meant God of the Bosom; speaking of His strength, yet tenderness, as He draws us near to His bosom, and we can hear His heartbeat, that beats for us. I am reminded of the Apostle John, that night in the upper room last supper, resting his head on Jesus, hearing His heartbeat, just hours before the great demonstration of His love for John and all of us, no greater love has he than this, to lay down one's life for a friend.

John 13:23 (NKJV)²³ Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 15:13 (NKJV)¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Remember, Leah bore Judah Who was the tribe where the Savior of the world came through just think of the blessing just think of Leah now in glory with the Savior of the world to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ who came through her loins as she sees and looks back on the plan now and said Lord wow you know it was painful there were stressful times and there was pain but Lord it's worth it as I look and see your master plan and the glory it brought that you used me Lord, it's so worth it now as I see your perfect plan and now I'm an eternity, ohh the pain is gone I understand more clearly now Lord. Don't give up, don't be discouraged if you feel you're being neglected if you're hurting right now don't you dare believe that God has neglected you, has forgotten you and has no desire for you or plan for you. You stay close to him get closer than ever be a Mary sit at his feet don't allow Satan to tempt you

Leah Births Dinah (30:21)

Genesis 30:21 Afterward she bore a daughter, and called her name Dinah.

This fills in details for a terrible account that we will read in chapter 34. And Jacobs sons Simeon and Levi will seek revenge and have lasting repercussions.

Genesis 34:1–2 (NKJV)¹ Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land. ² And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.

God Remembers Rachael (30:22-24)

Genesis 30:22 Then God remembered Rachel, and God listened to her and opened her womb.

Rachael Hurts

That Rachel hurts for surely this is not how she thought her marriage was going to be after several years of courting and all the dreams that she had of what it would be like when she would finally marry the man who was willing to work for her for seven years and now she finds herself in competition with another woman even if that woman is her sister which probably made it even worse; my heart goes out to Rachel

Hey regardless how on this story is in regardless of how the commentators and the so-called historical context of the culture said this was common it's not how God intended it to be it was one woman one man for life that's one another with no competition. So let me just add let there be no competition in your relationship you don't need to have special friends at work or online or anywhere else but your spouse never ever think that they are in competition against anyone but that you are fully and wholly and completely theirs and therefore give them your undivided attention in every aspect of body spirit and soul.

Genesis 30:23 And she conceived and bore a son, and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

Genesis 30:24 So she called his name Joseph, and said, "The LORD shall add to me another son."

No Accident

So we understand Rachel's hurt and confusion as she's watching everyone else bearing children, but her. So she approaches Jacob in this frustration, and as we see, puts the blame on him, which we can obviously see is not him, but there's a great takeaway in that we see that the Lord opens her womb because she was barren and now she has her son. And why this is a great takeaway is as we read in Isaiah 45, It's the Lord who opens and closes the womb. It's the Lord who gives life. And therefore, it's the Lord who determines life. And I know that can be hard when you're desiring to have child, and it has not come to happen. But the Lord sees you. The Lord knows you're hurt. He sees your pain. We see it with Leah. Being unloved. We see it with Rachel being barren, but the Lord shows up and ministers.. to the heart and the heart that I want to address very specifically is there is no life that is accidental ever. And I think there's a place that we can feel that we're an accident. Maybe we've been told we're an accident, maybe even the circumstances were very painful that brought about the conception. But there is no doubt from the Word of God that it was his purpose for every one of these children to be born. And it was no doubt when he chose not that they were not until his appointed time. But please know, you are precious in the sight of the Lord. You are no mistake. You are no accident. You are no afterthought. Regardless of what the human circumstance may be or the human thoughts may be, or the human speech may be, you are no afterthought by the Lord Jesus Christ, who Psalm 139 formed you in your mother's womb, and you are precious in his sight. Regarding your worth, go to the cross, and you will see the treasure that you are and the worth of his want to die, to buy you back, to make you his own. And I'll even add, there's so much value to you that there's a war in heaven Revelation chapter 12 fighting over you. Devil wants to destroy you, and he's willing to fight for you, and the Lord wants to love you, and he's willing to fight to the death for you. You are no accident.

Isaiah 45:9–12 (NKJV) ⁹ "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'? ¹⁰ Woe to him who says to his father, 'What are you begetting?' Or to the woman, 'What have you brought forth?' " ¹¹ Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. ¹² I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

Psalm 139:13–18 (NKJV) ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

Revelation 12:7–9 (NKJV) ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Don't Let Past Dictate You

So don't let your past whatever it may be determine or dictate how God can use you today because he has chosen you. He has created you and he has a plan for your life that cannot be stopped by no man government or program, but it could be stopped by your unwillingness to say, "Here I am. Use me, Lord.

Jacob Names His Wages (30:25-43)

Genesis 30:25 And it came to pass, when Rachel had borne Joseph, that Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own place and to my country.

Genesis 30:26 Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, and let me go; for you know my service which I have done for you."

Time To Move On

Jacob has all these kids, he has fulfilled his commitment of working another seven years to get Rachel, and now he feels it is time to move on.

A Perfect Mess

Look at this, the people of Israel, Jacob, the forefather of a nation that the Messiah would come through, and the priesthood would come through. Our Jesus would come through. And he speaks a message. In these four women.

God says look. See how imperfect the situation is, see how story after story It speaks the imperfection as it tells afore story of he who will come and make us perfect family together.

Imagine if it was a perfect story, Jacob met Rachel worked for seven years conceived on their first night together in honeymoon suite, and had 12 children to build this great nation and how they walked and were so obedient, and were so full of faith, making wise decision after wise decision. No faults are failing.

Every last one of us in here would go. My Bible ends in Genesis chapter 30, because I'm done. There is nothing that I can relate to and nothing that I can live up to, but then we take the mess that we read and all that comes about these things and we go, "Hey, I can fit here. Hey, he can understand me. He can understand my family and the messed up dynamic. He can understand my poor decisions and my faults and my failings. Hey, he can understand. that even with all these things, my heart still says, I want to be yours. And he says, that's all you need. That's all you have to want. is to be mine. And that I'm yours. That's all that you need. I'll provide the rest. There's nothing that keeps you from. my best.

Genesis 30:27 And Laban said to him, "Please stay, if I have found favor in your eyes, for I have learned by experience that the LORD has blessed me for your sake."

Enchantment

The word here for "experience" is "enchantment", and later we will see that Rachael steals away with Laban's idols, therefore we can see that Laban was engaged in the occultic practices that were prevalent in the region he lived (which was Babylon/Iraq).

Genesis 12

So what did the Lord say to Abraham back in Genesis chapter 12 I will bless those who bless thee and I will curse those who curse thee and here we see Laban is being blessed because he blessed Jacob in the means of providing him daughters, wives. lodging, food, employment, protection, safety, all these things that he extended to Jacob came and returned unto him a blessing, and he recognizes it, and the United States and the surrounding nations of Israel would do well to know God's promises is true. I will bless those who bless Israel and I will curse those who curse Israel.

Genesis 12:3 (NKJV) ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 30:28 Then he said, "Name me your wages, and I will give it."

Genesis 30:29 So Jacob said to him, "You know how I have served you and how your livestock has been with me.

Genesis 30:30 For what you had before I came was little, and it has increased to a great amount; the LORD has blessed you since my coming. And now, when shall I also provide for my own house?"

Genesis 30:31 So he said, "What shall I give you?" And Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this thing for me, I will again feed and keep your flocks:

Genesis 30:32 Let me pass through all your flock today, removing from there all the speckled and spotted sheep, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and the spotted and speckled among the goats; and these shall be my wages.

Genesis 30:33 So my righteousness will answer for me in time to come, when the subject of my wages comes before you: every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats, and brown among the lambs, will be considered stolen, if it is with me."

Genesis 30:34 And Laban said, "Oh, that it were according to your word!"

Speckled and Pure

If you go look at even lambs and goats today, they're mostly pure and what that means is that's the dominant gene that is among them, and then speckled and spotted and brown would be the recessive gene. So Jacob is clearly saying. "You have the greater, I'll take the lesser, which is interesting, low road for the matter great wisdom in the matter as well in that he's not going to put himself in a place that he had some pure white lambs and goats, because then it would get into the argument of whose was it really? Even if you were branding them, you could get

them at birth before they were branded and tucked them away and then make them your own. But here he's making it very clear. There will be no confusion who owns what. And I'll give great wisdom in that matter.

My Righteousness – Seeking 1st the Kingdom

Jacob said my righteousness will speak for me and what he's saying here is I'll let God take care of it as he presents what he is going to with the speckled lambs and the likes what he's really doing is presenting a step of faith that I will let God determine my blessing. And we see he's not trying to make a deal, he's not trying to arrange things or even connive things, but he simply is yielding whatever the Lord brings is the deal, and I trust that the Lord will clearly take care of me. So in an essence, he's giving Laban the greater deal. And of course, that's why Laban jumps on the deal, because he knows it's in his favor.

We see great faith and maturity in Jacob. that I don't have to strive that God will take care of all of my needs. And we call that Philippians 4:19 as people of faith. My God shall supply all of my needs in Christ Jesus. We call that Matthew 6:33. Seek first the kingdom of God in his righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.

Jacob is trusting in the Lord, and he doesn't have to strive anymore. And we can come to that same place, my friends. Lord, you created the heavens and the earth. You formed me in my mother's womb. You bought me with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Are you going to drop me at this point? Do I really need to take up the work of the flesh to get my provisions and my inheritance? Or can I just trust you that you will provide and that as you do, my righteousness will speak of your goodness because I sought first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. And he provided all these things unto me.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Genesis 30:35 So he removed that day the male goats that were speckled and spotted, all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had some white in it, and all the brown ones among the lambs, and gave them into the hand of his sons.

Genesis 30:36 Then he put three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob fed the rest of Laban's flocks.

Genesis 30:37 Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods.

Keep it Simple

So we are going to keep it simple here, and rather than chase all these things around and around, and wonder if they mean something about animal husbandry, they don't. Jacob may be trying to be clever, or listening to stories that he heard back in Canaan, but in the end and ultimately, Jacob is doing what he is doing, and picking what he is picking, because God tells him which one He will bless. So no need for us to spend a lot of time thinking if carving sticks, and planting sticks has anything to do with his prosperity.

Genesis 31:7–13 (NKJV) ⁷ Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me. ⁸ If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked. ⁹ So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰ "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted. ¹¹ Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' ¹² And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

Genesis 30:38 And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink.

Genesis 30:39 So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted.

Genesis 30:40 Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban's flock.

Genesis 30:41 And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.

Genesis 30:42 But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's.

Genesis 30:43 Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

Again – it was all God!

Genesis 31

Laban and Sons Turn Against Jacob (31:1-2)

Genesis 31:1 Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth."

Genesis 31:2 And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before.

Jacob Gets a Nudge

I think this is interesting and it's a word for all of us again in that here Jacob may be in this place going, I wanted to leave and go back to my homeland, but I don't know. Things are well here. I'm prospering. I'm being blessed. I got all this wealth now. And so I can easily see that the Lord has a plan that has to be fulfilled. And Jacob, I will bring you back to this place. As I promised you, or else my word would fail, but it would not be in your best interest either, because if you fail my word, then my word fails before you. So I'm gonna help you get moving, and I'm gonna take your cousins and your Uncle Laban, and I'm going to raise them up against you. I'm going to let their flesh follow the flesh, which will always be greedy and envious, and they're going to start stirring against you, and it's going to put you in a place that you're going to have to leave.

God's so good and stirring the boat to get us to step out, and maybe that's you today, and you're in some place that you're like, I don't understand why this is happening to me. Why are these things coming against me? Especially all seem so well, and maybe it's just that you were getting comfortable. and you were settling into a place or a path or a purpose that wasn't God's. And so now he is letting the world in the flesh have its way, ' because it's always ready to get in the way. I believe it's the Lord who stays them off if he so chooses, and then when he chooses to lift his hand, the release is made, and here they come. And for Jacob, this hatred towards him is going to cause him to get up and go back to the land God promised him was his and that he should go and fulfill the promise and the inheritance. And God may be doing that for you. Don't take the difficult situations or people.. and get tunnel vision on them, but look and go, "Lord, you're allowing this. So now, let me go with what you have for me." and then go with the flow and seek the Lord, and let him lead you, and use those things.

God Tells Jacob it is Time to Go (31:3-21)

Genesis 31:3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."

Genesis 31:4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock,

Genesis 31:5 and said to them, "I see your father's countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me.

Genesis 31:6 And you know that with all my might I have served your father.

Genesis 31:7 Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.

Genesis 31:8 If he said thus: 'The speckled shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore speckled. And if he said thus: 'The streaked shall be your wages,' then all the flocks bore streaked.

Genesis 31:9 So God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me.

Genesis 31:10 "And it happened, at the time when the flocks conceived, that I lifted my eyes and saw in a dream, and behold, the rams which leaped upon the flocks were streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted.

Genesis 31:11 Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.'

Genesis 31:12 And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you.

Genesis 31:13 I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.' "

The God of Bethel

I am the God of Bethel. Look at this. This is 20 years ago at this point and yet God has been faithful and God is being faithful. It doesn't matter how much time a distance has come between you and the Lord. He's the same yesterday today and forever and all of his promises are yes and amen. I'll never leave you nor forsake you, and I will bring you back just as I said I would at his timetable God has chosen working with Jacob and his flaws, chiseling, shaping, forming and fashioning, Jeremiah 18 the potter in the clay, but now God's going to take this lump of clay, and that's all we are, treasures of God inside us earth and vessels, and now it's time to move and a reminder, I'm the God that met you 20 years ago and I'm a god who's been with you and I'm the god that's going with you

Genesis 28:15–19 (NKJV)¹⁵ Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”¹⁷ And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”¹⁸ Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.¹⁹ And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Jeremiah 18:1–4 (NKJV)¹ The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: ² “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.”³ Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. ⁴ And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Genesis 31:14 Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, “Is there still any portion or inheritance for us in our father’s house?

Genesis 31:15 Are we not considered strangers by him? For he has sold us, and also completely consumed our money.

Genesis 31:16 For all these riches which God has taken from our father are really ours and our children’s; now then, whatever God has said to you, do it.”

Laban Always Been Terrible

We see what kind of father Laban is, not just from the wedding night, but now we see him in the terms of taking his daughters’ inheritance away from them because he doesn’t want to share the prosperity with them, how sad, and then the other, what we see is Rachel, though a godly woman, we thought, here she was this whole time. She's into pagan warship. following after her father's enchantment.

Melt a Man’s Heart

The wives said to Jacob, whatever God has told you to do, do it! And that is the best council you ever give anyone who has heard from the Lord and knows that God has spoken to the person, you don't try to step in and add to it, take away, you give that word, whatever God says to do, do it.

And I'll tell you wives, that's what a man on his deathbed will remember those times that you counted at him and looked upon him as a man a God. that melts a man's heart, that you would think such a thing and the words that you would stand. You're a man of God. I will follow you anywhere.

Genesis 31:17 Then Jacob rose and set his sons and his wives on camels.

Genesis 31:18 And he carried away all his livestock and all his possessions which he had gained, his acquired livestock which he had gained in Padan Aram, to go to his father Isaac in the land of Canaan.

Genesis 31:19 Now Laban had gone to shear his sheep, and Rachel had stolen the household idols that were her father’s.

Genesis 31:20 And Jacob stole away, unknown to Laban the Syrian, in that he did not tell him that he intended to flee.

Genesis 31:21 So he fled with all that he had. He arose and crossed the river, and headed toward the mountains of Gilead.

Gilead

Verse 21 Gilead is up there by the Golan, which is interesting. Here we are, the contention continued on for all these thousands of years. between Jacob, known as Israel and Laban, known as the Syrians Here it is before our very eyes. Still today, as we're watching the instability of the Middle East.

Laban Pursues Jacob (31:22-43)

Genesis 31:22 And Laban was told on the third day that Jacob had fled.

Genesis 31:23 Then he took his brethren with him and pursued him for seven days' journey, and he overtook him in the mountains of Gilead.

Genesis 31:24 But God had come to Laban the Syrian in a dream by night, and said to him, "Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad."

Zechariah 2:8

Remembers Zechariah 2:8 Whoever touches you touches the apple of my eye. I think we're witnessing that today. And he appears to Laban, said, if you touch my man, you've touched me. I believe the Lord still protects. Still says these things, not just for the nation of Israel, but he protects us, as he so desires, for his ways, and then there will come a day where do the Lord may have us lay down as a martyr. We're going to talk about that as we look at our church family in Syria, being martyred for their faith. But until, we see God's great protection upon Jacob till he fulfills the promise that God gave him, the inheritance of the land, to make him a great nation, and then we know, and out of him will come the kings, and not only the kings, but the king of kings.

***Zechariah 2:8 (NKJV)** ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts: "He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye.*

By the way, they named the land Lebanon after Laban.

Genesis 31:25 So Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the mountains, and Laban with his brethren pitched in the mountains of Gilead.

Genesis 31:26 And Laban said to Jacob: "What have you done, that you have stolen away unknown to me, and carried away my daughters like captives taken with the sword?

Genesis 31:27 Why did you flee away secretly, and steal away from me, and not tell me; for I might have sent you away with joy and songs, with timbrel and harp?

Genesis 31:28 And you did not allow me to kiss my sons and my daughters. Now you have done foolishly in so doing.

Genesis 31:29 It is in my power to do you harm, but the God of your father spoke to me last night, saying, 'Be careful that you speak to Jacob neither good nor bad.'

Genesis 31:30 And now you have surely gone because you greatly long for your father's house, but why did you steal my gods?"

Genesis 31:31 Then Jacob answered and said to Laban, "Because I was afraid, for I said, 'Perhaps you would take your daughters from me by force.'

Genesis 31:32 With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live. In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you." For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them.

How Big Your God / Not Simple People / A Philosophy

How big is your god if he can be stolen or kidnapped. Now these people were intelligent in the days of Jacob, they were not simple minded. We picture them worshipping idols and lighting incense. Maybe they did that, but understand the big picture, the image they worshipped represented a philosophy to them. It was more about them worshipping the philosophy than the little carved image.

Main Gods of Day

- Astoreh – the god of sex and fertility. Today it is called pornography, lust, sexual immorality. No different today.
- Mammon – the god of possessions. Today it is called MasterCard, big fat paychecks. It is no different today.
- Molech – the god of pleasure. Today it is called Bud Light, the great outdoors. It is no different today.
- Baal – the god of the intellect and philosophy. Today it is called education, open-minded, higher learning. No different today.

Genesis 31:33 And Laban went into Jacob's tent, into Leah's tent, and into the two maids' tents, but he did not find them. Then he went out of Leah's tent and entered Rachel's tent.

Genesis 31:34 Now Rachel had taken the household idols, put them in the camel's saddle, and sat on them. And Laban searched all about the tent but did not find them.

Genesis 31:35 And she said to her father, "Let it not displease my lord that I cannot rise before you, for the manner of women is with me." And he searched but did not find the household idols.

Genesis 31:36 Then Jacob was angry and rebuked Laban, and Jacob answered and said to Laban: "What is my trespass? What is my sin, that you have so hotly pursued me?"

Genesis 31:37 Although you have searched all my things, what part of your household things have you found? Set it here before my brethren and your brethren, that they may judge between us both!

Genesis 31:38 These twenty years I have been with you; your ewes and your female goats have not miscarried their young, and I have not eaten the rams of your flock.

Genesis 31:39 That which was torn by beasts I did not bring to you; I bore the loss of it. You required it from my hand, whether stolen by day or stolen by night.

Genesis 31:40 There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.

Genesis 31:41 Thus I have been in your house twenty years; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and you have changed my wages ten times.

Genesis 31:42 Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night."

Genesis 31:43 And Laban answered and said to Jacob, "These daughters are my daughters, and these children are my children, and this flock is my flock; all that you see is mine. But what can I do this day to these my daughters or to their children whom they have borne?"

All Laban has Done – Don't Let Laban's Dominate Your Life

And all that Laban has done still can't outreach what God is doing through these five people, and are going to come the twelve tribes of Israel and the fulfillment of God's Word to coming back to the land and being a fruitful nation, a blessed nation,

And so don't let the Labans in your life be what dominates you, who's hurt you and mistreated you and the things they have done to you, that that becomes your identity of, I could have been great if it wasn't for this Laban in my life, but look at it as I had this Laban in my life and look how great God was, and you will live a whole different way rather than living in the shadow of a Laban, you'll live under the shadow of the Almighty God

Jacob and Laban Make a Covenant (31:44-55)

Genesis 31:44 Now therefore, come, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me."

Genesis 31:45 So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar.

Genesis 31:46 Then Jacob said to his brethren, "Gather stones." And they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there on the heap.

Genesis 31:47 Laban called it Jegar Sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed.

Genesis 31:48 And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between you and me this day." Therefore its name was called Galeed,
Genesis 31:49 also Mizpah, because he said, "May the LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another.

Mizpah

Mizpah is often used on jewelry, "the Lord watch between us", it sounds romantic, but in actuality it isn't a term for endearing love. It is really, "you are a dirty rat". I can't watch your every step, but God can, and if you try to cross me may God get you. So probably not a good Christmas present this year.

Genesis 31:50 If you afflict my daughters, or if you take other wives besides my daughters, although no man is with us—see, God is witness between you and me!"

Genesis 31:51 Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.

Genesis 31:52 This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

Genesis 31:53 The God of Abraham, the God of Nahor, and the God of their father judge between us." And Jacob swore by the Fear of his father Isaac.

Genesis 31:54 Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain, and called his brethren to eat bread. And they ate bread and stayed all night on the mountain.

Genesis 31:55 And early in the morning Laban arose, and kissed his sons and daughters and blessed them. Then Laban departed and returned to his place.

Laban Gone / Jacob Continues

They part way, and we are never to hear from Laban again, but we will watch Jacob continue on his way, as God leads him, and works on him.

The Hard Heart of Laban

Do you want to see how hardened Laban's heart mind, soul, and spirit is that God showed up in a dream spoke to him. He knew that God spoke to him. He responded in obedience to what God told him to do by not stabbing and killing Jacob as he wanted to and his heart is so hard that he still follows through to confront Jacob and the family and search for his god his idols that have failed him, that didn't speak to him, did not show up to him in a dream, and yet he still comes with a passive aggression, but seeking all idol after the one true living god has spoken to him.

And I can say, that sounds amazing until I look back at my life and I look back at all the years of ministry of God spoke, God spoke, showed himself, strong, and what it should have been a total yielding and a humbling did not translate into a changed life. You would think would show us and saying Jacob, your God just spoke to me, I remember the story you told 20 years ago when you came to us and you shared that story all these times over about Bethel, that same God just showed up to me and you know what? now he's as real to me as he is to you as he's blessed you, I'm going to yield my life and believe the same blessings are going to come in return.

And yet, nothing it didn't translate into a change life and I ask you. I ask myself. Has there been a word of God that he spoke? You knew it was from him. and yet still yet you're not yielding to it. You're not responding to it. It hasn't translated into a changed life. May the Lord speak to you today. May the Lord speak to all of us today. May we look at those things and know, hey, 20 years later for Jacob, why not meet today? How long has it been since I disregarded that word, but I know. 20 years later, God still honors the word he spoke to Jacob and Jacob when he responds, it will be a changed life.

Outline: Genesis 30-31

- Rachael and Bilhah (30:1-8)
- Leah and Zilpah (30:9-13)
- Mandrakes for the Man (30:14-18)

- Leah's Hurting Heart (30:19-20)
- Leah Births Dinah (30:21)
- God Remembers Rachael (30:22-24)
- Jacob Names His Wives (30:25-43)
- Laban and Sons Turn Against Jacob (31:1-2)
- God Tells Jacob it is Time to Go (31:3-21)
- Laban Pursues Jacob (31:22-43)
- Jacob and Laban Make a Covenant (31:44-55)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 32-33

Title: A Broken Man

Summary: In Genesis 32, Jacob faces a moment of deep fear and crisis as he prepares to meet his brother Esau, whom he had wronged years earlier. Overwhelmed by anxiety, Jacob prays humbly, acknowledging his unworthiness and pleading for God's deliverance. That night, alone and desperate, Jacob wrestles with a mysterious man—God Himself in human form. In this struggle, Jacob is physically broken, his hip put out of joint, yet he clings in faith, refusing to let go without a blessing. God renames him Israel (which means "Governed by God"), marking the transformation of Jacob from a self-reliant schemer to a man dependent on God's grace.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Here is the outline of Jacob's life:

- The Saving of Jacob – Genesis 28
- The Subduing of Jacob – Genesis 29-32
- The Separating of Jacob – Genesis 33-34
- The Sanctifying of Jacob – Genesis 35

Recap / 20yrs – 4 woman – 12 kids / Problem – Unfinished Business

It is 20 years later, 2 wives, 2 concubines, 11 sons and 1 daughter later; and God stirs Jacob's heart, it is time to return to the land that was promised to you, your father Isaac, and his father Abraham. But there is a problem, and that is the unfinished business between him and his brother Esau, the one whom he had ripped off, stolen his blessing from Isaac. The last word he had heard about Esau was that when dad dies, then Jacob dies.

Matt 5

In Matthew 5 Jesus tells us to leave our gift at the altar, and be reconciled to the one we have offended, then come back to the altar to continue with our worship and adoration of the Lord.

(Matthew 5:23 NKJV) "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,

(Matthew 5:24 NKJV) "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

Must be right with Brother / Vertical - Horizontal

The point for us is that we cannot be right with the Lord, if we are not right with our brother. Our relationship with the Lord is on two planes, vertical, our relationship with the Father, and horizontal, our relationship with man:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment.

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Outline: Genesis 32-33

- Jacob's Departure and Angelic Encounter (32:1–2)
- Jacob Sends Messengers to Esau (32:3–5)
- Jacob's Fear and Distress (32:6–8)
- Jacob's Prayer for Deliverance (32:9–12)
- Jacob Prepares a Gift for Esau (32:13–20)
- Jacob Sends His Family Across the Jabbok (32:21–23)
- Jacob Wrestles with God (32:24–32)

- Jacob Sees Esau Approaching (33:1–3)
- Esau and Jacob Reconcile (33:4–7)
- Jacob Insists on Giving His Gift (33:8–11)
- Esau Offers to Accompany Jacob (33:12–16)
- Jacob Journeys to Succoth and Shechem (33:17–20)

I pray the Lord shows each of us, that "one" thing that needs to be seen, that needs to be spoken to by the Lord, to comfort, or confront, so as to conform us into His image.

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Jacob's Departure and Angelic Encounter (32:1–2)

(Genesis 32:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

(Genesis 32:2 NKJV) When Jacob saw them, he said, "This is God's camp." And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

2 Camps

מחנה (machaneh) — Camp

- Appears in Genesis 32:2–3 (“This is God’s camp” / “So he called that place Mahanaim”).
- Mahanaim means “two camps” — symbolic of the division of Jacob’s people (also a reminder of the angelic camp).
- Significance: Emphasizes Jacob’s vulnerability and God’s presence in his journey.
- Jacob will see his camp and Esau’s camp, Jacob will divide into two camps himself, Jacob will divide his camps from himself, but here before it all begins God gives him the ultimate two camps (himself and the Lord surrounding him).

The Host / God Comforts / Heb 1

Jacob has a host of his family with him, but when he lifted his eyes he sees another host about him, a host of angels. God always wants us to see His hand in every situation in our life, especially in those times of fear and uncertainty. Do you realize that? God’s angel or angels are with us on all of our journeys:

(Hebrews 1:13 NKJV) But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?
(Hebrews 1:14 NKJV) Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Angels Sent / Father Filter / Don’t Realize Protection

Angels are sent to us, stand with us, and go before us. Nothing can happen to us unless it first goes through the filter of the Father. I believe when we get to heaven, meet our angels, we will blown away by how many times they keep us out of harms way, and we did not even realize it.

Principalities

We wrestle not against the flesh, but principalities and powers:

(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Drama Team / See the Spiritual Realm

I remember several years ago being part of this drama team that did the most powerful drama of the Gospel. One Pastor said if he only had 9 minutes to present the gospel to someone, this would be it. Every time we performed it, someone gave their life to the Lord, it was so powerful. I remember the first time we were to do it, it was a Sunday morning and in those two services over 1,000 people would see it, some for the need of salvation, others to be reminded of the price and victory of their Lord and Savior. Well that morning, after a couple months of rehearsal, I was up, prayed, dressed, and said to myself nothing can stop this now, and then it came across my mind, except your car not starting, which had never happened before. You guessed it, I go to start the car, and it won’t start, then God gave me a vision of a sword stuck thorough the engine. I prayed to the Father, and I believe He or a ministering angel pulled the sword out. I made it to church, and the car died there, I ended up having to buy another car. Like Jacob, God wants to show us the spiritual realm, to let us know what we are up against, but also who is with us, and going before us.

Parents / Father Filter / Suffocating / Usurping Angels / Dogs-heights-outside

I say this to parents, God has angels around your children, and nothing can happen to them unless it goes through the Father filter and He allows it. I see many parents suffocating their kids, so fearful something is going to happen to them that they don’t let the kid live. What they are doing is they are usurping the authority of the angels God has placed over that child. Some parents say ohh he/she doesn’t like dogs, no the parent doesn’t like dogs; she/he doesn’t like heights, no the parent doesn’t, he/she doesn’t like to play outside, no the parent is afraid to let them out of their sight. Parents use wisdom, but back off, let your kid live, entrust them to God’s ministering agents. Nothing accidental can happen to them unless the Father allows it.

Jacob Sends Messengers to Esau (32:3–5)

(Genesis 32:3 NKJV) Then Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother in the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

(Genesis 32:4 NKJV) And he commanded them, saying, "Speak thus to my lord Esau, 'Thus your servant Jacob says: "I have dwelt with Laban and stayed there until now.

(Genesis 32:5 NKJV) "I have oxen, donkeys, flocks, and male and female servants; and I have sent to tell my lord, that I may find favor in your sight." "

Esau in Edom

Esau is in Edom, not the Promised Land, for he never had any desire for the things of the Lord. Thus the descendants of Esau are called Edomites because they lived in the area of Edom.

Peace Offering

So here we see Jacob sending a Peace offering, Jacob makes a peace plan.

But we do not see repentance, of what he did to Esau 20 years with his trickery.

Time and distance does not equal repentance nor forgiveness. Even years and distance, need a confession to settle and deal with a past sin and hurt. How about you today, anything the Lord is speaking to you about?

Jacob's Fear and Distress (32:6–8)

(Genesis 32:6 NKJV) Then the messengers returned to Jacob, saying, "We came to your brother Esau, and he also is coming to meet you, and four hundred men are with him."

(Genesis 32:7 NKJV) So Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed; and he divided the people that were with him, and the flocks and herds and camels, into two companies.

(Genesis 32:8 NKJV) And he said, "If Esau comes to the one company and attacks it, then the other company which is left will escape."

400 Men / Plot Thickens / Esau Ahead - Laban Behind / Mizpah

Esau coming with 400 men, the plot thickens. Jacob has Esau before him, and Laban behind him, there is no returning to Laban for that was settled in Genesis 31:51-52. Mizpah, the Lord watch over you when I can't, for I don't trust you. The line was drawn, the word was said do not cross over this line, past this pillar, for if you do there will be trouble. As we saw last chapter Laban's sons would like nothing more than to take care of Jacob, for good:

(Genesis 31:51 NKJV) Then Laban said to Jacob, "Here is this heap and here is this pillar, which I have placed between you and me.

(Genesis 31:52 NKJV) "This heap is a witness, and this pillar is a witness, that I will not pass beyond this heap to you, and you will not pass beyond this heap and this pillar to me, for harm.

Jacob Plans / Splits Company

So we see Jacob, he starts his planning, I need to set this up here, and that up there; so he splits his company hoping he will still have half of them left when it is all over.

Peace – Panic - Prayer

But we do see Jacob has grown over the years of God working in him; Jacob request peace, reacts with a panic, but he then turns to prayer

Jacob's Prayer for Deliverance (32:9–12)

(Genesis 32:9 NKJV) Then Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, the LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your family, and I will deal well with you':

(Genesis 32:10 NKJV) "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

Humility

In his fear, Jacob will come to a place of humility, confessing, "Lord, I am not worthy." As we continue this theme of humility, let's remember—humility is not self-deprecation. It's not "woe is me, I'm nothing."

That's not true humility. True humility is recognizing, "I am unworthy, but You are worthy. You are God, and I am not." And when humility takes root, it leads to the question, "Lord, how can I serve You? What brings You glory? And how can I serve others above my own needs?"

Jacob hasn't fully arrived at that place yet. But he's starting to acknowledge at least this: God is worthy; I am unworthy. And God is working on him. Another mark of humility is being teachable—recognizing that you don't know it all and that you need God's instruction. Jacob is being brought to that point: Teach me, Lord. Show me who I am, and show me who You are.

But Jacob still has a long way to go in putting others above himself. We'll see him playing favorites—arranging his family so that those he values most are kept closest to him, and those he sees as less important are placed further out front, more exposed to danger. Look at the order: the maidservants and their children first, then Leah and hers, and Rachel and Joseph last, closest to him. And imagine how that must have broken Leah's heart—once again reminded, "I am unloved. Rachel is favored over me." It must have pained her deeply: "What is it about me that you can't love? Why can't you draw near to me?" Even if Jacob had simply placed Leah and Rachel side by side, it would have spoken volumes. But instead, Leah is once again left to feel the weight of rejection.

God Resists the Proud

If you want a powerful reason to pursue humility, here it is: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. When we choose humility, it's like opening a guaranteed door to God's grace and favor. As Hebrews tells us, in our time of need we will find help. There's real power in that place of humility. When you're in a hard spot, the best thing you can do is humble yourself—because that posture moves the heart of God to pour out His help and strength in your situation.

James 4:6 (NKJV)⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

(Genesis 32:11 NKJV) "Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children.

(Genesis 32:12 NKJV) "For You said, 'I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

Prays the Word / George Mueller – Argue – Convince / No Man – Govt - Pgm

In this prayer we see Jacob praying God's Word. George Mueller, that great man of faith, said that when you pray, argue with the Lord, be convincing, ohh not to convince Him, but to convince you. When you pray the promise, argue the case, your faith soars as you say yes and amen. As you say that is right Lord you have promised that, told me that, therefore it will come to pass because your word fails not. Remember no man, government, or program can stop the work or plans of God in your life, only you can by your wilful disobedience to Him and His Word.

(Hebrews 11:6 NKJV) But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Peace – Panic – Plans – Pray / Didn't Pray 1st / Pray – no Panic / Look for Peace of God

Jacob offers peace, then he panics, then he plans, then he prays. Notice that he did not pray first, isn't that so much like us. Prayer should not be our last resort but our first option. Pray, then plan, and you will see there will be no panic, for we will have the peace of God in our lives. Jacob was looking for the peace of Esau in his life, when he should have been looking for the peace of God.

Why Do? / Because we Succeed / We Sell Ourselves Short

You know why we do this, because we so often succeed in the flesh. We plan and succeed, and we become self-sufficient, we say it ended well, so it must have been a good plan. I wonder how much better it would have turned out had we prayed first. Christians I believe we so often sell ourselves short of tremendous by handling things ourselves.

Jacob Prepares a Gift for Esau (32:13–20)

(Genesis 32:13 NKJV) So he lodged there that same night, and took what came to his hand as a present for Esau his brother:

We see Jacob that when he finishes praying, he resumes plotting.

Jacob puts his plan together—almost as if he grabbed a piece of paper and pencil and started sketching it all out. He probably drew the distance between himself and Esau, mapped out where the flocks, herds, and family would go, and marked it with arrows and lines, thinking he could control the outcome. But in the end, that plan on paper was worthless. Because what came toward him wasn't what he had planned for—it was like counter-arrows, masses of troops closing in on him. And behind him was that pillar, that boundary stone at Mizpah with Laban. He couldn't go back because Laban was ready to kill him if he crossed it. He couldn't go forward because, in his mind, Esau was waiting to kill him. His plan fell apart, and all that was left was faith—trusting the Lord.

And I'm thankful God puts us in those places where our plans fall apart. Because sometimes what looks good on paper completely unravels in real life. In fact, I pray that if you're working on your plans today—writing things down, trying to figure out which way to go—that they fall apart if they're not from God. My greatest concern is that you might see your plan “working” for a while, only to find out too late how far it will fall.

So yes, plan with wisdom, do things decently and in order—but at the end of the day, come to the end of that paper and say, Lord, unless You build this house, unless You fill these plans, it's all in vain. God may just say, Tear it up—that's not My plan. I have something better for you.

Jacob wrote his plan, and when it failed, then he prayed. I say to you: pray first. Let God write the plan with you, and He'll lead you in the right direction.

(Genesis 32:14 NKJV) two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams,

(Genesis 32:15 NKJV) thirty milk camels with their colts, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten foals.

(Genesis 32:16 NKJV) Then he delivered them to the hand of his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass over before me, and put some distance between successive droves."

(Genesis 32:17 NKJV) And he commanded the first one, saying, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, saying, 'To whom do you belong, and where are you going? Whose are these in front of you?'"

(Genesis 32:18 NKJV) "then you shall say, 'They are your servant Jacob's. It is a present sent to my lord Esau; and behold, he also is behind us.'"

(Genesis 32:19 NKJV) So he commanded the second, the third, and all who followed the droves, saying, "In this manner you shall speak to Esau when you find him;

(Genesis 32:20 NKJV) "and also say, 'Behold, your servant Jacob is behind us.' " For he said, "I will appease him with the present that goes before me, and afterward I will see his face; perhaps he will accept me."

Sends Bribe / Entice Carnal Nature

Jacob tries to send a bribe ahead. He tries to entice the carnal nature of Esau. He uses carnality to reach carnality. It is sad when Christians do that. The ends will never justify the means. Christians never use the flesh to reach the flesh, never lower yourself in hopes of reaching them or changing them. Jacob tries to appease Esau's carnality, and here is the danger of that, verse 21:

What Happened

I look at Jacob and think, What happened? And it reminds me how often I have to ask myself the same question—What happened? For six years, Jacob fully trusted the Lord to do what only God could do. He rested in the confidence that God would take care of him. If the spotted animals were his portion, so be it. If it changed and now the pure ones were his, that was fine too. He had this freedom because he knew God was in control.

But now? He's no longer walking in that freedom. He's consumed with worry, and instead of simply trusting the Lord and saying, Here I am. What I did was wrong, brother. Please forgive me, he starts putting together a plan. He tries to buy Esau off, thinking he can calm his brother's anger with gifts—

working in the flesh rather than relying on God. And honestly, that plan could have backfired. Esau might have thought, If my brother has this much, why take 10% when I could take it all?

Yet even in the midst of Jacob's scheming, the Lord was still going before him, working out His purposes.

Total Freedom

It's a beautiful place to come into when we can just release ourselves and our performance and just knowing that we're not. The one that can make anything happen or come to pass, at least that which is gonna be good and lasting, and I can come to a place of just releasing that it's all the Lord, and I'm free, and I believe one of my greatest prayers of freedom that I have when I speak to the Lord before engaging in something, whether it's ministry or a personal life situation, and I simply say and pray from my heart, Lord, I am nothing you are everything and therefore I can ask you anything and I just have a freedom that it's not on me. It's on the one who possesses all things. owns all things, controls all things, thinks all things. is in the midst of all things, and I can just rest and say, "Come in to this thing, and it's freedom, and you grow in that freedom as you watch yourself fail, you grow in that freedom as you watch your faith grow, knowing whose hand you're in you grow in that freedom that you're free and it's not you. It's all him. And I see Jacob back and forth from freedom into bondage, the freedom brings this sweet release, but the fear brings a bondage that somehow it's gotta figure this out and we watch him back and forth in our chapter today. And is he not so much like you and I? And we have somebody we can relate to, and I can't wait to spend time with Jacob going. Hey, me and you, I can relate to you so let me hang out with you and it's gonna be a beautiful place for all of us

Romans 7&8

Jacob plans, then he plots. Then he turns to prayer—and plots again. Sound familiar? In Jacob, we see growth, hesitation, and moments of bold faith mixed with stumbles and failures. His life is a picture of both leaps of faith and falls into weakness. When we look at Jacob's journey, does it remind you of anyone? It reminds me of Romans 7—the struggle Paul describes. I look at these heroes of the faith—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David—and I see myself. I see it in Peter, in Paul, and especially in those words from Romans 7: "The things I want to do, I don't do; the things I hate, those I do. Oh, who will deliver me from this body of death?"

And then comes the answer: "I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord." And I love what follows: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

The moment we give our lives to Christ, that ultimate transaction is sealed—we belong to Him. We're under new ownership, new management. And whether it takes 20 years or 40, He will finish what He started. In those Romans 7 moments, I can rest without condemnation. And in the victories of Romans 8, I can take no credit—because it's all Him.

Romans 7:18–25 (NKJV)¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Romans 8 there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. And you know what else is not in the Lord? There is therefore now no discouragement in the Lord. He's not discouraged by us and our back steps and our slow, forward movement, he knows us and the weakness of us. And he is not discouraged. But he's encouraged that he who began a good work will be faithful to complete. He's going to complete what he's done in you. because the day you gave your life to him, you became his.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)¹ There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Jacob Sends His Family Across the Jabbok (32:21–23)

(Genesis 32:21 NKJV) So the present went on over before him, but he himself lodged that night in the camp.

(Genesis 32:22 NKJV) And he arose that night and took his two wives, his two female servants, and his eleven sons, and crossed over the ford of Jabbok.

(Genesis 32:23 NKJV) He took them, sent them over the brook, and sent over what he had.

Jacob takes Burden Back / Will his Plan Work / Mind Racing

Jacob takes the burden back. He planned, prayed, then plotted and now he can't sleep his mind is wandering if his fleshly plan will work. Rather than I called upon the Lord, He promised me through His Word, that settles it, there is nothing more I can do. Jacob will have a rough night of sleep ahead of him we will see.

Jacob is pinched in. If you look at the topography of Mahanaim and Panuel (coming up in a couple verses) and we will see that it is a valley surrounded by hilly, mountainous terrain. It has a water source that is vital to watering the herd. And word is that Esau is coming up, and we know Laban has said don't even think of ever returning (the heap of rocks as a reminder we saw in chapter 30-31 study), and Jacob is literally between a rock and a hard place.

20 Years Ago / Converted – Now Broken / Happy Feet - Limping

Jacob sends the family ahead so he will be alone. It was 20 years ago Jacob had a restless night of sleep, and it was on that night that he was converted there at Bethuel. Now, this night, he is going to be broken, set apart from the old Jacob the liar and schemer. Tonight he will become Israel, the one who is governed by God. It is interesting that when he left Bethuel he left with happy feet, a spring in his step, but here he will leave with a limp.

Jacob Wrestles with God (32:24–32)

(Genesis 32:24 NKJV) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

Emptying

Jabbok (32:22), means emptying, and this is where Jacob will be emptied of himself. He was saved twenty years ago (Gen 28), but he still had much (if not mostly) the old man, the carnal man, the self-made man in him that needed to be emptied and dealt with..... so as to become the father of the nations.

Ephesians 4:20–24 (NKJV)²⁰ But you have not so learned Christ, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²² that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Imagine Jacob trying to sleep knowing that Esau was a great hunter, as with every big game hunter someone who know how to move by stealth, knowing every twig crackle, using shadows, and tree and rocks for covering, and covering scent, all the way to the point that if the prey knew he was there, it was too late. By the time prey heard the whisp of the arrow through the air, the next sound was a thump, and vital organ. Try as Jacob may..... No rest, and the stage is set.

I wonder how the Lord made first contact in this physical wrestling match.....no matter how, I would think Jacob starts the match with high anxiety, heart pounding ready to beat out of his chest.

The God Man

The Man, was the God Man, Jesus Christ. The Man was the one that Jacob saw at the top of the ladder: *(Genesis 28:12 NKJV)* Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

I like that it says the man if we were writing as we're viewing the account, we don't know who this man is until a few verses later which would be possibly a few hours later in the account and then it's none other than the God man Jesus Christ. But I think there's a power here as I remind myself that we get to live in

the present with the knowledge of the future. that we know in the middle of our wrestling, we know in the middle of our trowels. We know there's a God who meets us, speaks to us, delivered us, guards us. At a yet future time, which could be a minute later, an hour later, or 20 years later. But the man Christ Jesus.. Is the God man who understands all of our weaknesses, all of our temptations. It shows up in the midst of them, even when we haven't even come to the realization that he's there. Oh, I give thanks for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Afraid to be Alone

I think we are afraid to be alone. I think we almost can't stand silence and therefore we always have to have some screen in front of us or some type of sound in front of us. And there's a place that we see just like here in Jacob that God will move all the pieces to get us alone. He's been waiting on this and working on this, I believe, for 20 years now, since Bethel to get Jacob into a place all alone just him and the Lord and it's a beautiful place when God gets you alone. And I hope you can settle into it. I hope you can look forward to entering into it. And you know, sometimes our time alone isn't necessarily like this one night alone with the Lord. It might be what we call sanctified loneliness. The God just gets you alone for a season because he wants to speak to you during this season. He wants to speak a lot of things to you during a season and bring you out. At the end of that season, a totally changed man or woman. But then there's always these moments like this where God just wants to get you alone and it could be even right here and right now, even though you're in the midst of a crowd of people that he gets you alone, that he can speak to you. And as we'll see, wrestle with you, that he can do something great in you

Psalm 46:10-11 (NKJV)¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! ¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

(Genesis 32:25 NKJV) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

Get Dusty / Close Combat

אבק (avaq) — Wrestled

•Found in Genesis 32:24 (Heb. v.25) — “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled (אבק) a man with him...”

•The root אבק literally refers to “getting dusty” or “engaging in a struggle that stirs up dust.”

•The imagery is of intense, close combat — a deeply personal struggle.

Pops Hip / God Knew / God Purposely Hurts him

God pops Jacob's hip out. God knew what it would take to break him, He knew exactly what Jacob needed. God knows exactly what we need, what it is for our best interest. Here we will see that God purposely hurts him. Yes, see it, the God of Love personally hurts him, personally inflicts pain upon Jacob

Ran Esau / Ran Laban / Last Resource Run / Can't Run

Jacob had escaped Esau the first time by running, he tried to escape Laban by sneaking away, but here God removes that option, pops out his hip and Jacob has exhausted his last resource, his last fail-safe option. Jacob always knew, he could run. Jacob cannot run, he cannot be reliant on his planning and plotting now, he must become reliant on the Lord.

Sometimes God Allows Pain / Slow Down – Get Attention / How Could He?

Sometimes pain in our lives does come from God, he allows it into our life. Sometimes He will do this to slow us down, to get our attention, to break us of something that needs to be rid of in our lives. To bring us closer to Him; how could a God of love allow this, do this to us, verse 26:

(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

Bless Me / Never Asked Before

Jacob says you can not leave me until you bless me. Jacob begs for a blessing; notice, something he had never asked for before, let alone begged for. Hosea 12:3-4 is the commentary on this event:

(Hosea 12:3 NKJV) He took his brother by the heel in the womb, And in his strength he struggled with God.

(Hosea 12:4 NKJV) Yes, he struggled with the Angel and prevailed; He wept, and sought favor from Him. He found Him in Bethel, And there He spoke to us;

Spiritual Examination – Prayer Life

Hosea 12 said that after God broke this carnal man, this carnal man became a man of prayer. He turned and learned prayer here in this moment. And you know, if you want to evaluate yourself on how am I doing spiritually, one of the greatest self examinations you can do is how's my prayer life. Am I praying, not thy will, but your will be done? Are we praying to the Lord to show up and do a work? Are we praying to the Lord to do a work in us? Are we interceding for those around us? Are we facing these situations in life through prayer or through our own means and intellect. I think one of the greatest ways that I see how I am doing spiritually, and it comes and goes and seasons is my prayer life. The depths of it or the shallowness of it. And here, Jacob became a man of prayer after he was broken. and give thanks to the Lord when you become broken and it leads you to become a man or woman of prayer.

Jacob Crying – Begging

Jacob is surely not the one in control here, like he has God in a back breaker and Jacob is saying bless me or I'll make it hurt more, there is no tapping out. Jacob is crying, begging, and pleading. Jacob had to be broken, and God breaks him here.

Don't Want to Live Without You

What's he saying when he says, I will not let you go. until you bless me. He's saying, "Lord, I don't want to let you go. I don't want to live without you ever again. I don't want to do any of these things without you again. Oh, what a beautiful moment that we have here. He's not asking for this prosperity. He's asking for the person. I don't want you to go. I don't want to be apart from you and alone from you ever again. What a beautiful place when we ask the Lord that in our life. Lord, I don't want to go alone. I want to wake up with you tomorrow. I want to lay my head down with you tomorrow. I want to walk with you through the day. I want to experience your presence and I want to experience intimacy with you. I love your touch. I love your care. Even when you have to break me. Even when you have to put me and hobble me because of my pride, I still would take that over being whole and walking by myself and my ways and walking alone in my will in my ways. I'd rather hobble through life and lean upon you. Then walk straight, upright, yet all alone.

(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Owning Up to Name / Isaac Asked / Jacob Finally Admits

The Lord is having Jacob own up to his name, Jacob what is your name? Sound familiar, his father Isaac said what is your name, you feel like Esau, you smell like Esau, but you don't sound like him, what is your name, and Jacob said it is your son Esau. God is making Jacob own up to his name, which means heel catcher, more literally translated to be schemer and conniver. Jacob here finally admits to who he really is; I am Jacob, a schemer and conniver.

Jacob Comes Clean / Now God can Work

He comes clean and God says new name, Israel, which means, "Governed by God". When you see yourself for who you really are, see it in your heart and not just your head, then God says now I can work with you, I can make you who I want you to be.

Given in Genesis 32:28 — "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel (יִשְׂרָאֵל), because you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed."

- The name is connected to the root שָׂרָה (sarah) — "to strive, contend, or rule."

- The new name marks a transformation in Jacob's identity: from "heel-grabber" (supplanter) to one who contends with God.

The Blessing – Was the New Name

Do see here what the blessing ultimately was to Jacob? It is the new name, identifying the new nature, a man who going forward (though God still has work to do in him) will be governed by God, u

(Genesis 32:29 NKJV) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

(Genesis 32:30 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

What Your Name / Show Me More / Live to the Knowledge /

Jacob asks God His name, but God says you know. You know, and now you will live according to your knowledge. That is a word for us, we know who we have had a personal encounter with, and it cannot continually be show me more, show me more, but God says live today according to the knowledge you have, walk in my way. God said to Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

2 Faces

פְּנִיָּאֵל / פְּנוּאֵל (Penuel / Peniel) — Face of God

- Genesis 32:30 — "Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.'"

- The name combines panim (face) and El (God).

פָּנִים (panim) — Face

- Seen in Genesis 32:20 (Heb. v.21) — "I will appease him with the present that goes before me; and afterward I will see his face."

- Also in Genesis 32:30 (Heb. v.31) — "I have seen God face to face (פָּנִים אֶל-פָּנִים), and my life is preserved."

- The repetition of face ties together Jacob's fear of Esau and his encounter with God. Jacob seeks Esau's favor, but first must confront God.

(Genesis 32:31 NKJV) Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

(Genesis 32:32 NKJV) Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which is on the hip socket, because He touched the socket of Jacob's hip in the muscle that shrank.

Limped – but touched by God

So he limped, for he was broken by God, or if you have experienced such a moment, you don't see so much the brokenness, but that you were touched by God.

Shank Today

Still to this day the Jewish people do not eat the shank of an animal. To them it means that is the place that Jacob was touched by God. I wish today the Jewish people would read this story, and they themselves say I want to experience what Jacob did, I want to see you God, I want you to touch me. I wish Christians would do the same, I wish we all would say I want to see you Lord, I want to be touched by you, even if I have to wrestle through the night, it would be worth it to see you and be touched by you.

The Morning with Kids / Walk Never be the Same

I wonder what the morning must have been like as Jacob came limping to his family. The kids would ask, daddy what happened to you, are you all right, and Jacob would say I am fine, for last night I met with God, face to face, and my walk will never be the same.

Need this Staff / Constant Reminder / Children would Know

Every step I take, I will need to lean on this staff, and it will be a constant reminder to me that I will need to lean on the Lord, I will need to be governed by God. As the years would pass the children would see and know that the key to their fathers life was leaning upon the Lord. Parent your Christian kids will

remember, it will be your legacy, of how you were governed by God, or not governed by God. It won't be how big your portfolio was, how high on the corporate ladder you climbed, they will remember how much you were governed by God.

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

Leaned on Lord / Cleaver – Intelligent – Charisma / Self-Made / They will Fail – Draw Me

Jacob leaned on the Lord, not his cleverness, his intelligence, nor his charisma, but the Lord. Jacob had all these traits, any major corporation would love to have him, but God said Jacob you are too self-made, too self-sufficient, I am going to have to break you so you will lean upon me. You see your intelligence, charisma, they are so puny in comparison to me, so I will have to let you fall, fail, and break so you will abandon those things, so you will draw from Me, from My strength, from My wisdom, My power. You will be Israel, governed by God.

Maybe You are Hurting / God Concerned Eternal State – Than Present Comfort

Maybe you are hurting tonight and want God to take the pain away. Listen Christian, God is more concerned about your eternal state than your present comfort. God will inflict, break you, in order to develop you and strengthen you into the man or woman that is governed by God.

Sometimes Only Suffering / Get in Pin Position

Sometimes it is only suffering that will work out the things of ourselves, and work in the things of God. We can know things in our heads but they have yet to take root in our heart. It is always best that when God shows up in His wrestling suit to immediately get in the pin position, but sometimes we just can't see it, until He inflicts that pain upon us, gets our attention, slows us down.

We Suffer not Alone

When we do suffer, we are not alone in our suffering, Christ also suffered;

(1 Peter 4:1 NKJV) Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

(1 Peter 4:2 NKJV) that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

Jesus Passionate about Us / Broken for You

Jesus said I am so passionately in love with you, care so deeply about you, that I too was broken, not for me, but for you. When times are tough, times are hard, go back to the communion table and take the broken bread and see the body that was broken for you, partake of the cup, the heart that bursts for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Wordplay

Genesis 32 is rich in Hebrew wordplay that underscores:

- The themes of confrontation, transformation, and divine encounter
- Jacob's transition from fear of Esau's face to seeing God's face
- A shift from human scheming to divine striving (from Jacob to Israel)

Jacob Sees Esau Approaching (33:1–3)

(Genesis 33:1 NKJV) Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were four hundred men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and the two maidservants.

(Genesis 33:2 NKJV) And he put the maidservants and their children in front, Leah and her children behind, and Rachel and Joseph last.

(Genesis 33:3 NKJV) Then he crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

Rachel was last, we see Jacob's favoritism here towards Rachel.

Customary for Kings

Jacob here playing the peacemaker; bowing seven times before a person was customary in those days as a person would bow seven times before a king.

Unbelief is such a thief cause unbelief always keeps saying, what if in adding a scenario, the challenges, the belief and faith, unbelief is such a thief.

Imagine this..... reverse everything.....and first to meet Esau, with everything else behind him, was Jacob! It's about me and you brother, I come to you first..... Deal with me as you wish, as I trust that I am in the Lord's hand now.

Esau and Jacob Reconcile (33:4–7)

(Genesis 33:4 NKJV) But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.

(Genesis 33:5 NKJV) And he lifted his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, "Who are these with you?" So he said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant."

(Genesis 33:6 NKJV) Then the maidservants came near, they and their children, and bowed down.

(Genesis 33:7 NKJV) And Leah also came near with her children, and they bowed down.

Afterward Joseph and Rachel came near, and they bowed down.

The language of reconciliation

•The chapter describes Jacob's meeting with Esau after their long estrangement. The verbs and emotional terms convey genuine vulnerability and emotion.

•וַיָּרָץ עִשָּׂו לִקְרָאתוֹ (vayyāraṣ 'ēšāw liqrātō) — "Esau ran to meet him" (Gen 33:4)

The verb וַיָּרָץ (ran) conveys eagerness and emotion, reminiscent of the father running to the prodigal son (Luke 15:20 — interesting parallel).

•וַיִּפֹּל עַל-צַוְּאָרְיוֹ (vayyipol 'al-šāw'ārāw) — "and fell on his neck"

This expression appears in other deeply emotional reunions in the Hebrew Bible (e.g., Joseph and Benjamin in Gen 45:14).

Esau Peaceful / Proverbs 16

Interesting reaction of Esau here; twenty years ago he wanted to kill Jacob, but here we see Esau running to Jacob, kissing his neck, and crying. Esau was so softened here, so gentle and kind to Jacob. Did God visit him in a dream, maybe but the word doesn't say so. What I am reminded of is:

(Proverbs 16:7 NKJV) When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Jacob Insists on Giving His Gift (33:8–11)

(Genesis 33:8 NKJV) Then Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company which I met?" And he said, "These are to find favor in the sight of my lord."

Grace Before Man / God the Game Show Host / He is Looking to Bless / Free Lunches

Jacob is trying to find grace before man, so he sends all these things ahead. He has the mindset that if I do this this and that, then maybe I will get a favourable reaction from Esau. You know for the longest time that was my relationship with the Lord. I thought I could earn His favor, His grace. If I do this this and that, then He will be pleased with me and want to bless me. I literally was making God out to be some Game Show Host. Precious people we don't have to make deals with God to something from Him. Now God doesn't wink at sin, but that is for our protection. But He does want to bless us, His grace is unmerited, unearned favour. So often we think it is something we have to do before we can receive something from Him. I have to go to church, I have to pray, I have to read, etc before He will bless me, it is not so, He loves us because we are His kids and He really wants to bless us. We have been conditioned that there are no free lunches, but truly there are with the Lord:

(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Grace - God's Riches at Christ Expense. Look what Esau says:

(Genesis 33:9 NKJV) But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself."

Esau Picture of Flesh – Says Don't Need It / How Much more God Says that

Esau is a picture of the flesh, and he says keep it, I don't need it. How much more does that apply to our Heavenly Father: God says for us to boldly come before the throne of grace, come and expect a blessing from Him He is saying to us:

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

When Blow It / Satan's Lie / Ask Forgiveness – Dust Off – Move On / Son - Daughter

When we have blown it, come to Him. Don't fall for that lie of Satan that God won't receive you. This is so hard for us, but God says come. When we blow it, ask for forgiveness, then dust yourself off and say lets put this behind us Lord and move on. Come to Him as a son, as a daughter, and say Father I need you, and claim the promise - boldly come.

Freedom Biblical Christianity / Religions based on Performance

This is the freedom of Biblical Christianity; all other religions are based on your performance, and places it on your responsibility. That is why someone will strap explosives on themselves and pull the cord, or cut themselves, or knock on 10,000 doors, pray 3 times a day, fast for the month, because they can never rest, because there is no grace offered.

Not responsibility but Grace / Grace Makes us Respond

Christian it is not responsibility but grace, and it is that grace that makes us respond. Our hearts want more of Him, therefore we want to read, we want to pray, we want to fellowship, we want to tell others, we are willing to sacrifice; for it is not I have to, but I get to. God you are so good to me.

(Genesis 33:10 NKJV) And Jacob said, "No, please, if I have now found favor in your sight, then receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me.

(Genesis 33:11 NKJV) "Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." So he urged him, and he took it.

So Esau finally takes it.

Favor

Repeated use of favor/grace language

- Jacob repeatedly speaks of Esau's favor:

- מָצָאתִי חֵן בְּעֵינָיֶךָ (māṣā'tī hēn be'ēnêkā) — "I have found favor in your eyes" (Gen 33:10, 15)

- The Hebrew word חֵן (hēn) = favor, grace, acceptance — a key term that signals Jacob's deep desire for reconciliation and peace.

Divinely Meditated

Theological language

- When Jacob refers to seeing Esau:

- כִּי עַל-כֵּן רָאִיתִי פָנֶיךָ כְּרֹאֵת פְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים (ki 'al-kēn rā'itī pānêkā kir'ot penê 'elohim) — "For I have seen your face as one sees the face of God" (Gen 33:10). This parallels his experience in chapter 32 (Peniel = face of God), indicating Jacob interprets this reconciliation as divinely mediated.

I think one of the greatest prayers we can pray when there's this interpersonal conflict between people is that God you would mediate and God that you would win because of God wins then all parties win and here we see a win for he saw and Jacob together.

Here is great counsel in every interpersonal mediation, ask that the Lord mediates, and ask that "He wins". For when God wins, everyone will win.

Esau Offers to Accompany Jacob (33:12–16)

(Genesis 33:12 NKJV) Then Esau said, "Let us take our journey; let us go, and I will go before you."

(Genesis 33:13 NKJV) But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are weak, and the flocks and herds which are nursing are with me. And if the men should drive them hard one day, all the flock will die.

(Genesis 33:14 NKJV) "Please let my lord go on ahead before his servant. I will lead on slowly at a pace which the livestock that go before me, and the children, are able to endure, until I come to my lord in Seir."

Seir is in Edom, it is not in the Promised Land.

My Lord

Subtle honorific and deferential speech

- Jacob consistently calls Esau אֲדֹנָי ('ādōnāi, my lord) (e.g., Gen 33:8, 13, 14)
- He refers to himself as עֲבָדְךָ ('avdekā, your servant)

This repeated deferential language emphasizes humility and the desire to pacify Esau.

(Genesis 33:15 NKJV) And Esau said, "Now let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "What need is there? Let me find favor in the sight of my lord."

(Genesis 33:16 NKJV) So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir.

They Reconcile / Look at Esau's Actions – Stuff – Kiss – Help / Great Guy

So here we see a beautiful ending to this story, Jacob and Esau are reconciled. But consider this, Esau doesn't want Jacob's stuff, he kisses him, and he wants to help his return home; Esau here is just really a nice guy, a kind, friendly, a really great guy. Yet in Hebrews we read God's view of him:

(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

Picture of Flesh – Doomed / The Nice People Around Us / Esau no Desire of Things God

Esau is a Biblical picture of the flesh, God points him out as a picture of the flesh, a doomed and damned man. We have Esau's all around us, neighbours, friends, family, they are so nice, so friendly, a class act, and in many many cases they are nicer and treat us better than other Christians do. But the fact is they are still separated from the Father because of their sin, their sin has not been dealt with. As nice as Esau was, we see him heading back to Seir in Edom, he doesn't go to the Promised land because he has no desire for the things of the Lord.

Verse 9 – Verse 11 / God Looking to Bless – Humble People / In the Church

Back to our point on grace. Notice that in verse 9 Esau says I have enough, but in verse 11 Jacob speaking of his riches says that God has been gracious to me. People, God is looking for people to bless, for people who know it is all because He has been gracious. People who know it is all from Him, and nothing to do with me. I'm not talking name-it claim-it, but recognition of the God of All Grace. Let's apply that especially here in the church, God moves so powerfully in Churches that recognize that it is all Him. It is a death sentence to a Church when a Pastor thinks it is something to do with him, when a worship team's stops worshipping and starts performing. God moves where He receives all the glory.

Why is God Like This / Everything is Flawed

Why is God like that? Why will He not share His glory? Is He a glory hog? No God will not share His glory with any man because if people look to anyone other than God they will be hurt, they will be disappointed, they could even be destroyed. Every government, political system, person, or program is flawed because man is flawed by sin. Everything is flawed except God, and therefore that is where man will find his all-in-all.

Jacob Journeys to Succoth and Shechem (33:17–20)

(Genesis 33:17 NKJV) And Jacob journeyed to Succoth, built himself a house, and made booths for his livestock. Therefore the name of the place is called Succoth.

Unequally Yoked

Now here is the separation. The Spirit reveals to Jacob what Paul has told us, do not be unequally yoked:

(2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

(2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

(2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

(2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV) "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Marriage – Business / Marriage – Manual – Plans / Jacob Separates

We are not to be unequally yoked in marriage, in business partnership. If you put a yoke on an oxen and a horse you are going to have problems. Believer marry an unbeliever and your life will be filled with pain. Go into business partnership with an unbeliever and your business will experience problems. A close friend of mine from Bible College entered into a business partnership and his partner robbed him blind – I couldn't understand how a college graduate could question God's wisdom. Singles, don't do it, no matter how lonely you get, don't do it. Even if they are as nice as Esau, a polished and gem of a person, don't do it. They are not working from the same manual, they have a different plan for life than you do. Esau was a doomed and damned man, and Jacob separates himself from him.

(Genesis 33:18 NKJV) Then Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, when he came from Padan Aram; and he pitched his tent before the city.

Place names

- סוכות (Sukkoth) — meaning booths or shelters (Gen 33:17)
- שָׁלֵם (Shalem) — means peace or whole (Gen 33:18), possibly indicating Jacob's arrival in a state of peace after years of conflict.

(Genesis 33:19 NKJV) And he bought the parcel of land, where he had pitched his tent, from the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for one hundred pieces of money.

(Genesis 33:20 NKJV) Then he erected an altar there and called it El Elohe Israel.

In Promise Land / Shechem Evil Place / Major Trade

Shechem is technically in the Promised Land, but it was an evil place, it was a carnal place. Notice that he pitches his tent before the city, reminds us of Lot. Shechem was an ancient and important fortified city, situated between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim at the intersection of the major trade routes through central Palestine, this reflects so much of Lot in Sodom.

Back in Land / Not Totally Obedient

Jacob has, now, come back into the land; but, is still not totally obedient for God had said to return to the land and to his family.

(Genesis 31:3 KJV) And the LORD said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee.

Isaac in Hebron

His family is some eighty miles away. We will see in Genesis 35 that his father Isaac is Hebron. Hebron is about 20 miles south of Jerusalem. Shechem to Hebron is about 80 miles.

(Genesis 35:27 NKJV) Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.

(Genesis 35:28 NKJV) Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.

(Genesis 35:29 NKJV) So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Jacob Builds Altar / To Obey better

Jacob builds an altar, he makes a statement, but he really isn't where he should be. The Lord says to us that obedience is better than sacrifice:

(1 Samuel 15:22 NKJV) Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

His disobedience became costly.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 34-35

Title: Be a Separate People

Summary: We will be looking at Jacob stopping short of God's will of where he should be, and he will reap the consequences and his whole family as well in one of the most disastrous stories of the Bible with the violation of his daughter, Dinah. But Jacob will use that horrible circumstance to get himself up and get going to where God had called him to go and be, and get things right between him, his family, and the Lord. A great passage for all of us, especially when we think God's grace has an expiration date on it.

The calling to us to be separate from the world:

2 Corinthians 6:11–18 (NKJV)

¹¹ O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your *own* affections. ¹³ Now in return for the same (I speak as to children), you also be open. ¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *"I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."* ¹⁷ Therefore *"Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."* ¹⁸ *"I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."*

To "come out from among them" should be an automatic reaction in view of the above reasoning. Still, Paul used the aorist imperative to issue his call for separation to indicate urgency. His words are from Isaiah 52:11. Once they leave the world behind, God's children should then touch no unclean thing. If they "come out" and "touch not," the Lord will receive (eisdexomai, here only in the New Testament) or welcome them.

Harris, R. W., ed. (2009). *Romans–Corinthians* (p. 565). WORDsearch.

We are told as Christians to touch not the unclean things. Satan can only take advantage of you and your personal life through sin. He can't take advantage of you when you're obedient to the word of God. It's when we compromise into a place of sin that he has a foothold to take advantage and manipulate the situation. He can't take advantage of you when your mind is clear and sharp,

- but he can take advantage of you when your mind is under the influence of too much alcohol. He can't take advantage of you when you set yourself apart to be pure before the Lord,
- but he can take advantage of you and start pulling the strings of your emotion and your mind when you enter into the impurity things of life, such as dating an unbeliever or clicking on a website that is totally against the word of God.

Satan can only take advantage. when sin is present. He cannot take advantage of you when holiness is present.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

(Genesis 34:1 NKJV) Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.

Young Girls / Curiosity / Looks Entertaining / Don't Go

Now there's a time gap between chapters thirty-three and thirty-four because at the time that they had left the land of Padanaram, Dinah was less than six years old. And now she comes into the story at this point and obviously is older than that.

Oh you young girls, heed this passage. Dinah sees and hears what is going on in this place, and she goes and checks it out. The resultant is that she is defiled, violated. There are places that we as children of God need not go to. Don't let your curiosity; the trinkets and bobbles draw you to places you should not be. Shechem was an evil carnal place, and it was not where someone from the family of Israel (governed by God) was to be. So many things look so entertaining, they draw our appetite of the flesh, and we think we can go without any consequences, but this is what Satan wants to do through them, defile and violate you. Don't go to Shechem, don't go see the daughters of the land. That goes for you to guys.

Dinah's looking to see what the daughters of the land are doing and this is what they're doing and we're going to read after the deception of Reuben and Simeon. And after they go, and kill all the men of Shechem, we're going to find that Dinah was still there. In the house of Shechem. She had never left or she returned. because this covenant hadn't been settled, and therefore, she hadn't been given to Shechem. It was all a deception. And so the point is, she goes to Shechem, and she sees where Shechem girls were doing. And here she is, seduce and taken in by force.

But in a place, you shouldn't have ever been. Not that that excuses Shechem's action by any means. But surely, doesn't excuse Jacob and Leah for not being one together on the matter and go, "No, we don't want you going there. We know what the daughters are Shechem are like. That's why. I went all the way to Haran to find my wife. That's why your grandfather Abraham sent the servant all the way to Haran to find a wife for your grandfather, Isaac.

Mind you that Dinah is the daughter of Leah, and she would have witnessed that. her perception of intimacy was these occasional visits by Jacob. She never witnessed a family. living together. portraying what, love was, instead, all that she recognized was separation. She saw her mother, desperate for love and to be loved, and there she is. She seems to be following the same footsteps of her mother.

The City Isn't to Change Us – But Us Them

A city isn't to change us, a job isn't to change us. We are to change the city. We are the change the job workers. We are to change the neighbourhood. We are to change the youth sports community that our kids are part of or whatever our kids extracurricular is. We are called to be change agents, not to be changed by the world

(Genesis 34:2 NKJV) And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her and lay with her, and violated her.

(Genesis 34:3 NKJV) His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.

(Genesis 34:4 NKJV) So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."

(Genesis 34:5 NKJV) And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter. Now his sons were with his livestock in the field; so Jacob held his peace until they came.

Jacob Outnumbered

Jacob probably outnumbered so he keeps quiet until the boys come back from the field.

(Genesis 34:6 NKJV) Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

Father to Father Talk / Doesn't Think it is Wrong - Unregenerate People

Father to father talk. Notice on father does not think anything wrong has happened. Unregenerate people can do the most horrible things to you, and they just continue on in everyday life not even thinking they have hurt you.

(Genesis 34:7 NKJV) And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.

Brothers Enraged

The brothers become enraged because of the defilement of their sister.

(Genesis 34:8 NKJV) But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife.

(Genesis 34:9 NKJV) "And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves.

(Genesis 34:10 NKJV) "So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it, and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."

(Genesis 34:11 NKJV) Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give.

(Genesis 34:12 NKJV) "Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife."

Notice Different Value - the World / How Much for a Rape / Good for Business

Again notice how the world puts a different value on the things that are sacred to us. How many goats and chickens equal one rape they are asking. Besides merging our families will be great for business and the local economy.

The Scheming Begins

So now Jacob's boys start their scheming for revenge:

(Genesis 34:13 NKJV) But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

(Genesis 34:14 NKJV) And they said to them, "We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a reproach to us.

(Genesis 34:15 NKJV) "But on this condition we will consent to you: If you will become as we are, if every male of you is circumcised,

(Genesis 34:16 NKJV) "then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

(Genesis 34:17 NKJV) "But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."

(Genesis 34:18 NKJV) And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

(Genesis 34:19 NKJV) So the young man did not delay to do the thing, because he delighted in Jacob's daughter. He was more honorable than all the household of his father.

Buy Into It / Circumcision - Cutting Away the Flesh / Good for the Flesh

Now Shechem has to get everybody else to buy into it. Amazingly other grown men are going to say ok, circumcision, sounds great. Circumcision was an example of the cutting away of the flesh, but in this case since it had no spiritual meaning, it was the things of the flesh that would talk them into it. Hey it is going to be good for business, and we will get their woman too.

(Genesis 34:20 NKJV) And Hamor and Shechem his son came to the gate of their city, and spoke with the men of their city, saying:

(Genesis 34:21 NKJV) "These men are at peace with us. Therefore let them dwell in the land and trade in it. For indeed the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters to us as wives, and let us give them our daughters.

(Genesis 34:22 NKJV) "Only on this condition will the men consent to dwell with us, to be one people: if every male among us is circumcised as they are circumcised.

(Genesis 34:23 NKJV) "Will not their livestock, their property, and every animal of theirs be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will dwell with us."

Prosperity will be Ours / Worth the Pain / OT vs Family

Notice all this will be ours, livestock, property, and their woman. Prosperity will be ours. It's worth a little pain to get that much prosperity. People do that still today, so I'll sacrifice all these hours at work, won't see my family, but it will be worth it for all the prosperity to come.

(Genesis 34:24 NKJV) And all who went out of the gate of his city heeded Hamor and Shechem his son; every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

(Genesis 34:25 NKJV) Now it came to pass on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, each took his sword and came boldly upon the city and killed all the males.

Took only 2

As they recover the attack came. It only took 2 men to kill them all.

If Out of Will of God – Do Same Things the World Does

So here is the two brothers going and doing this mass destruction upon these people. And now we see they're just as guilty and doing horrible things. as what Shechem did in the beginning. It was one man Shechem, yet they take revenge against the whole city. And we see a great point here, and all of us have to be wary of it because we could all be taken into it when you are out of the will of God. And that's what Reuben and Simeon are out of the will of God and what they're doing. going to take a whole city and destroy all of them and then take their possessions and their women and children, the very thing that appalled them, they are surely not in the will of God, and here we can find ourselves that when we're not in the will of God. we can be reacting and acting just like the world does. The very things that we would be appalled of if we read it or watched the news or put it up in a prophecy update. If you're out of the will of God, you could find yourself doing the same things with hatred, with bitterness, with resentment, with vengeance, with revenge, with destruction, with gossip. We all must be careful. Are we in the will of God for what we're doing?

Important to Know the Will of God

It's so important for us to know the will of God, and it just staves off problems in the future When we know what the will of God is, we're obedient to the will of God, even when we want to act in the flesh, but we let the will of God have its way. It just keeps us from so many problems. Well, how do I know what the will of God is, you may say? Well, here we are studying the will of God, saying Lord speak to us right now. We might be in a situation like Simeon Rueben and Dinah right now and Jacob....Say, God speaking to us.

Slow down. As we always say, it's just that place, be still (Psalm 46:10) and know that I'm God. Let his word be a lamp unto our feet (Psalm 119:105). We can say, hey you say that all the time, but there's nothing really deeper that we have to say anymore.

Jesus didn't go to a seminar when he was in the garden. He went to prayer. He asked the Lord, "Is there any other way? Jesus is praying according to the word of God, and he's getting confirmation from the Father, that there is no other way. Jesus is praying. The Scriptures foretold that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin, the foretelling of Isaiah 53, the foreshadowing of Psalm 22 back to the whole beginning there in Genesis 3, and it was a lamb that was covered and slain to cover Adam and Eve's sin. Jesus prayed, in accordance with the Word, and God was confirming. And when Judas comes with the detachment of troops, the great commander in chief doesn't respond because He's not gonna let. their flesh get in the way of what the Spirit says needs to be done, because there was no other way. And when He standing with a bunch of religious hypocrites, slapping him in the face, if anyone should have been slapped in the face, it was them, but he wouldn't let. the flesh of man turn him into retaliation and the flesh. He knew the will of God, and he knew the spiritual call of what was before him and therefore He could complete the mission. and say it is done. And so too can we!

(Genesis 34:26 NKJV) And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem's house, and went out.

Dinah Still There

Dinah was still there; we don't know why Dinah returned (or she never left). It could very well be the shame that she felt she could never be wanted again because of what happened. And so here she finds herself returning to the place she knew she was accepted, even if it was in such a poor way, but I can see those first steps, how often they lead to a progression of shame, that then it becomes acceptable along the way.

(Genesis 34:27 NKJV) The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and plundered the city, because their sister had been defiled.

(Genesis 34:28 NKJV) They took their sheep, their oxen, and their donkeys, what was in the city and what was in the field,

(Genesis 34:29 NKJV) and all their wealth. All their little ones and their wives they took captive; and they plundered even all that was in the houses.

The Plunder

The rest of the family comes and takes the spoils.

(Genesis 34:30 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I."

Jacob Cared What World Thought

Here's what Jacob, and here's what happens when you run the wrong place. You start getting affected by the wrong things and principles. And here he is, all he cares about is what the community going to think of and what the people around him are going to think of him. It's like. He's not caring. What does the Lord think about this? What is this going to pass on to the generations of my sons and daughters and grandchildren of what just happened? He just immediately comes and he looks at himself. And it's a sad place to be. He wrestled with the Lord at Bethel. He saw the Lord face to face in Penuel. But he couldn't make the full journey back down to Hebron, where he was told to go to meet Issac.. The place of fellowship is what Hebron means. And here he is carrying more what the world thinks than what God thinks, who wrestled with him and saw face to face and broke him. And so too. how many people with their actions can be more concerned what the church thinks and what's the people at work are going to think of these type of things rather than, what do you think about these things that have happened?'

Because we don't think what God thinks or cares what God cares, we will never call upon the name of the Lord, and never seek a change. We'll never ask Him in to come and make a change in what just happened in the situation. But there's a place when you come and you're willing to die to yourself and your reputation, because God's glory and God's honor is at stake, and you call upon him. Oh, that you might be glorified and not shamed. Tell me what to do, what not to do and there you'll find power when your life goes that I might bring you glory, but I might do these things to bring you glory. And when I'm as shamed you, convict me, give me strength and help me to repent and face up to my wrong. so that I can let everybody know what's wrong and what's right before you

The World Should Stink to Us

We care that we stink in front of the world we should care more that the world stinks in front of us and we shouldn't be surprised that the world thinks we stink because of our faith. Jesus said marvel not that the world hates you, for they hated me, and the stench that we put off our brother Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit says, it's because we have the fragrance of life for those who want life in the Spirit of God, and we have the fragrance of death for those who don't want to repent and bow the knee to the great I am Jesus Christ.

John 15:18–20 (NKJV)¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

2 Corinthians 2:14–16 (NKJV)¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?

Should Have Called a Prayer Meeting

Jacob is worried about the retaliation that's gonna come what he should've done immediately should've called the whole family together. Should've called the whole family together after the news of the defilement and have a prayer meeting. But he didn't. What he should have did right here after this butchery, he should have called the whole family together, all the wives, all the children, all the servants, and had a prayer meeting calling upon the name of the Lord. who in finding help in his time and need. And that's what we need to do when life's events come upon us, call a prayer meeting with your family. with friends that you have. Husband, wife, draw together, pray together, bring the kids together. Don't let prayer be so distant that you can't have a prayer meeting. People think it odd that you do make it routine, even so make it daily call upon the name of the Lord and find help in time of need. A God who says, call to me and I will answer you. Show you great and mighty things what you do not know.

(Genesis 34:31 NKJV) But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a harlot?"

Jacob Upset / One Step / Rationalize It / Moving form Center of God's Will

Jacob is upset with his sons, but Jacob has to consider this, he was the one who placed his tent facing this evil city. Often that one step of disobedience compounds into a major issue. We step out of God's will and start to do our own thing and even though we may rationalize it, it is disobedience to God's will for us. Incomplete obedience, that failure to submit your life to the will and plan of God, can lead to all kind of problems and to disasters such as happened to Jacob. You will find yourself in situations and wonder how you got there; but, it all began with moving away from the center of God's will.

No Place for Gods Kids / Always Ends up in Trouble

There are places where you and I, as a child of God have no business being. If you go into those places, you are stepping out of the purpose and plan of God for your life and you can find yourself enmeshed in all kinds of tragic situations just because you're where God doesn't want you to be. Look at all the trouble that Samson brought upon himself every time he ventured into the land of the Philistines, which was the camp of the enemy. He always ended up in trouble and it finally ended with his death.

Think You are Strong Enough / Clubbing

You may think you're strong enough to go and that you just go to watch and not participate. You want to see what they do.." We have no business being in those type of places and this kind of rationale doesn't work. The moment you step into the enemy's territory and out of the will of God, you're opening the door and you can be sure you're going to be facing some major problem. Just a note, you young Christians that think you can go to bars and nightclubs and it is not going to effect you, you are being greatly deceived, either by Satan, your flesh, or your friends. I know of no bars that have helped Christians grow deeper in their knowledge and love for their Lord.

You Strong - Kids Not / Parents Don't be Shocked / Evil Places - Immorality Flaunted

You may think you are strong enough, but you might just be setting your kids up. Jacob allowed his kids to check out the things in Shechem, he was the one who allowed his daughter to visit the daughters of Shechem. Parents don't be shocked when you find out defilement has taken place, or when you hear terrible things have happened to your children, because it could be because you allowed your kids to go places that you knew in your heart were evil, where you knew immorality was flaunted, and the things of God were not respected.

Parents take Stance / Teach Them to Go Against Flow / Daily Battle no Rest / Joshua 24 - Me and My House

Mom and dad take a stance, encourage and teach your kids to be different. Lead them and teach them how to go against the flow. Stand against the "that is just our culture" attitude, against the "that's where all the kids go". This battle is daily, there is no rest for us. We must be aware of what they are watching, where they are going, who they are hanging with, Shechem is just outside our doors. Teach them to go against the flow, it doesn't matter if everybody is going there:

(Joshua 24:15 NKJV) "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Legalism / Pastor - Chaplain Experience / Be Firm /

You may say I am being legalistic, overbearing, what about that grace I just spoke of. Listen I am talking from experience of Pastoring this church, and I am telling you from being a police chaplain; There are Dinah's in our family who are wondering what the daughters of Shechem are up to, and they go, and they get sucked in. We have to be firm for our kids, because the school and community is not going to look out for them.

Teen Places - Just Make a Buck

There are places in the county that are promoted as "places for teens", but I can tell you they are places that adults see a great place to make a buck, and they have no care if the kids are entering into immoral and damages things. I can tell you from talking to the kids that there is drugs and alcohol there. The management there turns a blind eye because they get 5 dollars a kid at the door, and they don't care where the kids go once the parents drive away.

Stand in the Gap

Yea we look like the bad guy when we say no you are not going there, but if you don't stand in the gap for them, who will:

(Ezekiel 22:29 NKJV) "The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger."

(Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV) "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

Be Bad Guy / Give Alternative / Sacrifice / That's a Bondservant

Be the bad guy, but provide an alternative for them. It may mean you don't get that night off, but that is the life of a bondservant, and that is what you are.

Peer Pressure upon the Parent

Hey parents, we always talk about our kids and their peer pressure. Don't you think for a moment that you're not affected by peer pressure and I mean the peer pressure that the children bring when they put the pressure on you. Saying but all the kids are going here. All the kids are going to be there. You suffocate me. You're legalistic. You put me into a prison, and then the peer pressure comes across, and upon the parent and they yield to it, and they let their child go to a place that they know. It's not of the Lord. It's a place their kids shouldn't be. The first level of peer pressure, fortification needs to be the parent, and I'll tell you, parent, it can't be the day of the prom. It has to be the years leading up to the prom, or that call of what we know will come their way. We need to be investing in them today and we can't just say don't go here. We have to provide them a place for them to go somewhere that is wholesome and be part of it and sacrifice whatever it may be. But the fortification of peer pressure, we need to be that first level, yes, at some point, they're going to have to become their own person making their own decisions. But we guard them until they're old enough, mature enough in the things of the Lord and the knowledge of the Lord, that they've grown in wisdom and the knowledge of the Lord, to make these wise decisions.

(Genesis 35:1 NKJV) Then God said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of Esau your brother."

Glad for these Words – Arise & Go / We Promise / But He Says – Arise & Go

I'm glad to hear these words of the Lord to Jacob, they minister to me – Arise and Go. We all have been to Succoth and Shechem, after our conversion that is. How many times we have been there when we

promised and vowed to Him that we would never go back there again. But then, there we are again, and what does He say to us? His words of love to His precious children – Arise and go to Bethel. Ohh what a picture of grace, what a picture of love. He is so worthy of praise, so worthy of our all in all, for He is so good to us. His mercy, grace and love abound to us:

(Psalms 103:8 NKJV) The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

(Psalms 106:1 NKJV) Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.

(Lamentations 3:22 NKJV) Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

(Lamentations 3:23 NKJV) They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

Church Ephesus

The Lord speaking to the Church in Ephesus He said:

(Revelation 2:4 NIV) Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

Times to go back / Putting Everything Aside / First Saved

There are times for all of us to go back to that place. I think for many it just putting everything aside, the business of life, the works of ministry, the squeezing it all together, and just go back and sit with Him, fellowship with Him, back to the basic, back to the day we got saved. When I got saved things were simple, I love you Lord, I love just being saved and nothing else matters. This Word is fresh fruit to my soul, I love talking about you and telling people about you. Maybe that's you, your walk has become work, cut those things loose and just go back to Bethel.

Jacob Back to Bethel / Luz to House of God

God calls Jacob back to Bethel, where Jacob saw the ladder, and saw the connection between god and man, heaven and earth - Jesus Christ (John 1). That place was called Luz, but Jacob changed it to "House of God". God says come on back to where we began, Arise and Go.

(Genesis 35:2 NKJV) And Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments.

(Genesis 35:3 NKJV) "Then let us arise and go up to Bethel; and I will make an altar there to God, who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me in the way which I have gone."

(Genesis 35:4 NKJV) So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hands, and the earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem.

Jacob Knew Idolatry

Jacob knows what's going on. And now he's facing it. He's gonna use this. great catastrophe in their home to turn things around. He knew they were worshipping and following after false gods. They probably picked them up, not just in Laban, but they picked them up here and She where they're living. And Jacob says, put them all away. Destroy him. Separate from the unclean things. Don't let them become part of you.

Picked Up Trinkets Along the Way

They had picked up all these trinkets of the heathen nations around them, beginning back in Padan Aram when Rachel stole her father Laban's idols. Now Jacob says we are going to the House of God, these things have got to go.

Doesn't say I'm Done with You / Jacob Responds

God doesn't start verse 1 off with that is it, I'm done with you, I'm going to work this thing out with someone else, you had your chance Jacob, instead God says Arise and Go. God meets Jacob even in his disobedience and says Arise. Jacob responds to God's goodness:

(Romans 2:4 NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

We Respond

When we experience His goodness and mercy, it is no longer I got to, but I get to, I'm going to, for Lord you are so good to me, how can't I respond to such love and grace.

God Invites Whole Family – All their Problems

Notice the Lord invites Jacob and his whole family to Bethel. He invites them with all their problems, all their stinkiness, even their terrible reputation (Genesis 34:30):

(Genesis 34:30 KJV) And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

God says come Jacob, come with all your problems. God says that to us today, got problems in your family, bring them all to me.

Buries at the Tree / Picture of the Cross / Bring it All to the Cross

Verse 4 - and Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree which was by Shechem: Jacob buries them under the tree there at Shechem. The tree is a picture of the cross, and God says bring all your failings, all the things you idolize, all the things that put you in bondage, all the things that take you away from the Lord, and bring them to the cross. Confess them, bury them, and move on from them, and move on to fellowship with the Him.

Give God a Christmas Gift / Posters – Magazines – Links – CD's

Hey Christian you want to give a Christmas gift to God this year, go through your house and gather all those things that draw you away from the Lord and bury them at the bottom of the dumpster. Is it those posters in the garage, those magazine in the chest, those Favorite links on the internet, those CD's that feed your flesh, take them to the tree and bury them. Merry Christmas Lord, amazingly, that is a gift to Him, because He wants to see His children doing well.

May Need Piece of Paper / Looks Different on Paper

You may need to get that piece of paper out and write them down, and then throw them in the fireplace, or run them through the shredder. It is interesting what your sin looks like on a piece of paper, in front of you. Maybe it is gossip, bitterness, lust, hatred, put it on a piece of paper and have it look you right in the eye and that sin looks a whole lot different to you. Take it to the tree, bury them there, and move on to the House of God.

Not Just Penalty – But Power

Remember Christian, Jesus did not just go to the cross for the penalty of sin, but also to give us power over sin:

(2 Peter 1:2 NKJV) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

(2 Peter 1:3 NKJV) as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

(2 Peter 1:4 NKJV) by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

(2 Peter 1:5 NKJV) But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,

Moral Excellence

Virtue means “moral excellence”, and that is you saying these things have got to go, excellence is the mark I am going for.

Don't Sell Them

Just a note, those trinkets that Jacob buried were worth money in that evil and immoral town of Shechem. Jacob could have sold them and had a treat like Starbucks for the road, but notice that Jacob buries them there. Good example for us, when you clean up the music library, that magazine rack, that wardrobe, don't sell it to someone else so they can be sucked into those things, bury them at the bottom of the dumpster.

As For Me and My House

I love Joshua and the declaration that he makes to the nation and his family, as for me and my house, we choose to serve the Lord. Do you make that declaration in your home?

Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

(Genesis 35:5 NKJV) And they journeyed, and the terror of God was upon the cities that were all around them, and they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

(Genesis 35:6 NKJV) So Jacob came to Luz (that is, Bethel), which is in the land of Canaan, he and all the people who were with him.

Never Out of His Grace – But Sometimes Peace

Verse six notice that we are never out of the grace of God and notice God's great grace in Jacob's life will never be out of the grace of God, ...but we can surely be out of the peace of God, because of the situations that we put ourselves in, where we're not obedient. And you can be in the hardest situation and be there because of obedience that God called you to a place to stay. And in the midst of the hardest place, not only will you have the grace of God, holding you and ministering to you and being your help in time of need, but even in the hardest of place, you can have the peace of God, because you know you're in his will.

God's Protection / Get Moving / No Man – Gov't - Pgm

We see God's protection upon them. God said to them go to Bethel, so if God said that to them, then they will make it there. If God has told you to do something, then get moving and do it, don't worry about the people around you and what they may say or try to do to stop you. No man, government, or program can stop the plans that God has for your life, only you can by you sin of disobedience.

(Genesis 35:7 NKJV) And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.

El Bethel / Not looking for Place – But God

Now he calls the place "El Bethel". So it isn't just the house of God, it is now the God of the house of God. We see a mark of growth for Jacob. Jacob isn't just looking for the place, he is now looking for the God of that place.

Not Church / Calvary Chapel & Word / They are Doors

I think that is important for many Christians. It isn't the church, it is the God of that church. I see too often people are so into their church, they put more emphasis on the church than the God of the church. The same is for the Bible, so again be careful those in Calvary Chapel's; it is not the Bible, it is the God of the Bible. The Bible, the Church, they are doors to bring you before the Lord. The Bible is opened so we can have a dialog with Him. It is not to read about Him, but to meet Him. When you open your Bible, start with establishing in your mind that you are opening this Word to meet with Him. It is the same with Church, yes we come to fellowship with each other, but we come to church to meet with Him. They are doors we go through to come meet and fellowship with Him. We need to be reminded of these things, and when we remember them, they will take on a whole new meaning to us. If not, then it will be easy to be drawn away from church, and to be drawn away from the Word.

(Genesis 35:8 NKJV) Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse, died, and she was buried below Bethel under the terebinth tree. So the name of it was called Allon Bachuth.

Jacob's Nanny / Special Bond / Sad Times in Good Places

Deborah was Jacob's Nanny, she was Rebekah's his mother's nurse/servant. Deborah and Jacob had a special bond I am sure. You know Believer, sad times do happen even when we are in the House of God, even when we are where we are suppose to be.

(Genesis 35:9 NKJV) Then God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Padan Aram, and blessed him.

(Genesis 35:10 NKJV) And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.

God Reaffirms the Name / You are Still my Man / God Reminds Us

God reaffirms to Jacob that you are still my man. You use to be a schemer and a conniver, but I have given you a new name, you are/will be governed by God. I love it when God does that to me, when I am feeling down, worthless, a master at failing, and the Lord comes and speaks to me through His Word, a message of a Teacher, in my prayer time, and He reminds me that I am still His boy, and that He has plans for me. He is a good God.

The Plateau

Verse 9 Padam Aram means plateau and there's a place that we can plateau (level out) in our walk, and stay there for years, maybe even decades. And then God does something or allows something. And then he takes us to a new height and a new place and takes us off of that plateau and takes us into the deeper, higher ground with him. That's what He's doing in Jacob right now.

We can reach a place that we're not even excited about the things of God. They're just routine. It's all just a flat plane at this point. Nothing excites us or takes us higher. When once we used to be so excited about the Word of God, we used to be so excited about fellowshiping. We used to be so excited the opportunity to serve in any way. And then they all just became a plateau. A routine, and nothing took us higher.

(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

Be Fruitful & Multiply

Be fruitful and multiply Verse 11, I love the beauty of this in that all I have to do is abide (John 15). It's not up to me to produce the fruit. Acts chapter 2, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they spoke in tongues. But it wasn't the tongues of the unknown heavenly language. It was the tongues, of known languages. Known amongst the world, and the gift of tongues was so that the gospel could be proclaimed and declared clearly to everyone to understand. the fruit that we bear's a spiritual fruit, not just a reproductive fruit of offsprings, but spiritual offsprings, as we're abiding in him, as we're in the place that we should be, that we've moved on and higher from the flat plane that we once were, and the joy of the Lord overflowing us, the fruit of the Spirit that's in us, of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness and self-control that people can come and pick of and worship the Lord who gives freely these things and they can partake and taste, what God has put in and given to us because we simply abide with him. And there's an overflowing because we worship. There's an overflowing because the word of God has its free course. There's a fruit that comes because of our fellowship. There's a fruit that is just presence because he's present in our life. because in his presence, his fullness of joy, and when we are walking in this place with him, the joy is overflowing and being fruitful, multiplying to the ends of the earth *John 15:4 (NKJV)⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

Replay of Genesis 17 with Abraham

Does this sound familiar, it should, it is a replay for Jacob's grandfather Abraham:

(Genesis 17:1 NKJV) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

(Genesis 17:2 NKJV) "And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

(Genesis 17:3 NKJV) Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying:

(Genesis 17:4 NKJV) "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.

(Genesis 17:5 NKJV) "No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

(Genesis 17:6 NKJV) "I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

(Genesis 17:7 NKJV) "And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

(Genesis 17:8 NKJV) "Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

El Shaddai / Might & Nurture

And so as the Lord appeared to Abraham, so does He appear to Jacob and told him that He was the Almighty God or El Shaddai. This is the first mention of "El Shaddai", "Almighty God" in the Bible. "El" comes from the word that means "the strong arm". It is a word for masculine might. It gives the picture of a mighty God saying I will see you through, I will uphold you. The word "shad" is breast in Hebrew and is the place of life and nourishment for the babe. So, God is telling Abraham that He is the place of his life and nourishment and that Abraham is dependent upon Him.

Be Fruitful – Great Nation – King of kings / The Land

God tells him to be fruitful and multiply, that he will be a great nation, that kings shall come from him (and we know the promise to the lineage is that the King of kings shall come through them), and then God tells him that the Land will be his descendants forever.

(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

A Word on the Land / America – Prez Bush

A word on the land, notice the "land which I gave"; it is God's land, for He owns the world so He owns that piece of land we know as the Promised Land which comprises Israel and then some today. He gave it to Abraham, then He gave it to Isaac, and then He gave it to Jacob – Israel. God renews the covenant with Jacob. Now I do love America's support for Israel, the way they bless and protect Israel, stand beside them when no one else does, and stand up for them. But I do worry for our country when we start meddling with whose land it is, when we start trying to broker peace for Israel by dictating to them to give up some of the Land to the Palestinians. President Bush needs to remember that the land belongs to God, and He gave it to Israel and his descendants. It would be wise for him not to try to force the nation Israel's hand into giving pieces of it away. Let the leaders of Israel decide what they will give up or not give up, but keep America out of giving it away, and keep focus on blessing them, for God will bless those that bless them:

(Genesis 12:3 NKJV) I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

(Genesis 35:13 NKJV) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.

(Genesis 35:14 NKJV) So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it.

Symbols of Jesus & Spirit

The drink offering was wine. So here we see the symbols of the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit. We see the trinity here of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is power in the blood, and there is power in the Spirit:

(Zechariah 4:6 NKJV) So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts."

(Genesis 35:15 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

(Genesis 35:16 NKJV) Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor.

(Genesis 35:17 NKJV) Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, "Do not fear; you will have this son also."

(Genesis 35:18 NKJV) And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin.

(Genesis 35:19 NKJV) So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).

Why Leave Bethel / Be in House of God

Ephrath is Bethlehem. But the question has to be asked, Jacob why would you leave the House of God? Why would he take a pregnant wife on such a journey. When he was only a little distance away from the

House of God his beloved wife dies. You know Christian when hardship comes in our lives, we want to be in the House of God for it is there that we can be comforted by the wine and the oil, the blood and the Spirit.

People Leave / People Drift / Death in Family

I know the Lord calls people on, and we miss them, but know God is working in their life. But I hate it when I see people leave fellowship, drift away to nowhere, and in many cases, there is a death in the family (in a spiritual sense), as they quit fellowshiping with the Lord, they forget the wine and the oil, they dry up and die. Christians stay where the wine and the oil has been poured out.

(Genesis 35:20 NKJV) And Jacob set a pillar on her grave, which is the pillar of Rachel's grave to this day.

Rachel Dies in her Desire

I remind you back to that day when Rachel was jealous of her sister Leah and her 4 kids and she grabs Jacob and says give me children or I die:

(Genesis 30:1 NKJV) Now when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister, and said to Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die!"

(Genesis 30:2 NKJV) And Jacob's anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, "Am I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?"

Christian Careful what you Crave

You know Christian the very thing you crave or desire may be the very thing that kills you. High School girls just got to have that boy, singles just got to be married, just got to have that job, just got to have that home, those very things may be the very thing that leads you down the wrong path, away from God, into destruction or ruin.

Be Content

We must be as Paul said to be, learn to be content in all things:

(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Rich Symbolism

Notice such rich symbolism when Israel comes back to the land, the blessings follow when the altar is established and not the altar of a temple, but the altar of the worship of Jesus Christ

Rachel dies in Bethlehem, where the sheep for the temple would be raised and therefore examined by the rabbis that only perfect sheep could go to the temple for sacrifice. Migdal-Edar, we've read the watchtower. where they would watch over the lamb. And then here's where Rachel dies and she bears a son who has dual meaning. She calls him son of Sorrow, but Jacob calls him Son of my right hand, and here we see Jesus, a man acquainted with sorrow, but he is seated now at the right hand of the throne of God, living to make intercession for you and I. Praise God. Let's do communion.

Micah 4:8 (NKJV)⁸ And you, O tower of the flock, The stronghold of the daughter of Zion, To you shall it come, Even the former dominion shall come, The kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem."

Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Romans 8:34–35 (NKJV)³⁴ Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

(Genesis 35:21 NKJV) Then Israel journeyed and pitched his tent beyond the tower of Eder.

(Genesis 35:22 NKJV) And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

Jacob Silent / Idols – Dinah – Slaughter Shechem - Concubine

You know sometimes silence is golden, and sometimes silence is just plain ole wrong. We have seen the silence of Jacob over his lifetime, and his family pays for it. Jacob was silent when:

- Rachel stole the idols from Laban. It is many years later before he says out they go.
- Jacob was silent when Dinah went to Shechem, we don't read of him forbidden her to go to such an evil place.
- We see him silent when his sons are scheming the evil plan against the men of Shechem, and then silent from stopping them from doing it.
- And here he is silent again when his son Reuben does such a horrible thing like this, sleeping with his own father's concubine. In chapter 49 he will rebuke their deeds, but is silent here.

His Silence Began in Padan Aram / Abraham – Spiritual Directness

I suggest to you that his silence all the way back in Padan Aram, when Rachel stole the idols was a pattern he never broke, a stance he would never take. His father Abraham gave us the best example with Lot, Abraham exercised "spiritual directness" he went to Lot and said the situation is not good, there is too many of us and not enough land, we need to do something. We need this in our families, our friendships, and in the church.

Tell Our Kids / Be Direct with Family – Church - Friends

We need to tell our kids, this is wrong, I don't care how much of a fight it costs us, for silence can lead our families the way of Jacob's. Our friendships in the church and elsewhere, too many friendships are ended because people are silent, and things get misunderstood and people leave each other upset. Talk, silence isn't always golden.

(Genesis 35:23 NKJV) the sons of Leah were Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, and Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun;

(Genesis 35:24 NKJV) the sons of Rachel were Joseph and Benjamin;

(Genesis 35:25 NKJV) the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's maidservant, were Dan and Naphtali;

(Genesis 35:26 NKJV) and the sons of Zilpah, Leah's maidservant, were Gad and Asher. These were the sons of Jacob who were born to him in Padan Aram.

The 12 sons of Israel, which make up the 12 tribes of Israel that will be important for us to know as we study the history of Israel, and End Times Prophecy.

(Genesis 35:27 NKJV) Then Jacob came to his father Isaac at Mamre, or Kirjath Arba (that is, Hebron), where Abraham and Isaac had dwelt.

(Genesis 35:28 NKJV) Now the days of Isaac were one hundred and eighty years.

(Genesis 35:29 NKJV) So Isaac breathed his last and died, and was gathered to his people, being old and full of days. And his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

So here we see the death of Isaac. We see Jacob and Esau together to bury their father.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 36

Title: The Legacy of the Life of the Flesh (Nothing)

Summary: God puts these words before us, this genealogy of Esau, so we can see that the works of the flesh all end in nothing. In the end the flesh ends up with nothing, the flesh fades and withers. Esau's lineage had the kingdom, the power, and the glory. The three things man in his flesh want, yet in the end, ends with nothing.

Lineage of Esau / Drops Off

Chapter 36 is the lineage of Esau. The Bible gives us this lineage here in 36 and then it drops off, like all other linkages in the Bible, except the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for from that Lineage will come the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Kidding Me / All Scripture Given

You may say you have to be kidding me, study the genealogy of Esau; but remember all Scripture is inspired of God:

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Read Your Bible - Key to Revival / God has a Word for Us Here

Read your Bible, it is the key, and it will produce revival in your heart, and we need a revival in our heart every day, therefore we need to be in this Word morning-to-morning, day-to-day. God has a word for us on every page of this Bible, in every chapter - even in the genealogies. Inspired means "God breathed". God has breathed life into every word written to us, God has laid these words here for our benefits, our blessing, our revival.

Could have been Me / Doomed - Empty - Barren / If not for Him

For me, I look at this lineage of Esau and see a life that could have been. A life that was doomed and empty, and not even realizing it, had it not been for His grace, mercy, and love reaching down from heaven to touch me. Before He could reach down, He had to come down, that is a God of love, that He would come for me, a sinful man. He touched me, He opened my heart to the things of God, He showed me the vanity of this world, and how it is just a vapour.

Esau Picture of Flesh / Demands Satisfaction - Now

Esau is a picture of the flesh in the Scripture; and illustration of the fleshly appetite, the carnal nature. The flesh, that part of a person that demands satisfaction, and demands it now. I want, what I want, and I want it now. Whether it is some sin or some subtle deal, the flesh rises up and says give it to me - NOW!

Sold Birthright / Gave up Spiritual Leadership / No Desire Spiritual Things

Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of beans. That birthright, which gave a double portion to the eldest son upon the death of the father; but more so, when the father died the eldest son was to assume the spiritual leadership of his father's family. Esau had no desire for the spiritual things of God, he only had his focus on the current things of the world. God called him a doomed man:

(Hebrews 12:16 NKJV) lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

(Hebrews 12:17 NKJV) For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

We see his life, and offspring's of his life:

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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- What Does He Want Me to Do?
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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Outline: Genesis 26

- The Genealogy (Legacy) of Esau: What Will Your Legacy Be (36:1)
- Esau Changes the Names of His Wives: But They Are Still the Same Person/Results (36:2-3)
- The Family (Legacy) Expands: The Flesh is Prolific/Grows (36:4-5)
- Esau Leaves the Land of Canaan: Sometimes Someone has to Leave (36:6-7)
- Esau the Father of the Edomites and King Herod: Flesh Wants to Silence the Witness of Christ (36:8-9)
- The Lineage of Amalek: Be Careful of Lagging Behind (36:10-12)
- The Chiefs of Esau: The Flesh Loves to be the Chief and Head (36:13-16)
- The Horites (Cave Dwellers): The Flesh Loves the Shadows of Darkness (36:17-30)
- The Kings of Esau: Who Truly has the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory (36:31-43)

The Genealogy (Legacy) of Esau: What Will Your Legacy Be (36:1)

(Genesis 36:1 NKJV) Now this is the genealogy of Esau, who is Edom.

The Legacy

Verse one it says who is Edom what they really telling us is the father of the Edomites, the whole family line comes from this one man. And what a legacy that's left because it's not a good legacy at all. And all I can say to a moment and a dad today, you can still change your legacy. You still have today to change your legacy. and sometimes we think we're too far down, there's too many years into our legacy. But that's even greater because you can have the legacy that said even after all this, after all these years, after all these failures, oh my, what God has done, what great things God has wrought.

I think it just takes a bold step of a bold statement to a bold God that you ask I wanna legacy that glorifies you

Esau Changes the Names of His Wives: But They Are Still the Same Person/Results (36:2-3)

(Genesis 36:2 NKJV) Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan: Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite; Aholibamah the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon the Hivite; (Genesis 36:3 NKJV) and Basemath, Ishmael's daughter, sister of Nebajoth.

Genesis 26 & 28

We saw these marriages as we have studied through. Esau took 3 wives.

*(Genesis 26:34 NKJV) When Esau was forty years old, he took as wives **Judith** the daughter of Beerli the Hittite, and **Basemath** the daughter of Elon the Hittite.*

(Genesis 26:35 NKJV) And they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah.

(Genesis 28:6 NKJV) Esau saw that Isaac had blessed Jacob and sent him away to Padan Aram to take himself a wife from there, and that as he blessed him he gave him a charge, saying, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan,"

(Genesis 28:7 NKJV) and that Jacob had obeyed his father and his mother and had gone to Padan Aram.

(Genesis 28:8 NKJV) Also Esau saw that the daughters of Canaan did not please his father Isaac.

*(Genesis 28:9 NKJV) So Esau went to Ishmael and took **Mahalath** the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebajoth, to be his wife in addition to the wives he had.*

Unequally Yoked / Duet 7:3 - 2 Corinthians

God and his family (Genesis 26:35) did not want him taking the daughters of the Canaanites. God will reaffirm that to the Children of Israel, and Paul reaffirms it to the Church:

(Deuteronomy 7:1 NKJV) "When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you,

(Deuteronomy 7:2 NKJV) "and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them.

*(Deuteronomy 7:3 NKJV) "Nor shall you make marriages with them. **You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.***

(Deuteronomy 7:4 NKJV) "For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the LORD will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly.

(Deuteronomy 7:5 NKJV) "But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

(Deuteronomy 7:6 NKJV) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth.

*(2 Corinthians 6:14 NKJV) **Do not be unequally yoked together** with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

(2 Corinthians 6:15 NKJV) And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

(2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV) And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

(2 Corinthians 6:17 NKJV) Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

(2 Corinthians 6:18 NKJV) "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

Flesh Does it My Way / Sinatra

But we see the flesh, Esau, has to do it his way. The flesh always sings the Frank Sinatra song - I did it my way.

Changes their Name / Tension in Home

Strangely, we see Esau changed all their names. He brings these Canaanite woman home and his godly parents Isaac and Rebekah do not like it at all, and the tension begins. No different today if/when we see our kids hanging out with unbelievers, we know the potential is for them to go down hard, and so the battle begins for who they hang out with, and eventually marry.

3 wives - 3 name Changes

So Esau marries two Canaanite woman, and then He remembers that Uncle Ishmael has daughters and goes marries one of them, and changes her name. So three wives, three name changes.....very strange. The flesh makes you do strange things.

They Become

So Esau brings them home, Isaac and Rebekah are not pleased, so He changes their names:

- Adah becomes Basemath
- Aholibamah becomes Judith
- Basemath becomes Mahalath

It could be vice-versa for I am not sure which name was first; we can trace the name change based on whom their fathers were. We can track the name change of the father of Aholibamah from *Beer* to Adah for verse 24 deciphers that for us; Beer means spring or well, and we see that he was the founder of "hot springs", so he changed his name to get credit for it, kinda of like when someone discovers a star or new disease, they name it after them so they get credit for it.

Aholibamah - Tent / Temple Prostitute - Sexual Religions / Serve at Temple /

So Esau marries these gals and he his parents are not happy so we see him changing their name: Aholibamah means tent in the high place. She then was a temple prostitute. Near each temple was a tent that is where the woman would go serve their god. The pagan religions are very steeped in sexual immorality and drug use - of course they are because the flesh enjoys those things, so man makes religions based on their perception of god, which is based on their wants and desires. So temple prostitutes would serve at the tent, men would pay for the services and the money would go into the temple treasury. They would use the sex to get more converts.

Priestess Dressed up Name / Judith - Girl next Door / Meet Mom & Dad

Aholibamah was a priestess, which was a dressed up name for a prostitute, and to be one she would have to be beautiful and seductive. Her name is changed to Judith - isn't that a nice girl next door name. Imagine a man bringing the future wife home to meet the parents, mom, dad, this temple prostitute, or better, this is Judith the girl next door.

Adah to Basemath / Basemath to Mahalath

What is weird is that he changes the name of Adah to Basemath, and then he ends up getting a Basemath, so he can't have two with the same name so he changes the real Basemath to Mahalath. Esau is full of the full of the flesh, so I wonder if he was thinking about the second when he married the first and then changed her name to meet his thoughts. Strange, strange, strange. Here is crazy, he has two Basemath's! So it appears to me he takes Adah and calls her Basemath..... because he is dreaming about the real Basemath. Hey.... If you are daydreaming about someone other than your spouse, you are setting your marriage up for failure.

Why Change Name / More Palatable / Adultery - Fornication - Sodomy - Drunkard

Why change their names, because that is what the flesh does. The flesh changes the name for sin (for marrying these was rebellion to parents), so he changes their name to something that is more palatable, for that is what the flesh does. We no longer call it adultery, we call it an affair, for adultery is too harsh and sounds legalistic. Fornication is a fling, or he's a stud, living together. Sodomy is now gay, an alternative lifestyle, significant other. Drunkardness is now a disease. The flesh wants to dress these things up and make them more acceptable.

Alcoholism - Sin Problem - Not Disease / Bottle - Approve - Advertise - Acceptable / 100%

Drunkardness, he's an alcoholic, he has a drinking problem, he has a disease, it is no longer a sin problem, but that person is now a victim of a disease. Now if that be the case, alcoholism is the only disease in the history of mankind that can be bottled and sold for profit, pushed on the billboards and television commercials, and has gained government approval and is socially acceptable. It is also the only disease that you have 100% guarantee assuredly that if you don't crack that seal you will never have that disease. It is not a disease like cancer or leukaemia, it is exactly what God calls it, sin.

Culture Changes the Name - More Acceptable / God Opened Our Eyes

Our culture changes the name to make it acceptable, more palatable, for that is what the flesh does, that is what Esau did. But thank God for He opened our eyes up to that deception, and gave us a way out through His Son.

(Ephesians 1:17 NKJV) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

(Ephesians 1:18 NKJV) the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Sickness

Now Esau has two Bashemaths. So we see him change the original Bashemath's name in 28:9 to Mahalath. Mahalath literally means "sickness." Why would Esau name her this? Because he's getting ready to take a third wife. The flesh still does the same thing today, evidenced whenever someone says, "I'm going to brand my spouse as one who makes me sick, who is incompatible, who is emotionally abusive, so I can move on to someone else."

The Family (Legacy) Expands: The Flesh is Prolific/Grows (36:4-5)

(Genesis 36:4 NKJV) Now Adah bore Eliphaz to Esau, and Basemath bore Reuel.

(Genesis 36:5 NKJV) And Aholibamah bore Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah. These were the sons of Esau who were born to him in the land of Canaan.

Flesh Expands - Reproduces / Sowing - Reaping

Read through this genealogy and you will see the obvious, the flesh expands and reproduces. Esau has offsprings. The works of our flesh will reproduce:

(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Sow - Crop will Come / Imagine If we Had Continued / Sowing Sin Greatly Reduced

Sow the seed and the crop will come up. Imagine if we continued in that life of sowing bad seed, where would we be at today. I think I might be dead, I really do, drunk driving or something like that. I wonder what number marriage I would be on. We still sin, but our sowing bad seed is greatly reduced because of Him, He opened the eyes of our understanding.

God's Protection

And I think there's something to be said that though he (Jacob) was away for 20 years, there was probably a divine protection for him by not being mixed up in the very same house with Esau, bringing these women home because we read when the deception happened that Rebecca went and got his clothing and put it on Jacob to bring the scent to the smell of Esau before Isaac. So it appears that Esau is living in home with a tent next door with these Cannanites wives that he grieves his parents' heart with.

Esau Leaves the Land of Canaan: Sometimes Someone has to Leave (36:6-7)

(Genesis 36:6 NKJV) Then Esau took his wives, his sons, his daughters, and all the persons of his household, his cattle and all his animals, and all his goods which he had gained in the land of Canaan, and went to a country away from the presence of his brother Jacob.

(Genesis 36:7 NKJV) For their possessions were too great for them to dwell together, and the land where they were strangers could not support them because of their livestock.

Leaves Promises - Get More Stuff / Flesh Refuses to Wait on Lord / Spends Lifetime Filling

Esau leaves the Promised Land of his father; that is what the flesh does, it leaves the Promises of God for more fleshly stuff. The flesh wants it now, and refuses to wait on the Lord and the good things He promises His children if they obediently wait. The flesh will spend a lifetime trying to fill up with possessions.

(Matthew 16:26 NKJV) "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Lived Outside Promised Land / Where Flesh wants to Dwell

Esau lived in Edom, which is outside the Promised Land. That is where the flesh always wants to dwell, outside the things and promises of God.

Takes His Kids Out for More \$

Esau takes his kids out of a promised land. Why? To make more money. Jacob brings his kids to the Promised Land out of obedience. And so believes in disobedience. Because financial well being was more important. Give me a bull pottage. Now, he passes the pottage onto his kids, just satisfy your flesh. first prosper your body. Don't worry about it the spiritual things

God Gives us Contentment / It was Bondage / Never Knew-Trust God take Care of Me

We as born-again, regenerated, God has given us contentment in Him. We are not driving to go chase after those things. I remember it, it was bondage and slavery. I never had rest in my finances because I never knew that God would be there to take care of me.

(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Now I can Rest / Not a Slave / God will Provide

Now I can rest and say this is what I have, so this is what you want me to have. I don't trust in my bank account, I can trust in God. September 11th proved that to anyone in the stock market. We are not a slave to the chase of possessions; all we have to do is stay in the Promised Land and know that God will provide.

Conquer Jordon/Petra

Esau's gonna pick his family up and move out of the land. We'll read in Deuteronomy and he's going to conquer the area that we know as Jordan today, as far down as the region of Petra, and probably because the possessions of the land wasn't enough to sustain both of them for their riches and prosperity of their cattle and slaves, and servants,

Someone has to Leave

Chapter 36 verse 6 here we see the Lord really is protecting Jacob by sending Esau on and away that keeps his influence from Jacob is his family and I think sometimes the Lord does that, but I want to address to some and many. We can find ourselves in a place that we want the Lord to do it and then we'll stay going Lord I need you to remove this person from my life because I don't have the means and the ability and the strength and the desire to separate myself from them and we put it on the Lord. If you don't do it, then I can't and I won't and that's just not faith and that is not spiritual. That is not obedience. If you're in some place with somebody doing something that you know you're not to be with and where the Lord would speak to you right now separate yourself from them at whatever the price and I will say that even if you have to leave your job, even if you have to leave the comfort zone that you have grown to in whatever that thing is a recreation or some friendship. God may do you the favor and move them on and but God may be speaking to you right now. saying you need to separate out of obedience because if you don't separate out of obedience you will never convince yourself that you had the strength to overcome that influence in your life. And Satan knows how to come back to the well and he will come back and bring that person, place, or thing back because he knows you can't have victory over it in and over yourself and that's why you need to be the one who kills the Goliath through the power of the Lord

Esau the Father of the Edomites and King Herod: Flesh Wants to Silence the Witness of Christ (36:8-9)

(Genesis 36:8 NKJV) So Esau dwelt in Mount Seir. Esau is Edom.

(Genesis 36:9 NKJV) And this is the genealogy of Esau the father of the Edomites in Mount Seir.

Mixture of Ishmael – Horites – Edomites

We see that the Edomites, and this is important when we study through the rest of the Bible, and it refers to the Edomites. It is a mixture of Esau, the Horites, and the Ishmaelites. So we see this intertwining and intermingling of these three, and especially the predominance of Esau and Ishmael, and we see that in the Middle East today, and that's what makes it so hard when we look at the various geopolitical places, and we try to differentiate them precisely. Is this the line of Esau, is this the line of Ishmael? Are these the Arab people? Are these the non Arab descent, and the fact is they're all through and have this same bloodline together. So keep that in mind as we study prophecy today and scriptures today that there is not this very precise, definitive separation between the two. The only bloodline, which even at that, is not that we see today walking among us is probably the Israelites. the Jewish people because of their continual attempt to stay within the lineage. But of course, we know that that's not so absolutely either as Jewish men and women will marry non Jewish men and women.

Father of Edomites - King Herod / Sinful Lifestyle Kill the Messiah / John 3:19

Just one note, Esau is the father of the Edomites and King Herod. Historical writings trace King Herod back to the (Idumean/Edomites). King Herod will be the one who kills all the babies in Judah at the time of the birth of Jesus. This is the legacy of the lineage of Esau, what will be ours? Ever notice when someone is living a lifestyle of sin how they have to try to kill anything that represents Him. Ahh those people are a bunch of hypocrites, I'm not going to church. Oh my co-worker said they were Christian but I saw them get angry, they're a phoney. You're judging me, you're legalistic, and those things because they love their sin:

(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

How do you respond to them with their challenges of hypocrisy of Christians? Tell them, Jesus didn't say follow my people, follow Me!

John 10:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

Matthew 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

John 14:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Matthew 16:24–25 (NKJV) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

We have Freedom / We Run to Light / We want Kingdom Come / Flesh grows to be Herod

What freedom we have from the flesh, we run to the light; we are no longer slaves to those things. We say I know I am a sinner, and I thank you for ending my Savoir. I want your Kingdom to come, I want your will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Set up your Kingdom within my heart. Abide in me, and I in you. The flesh grows to be a King Herod, kill the Messiah so that my kingdom will never depart from me.

The Lineage of Amalek: Be Careful of Lagging Behind (36:10-12)

(Genesis 36:10 NKJV) These were the names of Esau's sons: Eliphaz the son of Adah the wife of Esau, and Reuel the son of Basemath the wife of Esau.

(Genesis 36:11 NKJV) And the sons of Eliphaz were Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, and Kenaz.

(Genesis 36:12 NKJV) Now Timna was the concubine of Eliphaz, Esau's son, and she bore Amalek to Eliphaz. These were the sons of Adah, Esau's wife.

Amalekites / Pickoff the Wanders / Don't Drift / Christian Go for It

Chief Amalek - The Amalekites were perpetual problems to Israel. See Deuteronomy 25; when the Children of Israel were wandering the wilderness, they would attack the people at the rear. They were the people who were tired, weary. The rear of the pack is a dangerous place to be church. The way back of the pack, the furthest from the tabernacle. You know, praying when you get around to it, reading when you get around to it, making church when you get around to it, be careful for that will drop you to the back, and Satan, the flesh will pick you off.

Hey Christian, go for it. Don't hang back in this Christian walk, go for it.

The Death of Saul

Verse 12, just to point out, the Amalekites, which will be one of the enemies of Israel. It will be a picture of the flesh and Saul, when he dies, he'll be put to death by an Amalekite, and we see that spiritual picture that if we don't put the flesh to death, the flesh will come and put us to death ultimately.

2 Samuel 1:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ Now when he looked behind him, he saw me and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' ⁸ And he said to me, 'Who are you?' So I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' ⁹ He said to me again, 'Please stand over me and kill me, for anguish has come upon me, but my life still remains in me.' ¹⁰ So I stood over him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them here to my lord."

The Chiefs of Esau: The Flesh Loves to be the Chief and Head (36:13-16)

(Genesis 36:13 NKJV) These were the sons of Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, and Mizzah. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

(Genesis 36:14 NKJV) These were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah, the daughter of Zibeon. And she bore to Esau: Jeush, Jaalam, and Korah.

(Genesis 36:15 NKJV) These were the chiefs of the sons of Esau. The sons of Eliphaz, the firstborn son of Esau, were Chief Teman, Chief Omar, Chief Zepho, Chief Kenaz,

(Genesis 36:16 NKJV) Chief Korah, Chief Gatam, and Chief Amalek. These were the chiefs of Eliphaz in the land of Edom. They were the sons of Adah.

Notice - These were the Chiefs

Notice in these next verses the repeated phrase, "*These were the chiefs*".

The Flesh loves to be in control, chiefs in your life.

The Horites (Cave Dwellers): The Flesh Loves the Shadows of Darkness (36:17-30)

(Genesis 36:17 NKJV) These were the sons of Reuel, Esau's son: Chief Nahath, Chief Zerah, Chief Shammah, and Chief Mizzah. These were the chiefs of Reuel in the land of Edom. These were the sons of Basemath, Esau's wife.

(Genesis 36:18 NKJV) And these were the sons of Aholibamah, Esau's wife: Chief Jeush, Chief Jaalam, and Chief Korah. These were the chiefs who descended from Aholibamah, Esau's wife, the daughter of Anah.

(Genesis 36:19 NKJV) These were the sons of Esau, who is Edom, and these were their chiefs.

(Genesis 36:20 NKJV) These were the sons of Seir the Horite who inhabited the land: Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah,

(Genesis 36:21 NKJV) Dishon, Ezer, and Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom.

(Genesis 36:22 NKJV) And the sons of Lotan were Hori and Hemam. Lotan's sister was Timna.

(Genesis 36:23 NKJV) These were the sons of Shobal: Alvan, Manahath, Ebal, Shepho, and Onam.

(Genesis 36:24 NKJV) These were the sons of Zibeon: both Ajah and Anah. This was the Anah who found the water in the wilderness as he pastured the donkeys of his father Zibeon.

(Genesis 36:25 NKJV) These were the children of Anah: Dishon and Aholibamah the daughter of Anah.

(Genesis 36:26 NKJV) These were the sons of Dishon: Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran, and Cheran.

(Genesis 36:27 NKJV) These were the sons of Ezer: Bilhan, Zaavan, and Akan.

(Genesis 36:28 NKJV) These were the sons of Dishan: Uz and Aran.

(Genesis 36:29 NKJV) These were the chiefs of the Horites: Chief Lotan, Chief Shobal, Chief Zibeon, Chief Anah,

(Genesis 36:30 NKJV) Chief Dishon, Chief Ezer, and Chief Dishan. These were the chiefs of the Horites, according to their chiefs in the land of Seir.

Notice - These were the Chiefs

Notice the repeated phrase, "*These were the chiefs*". **The Flesh loves to be in control, chiefs in your life.**

Horite Means Cave Dwellers

The Horites were cave dwellers, and that is fitting for sin and the flesh love to live and hide in the shadows.

(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Notice Reigned in His Place

Notice in these next several verses that the descendants of Esau became kings, long before Israel ever had kings. Notice the phrase, "reigned in his place".

The Kings of Esau: Who Truly has the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory (36:31-43)

(Genesis 36:31 NKJV) Now these were the kings who reigned in the land of Edom before any king reigned over the children of Israel:

Pride of Kings Before You

Look at the pride of the flesh, we had kings before Israel. We had kings before anybody knew, kings were the way to go. It's the sin of pride for thinking, that it's come up with something better than the people with your old way of thinking.

(Genesis 36:32 NKJV) Bela the son of Beor reigned in Edom, and the name of his city was Dinhabah.

(Genesis 36:33 NKJV) And when Bela died, Jobab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his place.

(Genesis 36:34 NKJV) When Jobab died, Husham of the land of the Temanites reigned in his place.

(Genesis 36:35 NKJV) And when Husham died, Hadad the son of Bedad, who attacked Midian in the field of Moab, reigned in his place. And the name of his city was Avith.

(Genesis 36:36 NKJV) When Hadad died, Samlah of Masrekah reigned in his place.

(Genesis 36:37 NKJV) And when Samlah died, Saul of Rehoboth-by-the-River reigned in his place.

(Genesis 36:38 NKJV) When Saul died, Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor reigned in his place.

(Genesis 36:39 NKJV) And when Baal-Hanan the son of Achbor died, Hadar reigned in his place; and the name of his city was Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel, the daughter of Matred, the daughter of Mezahab.

Notice Reigned in His Place

Notice the phrase, "reigned in his place".

(Genesis 36:40 NKJV) And these were the names of the chiefs of Esau, according to their families and their places, by their names: Chief Timnah, Chief Alvah, Chief Jetheth,
(Genesis 36:41 NKJV) Chief Aholibamah, Chief Elah, Chief Pinon,
(Genesis 36:42 NKJV) Chief Kenaz, Chief Teman, Chief Mibzar,
(Genesis 36:43 NKJV) Chief Magdiel, and Chief Iram. These were the chiefs of Edom, according to their dwelling places in the land of their possession. Esau was the father of the Edomites.

Family Reproduces - Wealthy - Powerful - Known in Land - Kings / Edom a Desert Today

From this genealogy we see that Esau's family produced kings. Esau's family was wealthy, they were powerful, they were known in the land. Known in the land of Edom; been to Edom lately, it is a desert, it is deserted, it is dry and barren, and lifeless. All those things that seem so great, the possessions, the power, the kings, and today nothing.

God gives us the Genealogy - To see it Fades / They had Kingdom - Power - Glory / Nothing

God puts these words before us, this genealogy, so we can see that the works of the flesh all end in nothing. In the end the flesh ends up with nothing, the flesh fades and withers. Esau's lineage had the kingdom, the power, and the glory. The three things man in his flesh want, yet in the end, ends with nothing.

Only 1 Place for Kingdom - Power - Glory

For there is only one place to find the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory.....Forever and Ever:

(Matthew 6:9 NKJV) "In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

(Matthew 6:10 NKJV) Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

(Matthew 6:11 NKJV) Give us this day our daily bread.

(Matthew 6:12 NKJV) And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

(Matthew 6:13 NKJV) And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

That is what Given to Us - Kingdom - Power - Glory / The Life that Could have Been

That is what He has given us, we get the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, that will last forever and ever, because it is in Him, and we are in Him and He is in us. The Life of Esau, what could have been.

Conclusion

Lets Read:

Romans 8:1–17 (NKJV)¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. ¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.*

Outline: Genesis 26

- The Genealogy (Legacy) of Esau: What Will Your Legacy Be (36:1)

- Esau Changes the Names of His Wives: But They Are Still the Same Person/Results (36:2-3)
- The Family (Legacy) Expands: The Flesh is Prolific/Grows (36:4-5)
- Esau Leaves the Land of Canaan: Sometimes Someone has to Leave (36:6-7)
- Esau the Father of the Edomites and King Herod: Flesh Wants to Silence the Witness of Christ (36:8-9)
- The Lineage of Amalek: Be Careful of Lagging Behind (36:10-12)
- The Chiefs of Esau: The Flesh Loves to be the Chief and Head (36:13-16)
- The Horites (Cave Dwellers): The Flesh Loves the Shadows of Darkness (36:17-30)
- The Kings of Esau: Who Truly has the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory (36:31-43)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 37

Title: The Life of Joseph: A Reflection of Christ and a Call to Faith

Summary: The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis is a powerful narrative that encompasses nearly 25% of this foundational text. While only one chapter is devoted to the creation of the universe, God chose to dedicate a significant portion to Joseph's life. This emphasis begs the question: Why? The answer lies in the profound truth that God desires us to know the Creator more than the creation itself. Through Joseph's life, we see a vivid picture of Jesus Christ, offering us deep spiritual insights and a call to unwavering faith.

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Only 1 Chapter for Creation / Evolution Counter / Nothing more to Say - I Am

What is more interesting to me is that only 1 chapter was given for the creation of man and the universe. I personally would have loved 25% of this book to be about Creation, so then I would be loaded with all kind of ammo to defeat the Theory of Evolution. But God's priorities are different than mine, and of course God's ways are better than mine, higher than mine. He just says. "In the beginning". He doesn't try to explain or defend His existence; that's how it was when Moses met Him on the Mount that day, who shall I say sent me, and God replies, tell them "I Am, that I Am." Nothing more to say, I Am, that settles it.

25% on Creation - Man still Doubt / Something Better - the Prophetic Word

You see God could have spent 25% on Creation, but man with his higher learner would question, attack, and twist all of that just like they do that 1 chapter. God gives man 1 chapter, and He starts with "in the beginning God". And, God says I will give you something that only God can give, I will predict the future, and if you are truly honest with yourself, and you are truly seeking me, you will know that "I Am, that I Am".

(2 Peter 1:19 NKJV) And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

(2 Peter 1:20 NKJV) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

(2 Peter 1:21 NKJV) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Reason Man Wont - John 3:19

The reason man won't believe, John 3:19:

(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

(John 3:21 NKJV) "But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Prove Existence - Still Sin Issue / Study Joseph Fascinating - Picture of Jesus / No Sin Record

You see you can prove God's existence all day, but that won't deal with the sin issue, it won't bring man back from prison to paradise. Only the Messiah, the Savior can do that, and that is why the study of Joseph is so fascinating, for we will see in so many ways Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ. This is called Biblical typology, and we have pictures of people and things that represent the spiritual realm, Joseph is a picture of Jesus. Joseph is only one of two major characters in the Bible that there is no recorded mention of their sin. Daniel is the other one; now this doesn't mean they were sinless, for all have sinned:

(Romans 3:23 NKJV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good (Romans 8:28).

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Outline: Genesis 37

- Joseph Busy About His Father's Business (37:1-2)
- Joseph's Coat of Many Colors and Big Sleeves (37:3-4)
- Joseph Dreams and Visions (37:5-11)
- Joseph Sent to Check on His Brothers (37:12-17)
- The Brothers Plot Against Joseph (37:18-28)
- Joseph Sold into Slavery (37:29-36)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Joseph Busy About His Father's Business (37:1-2)

(Genesis 37:1 NKJV) Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

(Genesis 37:2 NKJV) This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.

Brings Report

Now Joseph brings a report to Jacob of his brothers doing wrong. We do not know what they were doing but whatever it was it was bad enough that Joseph needs to report it to dad. Many commentators call Joseph a little brat, tattletale, and all the trouble he gets into is because how was. In verse 14 we will see Jacob send Joseph to go look in on how the flock and the brothers are doing, so what we can tell is that is Joseph's job for his father. Jacob no doubt too old to go see for himself, has Joseph as his "foreman" to

go see and come back and report. We will see when Joseph is at Potiphar's home he is excellent at managing a business, and therefore that is what Jacob would see in Joseph. A herdsman had to know the state of his flocks, so he would know how many are healthy, how many are sickly, how many are birthing, how many have been devoured by beast, how was the feeding grounds, how and where are the watering troughs and the state of them. How to navigate plentiful, how to navigate droughts and even famines. Joseph was good at it, and it appears to be his job for his father.

We also see there is a special bonding between Jacob and Joseph, as Jacob has Joseph at an older age, and there is a place of recognizing more what is more important when having children at a younger age and an older age. The math (from Genesis 47:9) says Jacob had Joseph at age of around 91.

Dwelling in Harmony / Busy Father's Business / Tending the Flock / Picture of Jesus

But in verse 1 we see that he is dwelling with his father, at harmony with his father, busy about his father's business tending the flocks, looking to please the Father. A picture of Jesus:

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

Looking to Please the Father:

(John 8:29 NKJV) "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

In Harmony with the Father:

(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

(John 5:20 NKJV) "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."

About the Father's Business:

(Luke 2:48 NKJV) So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously."

(Luke 2:49 NKJV) And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Hated for Relationship with Father

We will see that Joseph's brothers don't hate him because he tells on them, but because of his relationship with his father.

A Key to Life Here - Be about the Father's Business / Things Roll Off

You know a key to a happy life, fulfilled life here on this side of heaven, is to be about the Father's business. Be focused on the Father's business and you will see how the little things don't even bother you, if you even notice them at all. Be focused about the Father's business as Jesus was, and you will have life and that more abundant (John 10:10).

Joseph's Coat of Many Colors (37:3-4)

(Genesis 37:3 NKJV) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors.

(Genesis 37:4 NKJV) But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

People Wishing / Have - Don't - Live - or Be / Materially & Spiritually

Many people wish that they had something else, or they wish they lived somewhere else, and others wish they were someone else. They ask why don't I have that, live there, or be who that person is. There is something in us that makes us want to have what other people have, and not only in the material realm, but the spiritual realm also. Envy is resentful desire for what someone else has or is. This means that envy is not simply about stuff; it is also about character traits, gifts, blessings, families, positions in life.

Legend - Envy

Legend has a story, and it was a man who wanted to go to seclusion so he might spend all his time in intercessory prayer and worship of the Lord. Well Satan sends some henchmen to go disrupt him. They try to lure him with lust, anger, loneliness and the likes, but to no avail. So Satan says watch, and he

goes and perches on the man's shoulder and whispers in his ear, your brother has just been made Bishop of Alexandria. Immediately the man's face turns to a frown, and turmoil and struggle enters into his heart, joy was lost.

Envy Pull Down Strongest / Joseph's Brothers filled with Envy

Interesting story, that how envy can bring down the strongest. Satan knows that, and he will use that against us. Envy, wanting what we don't have. Acts 7:9 tells us that is just what happened to Joseph's brothers, they had envy towards Joseph.

(Acts 7:9 NKJV) "And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him"

Robe had Sleeves / Common Worker Robe / Bosses Sleeves / Briefcase

Verse 3 - Also he made him a tunic of many colors: A more correct translation for colors is "pieces". This robe had sleeves you see, and that made it special, and that made the one who wore special. The common man, the workingman, their robe was sleeveless so that the sleeves would not get in the way of working (carpentry, farming, digging). But a person who had sleeves, they would be like the boss on the job, it was a symbol of authority. It was written that the sleeves served as a briefcase also, and they would carry the papers and drawing, etc.

Brother hate Symbol of Superiority / Plotting Begins / Innocent Victim

So the brothers don't like Joseph having any symbol of superiority over them, he was the second youngest; he had no superiority over them. So we see envy coming upon them, and they plot to Joseph's demise. Joseph is an innocent victim here, but we can still learn a great lesson from his coat.

Recap - Pit - Slave - Robe Dipped - Jacob Deceived

You remember what is going to happen, they will throw him in a pit and leave him to die, but then they decided to sell him as a slave to a caravan passing by, make a buck or two. So they took that robe, dipped it in animal blood, then take it to Jacob and saw we found this robe, Joseph must have been attacked by wild beast.

Potiphar - New Robe - Seduced - Integrity - Prison

You know the story, he ends up at Potiphar's house, the number 2 guy. So he gets a new robe to wear as servant in this home (as it was in those days), we know that because it ends up in Potiphar's wife's hand as she tries to seduce him. Joseph's integrity gets him in trouble, and into the prison he goes, the robe was the evidence against him.

The Coats - The Places of Prominence / Work - Captain - Person

This coat, these coats, these places of prominence, got Joseph in much trouble in his life. You know, we say I want that position at work, I should be captain of the football team, why am I still sitting at this desk and work and not in the managers seat, how come I didn't get the big contract. How come they get all the attention at school. We look around and ask how come I am not being noticed or acknowledged, elevated, rewarded.

The Tendency - WHY / Think we Know - So Sure / People wanted the Coat / For Position

Whether it is at work, at school, in the church, there can the tendency of asking why him, why her, instead of me. You know we think we know what we want, so sure of it, and then struggle when we are not there. Lots of people (All Joseph's brothers) wanted Joseph's coat, not to wear for comfort, but to wear for that position, but Joseph wore it, and it brought many problems upon his life.

Positions with Pressures - No Idea of / Space - College - Lost It / Lake Charles

You know there are positions and places that have pressures and circumstances that we have no idea of, problems and pains that we have no idea will come with that position. I remember several years ago, I quit my job from the Space Center launching rockets, a great job - the pinnacle of aviation (I worked my way up from mechanic to Program Analyst), to go to Bible College. Friends and family thought I had lost it. Well I get back from Bible College and go into unemployment for 9 months, which to many was confirmation that I made a foolish mistake. Then I get a temporary job, so no stability, then I finally get a full-time job with a major corporation. It was great, I started a Home Fellowship, I was having sweet

fellowship with the Lord in the morning, I was studying the Word, listening to Bible Study tapes, it was great. But get this within 30 days they want to make me a Lead; a Lead over 10 people and 2 aircraft, wow.....

Prayed - Analysed / Prove Critics / Didn't Ruin my Life

So I prayed, I analysed, hey, I that means I can witness to presidents and Commanders, the extra money would be nice, but I know deep in my heart one of my motives: It prove all the critics wrong, it would show them hey quitting and going to Bible college wasn't a life ruining mistake, I did recover and got back on top.

Like Lot - the Progression / Not Consumed Father's Business / Stress & Trouble

Like Lot pitching his tent towards Sodom, a progression of things began. You know what happened first, my mind was no longer consumed with my Father's business. Rather than thinking on the next Bible Study, rather than waking in the morning and going time for the Word, time to hear from Him; I remember the mornings come, and my mind would immediately race to what I had to do to impress the boss, to build my reputation in this new place, to how much work had to be done. My Word time suffered, my mental health suffered because the stress of the job. Each plane was worth 100 million dollars and I was responsible to get it done on time and on cost. Financially they pulled a switch on me and I only get 40 dollars a week for the stress. On top of that I was often the scapegoat when things went bad, the program was often close to being terminated.

Gave Up Fellowship / Gave Up Easy Work

I gave up that sweet fellowship with the Lord, a mind that was free to just go to work, do what came easy to me, thus allowing me to think upon all day, for 40 a week, all so I can so friends and family would see, hey I wasn't a fool to quit the Space Center for Bible College.

God so Gracious

God as always was and is so gracious to me, and even though I pitched my tent facing Sodom if you would, then went and dwelt in the city and became a leader in the city, He still called me righteous.

(2 Peter 2:7 NKJV) and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked

(2 Peter 2:8 NKJV) (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds);

Those Big Sleeves / Cost me Trouble / 14-14-14

Those big sleeves, that robe of many colors wasn't all that I thought it would be, it cost me trouble, it cost me that sweet time for fellowshiping with the Lord. 14 months, and 14 days and 14 hours, I had to ride it out, not that I was counting.

Be Careful Things we Want / May Cost Freedom / Give Thanks He didn't Want It

Be careful about those things we want or think we need, or worthy of; it may cost you your freedom.

Look, if you don't get that job, promotion, position, that guy, that gal, that home, then give thanks and know that the Lord did not want it for you:

(Psalms 34:8 NKJV) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

(Psalms 34:9 NKJV) Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints! There is no want to those who fear Him.

(Psalms 34:10 NKJV) The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

Learn to be Content / More Comes Praise Him / Be careful Big Sleeves though

Learn to be content in what the Lord has given you, and if He gives you more, praise Him, but be careful of desiring those big sleeves, who knows how much trouble may come with them:

(Philippians 4:11 NKJV) Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Big Sleeves - God or Enemy

But also, it is important to say here, Christian you can't always say, well if you don't want this for me Lord than block it or take it away. God allows these "big sleeve" opportunities so we will put things aside, come back to Him, spend time with Him, and seek His will for our lives. Sometimes these "big sleeve" opportunities come right from the enemy as he desires to draw you away, take away your joy, and

diminish the sweet time of fellowship and freedom you have with the Lord. If Satan can't make you bad, he'll make you busy.

Next Time

But next time that "big sleeve" opportunity comes, remember this story of Joseph, and may it make you consider is it worth:

- How much trouble that may come with it,
- How will it affect my time with the Lord,
- How will it affect my freedom in Christ
- How will affect my relationship with my family,
- How will this draw me closer to the Lord, (or will it draw me away from the Lord).

Amazing

You know it is amazing to me now after my experience, after my failing, how guarded I am about those big sleeve opportunities, at work, in ministry, at play, in relationships, it amazes me how content I have learned to be. But it came the hard way.

Joseph Dreams (37:5-11)

(Genesis 37:5 NKJV) Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

(Genesis 37:6 NKJV) So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:

(Genesis 37:7 NKJV) "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

(Genesis 37:8 NKJV) And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

Sheaves / Ruling Over Them / Opposite Culture

Sheaves are wheat. So Joseph is telling his brothers that the meaning of the dream is him ruling over them, and they would bow down to him. This is totally opposite of the culture of the day for birth order determined who was to be head over the other. This doesn't sit well with his brothers, especially since Joseph is wearing the robe, with the sleeves, and is favored by his father.

(Genesis 37:9 NKJV) Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

(Genesis 37:10 NKJV) So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

(Genesis 37:11 NKJV) And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Verse 11 – there is that word envy again; it is the root of the problem.

2nd Dream / Mom & Dad Too

In this second dream not only are Joseph's 11 brothers bowing down to him, but also his mother and father (the sun and the moon).

Dreams of God – Come True Later

The dreams of Joseph are no doubt of God, because we see them come true later on in the story; but, in the meantime, his brothers are going to do all they can do to thwart the purposes of God.

Why Tell the Dream / Like Jesus – Tells it Like it Is / Joseph is Caring

Now why did Joseph tell these dreams to his brothers and parents? He already knew the brothers despised him, and his father would not take pleasure in such a thought, but he did anyway. Why, because Joseph, like Jesus, told things as they were, and then would let the chips fall where they may. From reading the whole story of Joseph, we can see that he is a sensitive caring person, deeply interested in the welfare of others (as we will see in the coming chapters).

Flattery / Christians Susceptible to This – Love / Damaging to Them / Burning Home

So Joseph tells it like it is. You know one of the worse things you can do to a person is flatter them, when you know the flattery is not the reality. Christians are extremely susceptible to this because we want to be nice people, we want to love one another, we are told to love one another. It can be damaging to flatter someone, for we could be keeping a word they really need to hear from them. We really flatter because we want people to like us. But that is not love. If you were sleeping on the couch of a burning home, it would not be love to not wake you because I did not want to disturb your rest. Likewise if I saw you involved in something that was going to hurt you spiritually or physically, true love would come and say brother we need to talk..

Can be Embarrassing / Shaving Cream / Do it in Love

Sometimes it can initially be embarrassing, but a person who wants to do right, or not be embarrassed themselves will be thankful. If I had shaving cream in my ear, please tell me, I'll be embarrassed, but I'll be thankful. Of course when you come, do it in love and gentleness. Some will use this as an opportunity to rip someone, and then feel justified in saying it was for their own good – pray to know the difference

Jesus did It / Saved us from Destruction / John 8:32

That is what Jesus does, He told us like it was, that we were sinners, we were going on a path of destruction, but He spoke the words of truth to us:

(John 8:32 NKJV) "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Verse 9 – Important to Rev 12 / People make this the Church

Verse 9 is important to us to help us unlock the meaning of Revelation 12.

Verse 9 - Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me. In the Book of Revelations, chapter twelve, where we have listed some symbolic personages: the woman clothed with the sun and the moon and the twelve stars; many interpret this woman as the church and they see the church going through the tribulation. This is a stretching of biblical symbolism:

(Revelation 12:1 NKJV) Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars.

(Revelation 12:2 NKJV) Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.

1st Mention – Expo Constancy / So Sun-Moon is Jacob / Same in Rev / Church no Wrath

To interpret a symbol, you need to go back to where it is used in scripture and see how it is used there. There is in Hermeneutics the Law of First Use and also the Law of Expositional Constancy. Whatever the use in one area of scripture is also the use in another area of scripture. The Expositional Constancy is extremely important in the understanding of the Parable. Here, the sun, the moon and the eleven stars refer to Jacob and his wife and sons or the nation of Israel. If these symbols refer to the nation of Israel in Genesis, then it is wrong to try to interpret the woman with the sun, the moon, and the twelve stars in Revelation as anything but Israel. Misinterpretation of this, then puts the Church going through the Tribulation Period, which is contrary to the Scriptures, for God will not judge the righteous with the wicked, and the Tribulation Period (the Day of the Lord) is God's wrath on a Christ rejecting world. Again I refer you back to Lot being pulled out of Sodom before god reigned fire down upon it – Abraham said surely God you will not judge the righteous with the wicked – and God did not.

Verse 11 / Jacob Ponders the Dream / Like Mary

Verse 11 - And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind. - So Jacob speaks quickly, rebukes Joseph, but then goes off and says to himself, I'll keep this tucked away, I won't dismiss it, I'll wait and see. Mary did the same when :

(Luke 2:16 NKJV) And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

(Luke 2:17 NKJV) Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

(Luke 2:18 NKJV) And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

(Luke 2:19 NKJV) But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Jacob Saw Something in Joseph / Saw Call of God – Though against all he Knew

Jacob saw something in Joseph that he knew was special, different from the other boys. I believe Jacob saw the call of God upon Joseph's life, and though he couldn't understand it because it went against all he was used to, he wouldn't dismiss it as foolishness, so he waited. Good word to us parents, let's not kill our kids' dreams, let us seek the Lord also and see what might become of their dreams.

Joseph – Save a World – People – Lineage / Not Easy – to Stand On / God Does the Same

Joseph will be used to save a world, to preserve a nation, to preserve the lineage of the Messiah. It would not be easy on him, he will go through great turmoil in his life to bring all the pieces in line. God gives him a dream to stand on during the hard times. God does that for us. He gives us a dream, a vision, a word in our heart, or a Scripture.

God gave Jacob Dream / Gen 28 / Joseph ask to hear the Story Again

It is interesting, because God gave his father Jacob (Israel) a dream also. Jacob would see the angels ascending and descending, and it would change his life. I can imagine Joseph sitting at his father's feet saying tell me the story again dad, tell me the dream that changed your life:

(Genesis 28:11 NKJV) So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

Jacob's Ladder / John 1

This is known as "Jacob's Ladder"; Jesus refers to this in John:

(John 1:49 NKJV) Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

(John 1:50 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

(John 1:51 NKJV) And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Jacob's Hard Times / Stand on this Dream / I Will

When the hard times came in Jacob's life, how many times would he go back to, stand on that dream he had, that promise, those words from the Lord. God saying I am your God, I will give you this land, and many descendants, and I will bring you back to this Land

Joseph Would gain Strength from Jacob's Dream / How we Effect People

How Joseph must have gained strength in his time of struggle as he remembered also God's words given to his father, and how God was true to His word. You know, you never know, how just everyday words, conversations will affect a person.

God not done with Older Men

Older men and women, don't think that God is done with you, invest in the youth that are in your life:

(Proverbs 20:29 KJV) The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head.

(Psalms 92:12 NKJV) The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

(Psalms 92:13 NKJV) Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

(Psalms 92:14 NKJV) They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

My Granddaddy / Imagine Joseph / Dream Changed Life – Not Easy / Joseph's Life Relates

I remember my granddaddy, he was quite the storyteller, I use to love to hear his stories. Could you imagine being Joseph and hearing the stories of Jacob? Yes son that dream changed my life, and my life wouldn't be easy. I worked 7 years for your mother Rachel, but your uncle Laban tricked me, then I had to work 7 more years, but she was worth it. Amazing to see how Joseph's life relates to his father Jacob. Joseph would have 7 years of prosperity, and then 7 years of famine, he was tricked by his family

members, but they both had a dream, a vision from the Lord given to them to stand on during the hard times.

Joseph only 17 / World Desensitized / Lost vision for Youth / Joseph Stood / Joel 2

Joseph was only 17, only 17 when the Lord gave him this dream. Our world is so desensitized to something like this. Today we want to go to college, get a job, a home, get married, have kids, and all kinds of other things and goals; yet somehow we have lost the vision of seeing young men and women, receiving a vision from the Lord. A vision that will make them stand above all that is in this world. Joseph would stand on this vision from the Lord, even when everything in the world would say it was wrong. These are the words spoken for the Last Days concerning our youth:

(Acts 2:16 NKJV) "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

(Acts 2:17 NKJV) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

(Acts 2:18 NKJV) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

Not Just for Youth / We Need Fresh Vision – Sow Supernaturally – Vibrancy – the Word

But this is not just for the youth, maybe you are 30-40-80-90. Are you willing to say to the Lord, I need a fresh vision, a dream, that you would sow something supernatural in my heart that would give me a passion for you, a vibrancy to my relationship with you Lord, that you would make your word come alive in my heart.

Desperately Need / Another Bible Study – Church Again / Word – Prayer / Keep Fire

How desperately each and every one of us need that in our lives. How I pray that this time we spend together at this church doesn't turn into "just another Bible Study", "it's just Church". How I pray that every time we meet you come expecting to meet the Lord, every time you open this Word you expect to hear from the Lord, in prayer the same. How each and every one of us need a vision and dream from the Lord, to keep the fire burning, something to stand on during hard times, something to keep us focused when things are going great.

Focused / Anchored / the Blessed Hope

That God would give us something that keeps us focused on the things above, an anchor to our souls, a blessed hope:

(Colossians 1:5 NKJV) because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

(Colossians 1:6 NKJV) which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

A Fresh Vision / See the Impact You can Make / Daily Life

That you would have a fresh vision from the Lord and see how much of an impact you can make in the world around you, how much of an impact we can make on one life that God puts in our path. Again, nothing God gives you is common or ordinary for He is no ordinary God, and He does not give us an ordinary life, He gives us that abundant and full life. Young or old, do you realize how you may encourage someone and be used by the Lord. Seek God for a fresh new vision, daily if needed, and watch what He will do in and through you.

(Acts 2:16 NKJV) "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

(Acts 2:17 NKJV) 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

(Acts 2:18 NKJV) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

We saw Joseph have a dream, a vision from God, and we know it will not only change his life, but the course of mankind as Joseph will be used by God to preserve a world, a people (nation Israel), and the lineage of the Messiah.

How We Need - Youth w/Vision / See Above this World / City Whose Builder is God

How we need today youth with a vision, youth who see above the carnality and stuff of this world to a city whose builder and maker is God. Not just that Jesus is a part of life, but Jesus is Life:

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

(Revelation 21:2 NKJV) Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

(Revelation 21:3 NKJV) And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."

Perspective / Bricklayers

Perspective is so important for all of us. I'm reminded of the story of a man coming to a construction site and asking a bricklayer what he was doing. The bricklayer answers rather annoyed, I am laying bricks what does it look like I am doing. The man went on to ask another bricklayer what he was doing and he answers, I am building a cathedral. One man saw the drudgery of brick-by-brick, the other one saw past the bricks to the finished project, the purposes of the bricks.

Our Life so Daily

Our life can be like that, get like that. Brick after brick, life can be so daily. But we forget it is brick upon brick that lays the foundation, and then raises the building. Whether it is with our kids and the endless laundry or constant correcting. Or what seems like so I read another chapter, or taught Sunday school again, we have to remember that we are not laying bricks but building a cathedral.

Joseph's Life - Reminder

Joseph's life, what a beautiful study, what a wonderful and powerful reminder for us that it is possible, and that we should be going for it. And, we will see a wonderful and powerful picture of Jesus Christ.

Joseph Sent to Check on His Brothers (37:12-17)

(Genesis 37:12 NKJV) Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

(Genesis 37:13 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am."

Joseph's life to be changed forever because of his dreams.

Shechem / Rape & Mass Murder / Wicked & Perverse City

Shechem, you have to be kidding me, why are they going back to the place that Dinah was raped, and Levi and Simeon were mass murders. Shechem was a wicked, carnal, perverse place, and Jacob's sons are going there to do business, and who knows what else.

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

Go Check on Brothers - Here am I / Picture Jesus & World / People Need Help

Jacob says son, will you go and check on your brothers, and Joseph answers, here am I. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and we have seen Shechem is a picture of the world, and so here we see the Father sending the Son. Here is a sneak preview of the relationship between God the Father and the Son, for the people are in Shechem, they are in a dangerous place, and they need to be helped out, and Jesus would say "here I Am". God sent Jesus to a place of danger, a place where He knew he would be bruised, yet Jesus willingly went, knowingly knew what would lay before Him. He is not only the "Great I Am", but the God who would also say, "Here I am", send me. Sent for me, sent for you, at whatever the price.

Jesus when Baptised - Prophetic

When Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River that day, he was making the prophetic statement, I will die, I will be buried, but I will rise again:

(Matthew 3:13 NKJV) Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

(Matthew 3:14 NKJV) And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

(Matthew 3:15 NKJV) But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

(Matthew 3:16 NKJV) When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

(Matthew 3:17 NKJV) And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

My Son - Well Pleased / Submit all the way to Cross

God said this is my Son whom I am well pleased, for He will submit all the way to the cross at Calvary.

(Genesis 37:14 NKJV) Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

Hebron - Fellowship

What does Hebron mean, it means "fellowship". We see the Father sending the Son out of fellowship, into the world. The day would come when the Father would turn His back on the Son, turn from fellowship, as Jesus would take on the sins of the world:

(Matthew 27:46 KJV) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Most Crushing thing for Jesus - Separation

The most crushing thing for Jesus that day on the cross was not the nails, but for the first time ever, He was separated from the Father, He was not fellowshiping with the Father, because He had taken on sin; *(2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

How Much Love / Why 25% / Not Creation - Creator / Leave Throne - Be Separated

How much love does the Father have for you, that He would send His only begotten? How much love does Jesus have for you that He would take the separation from the Father. Every step of the way we see Jesus in the life of Joseph. Why is 25 percent of this book about Joseph, and only 1 chapter about creation. Because God wants us not to be so concerned about creation, as He wants us to know the Creator. A Creator that would leave the throne, continual fellowship with the Father, and take on our sin, our shame, our separation from God because of our sin.

(Genesis 37:15 NKJV) Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"

(Genesis 37:16 NKJV) So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."

(Genesis 37:17 NKJV) And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

The Brothers Plot Against Joseph (37:18-28)

(Genesis 37:18 NKJV) Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.

Easy to Spot

Verse 18 they see them from afar off that wouldn't be hard right he's got that coat of many color that can seem coming from a mile away.

Dothan - Major Highway

Dothan was another fifteen miles up the road toward Megeddo, along the route which was later to become one of the major highways which went down to Egypt from the area of Syria.

Conspire to Kill - Ruthless / Chp 42 Joseph Pleas

Even before he got near, his brothers conspired to kill him. They are really treacherous and there is not much to be admired in them. We know from chapter 42 that Joseph pleaded with them, but their hearts were wicked and cold against the plea of Joseph:

(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

I believe Joseph's plea was not just for himself, but the sake of his brothers knowing all that would come upon them for doing so. Jesus did not plea for Himself, His plea was for the people:

*(Matthew 23:37 NKJV) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! **How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!***
(Matthew 23:38 NKJV) "See! Your house is left to you desolate;

(Matthew 26:62 NKJV) And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?"

*(Matthew 26:63 NKJV) **But Jesus kept silent.** And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"*

All Began With Envy

And so we see the envy (verse 11) in the heart of the brothers and it's gonna lead to strife between them and Joseph and even to the point that they're willing to murder him because even in the end, it becomes hatred and in the economy of the Lord, that's murder as well. And I just put a warning out there for all of us.

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

They will Respect Joseph / Respect Jesus

How familiar does this story sound, Jacob thought surely they will respect my son, they will receive my son. Just like the story Jesus told about the vineyard:

(Matthew 21:33 NKJV) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

(Matthew 21:34 NKJV) "Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit.

(Matthew 21:35 NKJV) "And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

(Matthew 21:36 NKJV) "Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.

*(Matthew 21:37 NKJV) "Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, '**They will respect my son.**'*

*(Matthew 21:38 NKJV) "But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, '**This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.**'*

(Matthew 21:39 NKJV) "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

(Genesis 37:19 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming!

Verse 19, they're gonna kill him because of his dream. That's why they hate him. It's because of the dream that he shared with them

(Genesis 37:20 NKJV) "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

(Genesis 37:21 NKJV) But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."

(Genesis 37:22 NKJV) And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"; that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

Reuben - Pontius / Scourge satisfy Thirst

Notice how the story so much goes along the way of Jesus. Pontius Pilate didn't want to kill him, so he thought maybe a scourging will satisfy the peoples appetite for death. Then Jesus could be released.

(Genesis 37:23 NKJV) So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.

(Genesis 37:24 NKJV) Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

Jesus Stripped

Jesus was stripped of His robe:

(Matthew 27:27 NKJV) Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.

*(Matthew 27:28 NKJV) **And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.***

(Matthew 27:29 NKJV) When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Jesus in the Tomb

Joseph thrown into a pit, Jesus was placed in the tomb:

(Matthew 27:58 NKJV) This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

(Matthew 27:59 NKJV) When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,

(Matthew 27:60 NKJV) and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.

(Genesis 37:25 NKJV) And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt.

Heartless

Verse 24, we know from another passage of scripture that Joseph was pleading with them. There was a depth of his cry for the mercy and then here in verse 25, they are so hardened by their hardness toward Joseph doesn't even ruin their appetite. They just sit down to eat.

(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

Spices - Balm - Myrrh

Notice what they are carrying, spices, balm, and myrrh:

(John 19:38 NKJV) After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus.

(John 19:39 NKJV) And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.

(John 19:40 NKJV) Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

(Genesis 37:26 NKJV) So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?"

(Genesis 37:27 NKJV) "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened.

Flesh Justifies Sin / Intimate - Poison Tongue -

They say let's sell him rather than kill him, so his blood won't be upon us. Doesn't matter what the Ishmaelites might do to him, but at least we won't be guilty of his blood. The flesh, our carnal reasoning, can always find a way to take our sins and justify them, reliving us of guilt and shame.

- Well we are being intimate because we love each other, or we are married in the eyes of God.
- Or, the person who just spew poison out of their mouth totally ripping and attacking another brother, and then they say, you needed to hear that for your own good - that wasn't anything to do with helping or correcting a brother, it was everything to do with them attacking another brother.

Joseph Sold into Slavery (37:29-36)

(Genesis 37:28 NKJV) Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Fulfilling the Dream

Verse 28 you have to love it here they are they think they're killing Joseph's dream, but instead they're being a hand in the matter of fulfilling the dream because God's plan is to get him to Egypt for this famine and here they are given him a free ride to Egypt through these Ishmaelites. You gotta love God's economy.

High Price of Guilt

20 pieces of silver. That's a cheap price to pay for the steep price of 20+ years of guilt. Guilt can be such a cruel taskmaster. I thank God for Jesus Christ. Cleanses me. from my guilt. and my shame. And his

great grace, he cleanses me, not just of my sin, but of my guilt, that I can be free. And there's those of you are that are here today.

You're free. Because the price that was paid, you don't need to carry that guilt around. It has been lifted from you as well as the sin. And now you take that freedom and you go live in that life of freedom. And you extend that freedom to others that they may be free as well, and lift the guilt off of them if they've harmed you. Just as Jesus says, the guilt off of you.

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

30 Pieces

Jesus betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Why isn't it 30 pieces of silver here, because Joseph is a picture, a type, he is not Jesus:

(Matthew 26:15 NKJV) and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

(Matthew 26:16 NKJV) So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

(Genesis 37:29 NKJV) Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.

(Genesis 37:30 NKJV) And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

(Genesis 37:31 NKJV) So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood.

Blood of Goat

Verse 31 the blood of a goat is what's going to deceive Jacob. It was the goat that was slain that he used to deceive his father, Isaac all those years ago.

(Genesis 37:32 NKJV) Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

Joseph a Foreshadow of Jesus

Lie about Pit / Soldiers lie of Tomb

The brothers lie about the pit, just as the Roman soldiers were paid off to lie about the tomb:

(Matthew 27:64 NKJV) "Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

(Matthew 27:65 NKJV) Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

(Matthew 27:66 NKJV) So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

(Matthew 28:11 NKJV) Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

(Matthew 28:12 NKJV) When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,

(Matthew 28:13 NKJV) saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'"

(Matthew 28:14 NKJV) "And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."

(Matthew 28:15 NKJV) So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Soldiers Killed / Everyone Knew Death Penalty / Nice BMW

You know what is amazing about the soldiers lying is that in that time, if a prisoner escaped the soldier guarding them would be killed. If they had a seal (governors or emperor seal) on something (such as the tomb), if the seal was ever broken, then every soldier on duty would be killed. So the Jewish religious leaders have the soldiers lie about the disciples coming and stealing the body of Jesus away (to dispel the resurrection). Any person of that day would have known that is a death sentence to the soldiers, so if it really happened, then why aren't they dead. I wonder if people noticed they not only aren't they dead, but they are driving new BMW's.

People Blindly Follow / Not Researching - Digging / Davinci Code - Never Read Bible

You know so it is today, people blindly follow a lie, never researching, never digging for the answers for themselves. People will follow evolution without asking the appropriate questions. People are reading

the DaVinci Code book, and they haven't even read the Bible yet. OF course you can believe the Davinci code if you have no clue what the Bible says.

(Genesis 37:33 NKJV) And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces."

(Genesis 37:34 NKJV) Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days.

(Genesis 37:35 NKJV) And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

Daughters Plural

It talks about Jacob's daughters in the plural, so, even though Dinah is the only one named; it seems that he had other daughters

Sowing & Reaping / Jacob deceives with a Goat

We have that law of God of sowing and reaping. Jacob, earlier, had killed a little goat to deceive his father. He put the fur on his wrists, fixed the meat to taste like venison and gave it to his father to deceive him in order that he might get the blessing. He used a goat to deceive his father Isaac and now, his sons are using a goat to deceive him. They killed a goat and put the blood on the tunic of Joseph. Jacob is reaping what he sowed many years ago.

Forgiven - Forgotten / Repercussions Follow

You won't escape your sin. Yes your sin is forgiven and forgotten by the Father, but the repercussions of that sin will follow you. It is Law:

(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Youth - It's no Big Deal / 37 Years Later

Youth, don't believe that lie, "ohh its no big deal", you will reap the consequences at some point. It may not happen immediately, it might take months, or years, but the consequences of sin will find you, in the case of Jacob it was almost 37 years. He tricked His dad, goes on the run for 20 years, and Joseph is 17 years old here. Sowing and reaping, it is law.

22 Years of Suffering

How about this, these boys will allow the father to mourn for 22 years as if it was his own fault that Joseph was killed by a wild beast. For 22 years and Jacob would wake up every day and say if only I had not sent Joseph to check on the brothers that day, he would still be alive and the guilt that would hound him and yet here these boys are not one of them has any regard of what they're doing to their father's heart. It's showing the condition of their heart, and that's why we need to hold this marker and remember this when we take a look at future chapters of how God's gonna deal with them and convict them for what they've done to Joseph, and they will be convicted.

They will not get to live freely in their sin and may that be a word all of us that God would convict us that we would not be able to sin and freely move on that he would convict us and put that upon us that until we confess, we will have no peace and the beautiful place of peace is repentance. It's a beautiful word repent as 1 John 19 says if we confess our sins, he's faithful in just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. There's a beautiful cleansing that comes in confession and repentance

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jacob Doesn't Know Because God Doesn't Tell him

I think one of the most amazing things out of all this is the God who speaks to Jacob, gives him dreams, visions leading and yet the Lord does not tell him that Joseph is alive. And for all these years, some probably 20 more years or more. till he sees Joseph again. He thinks he's dead. And I find that interesting in that there's certain things. that God chooses not to reveal to us, even though they could bring us on a relief or some type of comfort or some type of power. And yet, what we have is Jacob that's going to

spend all these years in pain. questioning, if only I didn't let my son go, it'd still be alive. You might even question, "Why did you allow this, Lord? Why didn't you tell me, not to let him go, if you would have told me my son would still be alive. So amazing things as we look at these things. Then God and his sovereignty, he may not be telling you something, because he's doing something. There's a greater plan and purpose behind our immediate. plan. I hope that brings you comfort. It's hard to walk by faith, but Genesis all the way through the end of Revelation, God's heart from the beginning and God's heart to the end. But all the way through, for us, it's a calling of faith to trust, believe that he is who he says that he is. And he'll do what he says he will do. for the greater glory

(Genesis 37:36 NKJV) Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

And now a little footnote at the end of the chapter concerning Joseph. "And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard

13 Years of Trial

So verse 11 we know this dream will come to pass, but it's going be 13 years before it does and there's something for all of us we can have this dream or we can hear what we believe the Lord has spoken to us that he has for us and of course we think it's going take a couple days or weeks for it to come to pass and here's Joseph. It's going be 13 years before this dream comes to pass and it's going be a hard 13 years at that and God does something in the trials in that the worst place for us to be is in the position we believe God has called us, but we have not yet been prepared for that call and we come into that call and we were totally ill equipped and unprepared. God gives a dream, but then he gives the preparation to fulfill that calling that he has in our life, that when the time of the call aligns with the time of that moment we're ready to do a God has planned and willed for our life and if you're in a long trial right now, don't lose hope because God very well is put in the final polishing pieces on that preparation to fulfill that dream, but if not, rest in the power that comes from the potter's hand as he shapes and molds you into the man and woman that he desires for you to do the work that he has called and prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

Genesis 41:46 (NKJV) ⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Lots of Hurt in this Chapter

You know, there is a lot of hurt in this chapter as we read it all that is going on in between this family siblings, parents, dysfunctional relationships envy and hatred to the point of willing to murder and yet we know that God is going to reconcile this family and he's going to heal all these hurts. But nobody knows it at this point in the story. And that might be you. The promise of hope that the Lord brings that he can reconcile all the hurt and pain that you experience maybe with your family. Very specifically. and I pray that you would take comfort in that. You would take hope in that. And you would also take an anchor in that and hold on to that. And I'm sure everybody at this point in this story believes it's all hopeless. Joseph's going to end up in prison, right? First, being a slave after a pit, Jacob's going to live in the regret. If only I hadn't sent Joseph to go check on these boys, and we're going to see that these boys that's going to haunt them for all these years of what they did. And the anchor hoped that I hold out to you is if you're God's child, He can do this. He desires to do it. And he's not going to let you go. He's going to hold you in the midst of this pain

God has something worked out into the future for you in the end we see what God will do, what the enemy intended for evil. God turned into good. Not just for a family, but for a nation, and not just for a nation, but for the entire world as through this family, Israel, will come the promised Redeemer. He will not leave you, and he will not forsake you. You might feel that you can't hold on much longer, but you now, may you know. that he's holding on to you, and he can hold you all day, long.

Looking Forward to More – Want to Know Him More

I look forward to the studies that we're gonna do as we finish this book out. As we look at Joseph, for our love, the story of Joseph, his character, his strength, is steadfastness. I also love it, because he's a pitcher of Jesus. And I'm gonna get to learn more about my Jesus, that after 33 years of walking with my

Jesus, all that I can tell you is, I want to know him more. I want to experience him more. I want to enjoy the fellowship with my Savior, my Jesus, the love of my life.

Genesis 37 Wrap-up

(John 12:21 NKJV) Then they came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."

Desire of Human Heart / Study to See Jesus

That is the desire of every person's heart, that is how God designed us. Unfortunately some will not have them reign over them. Seeing Jesus, that is the purpose of the Scriptures, to see Jesus. When you study your Bible, look for Jesus, for all Scriptures point to Jesus.

25% / Picture of Creator / Not what we Create - but Creator / When People Interpret Us

25% of Genesis is about Joseph, not 25% on creation. Chapter after chapter through this Bible God gives us a picture of the Creator, Jesus Christ. As so that is God's interest in us. Not just what we create (for that has its place most definitely) but more so when people look at us, bump into us, speak to us, walk with us, interpret us, that they would see Jesus.

God - be Like Joseph / A Picture - Illustration / Living Epistle

God would say to us today, I want you to be like Joseph, a picture, and illustration of Jesus. That people will see my Son when they meet you, experience My Son, that you would be a type of Jesus Christ in your world, that they will read you and see Jesus

(2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV) You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;

(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.

Know Him - Make Him Known

God desire is that we know Him, and make Him known.

Look at Marriages / Youth w/Vision / In the Word - Bible Study

When people look and see marriages sticking it out, working it out, don't checking out like the rest of the world, they say - something different. When they see youth having a vision for something beyond this world they say - something different. Why spend you evenings at a Bible Study - something different.

Life is Simple / Know Him - Make Him Known

Life is simple for the Believer, to know Him, and to make Him known.

May we all Be Joseph's

May we all be Josephs, may we all be pictures of Jesus Christ to this lost and dying world, to our lost and dying family members, co-workers, fellow students..

Outline: Genesis 37

- Joseph Busy About His Father's Business (37:1-2)
- Joseph's Coat of Many Colors and Big Sleeves (37:3-4)
- Joseph Dreams and Visions (37:5-11)
- Joseph Sent to Check on His Brothers (37:12-17)
- The Brothers Plot Against Joseph (37:18-28)
- Joseph Sold into Slavery (37:29-36)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)

- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 38

Title: The Story of Judah & Tamar (and God's Amazing Grace)

Summary: Another strange, but true story that God reveals in the Scriptures for us the story of Judah and Tamar. As strange and as sordid as this story is, God reveals a tapestry of love and forgiveness that weaves all the way to the birth of Jesus; and the story reveals that try as Satan will to destroy the plans of God, his efforts are futile, and that would mean his efforts against you as well. You don't want to miss this study.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Interlude to Joseph / Seldom Read / Contrasts

A little interlude here of the story of Joseph. Joseph is the major character for the rest of the book of Genesis and we will pick back up on him in Genesis 39. But here in Genesis 38 is the story of his older brother Judah. It is a seldom-read chapter, it is a rather sordid story and greatly contrasts the life of Joseph. We see Judah's life was sad and sordid, Joseph's life as we will see is sparkling and spectacular. God often gives us contrasts in the Scriptures that allow us to clearly see the beauty and the sparkle of one person or principle more clearly. We will see how rare and precious Joseph was for the days that he lived in.

Never Wastes His Word

God never wastes His Word, and He never wastes His warning. The fact that it is in this book, and we are reading it now is all that we need to be assured that we need to be reading this chapter, today, for our lives, or for someone we will be encountering in the near future. He who has an ear, let him hear.....

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

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- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 38:1 NKJV) It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah.

Somewhere in 20 Years

Verse one this insertion is somewhere in this 20 year period that Joseph is in Egypt and before the boys come down to Egypt to buy grain

Dazzled

Hirah means nobility (as in distinction and honor in standing), or better said splendour and dazzling. And even Christians can get dazzled by the splendor of the world, the people with all their sparkle and charm and think, man, that's the way to go. Look at their life. They so have it going on. Of course, the end of their life ends in perishing because they've never come to Jesus Christ, but nonetheless, along the way, Christians can want to join the people who show this splendor and dazzle, and you always come to that if you cannot find and see the splendor in Jesus Christ. In about seven miles.

(Genesis 38:2 NKJV) And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he married her and went in to her.

(Genesis 38:3 NKJV) So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.

(Genesis 38:4 NKJV) She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan.

(Genesis 38:5 NKJV) And she conceived yet again and bore a son, and called his name Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him.

Pagan Pal / Canaanite Wife – Gen 28

So here this young man Hirah, an Adullamite, he's a pagan pal to Judah, he is someone who is outside the believing community of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Judah goes for a Canaanite woman even though back in Genesis 28 Jacobs parents (Rebecca and Isaac) told Jacob don't take a woman from Canaanite, and they sent him to his uncle Laban's to find a wife (which turned out to be Rachel and Leah):

(Genesis 28:1 NKJV) Then Isaac called Jacob and blessed him, and charged him, and said to him: "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.

(Genesis 28:2 NKJV) "Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother's father; and take yourself a wife from there of the daughters of Laban your mother's brother.

(Genesis 28:3 NKJV) "May God Almighty bless you, And make you fruitful and multiply you, That you may be an assembly of peoples;

Jacob pass Wisdom to Kids / Maybe Guilt / Leaves his Covering

Judah knows this, Jacob would pass the wisdom of the father's down to his kids, but Judah ignores it. I believe what is happening here is Judah is checking out for a while. Maybe it was the guilt of what he did to Joseph, maybe it was who he really was, but for whatever reason we see him checking out. He departs from his brothers, his family, his father and from any accountability and wisdom, and he heads to the world for relief from the struggles of life.

Genesis 37:26 (NKJV) ²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?"

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hanging Out in wrong Place

So here he is hanging out with the unsaved buddy, and he hooks up with an unsaved woman, and takes her as wife.

Warning / Notice Progression

Again here in the Scriptures is a story put here for us as a warning for us to protect us from doing the same. Noticed the progression, now we may not jump into sin but a slow progression starts and we end up in a place we shouldn't be. Here's Judah's progression, he leaves his family, which means he leaves his accountability, we see him start hanging out with an unbeliever, a person of unlike faith and then we find him being joined to an unbeliever, someone outside the faith and the belief of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the God of Israel. By the end of this chapter we'll see him being joined to a prostitute.

Youth – Careful who Hang out With / Gradually Lead You / Psalm 1

You youth and young adults be careful who you hang out with for their influence can take you places that you will wish you never went to. You may say well there are not that many Christians to hang out with, so I really have no choice. Well the choices were even less for Judah, and what happened to Judah will happen to you. In most cases it will happen so gradually you won't even realize it. Hey I'm going to go down to see a buddy, he's always making me laugh, I could use a good laugh. Hey it's just for one beer.

This is Psalm 1:

(Psalms 1:1 NKJV) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

(Psalms 1:4 NKJV) The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

(Psalms 1:5 NKJV) Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

(Psalms 1:6 NKJV) For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Walk – Stand - Sit

Notice the progression, first he is walking the ungodly, then he is stopped and standing with the sinner, then he is sitting amongst them. It is a gradual progression, but the ending is same.

(Genesis 38:6 NKJV) Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

Day of Arranged Marriages / Knew better than Dad – Er too Stupid

This was in the day of arranged marriages where the parents picked out the mate for their children. And here we see Judah who knew better than his dad, hey I can take a Canaanite woman for myself I'll be fine. But I'll pick a wife from my son because he's too stupid to decide what's right for himself.

Personal Principle

Let me share a personal principle with you. I will not do anything that I don't want my son to do even if I have the liberties to do it myself. I think too many R-rated movies have gone way over the line and fast approaching are the PG-13 movies. I don't watch any R-rated movies so I will never have to say to my son or have a discussion with him on which ones are ok, and which ones are not, I watch this type but not that type. I just don't watch them, and hope when I am not around nor will he. Same with alcohol, not in the privacy of my home, nor with pizza, nor a glass of wine at dinner with Mommy. Personally, I don't because the stakes are too high and I want to have a zero alcohol policy so as to never influence him. These are silent witnesses that I hope will imbed in his mind. I can't ask him to not do something that I do.

It Doesn't work for Anyone

As for Judah's son we will see his arranged marriage doesn't work out for all involved.

(Genesis 38:7 NKJV) But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him.

(Genesis 38:8 NKJV) And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."

Why? We don't know, it must have been something terrible for God to kill him.

However, Er knew what it was because God would have convicted him of his sin before passing this judgement upon him, and Er refused to repent. The message for all of us is that God sees, and He speaks, and He moves, and as in the case of Er just because it is not made public for all to know what the sin (wickedness) was/is, God knows and we all must respond..... and get right with God.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Levirate Marriage

This is called the "Levirate marriage" it later became part of the Levitical Law written by Moses to the Children of Israel.

(Deuteronomy 25:5 NKJV) "If brothers dwell together, and one of them dies and has no son, the widow of the dead man shall not be married to a stranger outside the family; her husband's brother shall go in to her, take her as his wife, and perform the duty of a husband's brother to her."

(Deuteronomy 25:6 NKJV) "And it shall be that the firstborn son which she bears will succeed to the name of his dead brother, that his name may not be blotted out of Israel."

(Deuteronomy 25:7 NKJV) "But if the man does not want to take his brother's wife, then let his brother's wife go up to the gate to the elders, and say, 'My husband's brother refuses to raise up a name to his brother in Israel; he will not perform the duty of my husband's brother.'"

(Deuteronomy 25:8 NKJV) "Then the elders of his city shall call him and speak to him. But if he stands firm and says, 'I do not want to take her,'"

(Deuteronomy 25:9 NKJV) "then his brother's wife shall come to him in the presence of the elders, remove his sandal from his foot, spit in his face, and answer and say, 'So shall it be done to the man who will not build up his brother's house.'"

(Deuteronomy 25:10 NKJV) "And his name shall be called in Israel, 'The house of him who had his sandal removed.'"

We will find when we get to the Mosaic/Levitical laws, that 34 forms of the the law were first revealed, introduced in the book of Genesis

Next Brother / Carry on Lineage

In that culture, it was a common practice that if a man married and he died before he had any children, his next oldest brother had to take his wife and marry her and raise up children in the name of the dead brother. The firstborn would be named after the dead brother and considered to be his family

Younger Brother would Say

We will see this again in the Book of Ruth. In the Book of Ruth, after Naomi's husband and sons had died, she came back to Israel with her daughter-in-law Ruth. Ruth gleaned in the field of Boaz and at the end of the Harvest season, she was instructed, by Naomi, to go at night and see the place where Boaz lay and lay down and cover her feet with his blanket. Boaz was a near kinsmen. Elimelech and his two sons are dead and his family name will perish unless someone follows the law and raises up a child to keep the family name going. Ruth is actually asking Boaz to fulfill the law concerning the dead brother to raise up a child after his name. Boaz was an older man, old enough to be Ruth's father; but, he was attracted to her. However, there was another brother who was next in line, as far as order of kin, and he would have the first opportunity. He could not fulfill the law as he was already married, so, he passed on the shoe to Boaz and Boaz married Ruth.

(Genesis 38:9 NKJV) But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.

(Genesis 38:10 NKJV) And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.

Onan – not his Child

Onan knew the child born would not be considered his own, therefore he spilled his seed on the ground so Tamar would not become pregnant with child.

Not proof Text / Rejecting & Disrespecting /

The verb tense is a continual ongoing activity; so he would have continual relations with her (likely for his personal satisfaction), but not fulfill what his responsibility was, for her to have child. Onan was rejecting his father's direction, and he was disrespecting his dead brother. The displeasure of God was not the

emitting of the seed on the ground, but his failure to fulfill the obligation of raising up an heir for the dead brother

What about Birth Control / Stay in Context / Stay Silent / Heb 1

This verse isn't proof text against masturbation or against birth control. What about birth control you may ask. Well, all you singles, obey the word and stay pure is God's word for you today. But for married couples, man has debated this issue for centuries and like in verse 7 we don't know what Er did, therefore we have to remain silent about that, and I believe the same goes here. We cannot build a case off of this one verse against birth control, because we do not have enough information. A great rule in studying the Scripture is when the Bible is silent it is best to we remain silent. I can see nowhere in the Scripture were God says birth control is wrong. So I remain silent and say to you what was spoken to us in the book of Hebrews, Jesus speaks to man today, therefore seek Him and His leading for you in that area of your life:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

I stay away from giving my personal opinion because I do not have to live with my personal opinion, the other person does if they apply it.

Be Fruitful

Now the word does say be fruitful and multiply:

(Genesis 1:28 NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Another one for the Kingdom / Only Creation for Eternity

Every time a Christian couple tell me they are with child, I say Praise the Lord, another one for the Kingdom. You know every day man creates rockets that fly to space, computers that travel the speed of light, houses, and other stuff, but all of that will burn, the only thing the man can create the last forever is a child.

How many Kids?

Question may be asked then how many children are enough, again I take you back the Hebrews chapter 1:

(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, (Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Masturbation

How about masturbation, is it wrong? Let me just say this Jesus says if a man lust in his heart he is guilty of adultery. Jesus is making a point of how powerful the human mind is, and just how much it is a reflection of what is in our heart.

(Matthew 5:28 NKJV) "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Take Thoughts to Captivity

It is important that we take every thought into captivity, that we do not let anything, especially our mind have power over our bodies. Young men you must be in control of your lust. Getting married will not take care of your lust problem.

(1 Corinthians 6:12 NKJV) All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

(2 Corinthians 10:3 NKJV) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh.

(2 Corinthians 10:4 NKJV) For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

(2 Corinthians 10:5 NKJV) casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

(Genesis 38:11 NKJV) Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

Black Widow

At this point Judah thinks he has a black widows situation going on here and there ain't no way he's allowing his last son to marry Tamar. So he comes up with this story to appease her, but he has no plan of ever giving his last son to her

Something Honourable About Tamar

What's interesting about Tamar is that even though the first two men really had no interest in the lineage of the family. She takes some type of ownership that she wants to do this and continue this on. She then being more Respectful than the actual sons who were of the father, Judah, because she could have just been cut loose, if you would, and went on and remarried somebody else, but she finds herself drawn to endure this time of being a widow and being childless that she's willing to do that. rather than just move on and remarry someone else from the Canaanite culture.

(Genesis 38:12 NKJV) Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

Wife Dies – Back Pagan Pal

Judah's wife dies, and we see Judah grieving again and where does he go? He goes with us pagan pal. The time to shear the sheep was a party time, it was like a harvest time, it was a time where they knew money would be flowing in as soon as they took their goods to the market.

Judah will enter into sin knowing this is not the will of God and what I find interesting is when people are bent on sin, they find people and surround themselves with people who will support their position on sin, and even to the point of justification of their sin, of why they are right to do what they're going to do. And it doesn't have to just be finding an unbeliever. Here's what we see. Judah do, but people in the church will do it all the time, they'll find someone who they know won't speak the truth to them. Will coddle them because they are either desiring or involved in the same. sin, or they just are weak in the faith, and they don't want to lose a friend, so they so call support the friend, even though the friend is it displeasing the Lord.

Look at his coldness towards Tamar that in his pain he wants to be comforted in his pain of loneliness but he has no sympathy or empathy for Tamar pain and loneliness and loss

(Genesis 38:13 NKJV) And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

(Genesis 38:14 NKJV) So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.

(Genesis 38:15 NKJV) When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face.

She Figures it Out

Tamar figures it out she knows Judah is holding back from her so she plots her own plan.

Temple Prostitute

The word for harlot here is prostitute. She dressed up like a Temple prostitute. Usually pagan worship was associated around the procreated capacities of man. They revered the marvelous power of the creating of life through a sexual union. It was a major part of the Canaanites religious belief and worship. Every Canaanite woman had to devote herself, for a period of time, as a prostitute to raise funds for the Temple. It was an accepted practice among these people. So, Tamar put on the attire of a temple prostitute and veiled herself so Judah couldn't recognize her.

(Genesis 38:16 NKJV) Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

(Genesis 38:17 NKJV) And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give me a pledge till you send it?"

(Genesis 38:18 NKJV) Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand." Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

To the World for Comfort / No Money in Hand

Judah's mourning so he goes to the world again for comfort and relief. One note here, this buying a prostitute wasn't part of his plan. He doesn't have the money to pay her we see, if that was his plan he would have had money in hand. Judah thought is to go have a couple beers with his friends, but he ends up in a place he shouldn't be and ends up doing something that he will regret. Again Psalm 1.

Ring – Bracelet – Staff / Person – Possessions - Position

The signet was the ring stamp that you could put into the wax and sign with to prove that the merchandise was yours. So the

- Signet ring actually identified who you were,
- the bracelet represents wealth for not everyone could afford to wear bracelets,
- and the staff, at least in Judah's case represented his livelihood, for he was a Shepherd.

Notice what Tamar asked for. Used as a seal on business transactions or correspondence, the signet spoke of the person, of identity. The bracelets spoke of possession of wealth. The staff spoke of position—even as it does to this day. Thus, Tamar, playing the role of a prostitute, is saying, "I want your person, your possessions, your position." And that's exactly what happens to anyone who gives himself or herself to immorality. Person, possessions, position are all lost. "What do I want?" asked Tamar. "I want it all."

Turn yourself Over to Immorality / Ruin Life

Turn yourself over to immorality, prostitution, drug use, gambling, or any of that sleazy stuff and you will see that the cost is high. It will ruin your name, take your wealth, and in many cases take away your livelihood.

Risks it All for a Moment

Judah gives all to her for a moment of pleasure, he gives it all up, he risks it all for one moment of pleasure. Beloved learn the contrasts between Joseph and Judah.

(Genesis 38:19 NKJV) So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood.

(Genesis 38:20 NKJV) And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her.

The Witnesses

Look at Judah he gives his payment to a heathen to go settle up for him with a harlot what a horrible witness, but we can all have our horrible witnesses in the life and the choices that we make as the world watches us. It's always bigger than just us. And there's always others watching. Not to mention the Lord watches

(Genesis 38:21 NKJV) Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this place."

(Genesis 38:22 NKJV) So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this place."

(Genesis 38:23 NKJV) Then Judah said, "Let her take them for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her."

Too late for life is changed up forever.

(Genesis 38:24 NKJV) And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

Sin in Others Lives / We Justify It

Judah can believe it, my daughter-in-law has been involved in immorality. She deserves death. Isn't it amazing how horrible our sin looks when other people are doing it. We justify our sin in our mind, we say it is because we are in love, we say this is different, it's only temporary.

Whole Chapter Devoted / See Contrasts – Joseph will Run

God devotes this whole chapter, one chapter out of 50, to tell us the story. God gives us a warning of the life of Judah. We see the contrast between Judah and Joseph, Joseph himself will have a moment of passion, there in Potiphar's house, but he will give us what a man after God does in these situations – Turn and burn.

(Genesis 38:25 NKJV) When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these are; the signet and cord, and staff."

(Genesis 38:26 NKJV) So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

Sad Statement / World Looks On / Need More Christians Living it Out

What a sad statement, Judah is from the lineage of Jacob, and Tamar is more righteous than he is. How sad it is when the world looks on at us and there are those times where they are more righteous than us. The world looks on and says if you're all right with God, then so too must I. The world doesn't need more evangelism, the world needs to see more Christians living it out, walking in obedience.

Judah drifts

Judah drifts off the scene, what a way to leave this man.

(Genesis 38:27 NKJV) Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb.

(Genesis 38:28 NKJV) And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

(Genesis 38:29 NKJV) Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" Therefore his name was called Perez.

(Genesis 38:30 NKJV) Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

4 Woman / Linked to Messiah / Amazing Grace / God rather Cleanse - Trophy

Four women named in Matthew's Gospel. All of them outside of the Jewish race, for, even Bath-sheba was a Hittite. All of them had shady experiences in their past. It speaks of the "grace" of God. We may not have the most honorable past and we may be ashamed of it as we look back; yet, God does not disqualify us or kick us out. He would rather wash us, cleanse us, forgive us and then use us as trophies to His grace:

(Matthew 1:1 NKJV) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

(Matthew 1:2 NKJV) Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

(Matthew 1:3 NKJV) Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.

Family Past

Do not think that your past will ever keep you away from God. Tamar is proof and a powerful picture of God's redemptive grace. This woman did questionable things, yet she will be connected to the Messiah. We see God's grace, it is unmerited, unearned, favor, for the infinitely ill deserving. That is you and I.

Ruth Overview

Ruth 1

Ruth 1 tells how, during a famine in Israel, Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons move from Bethlehem to Moab. Elimelech dies, and later both sons—who had married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth—also die. Naomi hears the famine in Israel is over and decides to return home. Orpah tearfully says goodbye, but Ruth clings to Naomi, declaring her loyalty to Naomi, her people, and her God. They arrive in Bethlehem at the start of the barley harvest, with Naomi feeling bitter over her losses.

Key Verse

Ruth 1:16–17 (NKJV)¹⁶ But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, *Or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God.* ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If *anything but death parts you and me.*”

Ruth 2

Ruth 2 describes how Ruth goes to glean leftover grain in the fields to provide for herself and Naomi. She happens to work in the field of Boaz, a wealthy relative of Elimelech. Boaz notices her, learns of her loyalty to Naomi, and shows her kindness and protection. He ensures she has extra grain to gather and invites her to eat with his workers. Ruth returns to Naomi with abundant grain, and Naomi praises God for Boaz’s kindness, noting he is a family redeemer.

Nowhere is Ruth's physical appearance described and recorded. Everyone immediately makes the assumption of physical beauty as the scriptures declared Sarah, Rachel, and Rebecca and their physical beauty, but that's not associated with Ruth. It's not there, but many make the assumption that it is, but what I know Boaz sees is an impoverished heartbroken stranger alien in the land trying to get by day by day, not knowing what a future holds the land that they're on is no longer theirs where their stand is not clearly described. It's probably a minimal dwelling place and probably very vulnerable and this is what Boaz sees in Ruth. And love began to move

And when Love walked this earth 2000 years ago, and His name is Jesus.

Key Verse

Ruth 2:4–7 (NKJV)⁴ Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, “The LORD *be with you!*” And they answered him, “The LORD bless you!” ⁵ Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” ⁶ So the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered and said, “It is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. ⁷ And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the sheaves.’ So she came and has continued from morning until now, though she rested a little in the house.”

Ruth 3

Ruth 3 tells how Naomi instructs Ruth to approach Boaz at the threshing floor at night to request his protection as a family redeemer. Ruth follows Naomi’s guidance, uncovering Boaz’s feet and lying down. When Boaz wakes, Ruth asks him to “spread his garment” over her as a sign of marriage and redemption. Boaz praises her for her kindness, promises to act, but explains a closer relative has the first right to redeem. He sends her home with grain as a sign of his care.

Ruth chapter 3, I'll say this, if Judah had the character of Boaz, he could have laid down at the harvest and God would have brought a bride to him that was God given and God sent. But instead, he chose to go to the world, and he chose to follow the way of the world. Something to be said for all of us.

Key Verse

Ruth 3:5–9 (NKJV)⁵ And she said to her, “All that you say to me I will do.” ⁶ So she went down to the threshing floor and did according to all that her mother-in-law instructed her. ⁷ And after Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was cheerful, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain; and she came softly, uncovered his feet, and lay

down. ⁸ Now it happened at midnight that the man was startled, and turned himself; and there, a woman was lying at his feet. ⁹ And he said, “Who *are* you?” So she answered, “I *am* Ruth, your maidservant. Take your maidservant under your wing, for you are a close relative.”

Ruth 4

Ruth 4 recounts how Boaz meets the closer relative at the town gate and offers him the right to redeem Naomi’s land and marry Ruth. The man declines, allowing Boaz to redeem both. Boaz publicly claims Ruth as his wife, and they marry. Ruth gives birth to a son, Obed, who becomes the grandfather of King David. The chapter ends with a genealogy linking Ruth and Boaz to David.

Key Verse

Ruth 4:11–12 (NKJV)¹¹ And all the people who *were* at the gate, and the elders, said, “*We are* witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem. ¹² May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman.”

Ruth 4:18–22 (NKJV)¹⁸ Now this *is* the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron; ¹⁹ Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab; ²⁰ Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon; ²¹ Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed; ²² Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.

We End at Matthew

The book of Ruth ties to Matthew 1 through the genealogy of Jesus. Ruth, a Moabite woman who showed faith and loyalty to God, married Boaz, and they became the great-grandparents of King David. Matthew 1 includes Ruth and Boaz in the lineage of Jesus Christ, showing how God worked through unexpected people and circumstances to fulfill His promise of the Messiah.

Matthew 1:1–6 (NKJV)

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her *who had been the wife* of Uriah.

Matthew 1:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Matthew 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Here is Something Interesting

- According to several Bible-code studies, in the Hebrew Masoretic text of Genesis 38, if you pick a starting point and then count every 49 letters (sometimes said as 7×7) after that point, you allegedly spell out, in order, the names:
 - Boaz (בועז),
 - Ruth (רות),
 - Obed (עבֶד),
 - Jesse (ישׁעי),
 - David (דָּוִד)
 - — all in the generational sequence leading from Judah through Perez to David .
- A similarly worded explanation states that these names are hidden “in chronological order within Genesis chapter 38,” reinforcing the idea that the sequence intentionally anticipates the Messianic lineage (Dr Chuck Missler)

Let it be clear, the devil could not undo and squash what God was going to do through the line of Jacob..... and you!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 39

Title: And Whatever You Do, Do It for the Glory of God

Summary: A truly remarkable chapter in the Bible, as we see this young man Joseph give glory to God through his life by being a living sacrifice and witness as he withstands temptations and trials. Join us as we glean strength and lessons for our trials and temptations in life.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Recap Last Study / Backdrop of Black / Temptation

We have seen that God gave Joseph a heavenly vision that someday he will rule over his family; that vision got him in a lot of trouble with his brothers. Those brothers waited for the opportune time and threw him in a pit, and then sold him off to a passing caravan. In chapter 38 we saw the story of Judah, and his failings in the area of fleshly lust; it is a wonderful backdrop, a backdrop of blackness, in order for us to see how bright of a light Joseph is. In this chapter we will see temptation come his way, and we will watch how the man of God is to react.

One of Greatest Chapters All the Bible (Vessels – Tools – Weapons)

This chapter is one of the greatest chapters of victory in the whole Bible. If we were to rank Old Testament, great victories, and we started to throw out stories of greatness surely David and Goliath ranks in the top of stories of great victory, and of course, what was great about David's story is after the victory Israel lived in victory and so there's this tying and correlating that victory brings prosperity if you would and yet we have a countering story here with Joseph, one of the greatest stories of victory in the Bible and yet we don't see his reward as prosperity, but more pain and suffering and so what we have here is a difference of man's economy and how we do things compared to God's economy and how he views things because he's doing more than the moment anytime all the time and in this story time before us today is that it's more than the moment he uses the culminations of moments to shape and to form a man or woman into his image into his vessel, that he can flow through, and we don't recognize it, but we are more than vessels. We're tools that God uses the shape and the chisel in the world. We're more than a tool and a vessel. We're weapons that God uses to fight the enemy and tear down and defeat. All that the world and people and even our flesh, even the church will say is impossible to have victory and your God will point to a man will point to a woman and say there's one there's a Victor and what it would be your excuse as you look at this young life of Joseph, how about Daniel refusing the king's delicacies? He's the same age as Joseph probably when he's in that chapter in that story they're in the book of Daniel we have before us one of the greatest victory stories in all of the Bible

Whatever You Do!

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Outline: Genesis 39

Whatever You Do, Do It All For the Glory of God:

- In Tasks (39:1-6)
- In Temptation (39:7-19)
- In Trials (39:20-23)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Whatever You Do, Do It All For the Glory of God:

- **In Tasks (39:1-6)**
- In Temptation (39:7-19)
- In Trials (39:20-23)

(Genesis 39:1 NKJV) Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

(Genesis 39:2 NKJV) The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

I'll Take His Presence Over Any Place

Look at verse two as a compares to verse one surely Joseph this is not what I would chose for life. This is not my will for my life. I'm in a place that I have been abandoned by my family. I am put into a home that I'm no longer a free man to make my own decisions and yet first two will say and the Lord was with Joseph. isn't that something you know even when you're in a place you don't wanna be when you yield to it you say were you allow this? Maybe it's not my will. It's not what I would've chose, but I'm here in this place and you find what Joseph found the Lord was with me. The Lord is with me the Lord will be with you. You can rest in the There's a place where we yield just be honest. I don't want to be here as long as I'm here as long as you're here, we're gonna do this together and enjoy it sweetness of your presents because I will tell you this. I have the presence of the Lord in my life being in a place that I'd rather not be than being in some place then I wanna be, but his presence isn't there and I'm not experiences presence. I'm not it joy and in his presence fullness joy and life any place where he's at that's where I wanna be I love him and I know that he loves me and I know that he holds me and I know that he's doing something in me and I know there's a future to hope even when the present might not be what I hope for

Doesn't Pay to Serve God

Boy, I've heard it. I'm sure if I thought about it had been tempted as well, saying it doesn't pay to serve God. All I got out of this was pain, betrayal by my brothers cast off. then to come to be slandered. There's a man in the story of the Bible. It's Joseph, who could say, and become bitter at God, saying, it doesn't pay to serve God. All he brings is pain. But he didn't. He doesn't know at the end of the story is. But I think he has holding on to the vision. God gave him, and somehow knows it ends well. And I encourage you to hang on to your vision. I think the greatest vision is God's love for us. The picture of the cross

Joseph's victory in the midst of temptation and trials, started here in that he would not trade his intimate relationship with God over anything, he would not trade the presence of God in his life for anything!
I/You/We need to do the same>

What is Special about this Young boy

What's so special about this young man is that he loves God that's what makes him who he is and that's what makes you special a special treasure according to our brother Peter

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Hall of Faith

Joseph is remarkable young man, but you know why he is in the Hall of Faith, not for all these amazing things we will read of him, but that at the end of his life he says “bury me in the Promised Land”, though it is nowhere near, if fact it will be close to 400 more years

Hebrews 11:22 (NKJV)

²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Genesis 50:24–26 (NKJV)

²⁴ And Joseph said to his brethren, “I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” ²⁵ Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.” ²⁶ So Joseph died, *being* one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus 13:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.”

(Genesis 39:3 NKJV) And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

Master Saw It

And I love it. We can see whatever it was about the countenance of Joseph leaning into the circumstance that he was in leaning on the Lord that the great Egyptian ruler recognizes that God's favor was upon Joseph. He doesn't even know who the one true and living God is, but he knows whatever it is about Joseph, it's more than Joseph. It's about this God that he believes in God that he follows in the God that he obeys. God's witnessing to this Egyptian ruler and everybody in the house through this young boy who is willing to not quit, but still follow heart after the Lord

Freest Person in House

You know who was the most freest person in this home? It was Joseph. because he was a slave, a servant to the one true and living God. Everyone else served Egypt. They weren't free. And the ruler's wife, she was the biggest slave in the home, and she was a slave to her sin. She was a slave to discontentment. She was a slave. to being controlled by her fleshly, lustly appetite, and not free to enjoy being loved by her creator who formed her in the womb. and fashioned her and gave her life and gave her breath. but was not content, wanted more. And she was the ultimate slave in this home, and Joseph was the ultimate, free man.

(Genesis 39:4 NKJV) So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

(Genesis 39:5 NKJV) So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

Joseph Successful / Slave – no BMW / Gets Want – Wants Gets

(Genesis 39:2 NKJV) The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; Joseph was successful, God says he was right here in this verse. See I need for God to say Joseph was successful because that is not the way my mind thinks. For my thought process how can you say that being a slave is something to be categorize in the successful file, but God does. We notice he does not own a BMW, or 60-inch flat screen TV, he was successful and he was a slave. A prosperous, successful person, is not someone who gets what he wants, but wants what he gets. Lord this is where you have me today; therefore let me be successful at it today. Go ahead and send your résumé to do what you feel is necessary for your family, but be successful where you are at until God opens that next door for you

Contentment – Great Gain

The Scriptures say, godliness with contentment is great gain. Contentment doesn't come from great gains, but contentment comes from being godly, and that comes from being in Christ Jesus, and living a life sold out for Him, anything else will leave you desiring more:

(1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

(1 Timothy 6:7 NKJV) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

(1 Timothy 6:8 NKJV) And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.

(1 Timothy 6:9 NKJV) But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

(1 Timothy 6:10 NKJV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

(1 Timothy 6:11 NKJV) But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

Blessed at Work

Now I believe God wants to bless us in our jobs (whatever/regardless it is we do) because it brings Him glory. In the New Testament we are told:

(Colossians 3:22 NKJV) Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.

(Colossians 3:23 NKJV) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

(Colossians 3:24 NKJV) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Bloom where Planted / Be all There / Joseph Path – no Complain

Beloved, bloom wherever you are planted. Wherever you are, be all there, don't be somewhere else, don't be wishing you were somewhere else, day dreaming of being somewhere else, or waiting to be somewhere else; be all you are, wherever you are, and God will bless you where you are at, and move you when He deems it necessary and beneficial for you. We see Joseph going from working hard for his father, to working hard for Potiphar as a slave, then to working hard while he is in prison. What we won't notice is Joseph complaining, we just read of him working, and working hard. Good example for us.

Ministry Application / Don't wait until Tomorrow

This is application for Ministry also, don't be waiting for tomorrow's Ministry, be active in Ministry today, any kind of ministry you can. Use what talents you have today, don't wait for tomorrow's talents to come. Bloom where you are planted, and let God take care of tomorrow's ministries for you.

Potiphar saw Lord w/Joseph / Companies should Want

(Genesis 39:3 NKJV) And his master saw that the LORD was with him - Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph, and Potiphar recognised that he was being blessed because of Joseph's relationship with the Lord. Christian, companies and businesses should be looking for Christians and saying I want Christians to work for me. I want Christians because the Christians I have now are my best workers. Why don't they do this? It's a said statement for the church today.

Companies Blessed – God Providing

(Genesis 39:5 NKJV) that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. - I believe many companies and businesses are blessed by God because they are providing the livelihood for God's children. And those children are themselves being faithful with their finances to support the works of God in such thing as missions, tithing their church, and blessing the family of God.

(Genesis 39:6 NKJV) Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

This be Work Goal / Youth the Same / God looking Youth with Heavenly Vision

Let this be you were work goal, that your boss will reach a point with you that he doesn't even feel he/she has to look after your work to see if it is done and done right. You youth, the same for you, with your parents, be a Joseph and let your parents not have to look into the things they have entrusted you to do. Whether that be homework, chores around the house, where you are going, who you are with, be a Joseph's and let your parents not have to look after you to see the you are doing what they expect you to do. Remember, God is looking for youth today to whom He may give a dream to, in part a vision to, you

kids have it, I see it in you, continue on and holds steadfast to the path you are on, do not waiver, I see Joseph in you.

Handsome – Built / Looks and World / Never Develop

(Genesis 39:6 NKJV) Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. - Joseph was a handsome young man. It also says that he was handsome in the form, so it means that he was a well built. Joseph was a buff young man. You know looks aren't always the blessing the world makes them out to be. Madison Avenue promotes beauty; it's looks, looks, and looks. They never base cover girls on who has the best personality or sweetest heart. For some people looks are a curse to them, it opens doors for them that should not have opened, it puts them in relationships that destroy their lives, and for some people their looks keep them from developing as a person because they get the world handed to them on a silver platter. If you think looks will answer all your problems, you are greatly mistaken; they may just be the beginning of worse problems. It's a lie, cellulite reduction, breast implants, Rogaine; it's all a lie of the world, godliness with contentment is great gain:

(1 Timothy 6:6 NKJV) Now godliness with contentment is great gain.

Whatever You Do, Do It All For the Glory of God:

- In Tasks (39:1-6)
- **In Temptation (39:7-19)**
- In Trials (39:20-23)

(Genesis 39:7 NKJV) And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

(Genesis 39:8 NKJV) But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand."

Satan sees the Threat

So here comes Satan when he sees this young man sold out for God, saying, we got to do something. We can't let this continue. We can't let him have this witness that other people will follow and go. There must be something real about what he believes because it sure does change his life. Brings him a peace and prosperity. I know let's send a girl to take them down. Maybe for others. I'll send some drugs, maybe for others. Let's send some places to click, maybe for some send some things to drink, to numb, whatever it may be, in this case, Satan said Send him a girl. He's a lonely young man, far away from home. Sold in the slavery. This one will surely work.

Truly a Temptation

Note this, this was truly a temptation before Joseph. Potiphar was a powerful man, and powerful men in those times married beautiful women. This was a trial for Joseph he was young and virile, and I am sure he could not help but notice her beautiful looks. The Egyptian women were the first to wear makeup, be daily, and to wear perfume. This was truly a trial for Joseph, yet we will see that he holds true to the calling of the Lord

Yes Christians Get Tempted

Temptation is real. Don't be beat up by it because if temptation wasn't real for the believer, the Lord would have never gave us that model and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from lead us. Just a daily prayer. It's a daily prayer. So don't beat yourself up. But enter into the battle. Take every thought captive. Even if it's ten thousand times a day. God will deliver you from the evil one who wishes to steal killing destroy.

It's a daily prayer

Matthew 6:9-15 (NKJV)

⁹ In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

¹⁴ "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

And what do you do if you failed? Do what David speak the word Psalm 51 against you and you only have I sinned, Lord. And then take what God has provided. 1 John 19, if we confess our sins, he's faithful and just for give us of our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. But, of course, I always know this if you didn't plan. and consider what the consequence would be, you may be forgiven, yes, but the consequence could be a lifetime. of reaping and sowing. to the flesh and the harvest and the fruit. a rotten fruit at that, that it will produce

1 John 1:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Fall when Discouraged / Sold – Ripped off – Cast Off - Forsaken / Holds to Heavenly Vision

You know when many Christians fall in this area? It is when they are discouraged, bummed out. Here is Joseph all alone, sold out by his brothers, ripped off, and cast off. He couldn't easily have said what is the use, nobody cares about me, my God has forsaken me, what have I done, how unfair I have been treated. How easily he could have said I need to check out, get some relief from all my struggles, but no Joseph is a man of integrity, a rock, I will not and I cannot. Joseph holds on to the heavenly vision god had given him.

First Step – Recognize (Then Resist & Rejoice)

The first step to the victory in the trial or temptation, especially the one regarding the temptation of the devil is to recognize that this is from the devil and that you if need be be honest that's the temptation is tempting, and the key word there is if the temptation is not tempting, then it's really not a temptation. If you put a big hot fudge Sunday before me, even if I say I'm trying to watch my diet, it shall be tempting to me because of my love for hot fudge Sundays with whipped cream and then drizzled again with chocolate syrup with a cherry or two on the top and then more hot fudge in the middle and then in the bottom also just to make my point of how I love those hot fudge sundaes. But see, if you put before me a big bowl of possum stew. I'm not going to be tempted. There won't be any inkling in me that I would want to eat of it in fact, more so it would make me crave that hot fudge sundae.

So the first part is to recognize that you can be tempted and that you are tempted and therefore the temptation has to be respected and revered for its potential damage that it can do. And then we walk our way through we resist only after we recognize because no recognition does not call for the battle lines to be drawn to resist, but once we resist through the power of the Lord by recognizing the threat and the need for the power to overcome then afterwards, we come to the rejoicing.

We rejoice that God showed up. We rejoice that God did what he said he would do deliver us from the evil one and that we can rejoice in the trowel that has now passed because now we have this victory that conforms us into a greater image of the Lord, not deforms us into the image of the old man and the fallen man, and we rejoice the god's working and has work. We rejoice, yes, that we can actually say praise you, Lord that I chose with my ability to choose that I chose to say no and to follow hard after you it's a beautiful place when we recognize we resist and we rejoice and you might go through that cycle once a day for 30 days or 30 times in a single day, but it's the same cycle for regardless how often the battle rages

James 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 Peter 5:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

Confession – Part of Protection

Confession needs to be a part of our daily prayer life and I'm finding more and more great power in Daniel chapter 6 verse 10 as I look at Daniel and how he prayed three times a day, and I'm finding a power in that when I begin my morning devotion, I'm writing it and recording thoughts and recording verses that have spoken to me. I am recording intercession for others and petition and I'm looking back at the day

before and reviewing my day of was there where was there shortcomings failings or flat out sin that I need to confess and repent before the Lord for that sin and confession simply means to agree with. You have to be open to not be justified, but to be very honest with the Lord. I agree with you. this is wrong. That thought, that word, that action, contrary to your word, I repent, I turn away from, that's what repent means and I turn to fall hard after you.

And as I said, I fold that piece of paper up. and I'm going to pull it out like Daniel. A couple more times. Maybe around lunchtime to remind me because I am that man who looks in the mirror and forgets what he sees. Forget the power of the word, that I had because I started my day in that time with the Lord waiting Psalm 46:10 and being still before the Lord. And that's holy ground. And not to confuse geographically, when I get up from that special ground that I had with the Lord and I move about my day, the Lord goes with me. But what I find often is, my memory doesn't. And so I pull my piece of paper out, and I look at it again. And this time, rather than an hour, I spend maybe seven minutes. And then I repeat action. At the end of the day, because I may need to have that time again with the Lord to settle my mind from the day and all these things. Maybe add two the Thanksgiving of what God did in that day so that whatever it may be, I can go to bed and rest and not have a mind that's wandering or a mind that is under confusion and turmoil or worse, a mind that is thinking things that are not of the heart of God.

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Daniel 6:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

James 1:22–25 (NKJV)

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

(Genesis 39:8 NKJV) But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

(Genesis 39:9 NKJV) "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Pay some Compliments

Just a word to the married I don't think you'll ever go wrong. complimenting one another. Slowing down. to have conversation and intimacy. I wonder if the ruler was all wrapped up in his work. Didn't have time for his wife. Seemed that she was alone. Plenty of times. while he was away. But I think there's just some great wisdom and complementing one another, giving kind remarks. Given lovingly looks to one another. So no one even notices another look or complement. They don't need it from anywhere else. They get it all that they want from the one that they've committed themselves to.

Fear of Lord – Reverence / No Church / No MP3

And look at ultimately, Joseph, who he sins against would be God. That's how sin is and there's a victory when we look at our sin is against God cause it's easy to justify it when it's with man or in comparison to other men or the culture, but when we take it before the holy God, then everything changes the sin is put into its light, of its darkness, before the light of the Holy God.

Look at Joseph how interesting; he says your husband has given me everything except you. But notice he doesn't say I can't do this to your husband, I can't do this to you, no he says I can't do this to my God. It is the fear of the Lord, the love of the Lord, the recognition of the Holy God, the reverence and respect of God that keeps him from entering into this sin. I might add that Joseph doesn't have an OT to read, an MP3 library of great teachers, he doesn't have a church youth group, nor a Pastor, yet he holds fast to the things God has placed in his heart.

God Sees / Satan Cheers

Joseph knows that God sees. You singles dating, apply this, it's not just the two of you on the couch, in the car, be reminded of this story you are not alone, God is right there with you. Satan is there too, cheering you on, saying go for it, it's yours, this is true love, you're such a stud, you are accepted and loved, if you don't you'll lose him. Satan is there to cheer you on, know that.

Potential Mate / Satan Waits ' Desperate Housewives

Singles, considering a potential mate, look for that mate (like Joseph) who fears the Lord, that the fear of the Lord is greater than their love for you. We live in a "Desperate Housewives" society, adultery is being glamorised, more and more acceptable, actually expected to happen these days, after all till death do you part is a long time with the same person is the mindset. Satan will wait for that opportune time, for when you're arguing, a bad week with the kids, you may be having ill feelings towards your spouse, they may be reading and seeing things that they shouldn't be, and all those emotions are so easily influenced. The fear of the Lord must supersede all things. It will be the fear of sinning against the Holy God that will deliver you/them from each and every one of those situations in your life.

Great Wickedness

Verse 9 - How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" – great wickedness, we live in the day where this is no longer a great wickedness. But sexual sin is destroying America, robbing lives, and that is why God hates sin for what it does to people. Consider this, the freedom of sexual fulfillment:

- 12 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases each year.
- Two thirds of them are people under the age of 25.
- 3 million of them are under the age of 18, that's 30,000 new cases each day.
- 1 in 4 young girls will be sexually abused before they graduate high school.
- 1 in 10 boys will be sexually abused before they graduate high school.
- 34 million abortions in the last 20 years in the United States of America.
- There were 2 million abortions last year.
- Every 30 minutes, 23 girls under the age of 19 have an abortion.
- 65% of the High School Seniors who attend church say they have been sexually active in some way in their lifetime.
- Adult bookstores outnumber McDonald's now 3 to1.
- 70% of the pornography in America ends up in the hands of youth.

Not so Fun / TV absence / Fun for Season / Great Wickedness

This sexual freedom, the statistics don't make it sound so fun. Notice these things hardly ever get mentioned on those sexually laden TV shows they only portray the fun part. Yes sin is fun for a season, but like fall turns into winter, so will the season of fun turn into sorrow. Do not be deceived whatever a man sows, that shall he reap. It is a great wickedness against God. We need so desperately today young men and young women who have the heavenly vision just as Joseph did. We need more Joseph's in our day.

Joseph Processes the Future Resultant

And notice verse 9, Joseph processes all the way through the moment into the future of what is the consequence if he does this. It will not just be him and her, it will be the effect upon the husband, the marriage, and then he goes forward from all that, and there is a place for victory, to process beyond the moment, and go, how will this affect my life? After the sin. Because if and when you do that, you will say that you will process and go. Is it truly worth the moment for what the lifetime's gonna cost me and what I'm going to lose?

- How will this affect my family?
- How will this affect my children?
- How will this affect my grandchildren?
- How will this affect my employment?
- How will this affect my ability to make a living?
- How will this affect my freedom? How will this affect my reputation
- and how will this affect God's reputation?

These are things that you decide before the wartime, and hence, the vital necessity of staying in the regular devotional life, prayer life. Ministry serving life. I'm told in the army training manual, says, the way you train in peacetime is the way you will fight in wartime. We need to be training, preparing, thinking of these things in the time of peace. So when the war does come, we're ready for the battle.

**Ultimately Joseph Loved God more than himself
It takes a passion to conquer a passion**

It's A Great Wickedness

Verse nine Joseph calls it a great wickedness. Just the word wicked. should pierce. He calls it a great wickedness. He puts it in this place of what it is before the Holy God. Maybe the world won't put it in, such a category. But God does Joseph follows God's lead on the matter. and I encourage myself. I encourage you. anything that even remotely. comes to near or leads to the forerunner of wickedness. It gives out of your life. Don't tolerate it. Don't entertain. Call it what it is.

(Genesis 39:10 NKJV) So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

Joseph's Wisdom

Verse 10 gives the wisdom not only would he not enter in and lie with her. The wisdom was that he wouldn't even be with her. He would change his pattern, his coarse direction, his time of day. And it's the simplicity of that wisdom. If you have a problem over there, then go the other direction. If you have a time of day that you're susceptible, then change where you go and what you do that time of day. Don't go to a bar to buy You're soda if you have a problem with alcohol.

Day-by-Day / Satan Persistent

Notice they're a by day! Satan is persistent he will not quit, Christian you cannot let your guard down because he will be there the day that you do.

Satan is Patient

So the scriptures tell us that Joseph is 17 when he sold into slavery we know that he'll be 30 when he leaves the prison. We know at a minimum he was in that prison for two years so he's in Potiphar's house for what we can easily gather to be several years and the point of that fact is that what we read is he did not withstand a one time approach by this wife. It was continual how many days, weeks, months even years it may have been we do not know and the point I would like to make it's very pertinent for all of us today is Satan is patient.

We read of his story there with John the Baptist being imprisoned that Satan waited the scriptures say for an opportune time that he can move again and kill John the Baptist because the people were for him so he used a little dancing girl to move the loft of a king who then will give a foolish decree up to half the kingdom and the requests would be made. Give me John the Baptist head on a platter and we see that the devil is patient. We see his goal is to still kill and destroy and he will take however long it is and wait for whatever opportunity to arise in order to execute and the pun isn't attended.

His mission to destroy the witness of your life to destroy you and then the dominoes of all the people in your life that will fall because of your one life willing to stand against the tide and destruction of the devil

[John 10:10 \(NKJV\)](#)

¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

[Mark 6:21–25 \(NKJV\)](#)

²¹ Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief *men* of Galilee. ²² And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you." ²³ He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom." ²⁴ So she

went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" ²⁵ Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

Joseph doesn't Witness / You'll get sucked in

Notice Joseph doesn't try to witness to her or try to counsel her on why this is wrong to do. Young guys and gals leave the witnessing to someone else, you'll only get sucked in, you may have good intentions but where your treasures are, there your heart will follow. You will find yourself being sucked in, developing a relationship with someone who isn't looking for spiritual fulfillment, but fleshly pleasures: *(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Same in Marriage / Avoid Potential Problems – Possible Temptations

It is the same principle in the marriage relationship. Married men and married women you do not need to be ministering to someone of the opposite sex. Stay away from potential problems or possible temptations. Don't do it, remember this story. God will send someone else rather than risk you blowing your witness, and ruining your family and ministry.

Hero in History

I love Joseph, Joseph goes down as a hero in history, and history continually reads his story of a man of God. Beloved, go down in history as a hero.

(Genesis 39:11 NKJV) But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

No Inside – to Outside / A Ministry Principle

Satan could not get him from the inside, so he waits for that opportune time to get him from the outside. This is why our Ministry principle here is that men and women will not be left alone together; but there will always be accountability. We do not allow ministers to drive woman home alone, or to have mixed gender counselling behind closed doors (if it is needed it is out in the open, if behind closed door than another person is there). It is a great safety feature for all involved. We believe this keeps us away from all appearances of evil, and keeps people from laying false accusations against the ministry:

(1 Thessalonians 5:22 NKJV) Abstain from every form of evil.

(Genesis 39:12 NKJV) that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

Big Sleeves

There's those big sleeves again, be careful those big sleeve opportunities they can bring much problems. Joseph is innocent, but we can still look at this story and heed its warning for us, is the big sleeve opportunity really worth it? How will this promotion, new job, new home, new ministry effect me and my family. Big Sleeve opportunities, pray them through, don't just jump on them, make sure the Lord is in it.

Flees Youthful Lust

Look at this young man, he flees youthful lust.

(2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV) Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Don't Give Me Hormones Raging

Don't give me a story that the hormones are raging; Joseph (only 17) shows it is possible to resist the temptation, to put the body in check and to have dominion over his fleshly desires. Youth you can do it, God always will provide you a way out:

(1 Corinthians 10:13 NKJV) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

A godly pastor who you would think never had any struggles said this regarding himself:

A life of holiness means saying no to the flesh 10,000 times a day.

1 Peter 1:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

It's a life of discipline, 'cause if you notice, God doesn't remove the temptation. Satan brings it, but God doesn't remove it. And there's always this place that Christians want to say, I don't know why God won't remove this temptation, and the reason is because Satan will come immediately after with another temptation, and it will just keep coming until the Christian learns how to defeat the temptation. That is when Satan will know that he's defeated. However, he will keep sending it your way.

Where Flee To

Christian where are you to flee to when temptation comes? Look at the rest of verse 22 there in second Timothy:

(2 Timothy 2:22 NKJV) Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Share with Close One

See you are to leave the place of temptation and run to your brothers and sisters in the Lord. Run to that brother and sister (remember guys with guys and girls with girls) where you can find refuge, safety, where you can find someone who understands you and what you are going through.

(James 5:15 NKJV) And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

(James 5:16 NKJV) Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

(James 5:17 NKJV) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

(James 5:18 NKJV) And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

(James 5:19 NKJV) Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back,

(James 5:20 NKJV) let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Not Public Profession

I do not believe this verse means to stand up and confess all your sins before the church. I believe this verse means we are to have that one brother or sister in our lives who we can go to, and share our heart, pour out our heart, and they will listen and they will not judge us, they will not give us a sermon, they will not shove Scriptures Down our throats, rather they will be there to receive us, to pray with us, and to keep us accountable in the things that we struggle with, and the temptations that come before us.

(Genesis 39:13 NKJV) And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,

(Genesis 39:14 NKJV) that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.

(Genesis 39:15 NKJV) "And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."

Not A Peep from Servants

Notice not a peep or a response from the servants I believe they all knew the character of Joseph. I believe they all knew the character of this woman. And as we read the ruler, and his anger was kindled, he puts Joseph in prison. If he really believed his wife's accusation, Joseph would have simply been a dead man. It would have been categorized as rape against an official's family in Egypt. In those days, Joseph would have been dead before the sunset. But he ends in prison. It's because I don't believe the ruler believed his wife's accusation. He compared her character that he knew that Joseph's character, that he knew, you came to the conclusion. She's lying. But because of an Egyptian lady charge against a foreigner, he has to do something. And so Joseph ends in prison.

(Genesis 39:16 NKJV) So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.

(Genesis 39:17 NKJV) Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;

(Genesis 39:18 NKJV) "so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."

(Genesis 39:19 NKJV) So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.

She Rehearses / Sin Rallies – Sin Distances

Notice as she rehearses the story to the other men she tries to rally support for her cause? She includes the other workers (who most likely were jealous of Joseph and his big sleeves- why should he get the robe and not be?). So she works this to her advantage, she says the Hebrew mocks us (plural), your boss who you hate, look what he has done to me. But when she retells the story to her husband it is just her, he mocked me, and she makes sure that she points out to her husband that he was the one who brought Joseph into the home. She places the ultimate blame on him, her husband, she lays the guilt trip on him. This is what people do with sin, they try to distance themselves from it by rallying people to their side, and then placing guilt on someone else.

Whatever You Do, Do It All For the Glory of God:

- In Tasks (39:1-6)
- In Temptation (39:7-19)
- In Trials (39:20-23)

(Genesis 39:20 NKJV) Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

Now God Test Joseph

Verse 20 now is God's test as Joseph ends up in prison and I think in our lives this is the supreme test is when we do right, obey, and yet God doesn't come to our aid immediately in these adverse things come upon us and happen to us that this is the supreme test

The Supreme test will we still trust him and love him even when he doesn't come to our aid immediately even after we did what was right

I'm sure we all feel that when we do what's right, we should be immediately rewarded and immediately the lie of Satan dispelled, but that's not what we see here and that's not the way it always happens in our life, but God is still working in our lives

1 Peter 2 verse 19 says what credit is it when you're beaten for faults but when you do good and suffer if you take it patiently this is commendable before God the Lord saying, the ultimate test is when you do good and you still suffer. We know we do bad. We expect the suffering, the mocking, the slanderous comments, because we earned them, but how about when we do good stand firm and then it doesn't go the way that we had hoped. And then we get suffered and suffer for it, maybe even punished in a way for doing good. That's where God says that's commendable

[1 Peter 2:19–21 \(NKJV\)](#)

¹⁹ For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. ²¹ For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:

Hardest Trial to Endure – False Accusations

Here is one of the hardest trials to endure this false accusations where you know you're innocent and yet you have been wrongly accused Misjudged. Slandered. Gossip. And there's nothing to clear your name because no one needs evidence to make accusations, false accusations. They just simply need to say it and find enough people to tell, to rally around them, to sell their stories. And it is shortly and truly one of the hardest trials to endure. as a Christian.

And just for us. When someone comes to bring an accusation about somebody. Covered your ears. Don't buy into it. No, there's always two signs to the story. Especially when the false accusations are against somebody. who has truth in a life of godly character.

Automatic Death Penalty

It's a shame for Joseph to be accused, he is probably the only moral person there in the whole Kingdom, any other man would have taken advantage of the situation and the opportunity. But this is interesting for in Egypt at that time Joseph's action would have been automatically the death penalty against him, and yet he only ends up in prison. We see God's protection over him. So Joseph goes from the pit, to a palace, then back to a pit, but before it's all over he will be back in a palace.

(Genesis 39:21 NKJV) But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Amazing What we Can Endure When Right Wirth the Lord

Verse 21 it's amazing what we can endure when we're right with the Lord. When we know that we're right with the Lord, doesn't matter what the world is saying about us. or anyone else. But when we know we're right, we don't mind. It's amazing with what we can endure. Because we know He's in it with us. We're not being disciplined. We're not being punished. We're being molded. We're being fashioned. We're being transformed. For thory. And we will emanate his glory through it when we're right with the Lord, there will be a different walk. There will be a different talk. regardless of what's being said, regardless of what is going on around us. There will be a pile they walks. There'll be powerful talk.'cause we have nothing to shame and nothing to hide from. And whatever we're in, we in it with us together. and we know He'll never leave us, no forsake of us. It's amazing what we can endure.

(Genesis 39:22 NKJV) And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

(Genesis 39:23 NKJV) The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

James – Trials & Temptations

In James chapter one, as we counted all joy, what we see with the Lord is he always gives and provides a way out of the situation. that we might not sin, but the devil, when he presents it, he wants to close every door of opportunity to escape. And that's one of the ways that we can see. Where does this originate from and in our story today, I would say that the wife is not sent by the Lord, the Test Joseph, Satan heard the prophecy, vision, dream, and knows whatever the Lord's going to do, Joseph is a mighty piece of it in the future and he knows that the promise comes through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and therefore he wants to stop the fulfillment of the prophecy of whatever this greatness is regarding Joseph, because the devil wouldn't know at the time other than what he knows in the vision that Joseph was given,

and let it be known. God is all knowing. God is all present, and God is all powerful. Satan is not all knowing. He is not all power. His power is limited by God. His knowing is limited by God, and his presence is limited by God and we see a picture of that of Job, where Satan comes and goes before the throne of God, we see that he is not all powerful, that he has to ask God for permission to lay a hand upon Job, and he's not all knowing because if he was, he would know even after all that he did, Job wasn't going to succumb to him as he said to the Lord, let me touching, and he'll curse you

[James 1:2-4 \(NKJV\)](#)

[² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.](#)

But be that as it may, I don't need to ponder too long when a tough or temptation comes upon me is this from the Lord or is this from the devil? Because ultimately like the picture of Job, we know it must come through the God gate first for Satan to do anything, but in James chapter 1, we see and this is important that the Lord does not tempt us with evil. He does not tempt us with sin. So we may find ourselves in a fallen world and we have health issues or employment issues That does not.. That's a tate that that is evil, but I don't have to ponder it long to even determine it other than God's allowing this. So what shall I do so that at the end, I can count it all joy for what he has done in my life and the refiner's fire. However, some temptations are very clear and obvious that I may feel a drawing in my flesh, if you would, as I ride by an

old spot I used to hang out at it's totally different if someone showed up at the house with some vice and put it down on the table and say here, I brought this to you. I can say this isn't of the Lord because he's not gonna tempt me with evil. I know this is of the devil so I need to send him on his way and say depart from me you devil get behind me Satan

So here when it comes time for Joseph to flee because Satan is closing the noose around him, we can see that it's of the devil because the devil is trying to close the escape. Nobody's here time of day all alone every piece has been put in place for this perfect scenario. And it's obvious, everyone else is out of the house, and so whatever her mean and manner is, she is going full force and whatever it was before, it was subtle. eye movement and whispers and innuendoes, but this one is full on direct and Joseph flees as Satan tries to close the means to escape, but still yet, the Lord counters with providing a way out. Joseph didn't put himself in this situation. The devil created the situations and the Lord provided the means for the way out. Joseph took it and it's a picture. God will do the same for us. And he'll provide the means for the way out. Satan tempts with evil, God does not.

James 1:12–15 (NKJV)

¹² Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

1 Corinthians 10:12–13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

And let us know the wiles of the devil, in that he will bring a temptation in the midst of your trial, thinking that you are in a weakened state. Maybe, but maybe you will find it is the strongest place you have ever been.

And of course, very easy to see a temptation from God is to strengthen us to improve us to sharpen us. The devil's temptation will always be to destroy, to diminish. That if I yield into this thing, it's going to diminish my relationship with the Lord. And so as you evaluate some things and I know we can say that so obvious, but when you get into the midst of an emotional moment, whatever it may be, not just this fleshly example before us, You can take anything, even things that are spiritual, so called, that we can see if we yield to this I may feel spiritual, I may feel this is something to do with spiritual thing, but if it diminishes anything else anywhere else, spiritually, it wasn't of the Lord.

Prison for Doing Right / Do it Because He is Holy

Joseph is thrown in prison for doing what is right, what is good; bad things do happen even when you are obedient, but God is in control we must trust that. But even still, even if you don't end up saving the world, you still do it because God said to; He is a Holy God, and that is why we do what is right, to please our Lord.

Rises to Top / God loves Using people Like Joseph / Write History

Wherever Joseph goes he rises to the top. God loves using men and women like Joseph. Those that are upright, righteous, a man or woman after God's own heart and everything that he or she does from their work to their play, it's only one way for that person, and it is the way of Jesus Christ. You may not like the situation; you may wonder what God is doing, but you will never know, you may be writing history.

Christian Cut it off Now / Chat Room – Coffee Break / Be a Joseph

Christian if you were playing around today, you are engaged in some inappropriate behavior, you have to run now, cut it off, burn it, and disconnect it. Whether it is a coworker, fellow student, a chat room, or coffee room, cut it off – be a Joseph.

God not Messing Around / Revelation

God does not mess around in the area of sexual immorality. When he wrote to the seven churches in the book of Revelation he specifically addressed to them and point out to them His disgust over the sexual immorality that had entered into those churches and the individuals:

(Revelation 2:12 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword:....."

*(Revelation 2:14 NKJV) "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, **and to commit sexual immorality.**"*

(Revelation 2:18 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

*(Revelation 2:20 NKJV) "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My **servants to commit sexual immorality** and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

Settle it Right Now / Never too Late to Repent

Christian you need to settle right now that it is over. Whatever it is, it is not too late to end it, it is never too late to repent. We see that in that letter to the seven churches for God still says to them to repent before I have to deal with you and deal with you harshly:

(Revelation 2:16 NKJV) 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

(Revelation 2:26 NKJV) "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations;

Joseph Picture of Christ / His Blood Empowers Us – Cleanses Us

Joseph is the picture of Jesus Christ, of how to handle such situations - run. Jesus showed us at the cross that we have the power over these things, we are free from these things, it is by His blood that He enables us to have victory over these things:

(John 8:36 NKJV) "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

(Romans 6:6 NKJV) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

(Romans 6:7 NKJV) For he who has died has been freed from sin.

(Romans 6:8 NKJV) Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

(Acts 3:19 NKJV) "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Don't Trade

Beloved, don't trade the cheap and empty things of this world for that which is full, weighty, and everlasting. Look at Joseph, what an example and what great lessons.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)

*¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NKJV)

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

*¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

Outline: Genesis 39

Whatever You Do, Do It All For the Glory of God:

- In Tasks (39:1-6)
- In Temptation (39:7-19)
- In Trials (39:20-23)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Passage: Genesis 40

Title: The Extreme Test

Summary: Joseph is imprisoned, even though he did what was right. Choosing to do what is right doesn't mean that everything will initially turn out wonderful. We choose to do what is right because God is holy, and these are the standards that He sets for the people that He sets apart. We have been bought with a price; living with that mindset, sets us apart from the world, and sets us above the world into the eternal perspective. Choose to do what is right and ultimately everything turns out for His glory, because you've honored the Lord and any time the Lord is honored in and through you, you know He is pleased.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well: *(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Outline: In the Extreme Test

- Remember Joseph (40:1-8)
- Remember the Butler (40:9-15)
- Remember the Butcher (40:16-22)
- Remember God (40:23)

Prayer

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

In the Extreme Test

Remember Joseph (40:1-8)

(Genesis 39:20 NKJV) Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

(Genesis 39:21 NKJV) But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

(Genesis 39:22 NKJV) And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

(Genesis 39:23 NKJV) The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

Chp 39 / Hiss / Stays True / Vision

We left off chapter 39 with Joseph demonstration of a man after God's own heart. Potiphar's wife said come over to my houssssssssssssse, and Joseph could hear the hiss of Satan in her voice. Joseph, just a young man only 17 years old, yet a man who would say no to the temptation before him and stay true to call of God upon his life. That calling included a heavenly vision that someday he would rule over his brothers and yes even his father and mother.

Vision - Trouble / Series of Events - Sold - Slave - Prison

This vision got him in trouble with his brothers, and it started a series of events for him. Joseph was sold off to a passing caravan, and then sold to an Egyptian ruler, and then he flees youthful lust for he says how could I do this great wickedness against God, and now he ends up in a prison in Egypt.

We are like Joseph / Be Strengthened / The Remarkable Joseph

We are not that far off from Joseph, we have a heavenly calling, and may we be strengthened to endure for the little while that is left before Jesus' return, may we be as remarkable as Joseph was in everything that we do:

(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

(1 Peter 2:10 NKJV) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

(1 Peter 2:11 NKJV) Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

(1 Peter 2:12 NKJV) having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Bad things do Happen / God Allows - Protects

Christian, bad things do happen to God's people. But as we saw, God's hand was upon Joseph, and God's hand will be upon us. Nothing can happen to us unless God allows it. In Joseph's case, the penalty for adultery or raping a high official of Egypt was the death sentence. Yet we see Joseph is not sentenced to death but to prison, God's protecting hand was upon him in the midst of all this unfairness.

The Question / Not of this World / Not Exempt

Right away the question has to be asked, you call that protection? Why didn't God protect him from the false accusations? Why did God allow him to be in the situation the start with? Listen Christian, we're in this world but we are not of this world. Christians are not exempt from the pain, suffering, and unfairness of this fallen world:

(John 17:14 NKJV) "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

(John 17:15 NKJV) "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

(John 17:16 NKJV) "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Abstained - Taxes - Tongue - Work

I abstained, yet she got that guy. I was honest doing my taxes, yet the neighbour got the new car and went on vacation. I bit my tongue, yet people still took his side, he comes out smelling like a rose. I worked hard, yet he got the promotion. I worked hard, yet I still got laid off.

Choosing to do Right - Wonderful / Because He is Holy - Set Apart / Ultimately Wonderful

Choosing to do what is right doesn't mean that everything will initially turn out wonderful. We choose a do what is right because He is holy, and these are the standard that He sets for the people that He sets apart. We have been bought with a price; living with that mindset, sets us apart from the world, and sets us above the world into the eternal perspective. Choose to do what is right and ultimately everything turns out wonderfully, because you've honoured the Lord and any time the Lord is honoured in and through you, you know He is pleased.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(1 Corinthians 6:19 NKJV) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

(1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV) For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

God uses Events / Not Exempt / Do well to Exempt

God will use the events, situations, of a fallen world to move his people around so He can use His people for kingdom purposes. Again Christians we are not exempt from the pain, suffering and unfairness of a fallen world. God says my ways are above your ways. I can't understand these things, but I do well to accept these things.

(Isaiah 55:8 NKJV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.

(Isaiah 55:9 NKJV) "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

You say I don't Like That / Situation won't Change / Use the Trial - Conformed Image

You may say I don't like that; it is not of my choosing, it doesn't seem fair. Christian you would do well to accept this, because whether you accept it or not won't change the circumstances or the situation. The best thing we can do is say Lord you have me here so let me hear why you have me here. Christian whatever you do, do not let a trial go to waste. If you're going through a trial today, you might as well come out of it with something. Be conformed into his image. I refer you back to our study in 1 John 1:4, the making of wine, God is always doing something whether we can see it or not.

Written for Us / Be All There

These things were written for our understanding. And we see Joseph's the wherever he is, he is all there. Christian wherever God has you, be all there, even when you're someplace that you do not want to be.

(Romans 15:4 NKJV) For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

Joy

And I'd like to add to that thought of Romans 15 in that the apostle John would say, I've written these things so that your joy may be full. And he's speaking of the truths, of the promises, of the redemption of God through the Son Jesus Christ, for the redemption of our sin, forgiveness of our sin, and the promise of our inheritance, eternal in the heavens. But there's another layer that comes with that as well as he says, I've written these things, and these are the things that we read, are the things that he has written. And there's a place of joy in reading what was written. And I just need to put it to you anyone. If your life isn't experienced fullness of joy, I would ask you how much time are you spending in the word of God, because the apostle said, I've written these things so that your joy may be full. And then I will say to those who are at peace and have the fullness of joy in that don't trade that for anything stick with it, Stay in it the word of God and it will not return void in your life because the Word is what became flesh and dwelt among us, none other than Jesus Christ, as he would tell us. And as we read the Word, the presence of God shows up, no matter where you are, reading the Word, there is a manifest, main known presence of God, because he's there in his word. He'll never leave us nor forsake us. That is the promise, but we can bury those things and suffocate the things of the Lord, the very Lord H himself, but when we start in the Word as we do here on our studies and as we do in our devotions, it pushes away all that stuff that's been put over top and prioritize, that buried the simplicity of the joy of the Lord, and it brings, it manifests, it rises up the Lord. Oh, I've written these things, he says, "that your joy may be full.

1 John 1:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—² the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

God uses Every Situation - Do we Believe That / Psalm 105 - God sends Man Before

I believe God will use every situation in our lives to bring glory and honor to God. Our problem is we don't believe that, and without faith it is impossible to please God. In Psalm 105:16 we are given more insight into the life of Joseph. God called for famine in the land but he sent a man before him - Joseph. .

(Psalms 105:16 NKJV) Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

(Psalms 105:17 NKJV) He sent a man before them; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.

(Psalms 105:18 NKJV) They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

(Psalms 105:19 NKJV) Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

(Psalms 105:20 NKJV) The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

(Psalms 105:21 NKJV) He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

Time between Call - Use / Fusing Metals / Iron in his Soul / the Metal Smith

There is a big difference from when God gives the call, to when God uses the man, there is a time of God preparing the man. Maybe the margin in your Bible has in parenthesis there in verse 18 (some translate the original Hebrew into) – *his soul came into iron*. This word "tested" here (verse 19) means to fuse the metal together by putting it into the fire.. God worked Joseph, like a metal smith works his steel; he heats the metal to bring the impurities to the surface, and once at the surface he scoops off the impurities, and

he continues the process until he can see the reflection of his face in the metal. It is with that iron, that steel that a structure can be built that will hold the load, and withstand the elements that are around it. Sheds are built with cheap steel; skyscrapers are built with the highest grade steel.

God Sent Joseph / Not Prisoner of Brothers - Potiphar

The truth here is that God sent Joseph beforehand so as to save a world, a people (Israel), and preserve the lineage of the Messiah. Joseph wasn't his brothers' prisoner, or Potiphar's prisoner; he was God's prisoner. Just as Paul was, just as Moses was, just as Daniel was, God equipped the man. Consider that next time, or this time, you are in a trial.

The Extreme Test

So here is the Supreme test falsely accused God allows it and Joseph enters in to this trial. and it takes us back to Jacob, that he's in a trial, and in his trial he thinks Joseph is dead. And in both of these cases, the Lord could have given a word of knowledge, one of the gifts of the Spirit, to say "Here's what the future holds. And they could rest in that, he could have given each of them who are dreamers and receive visions, a dream or a vision of what the future holds, but he doesn't in this case, but interestingly, he did in the past. So Joseph has to live by faith, the vision that God gave him, the dream that God had given him. And Jacob as well has to live by faith, the dream and the vision that was given to him to be a great nation that will bless all the world and would not be able to be counted by the number of stars in the sky. So a supreme test here for Joseph, and we see what type of character is in this man, and what we read in Roman chapter 15 verse 4, these things were written as examples for us. So we see through the scriptures, the examples of Jesus, and we see through the Scriptures example of great men and women in the scriptures. And we can glean a lot from Joseph and be strengthened for today.

No where to Run

Joseph, even in prison in this trial is being blessed by the Lord he may be in prison and we may say he has nowhere to run, but that is absolutely not true, and you can take that and believe that as a fact, because you can run in your heart, in your mind, in your soul, even in your bedroom, and everywhere you go, where you have found yourself running from the promises of the Lord, separating, secluding, and buying into the lies and the depression that comes from the devil and his ways. But here, Joseph doesn't run from it. He fully steps into it, and he says, "Not what I want, but I want what I get if it's from the Lord, because that will come with his presence, and here is his prosperity. And let me say, Christian.. don't listen to the council of man. that gives you the council to run, that gives you the council to flee, you must listen to the council of the Lord because there's plenty of Christians who, when they get into a hard time, they will take the council of man and the council of their experience, that often time comes with the council of their fears, and they then project their fear onto other people and tell them to run. Guard yourself, protect yourself. And yet here, Joseph doesn't. He says, "What do you have to say, Lord?"

Greatest Breakthroughs

Joseph gives us an example to hang on to and that sometimes before the greatest blessing in our life comes the greatest humility of things that humble us. Things that break us of all of our trust in ourselves, break us of all of our thoughts of ourselves and breaks us to the place that if God's not in it, nothing is good is gonna come out of anything that I do, and I don't wish that upon anyone, but I can see in my life personally, some of my greatest breakthroughs in my life were after some of the greatest trials of my life and some of those trials were just pure, humbling, experiences where the Lord had to break me of myself and my self sufficiency or my focus on these things or that things that distracted me from just the one pure, holy passion, simply seeking after the Lord, and go, as long as I'm in your presence, when I leave here, whatever you have before me, will prosper, whether that's ministry, whether that's a work situation that I know I can be all there and poor, all in because I'm not pouring out me, I'm pouring out the Christ that is in me.

(Genesis 40:1 NKJV) It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

(Genesis 40:2 NKJV) And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

(Genesis 40:3 NKJV) So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.

Maybe a Plot

What they were thrown in prison for we do not know, maybe a plot was uncovered to kill the King and they threw both of them into prison until they could sort out the plot.

(Genesis 40:4 NKJV) And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

Joseph Serves / Serve while you Suffer / God Flows

Joseph serves them, again a picture of Jesus Christ. Christians a great relief when you are suffering is to go and minister to someone and to serve them. You see as God flows through you, bringing comfort, healing, and encouragement to that person you are ministering to, that same comfort healing and encouragement is working in you as it passes through you onto that person. It is a wonderful dynamic.

(Genesis 40:5 NKJV) Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

(Genesis 40:6 NKJV) And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad.

(Genesis 40:7 NKJV) So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

Sadness

Peoples sadness are truly one of our greatest places to minister the heart of Christ unto them. When you see that sadness upon their face, step out in faith and go, why are you sad? Look at Joseph's example. Hey, why are you sad? And it shows the heart of Joseph. He doesn't ask to make conversation. We see the character that he asks because he wants to be part of their sadness, whether it's going to be a word of encouragement or in this case, a word of aid, but he is not inwardly focused on himself. We can see that he has this ability to recognize the countenance of others when they're hurting, and he has the heart to go, "Hey, why are you sad?" And what an example for us. And I think sometimes when you're putting yourself in that place, you can just read people and see what's going on and recognize, hey, they're downcast. They're seem to be going through something. And there's a place you can just ask, "Hey, you look sad. If you ever wanted to talk about it, I'm available. Hey, You might go, "That's too forward. I just love the opportunity to say, "What can I pray for you about today? And even some of the people who don't believe in prayer will use that as an opportunity to say, "Well, here's what's going on in my life." And again, as always, though, "Man to man, woman to woman, be careful about for where your treasures are, there your heart will be. You want to make sure that you don't get yourself emotionally attached to attachment that you shouldn't be attached to.

Being Vulnerable & Transparent

And we talk about this, of we don't need to tell everyone all of our issues, but there's definitely a place where iron sharpens iron. There's definitely a place where, behold, how good and blessed it is, brethren dwelling together that when men, with men are willing to be transparent and go, I'm kind of struggling through this, this is hard. Then the other guys listening going, "Oh, wow. I'm going through that, too. I thought I was all alone. And it opens up this place that we can then go, hey, I'll pray for you, you pray for me," or I'll encourage you, you encourage me, and there's a place of just being real, and then people can know, I'm not alone, and it opens up for this place of communication, of the things of God, one with another.

(Genesis 40:8 NKJV) And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

Interpretations Belong to God

Joseph says do not interpretations belong to God?

Still – God Encourages in Midst of Trial

And look at the Lord, how he is encouraging Joseph in the midst of his trial in bed he's gonna see the butler and the butcher their dreams come to pass quickly and it will be a confirmation that God is the giver of dreams. God is the interpreter of the dreams and God is the keeper of the dreams and so now Joseph will go if the butler and the butcher if their dream has come to pass and it's only a matter of time before my dream will come to pass and it will be my family bowing down before me, not in an arrogance, but in the humility, knowing that God has something planned for this young man and he encourages him through others dreams

And Joseph by saying God gives interpretations, tell me your dream is in essence proving to us that Joseph still believes in dreams, specifically the dream that he received from the Lord so we see this great faith that he's held on to the dream the vision that God has given and that's a word for us and that's what hope means. It's faith in the future and it has been said that if you have no faith in the future, you'll find no purpose in your today because you'll just see yourself as going through life by the moments and therefore the moment has to be all and all, but when it comes to God has a future and a hope for me ultimately, no matter what happens in this life, I have a future and hope with him in heaven beholding his glory and having everlasting life in the joy of the Lord compared to as well whatever I'm going through today, I know God is using for today, but as well. He's shaping and doing something for tomorrow, but if you have no hope for tomorrow, you'll find yourself with no purpose for today

God Showing Joseph – Through Their Dreams – I Know Exactly Where You Are

God is speaking to Joseph in these two dreams of the baker and the butler. I know exactly where you are Joseph I haven't lost you. I've had my eye upon you and my hand upon you the whole time for as you know, the Lord was with Joseph.

Interpretations Belong to God

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Ministry Key / Turn People to True Source / Marriage - Financial / All Things Possible

Here is a Ministry key; Joseph turns these men to the source of all things. When people are struggling point them to the Lord. When people come to me with marriage problems, financial problems, family problems, whatever it is, I lead them into the arms of Jesus Christ for it is there and there only that they will find the answers that they need. I bring them before the Lord in prayer, I take them to the word, and I know that all things will be possible for through God all things are possible, no matter how bleak and desperate the situation may seem:

(Matthew 19:26 NKJV) But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

World Mocks This / Take 2 Scriptures

I don't know if the world accepts these things today, in fact they so often mock the seeking of God. One of the pastors said at a recent conference that he was listening to a radio program and the caller called in with a problem and she said, "I called the pastor to seek counsel", and then the host interrupted her and said let me guess, he said to take 2 Scriptures and call him in the morning" and then they all laughed.

World won't Stand / Apply Man's Wisdom / Band-Aid

The world won't stand for these things today that God is the one who we should take all of our problems and questions to. Man wants to apply his wisdom and understanding to the situation, and as we see man comes up short, and at best a temporary Band-Aid that eventually will fall off.

Be Careful Ourselves - Fix Things / Biggest Problem - Eyes off Jesus / Turn them to Jesus

We need to be careful ourselves because we hate to see people hurt and we want to fix their problems for them. It's good to help people and their problems, but many times their problem isn't the biggest problem. The biggest problem is that they have no relationship with the Lord, or they have taken their eyes off the Lord. First and foremost we must always bring them back to putting their eyes on Jesus

Christ, and then we can go from there, we can minister to them and try to help them through their problem.

Joseph points - then Helps

Joseph says do not interpretations belong to God; he brings them to the Lord's first and then he helps them and ministers to them.

Tell Me / Don't tell Me / You Will get Hurt - Don't Stop Ministering / Love- Vulnerable / You become Like Him

Verse 8 - Tell them to me, please. – Joseph says tell me your dreams. I like that, Joseph doesn't say dreams, last time I interpret a dream it cost me, I ended up in the pit, then I was sold to a caravan, then I ended up in Potiphar's house and his wife wouldn't leave me alone, and now here I am. Dreams, don't tell me your dreams, get away from me with your dreams. Beloved you will get hurt by people you love, you will minister to people and they will turn on you, and it will hurt, they can bring you that point of saying I will never minister again, I will not put myself into the place were I am vulnerable to be hurt again. Christian don't let those times of being hurt keep you from ministering again, pour yourself out, be vulnerable, because you know what? You are being just like your Lord. Oh what He has done for us, He made himself vulnerable, God himself became vulnerable for it is only love that can place you in place of being vulnerable. Be thankful that you are vulnerable, that your heart is tender enough that it can be hurt, because that means the love of Christ is in you. You keep ministering even when you have been hurt, and God will be there to catch every tear that is dropped. God keep all your works as a memorial before him, and He'll say well done thy good and faithful servant.

We Can't Chose our Service

Beloved, truly to be a disciple of Christ, we cannot pick and choose when, where, or who we serve. Like Jesus, for God so loved the world.....Our ministry is to the world, and anyone God puts in our path then qualifies to be loved and ministered by us. Remember that, and watch your ministry be blessed, because God will show you things that you would never have seen or experienced had you not left yourself open, for the world.

Oswald Chambers Devotional

Oswald Chambers has a wonderful word about serving, and being poured out for others (February 5-6 Devotion):

Are You Ready To Be Poured Out As an Offering?

"If I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all" (Philippians 2:17).

Are you willing to sacrifice yourself for the work of another believer—to pour out your life sacrificially for the ministry and faith of others? Or do you say, "I am not willing to be poured out right now, and I don't want God to tell me how to serve Him. I want to choose the place of my own sacrifice. And I want to have certain people watching me and saying, 'Well done.'"

It is one thing to follow God's way of service if you are regarded as a hero, but quite another thing if the road marked out for you by God requires becoming a "doormat" under other people's feet. God's purpose may be to teach you to say, "I know how to be abased ..." (Philippians 4:12). Are you ready to be sacrificed like that? Are you ready to be less than a mere drop in the bucket—to be so totally insignificant that no one remembers you even if they think of those you served? Are you willing to give and be poured out until you are used up and exhausted—not seeking to be ministered to, but to minister? Some saints cannot do menial work while maintaining a saintly attitude, because they feel such service is beneath their dignity.

Are You Ready To Be Poured Out As an Offering?

"I am already being poured out as a drink offering ..." (2 Timothy 4:6).

Are you ready to be poured out as an offering? It is an act of your will, not your emotions. Tell God you are ready to be offered as a sacrifice for Him. Then accept the consequences as they come, without any complaints, in spite of what God may send your way. God sends you through a crisis in private, where no other person can help you. From the outside your life may appear to be the same, but the difference is taking place in your will. Once you have experienced the crisis in your will, you will take no thought of the cost when it begins to affect you externally. If you don't deal with God on the level of your will first, the result will be only to arouse sympathy for yourself.

"Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar" (Psalm 118:27). You must be willing to be placed on the altar and go through the fire; willing to experience what the altar represents—burning, purification, and separation for only one purpose—the elimination of every desire and affection not grounded in or directed toward God. But you don't eliminate it, God does. You "bind the sacrifice ... to the horns of the altar" and see to it that you don't wallow in self-pity once the fire begins. After you have gone through the fire, there will be nothing that will be able to trouble or depress you. When another crisis arises, you will realize that things cannot touch you as they used to do. What fire lies ahead in your life?

Tell God you are ready to be poured out as an offering, and God will prove Himself to be all you ever dreamed He would be.

In the Extreme Test

- Remember the Butler (40:9-15)

(Genesis 40:9 NKJV) Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,

(Genesis 40:10 NKJV) "and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

(Genesis 40:11 NKJV) "Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

(Genesis 40:12 NKJV) And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days.

(Genesis 40:13 NKJV) "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

Good News - 3 Days / Cupbearer

Hey good news in three days you will be restored and you'll be serving the King again. This position of a Butler was the position we also know as the "cupbearer". The cupbearer was very close to the king because he would taste all the food before the king would eat it, and if the cupbearer didn't die, then it was safe for the king to eat. So the king and his cup bearer would develop a close relationship because anybody that stands in the way of possible death for you, you would be come close to over time

Remember Me / Finally Hope – But Not

So Joseph says good news three days you be back in the Kings Court, and when you get there remember me. How elated Joseph must have been, this guy is going before the King every day, surely it is soon that I too will be released. Not so as we will see.

(Genesis 40:14 NKJV) "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

(Genesis 40:15 NKJV) "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

Doesn't Slam Back / Keep Door Open for Reconciliation

Notice he doesn't slam his brothers or Potiphar's wife. We would do well to heed this when we are burned by other people. Keep quiet, because when you slam back, word will get back to them, and reconciliation will be that much harder if possible at all. That person will hear of your detest for them and it could keep them from seeking to reconcile with you. Always, always, leave the door open for reconciliation. Part of the way of doing that is by dying to yourselves and keeping quiet.

In the Extreme Test

- Remember the Butcher (40:16-22)

(Genesis 40:16 NKJV) When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

(Genesis 40:17 NKJV) "In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

(Genesis 40:18 NKJV) So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.

(Genesis 40:19 NKJV) "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

Bad News / House in Order / Judgement to Come

Bad news for you friend, in three days your head will have a noose around your head and you will be hanging from the tree. Joseph again tells it like it is, Joseph doesn't seek to please man. Joseph blessed this man by letting him know he only had 3 days to live; he gave the man opportunity to get his house in order. To tell his family goodbye, I love you, that they too may be prepared. Good example for us, people need to hear that there is a judgement to come so they can be prepared.

If you are going to speak for God, you have to speak both ways. The good news and the bad news.

Verse 19 look at not just Joseph's boldness to simply speak the truth, but Joseph's love in that he tells this man what his future beholds and he's given him the opportunity to get right with God in the three days that he has to get right with God. Joseph doesn't withhold the hard truth that this man is perishing and that he will face his creator.. Rather, Joseph addressed it so he can do something about the meeting that is to come. Joseph isn't afraid to offend with the truth because the truth will set this man free. What great boldness and what great love? And of course, we see the great example that Joseph gives for us

(Genesis 40:20 NKJV) Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

(Genesis 40:21 NKJV) Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.

(Genesis 40:22 NKJV) But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Everything Happens / Joseph's Dream

So everything happens just as Joseph said it would, all the dreams came true. I'm sure Joseph was wandering when his dream would come true. When he will see his family again and that they will come and bowed down before him. Not yet, God was not done preparing the man.

Interesting Picture

Joseph that picture of Jesus Christ; Joseph was numbered with the transgressors. He was a blessing to the butler, and he was judgement for the baker. The Lord Jesus was crucified between two thieves. One was judged and the other was blessed. The butler was received into the kingdom, on the third day. The baker was condemned on the third day. So to it is for the thieves next to Jesus on the cross, and for every man; what happened on the third day will either bless or condemn that person. For those that believe Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, then they will be received into the kingdom, but those who do not believe that He is, that He rose again on the third day, they will be condemned to everlasting punishment. The celebration comes on the third day, or sorrows begin on the third day.

Lead Captivity Free

Joseph went into the prison and brought good news. Jesus before He ascended, He first descended to lead the captives free:

(Ephesians 4:8 NKJV) Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."

(Ephesians 4:9 NKJV) (Now this, "He ascended"; what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?)

(Ephesians 4:10 NKJV) He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

Communion Elements

Here we also see the 2 elements of communion present; the bread and the cup. The bread and the cup will represent life or death, it all depends what a person will do with them, for they represent the Body of Christ.

In the Extreme Test

- **Remember God (40:23)**

(Genesis 40:23 NKJV) Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Butler back in his Kingdom / Life as Usual / Forgot Encouragement / 2 more years

The chief Butler is in the kingdom just as Joseph promised he would be, but the Butler forgot him. The Butler went back to his life as usual, he went back to work, probably had a family and went back to them, life is good for him, yet he totally forgot Joseph the one who gave him words of encouragement during one of his darkest hours. It will be two years before he remembers Joseph. Many of us can be like the butler; hey thanks for being their Lord in the hard times, thanks for the strengthening, the encouragement, to know someone cares, but life is good again, and I have some things to take care of, catch back up on, take a rest.

God never Wastes Time

It will be two more years for Joseph, but may we know this God never waste time now that's another story how we may waste time when it's in God's hands he doesn't waste time. He's working. He's doing something

But It's Not Time

And here's the thing, whatever it is, how God's putting these pieces together, the famine's not for two more years. And Joseph needs to be kept in that place for two more years so that when the time comes, they know exactly where to find the guy who can interpret dreams, because if Joseph was released two years prior, the last place, I'm sure we'd find him, would be in Egypt. He would have headed back to Canaan, back to his family, set things straight, be with his father, be with his brother. All these things doesn't know that his mother's dead at this point. He had been gone. He God keeps him.

The reason the butler remembers Joseph is because it's about a dream and that's what sets the stage two years later, oh, right, there's a guy who can interpret dreams now that you say that. And it was God's great plan and timing, call it God's great amnesia upon the butler, but God had a plan and he put that plan in the place

God Showing Joseph – Through Their Dreams – I Know Exactly Where You Are

God is speaking to Joseph in these two dreams of the baker and the butler. I know exactly where you are Joseph I haven't lost you. I've had my eye upon you and my hand upon you the whole time for as you know, the Lord was with Joseph.

Our Ultimate Destination – Place and Image

Our ultimate destination is just not a place, but an image as well. And what a treasure it is to be conformed into the image of his son, his own son.

Do this in Remembrance of Me

This would be a great time to just sit know with the Lord, and break the bread, take the cup, and do it in remembrance of Him. Remember His goodness; remember that we are free because He went to the pit for us:

(Luke 22:19 NKJV) And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

(Luke 22:20 NKJV) Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

(1 Corinthians 11:23 NKJV) For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;

(1 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

(1 Corinthians 11:25 NKJV) In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

(1 Corinthians 11:26 NKJV) For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

(1 Corinthians 11:27 NKJV) Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

(1 Corinthians 11:28 NKJV) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

(1 Corinthians 11:29 NKJV) For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

(1 Corinthians 11:30 NKJV) For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

(1 Corinthians 11:31 NKJV) For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

(1 Corinthians 11:32 NKJV) But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

(1 Corinthians 11:33 NKJV) Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

(1 Corinthians 11:34 NKJV) But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 41

Title: Then It Came to Pass

Summary: After 13 years of slavery and imprisonment, Joseph will not only be free, but be made second in command of all of Egypt. Joseph was seventeen years old when he was lifted from the pit and taken to Egypt. Now he's thirty and he's reached the palace. In between were thirteen long, troubling years. There were many paths God could've used to get Joseph from the pit to the palace, but destination was not the point. By doing it His way, God not only made a way, He made a man. Join us as we are encouraged and strengthened as God does the same in our lives.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Recap

We saw in chapter 39 Potiphar's wife grabbing hold of Joseph, but Joseph flees, and she fabricates the story of lies to have him thrown in prison. And then in chapter 40 Joseph interprets the dreams of the butler and the baker. The baker is set free, Joseph says remember me when you stand before the king again, but he doesn't, and Joseph sits for 2 more years, waiting for the fulfillment of his dreams.

Outline: Genesis 41

- Then it Came to Pass (41:1)
- Pharaoh has a Dream (41:2-8)
- Joseph Called Out of Prison (41:9-16)
- Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream (41:17-32)
- Joseph Gives Wise Counsel (41:33-37)
- Joseph Chosen by Pharaoh (41:38-44)
- Joseph Serves Pharaoh (41:45-46)
- The 7 Years of Plenty (41:47-52)
- The 7 Years of Famine (41:53-57)

Prayer

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Then it Came to Pass (41:1)

(Genesis 41:1 NKJV) Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.

Full Years / Remember Those who Hurt / Life Flying By / Years – Months - Days

Verse 1 - at the end of two full years - Notice that they were full years. Beloved, remember those around you who are hurting, suffering, in the pits. For most of us life is just flying by, as we are going to work,

taking the kids to sports, looking back on Christmas and looking forward to vacation in Ocean City. When things are good, life is just flying by. But for those who are hurting, the years are full; the year is counted by months, which are counted by days, down to the minute, down to the second. Nothing is flying by, nothing to look back on, nothing to look forward to; just getting by that day; they are full years when you are hurting.

Remember Them – Lift them Up / Dinner – Coffee / Done Unto Me

Remember those that are hurting, lift them up for a day, refresh them for a moment, call them to have dinner, take them out for a coffee. For when you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto Me:

(Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:'

(Matthew 25:35 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;

(Matthew 25:36 NKJV) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

(Matthew 25:37 NKJV) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

(Matthew 25:38 NKJV) 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

(Matthew 25:39 NKJV) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

(Matthew 25:40 NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

My Full Years / Marty & Susan

I remember my full years, lots of well-meaning Christians with their godly interpretation of what was going on in my life; they had plenty of Scriptures to quote to me, lots of Christian-eze. But I'll never forget Marty and Susan and there 5-year old daughter Hannah. He said Ray come over the house for dinner after church today, and I remember sitting in the backyard picking oranges, peeling them and eating them, having fellowship with Marty, talking, and just enjoying conversation. I remember taking a boat ride down the river. I remember taking the boat to shore and then just walking through the water up to our ankles. I remember Marty saying Hannah (who was only five at the time), lets pray for Ray right now right, Ray needs a job lets lift him up to the Lord. I remember holding hands, just the three of us, praying right with the water up to our ankles and the sun beating down upon us. Then we went back in eat supper together. It was a wonderful day for me in the midst of my "full" years.

Can't Remember Anybody's Verses or Interpretations

It's funny how well I remember that, and that was like eight years ago. I remember it so vividly still today as if it was only yesterday. But you know what's funny? I don't remember any of those Scriptures quoted to me, and not one of those godly interpretations passed on to me. Beloved, remember those who are hurting, for I can tell you that they will remember that you remembered.

Came to Pass / Joseph's Life Changes / Book of Mark - Immediately

Verse 1- Then it came to pass - Then it came to pass and everything changes for Joseph. I love the book of Mark; it's one of my favorite books in the whole Bible. Some 36 times (NKJV) the word immediately is used in that Book:

*(Mark 1:18 NKJV) They **immediately** left their nets and followed Him.*

*(Mark 1:31 NKJV) So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and **immediately** the fever left her. And she served them.*

*(Mark 1:42 NKJV) As soon as He had spoken, **immediately** the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.*

*(Mark 2:12 NKJV) **Immediately** he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"*

*(Mark 5:29 NKJV) **Immediately** the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.*

*(Mark 5:42 NKJV) **Immediately** the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.*

*(Mark 10:52 NKJV) Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And **immediately** he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.*

The Christian Life – Immediately / Dark to Bright

That's the way it is for Christians, things can seem so bleak, dark, desperate, then all of a sudden, immediately, it changes in a moment, in a day.

Singles Hold On – Youth – Marriages – Parents / Wait for Your Immediately

Singles hold to your immediately, youth stay strong and stay pure, marriages your immediately will come, parents same for you. But you will never reach your immediately if you quit or try to take a shortcut. When God brings the immediately into your life, it will be worth it and you'll be glad that you waited for your immediately.

Maybe tonight Your Immediate / One More day / Looking Long Term Discourages

I do pray that maybe tonight will be your immediately, but if it is not, can you make it one more day? That's all God will ever ask you, can you make it one more day? Then tomorrow God will ask you again can you make it one more day? God does ask you can you make it three more months, three more years, He just asks if you can you make it today, for today is all we are promised. I really believe that, and know in my hearts from experience, that we can all make it one more day if we just look at it as one more day. It is when we look at it in months and years that we get discouraged, quit, and give up.

Pharaoh has a Dream (41:2-8)

(Genesis 41:2 NKJV) Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.

(Genesis 41:3 NKJV) Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river.

(Genesis 41:4 NKJV) And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.

(Genesis 41:5 NKJV) He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good.

(Genesis 41:6 NKJV) Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.

(Genesis 41:7 NKJV) And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream.

(Genesis 41:8 NKJV) Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.

7 Cows – 7 Heads

So here is Pharaoh's dream, seven healthy cows being eaten up by seven sickly cows. Then he dreams again in the seven healthy heads of grains of wheat are devoured by seven the thin heads of grains of wheat.

Pharaoh goes to World / Band-Aid

So Pharaoh goes to his magicians there in Egypt, again what a picture of the world, for the world is always seeking answers from the world, and the best that the world will ever be able to offer is a temporary fix, a Band-aid. Oh it may get us through that moment, that day, that week, that month, but eventually it's just temporarily and it will fade and we'll be back where we started.

Magicians only Interpret Satan's Dreams

Now these men that Pharaoh was calling were pretty powerful themselves. Later on when Moses demands the release of the children of Israel from Pharaoh, he took his rod and threw it down and the rod turned into a serpent. The Pharaohs magicians did the same thing. Then Moses serpent ate up all their serpents. These guys had some pretty powerful demonic stuff going for them, but, "Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4). These magicians of Egypt were really into the magical arts of the occult. They were into Satanism, and the spirit realm and were probably able to interpret dreams that came from the satanic realm; but, this dream came from God and they were unable to cross a spiritual barrier here and so, could not interpret the dream of the Pharaoh.

So here we see the limitation of Satan and the demonic realm in that he could not interpret this. And so there is a limit that God allows and puts upon the devil. And I think there's a place for us to process all of those things as we do, that Satan can't read our mind, he can throw thoughts into our minds and hope that we'll take those thoughts and act upon them. But as for actually reading our mind or knowing our thoughts, he cannot do that, and he does not know the future, except for what has been revealed. And that's why he is so fired up and amped up in these days because he can see the future and the future is very near. It's not that the objects appear closer than they are in the mirror. The fact is, the objects are near, and we are in these last days, and he knows it. And church, buckle it up, get ready, because we are in it, and we are in to it. I'm not going to say, we're in for it because God is on the throne and he rules and reigns. And just like we read here with Joseph, God had his hand on all these details, even if they look like they were out of hand. And as we say, the world's not fallen.. out of place. It's fallen right in place and right in the details that God says through these scriptures, and that's what the devil knows is his future. He knows this word. He thinks he can change it, delay it. Whatever it may be, but in the end, every word of God will be fulfilled just as we read for the butler and the baker. And so will it be for the devil.

By the way, God knows your thoughts and wants you to know His thoughts of you:

[Psalm 139:2 \(NKJV\)](#)

² You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.

[Jeremiah 29:11 \(NKJV\)](#)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Joseph Called Out of Prison (41:9-16)

(Genesis 41:9 NKJV) Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.

(Genesis 41:10 NKJV) "When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker,

(Genesis 41:11 NKJV) "we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream.

(Genesis 41:12 NKJV) "Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream.

(Genesis 41:13 NKJV) "And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."

Butler Remembers / God Preparing – Preventing / Famine Ordained Now

Oh now I remember he says. Take us back to Psalm 105; God was preparing the man, Joseph. And I believe just as God was preparing the man, he was preventing the man. Yes I know it's hard for us to accept that, but Joseph couldn't be released two years ago because God ordained the famine in the land, and he also ordained the timing for this famine. The famine is now, not two years ago:

[\(Psalms 105:16 NKJV\)](#) Moreover **He called for a famine in the land**; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

[\(Psalms 105:17 NKJV\)](#) **He sent a man before them**; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.

[\(Psalms 105:18 NKJV\)](#) They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

[\(Psalms 105:19 NKJV\)](#) Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

[\(Psalms 105:20 NKJV\)](#) The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

[\(Psalms 105:21 NKJV\)](#) He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

God doesn't adjust His Plans to Our Availability

It is important for us to see this, that God doesn't adjust His plans to our availability. He adjusts our availability to His plans. Jesus Christ was accused of many things by His enemies, but He was never accused by His enemies for being in a hurry.

If Joseph Released – Back Home

Had Joseph been released two years ago, he would have most likely gone back to his father. There would have been no reason to stay in Egypt, and there was nothing but bad memories in Egypt. God had to keep him in prison, so he would be available for the time of the famine that was ordained by God. God

prepared Joseph; Joseph was the one chosen by God to save a world, preserve a people (Israel) and preserve the lineage of the Messiah.

Hard for Us – Next time Remember / Plans - Availability

I know how hard this may sound. Next time you're going through a struggle, next time you're wondering why things are happening at this pace, why this has not come to pass it yet, remember this story God does not adjust His plans to our availability, He just our availability to His plans.

God behind the Scenes Working

God is behind the scene working out His plan all the way along, even as God is behind the scene in your life if you are a child of God. He is working out details and plans of which you know nothing about; but, one day when you see the fruit you will say, "Wow". You'll see how God has been working even when you weren't aware of it. God is controlling the circumstances of our lives

(Genesis 41:14 NKJV) Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

(Genesis 41:15 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it."

(Genesis 41:16 NKJV) So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

God Sends a Man to the World with Answers

And as we say that pharaoh goes to the world to find an answer, but isn't this amazing? There's a man in the world who's troubled looking for answers, and God sends him a young Jewish boy. And what was his claim to fame? He knew. The Lord of heaven personally. He experienced God intimately, and therefore he could go and speak to Pharaoh in the world in the midst of his troubles and his seeking answers to the questions that Joseph will be sent by God and imparted with God's gifting of the Spirit in this case to interpret dreams, but in your case, you take the Bible that's in your hand, you take the God that's in your heart, and you go, and you wait upon the Lord, and you two, can minister to people who are in the world looking for answers to their questions. We're no different than Joseph, and we can praise the Lord and have a purpose and a meaning in our life to be used by God, to change a lost and dying world. And as it was said this week to make heaven crowded,

Joseph Points to God / Me – I take Opportunity to get Credit / Joseph Lets Chips Fall

As we saw in the last chapter Joseph points man pass himself right on to the Lord. We see Joseph's character here, a humble man, and a man who trusts in the Lord. At this point if it was me I would be like this is my time to show my stuff, this is my time to get some credit, so I can get out of this pit and back on to the my life. But Joseph he points to the Lord, he gives glory to the Lord, and he lets the chips fall where they may. I get out of this prison great, I don't get out of this prison so be it.

Joseph Never glorifies God for Personal Gain / Always because God Worthy of Glory

Joseph did not, and never had, and never we'll glorify God for personal gain. He glorifies God, for one reason, God is worthy of glory.

(1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV) Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

My Evangelizing / Share for God's Glory / Won't Get Discouraged

When I first started evangelizing, I was mainly motivated to share the gospel so the people might get saved. That's a good motivation, God's pleased with that obviously, and that is part of the reason that we share the gospel. However, what I see from the verse we just read expanded my understanding of evangelism and ministry. We are to share the gospel so God receives glory. That has to be first in our minds, or eventually at some point we will quit sharing the gospel. You see I can share the gospel 1000 times, but every time I get rejected, I can become discouraged, so much to the point that I say what's the use I quit.

No One Stand Before God - You didn't Tell Me / I sent My Servant / You Rejected

But if I share the gospel because I want God to receive glory, then I can continue on forever, even if not person responds. What do I mean? You see no one will be able to stand before God and say you never told me, how can you judge me for something that I know nothing about. God will say I sent my servant to you, on such a such date, and he told you about my love, he told you about my sacrifice, I reached out to you but you rejected me. No one can say that God is not love, and that God is unjust, for they have heard the good news, and that brings glory to God.

Same with Counsel / Decision must be Made / Accountable to the Word / No Neutral

It is true with the word that we share, the counsel that we give. I have words of hope and love and anyone who rejects the counsel, that is based on the word of God, rejected by their own choice, God still receives glory even if they go and ruin their life. For his holiness and righteousness were presented to them, and they therefore must make a decision on the word that was presented to them. The world cannot live freely once the Word has been presented to them, they are not accountable to the word that has just pierced their heart. They will have to make a decision on whether they will follow God or not, be obedient to his word or not, and God again is glorified. Stand for Jesus in the midst of this corrupt world, be labeled legalistic, a jerk, unloving, whatever they may say, but the fact is they can no longer stay neutral, they will now have to make a decision for Jesus Christ, either they will be for Him, or against Him, whether that is for salvation, or Lordship, in both cases God is glorified.

Minister – Burn out – Fade Away – Become Bitter

You ministers if for any other reason you are sharing the word of God and bringing counsel to man other than for the glory of God, you will burn out and fade away, and probably become bitter in the process.

No Credit – No Defeat

Now when people do respond we need to make sure we don't take the credit, and here's good news, when people don't respond, when they reject, you don't have to take credit for that either. You don't have to feel the pressure that it's something to do with you. We just present the words of the Father, and let things happen from there as the Spirit will lead people, or people will reject the leading of the Spirit.

People in Scripture Used - Pointed

We find this so many places through the scriptures. These men that were so used of God were men who were never willing to take credit for the gift of God:

(Matthew 5:16 NKJV) "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream (41:17-32)

(Genesis 41:17 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river.

(Genesis 41:18 NKJV) "Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.

(Genesis 41:19 NKJV) "Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt.

(Genesis 41:20 NKJV) "And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows.

Genesis 41:21 NKJV) "When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke.

(Genesis 41:22 NKJV) "Also I saw in my dream, and suddenly seven heads came up on one stalk, full and good.

(Genesis 41:23 NKJV) "Then behold, seven heads, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.

(Genesis 41:24 NKJV) "And the thin heads devoured the seven good heads. So I told this to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

Pharaoh Repeats Dream

So Pharaoh repeats the dream to Joseph's

(Genesis 41:25 NKJV) Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do:

Both Same Dream

Joseph says they are not two different dreams both dreams mean the same thing.

(Genesis 41:26 NKJV) "The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years; the dreams are one.

(Genesis 41:27 NKJV) "And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine.

(Genesis 41:28 NKJV) "This is the thing which I have spoken to Pharaoh. God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do.

(Genesis 41:29 NKJV) "Indeed seven years of great plenty will come throughout all the land of Egypt;

(Genesis 41:30 NKJV) "but after them seven years of famine will arise, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine will deplete the land.

(Genesis 41:31 NKJV) "So the plenty will not be known in the land because of the famine following, for it will be very severe.

7 Great – 7 Terrible / Lays Out next 14 Years

There will be seven plentiful years, then seven miserable and difficult years. So Joseph now lays out for the king exactly what is going to happen. God is showing you the future, the next fourteen years God has laid out before you. They will be divided in two, seven years there will be plenty, a bumper crop, years of abundance; but, it will be followed by seven years of drought, seven years of famine and the famine will be so great that all of the abundance of the seven good years will be used up.

We Know Tribulation Period

We know of a time that there will be seven miserable and difficult years, it is called the Tribulation Period. We read about in Revelation chapter 6 to 19.

Forced Israel to Joseph / Will Force Israel to Jesus

It is interesting that the seven hard years forced Jacob (Israel), to come to Joseph for preservation. Joseph again is a picture of Jesus Christ, and we see here a picture of the seven-year tribulation period. Israel will come to Jesus, they will see the Savior that they had missed, the one they falsely accused, abandoned and forgotten, and they will come to Him in the tribulation and be preserved.

World Ready to Receive Mark of Beast

For the most part the world lives in comfort. Never in the history of mankind has the economy of the world been so good, so prosperous. Yes there are pockets of problems of course, but for most part the world is living in comfort that has been unknown to man. Even in some of the poorest countries a computer is in every home and food is on every table. But the tribulation period will come and I believe the abundance of ease of life we live today will make people readily jump on the mark of the beast. People will not want to leave their stuff, they will not want to leave the comfort that they are so used to, so they will take the mark to keep living the good life. They will trade eternity, for the temporary.

(Genesis 41:32 NKJV) "And the dream was repeated to Pharaoh twice because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Look at God's Power – Cant be Undone

Look at the power of God here's what I'm gonna do for 14 years and there will be no change to it. No man can change it. Nothing can undo it. Therefore, I tell you so that you can come along and get in line with it and be prepared for it, but it will happen whether you're ready for it or not, and there's gonna be a seven year tribulation period that will not be changed, no matter what man will try to do. You can try to kill the two witnesses at the wall, but there will arise and ascend into heaven. You're not going to silence the angel with the everlasting gospel. You're not gonna kill the 144,000, and the rocks will fall on the men, and they will not die, and there will be scorpions released and rivers dried up, and all those things, and nothing will change those seven years, and here God is double in that to make it seem that you couldn't change 14 years, you' surely not going to change those seven years when it comes to the tribulation and

therefore, here we are getting ready for the tribulation period. And our readiness is the get out and not be here for it, and to take as many people with us as we can.

And whether it's the 13 years as a slave or in prison or the 14 years of the feast and the famine. whatever your situation is, feasting or famine, paradise, or prison. And if it is the prison, don't get bitter. Don't try to change the circumstance. Don't get resentful. Lean into what the Lord has you, and say, "I'm gonna be all here no matter what. And whatever I do, I'm gonna give you glory. I'll give you glory in my task that you assigned to me, or a temptation that comes my way. I'm gonna give glory that you can overcome and give the power for victor's life. And if it's a trowel, I'm going to give it all the glory and let people see that I trust you and that I'm not gonna turn against you, no matter what happens in my life.

It will Come to Pass

It will come to pass, and it did. Just as it did happen there in Genesis/Egypt, so too will happen in Revelation chapter 6 through 19.

2 Dreams Joseph & Pharaoh / Prison Doors Squeak / The Long Wait

Joseph interprets a dream again, and after this one will begin the series of events that will bring the dreams he had to pass. Joseph had 2 dreams, and so does Pharaoh, and he says because it was repeated twice that means that it has been established by God, and it will shortly come to pass. So too will Joseph's come to pass, very soon. I can only image when Joseph interpreted the dreams for the butler and the baker, and the butler was freed, that every time Joseph heard the prison door open, how he must have thought, they are here for me, see ya I am out of here. But the days turned into months, and the months into two full years. How hard that must have been for Joseph, how he must have wondered, where are you God.

God Met Joseph in Prison / Never Forgot / Went with & Went before

God met Joseph there in that prison, and God never forgot Joseph there in that prison, because God went before Joseph wherever he went, and He was with Joseph wherever he was, He never left Joseph (so true to the words the Lord speaks to us - I will never leave you no forsake you - I will not leave you orphans) - from the pit, to the palace, back to a pit, and then when he is back in a palace, God was with Him ever step of the way.

Wherever He was – Everywhere He Was

God met Joseph wherever he was, and everywhere he was. God will meet you wherever you are, and everywhere you are.

Compass Direct / Fellow – Guard – Soldier – Mother - Mother

There's a Ministry called Compass Direct and they ministry to the persecuted Church. They tell the story of a dying prisoner in a Chinese prison who was imprisoned for life. The prisoner wrote a letter to his mother before he died. He would not mail it because he was afraid the censors with tear up, so he gave it to a fellow prisoner who was supposed to be freed in four more years. The dying prisoner died during those four years, but the prisoner he gave the letter to, did not get out at the end of four years, so that prisoner gave the letter to a guard that he had become friendly with, who in turn gave it to a soldier friend who travelled to the it was written, and three years after the prisoner had died, finally reaches his mother and here is what it says:

Letter of Prisoner

Of my mother, my dear mother, I have not been a good son; I have brought disgrace upon you and all the family. I hope you can forgive me. I am dying. You brought me up to be a good boy; you gave me food, love, and affection. What did I do to repay you; I painted an anti-government slogan upon a wall and got life imprisonment. Life imprisonment when my life was only 18 years old. You raised me for more than this, and I am sorry. And now your son is 31 and he will not live past 33, I have cancer of the intestines and my jailers will not pay for an operation.

Now instead of working underground in the mine, I now man a tiny storage shed full of rusty tins and tools. I fetch them all day long, no one comes near, but at least I can look out over the desert and see the

shifting of the sand. For 8 years I never saw the sunlight, I was taken from the barracks through a tunnel into the mine. A room, a corridor, and a shaft were all the world that I had. And now my world is bigger, but is coming to an end, there is no hope. So I have sat on my stool and thought for many hours, I have cried many tears, mostly for the things I have never did, and will never do. I have never kissed a woman, I have never so much as owned a toothbrush, I've never received a paycheck, never ate a gourmet meal, and never built a kite for an excited child. Above all that I have never said how much I owed you. Never said to say how sorry I am for grieving you until now, boys are not meant to bring their mothers such sorrow, otherwise no one would have them.

I have come to 2 conclusions, one is this; this is not the only world there is. I cannot believe that I went through the miracle of birth to live a life like this and to die a death like this. I believe there is another world where there is a table that I can choose to sit at, and I can drink the finest wines, and eat until my heart is content, and I can make friends with whomsoever I please, and I can speak without fear, and not be marched off at the half-hour when the gong is sounded.

And I also believe that there is someone there, who is also here, who sits at the head of that table. A fellow prisoner told me of such a one, who said my yoke is easy, my burden is light. I do not know all that that means, all that I can say is when I heard those words I felt a great relief that my death was not the end of life.

So my dying charge to you mother is to find out who spoke those words so that we may dine together again with Him.

No one Outside God's Reach / What Prison You are In / Wants to Minister to You

There is no one outside of God's reach, no matter how far away that person or you are, there is no human life that God takes for granted, and every soul is precious to Him. No matter what prison you may feel that you are in, maybe it is a love that has left you, maybe it was inappropriate behaviour towards you as a child, maybe it's an illness today, whatever it may be you are well within God's reach. And He is thinking of you right now, and wants to minister to you, even when you feel like maybe He has forsaken you. God is faithful.

Forget our Sin / Not Forsaken / Million Miles Away

The only thing God forgets is our sins, He never forgets us. Whatever it may be for you, God knows, He has not forsaken you. No matter how far away, how out of reach you may feel, He will reach you. That person you love, that you think is a million miles from God, don't give up hope, don't give up your intercession for them, for God has His ways to reach them.

7 Great – 7 Terrible / Lays Out next 14 Years

There will be seven plentiful years, then seven miserable and difficult years. So Joseph now lays out for the king exactly what is going to happen. God is showing you the future, the next fourteen years God has laid out before you. They will be divided in two, seven years there will be plenty, a bumper crop, years of abundance; but, it will be followed by seven years of drought, seven years of famine and the famine will be so great that all of the abundance of the seven good years will be used up.

Joseph Gives Wise Counsel (41:33-37)

(Genesis 41:33 NKJV) "Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt.

(Genesis 41:34 NKJV) "Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.

(Genesis 41:35 NKJV) "And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

General Tax Rule

Now as a general rule the people were taxed 10% but Joseph is suggesting that during this time of surplus that the government tax them 20%, so that they might gather a large surplus to see them through the lean years that were coming.

**(Genesis 41:36 NKJV) "Then that food shall be as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine."
(Genesis 41:37 NKJV) So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants.**

Joseph gives IBS

I like this, Pharaoh asked for an interpretation of the dream, but Joseph does not stop there he goes all the way through the inductive Bible study method, or should I say be inductive prayer method. He not only gives the observation and the interpretation, he goes on to give the application. King this is what the prayer says, this is what it means to you, and this is the application now for your life.

Example when we Quote Scriptures

I like that, good example for us. When we quote Scriptures to people we must also have the application for them. This is what the Scripture says, this is what the Scripture means, and this is how you should apply it to your life. I remember quoting scripture to my father when I was a young in the Lord, I remember saying, for me to live as Christ, and to die is gain (Phil 1:21). He said what does that mean son? I'm saying to myself I don't know what that means, I know what it means to me but I cannot explain it to him. So, be careful about throwing Scriptures out that we cannot back up with explanation, when people call you on it you could look foolish, and more so like you don't know what you are talking about. So stick to what you know, minister within your spiritual maturity level. Learn the Inductive Bible Study Method so you can give the full counsel of the Word.

Joseph Chosen by Pharaoh (41:38-44)

(Genesis 41:38 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

(Genesis 41:39 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you.

Recognized Quality of Joseph / 13 yrs Testing / The Spirit Difference

"And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? They recognized that there was a quality in Joseph that set him above the crowd and that he wasn't an ordinary person. Joseph had gone through thirteen years of severe testing, trials, hardships and still there was that quality about him. What was it they saw? They recognized the Spirit of God in him. Oh, what a difference the Spirit of God makes in our lives. How we need the Spirit of God in control in our lives. Can we find a man like this in whom is the Spirit of God?

World needs more Josephs

How the world needs more men and women like Joseph; people in whom the spirit of God is upon. People, who are filled with the Holy Spirit, people who were filled with the wisdom of the Lord, who are able to discern the things of God.

Tell Us your Secret / Teacher – Univ – Library – Volumes - Traveling

I can imagine them saying to him, tell us your secret Joseph. How did you gain such wisdom and knowledge and understanding of these things? What teacher have you sat under? What fine university did you go to? How massive is your library, tell me all the volumes of books that you have read. Surely you must be a published author? How extensive you must have been traveling the world to glean so much wisdom and knowledge.

Joseph – No Teacher – Straight from Lord / 13 yrs Imprisoned / No Church

Please tell us your story of how you gain so much knowledge and wisdom. Joseph would say well at the age of 17 I was sold into slavery by my brothers, which ended up resulting in my imprisonment, so for the last 13 years I've been a slave or a prisoner. I do not have a Bible, no church, I do not have a pastor, I do not have a set of Pastor Chuck MP3's, I have no access to the Web, no commentaries, all I've had has come straight from the Lord.

No Excuses for Us / Spirit within Us

Christian know that all the we need to overcome sin in temptation in the world, all that we need to live the victorious Christian life, all that we need to do the work of the Ministry, has been given to us by the Spirit dwelling within us.

Univ of Tears / 13 yrs – Learned to Hear God's Voice

Joseph's University was the University of tears. And Joseph became the man that he was after 13 years of suffering. I believe it was during his 13 years of suffering that Joseph learned to hear the voice of God. Joseph would sit in the quietness of his prison cell, the loneliness of his slavery, and he learned to not only speak to the Lord but also to hear from the Lord.

Set Aside – Sit / Poor Joseph – Poor You / Pouring of God

What an example for us, how vital it is, to set aside that time of quietness where we sit to hear from the Lord. You know I could really imagine people saying to Joseph, what a pity for you, how terrible you suffered. But I believe Joseph would look and say what a pity for you. I have experienced communion with the God of all creation, I hear His voice, I am one with Him. When people are saying poor you, that is when God is pouring Himself into you.

America – Busy / Oneness of Joseph

We think America is so great, is it really? These busy lives that we lead, these lives of abundance, are they really that great? Do we have the oneness with God as Joseph did?

(Genesis 41:40 NKJV) "You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."

(Genesis 41:41 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

(Genesis 41:42 NKJV) Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

Signet symbol of Power / Seal / Chains of Empowerment

The signet ring was Pharaoh's signature. They would drip wax on a seal and he would press his ring onto it, and everyone would know the king's design. Imagine the President giving you that same power. The chains around his neck represents power, for only those in power wore them around their neck. So Joseph goes from chains of imprisonment, to chains of empowerment.

(Genesis 41:43 NKJV) And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

(Genesis 41:44 NKJV) Pharaoh also said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt."

You can do Nothing without Me

Joseph a picture of Jesus, without Me you can do nothing:

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

Humility before Honor

We see the humility in Joseph, and they' takes us to Proverbs 15:33 before honor is humility. And there's a word for us in letting God do the promotion, and we can just rest and not have to promote ourselves. and not be arrogant in any way, but simply humble. and let God do the promoting.

Proverbs 15:33 (NKJV)

³³ The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

Joseph Serves Pharaoh (41:45-46)

(Genesis 41:45 NKJV) And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-Paaneah. And he gave him as a wife Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On. So Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

Revealer / Jesus Reveals all Things

The name given to Joseph by the Pharaoh probably means the "revealer of secrets." That is our Jesus, He reveals all things to us:

(Mark 4:22 NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light.

(Mark 4:23 NKJV) "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Hebrews 4:13 NKJV) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Name of Jesus

But the meaning of his name is not fully clear, and that too is a good picture of Our Jesus. Revelation says that He has a name that nobody knows:

(Revelation 19:12 NKJV) His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

God so Rich – Deep / Spend Eternity Exploring Him

You see Christian God is so rich, He is so deep, that we will never come to the end of Him. We will live eternity with Him, and still never scratch the depth of who He is. Heaven will not be boring for we will be in the presence of a source so deep, so rich, that will spend eternity exploring His depth, and never reach it. Imagine every day, we will be fascinated by Him, thrilled about Him, growing deeper and deeper in love with Him.

Gentile Bride

It will be a wonderful marriage. Please note here that Joseph, a Jew, is given a Gentile bride. So too are most of here a Gentile bride to Jesus Christ.

(Genesis 41:46 NKJV) Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

Joseph 30

Here Joseph is thirty years old when he began his ministry over Egypt, even as Jesus was thirty years old when He began his public ministry:

(Luke 3:23 NKJV) Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,

The 7 Years of Plenty (41:47-52)

(Genesis 41:47 NKJV) Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly.

(Genesis 41:48 NKJV) So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them.

Joseph Learned in Prison / We Complain – God Preparing

Joseph would have learned how to stretch supplies while he oversaw the prison where supplies would be scarce. God so often does that in our lives, He is preparing us for things long before He ever puts us in that ministry requiring those talents. Sometimes we even complain why God are you having me waste my time in these things. We never know what God is preparing us for, so wherever He has you today, be all there. Don't waste today's equipping waiting for tomorrows ministry.

Every City – Distribution Center / America Depression

Notice that in every city Joseph set up a distribution center? The church needs to take note of this; there is definitely a place for order, for planning. In the days of depression here in the United States you saw the pictures of people waiting in line 2 and 3 blocks long to get bread and soup. The fact is there was plenty of bread and soup, but the distribution centers were poorly established. The distribution centers were poorly planned and established, thus requiring the people to walk extra distances to stand in line with many people for long periods of time. The distribution centers were overloaded and understaffed.

Church needs to Plan – Order / Not Wing It

They should have read the Bible and took this example from Joseph. Joseph had distribution centers all over the place so that they were readily accessible to the people. In the church we need to plan ahead. Lots of people just want a wing it, say as the Spirit leads us. Yes the Spirit will lead us but the Spirit also tells us to do all things orderly. That is where prayers comes in, where you seek the Lord and say what is it that you want us to do Lord, and as the Lord leads us, we plan and prepare accordingly. Why is that? Because when things are not done orderly, confusion sets in, frustration and irritation follows:
(1 Corinthians 14:33 NKJV) For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

(1 Corinthians 14:40 NKJV) Let all things be done decently and in order.

If not People not Fed

Like in the days of depression, and would have been in days of Joseph, If there is no order people will not get fed. The church needs to be a feeding center, a place of nourishment. That is why there needs to be Children's church schedules, ushers, door greeters directing people, and, order in the sanctuary when the Word is being taught. Why people can't be moving around, coming in and going out, talking, and causing distractions.

(Genesis 41:49 NKJV) Joseph gathered very much grain, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for it was immeasurable.

(Genesis 41:50 NKJV) And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

(Genesis 41:51 NKJV) Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

(Genesis 41:52 NKJV) And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Manasseh – Forget / Joseph not Dysfunctional / Will not Dwell on Past

Manasseh means forget. You know if anyone had a reason to be dysfunctional, it was Joseph. He was lied about, falsely accused, mistreated, imprisoned, forgotten, used and tossed aside. 13 years of his life, almost half of it, yet he says I forget all the struggle and toil. Joseph chose not to dwell on the past, he chose not to let the past ruin his life today, or his future tomorrow. I forget he says.

Christian forget Past – Press On

Christian that is what we must do, we must forget the past hurts, our past failings, and we must live in today. Paul said I forget the past and press on towards the mark:

(Philippians 3:12 NKJV) Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

(Philippians 3:13 NKJV) Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

(Philippians 3:14 NKJV) I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Put it behind You / Ex – Parents – family - Friend

Christian forget about it, as terrible as it was, forget it, put it behind you or it will rot you, it will rob you. Whatever it was that an ex did to you, your mother, your father, that teacher, or friend, forget about it, or it will rob you, it will cause bitterness and you will be blinded.

No one ever fully forgets the injustice done to them. But what we can do is choose not to dwell on the injustice of what others did to us.

For Joseph to forget, he has to believe what God put in his heart, but we get the advantage of written in the scriptures. All things work together for good for those who love God. And are called according to his purposes. And that's when you'll find your freedom, you'll find your peace. You'll find your healing, where you can forget what's been done to you or choose not to dwell on it. And say, Lord, you made me. You shaped me through those things. I'm a better man, I'm a better woman because of it. Just having dinner the other night with a friend. Just a great injustice done to him. And I said to him, If you could go back...

and choose for this not to happen. Would you? It didn't take, but a second, for the answer, no, to come out of him. As he said, I would not be who I am today, if it wasn't for those things.

And we look at verse 29 of Romans 8, that we might be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. What an ultimate reward, what an ultimate calling and destination. It's not just the destination. as a place. But it's an image. Being image bearers conformed into his image.

[Romans 8:28–29 \(NKJV\)](#)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

People Crippled

I have noticed people today who are cripple because they will not let it go; they are literally paralysed. It effects all their relationships, they live for a bottle, whether it be booze or pills, their life is paralysed; Let It Go!

I thank God for Jesus Christ because the longer I walk with him, the further my past is from me. My past just keeps getting further and further in the past. And I thank him because... of his great power, and his hand upon me, that my past isn't yesterday. He gives me the power for victory since the day he has saved me, and I thank him for that.

And beloved, don't let the past rip off your present. There's just a place that you have to choose to forget and move on to the upward calling that God has for you in Christ Jesus. And remember, it's a fallen world. And bad things happen to God's people. But also, as well, God will use those bad things. To shape us, which then shapes the future, which is an amazing thought, that we can be future shapers. in the hand of God.

Ephraim – Fruitful / Forget then Fruitful / God has Blotted Out Past

His second son was Ephraim, which means fruitful. It is the divine order. You will never be fruitful until you forget about and quit living in the pains of the past. God has washed away your past, blotted it out, so too should you:

[\(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV\)](#) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

And Joseph's second son. His name's gonna mean fruitful, and Joseph's gonna put his focus on today, and the blessings of it, and the joy of it. And the opportunity to be fruitful. For his God, and to partake of the fruit that his God supplies.

Roll Away the Stone

Christian roll away the stone and live. Jesus walked out of the tomb, so too can you, so too should you. When you leave that tomb, you will go out and live that life, and that more abundant:

[\(John 10:10 NKJV\)](#) *"..... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

[\(John 10:11 NKJV\)](#) *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

Joseph sees Kids – Reminded of God's Goodness

Joseph called his second son Ephraim, which means "fruitfulness." Again a very beautiful phrase, God has caused me to forget all my toil, all my father's house and He has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction. Every time Joseph called his kids he was reminded of Gods goodness and Gods blessings and what God had done for him.

Joseph names his sons, Hebrew names. He's not conformed to Egypt. He may be in the world, but he's not of the world. And this is amazing how he withstands the culture, how easy it would have been for him. To bow down. And to be absorbed, assimilated into the culture, for the work that was before him, thinking that it was even God's call. But instead, he stays separated. Unto the Lord.

The 7 Years of Famine (41:53-57)

(Genesis 41:53 NKJV) Then the seven years of plenty which were in the land of Egypt ended,

(Genesis 41:54 NKJV) and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. The famine was in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

Famine All Lands / Never Know what God Raising You Up For

Notice the famine was in all lands. So Joseph has been raised up to preserve the whole world, his people, the children of Israel, and as we know to preserve the lineage of the Messiah, the one who will buy man back from prison in to Paradise. You never know what God is doing in your trial.

(Genesis 41:55 NKJV) So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."

Mary – Do as he Says

Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and I'm reminded by this verse would Mary said to the servants about Jesus, whatever he says to you do it:

(John 2:3 NKJV) And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine."

(John 2:4 NKJV) Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."

(John 2:5 NKJV) His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Bread 7 Wine / Jesus always the Answer

So Mary was out of wine, and Egypt was out of bread, Here again a picture of communion (bread and wine). Joseph a picture of Jesus, and the answer is always the same, when you are empty come to Jesus.

(Genesis 41:56 NKJV) The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt.

(Genesis 41:57 NKJV) So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.

Today – Famine of Word / Desperate Times

Christian there is a famine today him as we are told in the Scriptures, and that famine is a famine of the word of God. People are pushing it aside, I'll think about it later, churches are not teaching it, but telling jokes and cute stories, we live in desperate times:

(Amos 8:11 NKJV) "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD."

Tribulation Period / We Raptured – Our Words Left / Keep Giving out the Word

So there will 7 years of famine, just like there will be 7 years of tribulation. People will be drawn to Egypt, to Joseph for preservation. So too in the 7 year period there will be a great revival as people will be drawn to Jesus Christ. For the Christian, we will be raptured before the Tribulation period begins. The only thing that will be left here will be the words that we spoke to those who are left behind. The words you give will be remembered; they will put the pieces together. Keep giving out the Word, it will not return void, so don't ever quit, be like Joseph, keep giving out the word even when everything seems so bleak and useless.

Had Joseph Quit / Butler Same / No Joe to Remember / No Deliverance

Guess what? Had Joseph said no more dreams, you are on your own, The butler would have gotten out regardless had Joseph interpreted or not, but had Joseph not kept ministering, then there would have been no Joseph to remember 2 years later. There would have been no deliverance from that prison, there would have been no Joseph to deliver the world from a famine, and he would never have seen his family again.

Joseph Never See Family Again / You keep Sharing / Dine Together with Lamb

Never seen his family again, consider that. You keep preaching the word, you keep giving them those tracts, books, tapes, you keep witnessing and when the rapture happens, they will put all the pieces together. Those days will be horrible for them, but when they put the pieces together, we will see them again, we will dine together in heaven, with the Lamb.

Wonderful Story/ Peaks & Valleys / Lord Sustain / Trust Him

A wonderful story, and it is not over yet. Again let me encourage you to wait on the Lord, be of good cheer. Though your path may have led you into the valley and you are going through deep water and at the present time you may not yet see your way out. You are a child of God, His hand will lead you, He will sustain you, He will bring you forth with shouts of joy and victory as you see the full cycle of Gods plan work out in your life. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, don't lean to your own understanding. There is more to the story of your life than you can see; so, don't close the book.

Next Chapter the Dream Comes to Pass

Wait for God to bring you into that next chapter where the solution to the puzzle lies and see the unfolding grace of God in your lives and the goodness of God day after day until you say, "God is so good."

Outline: Genesis 41

- Then it Came to Pass (41:1)
- Pharaoh has a Dream (41:2-8)
- Joseph Called Out of Prison (41:9-16)
- Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream (41:17-32)
- Joseph Gives Wise Counsel (41:33-37)
- Joseph Chosen by Pharaoh (41:38-44)
- Joseph Serves Pharaoh (41:45-46)
- The 7 Years of Plenty (41:47-52)
- The 7 Years of Famine (41:53-57)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 42

Title: The Famine Upon the Land

Summary: For the people, it has been 7 years of plenty, hey let the good times roll, never knowing a famine was coming. How long into the famine before they realized this is serious. And little did they know, but it was 20 years prior that God had been preparing for this famine, and raising up Joseph to lead them through it. I wonder what God is doing today in my life, in your life, that is preparing for something 20 years down the road. What a chapter of comfort and confidence in our God whose hand is always upon us, working all things together for good!

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Recap Joseph's Life

Here is a brief synopsis of the story up to this point. Jacob had twelve sons by four different wives.

Rachel, the wife that he loved dearly, bore him two sons; because of his love for her, they became his favorite sons. Their names were Joseph and Benjamin and they were the youngest of the twelve boys. The sons of Jacob, except Joseph, were not honorable. There developed a friction between the boys because of the dishonor of the older sons and the honor of Joseph. The older boys were treacherous and cruel; but, Joseph was compassionate. They were jealous of Joseph, of his father's obvious favoritism.

Joseph had a couple of dreams, which made his brothers angry. He dreamed that he and his brother's were out in the field binding their sheaves of barley and his brother's sheaves all bowed down to his. This really upset them, thinking they would bow to Joseph.

Later he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. His father sent Joseph out into the area of Dothan where his brother's were keeping the flock to find out how they were doing and when they saw Joseph coming, they said, "Here comes that dreamer, let's kill him and we will see what happens to his dreams then." The oldest brother Reuben said, "No, let's not kill him; because, we don't want to get our hands bloody. Let's throw him in the pit and let him starve to death."

As Joseph arrived they threw him into the pit and he begged them for mercy, and asked them to let him out, but they just had no heart for him whatsoever. When they saw a caravan heading toward Egypt, Judah suggested maybe they should sell him as a slave. That way they wouldn't have to kill him, yet, they could get rid of him.

They stopped the caravan and sold their brother Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was taken by these traders to Egypt where he was auctioned and bought by a man whose name was Potiphar, captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Joseph, while in Egypt, was a diligent, faithful servant in the house of Potiphar. Potiphar was blessed because of Joseph's diligence; but, his wife cast lustful eyes upon Joseph and sought to seduce him. When Joseph refused to be seduced, she grabbed him by the coat, tried to disrobe him and force him into bed. He fled from the house leaving the coat in her hand and she, being scorned, began to cry out rape! rape! and reported to the servants and later to her husband that Joseph had attempted to rape her.

As a result Joseph was thrown into jail. He was seventeen years old at the time that his brothers sold him as a slave into Egypt. Just how long he was a servant in Potiphar's house we don't know.

While he was in prison he had charge over all of the other prisoners. During that time Pharaoh's butler and baker were cast into prison because they had come into disfavor with Pharaoh. Both of them had dreams which Joseph interpreted, in which the butler was to be restored to his position, and the baker was to be hung. The dreams both came to pass.

Joseph said, "When you come into the Pharaoh, don't forget me, tell him about me," but the butler forgot Joseph. He remained for another two years in the prison until the Pharaoh had a dream. He called his wise men and magicians in to interpret the dream for him, and to tell him what it meant; but, they were unable to do so. Suddenly, the RNA began to buzz in the brain of this butler and he said, "Oh king, I have done a horrible thing. There is a man of the Hebrews, he is in prison and he is able to interpret dreams. The baker and I both had dreams and he interpreted them and it came to pass as he said."

They ordered Joseph to be brought quickly and he shaved and came in before the Pharaoh. Pharaoh said, "I understand that you can interpret dreams and Joseph said, "Not really, but, God is able to give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

The Pharaoh told Joseph the dreams of the seven cows being eaten up by the seven skinny cows and Joseph said, "God has told you that there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine which will be so great that the lean years will eat up the fat. Point a wise man over the kingdom during the good years, gather 20% of the crops, put them into store houses, so that when the lean years come, you will be able to distribute to the people and you will be saved."

Pharaoh said, "I can not find a wiser man in all the kingdom than you, because only you were able to tell me what the dream meant." He took his signet ring and gave it to Joseph and said, "You are in charge, only I am above you in the land." He ordered that when Joseph went out in the chariots, that the people would go in front of him crying out, "Bow down!"

During the seven years of plenty, he gathered into the storehouses until they lost count of the abundance of grain. Let's continue the story with Genesis, chapter forty-two, and look at the years of famine.

Outline: Genesis 42

- The 10 Brothers Head to Egypt (42:1-5)
- The First Dream Comes to Pass (42:6)
- God Begins to Work in the 10 Brothers (42:7-24)
- The Brothers Head Back to Father Jacob (42:25-34)
- Jacob Forgets the Promises of God (42:35-38)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The 10 Brothers Head to Egypt (42:1-5)

(Genesis 42:1 NKJV) When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

Rueben Sandwich

The brothers are looking at each other, all extremely hungry, I wouldn't want the name Rueben during a famine, the brothers might be thinking sauerkraut, corn beef, thousand island dressing, on toasted rye bread.

(Genesis 42:2 NKJV) And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

Sound Familiar / We're Doomed – Disaster Imminent / Abundance – Joy / 20 yrs Preparing
that we may live and not die - Sound familiar? Ohh things are so terrible, my life is doomed; we literally have no idea what God has prepared for us. God has prepared provisions for them, yet they do not know it. God does the same for us; how many times we thought disaster is imminent, and then we see God's hand was upon the situation way before we even knew there was a situation. For the people, 7 years of plenty, hey let the good times roll, never considering a famine was coming. Or when the famine began, ohh the rains will come, I wonder how long into the famine before they realized this is serious. But it was 20 years prior that God had been preparing for this famine. I wonder what God is doing today in my life, in your life, that is preparing for something 20 years down the road. Praise your God, rejoice that He is your God, He is worthy of all praise.

Psalm 23

Psalm 23 is probably the most known passage of Scripture, but most forgotten until a death, when it speaks of a now and a today (He Leads – He is With – He Follows) us all of our days:

(Psalms 23:1 NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*(Psalms 23:2 NKJV) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; **He leads** me beside the still waters.*

*(Psalms 23:3 NKJV) He restores my soul; **He leads** me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

*(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; **For You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*(Psalms 23:5 NKJV) You prepare a table **before me** in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*(Psalms 23:6 NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy **shall follow me** All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*

(Genesis 42:3 NKJV) So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

(Genesis 42:4 NKJV) But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him."

Benjamin Mid-20's

I wonder if it was because he was the youngest of the 12 brothers, but he was no baby, he is in his mid-20's at this time, or maybe because Jacob had some suspicions about what happened to Joseph, don't know but interesting to ponder.

(Genesis 42:5 NKJV) And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Not a Local Famine

Last chapter we saw that the famine affected all the lands, it wasn't local to Egypt. To bad today, famines are localized, there are people starving in worlds around us, but it doesn't effect us, so it doesn't affect us. May God move in our hearts that it will affect us.

The First Dream Comes to Pass (42:6)

(Genesis 42:6 NKJV) Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.

Dream Comes to Pass

The dream comes to pass:

(Genesis 37:5 NKJV) Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

(Genesis 37:6 NKJV) So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:

(Genesis 37:7 NKJV) "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

(Genesis 37:8 NKJV) And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

God Will Move Whole World

Christian, God keeps his promises. If he has to move the whole world, To bring a promise to pass, he will. whether it's Joseph or you. God will move the whole world to bring it to pass.

All the promises of God are yes and amen, and therefore, He has never failed on one promise to any one person in all of mankind in all of man time. All of his promises have come to pass. Will come to pass. Because they demonstrate his character and his nature that his word reigns supreme.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Joseph Oversees Selling / Price gouging / Spies

It is interesting that Joseph oversees all the selling. Why, probably he oversees all the selling to assure people are fed and not bled. We see it around us when hurricanes and the like strike, people take the opportunity to rip people off. Joseph probably is assuring that no one is coming in and buying large portions so they can start their own distribution center at a 200% mark-up. No one had the wisdom and discernment like Joseph, so he is making sure no wolves are coming in; and also we will see that no spies come into the land and try to take food by force.

Jesus Bread of Life

Also, do you see Joseph, a picture of Jesus. He is giving out the bread of life to all who would come, no one will be cast out:

(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

(John 6:36 NKJV) "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe."

(John 6:37 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

God Loves You!

God Begins to Work in the 10 Brothers (42:7-24)

(Genesis 42:7 NKJV) Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

(Genesis 42:8 NKJV) So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

13+7+20 / Joseph about 37 or so

It was thirteen years from the time he was sold by his brothers till the time that he was appointed over the land and then we have the seven good years until the famine began. His brothers probably came down at the end of the first year of famine; so, a time lapse of approximately twenty-one years between Joseph being sold by his brothers and meeting them again. By the time they came down to Egypt to buy grain, Joseph is thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old, so they would not recognize Joseph now that he is a man.

And Joseph is dressed and shaven as an Egyptian. And, surely they did not expect to see him as number two in the land, so they cant see what they don't expect.

Spoke Roughly

Verse 7 - and spoke roughly to them - this word roughly is the Hebrew word: qasheh, kaw-sheh'; severe (in various applications):--churlish, cruel, grievous, hard ([-hearted], thing), heavy, + impudent, obstinate, prevailed, rough (-ly), sore, sorrowful, stiff ([-necked]), stubborn, + in trouble.

Joseph very Direct / Why? / Last Encounter – Ben – Dad / Their Heart / Confession

Joseph isn't speaking nicely, tenderly, ohh I don't want to upset you. Joseph is being very direct with them, very heavy, severe words. Why? Joseph's last encounter with them they threw him in a pit, and

then sold him for profit. They turned on their own flesh and blood. Joseph has to be wondering where their hearts are; what did they tell dad about that day, did they make something up that made me look like a jerk, like I ran off with some pagan girl, or overdosed on drugs, was drunk driving and hit a tree. What about Benjamin, did they kill him? What about dad, how are they treating him? So Joseph is seeing what is in their heart. Joseph we will see is truly revealing what is in their heart, they will finally confess amongst themselves that what they did was wrong:

(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

(Genesis 42:22 NKJV) And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

Meekness

Look at the meekness of Joseph. What is meekness, but power under control? He has the power to crush those who were once his enemies. And yet instead, he's shown this compassion, generosity, and kindness. Nothing that resembles revenge. What a picture of a man who has been shaped and melded by God over these 20 years. And what a picture for us. If you're a person who has a position of power, whether it's the workplace or some other way, what a picture Joseph gives us, but it comes down to relational as well. When someone has wronged you and you have the full power and ability upon them, and yet you showed this great compassion, that is amazing, Christ-likeness.

Sometimes it takes extreme adversity to soften our hearts, because it's so easy to have hard hearts in our lives, and God in his greatness will let the adversity come, so that he can break us down, because when our hearts become hard, it takes the softening word of God. And the oil of the Holy Spirit, to soften our heart. to make it pliable again, that God's Word can penetrate his love and sink in, and then emanate from, and sometimes only extreme adversity can bring us to that place.

Look at the power of God puts in place Joseph for 13 years, feast for 7. Now it brings a famine for another seven, he has totally controlled the weather for what will be a total of 14 years with power our God has, what power he is. And imagine if he can do that for 14 years for the whole world, what he can do for 14 years in your life, in my life. 14 months or 14 days. Just give ourselves on the him God Almighty, do something mighty in my life.

Joseph Seminary is 20 years, and we might go, no, it was 13, falsely accused, and imprisoned after being betrayed, but the fact of the matter is, those seven years are plenty, who greatly determine seven years of famine. Because we need to be disciplined in how to walk with Lord and stay faithful to the Lord and with the Lord during the time of prosperity because that is very often the time that people walk away. It's the time that people go lukewarm, because they have no need of the Lord, but Joseph, through all those 7 years of plenty, we can tell, because of how he handles the 7 years of famine, was faithful, and continued to seek the Lord, because he prepared, and provided the provision. of what was next to come, and we see it in the life of Joseph that when his famine came, he did not think it strange, the fiery trial that had come upon him. He had expected it. But many of people, when they don't know how to handle the feast, and they take it for granted, when the famine comes, they question God. They challenge him. They ask him where he is. They say, I can't follow you if you're not gonna bless me abundantly. Why are you doing these things to me? I thought you loved me. And here Joseph, he knows this is all part of the plan, and therefore he prepared for it, and now he is the man for it. And so to reach in every one of us, part of seminary and the training God has for us is in the plentiful times and not just the hard times. How will we react when the plenty times come? Will we be as faithful and drawing near as when we were in the hard times?

Training Ground / Study Lives of godly Bible People

I don't know if you realize it but this study on the life of Joseph is also a "training course on leadership. Save your money on conferences and seminars on how to be a leader in ministry, in your home, in your community, and study the life lessons of godly men such as Joseph, Moses, Peter, Paul, and of course Jesus. We have seen some great leadership examples and principles in the life of Joseph in the past few chapters; we saw him keep ministering even after he was burned, he ministers for the glory of God, and his continual ministering brought blessings upon his own life and eventually his family.

Hardest Area of Ministry - Correction - Being Direct / Great Disservice

One of the hardest areas in ministry is the area of correcting or rebuking someone; of speaking to them very frankly. Nobody likes to do it, therefore for the most part we don't, and we do our fellow brothers or the lost a great disservice.

Told the Facts / So can Correct / Conditioned Today no Bible Thumping / Rom 10:15

Christian, sometimes people need to be told the facts so they can see their wrong and turn from it, repent (as do we). They need to see that they may think they are getting away with it, but others see right through them. Today we are afraid to speak frankly to people because we are afraid to upset them, or they will call us judgemental, legalistic. We have been conditioned that that is Bible thumping; that love never upsets, love is never blunt, love never makes a person uncomfortable, that love is never frank, direct. The Scripture gives us this responsibility (for both the unsaved and the brethren):

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

(Romans 10:13 NKJV) For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

(Romans 10:14 NKJV) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

(Romans 10:15 NKJV) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Contrary to Scriptures / John Baptist / Rough Category

Saying we are not to correct, or rebuke is contrary to the Scriptures (whether saved or unsaved); there is John the Baptist to the "religious" people, the Pharisees and Sadducees. First words of his public ministry was repent:

(Matthew 3:1 NKJV) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

(Matthew 3:2 NKJV) and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

(Matthew 3:7 NKJV) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

(Matthew 3:8 NKJV) "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

(Matthew 3:9 NKJV) "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

(Matthew 3:10 NKJV) "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Matthew 3:11 NKJV) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

(Matthew 3:12 NKJV) "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Brood of vipers, I say that falls into the "speaking roughly" category.

Jesus 1st Words / Can't build a Church

Jesus' first words in His public ministry was repent:

(Matthew 4:17 NKJV) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus you can't build a church off that message; cappuccino bar and sermons filled with lots of stories and jokes, that is the way to do it.

Jesus – Sodom / Politically Correct

Jesus had some harsh words for those who did not repent, he likened them to the people of Sodom, which really isn't politically correct:

(Matthew 11:20 NKJV) Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

(Matthew 11:21 NKJV) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
(Matthew 11:22 NKJV) "But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.
(Matthew 11:23 NKJV) "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.
(Matthew 11:24 NKJV) **"But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."**

Disciples Sent to Preach Repentance

The disciples were sent to preach a message of repentance:

(Mark 6:12 NKJV) *So they went out and preached **that people should repent**.*

Disciple means "sent one", who does Jesus send today?

Peters 1st Sermon

Peter's first sermon was a message of repentance:

(Acts 2:34 NKJV) *"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,
(Acts 2:35 NKJV) Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."
(Acts 2:36 NKJV) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
(Acts 2:37 NKJV) **Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
(Acts 2:38 NKJV) Then Peter said to them, **"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 2:39 NKJV) "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
(Acts 2:40 NKJV) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
(Acts 2:41 NKJV) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Stephen's Sermon

Stephen's message he preached which resulted in his stoning was a call for repentance. He called the people "stiff-necked and uncircumcised", I say that falls into the "roughly" speaking category:

(Acts 7:49 NKJV) *"Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest?
(Acts 7:50 NKJV) Has My hand not made all these things?"
(Acts 7:51 NKJV) **"You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.**
(Acts 7:52 NKJV) "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,
(Acts 7:53 NKJV) "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."
(Acts 7:54 NKJV) **When they heard these things they were cut to the heart**, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.
(Acts 7:55 NKJV) But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
(Acts 7:56 NKJV) and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
(Acts 7:57 NKJV) Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;
(Acts 7:58 NKJV) and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
(Acts 7:59 NKJV) And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
(Acts 7:60 NKJV) Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Paul on Mars Hill

Paul's preaching on Mars Hill was a message of repentance:

(Acts 17:30 NKJV) *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now commands all men everywhere to repent**,
(Acts 17:31 NKJV) "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
(Acts 17:32 NKJV) And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."
(Acts 17:33 NKJV) So Paul departed from among them.
(Acts 17:34 NKJV) However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

3 Responses at Mars Hill / Peter 3000 – Stephen Stoned / Cut to Heart

When Paul preached that message, some believed, some mocked, and some said, "I need to think more about this". Those are the common responses today. Interesting, Peter's sermon and Stephan's sermons really were not that different. The outcome was greatly different, for 3,000 got saved at Peter's message, but Stephen got stoned to death. In both sermons it says that the people were cut to the heart. One group cut at the heart for repentance, the other cut at the heart for retaliation.

Conditioned Today no Preaching

Today we are conditioned by Christians, and even from the pulpit, well if they retaliated against you, then you did something wrong, you shoved it down their throat. That statement is contrary to what we see in the Scriptures. Jesus was standing, ready to receive Stephen; Jesus was not upset with Him.

How about a Wayward Christian / 2 Tim 3

How about when it is correction to a brother or sister that is living contrary to the word? Now I am surely not saying let's become sin sniffers, I am surely not saying let not show grace, let's jump on every sin, and let's make sure it is set right; no not by any means. The Scripture gives us a responsibility:

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Reproof means to correct with the purpose of restoration.

Won't come back to Church

People are afraid that they will offend them, or they will not come back to the church; people leave the church for all kinds of reasons, that is just the way it is, don't be in fear of that:

There was a man who was stranded on a desert island for many, many years. One day, while strolling along the beach, he spotted a ship in the distance. This had never happened in all the time he was on the island, so he was very excited about the chance of being rescued.

Immediately, he built a fire on the beach and generated as much smoke as possible. It worked! Soon, the ship was heading his way. When the ship was close enough to the island, a dinghy was dispatched to investigate the situation. The man on the island was overjoyed with the chance to be rescued and met his saviors as they landed.

After some preliminary conversation the man in charge asked the man on the island how he had survived for so many years. The man replied by telling of his exploits for food and how he was able to make a fine house to live in. In fact, the man said, "You can see my home from here. It's up there on the ridge."

He pointed the men in the direction of his home. They looked up and saw three buildings. They inquired about the building next to the man's house and he replied, "That's my church - I go there to worship on Sundays."

When asked about the third building, the man replied, "That's where I used to go to church."

2 Principles / Key 1 – Spirit – Discernment & Wisdom

We can learn 2 very important principles in this study of having to speak frankly when needed. First, in life of Joseph, this is Key #1, in the last chapter what was said about Joseph? In whom is the Spirit of God, there is no one as discerning and wise:

(Genesis 41:38 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

(Genesis 41:39 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you."

Must be Filled – Must be One / Sure Led – Clear Discernment / Prayer & Fellowship

You must be filled with the Spirit if you are going to speak frankly to anyone about their sin in their life.

You must be at one with the Lord, you have to be sure that you are led by the Lord to do this, and that He has clearly given you discernment and wisdom in the matter, and that can only come through much prayer and fellowship with the Lord.

Know the Word – back It / When in Doubt / Error on Grace

You had better know your Word too, and be ready to back it up. I will tell you my personal approach; when in doubt, don't! If I am not fully confident that the Lord is leading me to speak to that person then I don't. If I am not fully sure of my facts, then I don't. Good ministry principle, always error on the side of grace when you are not sure.

2nd / Heart of Stephen / Charge them Not / Any Bitterness – Anger – Don't

Secondly, you must do it with the heart that Stephen had, a heart of love. What, Stephen called them stiff-necked and uncircumcised; you call that love, yes. Stephen brought them the words of life, in love, while giving it to them straight up and very frankly. When they stoned him, he said do not charge them with this sin. That message, was given in love, even to the point of death. If you have any anger, bitterness, or hatred in your heart about that person, then I would error on the side of grace and remain silent.

Sometimes we have to / Depart from Me / Fruit Inspectors / Life not in line w/ Words

Sometimes we have to speak frankly to people, they have to hear it. There are some people deceived into thinking they are right-on with God, yet for them they will hear those terrible words, "depart from Me, I never knew you." Love tells them, I am not judging you, but your life does not line up with your words:

(Matthew 7:16 NKJV) "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?"

(Matthew 7:17 NKJV) "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

(Matthew 7:18 NKJV) "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

(Matthew 7:19 NKJV) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Matthew 7:20 NKJV) "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

(Matthew 7:21 NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

(Matthew 7:22 NKJV) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?"

(Matthew 7:23 NKJV) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

(Matthew 7:24 NKJV) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

(Matthew 7:25 NKJV) "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

(Matthew 7:26 NKJV) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

(Matthew 7:27 NKJV) "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Paul to Church in Corinth

Paul laid it out to the church in Corinth, and at first it was not received, but after they pondered it, they repented and came back into sweet fellowship with the Lord and each other. So to we can hope that will be the resultant for us:

(2 Corinthians 7:8 NKJV) For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

(2 Corinthians 7:9 NKJV) Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

(2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death

Doubt you'll be Stoned

And if they do not receive it, I doubt you'll be stoned for it, but you can take the comfort in knowing that you reached out to them in love.

Discernment

Sometimes that discernment God gives will tell you,

- They know, and they know that you know, right now they need to be loved, with no words.
- Not right now, I am getting ready to do something.
- Or, say nothing, they do not have ears to hear, move on.
- And sometimes, God will say you are my vessel, speak. You may get to be a Nathan (2 Samuel 12:7), King David, you are that man. And you know the story, King David says (verse 13), I have sinned against God.

Correction, speaking frankly, directly, is hard stuff and it must be bathed in much prayer and soaked in love.

(Genesis 42:9 NKJV) Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

Spies Would Come

Joseph, being a wise man knew that hard times bring out evil men, people who would rather steal and kill, then work and pay. So his accusation against his brothers would not be out of character, and the brothers would know that.

Spying is a capital crime, meaning the death penalty. You have to think what these boys are hearing. I'm accusing you of something worthy of life imprisonment or death.

Pause in Recognizing the Dream / Busy about Master's Business / Draw to Him

Joseph recognized them in verse 7 as they are bowing down to him, he starts this drawing out process with them, and then he remembers the dream he had about them. I love that about Joseph, he was always busy about his masters business, and he wasn't always thinking of himself. It is a key to life, be busy about the Fathers Business, and you will find yourself living above all the things that will depress you and pull you down in this world. It took 20 years for this dream to come to pass, and here it is, but it immediately doesn't pop in his mind. When God gives you a calling, a vision, a Word for your life, He wants that calling to draw us to Him, not that calling, dream, or Word.

Don't Day Dream / Look for the Giver of Dreams - not the Dream

He doesn't want us dreaming about the dream, spending all our time looking for the vision, or listening for the call. Joseph doesn't recognize the dream at first because He was busy about his Master's business. Joseph was no longer looking for the dream, but the giver of the dream.

Why the Dream? / Something to Hold on To / I can't Sin - Still to Yet to Come

Why then does He give us dream, visions, and Words? He gives them to us so that we have something to hold on to in when the times get tough. When that temptation comes before us, Joseph come lie with me, our hearts will say I cannot do such wickedness, for He is Holy, and the Holy One has called me; He has a calling upon my life. Yet when we do fall down, when we say, that's it I quit, God will bring that vision, that dream, that Word back before our minds and say the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable, pick it back up and lets move on. When all seems so lost and desperate, God brings that dream back before our minds and reminds us that it must still come to pass, therefore this cannot be the end.

(Genesis 42:10 NKJV) And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

(Genesis 42:11 NKJV) "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

Some Honesty! / Think Self Nice / Vote 10-1 / God's Word

Honest men they call themselves; they leave out the dishonest actions of selling Joseph off and then deceiving their father Jacob. People can think they are nice guys, there actions may be in-line with the popular vote (the vote was 10-1 to sell Joseph) but God's word is the mirror to how we are doing.

(Genesis 42:12 NKJV) But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

(Genesis 42:13 NKJV) And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

(Genesis 42:14 NKJV) But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'

(Genesis 42:15 NKJV) "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

(Genesis 42:16 NKJV) "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"

Is Benjamin Alright?

Joseph had to wonder if they had brought harm to his little brother Benjamin.

So Joseph gets key piece of information here when they say that their younger brother is at home with that. So now he knows that they didn't kill Benjamin, like they killed him because they were the favored sons because of the favored wife, Rachel. So he's processing a lot of things right here. And he holds it together, which is an indication, the spirit upon him, that he can continue, to keep processing all these things, even when, um, they're very deep things, he's holding his composure.

(Genesis 42:17 NKJV) So he put them all together in prison three days.

(Genesis 42:18 NKJV) Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

(Genesis 42:19 NKJV) "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses.

(Genesis 42:20 NKJV) "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

Joseph Care for the Others in the Family

I think one of the reasons that Joseph holds one and sends 9 rather than the other way around is that he's using a total of nine to provide the provision to take care of the family back in the land. Just a picture of his great compassion, that even after he's been wrong, he still wants to take care of all of his brother's families, that if only one traveled with a sack of wheat, it would have been greatly diminished provisions for the need of so many, that we would read later than 70+ would come down to Egypt when this is all over, that's a lot of grain for a lot of people to feed.

Life on 3rd Day

Again we see this theme of the 3rd day as we study Joseph. Life comes on the 3rd day, do this and live Joseph says to them.

(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Life only comes to us on the 3rd day, the belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Didn't Expect to See Them that Day / Never Know - Stay in Devotion

It had been 20+ years since Joseph had last seen his brothers, he would have at least thought that at some point I will see them again, for they will have to come to Egypt like the rest of the people to buy grain. But, it is highly doubtful that Joseph knew that it would be that day, in this place. How important it is to stay in the Word, to have your daily time with the Lord, so that you will be prepared for the unexpected. We never know what the day may hold for us;

- it may be the day that the boss says we need to talk, how will you handle that?
- It may be the day that that person says, what is this Jesus thing all about?
- It may be the day that shocking news comes to you, how will you handle it?
- It may be the day that she grabs your robe and says come lie with me.
- It may be the day that your worse enemy comes with a full-on attack upon you, either in word or deed.

We must be prepared every day, for the unexpected, make sure you have your armour on, you know the commercial, life comes at you fast, and you are going to need more than Allstate:

(Ephesians 6:10 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

(Ephesians 6:11 NKJV) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

(Ephesians 6:13 NKJV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I think one of the best ways to put on the armor of God is to sit before Him quietly before the day starts and remember He leads us, is with us, and follows us (Psalm 23).

New Direction 3rd Day / God Spoke in those 3 Days

We see that after 3 days, Joseph has a new direction for them. First he said all of you will be imprisoned, and one will go get your brother, but after 3 days he says that only one will stay in prison while the rest of you go. God must have spoke to him, and spoke very directly, because Joseph had the fear of God in him over this matter. God must have been very direct with him about letting all go and only 1 remain. Maybe Joseph had some bitterness, revenge, in his heart and God showed him his heart, and Joseph repented and followed the Lord's will (don't know, but his mind was definitely changed after 3 days, and God was the reason for the change of mind).

Ok to Wait / Think it Through - Pray it Through / Saves Mistakes

Christian, we do not have to immediately have all the answers and all the directions for everything in our lives (that includes at work, at home, or at church and ministry), even if we had a time of fellowship and devotion that morning with the Lord. Not only is it ok, it is a good practice (as seen here) to do so. So often we feel that we have to have all the answers and know the right things to do because we are Christians, that isn't so, it is ok to say, I will think these things through, I will seek the Lord on these things and get back to you. You will find yourself avoiding a lot of waste and mistakes by doing so. God puts things in our lives like these situation, so we will come to Him, so we will slow down and seek Him.

(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

(Genesis 42:22 NKJV) And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

(Genesis 42:23 NKJV) But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

(Genesis 42:24 NKJV) And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

His Blood Upon Us

Verse 22- Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us - As Joseph cried from the pit, they went on their way; they knew their guilt. Interesting when Jesus was betrayed, and brought before the people, Pilate said what will you have me do with this man, and they cried crucify Him, let His blood be upon us: *(Matthew 27:24 NKJV)* When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

(Matthew 27:25 NKJV) And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

God Working in Brothers Too / Maybe Justified It / God will Bring it About

We see that Joseph's dream is fulfilled, after 20 years it comes to past. But God is not only working in Joseph's life, He was working in these 10 brothers life also. Through this testing, they came to a place of confession, of acknowledging their guilt. They may have justified at some point, convinced each other it was the right thing to do, but now they are face to face with it and acknowledge their wrong. Sometimes that is what God will do with us, we can come confess, or he will bring about the confession, it is always easier to come to Him:

(1 John 1:9 NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Guilty Conscience

Here they come that this is happening because what they did to Joseph 20 plus years ago and how deep and fitting the points being made for all of us is how long a guilty conscience can haunt us, follow us. and imprison us of the freedom of repentance and confession 20 years later, they all agree just because what we did to Joseph.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the

confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We come before the Lord. We say, Lord, forgive me for what I've done to that person. I was wrong in what I did. I've harmed them. I'm harmed them. Thank you for revealing it to me of what I've done. I'm not gonna hide it anymore. I'm not going to try to justify it. I was wrong. I confess my sin before you. And ask you, Lord, to cleanse me from all unrighteousness, and then, Lord, I now ask you as well. Open up the door that I can go to them and say to them, forgive me for what I've done to you. I know I've heard you, but I'm asking you to forgive me, and I'd like to have reconciliation with you, and may I add, if they reject your request for forgiveness, it's now between them and the Lord, you are free. You've done what God's asked you to do. You move on. You don't say, see. I knew they were a bad person. You need to give them time to let God work on their heart and healing to begin from the grace of God. Because he needs to work in their heart that's been wounded because of what you've done to them.

And once again, the freest man in the story is Joseph, who simply yields to the hand of God in his life. Accepts the place that he's in, gets up and serves even through being betrayed, being slandered, being misrepresented, falsely accused, yet he lives in the freedom that I'm in the hand of God. And here we have a wife of the ruler. She's not living in freedom, and she's living for the things of the world, and then these 10 brothers, no freedom, they have had 20 plus years of living in their own tents with their own wives, with their own children, free to move about the land, and yet here they are. Every day, looking in each other, knowing what they have done, and living in the prison of it, when they could have simply repented before the Lord, and at least been free before the Lord, and then beg the Lord for a day that they could possibly see Joseph again, even if it meant going down to Egypt to try to find him to buy him back out of the slavery. But they didn't, and now they're buried under their guilt. They never lived freely for 20+ years, and neither will you or I, if we don't come and say, Lord, forgive me for what I've done, and then seek reconciliation with whom I've done it too.

If You can Get Away with It

If you can get away with your sin, without the Lord chastening you, then I would be worried if I was truly His.

(Hebrews 12:5 NKJV) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV) For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

(Hebrews 12:7 NKJV) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

(Hebrews 12:8 NKJV) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Picture of Jesus / Chance to be Free from Guilt / We Have an Advocate

Now Joseph here is a picture of Jesus, and here Joseph is giving them an opportunity after 20 years of carrying this guilt and shame around, that they may be released from it and walk in the freedom of knowing that they are forgiven. 20 years is along time to carry guilt, it will eat you alive. Christian God says you are forgiven, He says it to you today, Paid in full by your Advocate (1 John 2:1-2).

You Can be Free Today / Abortion - Divorce - Hurt Loved One

You need not live in your guilt and shame, for He says "forgiven". Maybe you had an abortion, maybe you were promiscuous, made you ruined your marriage, maybe you have hurt loved one, hurt the innocent, whatever it may be, God says forgiven, go and sin no more.

(John 8:9 NKJV) Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

(John 8:10 NKJV) When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

*(John 8:11 NKJV) She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**"*

Maybe need to Ask Person - God

Maybe you need to go and ask forgiveness for someone, maybe you need to go to the Lord and hear Him assure you that you are forgiven. If you want to talk and pray with someone, then talk to someone tonight and we will pray with you.

The Brothers Head Back to Father Jacob (42:25-34)

(Genesis 42:25 NKJV) Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them.

(Genesis 42:26 NKJV) So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.

(Genesis 42:27 NKJV) But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.

(Genesis 42:28 NKJV) So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

Can't Buy Forgiveness - Grace

Heehee, Joseph is probably just enjoying himself with this one. Actually, it is a good picture of we cannot buy forgiveness, it is given to us through love. Joseph a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ:

(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

(Ephesians 2:9 NKJV) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Blame it on God

Verse 28 - What is this that God has done to us? - The ole blame my sin and mistake on God. A person is sowing and sowing with no regard to God and His word, but then when the reaping comes they immediately say God how could you do this to me. I'm struggling financially, God where are you how could you allow this, yet there was never the trust to tithe. God how could you allow my girlfriend/boyfriend to dump me, yet all the while they were unfaithful in their purity. I treated my brother like trash, and now I am all alone, God how could you. God how could you, you fill in the blank _____.

(Genesis 42:29 NKJV) Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:

(Genesis 42:30 NKJV) "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

(Genesis 42:31 NKJV) "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

(Genesis 42:32 NKJV) 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

(Genesis 42:33 NKJV) "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone.

(Genesis 42:34 NKJV) 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

Retell the Story – The Man / Just like Israel – A Man / Missed their Salvation

They retell the story to their father, and they retell it calling Joseph (the man). They only recognized Joseph as another man, just as the so many of the people of Israel did when Jesus walked the earth 2000 years ago. They looked at him as just a man, they did not recognize Him as their brother, as the One sent from their Father, their deliverer, the one who would give them life.

Still Today / Gentile Appearance – OT vs NT

In large part today, the children of Israel still do not recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah. You know it is interesting, Joseph was dressed as an Egyptian, that aided in their not recognizing Him, for their minds could not look past the Gentile appearance. Today, the same still holds true for the most part in that most Jew will not recognize the New Testament, they will not even pick it up to see if the claims of Christ could possible be true. The NT is written in Greek originally, the OT written in Hebrew (some Aramaic); Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people, and Greek was the language of the non-Jewish people, so still to this day a Jewish person believes that the Hebrew text is the only acceptable text.

Recognize at 2nd Coming

They will not recognize Joseph until the second trip to Egypt:

(Acts 7:11 NKJV) "Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance.

(Acts 7:12 NKJV) "But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

(Acts 7:13 NKJV) "And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh.

Still Today / Students of Word – God not done with Israel / Romans 11

So to will it be with the Jewish people (for the most part), they will not recognize their Messiah until His Second Coming. So, Christian, be good student of the word, know that God is not done with the Nation of Israel. Many teachers of the word over the years, and even today, think that God cast Israel off once they rejected the Jesus, but God says otherwise, and he even shows us a picture here in the story of Joseph. Romans, we are told not to be ignorant about the Nation Israel, God is not done with them:

(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Lasts Days – All will See

There will come a time when all of Israel will see, we missed Him, Jesus was and is the Messiah, and all of Israel will be saved. We know from the Scriptures that will be in the last days:

(Revelation 12:13 NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

(Revelation 12:14 NKJV) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

(Ezekiel 39:22 NKJV) "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward.....

(Ezekiel 39:28 NKJV) 'then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.

(Ezekiel 39:29 NKJV) 'And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

We Live Exciting Times / Prophetic Timepiece / Rapture Near

We live in such exciting days, we live in days of the rebirth of Israel. When Israel was without a homeland, which is why many good Bible teachers said God must be done with them, but we have been given the real life interpretation right before our eyes. We get to see it most every day on the nightly news. Christian keep and eye on Israel, it is the prophetic timepiece, and we see that events of the last days are coming in line. Thus, the rapture is near, if not today, than tomorrow, and if you ask me tomorrow I will tell you the same thing.

World Confused / 5 to 300 / No Homeland / Peace Brokers – Antichrist

The world is so confused on these things, they can't understand this whole Israel, Jewish, Palestinian thing, but we do. Sadly, the majority of the world is blind to the whole story on Israel, for anyone with an open mind would have to ask, how does 5 million Jews continue to stand surrounded by 300 million Arab-Muslims bent on destroying them. How can a nation survive and keep its identity without having a homeland for 2000 years, for history shows that 200 years has been the maximum for any national group to survive without an homeland. The world's so-called greatest minds are trying to broker peace in Israel and we know it will never happen (at least for any extended period) until the anti-christ brokers that peace deal. We know it doesn't matter how many nukes Iran develops, how many terrorist Syria trains, they will never wipeout Israel. I wish I could say that about the USA. It is amazing that a bunch of nobody's like us know the future of the world more so than the world leaders do. This book is truly amazing, so exciting to explore, study, and learn. And, what exciting times we get to live in.....

Jacob Forgets the Promises of God (42:35-38)

(Genesis 42:35 NKJV) Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

(Genesis 42:36 NKJV) And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

All things Against / Rest of Story – Chp 45 / Forget his Past

As far as Jacob could see, all things were against him. We, like Jacob, with our limited vision and our inability of seeing past today, look at the circumstances of our life and say everything or everybody is against me. Jacob doesn't know the rest of the story, if he can just hold on until chapter 45. How quickly and easily he forgot his story, a story of God meeting him, revealing Himself to him, and receiving promises from God:

Jacob thinks everything is against him. He uses that word all, which is a big word. When you're in the middle of a hard time, but he has no idea that what he thinks is against him, this force that is for him, and is about to bring all these things, great, and mighty depends in his life. that is gone, is on the move, and that his God has not forgotten yet. And that his God must and will fulfill the vision that was given to him, the dream that was given to him. being numbered, the stars in the sky.

The Ladder – the Promise -

He saw the Lord ascending and descending upon the ladder between heaven and earth, he saw a foreshadow of Jesus Christ the bridge between man and God. Jacob also received a promise from God that he would have many descendants, and that God would keep him wherever he went:

(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

(Genesis 28:16 NKJV) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

Wrestling Match – Name Change

Jacob wrestled with God, and God humbled him, and changed his name from sneaky conniver to Israel – governed by God:

(Genesis 32:24 NKJV) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

(Genesis 32:25 NKJV) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

(Genesis 32:29 NKJV) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

(Genesis 32:30 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

Reaffirms the Promise

God reaffirms his covenant with Jacob, His promise to give him the land and his descendants, and that from Jacob descendants will come:

(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

(Genesis 35:13 NKJV) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.

Christian God is for You

Christian, remember, even when things look so hopeless, and all is against you, that God is for you:

(Romans 8:31 NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Past is Promise of Future / Master's Plan

God is for you beloved, and what God has done in the past is an indication, a promise, of what He will do in the future. God has a master plan for all of our lives, it is the "Master's Plan":

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

That Word ALL

Jacob says that word all, and there's another passage that uses that word all, and it's all things work together for good, for those who love God and walk according to his purpose. And I can say this to you, beloved follower of Christ, that if you are walking obediently to him, his way, his word, then these things are for you, and not against you, and he will work these things out. For your favor, and therefore, again, a message and word to continue on. Christian soldier, don't grow weary of doing good, and in due time, God will bring it to pass. Not just for your good, but for his glory, do you believe that today is just pause and think about that before I move on? Let's meditate on that word all things.

Proverbs 3:5-6, trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will direct your path. God has something bigger than the moment that you're in. He's always looking for the future and eternity. In mind, and so we can't put our wisdom into the matter. We have to trust in faith, in the moments that we're in when we don't understand, and here's Jacob, he doesn't understand all this. God could have told him 20 years ago, but for whatever the purpose, God chose not to. And God may do that in your life. And you may make a decision based on something that you don't have all the information on, and that's why we just have to stay settled and trusting in the Lord, on his word. And he will direct our path step by step.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Jacob could take the hardship that he's been experiencing for 20 years, and then look at the pieces that come before him today, and say that God has forsaken him, that God no longer loves him, that God has abandoned him, and for 20 years, he doesn't know that God was doing something. Bigger and outside of what he could see and know.

Enjoy it – Watch it Unfold

Trust in that, enjoy it, enjoy the excitement of watching the Master's Plan unfold in our lives, right before our very eyes.

(Genesis 42:37 NKJV) Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

(Genesis 42:38 NKJV) But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

Rueben – Living up to Name

Rueben here is living up to his name, Jacob will identify who he is in his final words before he dies:

(Genesis 49:3 NKJV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

(Genesis 49:4 NKJV) Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it; He went up to my couch.

Unstable – Boiling Water / Foolish Words – No Thought

Jacob says Reuben is unstable as water, and that is a reference to boiling water. Reuben makes a foolish vow in the heat of the moment. Kill my 2 sons if I don't bring Benjamin back, I am sure his sons were like gee thanks dad, really appreciate that. It is ok to defer a comment, until after you have thought it through, prayed it through, and allow the Lord to speak to you discernment on the matter. Like Joseph did, after 3 days he says go, for I fear God. Reuben, he hadn't thought this through, for offering his sons as a ransom is foolish:

(Proverbs 14:29 NKJV) He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.

(James 1:19 NKJV) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

(James 1:20 NKJV) for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Joseph our Example

Joseph is our example, take the time and go away to seek the Lord, so you may do and say what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

Outline: Genesis 42

- The 10 Brothers Head to Egypt (42:1-5)
- The First Dream Comes to Pass (42:6)
- God Begins to Work in the 10 Brothers (42:7-24)
- The Brothers Head Back to Father Jacob (42:25-34)
- Jacob Forgets the Promises of God (42:35-38)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 43

Title: The Forging of a Nation (a man/women)

Summary: The Lord continues to break and remake these 10 brothers into the men of God they need to be, as they will be the foundation of the great Nation Israel. God is forging them, and fashioning them, so He may do something great with them and in them. God does the same today, for every one of us, and it is a high calling, but worth it all..... so that God may be glorified! Join us as we study a passage that is not just about the sons of Jacob, but each and every one of us.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) *Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) *And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

Last Study / Dream Passes / Joseph Tests their Hearts – Any Repentance

In chapter 42 we saw Joseph's dream come to pass as his 10 brothers (Benjamin not included) came to Egypt to buy grain for the famine was severe in all the lands. His brothers bow down before him just as he had dreamed some 20 years prior. Joseph then starts to work on his brothers to see where their heart was at, were they as mean and callous some 20 years later, as they were when they sold him into slavery. Was his brother Benjamin all right, how was his father Jacob, was he still alive. Was there any repentance in their hearts for the thing they had done to him?

Works Them / Spies / Imprisoned / Money in the Sacks

So Joseph works them, he accuses them of being spies to start this drawing out process. They say we are not, we are sons of one father, and we have 2 other brothers, one is at home, and the other is not. Joseph cast them all into prison, but after 3 days of thinking about it he says ok one will stay here (Simeon), and the rest will go home, and when you return for more grain your younger brother had better be with you or else I know you are spies. Then just to stir it up a little more, Joseph has his servant put their money they brought to buy the grain, back into the sacks of grain, so it makes them look as thieves.

Sons Released / Jacob – Gen 45

When they return they tell Jacob all that happened, and Jacob says all these things are against me. As we had said last study, Jacob had no idea that all things were working together for good. Jacob's faith was weak, he forgot all the past promises of God, he had no idea that chapter 45 was coming!

Outline: Genesis 43

- The Brothers Force to Face Their Past; back to Egypt (43:1-7)
- Judah's Change; Put the Guilt Upon Me (43:8-10)
- Jacob Has to Let Benjamin Go; Has to Trust the Lord (43:11-14)
- The Brothers Brought to Joseph's House; Their Guilt Follows Them (43:15-25)
- The Brothers Dine Together; Joseph Weeps (43:26-34)

Prayer

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Brothers Force to Face Their Past; Back to Egypt (43:1-7)

(Genesis 43:1 NKJV) Now the famine was severe in the land.

(Genesis 43:2 NKJV) And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

Face the Past

God is forcing them to face their past there was grain anywhere else in the world they would have went there and we would have had a story as they would win in a different direction. And I'm thankful I think God does that to us puts us into a place we have no choice but to face our past and deal with our past so that we can be set free from our past. He chastens them (us) because they/we are sons/daughters.

(Hebrews 12:5 NKJV) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV) For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

(Hebrews 12:7 NKJV) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

(Hebrews 12:8 NKJV) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

(Genesis 43:3 NKJV) But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

(Genesis 43:4 NKJV) "If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

(Genesis 43:5 NKJV) "But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

Not for Simeon

So they aren't going back for Simeon, but because they are hungry. Some family!

The Man – Missed their Brethren

Again, they call Joseph the man, they did not recognize him as their brother, as the one who would preserve their life, their salvation; just as the people of Israel have missed their brother, their Messiah.

Mean Guy / Starve or Starve

These boys are like trying to tell Dad, you just don't get it. This man's serious. We're not gonna slip in and slip out. He was serious, and you need to be serious, and no. That no Benjamin, no food, no food, no life, we all die.

The boys are saying no Benjamin, no trip. Dad this guy was mean, he was tough, he is not messing around, if we return without Benjamin not only won't we get grain, we will be killed or imprisoned as spies. So the situation is this, stay there at home and watch each other starve to death, or go to Egypt without Benjamin and get thrown in prison and watch each other starve to death, or watch each other get killed.

Impossible Situations / No Family Prayer / Jacob – angles – wrestles – descendants

You know Christian sometimes God puts us in situations that seem impossible, He does so that we will see Him work, so we will have no choice but to trust in Him.

Sadly what we won't read in this chapter is the family saying let us pray, let us seek the Lord, let us trust the Lord. Not even Jacob who had seen the angels ascending and descending while the Lord stood on top of the ladder, even after he had wrestled with the Lord, even after God promised him the land and to make his descendants number the stars in the sky.

Jacob's faith Weak / What happened to Jacob? / We Need Each Other – Stay Strong

Jacob's faith was weak, what had happened over the years to weaken it we do not know, but his lack of faith is evident here. Christian, we need each other, we really do. We need each other to keep us strong:

(Proverbs 27:17 NKJV) As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

To Speak Wisdom

To speak wisdom into our lives:

(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Intercede in Prayer

To do battle for each other in the spiritual realm through intercessory prayer:

(Ephesians 6:17 NKJV) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

(Ephesians 6:19 NKJV) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel,

(Ephesians 6:20 NKJV) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Thank You / Accountable - Strong

I thank each and every one of you, for you keep me strong, you keep me accountable before the Lord, and I know how you are praying for me and my family. Thank You, and may the Lord richly bless you and your family for that.

(Genesis 43:6 NKJV) And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"

Jacob Pours Heart Out

Back in 43:6, Jacob poured out his heart. Jacob pours his heart out saying, if anything happens to Benjamin, my heart just can't take it. That'll be the end of me. I barely survive losing Joseph. I can't believe I'm still alive and my heart is beating, the pain of losing one of my sons in such a way, to be torn to shreds by... a wild animal. 20 some years ago, I've been hurting for 20 years. I haven't even healed. I still just barely make it day by day and now the thought that something would happen to another son. Just take my life right now because my heart's gonna fail me. And the thought of it. And you know what we have here? It's more than a narrative of a story. It's the heart of Jacob before his sons, that still doesn't break them of what they did. Not just the Joseph. But to Jacob, and not just to Jacob, But Benjamin, the brother. had to live all those years without a big brother of the same mother. And here Jacob, heart, broken, laid out, bare, and these boys still don't have any remorse for the lie that they told their father.

(Genesis 42:36 NKJV) And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin

(Genesis 43:7 NKJV) But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'"

Give us a Break / It happens to Us / Don't Beat Self Up

Hey dad how did we know that the guy was going to say that, give us a break. The man down there is a nutcase. I've been there, I've done things that I thought seemed so right, and then they blew up in my face and I'm going I wish I just hadn't done anything; but truly how could we know? We do that to our friends and family, but truly who knew it would turn out badly. Christian don't beat yourself up, do your best and commit the rest; and should it turn badly say Lord you knew, therefore I know you will use this.

And here, is a rare version of mind reading between men, 'cause usually mind reading only happens between the husband and the wife. Saying, How couldn't you know that he was gonna ask that question about your brother that would set this whole scenario up? Why didn't you know that's what he was thinking? And again, it's very rare that it happens between men only. It's usually something that we see demonstrated between husbands and wives, the expectation of mind reading.

Judah's Change; Put the Guilt Upon Me (43:8-10)

(Genesis 43:8 NKJV) Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.

(Genesis 43:9 NKJV) "I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

(Genesis 43:10 NKJV) "For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."

Someday – Surety will Come through Judah / Jesus – Mission Accomplished – None Lost

Verse 8, here we see Judah is beginning to be broken down. As it was he who said, Let's sell him, now here he is willing to say, If anyone's gonna bear the burden of death in this manner, then I will step forth, and I will take that burden, and let death come upon me, so that others can be free. And here, we see a beautiful picture in that, through Judah, will come the Lion of Judah, our Messiah, who will step forth, and say, If anyone's gonna die, so that others can live, it shall be me are greater than Judah, Jesus Christ.

Someday there would come One from the lineage of Judah would do that very thing; Jesus would come from the lineage of the Judah, and He would become the surety for every man, He would assure that all who would come would stand before the Father safely. Jesus took the blame forever, the guilt and the shame, yet He would say "Mission Complete":

(John 3:16 NKJV) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

(John 17:11 NKJV) "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are."

(John 17:12 NKJV) "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."

First Rueben now Judah – Willing to Step Up

First it was Rueben saying I will risk it, not it is Judah, and really in the end all are willing to be put in harms ways, and God is bringing what was once a divided brotherhood and bringing them into one.

For God is forging a Nation.

It reminds me of God forging our Nation. Have you ever heard the story of the Speedwell?

I think everybody has heard of the Mayflower, but how many have heard of the Speedwell? You see originally the Pilgrims set out on two ships - the Mayflower and the Speedwell. Both were deemed sea worthy when they were looking to hire ship and crew. The Pilgrims set sail for the New World on August 5, 1620 on the Speedwell and the Mayflower, but only 3 days into the voyage they had to turn back because the Speedwell was taking on water through the seams of the ship's haul. So they caulked the seams and set sail again one week later. Once again they had to turn around for the same problem. When back in port the shipwrights in England did an intensive search to find the loose seam. They crawled along every inch of the ships haul holding a candle up to the seam. The method in those days was that if there was a gap in the seam, the air from outside would cause the candle to flicker or go out, but after a thorough search they still could not find a gap. Obviously, there was no water coming in the seams while at port, or else they would not have needed the candles.

The resultant of this was that the Pilgrims had to abandon the two ship plan and all squeeze in together on the one ship - the Mayflower. This hardship caused several of the original passengers to become discouraged and decide not to go, some questioned whether God was really in this plan or not, and then there were those who just couldn't handle the hardships and difficulties they had encountered. But there is another explanation: God was using the Speedwell's problem to separate the wheat from the chaff. As William Stoughton later put it: "God sifted a whole nation, that He might send choice grain into this wilderness."

About 20 of them willingly dropped out. William Bradford wrote, "Like Gideon's army this small number was divided, as if the Lord, by this work of His Providence, thought these few were still too many for the great work He had to do."

If God wanted to unify the group He could not have picked a better way. The Pilgrims lived on the Mayflower in what is called the "tween deck". The tween deck is the deck between the top of the ship and the cargo hold. All 102 Pilgrims had to cram into a space equivalent to the size of a volleyball court. To make matters worse there was no fresh air or light (all hatches had to be battened-down due to stormy weather). The duration of this confinement was 66 days.

Distance isolates people, confinement brings them closer together. The Lord prepared the Pilgrims to stick together before they ever set foot on American soil knowing full well that if they tried to live apart in the New World they would fall one by one, either to Indian attacks, starvation, or the extremities of the cold winters. By the time the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, they were united as one. We can see all the way back then the great American saying that separates us from all other nations, "United We Stand, Divided We Fall".

Jacob Has to Let Benjamin Go; Has to Trust the Lord (43:11-14)

(Genesis 43:11 NKJV) And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man; a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds."

(Genesis 43:12 NKJV) "Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight.

Paying Honor / Certain Things are Worth the Money

Verse 11, Jacob's sending forth a gift of luxury items that apparently... he is stewarding well. But they did not have to break into, to eat or use. And some will say he's trying to manipulate the situation, but historically, through time, even down the street to the White House, we see people coming to visit dignitaries, and leaders, and rulers from other countries, they bring gifts from their country as a means to give honor, and say, I see you for your position. And this is my acknowledgment of this gift to you for who you are.

And so, I don't see Jacob trying to connive the situation. He sends double money, which, uh, not a bad plan there, 'cause you never know what the current price of food is, and Jacob's, what good's the money, if we all die, if we need to spend whatever the price is, spend it.

And I think there's something there for us, as believers as well. That, you know, there's just certain things that life and death's on the line, and I may not be talking about food... per se, but we have to be willing to spend... precious resources, trust that the Lord will provide and replenish for things such as life and death of the gospel. to the outer parts of the world. Much is given, much is required. And I feel strongly that not only does America have the best Bible training to send missionaries, whether short term or long term. We also have the greatest financial means to do such a thing. And I don't believe that we will ever find ourselves lacking, whether individually or as a church, and I commend this church for our involvement in missions, and all that the Lord does through this ministry that will have eternal impact on it amazingly.

(Genesis 43:13 NKJV) "Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man.

(Genesis 43:14 NKJV) "And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

God Almighty

I think one of the revealing words that show us that Jacob is not trying to connive, that he's being governed by God in the manner of sending the blessings of the luxury gifts to Joseph, is that God calls him Israel. in this scenario, whereas the last time we saw Jacob, in our last chapter, he was acting totally like a Jacob. Not trusting the Lord, thinking all things are against them, and putting the blame on everybody, rather than looking at the situation, saying, This is the situation, I can complain about it, and try to manipulate it, or I can rest in it, and settle into it. Then my God sees me, and that he is on the move, and that there is a promise that he has given me, that I will have an inheritance of children, that will bless the whole world, and outnumber the stars in the sky. And I think that's what he's starting to do here in this passage.

And I like Jacob putting back into play, God Almighty, is he who he's trusting. He who is on the throne. And though this man may be second in command of all the world right now, there's still a God almighty who's greater than he. And I'm gonna trust in God Almighty. And him and him alone. And if he chooses to move the heart of the second in command, he'll do it. And the second in command chooses to move his hand against us. He'll have to get through God Almighty first, and there's again another great word for us, that we can put man in such a powerful position, and forget that there's a God Almighty between us and that person, whether that be relationship, or a boss, or a coach, or someone who's just harsh in your life, and they seem that they have the power, you need to always remember that you have God Almighty in between you and that person, and then you can rest. And call upon the name of the Lord God Almighty.

Remember this, there is a God Almighty between you and the devil, there is a God Almighty between you and that problem you have, there is a God Almighty between you and anything and everything..... because You are His!

Jacob had to Let Benjamin Go

Verse 14 Jacob yields, and he has to let Benjamin go. He can't hold on to him forever. Because in the end, he would have suffocated Benjamin to the point of death and starvation. He has to let him go. And

Benjamin willingly wants to go, let's not miss that. He wants to be the man he wants to be, a man, and he's not saying, No, dad, don't let them take me. We see that Benjamin was willing to go. And here's a word for parents. All of us. It's so hard. But there is a place and a time that we have to let our children go. We have to let them go and be their own man and be their own woman, and let them go and live, even in what may be risky, dangerous. because we must be careful that we don't suffocate them, and starve them out to a place of a famine that they die, because we... protect them, and overprotect them to the point that they are stunted, and cannot. go out on their own. So, parents, there's a time. And it's not when they're 30. It's not when they're 40. is when God says, it's their time now, let them go, and trust me that I have them. It's not easy. It's not easy. And I'm not saying it is. But we have to train them up in the way they should go and trust the Lord, their lives into his hand. Regardless of the heartbreak, it could cause us.

[Proverbs 3:5-6 \(NKJV\)](#)

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

The Brothers Brought to Joseph's House; Their Guilt Follows Them (43:15-25)

(Genesis 43:15 NKJV) So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph.

(Genesis 43:16 NKJV) When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon."

Slaughter

Imagine the boys hearing Joseph. As he speaks, we get the whole sentence. They're hearing it word by word, and it starts with, take these men and slay. They must have dropped in their hearts that they were doomed.

Now mind you Joseph is second in command in all of Egypt so therefore he's living in the palace he has servants we'll see he has other dignitaries eating with him these boys no doubt had to be thinking we are now being made into slaves and servants

(Genesis 43:17 NKJV) Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

(Genesis 43:18 NKJV) Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and fall upon us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys."

Guilty Conscience – Are Suspicious People

The guilt still bothers them even though it doesn't say that they feel guilty but what they clearly see is their suspicious and it was Shakespeare who said, "[suspicion haunts the guilty mind](#)".

These guys are guilty and when you are guilty every angle looks suspicious because it's where you live and we know that perception is reality to a man or a woman whether it is the right perception or wrong it becomes the reality, and they are suspicious of everyone because they think everyone is like them.

We Think God is Mad at us -Seeking Revenge / Man's Thoughts / God's Grace - Backslider

Ohh no, we are going to his house because he is going to sell us, he is angry with us. How people still have this mindset about the greater than Joseph, Jesus. They think I have blown it badly, and now God is going to get me, He is going to inflict me to get even, He is angry with me. That is not the Lord, for He is merciful and loving, He isn't mad at you, He doesn't want to hurt you, He is not looking for revenge. That is so much how we are, that is why we think that is what is going to happen to us. God is so far above that, He loves the sinner, His grace abounds. Don't let those thoughts keep you from approaching Him; His arms are open to receive you. Listen, even if you are backslidden, for God says that He still loves the backslider. God doesn't respond like we do, although that may be how we would react when we are offended, not God. God is Love!

[\(Romans 5:20 NKJV\) Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,](#)

*(Hosea 14:4 NKJV) "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, For My anger has turned away from him.
(Hosea 14:5 NKJV) I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, And lengthen his roots like Lebanon.
(Hosea 14:6 NKJV) His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, And his fragrance like Lebanon.
(Hosea 14:7 NKJV) Those who dwell under his shadow shall return; They shall be revived like grain, And grow like a vine. Their
scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.*

*(1 John 4:8 NKJV) He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
(1 John 4:9 NKJV) In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that
we might live through Him.
(1 John 4:10 NKJV) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**(Genesis 43:19 NKJV) When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house,
(Genesis 43:20 NKJV) and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;
(Genesis 43:21 NKJV) "but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand.
(Genesis 43:22 NKJV) "And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."
(Genesis 43:23 NKJV) But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.**

Shalom

The interpreter was speaking in Hebrew so he would have said the word Shalom and God sinned in the message to them that God sees them.

Joseph Doesn't Know Family Wealth or Poverty / Simeon becomes a Living Map

By the way, as we see Joseph putting the money back in the sack, what we know is, he doesn't know the financial situation of the family. And he doesn't know if they've spent all their riches on getting through the famine. He doesn't know they're bankrupt or wealthy, but what he knows is, there's only one place in the world that's gonna have this grain, and it's right here in Egypt. And if they don't have money, there ain't no coming back to Egypt. to buy grain, if this was the last of their money. So by putting the money back into the sack, Joseph is ensuring that they have to return and will return for... this... drama of redemption.

And look at this by keeping one of the brothers as well. He also... has at his fingertips a living map, that if he really needed to, he knows that the... journey is about a six week round trip, and so he knows how much grain he's given them. So he has a pretty good guess of how long it should be before they're pinched into this place. But if he needs to, he's been feeding... Simeon, he can pull him out of the prison and say, You're my living map. Take me to where the family is. And I will go see them myself. And I can bring food. I can bring rescue, equipment. I can make sure that they're taking care of, even if... they come to some foolish conclusion not to come back. Joseph is just sitting there, pondering, seeking the Lord, and I believe he's getting multiple words of wisdom and knowledge from the Lord, for the situation. And I think there's a great place for us, whatever our situation, to just sit and ponder before the Lord. Scenarios and saying... Lord, I don't wanna just come the one conclusion, 'cause there might be other avenues that you want me to consider for the situation that I'm in, whatever it is. And for you younger youth, it might be something about, you might have your dream college, that you fail the Lord's calling you to, but you might do well to have your second and third pick lined up as well.

Here's Brother

And now here is your brother also.

**(Genesis 43:24 NKJV) So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.
(Genesis 43:25 NKJV) Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there.**

Donkeys

Look we even get the details that they fed the donkeys which we would go why give us that detail and it's because it's important God is providing for the donkeys so that the food that's heading back the Canaan would just be for the people and not for the people in these donkeys.

The Brothers Dine Together; Joseph Weeps (43:26-34)

(Genesis 43:26 NKJV) And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.

(Genesis 43:27 NKJV) Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

Thinking of Dad

How is dad? Joseph wanting to hear that dad is ok. Joseph a picture of Jesus, always thinking of the Father. We will eat later, first tell me how dad is.

(John 4:34 NKJV) Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."

(Genesis 43:28 NKJV) And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.

(Genesis 43:29 NKJV) Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

(Genesis 43:30 NKJV) Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.

Ever Weep Like This – God Catches it in a Bottle

Have you ever wept like this? For Joseph it's 20 years since he held his little brother in his arms he had just been a baby a toddler Joseph the Big Brother no doubt Joseph doting over his baby brother Benjamin probably called him Benny. Heart aching because Jacob was robbed of Joseph and Benjamin was robbed of his Big Brother who no doubt loved and cared for him.

Joseph amazes me with his grace and mercy as he has these 10 before him And can forgive them as he will because like the rest of us we'd be saying how could you look at what you've done to me and what you've done to your very own father but Joseph trusted the Lord and the word given to him even through all of these tears

Imagine all the years in Potiphar's palace and in the prison pit and the memories and the wishing to hold Benjamin in his arms again to hear him laughing to feel his hug to enjoy the utter joy of Benjamin holding his big brother's hand and looking up to him as the Big Brother. Imagine Benjamin coming to run and jump in to bed after a scary dream or a howling wolf or storm because Benjamin doesn't have a mother she passed away at birth all that he has is Joseph as his father would have all the other children no one would have been more intimately involved in Benjamin's life but Joseph they would have shared a tent together and now here Benjamin had to be all alone for 20 years period

Joseph weeps and thus why he had to remove himself a 40 year old weeping and we have to ask have we ever wept like that and if you have know this that God caught every one of those tears that you dropped and stored them in his bottle and that you have never cried alone for the God of all comfort is always near to us when we shed tears.

Psalm 56:8 You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

Joseph Weeps / Jesus Running to You

Joseph holds back his emotions after some 20 years of not seeing his little brother. Joseph a picture of Jesus Christ, and do you know how He longs to see you face to face, to hold you physically. Jesus won't be sitting and saying there you are when we meet Him face to face, I believe the story of the Prodigal son is not just for a backslider repenting, but when we take our last breath on earth and come into the physical presence of the Father. God loves you, He is crazy about you, He cannot stop thinking about you, do you realize that:

(Luke 15:20 NKJV) "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

(Psalms 139:17 NKJV) How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!

(Psalms 139:18 NKJV) If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(Genesis 43:31 NKJV) Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."

(Genesis 43:32 NKJV) So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.

(Genesis 43:33 NKJV) And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another.

Egyptians Eat at Own Table

There were three tables, and Joseph had his own table. The other Egyptian guests had a table for themselves and then his brothers all had their table. It would be an abomination for an Egyptian to eat with a non-Egyptian at the same table

1 in 40 Million

When Joseph set them at the table, he set them according to their age around the table. They looked at each other and thought, what is going on here? Do you know what the chances are of setting eleven brothers according to age around the table? Thirty-nine million nine hundred and forty-one thousand! He had about one chance in forty million to set them in the order according to age. That freaked them out. At this point, they evidently figured that this guy has some divining knowledge. In fact Joseph led them to believe that he had the capacity of divination. As we get into the next chapter we will find it quite fascinating as the plot thickens. Joseph, first of all, passes off the fact, don't you know that a fellow in my position is able to divine. They no doubt believed it, because of the order around the table and the fact that he was able to set them according to age.

(Genesis 43:34 NKJV) Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.

5x Blessings / How will You React

Now it could be that Joseph was looking to see if the same kind of jealousy and bitterness that they had towards him was also manifested towards Benjamin. This could have been sort of a test to see if they were still the old guys that they used to be, bitterly jealous of the younger brother, who was obviously favored by the father. You know you can see a person heart when people around them prosper. It is easy to weep with those who are hurting, but sometimes it is hard to rejoice when others are receiving abundant blessing. You will know a deep work has happened in you when you can be as happy for a person when great things happen for them, when they are getting 5 times as much as you are. For some, they get upset, even bitter, why are they being blessed, they don't deserve it as much as I do. I pray harder, I serve longer, why not me. You will know what is in your heart when people are getting blessed around you, and you are not.

So they drank and were merry with him.

What a Mess of a Family

Look at the mess of this family. Arguing, deceiving. Backbiting, slandering. It's a messed up family, and God lays it all out. On the pages before us. so that we can look at it and go, and you use them. Not only did you use them. You made them into a great nation. If what you can do in them, surely, you can do in me, and my family, and or, if you came from a messed out family, it surely declares in this passage that you're not excluded. Or removed from being used greatly by the Lord. He puts us all, lays it bare on the

page before us. to show his great mercy, his long suffering, and how he can take, and work, and do a mighty work in anyone who's willing to hang out through it all to the end with him.

Peter:

We see the Lord breaking and forging the man Peter

"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man"

- Luke 5:8 (KJV) – "When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

"I do not know the man"

- (Peter's denial of Jesus)

Matthew 26:72 (KJV) – "And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man."

Matthew 26:74 (KJV) – "Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew." (Also found in Mark 14:71 and Luke 22:57.)

"Though all men shall be offended... I will never be offended"

- Matthew 26:33 (KJV) – "Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."

Mark 14:29 (KJV) – "But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I."

"Peter, do you love me? Feed my sheep"

- John 21:15–17 (KJV) –

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

Paul:

We see the Lord breaking and forging the man Paul

Least of the Apostles

- 1 Corinthians 15:9 (KJV)

"For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."

Least of All Saints

- Ephesians 3:8 (KJV)

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Chief of Sinners

- 1 Timothy 1:15 (KJV)

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

For me personally

For me personally I thought I would move the world my dreams were as such the God might be glorified through my words and actions and ministry but as God breaks and forges a man he brought me to the place all that I want is you Lord Jesus if I can get up and spend the day with you and fellowship with your heart and be soaked in your love I'm a happy and content man and then if you choose to send me to do

anything else I'll be happy and content because I get to do it with you. And Joseph God had brought him to one thing and all those years in prison and it was his fellowship with the Lord and he could be at peace in everything and anything for it wasn't about dreams and greatness and proven to his brothers and family that he was right but Joseph and Peter and Paul all came to the one thing and it was the one great thing all they had was Jesus and that was enough

Just Give Me Jesus.

Outline: Genesis 43

- The Brothers Force to Face Their Past; back to Egypt (43:1-7)
- Judah's Change; Put the Guilt Upon Me (43:8-10)
- Jacob Has to Let Benjamin Go; Has to Trust the Lord (43:11-14)
- The Brothers Brought to Joseph's House; Their Guilt Follows Them (43:15-25)
- The Brothers Dine Together; Joseph Weeps (43:26-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 44

Title: Mercy

Summary: Our passage culminates with the brothers of Joseph have come to the end of their end, and all they have left is to cry out for mercy. Mercy.... ever want it? When you do want it, it will cry from the depth of your heart to receive it, nothing else in life will seem to matter at that moment. Mercy..... ever receive it? When you do receive it, it will be as a kiss of God, for mercy is the heart of God. Mercy.... ever give it? When you do, it will be the very heart of God to the brokenhearted.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Last Study / Dream Passes / Joseph Tests their Hearts – Any Repentance

In chapter 42 we saw Joseph's dream come to pass as his 10 brothers (Benjamin not included) came to Egypt to buy grain for the famine was severe in all the lands. His brothers bow down before him just as he had dreamed some 20 years prior. Joseph then starts to work on his brothers to see where their heart was at, were they as mean and callous some 20 years later, as they were when they sold him into slavery. Was his brother Benjamin all right, how was his father Jacob, was he still alive. Was there any repentance in their hearts for the thing they had done to him?

Works Them / Spies / Imprisoned / Money in the Sacks

So Joseph works them, he accuses them of being spies to start this drawing out process. They say we are not, we are sons of one father, and we have 2 other brothers, one is at home, and the other is not. Joseph cast them all into prison, but after 3 days of thinking about it he says ok one will stay here (Simeon), and the rest will go home, and when you return for more grain your younger brother had better be with you or else I know you are spies. Then just to stir it up a little more, Joseph has his servant put their money they brought to buy the grain, back into the sacks of grain, so it makes them look as thieves.

Sons Released / Jacob – Gen 45 / Gen 44

When they return they tell Jacob all that happened, and Jacob says all these things are against me. As we had said last study, Jacob had no idea that all things were working together for good. Jacob's faith was weak, he forgot all the past promises of God, he had no idea that chapter 45 was coming! So chapter 44 they return to Egypt to buy more grain for they are now out. Benjamin is with them and Joseph has to run out of the room when he sees Benjamin for the first time in some 20 plus years, a picture of Jesus Christ when He sees us in heaven if our minds can grasp that. So they all sit and eat together and all are merry: now the boys are heading back to Jacob, and Joseph has one more roughing up for them to see where their hearts are.

Outline: Genesis 44

- The Brothers Head Home; Entering into 1 Last Test (44:1-9)
- Benjamin is Called Guilty; But United the Brothers Stand (44:10-13)
- Judah Intercedes for the Family; Now God Can Really Work (44:14-34)

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Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The Brothers Head Home; Entering into 1 Last Test (44:1-9)

(Genesis 44:1 NKJV) And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.

Money in Sack trick / Gomer Pyle

It is the old money in the sack trick again, how could you fall for that one again (haahaa). Gomer Pyle use to always say, fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me. If it was me, I would check my sack, and check it again to make sure the money mix up didn't happen again. It is like in the airport, I make sure I don't put my laptop on the x-ray belt until right before I am ready to go through the metal detector myself, so as to remove the conman who waits on the other side and acts like it is his while you are being held up by security. You think these boys would have checked, but they don't.

(Genesis 44:2 NKJV) "Also put my cup, the silver cup, in the mouth of the sack of the youngest, and his grain money." So he did according to the word that Joseph had spoken.

Silver – 20 pieces / Joseph doesn't Use Divining Cup

Notice it was silver cup, maybe just a little reminder to them for selling him for 20 pieces of silver. In Egypt this silver cup represented authority, rulers would have a silver cup and they would use it to determine god's will for what they should do by the leading of their gods. It was called a "divining cup". Now, from our study of Joseph's character we have no reason to believe that Joseph would use it for such a thing, for he as we have seen was a man solely sold out to the Lord. So my opinion is that they (Pharaoh's support people) because that is what they do; hey you are a leader therefore you need a cup to talk to god so you know how to lead. Joseph probably kept spare change in it or something.

I Still get Divining Cups / World Doesn't Understand

You know, I still get "divining cups" from well meaning people. Unsaved people give me books for Christmas or my birthday on the "spiritual" things; and you open up those books and they are so far from God it is ridiculous. They are new age, or all religions are one, or lets not offend anyone, spiritual books. Some of them give me the creeps when I see them, so religious, and I am so unreligious, I just love Jesus. Still to this day friends and family offer me alcohol, when I come to their home, I think it has been 30+ years why do you even set a class before me. You know the world doesn't know, they don't understand the change that has happened to you, exactly the Scriptures says they won't:

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

Opportunities to Talk / Open Doors

Some of these "divining cups" are the perfect opportunity to open the door to talk about the things of the spirit with them, so use them. Beloved, plant spiritual seeds as you go, a minute here, a minute there. Be careful not to embarrass them, and make them feel stupid, do it very delicately and gently, and again you have to be in tune with the Lord so you know when to, and when not to. God continually opens doors of opportunity for us to share the Good News, look for them, and use them.

(Genesis 44:3 NKJV) As soon as the morning dawned, the men were sent away, they and their donkeys.

(Genesis 44:4 NKJV) When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?'"

(Genesis 44:5 NKJV) 'Is not this the one from which my lord drinks, and with which he indeed practices divination? You have done evil in so doing.'"

(Genesis 44:6 NKJV) So he overtook them, and he spoke to them these same words.

Servant Did as Told

So the servant did as he was told.

(Genesis 44:7 NKJV) And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing.

(Genesis 44:8 NKJV) "Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

(Genesis 44:9 NKJV) "With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

Not Thieves

Trying to make a point that if we were thieves why would we have brought the money back from our first trip. They're saying, if we were thieves, why did we bring the money back? Making that logical point that we were thieves, we would have never brought the money back. to start with.

Last Time is Reason Enough / Gather Facts before you Jump – 1%

Just repeating what happened last time should be enough reason to say, it could be possible, we were so sure we paid last time, and then somehow the money ended up in our sacks. You know, I have found it best that if there is any possibility that I could be wrong about something, that I will leave that possibility open until all the facts are gathered. I hate to say I was wrong after I so adamantly said there is no way that I could be wrong.

Examples at Home & Work

Son, how many times have I told you not to touch my computer, you are grounded.....what's that, it was your mother who used it, opps. Hey co-worker get off my back, I entered all my data, I worked late last night, how dare you say that.....what's that, we are using revision C now instead of Revision B, opps.

Good Witness / If Wrong Easier to Say Sorry

If you are right, it is the other person that has to say I'm sorry, I wrong accused you, so you come out looking great. First you didn't get in their face or get an attitude, so that is a great witness, and secondly if you are wrong it is easier to say, opps my mistake, sorry about that. Once pride enters in, emotions start to run, the formula for a blow-out fight is in place.

Humble Thyself

Humble thyself and the Lord will lift you up:

(James 4:10 NKJV) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Ephesians 4:30-32

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Can I bring a word here regarding humility (I am an expert on the matter – unfortunately from the side of the lack of it). Humility is not seeking self, but others, as in taking them and getting them into the presence of God, taking them to the throne of grace. Humility asks, and takes every situation and asks how can I take this person, get this person into the presence of God so He can work in their life, or they can find peace in their life, so they can experience the love of God.

Ephesians 4 tells us what will grieve the Spirit, breaks His heart, as we break each others heart, but also what pleases the Spirit, and warms His heart as we warm each other's heart.

How many relationships have ended, been destroyed, that could have been saved and endured and been blessed had one or both of the people willingly sacrificed their pride and sought true humility.

Here's a word study for Ephesians 4:31, which says:

Context Overview

Ephesians 4 is part of Paul's call for believers to "walk worthy of the calling" (v. 1). Verses 25–32 focus on replacing the old nature with the new—putting off sinful attitudes and behaviors and putting on Christlike love and forgiveness. Verse 31 lists six destructive attitudes to "put away," contrasting with the tenderness and forgiveness of verse 32.

Word Study Breakdown (Greek Terms)

1. Bitterness — πικρία (pikria, Strong's G4088)

- Root meaning: sharpness, acrid, pungent.
- Usage: bitterness of taste or spirit; resentful animosity that poisons relationships.
- Related passages: Acts 8:23 ("gall of bitterness"); Hebrews 12:15 ("root of bitterness").
- Insight: Bitterness begins inwardly—a heart unwilling to release hurt—and often breeds

the following emotions.

2. Wrath — θυμός (thymos, Strong's G2372)

- Root meaning: boiling agitation, passionate outburst, fury.
- Usage: often used for short-lived explosions of anger.
- Contrast: Different from orge (anger), which can be a sustained inner disposition.
- Illustration: a sudden flare-up—like fire igniting straw.

3. Anger — ὀργή (orgē, Strong's G3709)

- Root meaning: settled indignation, lasting resentment.
- Usage: the slow-burning, deliberate kind of anger that nurses a grudge.
- Cross-reference: James 1:20 ("the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of

God").

- Spiritual point: while thymos is momentary wrath, orgē is the smoldering coal beneath it.

4. Clamor — κραυγή (kraugē, Strong's G2906)

- Root meaning: loud crying, shouting, outcry.
- Usage: noisy argument, public shouting match, or emotional outburst.
- Image: the chaos that erupts when wrath is voiced.

5. Evil speaking — βλασφημία (blasphēmia, Strong's G988)

- Root meaning: slander, abusive speech, defamation.
- Usage: can mean blasphemy against God or slander against people.
- Implication: harmful words spoken from a bitter heart.
- Cross-reference: Colossians 3:8 lists blasphēmia alongside anger and filthy

communication.

6. Malice — κακία (kakia, Strong's G2549)

- Root meaning: general moral evil, wickedness; ill will.
- Usage: the underlying attitude wishing harm on others.
- Summary: the root that feeds all the previous sins—an evil disposition of heart.

Paul's list is progressive:

- Bitterness (internal) → Wrath (boiling emotion) → Anger (settled hostility) → Clamor (verbal outburst) → Evil speaking (destructive words) → Malice (evil intent). This shows the growth pattern of unrestrained resentment—what starts as bitterness inside ends in malice toward others.

Theological and Practical Insight

- "Put away" (airo, "remove, lift off") implies deliberate action—like taking off dirty garments (see v. 22).

- The contrast in Ephesians 4:32 (“Be kind... forgiving one another”) shows that the cure for bitterness is grace and forgiveness.

Here’s a detailed word study for Ephesians 4:32, the verse that completes and contrasts the list from verse 31:

Context Overview

Ephesians 4:31–32 forms a pair of contrasts — what to put away (v. 31) and what to put on (v. 32).

Paul moves from the corruption of bitterness and anger to the character of Christ: kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. This is the relational evidence of walking “in the new man” (Eph 4:24).

Word Study Breakdown (Greek Terms)

1. “Be” — γίνεσθε (ginesthe, from ginomai, Strong’s G1096)

- Meaning: “keep on becoming,” “be continually becoming.”
- Tense/Voice: Present middle imperative — an ongoing command.
- Implication: Not a one-time change but a continual transformation — becoming ever more

Christlike in relationships.

- Idea: “Keep on showing yourselves to be...”

2. “Kind” — χρηστοί (chrēstoi, Strong’s G5543)

- Root meaning: useful, gracious, good, gentle, benevolent.
- Used of God: “For My yoke is easy (chrēstos)” — Matthew 11:30.
- Moral sense: a goodness that is gentle in action and gracious in tone.
- Contrast: harshness, severity, or self-interest.
- Cross-references:
- Romans 2:4 — “the goodness (chrēstotēs) of God leads you to repentance.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:4 — “Love is kind (chrēsteuetai).”
- Insight: Kindness is love with work clothes on — practical goodness that meets needs

tenderly.

3. “Tenderhearted” — εὐσπλαγχνοί (eusplanchnoi, Strong’s G2155)

- Root meaning: from eu (“good”) + splagchna (“inner organs,” the seat of emotion/compassion).
- Literal idea: “having good intestines,” i.e., deeply compassionate from one’s inner being.
- Translation sense: compassionate, sympathetic, full of mercy.
- Cross-reference: 1 Peter 3:8 — “be pitiful (eusplanchnoi), be courteous.”
- Insight: Genuine empathy — feeling another’s hurt in your own heart; the opposite of hard-heartedness.

4. “Forgiving one another” — χαριζόμενοι ἑαυτοῖς (charizomenoi heautois, Strong’s G5483)

- Root: charizomai — from charis (“grace, favor”).
- Meaning: to grant grace, to freely show favor, to forgive.
- Tense: Present participle — “continually showing grace to one another.”
- Insight: Forgiveness here is not merely releasing debt; it’s gracing others — giving favor to the undeserving, as God did for us.
- Cross-references:
- Colossians 3:13 — “forgiving (charizomenoi) one another... even as Christ forgave you.”
- Luke 7:42 — the creditor “frankly forgave (charisamenos) them both.”

5. “Even as God in Christ forgave you” — καθὼς καὶ ὁ Θεὸς ἐν Χριστῷ ἐχαρίσατο ὑμῖν

- “Even as” (kathōs kai) — sets the standard and motivation: our forgiveness of others must mirror God’s forgiveness of us.
- “In Christ” (en Christō) — the sphere or means of divine forgiveness; it flows through Christ’s atonement.

- “Forgave” (echarisato, aorist of charizomai) — a completed act; God’s forgiveness is full, final, and gracious.

Flow and Relationship of the Words

- Paul’s order is intentional:
 - Kindness (action) → Tenderheartedness (emotion) → Forgiveness (decision)

This is the reverse of bitterness’s progression in v. 31. Instead of bitterness festering into malice, compassion matures into forgiveness.

Summary Thought:

- God’s forgiveness is the pattern; our relationships are the practice.
- We forgive not because others deserve it, but because God forgave us in Christ.
- To be kind is to mirror the gentleness of Jesus;
- to be tenderhearted is to feel as He feels;
- to forgive is to act as He acted on the cross.
- When the believer’s heart is softened by grace, the Spirit replaces bitterness with benevolence — the very heart of God flowing through the redeemed.

Benjamin is Called Guilty; But United the Brothers Stand (44:10-13)

(Genesis 44:10 NKJV) And he said, "Now also let it be according to your words; he with whom it is found shall be my slave, and you shall be blameless."

(Genesis 44:11 NKJV) Then each man speedily let down his sack to the ground, and each opened his sack.

(Genesis 44:12 NKJV) So he searched. He began with the oldest and left off with the youngest; and the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack.

(Genesis 44:13 NKJV) Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city.

Tear Clothes

To rip one’s clothing after hearing, such hard news was a representation. The only response is the outward display of the inward heart, and the ripping of clothes is like the ripping of the heart in half. And that’s where they’re at. They’ve been ripped apart for what has just happened. Because they may think that Benjamin actually did steal the cup.

Another Test / Brother could have went Home / Returned to Stand Together

Look at this, another test, and look where their hearts are. At the table Benjamin got 5 times more, yet they ate and were merry, no resentment or animosity towards Benjamin getting more. And now here, the servant said only he who has the cup will become the slave, everyone else can go home, go your way, be free. But what do these brothers do, they all return to Egypt together. They had the opportunity to go home, go free, yet they all return to Egypt together to stand with their brother.

Hearts Changed / Joseph Sold – Stand with Benjamin

The work in their heart has taken root. We see them going from selling Joseph out, to risking life and death for Benjamin. This process that Joseph put them through, brought about growth and maturity to these boys. That they could go from being so selfish to selling a brother, to a place that they would be willing to give up their life for a brother.

So again, here we see the change of heart. It’s one for all, and all for one. They do not divide, and here we see a united nation of Israel that is not divided. It could literally be right here, at this point, where we go....action complete of the Lord’s purpose to forge this nation into one together, because when they go into Egypt, they must stay together because they will not be viewed highly among the Egyptians, and they cannot find themselves doing what Judah did a few chapters ago and heading down to the world to find relief from a hard situation. We’ll read them, uniting together as one. And when they’re united, and their

God is the Lord. It will be impossible to defeat them, and so word for us. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Psalm 144:15 Happy are the people who are in such a state; Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!

Psalm 33:12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

Don't Despise Struggles / Refining Process / Babes to Adulthood

Ohh Christian that you would not despise the struggles the Lord allows into your life, that you would embrace them and see them as God's refining process as He strengthens you and develops you into the man or woman of God He desires for you to be. He wants to take you from babes in Christ into Adulthood. To men and woman of God who go past yea I am saved, into a people who have the strength to do battle against the evil one, to overcome the evil one, to a people that are mature mothers and fathers in Christ the you reproduce spiritual offspring's. Too many Christians are content just being saved; they want to live a life of ease, but beloved we live in a fallen world, and it is to escape it's consequences, the daily struggles of life strengthen and prepare us for the inevitable pains that come from living in a fallen world:

(1 John 2:12 NKJV) I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake.

(1 John 2:13 NKJV) I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, little children, Because you have known the Father.

(1 John 2:14 NKJV) I have written to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.

Judah Intercedes for the Family; Now God Can Really Work (44:14-34)

(Genesis 44:14 NKJV) So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground.

(Genesis 44:15 NKJV) And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?"

1 in 40 million

Remember, regarding the divination cup, Joseph did one in 40 million when he sat all eleven in perfect order of age at the dinner table last chapter, not that they knew that statistic of probability, but they surely knew this guy is something special about him, his ability to put us all in perfect order. So that's a setup for this divining cup that they think Joseph has that ability.

Let There be No Confusion

Let there be no confusion that Joseph doesn't need a cup of divination. He's still working these boys to pull out what's in them so that they can hear it themselves of what's in them so they can confess it and be dealt with by the Lord. But Joseph does not need a cup of divination to Know these things. He has a living relationship with the Lord. And I think it should be said that Christians don't need to be playing around with horoscopes and Ouija boards, and those type of things, they're dark, they're cultic, and the devil was behind them, and you can challenge me for legalism, but I can tell you, I've heard too many stories of people playing around with those type of things.. And then the outcome of them, whether it be the Ouija board or the Dungeon and Dragon, and I actually have friends who have lost lives because of those things.

(Genesis 44:16 NKJV) Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."

Your - Plural

Judah says God has found out the iniquity of "your" servants, plural. He doesn't say yep stupid Benjamin blew it; no he says we have sinned.

To See the Church Stand Together / Place for the Unrepentant

Oh to see this in the church, in the body of Christ today; that we would stand beside the fallen brother, rather than separate ourselves from the fallen brother. Yes the Scriptures say there is a place that an "unrepentant" brother or sister is to be turned over to Satan:

(1 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV) deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

(1 Corinthians 5:6 NKJV) Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?

(1 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

But Repentant Brother / John Baptist – Risk Life & Reputation

But as for the fallen brother, to stand with them, to be there for them, that is family, that is love. I am reminded of the story of John the Baptist when he was beheaded (Mark 6), his brothers came for his body. Doesn't sound like much until you consider that John was considered a criminal, a problem to society, then it changes everything. These men who came risked their life (for they could have found the same fate for being associated with him), they risked their reputation as people would say you are with him.

Mark 6:27–29 (NKJV)

²⁷ Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

1 Samuel 31:11–13 (NKJV)

¹¹ Now when the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all the valiant men arose and traveled all night, and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth Shan; and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and fasted seven days.

May We Stand / New Believers – The Big Sin / Most Defining Powerful Moments

May we be a people that will stand beside each other, even when it costs us greatly. This seems so so applicable when it comes to standing besides a new believer, a young believer, or the "big sins", or standing with one of the youth who has blown it. So often the most defining, and powerful moments in our Christian walk is when someone is there after a fall, all alone, broken, and a brother or sister comes besides them, and says I will stand with you, and extends their hand to lift that brother back up to their feet.

(Genesis 44:17 NKJV) But he said, "Far be it from me that I should do so; the man in whose hand the cup was found, he shall be my slave. And as for you, go up in peace to your father."

(Genesis 44:18 NKJV) Then Judah came near to him and said: "O my lord, please let your servant speak a word in my lord's hearing, and do not let your anger burn against your servant; for you are even like Pharaoh."

(Genesis 44:19 NKJV) "My lord asked his servants, saying, 'Have you a father or a brother?'

(Genesis 44:20 NKJV) "And we said to my lord, 'We have a father, an old man, and a child of his old age, who is young; his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him.'

Judah Gets Real – Now God can Really Work

So here Judah becomes real. He becomes open, he becomes vulnerable, he becomes a key word here, honest, to a point that he said what they all believe that Joseph was dead, and now he comes, and he speaks, and he says, if we come back without Benjamin, our father. He will die of a broken heart, and there's something here for all of us in that, I think sometimes we are in these trials, these storms of, um, correction, where God's trying to bring us to a place to correct us. of a sin, something that we just won't recognize. Of course, there's the storm of direction that he'll put us on, and that will cause through the various events that put us on a path that we probably never would have considered going, and it steers us to a place that we would have never considered to be, but God uses a storm to take us there, as we look at Paul and his shipwreck, but the storms of correction. God will take it, and he will keep letting that storm come, as we watch here. It will blow over and over and over again until we start truly dialing into the detail of what he's trying to correct in our life. And that they went from. Oh, this is what we did. We sold Joseph now here they are all this time later, we killed him. See, a big change from we sold him to, we killed him, and it can be in our life too, where we come with a general confession. We know something's wrong. We're in the storm. We're sensing, God's trying to work something and we say, Lord, forgive me. I'm such a sinner. And you know, that's a good prayer. If it's coming from your heart, but it's a whole different prayer when you come and say, Lord, forgive me for my sin of bitterness towards my brother.

Lord, forgive me for my sin, and you fill in the blank, and as David would say, I've sinned against you and you only, Lord. And we find ourselves being very specific so that God can address that very specific prayer to forgive us, yes, after confession, absolutely. But God does more than just the forgiveness. He then does a work in us through that breaking because he doesn't want us to repeat that sin again. When he brings us to the place of brokenness, then he can speak to us very specifically, how we ended up there, and then how we can avoid ever being there again. And God is doing that with these boys, because again, he's forging the nation.

(Genesis 44:21 NKJV) "Then you said to your servants, 'Bring him down to me, that I may set my eyes on him.'

(Genesis 44:22 NKJV) "And we said to my lord, 'The lad cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die.'

(Genesis 44:23 NKJV) "But you said to your servants, 'Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.'

(Genesis 44:24 NKJV) "So it was, when we went up to your servant my father, that we told him the words of my lord.

(Genesis 44:25 NKJV) "And our father said, 'Go back and buy us a little food.'

(Genesis 44:26 NKJV) "But we said, 'We cannot go down; if our youngest brother is with us, then we will go down; for we may not see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

(Genesis 44:27 NKJV) "Then your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons;

(Genesis 44:28 NKJV) 'and the one went out from me, and I said, "Surely he is torn to pieces"; and I have not seen him since.

20 Years of Wondering / Don't Defend Yourself

By the way, after 20 some years of wondering, Joseph for the first time hears what the brothers alibi was when they returned home without him. As I mentioned before Joseph would have plenty of time in prison to wonder what they told Jacob. Maybe he ran off with a prostitute, overdosed in a crack house, (that's your golden boy); whatever it may be Joseph probably had long nights of wondering did they make a lie up that would make dad disappointed in his son. I know I always say you take care of your character, and God will take care of your reputation, but I by no means ever mean that it is easy when someone attacks your character. But remember, if Satan sees that you will try to defend your reputation, then he will see to it that you spend the rest of your doing it, diminishing your time and ability doing the things of the Lord.

Again, a vital piece of information for Joseph in that, all those years, he may have been wondering why his dad didn't try to find him. What was it that these boys told Dad? If Dad knew that he was alive, why didn't Dad... rise up a search party of servants to come look for him? You'll think about those things. When you're all alone, and you feel abandoned, you wonder where people are. You wonder how much you've been forgotten. People have passed on and moved on in life without you. And here he finds out. that Dad thinks that he's dead, and that's why. And I must have reached deep into his heart. But, you know, again, the opportunity that we have here today, there's people come in and out of these doors, Sunday after Sunday. And for some, it's true. They've been forgotten. They've been bypassed. They've been cast out, and they wonder why nobody reaches out to them. They wonder why nobody cares. And they carry that loneliness. For days, years, and into decades. We have an opportunity here. to be a bridge, the VA place... That we'd become a new family to people. We can become a new heart for them that cares for them, that they're on our heart, that we see them. And we don't walk by them. We don't pass by and bypass them. But we come to them. And we get to be that glimpse of Jesus in their life that somebody sees you and somebody cares.

Relief to Joseph

What a relief in some sense to Joseph that they told this story, rather than destroy his character before his father whom he loves.

(Genesis 44:29 NKJV) 'But if you take this one also from me, and calamity befalls him, you shall bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave.'

(Genesis 44:30 NKJV) "Now therefore, when I come to your servant my father, and the lad is not with us, since his life is bound up in the lad's life,
(Genesis 44:31 NKJV) "it will happen, when he sees that the lad is not with us, that he will die. So your servants will bring down the gray hair of your servant our father with sorrow to the grave.

No Benjamin – Jacobs broken Heart

If Benjamin does not return, dad will die a broken heart.

(Genesis 44:32 NKJV) "For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, 'If I do not bring him back to you, then I shall bear the blame before my father forever.'

(Genesis 44:33 NKJV) "Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.

Picture of Intercession / Love for Father – Love for Brother

A beautiful picture of intercession here by Judah, an example for us. We see 2 things in his intercession, a love for his father, and a love for his brother. What a picture for us, teacher what is the greatest command, and Jesus says you shall love the Lord (your Father) with all your heart mind and soul, and you shall love your brother as yourself:

(Matthew 22:36 NKJV) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

(Matthew 22:37 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

(Matthew 22:38 NKJV) "This is the first and great commandment."

(Matthew 22:39 NKJV) "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:40 NKJV) "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Want to Move God's Heart – Intercede

Judah does not want to see his father's heart break, nor see his brother Benjamin a slave. What an example for us, that we do not want to see the heart of the Father hurt, broken, nor see our brother a slave to anything, but free. Do you want to move the heart of the Lord, confess your sin, seek to walk in all His ways, and to intercede for your brother.

(Genesis 44:34 NKJV) "For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

Asking for Mercy

And what is Judah asking for? The answer is mercy. He's asking not to get what he deserves. Joseph, a picture of Jesus, and our greater than Joseph, Jesus, always given us mercy, not what we deserve. We deserve a wrath and a punishment and imprisonment. And death. And yet he gives us. Grace. What we don't deserve, love. Mercy. Freedom, everlasting life. And there's a comparison here, and that when Joseph cried out for mercy, he got none. When he was in that pit, we read, they gave him no mercy. They gave him what he didn't deserve. And here. They're getting mercy. And they... deserved punishment and death for the enslavement of another, and yet Joseph is going to give them mercy. Do you remember when you came to the realization of the mercy that God was giving you through the cross, through the Son, through the price that was paid so that you can be forgiven of your sin, and oh, the beauty of it, and the sweetness of it, to be totally forgiven?. And even beyond that, to be given the change of clothes, to be robed in perfection, a white robe of righteousness. Being given a new name. Becoming a new man, becoming a new woman, the beauty of that mercy. Just soak on that for a minute and how sweet it was. And maybe you need mercy today. God's extending it to you. He'll even say that his mercies are new every morning because great is his faithfulness. He'll give it to you every day. Maybe it's mercy for the forgiveness of sin that separates you from God. For the mercy of a sin that needs just to be put away. so that you can have that sweet relationship with the Lord. Oh, the beauty of his mercy.

Genesis 42:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so. ²¹ Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

Lamentations 3:22–24 (NKJV)

²² *Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.* ²³ *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.* ²⁴ *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*

Ephesians 2:4-7 (NKJV)

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Giving Mercy

But for you, to ponder, so often we seek and focus on the mercy that we're asking for. And yet God would take the moment here to speak to every one of us. How about the mercy that's being asked of you? by somebody who has wronged you and harmed you and hurt you even greatly. Maybe even put you in a pit and put you in a prison. And now they're coming. And they're asking you for mercy. Will you give mercy as it's been forgiven and given to you from the Lord above? Or you feel that you have some right. and even justified in withholding mercy. I pray the Lord speaks to your heart about that today.

Matthew 5:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)

⁸ He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

God loves to show mercy. But you have to be honest. And if you're not honest about the need, for the mercy, you won't find it.

Our passage culminates with the brothers of Joseph have come to the end of their end, and all they have left is to cry out for mercy. Mercy.... ever want it? When you do want it, it will cry from the depth of your heart to receive it, nothing else in life will seem to matter at that moment. Mercy..... ever receive it? When you do receive it, it will be as a kiss of God, for mercy is the heart of God. Mercy.... ever give it? When you do, it will be the very heart of God to the brokenhearted.

What is mercy? What is not mercy?

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Chp 45 / the Revelation

Joseph's heart is moved, and finally the revelation of who he is before his brother:

(Genesis 45:1 NKJV) *Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.*

(Genesis 45:2 NKJV) *And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.*

(Genesis 45:3 NKJV) *Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.*

Outline: Genesis 44

- The Brothers Head Home; Entering into 1 Last Test (44:1-9)
- Benjamin is Called Guilty; But United the Brothers Stand (44:10-13)
- Judah Intercedes for the Family; Now God Can Really Work (44:14-34)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)

- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 45

Title: Forgiveness

Summary: In our passage Joseph reveals himself to his brothers who had sold him into slavery some 22-year prior. They are shocked, and of course fearful for their sin has found them out, and they stand before Joseph who has the power to punish them to death if he so chooses. But Joseph will say to them, don't be grieved. Don't be troubled. In essence he is saying, I forgive you, I love you, I don't hold anything against you; so be free in these words that I give you so that we can have a relationship, be a family again, and be one. In this study we will see what a man/woman, who walks with God, does. This is who a man/woman... who sees themselves in light of who God is..... and what and how they respond..... they respond like God.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Last Study / They all Ate / Return to Canaan - Silver Cup / Return to Stand with Benjamin

In our last study we saw the sons of Jacob returning to Egypt to buy more grain, Joseph has them over to his home for dinner and they all ate and were merry, even when he gave Benjamin 5 times more than the other. So when they left to return to Canaan, Joseph tests them one more time by placing his silver cup, his divining cup in Benjamin's sack. They say whomever the cup is found will become a slave, and the rest can go home; but when the cup is revealed in Benjamin's sack rather than leaving him they all return together to Egypt, they stand with their youngest brother. We see a change in these brothers heart for they go from leaving Joseph to be a slave, to 22 years later to standing with Benjamin even if it means they become a slave. The testing and proving out is complete, and now Joseph will reveal himself to his brothers, and father Jacob will hear the news that he thought he would never hear, Joseph lives, and all the things you thought were against you, God was really working out for your good.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 45:1 NKJV) Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

Beauty of Reconciliation

Verse one, oh the beauty of reconciliation, Joseph can't contain himself. He's been breaking his heart waiting for this moment. Here we see they literally now, they've come to the place that it's settled, that they can reconcile, and Joseph doesn't wait, he runs to the reconciliation and extends the offer of race and mercy. Soaked and steeped in love. How about you, my friend? Are you ready to run the reconciliation? Are you ready to initiate reconciliation? Are you ready to pour yourself out? Make your cell

phone vulnerable to express your heart desire for reconciliation. So Joseph's doing, he's making himself vulnerable, but he's willing because it's worth it, because reconciliation is the very heart of God. Oh, how good and blessed it is when the brethren dwell together in unity.

(Genesis 45:2 NKJV) And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Verse 2, the invitation of tears, my heart is open to you.

(Genesis 45:3 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

22 Years later / Watch the Video / Brothers – Doom & Longer Doom

Joseph clears the room, and lets it be known, I am Joseph. Some Twenty-two years later Joseph finally lets it out, I can't wait to watch the video on this one. Joseph's voice, his eyes, his body language; and then his brothers eyes and body language when they had heard, what a moment it must have been. Here these brothers are expecting imminent doom, and then to hear these words, I am Joseph your brother. Hmmmm, now rather than expecting imminent doom, they are now expecting long drawn out doom; wondering what type of torture methods the Egyptians have developed over the years, what type of revenge Joseph may have for them after 22 years of planning.

Of course, verse three. There'd be that place of fear that then you would come to the realization, oh, boy, I threw him into a pit, and when he cried for mercy, I gave him nothing. Now he has all the information of who we are, where we live, how our father is doing. There's no need for us. He could bring revenge. And they would have this element of fear that... Now Joseph is gonna kill them for the betrayal of putting him in that pit and then selling him into slavery. I'd be fearful, too. I'd be thinking I'm a dead man.

Benjamin hears for First Time

By the way this is the first time probably that Benjamin hears what happened to his older brother. We can only imagine what he is thinking.

Joseph always Thinking about the Father

Verse 3 - Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" - Joseph a picture of Jesus, always thinking of the Father. He says I am Joseph, does my father live. Immediately he asks how is dad. Jesus said:

(John 8:29 NKJV) "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

John 15:5 (NKJV)

⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

What a great prayer, by the way: ask the Lord, "What can I do today to please You?" In the midst of any situation, saying, "Lord, what can I do to please You?"—and you can be sure that the Lord will speak to you. And then, prayer is the declaration of our dependence on Him, saying, "Apart from You I can do nothing, Lord." But have you ever wondered how you're supposed to do something? Just look at the heart of the Father, and if you want to know what's the heart of the Father, look at Jesus, who said everything He did, He did by what He saw in the Father. So now we know the heart of the Father and the ways of the Father through the life and actions of Jesus Christ. Of everything He did, that's what He saw in the heart of the Father.

Joseph gained Strength thinking of Father / Picture for Us

I believe Joseph gain strength through the hard times, the lonely times, the struggles, that he gained strength to endure as he thought about his father, and held on to the hope of seeing him again. A picture for all of us, through the hard times of life may we gain strength as we look forward to seeing our Father. Often I find myself saying, soon I'll be home, I will hold Him, see Him face to face, and I find immediate comfort and peace.

*(2 Thessalonians 2:16 NKJV) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,
(2 Thessalonians 2:17 NKJV) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(Genesis 45:4 NKJV) And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

(Genesis 45:5 NKJV) "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Insider Information

Verse 5, when he says, whom you sold into slavery into Egypt, that's the final revelation. Forget the Egyptian outfit, and the shaved head, and the mascara, and all these things that would have them puzzled in wonderment, he's gonna say something to them, that only one other person in the whole world would know. Benjamin doesn't even know this at this point. I'm Joseph, whom you sold into slavery.

Warm Invitation

And verse four, Joseph gives thee warm invitation come near to me. And he goes on to say, I'm your brother. Laying down that fear and dispelling the fear. Giving an invitation. The friendship and fellowship and communion, and oneness, and forgiveness, and mercy, and love, and grace. What a place that we have when we get to do that to somebody else and invite them to come near? And bring them a peace. that you can come near to me, and I'll cast you not away. And again, the picture, it's anyone here today. These are all pictures. of the heart of God, Joseph, a pitcher of Jesus, and are greater than Joseph. Jesus Christ says, come near. I am Jesus. Your brother, your friend, your savior. Your rescuer. And I hope today, if you feel that you can't come near, that you would feel the heart of God calling you, to draw near to God. that he wants to draw near to you. And his words, that all who come to me, I will by no means cast out. And the invitation to intimacy. With him, what a beautiful picture

John 6:35–37 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Speaking Hebrew – It's a New Man in Front of Them

At this point, Joseph, when he says, I am Joseph, would not be speaking through an interpreter, but would be speaking Hebrew directly. When he asks these things, which will totally stun them, because to them, it's literally a new person standing before them. They're processing all the past conversations that they had in front of him. In Hebrew, that they thought was probably private, and they come to the realization that he's heard them and understood everything they've been saying, but then to the greatest degree, they come to the place of... Hearing Hebrew coming out of his mouth, then hearing these next words, I am Joseph. Put yourself in that scenario. You'd be stunned, wouldn't you?

And remember that in their minds, we just read last chapter, they think he's dead. So they've come to that conclusion that he's dead. And so to hear his living voice is another load of bricks hitting upon their head that make them try to process all that is before them. Trying to make their minds transition to Seeing the man who looks like an Egyptian. And the last time we saw him, he was dressed in the coat of many colors, and now here he is in Egyptian garb. We think he's dead. Now he's here alive. He had broken bread with us. And then, to hear his voice come and speak, their dialect, that correlates that he's one of them, they are just blown away.

And it makes me think of the followers of Jesus on the day of his resurrection. You think of the...

Followers of Jesus after the resurrection. Last time I saw you, you couldn't even speak because your tongue was clinging to your roof from. Dying a thirst there upon the cross, you had been beaten beyond recognition. You were wearing nothing, your robe had been ripped off and destroyed. And now I look at you and hear you are. The only wounds that are left are the nails in your hands, the robe that you're wearing is fresh and clean, white as snow, no doubt. Your beard and hair are... whole and well, kempt,

and then you speak those words, thinking a dead man... can't speak, and then you speak those words to them, peace. Amazing. They would be in shock. No doubt, just like this situation.

Depict Heart of Jesus / Don't be Grieved for Your Faults

I love the words of Joseph, for they depict the heart of Jesus to us. Jesus would say don't be grieved, don't be angry with yourself, I know you are aware of so many faults and shortcomings in yourself, don't be grieved for I died for all your faults, all your failings past present and future:

(1 John 3:20 NKJV) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Joseph said, don't be grieved. Don't be troubled. I forgive you I love you. I don't hold anything against you. Be free in these words that I give you so that we can have a relationship, be a family again, and be one. Here's what a man/woman, who walks with God, does. This is who a man/woman... who sees himself in light of who God is..... and what and how he responds.....Like God.

And then Joseph goes on, to say, God used what you did as wrong as it was, to send me ahead, to preserve you. That's just hard to even comprehend such a statement and means that God would do, just that, but he did. And here we are. We have the opportunity to get bitter, get broken. Resentful. And then regrettable, or we can say, all these things. that have been wronged onto me. I'm gonna let God use them to preserve somebody, to rescue somebody. to restore somebody to redeem somebody. That's what a man and woman of God, who knows their God, does and will do.

Jesus said on the Cross / Done in Ignorance

Let me also add here, what Jesus said when He hung on the cross, Peter would say:

(Luke 23:34 NKJV) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

(Acts 3:17 NKJV) "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

(Acts 17:30 NKJV) "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Habitual Sin / Things we have Done – Did in Ignorance / Don't beat Self

Let me first say if you are living in a habitual sin that I hope God chastens you to the point of repentance. But you know there are things that you may have done before you were saved, or while you were still growing in the Lord as a babe in Christ, things you are greatly ashamed of, things you still struggle with that you are truly forgiven of. Maybe it was an abortion, sexual behavior, adultery, murder, hooking another friend in to drugs that has ruined their lives, whatever it may have been, the Lord says you did them in ignorance, you didn't know, don't continue to beat yourself up over them.

Amazing – As wretched as they Were – Turned us to Christ / Wrath to Love

You know what is amazing, that as sinful and wretched as some of those things may be, they were the turning point to bring us to Christ. Just like in this story, God used it (enslavement of Joseph) to preserve life. How gracious a God we serve. Rather than bringing wrath upon us for those things, He brings forgiveness, mercy, and love. He offers fellowship with Him, when He has every right to offer us hell and eternal damnation.

This is love, a wonderful, beautiful, God of love He is, blessed be His name.

Freest Man in the Room

Once again, the freest person in this room is none other than Joseph. As we rest in the sovereignty of God, even in the things we don't understand, yeah. Even though you sold me, the sovereignty of God was there, and he allowed that, and here he is doing the work, were those 20 years hard? Absolutely. But was God's hand upon me? Absolutely as well. And Joseph had the intimacy of the Lord by resting in the sovereignty of God, but his brothers for 20 years had no rest and no peace. A guilty conscience when they tried to play and be the sovereign God by saying this is what we'll do with this dreamer. And they were the ones who ended up in the sea of regret, but Joseph didn't allow himself to become in the sea of bitterness choked out. He accepted the hand of God, the sovereignty of God, and he became the man of

God. And so too will you. And I don't diminish what hurt you. I don't diminish how you've been wronged. But if God would do it for Joseph, could he not do it for you?

Christian – Free Them With Forgiveness

Just think of Joseph didn't forgive. The story would end in this verse. The world would have been changed forever. But here, because he forgives, the story is eternal. Written in the heavens for everyone to see the blessings that come with a man or woman whose God is the Lord.

Forgiveness can change the world.

(Genesis 45:6 NKJV) "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

Joseph 39 / Number of Grace

So Joseph is 39 which the number for mercy in the Bible. 40 is the number for judgement; 40 days of rain for the flood, 40 years in the wilderness for the nation Israel, and it would be 40 stripes across the back (scourging) for a criminal and if they wanted to show mercy they would minus one, 39. The apostle Paul saw such mercy:

(2 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

Jesus takes full 40 – Full Wrath

Our Jesus would have taken the full 40, for He took the full wrath of God's fury against sin, so that we may receive the full pardon, which is mercy:

(1 John 2:1 NKJV) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

(1 John 2:2 NKJV) And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Propitiation / Appease - Satisfy

Verse 2 - And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins - Our Advocate is also the propitiation of our sins and the sins of the whole world. Propitiation means to appease and satisfy an offended power.

Whatever it takes to satisfy the power, the propitiation has met the requirement. Whether that is money, property, flesh and blood, the propitiation has met the requirement.

(Genesis 45:7 NKJV) "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

(Genesis 45:8 NKJV) "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Joseph saying God at Work / Lord in it from Beginning

Joseph is saying hey, God is at work; He put me in this position to save you. If I wasn't here, then there would not have been any grain, for God revealed the revelation of what was going to happen in the land to me, and He set me here to preserve the world and you. The Lord was in it from the beginning:

(Psalms 105:16 NKJV) Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

(Psalms 105:17 NKJV) He sent a man before them; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.

(Psalms 105:18 NKJV) They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

(Psalms 105:19 NKJV) Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

(Psalms 105:20 NKJV) The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

(Psalms 105:21 NKJV) He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

Joseph Already Determined – God was at Work

Joseph will say for God, because he's already, before this moment, has determined, that God can work all things together for good. Not that all things are good, but that God can work all things together for good, and he will make that statement for God. sent me ahead of you. And that's why I can rest that God has seen this. I'm in God's hands, and he has taken this, and he's going to use this, and I can rest in it.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Notice in verse 5- 7, they repeated reference to God, to God, to God, as Joseph is clearly tying. This whole situation ties to God. Though man is involved in the middle of it, the whole situation is governed by God, and there Jacob, his name becomes Israel, and it means governed by God, but here we see that God is making the name passed down to the sons, and the 1st son who's going to get it. Is Joseph to be governed by God in every situation. Now, God is using this situation to bring all the brothers into the place to be governed by God. And he's forging a nation. And that's what the Lord does. In a nation whose God is the Lord. That's what the Lord does in a family who is governed by God, that it's passed down, and the whole family knows they're governed by God. That's what God does in a church when the whole church comes and knows that this church is governed by God, and therefore, what does the Lord have for us, and where is he leading us? Let us be governed by God. What a beautiful picture spoken of here.

110 Years no Bitter Word

Joseph lives to be 110 years old, he comprises 25% of the book of Genesis, yet we never read of one word of bitterness coming from his mouth over all the injustice that was done to him. Joseph is a picture of a life that was totally committed and trusted to the Lord. What an example for all of us.

Like a Father

And then here is another amazing statement by Joseph that he became like a father, the pharaoh, who no doubt was most likely older than him, but historically, it's hard to tell. Joseph, possibly, um, could have been the same age or younger as there were younger pharaohs in this time, but it appears that this pharaoh would have been older than Joseph, but nonetheless, The wisdom that flowed from Joseph, and just the manner of his person, and how he emanated the governing by God, that Pharaoh recognized something different and something special in Joseph that he would be humble enough to listen to Joseph. Like a son would listen to a father because the wise son goes, my dad has experience in wisdom, and then in a godly home, a son who goes, my dad walks with the Lord. My dad yields his knee to the Lord. And what my dad says is worth listening and then applying onto my life personally. And Joseph was like a father, the pharaoh.

(Genesis 45:9 NKJV) "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry."

(Genesis 45:10 NKJV) "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have."

(Genesis 45:11 NKJV) "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."

5 years to Go / Brothers wouldn't Know

See Joseph says come down here where the food is, for there is still 5 more years to go of this famine. The boys and Jacob would not have known how much longer the famine would have lasted, but Joseph does, and he shares it with them, and we will see them packaging up and moving to Egypt based on Joseph's word which came from the Lord.

Sad When People won't Heed the Warning / No bread – No Nourishment / Beauty when Do

You know, it is sad when people don't pack up and move when they are giving a word that came from the Lord. How often we have seen people heading toward destruction in their lives, and we said you are going the wrong way, you are living in the land of famine, there is no Bread of Life (Jesus Christ) where you are living at, and you are going to face hard times, maybe even destruction. Hear the Word of the Lord; hear His Words of life so that you may be nourished and strengthened, but they refuse and we watch them go down. But how beautiful it is when we tell them this word, and they respond, and they go on to wonderful things with the Lord.

John 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

(Genesis 45:12 NKJV) "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you."

(Genesis 45:13 NKJV) "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

Tell Dad what you have Seen / Youth Bless Parents

Tell dad what you have seen in me. Isn't wonderful for a dad and mom to hear that their child is doing well. You youth, may you bless your parents heart as they hear about how you are doing well in the things of the Lord. Ohh it is the perfect gift to them, don't worry about Christmas gift, birthday, mothers day and fathers day, do well and they will be blessed.

Bless Father in Heaven

And, do you want to bless your Father in Heaven, let Him hear (if you would) how well you are doing in your walk, and He will be blessed.

So too for Me

So too for me, thank you for the Pastor's appreciation, but please no need for a gift next year, just let me hear that you are doing well:

(3 John 1:2 NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

(3 John 1:3 NKJV) For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

(3 John 1:4 NKJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

(Genesis 45:14 NKJV) Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

(Genesis 45:15 NKJV) Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Forgiveness brings Fellowship / Same in Marriage and Friendships

Notice this, forgiveness brings sweet fellowship. Joseph forgave his brothers, he had no bitterness towards them, thus they could have sweet fellowship together. The same holds true in your marriage, in your friendships, and in your church.

Verse 15, Joseph, as he kisses each of his brothers, and it's just a beautiful picture in that, I see, a picture of Joseph's prayer over each brother. Can prayer of words ever supersede the prayer of tears when someone has no words to say, they just draw, you, or you draw them, and they weep, and their heart is breaking forth and overflowing. You don't even need words to know the heart that is before you, the heart that feels for you and just how the heart of that person loves and adores you. And of course, my heart breaks sometimes when I think of Jesus wept over Jerusalem because he knew what was coming, and yet they would not receive him, and then there's a place that Jesus wept, when he heard Lazarus was dead, but he was weeping because of the sister's heart breaking, and then he shows up, and speaks. those words, Lazarus come forth, he calls him out of the grave, just beautiful pictures of the Lord weeping, and tears that he has, for us, but with tears, when we have no words in our prayer, but just simply tears.

(Genesis 45:16 NKJV) Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

(Genesis 45:17 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.

(Genesis 45:18 NKJV) 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.

(Genesis 45:19 NKJV) 'Now you are commanded; do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.

(Genesis 45:20 NKJV) 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

Take the U-hauls

Hey take these U-hauls and get your stuff and get down here.

I love it. Pharaoh's happy, excited because he loves Joseph. He knows Joseph's story. And he was highly favored by Pharaoh. Pharaoh saw the faithfulness of Joseph to him, and he just wanted blessings upon

him because he's seen that the Spirit of God was upon him. And it's beautiful when the world looks and sees, not prosperity, but peace and beauty. upon us.

And you know what? I don't think these servants who drove the carts, were upset. I think they loved picking up Joseph's family. I think there's something to be said for all of us. What a joy that we help load up the carts with God's people and bring them into God's land and God's love. And we get to be steering that cart part of the glory of what God did in their lives, and we got to be a part of it in some way because we simply were willing to.

(Genesis 45:21 NKJV) Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

(Genesis 45:22 NKJV) He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.

Benjamin extra Blessings / Recognize Forgiveness Forget Fairness / Riches of America

Benjamin gets extra blessing, and none of the brother's care. When you recognize forgiveness, you'll be blinded to fairness. You won't be worried about getting yours, you'll be glad with what you got, thankful for what you have. I realize that there are Christians living in foreign lands who have nothing, maybe less than nothing for they are persecuted for their faith to boot, and what can I say to that. I'm am rich beyond measure when I consider that. How easy is it to forget all the riches we have being American, we even complain about our lives, yet we are so richly blessed compared to other brothers and sisters in this world.

When we Recognize Father Forgiveness / See Everything else as Blessing

When we recognize God's forgiveness, His full pardon to us, we will look at everything we have and say Father, you forgave me, you promise me eternal life, and then on top of it You give me this job, this spouse, a place to live, food on the table, oh Lord you are too good to me.

(Genesis 45:23 NKJV) And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.

(Genesis 45:24 NKJV) So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

Joseph says to them don't faint now, you're almost home. That's a word for us. We're almost home. Don't lighten up now. Finish it off, beloved brothers and sisters.

Don't Fall Short – Don't Turn / Everything Need for Journey / Christian stay Strong

Verse 24 - See that you do not become troubled along the way. - Joseph said to them I have given you everything you need for the journey, don't fall short along the way. Don't turn to the left or the right, stay straight the course. Jesus would say to us today I have given you everything you need for the journey, don't turn to the left or the right, don't fall short, stay the course. Oh Christian please don't fade away, fall to the back of the pack, please stay the course, finish strong. It is such a bummer to watch Christian who once walked strong have fallen away, went back to the things of the flesh, it's so sad to see it. Christian don't you quit, don't you fade, don't let the cares of the world choke you out:

(Luke 8:11 NKJV) "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

(Luke 8:12 NKJV) "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

(Luke 8:13 NKJV) "But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

(Luke 8:14 NKJV) "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

(Luke 8:15 NKJV) "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Beautiful to Watch Christians

It is beautiful to watch the Christian who continues, stays the course, and it is just natural for them to produce fruit because they are rooted and grounded in faith, they have kept their eyes focused and fixed on Him:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Genesis 45:25 NKJV) Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

Long Ride (3 weeks)

Verse 25, just one verse, within that one versus 3 weeks, these boys have three weeks for a long ride back to the father's home, and one of the things they will have to do as joyous as every moment is, they're gonna have to come clean before their father. and say we did this, we lied to you for 22 years. We let you suffer these things, but now there's only one thing that we can possibly do is tell you the truth, and it's a lot easier to do once you've been given mercy to come clean and have a fresh start. See the work of God, it's easier to do once you experience mercy. But they will come to their father and they'll have the ask for mercy again. But the beautiful thing of it all is mercy will be easy for Jacob because his son is alive. He's not gonna care about anything else other than Joseph is alive. He'll let the 20 years be wiped away for the three week journey that's before him, they can't get done soon enough to see his son.

(Genesis 45:26 NKJV) And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

(Genesis 45:27 NKJV) But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

(Genesis 45:28 NKJV) Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Saw the Carts

Joseph sends all the treasures to Canan, even though they're coming back to Egypt. You think he could have them just waiting for them, but he sends them forth, so that they know a glimpse of what waits for them in Egypt, and to bolster Jacob's faith, that everything that your sons are telling you about me being alive and 2nd in command is true, and here's the wealth proves it, especially during a famine. But you come down to Egypt and you'll see the more. I'm just giving you a glimpse. of what is ahead, and that's the picture of the Lord with us. The, Treasures that he gives us, the spiritual inheritance of today and our faith, is just a glimpse of what awaits us in heaven, and it's a spiritual inheritance, not a physical treasure that distracts us, but, uh, spiritual inheritance of the promise of the fruit of the spirit. that we can partake and who needs gold in the middle of a famine. What I want is the fruit of the spirit. Give me a basket of oranges and apples, and the best fruits of the land, give me the fruit of the Holy Spirit, of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. And when I have that as a glimpse of today, oh, what I know, the final heaven, sure, what I would be transformed into, just the taste of what we have, which is amazing. Church.

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Jacob Revived When heard Joseph Alive

Jacob was revived when he heard his son was alive. Jacob was alive when he would see Joseph face to face and hear his voice. And I think there's something here for all of us. Maybe we need to revive a loved one in our life, and might be a mother or a father. They just hear our voice, that we're alive, and that we love them, and that we see them. And we're praying hope upon them and blessing.

No Pain God Cant Heal

There is no pain that God can't heal to set you free, that you can go on with your life. It's written here for our... learning and our illustration. of what God can do.

And see, the world doesn't have this. And that's why they will sit and spend a whole life and point to those that harmed them. Thus, excusing themselves why they have to do what they do, why they can't get up and move on, because they can never move on from that past and that moment. It said, remember them in your prayer. Pray that God would open a door that you get to tell them....You can move on, here's the story of Joseph and here's my story of what God did in my life.

He says (back in verses 4-5), do not grieve. What an amazing man he is, that he's more concerned about their hearts hurting right now. Even though, what they've done, and that he's giving this amazing grace and mercy to them. And he's speaking. Don't let your past ruin this moment of joy that we're having. The pass is behind us. Let's enjoy the moment that we have and so many Christians just don't want to do that. You know, you can have 30 years of pain and you can live in that past and be robbed by your present because of those 30 years, but I'm telling you, God has the ability and is more than able to make your next year greater than the sum total of all the great things that happened in 30 years, because that's what he does. That's who he is. You should receive that. from that person and vice versa. Just make your next year's your greatest years. Jesus talks. And John 2. The wedding and the wedding. facilitator says, you've saved the best for last and that's what he does. Our Lord, he saves the best for last. And he can do that for you today. Why not just receive it?

John 2:9-10 (NKJV)⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Unbelief didn't stop the Carts

Jacob's unbelief did not stop the wagon carts loaded with blessings from coming!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 46

Title: Fear Not: God's Confirmation for the Journey Ahead

Summary: Life often brings us to crossroads where the path forward seems uncertain. We stand at the border between what we know and what lies ahead, torn between the pull of our hearts and the wisdom of waiting. In these moments, we need more than good intentions—we need divine direction. Jacob (Israel) will be given Divine direction in our passage today as he takes the whole family down to Egypt; and along the way the Lord will give us insights on how to seek His Divine direction when we are making our life decisions.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap / Joseph Revealed to Brothers / Bring Jacob / 5 years Left

Last chapter we see Joseph revealing himself to his brothers, and what a shocker it must have been. He sends them back to get Jacob and the rest of the family as Joseph will preserve them for the remaining 5 years left in the 7 year famine. Jacob doesn't believe it until he saw the wagons coming.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 46:1 NKJV) So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

Far From Over for Jacob

Our days are numbered by the Lord, and there's a peace in resting in that, that he holds our breath in his hands, the breath you are taking right now, did you hear this, the breath you are taking right now, as you read this? Got it, given that breath. The heartbeat, life from the heart of a good, good father, and I just pray peace that you know you're in the hands of the Lord.

We're here, Jacob, years ago, thought he was going to die. No doubt for 22 years, die in heartache because of his role in his mind of sending Joseph to go check on the brothers. No doubt taking a blame if he had not done that, Joseph would not have been torn to shreds by this wild beast as the story was told. But here he's going to get to live a long life longer than expected. He's going to see Joseph, who he thought was lost, and dead, they're going to behold and hold one another, and then Jacob gets to not just end there. He gets the blessed, pray a blessing on the most powerful man on the whole earth, Pharaoh, so his life is far from over.

Psalms 90:12 (NKJV)

¹² So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Daniel 5:23 (NKJV)

²³ and the God who *holds* your breath in His hand and owns all your ways

So Step Out – God For It

Some Christians, maybe too many Christians, think the purpose of life is to arrive at death safely.

And I think many a Christians then live in that continual safety zone, afraid to step out, afraid to do anything, afraid of consequences so called of failure, whereas. The most exciting place to be is the place where it could fail. And it could blow up, and it could end in nothingness, that you show up, you step out, and nothing happens. And that's the excitement of the walk of faith, and that if we knew it would succeed, we would have no worries of stepping out, but stepping out with the possibility of sinking brings the excitement because then it brings us to the place of calling upon the Lord. To keep us from sinking. It draws us to him, to seek him, saying you're asking me to step out of the boat to go do this thing that you've told me to do, and I'm sure to sink if you don't hold me, but if you've called me, it's impossible to see, and that will be regardless of what the outcome looks like. To man, because sometimes it's not about what happened. It's about what's happening, and that is that we're in the boat with Jesus. We're launching out into the deep with Jesus. We're walking on water with Jesus, we're casting our nets to where Jesus says, called, and that's exciting.

And if he is holding our breath in his hands and knows the number of our days, then we need not worry about anything else. We just need to be, what is a continual theme of our book today? Living sacrifice. The excitement of being a living sacrifice, the honor of being a living sacrifice, and the absolute amazement that God would consider our lives, our sacrifice, a sweet sweat, smelling aroma on the him..

And let me say, sometimes the living sacrifice isn't about the ministry, so called, it's about the faithfulness to the Lord, saying no to the things that would make us comfortable, saying no to the things of the flesh, saying, Lord, may this sacrifice be holy, and the Moravian missionaries always used to have a scene, may the lamb. receive his inheritance, and that we are an inheritance of the life that was sacrificed on the cross to redeem us, and that the Lord considers us his inheritance, that's mine blood.

Any powerful point is in Revelation, that the saints cannot be touched in the tribulation period until their testimony is complete, and that is the same, it was true for each and every one of us. We are untouchable. Until our testimony is complete.

Edge of Promise Land

They left the area of Hebron and began their journey toward Egypt and came to Beersheba. Beersheba is on the edge of the desert, which is the edge of the land of Canaan or "land of promise." Once you leave Beersheba you are in the wilderness area.

Beersheba is a southern town in Israel. On the way to Egypt it's the last stop before you cross the hot sands of the Sinai. Apparently, it was in those hot sands that Jacob got cold feet. Remember, Abraham faced an earlier famine and fled to Egypt, but it was a mistake. He should've trusted God and stayed in the promised land... Jacob may now be wondering if he should do the same...

Beersheba / Abraham's Hometown / Jacob with Isaac

Beersheba held a lot of memories for Jacob, for he lived there, as a child, with his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. They had built an altar there in Beersheba and Jacob offered sacrifices on that altar.

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

Jacob was Open – Has Ears to Hear

The Lord's giving Jacob a vision because Jacob is open to receive the vision and not just think that it was something he was thinking or some dream that meant nothing. God gives him this vision. So that he would have confidence in the direction that God is leading and giving him. And I think there's just pure power there for all of our lives that, Lord, I'm open. For confirmation to hear from you of where I'm going and what I'm doing next and I think there's something to be said about just waiting on the Lord. That may not come in the form of a vision or a dream, but it will come in the form of direction by his word, a piece that will pass understanding or a confirmation from, um, a brother or sister who gives you a word that you go, This is of the Lord, and we need to stay open for those things because when he goes, there's a lot at stake if you consider, that he's going to go into Egypt, which the last time was, this isn't the place that you should be. And the family should be, and he needs to know that this is what God has called him to go and to do.

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

Great Nation

I love this in that it is God who makes the great nation, not Jacob. We don't have to put the burden on ourselves but simply rest in the Lord to do the work. All we have to do is "abide"

[John 15:4-8 \(NKJV\)](#)

⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Closing of the Eyes

In the culture of the day, closing the eyelids was the last act of kindness done for a dying man. It was an honor reserved for the closest relative. Joseph would oversee Jacob's death. Interestingly, for Abraham a trip to Egypt was a lack of faith - for Jacob it was a show of faith. What was wrong for Abraham was right for Jacob. The difference was God's will. Abraham was fearful. Jacob is faithful.

Jacob about 130 – Tough Travelers / Deep Emotion – Didn't Inquire of Lord

At this point, Jacob could have been one hundred and thirty years old and travelling on a cart wasn't too comfortable for him; but, his decision to go was one of deep emotion. Hearing that Joseph was alive and so anxious to see his son, he just decided to go and see him and didn't really inquire of the Lord or seek His will.

Appearances Deceiving / Seem Right can be Wrong

Appearances can be deceiving, things that appear to be so good and right, can be so wrong. Things that appear one way can be totally something different. Important we seek the Lord.

Isaac Told not to Go

Maybe, he was remembering how God had told Isaac not to go down to Egypt.

(Genesis 26:1 NKJV) There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

(Genesis 26:2 NKJV) Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you."

Abraham's Trip to Egypt – the Lie – Almost Death

Maybe he remembers the story of when Abraham went to Egypt and it almost cost him his life because he lied about Sarah being his sister and not his wife:

(Genesis 12:10 NKJV) Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land.

(Genesis 12:11 NKJV) And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, "Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance."

(Genesis 12:12 NKJV) "Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live."

(Genesis 12:13 NKJV) "Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you."

Grief of Hagar / Ishmael – Arab Muslims

Maybe he is remembering all the grief that was caused by Abraham going down to Egypt as he remembers back to what Abraham brought out of Egypt with him, when the Pharaoh said get out of Egypt you and your sister, excuse me your wife, and here are some riches for you, and take this maidservant - Hagar. From Hagar would come Ishmael, and we still see the struggles today there in the Mid-East that was caused by the child produced by Hagar and Abraham.

(Genesis 16:1 NKJV) Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar.

Jacob Inquires of Lord / Check the Heart

He probably began to wonder if God was in this whole move. Maybe I should inquire of God whether or not I should go. I don't want to go against God's will even though my heart is drawing me there and so, he offered sacrifices (plural) to the God of his father Isaac. Jacob is going to do a heart check. The heart can be so deceitful, we need to keep it in check.

Stops at Border / Seem Right – Maybe Last Resort / Sound Familiar / Gets Confirmation

So Jacob stops at the border of Egypt and he stops to make sacrifice unto the Lord, he stops to make sure that what he is doing is right. It may seem like the right thing to do, maybe the last resort (sound familiar), but he stops to consult the Lord, for confirmation from Him, and the Lord says fear not, go into the land.

God gives Go-ahead / 400 yrs of Slavery – People Question / For Us – Place to Return To

God gives Jacob the go-ahead to go down to Egypt, and with it a most vital example for every one of us. What will happen to the children of Israel after some time there in Egypt? Enslavement, 400 years of enslavement. Surely they would have questioned why did Jacob bring the family down here to Egypt, God told his father not to go there for it was evil, nothing but problems, yet you came. Listen, when the struggle began, this is the place that they were to return to, God said fear not. Go down to Egypt. They were not to go back to, well Joseph was 2nd in the land, they were not to go back to there was a famine in the land, they were to go back to God said go to the land.

Talk this Often – Make Part of Life / Seek Him – He will Lead You

Christian we talk about this often, and it is so important to make this part of life, we are to seek the Lord on these matters. He will lead His children, He will speak to you on what you are to do.

What I Do / 4 Things / Scriptures – Counsel – Time – a Word

Here is what I do when I am faced with decisions such as this; I ask myself is this in opposition to the Word given in the Scriptures, If so then stop right there. I seek godly counsel with just a few (not many) and see if they see something I may be missing because my emotions are deceiving me. I also wait on the Lord for time will outlast my emotions, and anything that is of the Lord will last over time, it will keep coming back to my heart, it will stay upon my heart (for He would have put that desire in my heart). And as a major part, I ask the Lord for a Verse or a clear Word from Him.

In Agreement with the Word:

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(Psalms 119:105 NKJV) Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Godly Counsel:

(Proverbs 1:5 NKJV) A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

(Proverbs 11:14 NKJV) Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Wait on the Lord:

(Psalms 27:14 NKJV) Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!

(Psalms 37:34 NKJV) Wait on the LORD, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.

(Psalms 37:4 NKJV) Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

(Psalms 37:5 NKJV) Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

(Psalms 37:6 NKJV) He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

(Psalms 37:7 NKJV) Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

Confirmation by Word or Verse:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

For this Church / Acts 8:26 – Go South

As for this fellowship the Lord spoke clearly to me as I did my morning studies, I was in Acts and God told Phillip to arise and go to the south and we know then he witnessed to the Ethiopian. God spoke to me and said go to the south (I was supporting at a church in Baltimore County, and obviously Anne Arundel County is south). I remember that moment as if only a moment ago:

(Acts 8:26 NKJV) Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

Why Important – Hard Times Come / Word to Stand On – Outside Circumstances

Why is that so important, because when the hard times came, and I questioned myself, the work, all the warfare, I always had that verse to stand on. No matter how bad it may have seemed, I always came back to the place and said I know this is your will for my life, and I am exactly where you want me to be. Doesn't matter what my outside circumstances may say, the Word is greater than my circumstances.

400 yrs of Slavery

400 years of slavery, but God said:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Be Slow to Run to Something / When Opposition Comes - Strengthened

Christian be slow to run into something, for a some point opposition will come and you will be glad, comforted, strengthened for the battle when you have taken you time and thought these things through. Is it that new job? Is it that person you are considering marrying, that ministry to be involved in? Christian god will always honor your waiting to hear form Him, He will bring it to pass even if it looks like it is now or never.

(Genesis 46:5 NKJV) Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him.

(Genesis 46:6 NKJV) So they took their livestock and their goods, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and went to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him.

(Genesis 46:7 NKJV) His sons and his sons' sons, his daughters and his sons' daughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

Whole Family Goes – Joseph will Preserve / Parents – Your Kids / Your Influence

The whole family goes to be with Joseph who will preserve them. Notice not one person of the family said no thanks, I'll stay here, I get by my own way. No the whole family goes with Father Jacob. Parents I believe you stick with Jesus, you live a life for Him, centered on Him, where He is the family priority, and your whole family will be saved, persevered. They are not saved by default (Psalm 49:7 & Duet 24:16), they are saved by demonstration. Mom and Dad you have a tremendous power and influence in your child, it something in the blood, and you can bring them to the greater than Joseph, Jesus Christ. Parents don't cave to the pressures of this world, don't worry about upsetting them, keep your attention on the King, and they will look to see where you are looking:

(Acts 16:31 NKJV) So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

(Acts 16:32 NKJV) Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

(Acts 16:33 NKJV) And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

(Proverbs 22:6 NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

God Preparing for Your Whole Family

God is preparing a place for your whole family.

By Name

By name I might add as we see here:

(Genesis 46:8 NKJV) Now these were the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: Reuben was Jacob's firstborn.

(Genesis 46:9 NKJV) The sons of Reuben were Hanoch, Pallu, Hezron, and Carmi.

(Genesis 46:10 NKJV) The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jachin, Zohar, and Shaul, the son of a Canaanite woman.

(Genesis 46:11 NKJV) The sons of Levi were Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.

(Genesis 46:12 NKJV) The sons of Judah were Er, Onan, Shelah, Perez, and Zerah (but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan). The sons of Perez were Hezron and Hamul.

(Genesis 46:13 NKJV) The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puvah, Job, and Shimron.

(Genesis 46:14 NKJV) The sons of Zebulun were Sered, Elon, and Jahleel.

(Genesis 46:15 NKJV) These were the sons of Leah, whom she bore to Jacob in Padan Aram, with his daughter Dinah. All the persons, his sons and his daughters, were thirty-three.

(Genesis 46:16 NKJV) The sons of Gad were Ziphion, Haggi, Shuni, Ezbon, Eri, Arodi, and Areli.

(Genesis 46:17 NKJV) The sons of Asher were Jimnah, Ishuah, Isui, Beriah, and Serah, their sister. And the sons of Beriah were Heber and Malchiel.

(Genesis 46:18 NKJV) These were the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter; and these she bore to Jacob: sixteen persons.

(Genesis 46:19 NKJV) The sons of Rachel, Jacob's wife, were Joseph and Benjamin.

(Genesis 46:20 NKJV) And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him.

(Genesis 46:21 NKJV) The sons of Benjamin were Belah, Becher, Ashbel, Gera, Naaman, Ehi, Rosh, Muppim, Huppim, and Ard.

(Genesis 46:22 NKJV) These were the sons of Rachel, who were born to Jacob: fourteen persons in all.

(Genesis 46:23 NKJV) The son of Dan was Hushim.

(Genesis 46:24 NKJV) The sons of Naphtali were Jahzeel, Guni, Jezer, and Shillem.

(Genesis 46:25 NKJV) These were the sons of Bilhah, whom Laban gave to Rachel his daughter, and she bore these to Jacob: seven persons in all.

All

And here's the trip's manifest, a passenger log... Israel lists twelve sons, his daughter Dinah, fifty-two grandkids, and four great-grandsons... Of note, Dan had fewest kids, just one son... Benjamin had most, ten sons

Sons Listed by Name / Genealogy of Christ – Matt & Luke

Notice that each son of Jacob and his offspring are listed by name. Why are these lists of names given to us in the Scriptures? Doesn't God have more important information to give to us? My friend, there is nothing more important than our Lord Jesus Christ, and this is the genealogy that leads to Him. We will find some of these names in the genealogy in the first chapter of Matthew, at the beginning of the New Testament. Again, we will find some of these names in the genealogy given to us in Luke, chapter 3. These lists of names are important for that reason.

Another Reason / Lamb's Book of Life

There is another reason, and it is very personal. Have you heard of the Lamb's Book of Life? The question is: Is your name written there? Just as you got into the line of Adam (and we all are in that line), you get into the line of Christ—that is, by birth. But in the case of the Lamb's Book of Life, you get there by the new birth which comes about by receiving Christ as your personal Savior. When you do that, you become a child of God.

God Knows You / Knows Hair on Head / Knows You Personally

How important are you? Well, God knows you. In fact, He has numbered the very hairs of your head! He knows you better than anyone else knows you. He knows you and loves you more than your mother ever did—I don't imagine that she ever counted the hairs of your head! God did. God knows you personally.

Names Mean Nothing to Us – Everything to God

In Jacob's genealogy there are names that mean nothing to me. Often times as I drive to church on Sunday I see the ball fields filled with people, or I see them in their cars driving up to Ravens stadium for the game. As I looked at them, I thought, God knows each one of them, and God loves each one. They are not thinking of Him (most of them), but each one is precious in God's sight, and Christ died for each one. My friend, here you are in the midst of a great population explosion with literally millions of people around you, yet you are an individual to God. And the names listed in Jacob's genealogy are people whom I don't know. Candidly, I'm not that interested in them. But God is. He delighted in putting their names down because they were His. This again causes me to ask you the question: Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

(Genesis 46:26 NKJV) All the persons who went with Jacob to Egypt, who came from his body, besides Jacob's sons' wives, were sixty-six persons in all.

(Genesis 46:27 NKJV) And the sons of Joseph who were born to him in Egypt were two persons. All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.

66 people plus Joseph and his 2 sons, equal 69, and Jacob is seventy. These 70 names are important to us because we will see some of these names again as we are given the lineage of the Messiah in Matthew 1 (lineage of Joseph) and Luke 3 (lineage of Mary).

Jacob Great Nation / 600K Adults 400yrs

God said that He would make of Jacob a great nation there in Egypt. When they left Egypt four hundred years later there were six hundred thousand adult males over the age of twenty.

1.5 – 2.5 million / Only 5% Increase/yr

It is estimated that there was probably between 1.5 and 2.5 million people who made the Exodus with Moses. God made of him a great nation in the four hundred years that they were in Egypt. You might say that sounds impossible, but, if you take the age of Jacob at the time that he was married and the number of descendants he had by the time he went to Egypt it was a six percent per year increase in the population of the family. If you had a hundred people and you had a 5% per year increase in population, in two hundred and twenty-five years you have a population of more than two million. It was seventy that went down, six hundred thousand adults males over the age of twenty that came out, four hundred years later.

(Genesis 46:28 NKJV) Then he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen. And they came to the land of Goshen.

Judah Goes before Them / Praise & Worship – Into His Presence

Judah went before them, to point out, prepare the way, for the joyful reunion with Joseph, a picture of Jesus Christ. Judah means “praise”, how fitting that praise leads the way into the presence of Joseph. We are so blessed to have praise and worship here as it prepares and brings us into the presence of the Lord. Worship is a wonderful gift from the Lord.

(Genesis 46:29 NKJV) So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

(Genesis 46:30 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive."

After 22 Years

After 22 years, thinking and not knowing, the father and the son are reunited. Imagine for just a moment what that reunion was like.

The Father Stands

I read a story years ago about a man who taken away to the concentration camp, and separated from his only son, yet somehow miraculously survived the years in camp, and years later after being liberated from the camp, was miraculously reunited with his son. The son says, still to this day, every time he walks into the room, his father stands..... Yeah grab the tissue.

Tatte

The Jerusalem Post had an incredible article a few years ago. The story is about a man who had been rescued from a concentration camp during the Holocaust. He was raised in South Africa and while there as a young man he committed himself to the Jewish faith. He eventually became a Rabbi. Once he found himself on an airplane seated next to an elderly gentleman that he felt particularly drawn to. They spoke in Yiddish, talked about Israel and politics and the Jewish world. When breakfast came the young rabbi encouraged the elder man to skip the sausage (kosher meal), but the elder man said since I lost my only child in Auschwitz, he ate whatever he liked. They parted but the rabbi was deeply disappointed that he did not ask the elder man for his telephone number. 2 years later on a visit to the holocaust museum there in Jerusalem the rabbi saw a familiar figure at the entrance to the building, he ran over to the man and speaking in Yiddish said do you recognize me, do you remember our plane trip? The man smiled and said I do, and I still eat the sausage. The rabbi asked if the elder man would join him on his walk through the museum, the old man said I never go in, didn't I tell you that I lost my only son at Auschwitz.

Something suddenly clicked in the rabbi brain and he said what was your name before the war he asked, and when the man answered, tears began to run down the rabbi face. He said "Tatte" - father, all they gave me at the orphanage was one word, your name, I am your son. Now they both live together in Israel, the father no longer eats sausages, and the only thing the rabbi complains about is every time he enters the room, his father stands up.

Source: [Pastor Joe \(Genesis 46 study\)](#)

Ever Consider the Father – Son Reunion / Forsaken for Sin – So we are Not

I have never thought about this before, but we always consider the apostles and followers of Christ and their great reunion with Jesus after His resurrection. Here Jacob sees the son he thought was dead alive, and they embrace and hold each other, and weep. Have you ever considered the reunion of the Father and Son after Jesus who was dead rises again and is embraced by the Father? The reunion after Jesus would cry out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The sins of the whole world placed upon Him, the sins of Hitler, Saddam, Charles Manson, the sins of the pervert, the sins of the child molester, your sins, and my sin, as the Father would turn away, and Jesus for the first time in eternity asking "why hast thou forsaken me", so all who will chose will never have to be forsaken.

Imagine the Embrace / Smiles – Tears / I Brought Family

I can only imagine, the embrace, as they look into each others eyes, the tears, the smile, and then Jesus would extend His hands towards the risen saints and say, I brought the family. I can only imagine! Dad, the rest will be here soon.

Praise

Thank God for Praise and Worship, for He is worthy.

Joseph Held On to Hope / Jacob the Impossible Happened / Same God

Joseph held on to this hope of seeing his father again. For Jacob an impossible situation has unfolded before him. You know the very same God that took this impossible situation and brought it to past is the same God today:

(Hebrews 13:8 NKJV) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(Malachi 3:6 NKJV) "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

Are You Living Impossible Situation / He Works Same Today

Are you living an impossible situation in your life today, that God seems to be over looking, that you may think He worked that was in ancient times, but not for me today; He is the same.

Chance - It Was Meant to Be

Marcel Sternberger was a methodical man of nearly 50, with bushy white hair, guileless brown eyes, and the bouncing enthusiasm of a czardas dancer of his native Hungary. He always took the 9:09 Long Island Railroad train from his suburban home to Woodside, N.Y., where he caught a subway into the city.

On the morning of January 10, 1948, Sternberger boarded the 9:09 as usual. En route, he suddenly decided to visit Laszlo Victor, a Hungarian friend who lived in Brooklyn and was ill.

Accordingly, at Ozone Park, Sternberger changed to the subway for Brooklyn, went to his friend's house, and stayed until midafternoon. He then boarded a Manhattan-bound subway for his Fifth Avenue office. Here is Marcel's incredible story:

The car was crowded, and there seemed to be no chance of a seat. But just as I entered, a man sitting by the door suddenly jumped up to leave, and I slipped into the empty place. I've been living in New York long enough not to start conversations with strangers. But being a photographer, I have the peculiar habit of analyzing people's faces, and I was struck by the features of the passenger on my left. He was probably in his late 30s, and when he glanced up, his eyes seemed to have a hurt expression in them. He was reading a Hungarian-language newspaper, and something prompted me to say in Hungarian, "I hope you don't mind if I glance at your paper."

The man seemed surprised to be addressed in his native language. But he answered politely, "You may read it now. I'll have time later on."

During the half-hour ride to town, we had quite a conversation. He said his name was Bela Paskin. A law student when World War II started, he had been put into a German labor battalion and sent to the Ukraine. Later he was captured by the Russians and put to work burying the German dead. After the war, he covered hundreds of miles on foot until he reached his home in Debrecen, a large city in eastern Hungary.

I myself knew Debrecen quite well, and we talked about it for a while. Then he told me the rest of his story. When he went to the apartment once occupied by his father, mother, brothers and sisters, he found strangers living there. Then he went upstairs to the apartment that he and his wife once had. It also was occupied by strangers. None of them had ever heard of his family.

As he was leaving, full of sadness, a boy ran after him, calling "Paskin bacsi! Paskin bacsi!" That means "Uncle Paskin." The child was the son of some old neighbors of his. He went to the boy's home and talked to his parents. "Your whole family is dead," they told him. "The Nazis took them and your wife to Auschwitz."

Auschwitz was one of the worst Nazi concentration camps. Paskin gave up all hope. A few days later, too heartsick to remain any longer in Hungary, he set out again on foot, stealing across border after border until he reached Paris. He managed to immigrate to the United States in October 1947, just three months before I met him.

All the time he had been talking, I kept thinking that somehow his story seemed familiar. A young woman whom I had met recently at the home of friends had also been from Debrecen; she had been sent to Auschwitz; from there she had been transferred to work in a German munitions factory. Her relatives had been killed in the gas chambers. Later she was liberated by the Americans and was brought here in the first boatload of displaced persons in 1946.

Later, she was liberated by the Americans and was brought here in the first boatload of displaced persons in 1946.

Her story had moved me so much that I had written down her address and phone number, intending to invite her to meet my family and thus help relieve the terrible emptiness in her life.

It seemed impossible that there could be any connection between these two people, but as I neared my station, I fumbled anxiously in my address book. I asked in what I hoped was a casual voice, "Was your wife's name Marya?"

He turned pale. "Yes!" he answered. "How did you know?"

He looked as if he were about to faint.

I said, "Let's get off the train." I took him by the arm at the next station and led him to a phone booth. He stood there like a man in a trance while I dialed her phone number.

It seemed hours before Marya Paskin answered. (Later I learned her room was alongside the telephone, but she was in the habit of never answering it because she had so few friends and the calls were always for someone else. This time, however, there was no one else at home and, after letting it ring for a while, she responded.)

When I heard her voice at last, I told her who I was and asked her to describe her husband. She seemed surprised at the question, but gave me a description. Then I asked her where she had lived in Debrecen, and she told me the address.

Asking her to hold the line, I turned to Paskin and said, "Did you and your wife live on such-and-such a street?"

"Yes!" Bela exclaimed. He was white as a sheet and trembling.

"Try to be calm," I urged him. "Something miraculous is about to happen to you. Here, take this telephone and talk to your wife!"

He nodded his head in mute bewilderment, his eyes bright with tears. He took the receiver, listened a moment to his wife's voice, then suddenly cried, "This is Bela! This is Bela!" and he began to mumble hysterically. Seeing that the poor fellow was so excited he couldn't talk coherently, I took the receiver from his shaking hands.

"Stay where you are," I told Marya, who also sounded hysterical. "I am sending your husband to you. We will be there in a few minutes."

Bela was crying like a baby and saying over and over again. "It is my wife. I go to my wife!"

At first I thought I had better accompany Paskin, lest the man should faint from excitement, but I decided that this was a moment in which no strangers should intrude. Putting Paskin into a taxicab, I directed the driver to take him to Marya's address, paid the fare, and said goodbye.

Bela Paskin's reunion with his wife was a moment so poignant, so electric with suddenly released emotion, that afterward neither he nor Marya could recall much about it.

"I remember only that when I left the phone, I walked to the mirror like in a dream to see if maybe my hair had turned gray," she said later. "The next thing I know, a taxi stops in front of the house, and it is my husband who comes toward me. Details I cannot remember; only this I know—that I was happy for the first time in many years...."

"Even now it is difficult to believe that it happened. We have both suffered so much; I have almost lost the capability to not be afraid. Each time my husband goes from the house, I say to myself, 'Will anything happen to take him from me again?'"

Her husband is confident that no horrible misfortune will ever again befall the. "Providence has brought us together," he says simply. "It was meant to be."

Skeptical persons will no doubt attribute the events of that memorable afternoon to mere chance. But was it chance that made Marcel Sternberger suddenly decide to visit his sick friend and hence take a subway line that he had never ridden before? Was it chance that caused the man sitting by the door of the car to rush out just as Sternberger came in? Was it chance that caused Bela Paskin to be sitting beside Sternberger, reading a Hungarian newspaper?

Was it chance—or did God ride the Brooklyn subway that afternoon?

[Paul Deutschman, Great Stories Remembered, edited and compiled by Joe L. Wheeler, Focus on the Family Publ., December 1996.](#)

[Galaxie Software. \(2002\). 10,000 Sermon Illustrations. Biblical Studies Press.](#)

Same God Today

Same God! Do you have an impossible situation in your life that you think He won't deal with?

(Genesis 46:31 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's household, "I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and say to him, 'My brothers and those of my father's house, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me.

(Genesis 46:32 NKJV) 'And the men are shepherds, for their occupation has been to feed livestock; and they have brought their flocks, their herds, and all that they have.'

(Genesis 46:33 NKJV) "So it shall be, when Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?'

(Genesis 46:34 NKJV) "that you shall say, 'Your servants' occupation has been with livestock from our youth even till now, both we and also our fathers,' that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians."

Be Marked Man/Women

Every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptians: The Egyptians were agricultural in the sense of farming crops. They considered sheep unclean, and therefore detested shepherds.

Joseph not only intercedes for his brothers, but he also instructs them, saying, "When you go before Pharaoh, and he asks your occupation, tell him you're shepherds." Why did Joseph instruct his brothers to answer this way? Because Egyptian society at that time was based on a caste system. And guess who was at the bottom of the heap, the lowest rung on the social ladder. Shepherds. Shepherds were untouchable. People didn't interact with them. They weren't allowed in the temples of Egyptian deities. Thus, as shepherds, Joseph's brothers would be marked men—completely separated from the worldly Egyptian system. Joseph knew that were his brothers not marked, they would be assimilated into Egyptian culture.

I have discovered that a Bible in my hand, a bumper sticker on my car, or a Christian logo on my shirt makes me a marked man. Secret, closet Christians get in all kinds of trouble and are susceptible to walk into temptation needlessly. Identify yourself at every opportunity, gang—even if it makes you look like a "shepherd" in the eyes of society. Don't say, "I'm going to a meeting." Say, "I'm going to Bible study. Why don't you come with me?"

Joseph—a picture of Jesus—said, "I want you to be marked in this land in order that you might keep your purity and identity intact." Wise is the one who follows his instruction

[Courson, J. \(2005\). Jon Courson's application commentary: Volume one: Genesis–Job \(pp. 201–202\). Thomas Nelson.](#)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Passage: Genesis 47

Title: Giving the Blessings of the Lord to Others

Summary: Jacob's story is one of transformation. The deceiver became Israel, the prince with God. The schemer became the blessing. His final years in Egypt were marked by faith, maturity, and anticipation of God's promises. Your best chapter is yet to come. God is still working, still refining, still conforming you to the image of His Son. Be confident of this: He who began a good work in you will complete it (Philippians 1:6). So go into the world as Jacob went into Pharaoh's court. Speak blessing over the powerful and the powerless alike. Place God's name upon everyone you meet. And watch as He transforms both them and you in the process. You are a stranger and pilgrim here—but you carry the authority of heaven. Use it to bless.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap Joseph Revealed / Jacob Inquires of the Lord / 22 Yrs Later the Embrace

Last chapter we see Joseph revealing himself to his brothers, and what a shocker it must have been. He sends them back to get Jacob and the rest of the family as Joseph will preserve them for the remaining 5 years left in the 7 year famine. Jacob doesn't believe it until he saw the wagons coming. So he loads up the whole family, and head to Egypt. A few days into the journey Jacob stops, inquires of the Lord to make sure the Lord is in it and Jacob not making an emotional decision. God says go ahead, I am with you. Judah leads the way (his name means praise), and then we saw the wonderful reunion of the father and the son, after 22 years of thinking his son dead, Jacob embraces Joseph again.

Goshen / Jacobs Best Chapter

We have seen how Jacob and all his family have arrived in the land of Egypt. Joseph, as a move of strategy, brought them into the land of Goshen. This actually was the richest land in that day, but right now they are in the midst of a famine and no land is very valuable to the owner at this particular time. We are going to find that this is the best chapter in the life of Jacob so far. Jacob doesn't appear in a good light when we first meet him in Scripture. In fact, not until he makes his trip to Egypt do we begin to see that he has become a man of faith. This chapter, more than any other, reveals that.

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Shepherds an Abomination

Shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians. Joseph tells his brothers to tell Pharaoh that they are shepherds and that they raise cattle. Actually, they had both cattle and sheep. We will find later that Pharaoh will give them the land of Goshen (away from the rest of the people of Egypt) and will ask them to take care of his sheep so that the children of Israel became the shepherds in the land of Egypt.

Jesus – Good – Great - Chief

It is interesting that the Word of God has had so much to say about shepherds. These people were shepherds who raised their own sheep, and they still do in the land of Israel. "Shepherd" is the figure of speech that is used to describe our Lord. He is the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep. He is the Great Shepherd of His sheep who watches over them today. He is the Chief Shepherd who is yet to appear. He calls Himself the Shepherd.

(John 10:11 NKJV) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

(Hebrews 13:20 NKJV) Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

(1 Peter 5:4 NKJV) and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

Egypt picture of World / Great Shepherd an Abomination to World

Egypt is a picture of the world in the Scriptures and isn't it still so today that to most people in their hearts He is an abomination to them. He is not received today; He gets in the way of their plans and desires, and the world says You stay over there and stay out of our schools, our government, take care of my dirty work and I'll call you when I need you.

(John 10:1 NKJV) "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

(John 10:2 NKJV) "But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

(John 10:3 NKJV) "To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

(John 10:4 NKJV) "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

(John 10:5 NKJV) "Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

God's Chosen Among Them / Stay Over There / We Can Bless Them

These people had God's chosen living amongst them, yet they were considered an abomination too. God's children are living amongst the world today, and the world says stay over there, you religious moralist are getting in the way of my fun, plans, and desires. Too sad for them, but we will see in this chapter application for us on how to bless them.

(Genesis 47:1 NKJV) Then Joseph went and told Pharaoh, and said, "My father and my brothers, their flocks and their herds and all that they possess, have come from the land of Canaan; and indeed they are in the land of Goshen."

(Genesis 47:2 NKJV) And he took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh.

(Genesis 47:3 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, "What is your occupation?" And they said to Pharaoh, "Your servants are shepherds, both we and also our fathers."

(Genesis 47:4 NKJV) And they said to Pharaoh, "We have come to dwell in the land, because your servants have no pasture for their flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now therefore, please let your servants dwell in the land of Goshen."

OKJV

I like the Old King James translation of this passage:

*(Genesis 47:4 KJV) They said moreover unto Pharaoh, **For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.***

Sojourners / Passing Through / We Are Aliens – Look at Newspaper

Notice they didn't say, we have come to dwell or we have come to stay, we have only come to sojourn. The bible tells us concerning the fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; that they dwelled as strangers and pilgrims on this earth. We don't belong to this earth, we are just passing through. We are strangers and pilgrims here. It is sad when we start feeling at home in this corrupted society. The more I read the newspaper and watch Television, the more I realize that I am an alien. I don't belong in this mess. I am a stranger and a pilgrim here, I am just passing on looking for that city whose maker and builder is God. I am going to dwell in the house of the Lord forever:

(Hebrews 11:8 NKJV) By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

(Hebrews 11:9 NKJV) By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

*(Hebrews 11:10 NKJV) **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.***

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

*(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.***

Shepherds & Fisherman

Isn't it interesting how the Lord calls his disciples/followers to the liking of shepherds and fisherman. Two of the hardest jobs there are. I watched shepherds in a whole new light when in Nepal this week. They would have to walk miles for grazing, climb in ascent several hundred feet in elevation, and then at the end of the day carry on their backs grazing straw to take back to their home in case of rain because sheep/goats will not eat wet feed. I made me think of fisherman, and the calling we have. Fisherman time of Jesus considered one of, if not the, hardest job. You would fish all night as that is when you fished, and then have to clean your nets (of algae, fish scales and guts, seaweed), and then have to mend your nets of the tears else the next catch would slip right through. Then have to lay out the nets to dry because you cant put them away in a pile else they become brittle and knotted. So fish all night and then have to wash and dry before you could go home and nap, so you can do it all over in 8 hours. Lets just look at Luke 5 for a moment to glean some manna for us and fisherman:

Luke 5:1–11 (NKJV) ¹ So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, ² and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing *their* nets. ³ Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. ⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." ⁶ And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. ⁷ So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." ¹¹ So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Here are some takeaways:

- We need to keep our nets/vessels (hearts) clean and mended. We do that by the washing of the Word of God. Even when we are tired from toiling all night; imagine throwing and hauling 50-75 pounds of nets all night, throw and draw, throw and draw. You would say I just don't want to do this anymore, I am exhausted, but it is what must be done.
- Jesus can walk on water, He didn't need Peter's boat; He enlisted him so Peter could partner with Jesus and be part of the life and ministry of Jesus. So too do we.
- And I love this takeaway, that even after Peter challenges Jesus on how He should be the expert on teaching and Peter will be the expert on fishing, Jesus still shows him grace and invites him into the partnership. The last verse (v.11) wasn't just about the fishing of men..... it was about being with Jesus. So too for us!
- And..... a great word, that Peter says.... Nevertheless, at Your Word. I think there is pure power in that for us as. There are times God may say to you, love your spouse, and you say I just don't want to, I've been toiling in this marriage for months and years. But a believer has to come to the place in all things, nevertheless Lord at Your Word. And then you love sacrificially because God says to do it, and then you never know when you may enjoy that great catch either!

Psalm 119:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹ Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Ephesians 5:26 (NKJV)

²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Titus 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

1 John 1:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John 15:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

(Genesis 47:5 NKJV) Then Pharaoh spoke to Joseph, saying, "Your father and your brothers have come to you.

(Genesis 47:6 NKJV) "The land of Egypt is before you. Have your father and brothers dwell in the best of the land; let them dwell in the land of Goshen. And if you know any competent men among them, then make them chief herdsmen over my livestock."

Joseph man of Grace / Brings Brothers Before Throne / Jesus the Same

Look at Joseph, what a man of grace. Here he takes 5 brothers, the very same brothers who sold him into slavery, and he brings them before the throne of Pharaoh. Joseph a picture of Jesus, and the very thing Jesus will do for us. After all our failures, all the times we have knowingly chosen sin over obedience, all the times we have grieved Him, yet what will He do, he will present us faultless before the Father:

(Jude 1:24 NKJV) Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And **to present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

(Jude 1:25 NKJV) To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

Exceeding Joy / They are Mine

Notice it is with exceeding joy; He will be full of joy when He presents us. These are mine, my beloved, I am so pleased to say these are my family, they are with Me. Hang on to Jude 24, it is true, we have been cleansed by Calvary's Tree.

(Genesis 47:7 NKJV) Then Joseph brought in his father Jacob and set him before Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

(Genesis 47:8 NKJV) Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How old are you?"

(Genesis 47:9 NKJV) And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."

Pharaoh put Back / 130-175-180 / Not Easy Life – Saves Saga of Life

Pharaoh is put back it seems, and he responds with how old are you. Jacob says I'm old, but I am not as old as my father and my father's father were when they died Abraham 175, Isaac 180), so I still have some living left. I am 130 years old, and the days haven't always been easy. But instead of giving his saga of Joseph being thought dead for 22 years, or the 20 years he spent slaving for his Uncle Laban, Joseph blesses the richest, most well-off man in the whole world. I like that too.

Bless World – Carry Burdens at Church

I say for us, let's bless the world, not burden the world, and we will come here (to the church) and we will carry each other burdens:

(Galatians 6:1 NKJV) Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

(Galatians 6:2 NKJV) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

(Genesis 47:10 NKJV) So Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.

Greater blesses the Lesser

This is interesting for in Hebrews we are told in that cultural that the lesser would be blessed by the greater, yet here we see Jacob blessing the Number 1 in all the land, the world for that matter, yet here is this shepherd from the famine land of Canaan blesses the great Pharaoh:

(Hebrews 7:7 NKJV) Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

Not Greater Person – but Position / Jacob linked to Jehovah

Now Jacob does not think that he is greater than Pharaoh in his person, but he knew he was greater than Pharaoh in his position. Jacob knew he was linked to Jehovah, he was a child of God, he knew there was a linkage to God, and that he had a personal relationship with God.

Pharaoh's Position Passing Away

He knew in his position he was in a better place than Pharaoh, even with all his power, prestige, wealth, armies, woman, and reverence from the people. Jacob knew he was in a better position because it was all going to pass away.

Jacob Blesses Pharaoh

So Jacob says I am going to bless you today Pharaoh.

Scripture Blessings – Patriarchs – Prophets – Priests - Kings

In the Bible we see that blessings were reserved for the patriarchs, the prophets, the priests, the kings, they were the ones who blessed the people, bestowed blessings upon the people.

How's that Apply to You

Maybe you are saying so what, what does this apply to me, and why is this important to me. I'm not a patriarch, nor a prophet, nor a priest, nor a king. Really:

(1 Peter 2:9 NKJV) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

(1 Peter 2:10 NKJV) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Priesthood of Aaron / Numbers 6

We are all kings and priests, and what were royalty and priest to do, God tells us in Numbers 6, as He told the priesthood of Aaron:

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Bless Them – Put God's Name Upon Them

See there, we are to bless them, and notice verse 27 it says we are to put the Lord's name upon the people, and then.....God will bless them.

Jacob Did / We Get To – We are Priest / Bless People at Work – Home - Store

That is what the priests did in that day, that is what Jacob does to Pharaoh. Maybe Jacob something just like Numbers 6, who knows but he pronounces a blessing upon Pharaoh that day. This is the very thing that you and I get to do as well. We get to do this because we are in the royal priesthood, and we get to pronounce blessings upon people at work, in our home, at the grocery store, everywhere we go we get to leave people with a blessing.

2 Ways – Words - Prayer

We do this in two ways; the words that we say, and the way that we pray.

The Words We Say

People Need to Hear His Name / Not Blaspheming – Trivialized / Leave Name with Them

People need to hear the Lord's name in a way that is not swearing, mockery, or blaspheming.

Everywhere we go around us we hear people mocking God, trivializing God, cursing Him, but you and I get to say, may the Lord bless you. We get to leave the name of the Lord with them, and God says He will bless all that we leave His name with. That is powerful my brethren, can you realize that power that is in your life.

Gayle Erwin / Watch Before Your Eyes / Speechless – Touched / Faced Presence Jesus

I had learned this principle from Pastor Gayle Erwin over 12 years ago, and have applied it to my life ever since, and it is amazing to watch it before your eyes. All the world is use to is the God word used in vain; but when you are at the store, or talking to someone at the game, and as you depart from them, and you say, "may the Lord bless, may He keep you, may His face shine upon", and then you walk away, they are left speechless. We live in a world that is contrary to hearing blessings of the Lord, and for that moment, they are faced with the presence of Jesus Christ in their lives. They may have never considered Him, or haven't thought about Him in days, weeks, or years, but we have been given the power in a simple blessing to bring them before Him.

You have Opportunity – Work – Store / We are Priests

You have the opportunity to go to work and as you leave your co-workers office, your bosses office, you can say to them, "the Lord bless you." It is radical for their lives, and it is doable, because we are priests of the royal priesthood, we have been given the power to do so.

Good Life – We Making Bricks / They Need the Blessing – Empty - Alone

You know what, the people around us, our co-workers and neighbors, those who it seems that their life is so good, maybe compared to our it is as we are making bricks in the sun and they are living in the palace with all the servants. But you know gang, these people are the ones that truly need the blessing. We might think they have it made, but really in their lives they are empty and alone, and so much in need of a blessing, to hear God cares, God loves you, and then to put His name in their ear, and God promises to bless them.

God Promises to Bless Them / Crazy Not to Do This

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Look at that Christian, God promises to bless them. Here is a guarantee from God to us, to the people we love, and the world around us, you leave them with my name in a blessing, and I will bless them. We would have to be crazy not to seize this promise for all that it is worth. It just takes a moment or two to do this to the people in this world and our life.

Give them What We Have - Jesus

We give them what we have, and we have the power to bless them. The Apostle Peter in Acts 3:

(Acts 3:1 NKJV) Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

(Acts 3:2 NKJV) And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

(Acts 3:3 NKJV) who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

(Acts 3:4 NKJV) And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

(Acts 3:5 NKJV) So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

(Acts 3:6 NKJV) Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

No Silver or Gold – Give them God

We may not have silver and gold, but we give the people what we do have, and that is Jesus Christ. They may not rise and walk, that is God's determination, but we can give them a blessing, and God promises to bless them.

The Way that we Pray

Pray Your Neighbourhood – That Car / Feel His Presence – Peace in Home

We can bless people in the way that we pray also. You can walk your neighbourhood and pray blessings upon each home. That person next to you in traffic, you can say Lord may Your grace be upon them, may your face shine upon them so much so that they feel your presence, bring peace upon their home that they may see you as the Prince of Peace.

Still Questioning / Blessing Flows – It Sticks

Maybe you are still saying why would I want to do that? First there is power in the blessing as we pronounce a blessing upon a person, and a prayer for them. We are talking to the people about the Lord, and talking to the Lord about the people. Listen, it will not only impact them, but it will also impact you. For you see the blessing that flows through you, sticks to you.

Bless those Who Curse You

You bless someone who is cursing you, God will bless you, even if your boss is nasty, or that person has mistreated you, you bless them, and God will bless you.

(Matthew 5:43 NKJV) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

(Matthew 5:44 NKJV) "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

(Matthew 5:45 NKJV) "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

(Luke 6:28 NKJV) "bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

(Matthew 5:11 NKJV) "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

Bless Wife – Child / Wherever You Go Bless / Be Like Jacob in Pharaoh's Court

Bless you wife, bless you child too, give blessings everywhere you go, and your life will be impacted, and so too will theirs. What ever flows through you, sticks to you. If you are blessing people, you will be a blessing. Be like Jacob wherever you go, walk into the court of Pharaoh where ever you go and bless the people.

World needs to Know God's Gracious / Be the Channel / It Sticks – You'll be Blessed

The world needs to know that God is gracious and kind and desires to bless them. Be that channel that God's blessings flow through, and blessings will stick to you and you will be a most blessed person:

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

(Genesis 47:11 NKJV) And Joseph situated his father and his brothers, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

Rameses is a Region

The name Rameses, refers to the region there in Goshen, not the Pharaoh. It will be dozens of years later before the Pharaoh would take the name Rameses. He may have taken the name based on the land, we do not know. But we do know that the name of the land came before the name of that particular Pharaoh as we will see in Exodus.

Grace of Joseph – Bothers get best of Land / Based on What He did – not We did

Notice the grace of Joseph again, he gives the brothers who had sold him into slavery the best of the land. Joseph a picture of Jesus Christ, and He gives us the best. His best is not based on what we have done, but on who He is.

(Genesis 47:12 NKJV) Then Joseph provided his father, his brothers, and all his father's household with bread, according to the number in their families.

(Genesis 47:13 NKJV) Now there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine.

3rd Year of Famine / No Grain / Land Wiped Out

Now throughout the land of Egypt, we are into the third year of the famine, there was no bread, no grain for bread, the famine was very severe so that all of the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished because of the famine. The land was wiped out.

(Genesis 47:14 NKJV) And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, for the grain which they bought; and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

People Clearing out Savings – Selling Possessions

Verse 14 - The people are clearing out their savings.

Verse 15-17, The people are clearing out their possessions:

(Genesis 47:15 NKJV) So when the money failed in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence? For the money has failed."

(Genesis 47:16 NKJV) Then Joseph said, "Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone."

(Genesis 47:17 NKJV) So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the cattle of the herds, and for the donkeys. Thus he fed them with bread in exchange for all their livestock that year.

Without Money Worry - With Money Worry / Possessions can Posses You

Money and possessions; interesting how those without money worry about how they are going to get money, but the people with money worry about how they are going to hold on to it. And it is true that possessions can end up possessing you.

World spends 50% - USA 15% / 85% for Stuff / Stuff can Posses You / Blessings - Curse

Do you know that the average person in the world spends 50% of their income for food, but the average American only spends 15%. That means the average American has 85% of their income left for "stuff". Be careful about letting your possessions possess you, ie, I need that bigger house, the nicer car, more nick-knacks the home, more stuff for your body. They can be a blessing, they can also be a curse.

Do they Possess You – Or You Them / Sure Way to Tell

Do your possessions posses you, or do you posses them, I'll tell ya a sure way to tell:

(Malachi 3:8 NKJV) "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

(Malachi 3:9 NKJV) You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

(Malachi 3:10 NKJV) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

(Mark 12:42 NKJV) Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.

(Mark 12:43 NKJV) So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;

(Mark 12:44 NKJV) "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

Examine Self – How much Trust Lord / Can't Afford / Leave Word – Leave Protection

You can examine yourself of how much you trust the Lord, with money. Do I trust you enough to let go of this and know that you will provide. People say to me, I can not afford to tithe, my answer is always the same, you can't afford not to. Remember, when you leave God's Word, then you leave His protection and provision in that area, whatever it is, whether it is telling a lie, sex, or tithing, once you leave the protection, you lose the protection. God will take care of you, He didn't die for your money, He died for you, and now He wants to conform you into His image and He can only do that by you letting go and trusting Him in all areas of your life:

*(2 Corinthians 12:14 NKJV) Now for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be burdensome to you; **for I do not seek yours, but you.** For the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.*

(2 Corinthians 12:15 NKJV) And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.

My Case it Evened Out – Separate Yourself / God Could Adjust your Salary

Interestingly in my case, I was a new believer, I was still hitting the bars with my softball buddies, but God was working my heart. At the same time that God worked my heart in the area of tithing, so too was He working it in the other area. The Lord spoke clearly to me, I want you to separate from drinking, I do not want you to stumble others. I started to tithe at the same time, amazingly, and don't you already know it, my bar tab was equal to my tithing, I never even saw a blimp in my finances, and I haven't lost my car since. Some may say well I make a lot of money, and that is a lot to give, I just can't give that much - well just think if God lowered your income so as to make what you gave, a tithe. You can't out-give God, He will never be a debtor to man.

Money Talk

No one likes to talk about money, but it is a critical spiritual point in every believer's life. It is up to you, you can have all of God you want, but not one bit more.

When Gone – All Have is God / Joseph takes care of Them / Just & Unjust

When all your savings and possessions are gone, all you have left, is the Lord. As we see here in this story, a picture for us, all their stuff didn't matter for if it wasn't for Joseph there would not have been anything to buy with their stuff. That is the way it is for us too, if it wasn't for the Lord truly taking care of us, there wouldn't be anything for us to buy with our stuff. That goes for the saved and the unsaved:

(Matthew 5:44 NKJV) "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

*(Matthew 5:45 NKJV) "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; **for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.***

(Genesis 47:18 NKJV) When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands.

(Genesis 47:19 NKJV) "Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate."

(Genesis 47:20 NKJV) Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them. So the land became Pharaoh's.

(Genesis 47:21 NKJV) And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from one end of the borders of Egypt to the other end.

Joseph Criticized / Joseph Agent of Pharaoh

This is something for which Joseph has been criticized. People say he took advantage of poverty and he bought up the land. In other words, he closed in on the mortgages and bought the land. I feel that this is an unfair criticism of Joseph. To begin with, he is the agent of Pharaoh. None of this is for himself; he is making no effort to enrich himself. He was not crooked in any sense of the word. He did not gain personally because of the famine.

He turned No One Away – Preserved All / Picture of Jesus

Notice also, Joseph turned no one away, he played no favorites, he didn't take the opportunity to wipe certain groups or factions that caused trouble, rather he received all, and preserved all. Again a picture of Jesus Christ who never turns anyone away:

(Matthew 5:42 NKJV) "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away."

(John 6:37 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

(John 6:38 NKJV) "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."

(Genesis 47:22 NKJV) Only the land of the priests he did not buy; for the priests had rations allotted to them by Pharaoh, and they ate their rations which Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their lands.

Pagan Priesthood – Did Own Thing

The pagan priesthood is left alone, to do their own thing.

Zechariah 14 / Famine in Land / Principle in Spiritual Life / Come Worship

(Zechariah 14:16 NKJV) And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

(Zechariah 14:17 NKJV) And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

(Zechariah 14:18 NKJV) If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Speaking of millennium, those nations that do not come to celebrate and worship the Lord, there will be drought and famine in their land. Principle that is true throughout spiritual life; we don't have to go celebrate communion, sing songs with the congregation, study the word with my brethren, we don't have to, but if we don't there will be famine and drought in our lives. The Lord says, come, come to Jerusalem and worship with me.

Ephesians 1 / Lord Gathering All things to Himself

(Ephesians 1:9 NKJV) having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself,

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

(Ephesians 1:11 NKJV) In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

That is what it is all about; the Lord is gathering everything to Himself, all things, that is what life is all about, God is gathering all things (on earth and in heaven) to Himself. We see it here in this story;

Joseph is gathering all things to the throne. In our life, our own money, possession, land, and ourselves are all being gathered together to Him, around Him, and for Him.

To Whatever Degree I Bring – the Degree I am in the Flow

Listen, to whatever degree you are bringing all those things, money, possession, land, and persons to the throne of the Father, will be the degree that I am in the flow of where God is taking all things. All things are coming together for Him, and the degree that I point all things to Him, will be the degree that I am in the flow of what He is doing.

If Tired & Weary – Maybe going against the Flow / Things in Light of Authority – it Flows

If you find yourself tired and weary in life, it may just be because you are going against the flow of what God is doing. It is all about Jesus, not about me. But when all things in your life are put in the light and authority of the One who is on the throne, you will find that life is just flowing along. Friendships, family, activities, hobbies, all those things must be brought into the Light and Authority of what the Lord is doing. Bondage, no way, freedom, for whatever Jesus is doing, is what I want to be doing.

(Genesis 47:23 NKJV) Then Joseph said to the people, "Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh. Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.

Give All – Joseph Provides

They give all up, and Joseph provides for them.

(Genesis 47:24 NKJV) "And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh. Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households and as food for your little ones."

(Genesis 47:25 NKJV) So they said, "You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants."

(Genesis 47:26 NKJV) And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt to this day, that Pharaoh should have one-fifth, except for the land of the priests only, which did not become Pharaoh's.

No One Complains – Found Favor / How Much Grace – How Less Complain

No one complains, no one says not fair, rather they say "we have found favor". Truly, when we see how much grace the Lord shows us, the less and less we complain about what we have and don't have, for we realize we are blessed to have anything, thank you Lord for these blessings you have given.

20% / 40% - June 3rd

Well 20% you may doesn't sound that good. How I would love to be at 20%, considering personal income tax, property tax, sales tax, we must be close to 40% with all those things combined. The average taxpayer will work until June 3rd this year to pay all their taxes.

(Genesis 47:27 NKJV) So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly.

(Genesis 47:28 NKJV) And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the length of Jacob's life was one hundred and forty-seven years.

(Genesis 47:29 NKJV) When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt,

(Genesis 47:30 NKJV) "but let me lie with my fathers; you shall carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burial place." And he said, "I will do as you have said."

(Genesis 47:31 NKJV) Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.

Serious Vow – Face to Face

Sitting on someone's hand was the most serious kind of vow. So serious that the person would sit on the others hand so they could not move away, so they would listen intently, face to face what the other person was saying to them.

Jacob a Sojourner / Believed God's Promise

Jacob knew he was just a sojourner there in Egypt, he believed the promises of God in giving him the land of Canaan and making him a great nation:

(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

Jacob Matures – So do We

This is probably Jacob's best chapter in the Bible. We see Him mature and leading as God desired of him. He boldly goes into Pharaoh's court and blesses the most powerful man on the planet. Here we see Him claiming the promises of God, seeking after one thing and one thing only. Take me home. Jacob could have said hey Joseph you are number 2 in the land, build me a monument and bury me in there. No rather he says take me home, I'll wait for His return there.

God is doing the Same for Us

Beloved God is doing the same for us. Maybe you, like me, wonder how we can still be doing stupid stuff, how come we are not further along in our walk, don't beat yourself up, just keep abiding, and He will continue His work in us and bring us into maturity. Beloved, your best chapter is yet to come:

(John 15:9 NKJV) "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Summary: Jacob's story is one of transformation. The deceiver became Israel, the prince with God. The schemer became the blessing. His final years in Egypt were marked by faith, maturity, and anticipation of God's promises. Your best chapter is yet to come. God is still working, still refining, still conforming you to the image of His Son. Be confident of this: He who began a good work in you will complete it (Philippians 1:6). So go into the world as Jacob went into Pharaoh's court. Speak blessing over the powerful and the powerless alike. Place God's name upon everyone you meet. And watch as He transforms both them and you in the process. You are a stranger and pilgrim here—but you carry the authority of heaven. Use it to bless.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

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(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Passage: Genesis 48

Title: The Blessings That Flow When We Choose to Bless Others

Summary: There's something profoundly beautiful about visiting someone who is sick or struggling. You arrive thinking you're the one bringing comfort, only to discover that you're the one who leaves transformed. This divine paradox appears throughout Scripture, and nowhere is it more evident than in the story of Jacob's final days in Genesis 48.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap

The children of Israel are settled into the land there in Egypt, specifically in the land of Goshen. There is less than five years left in the famine; Joseph is still second in command of all the land, and we pick the story up here:

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

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(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."
(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

(Genesis 48:1 NKJV) Now it came to pass after these things that Joseph was told, "Indeed your father is sick"; and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
(Genesis 48:2 NKJV) And Jacob was told, "Look, your son Joseph is coming to you"; and Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

Jacob Deathbed / Heard Strengthened

Jacob on his deathbed, he is approximately 147 years old, and word is sent to Joseph, your father is sick. Joseph immediately grabs the boys (Joseph about 56 and his sons are in their 20's) and heads to see dad, and when Jacob heard they were coming it says Israel strengthened himself and sat up on the bed.

That's what a Visit Does

You know that is what a visit does to someone who is hurting, someone who is ill, they are strengthened. Beloved when the opportunity arises, take it to go visit someone who is sick, hospitalized, they will be blessed, they will be strengthened.

Matthew 25

Let me remind you what the Lord says about this:

(Matthew 25:34 NKJV) "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
(Matthew 25:35 NKJV) 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;
(Matthew 25:36 NKJV) 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'
(Matthew 25:37 NKJV) "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?
(Matthew 25:38 NKJV) 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?
(Matthew 25:39 NKJV) 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'
(Matthew 25:40 NKJV) "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Visiting Jesus – Jesus Visiting / Jacob Hears – Israel Strengthened

Yes the word says it is as we are visiting Jesus Himself, but for the person you are visiting, in a special way, it is as if the Lord Himself is visiting that person. It is a special time where we get to be just like Jesus. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ, and he visits Jacob when he is sick, and Jacob is strengthened. Notice there in verse two, when Jacob hears, Israel is strengthened. Israel the name given to Jacob after he wrestles with God (Genesis 32) and is broken, when God says you will no longer be Jacob that sneaky self-serving conniver, but you shall now be called Israel, which means governed by God.

Genesis 32:27–28 (NKJV)

²⁷ So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob." ²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Ask the Sick Person / I need a Special Touch / Bring Bible – Word from the Lord

Ask any person who has been there, day after day, hour by hour, laying in that bed sick, a person can grow faint on heart, they can cry out oh God I need a special touch from you, I feel so broken, alone. And then you walk in, a breath from heaven to them, an answer to that plead to God for that special touch. You come in and bring compassion, someone who cares. You bring your Bible and you say I have a word for you from the Lord, the God who loves you and cares for you; immediately that person is strengthened, they return to that place of being governed by God, and thankful for it, that they are not alone but the God who hears, has heard the cry of their heart.

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Isaiah 43:1 NKJV) But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I

have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

(Isaiah 43:2 NKJV) When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.

(Isaiah 43:3 NKJV) For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.

(Isaiah 44:1 NKJV) "Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen.

(Isaiah 44:2 NKJV) Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

(Isaiah 44:3 NKJV) For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;

Take the Opportunity – Go Strengthen

Beloved, take those opportunities, go out of your way any time you can to see that person who is sick. Whether in the hospital, their home long-term, the Assisted Living, go and strengthen and bless them.

Don't know what to say to them you may say? Just go and read them the Word, and it will not return void.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Watch what happens for Joseph

Hey, watch what happens to Joseph and sons for going, they are blessed, and so too will you.

(Genesis 48:3 NKJV) Then Jacob said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me,

(Genesis 48:4 NKJV) "and said to me, 'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.'

Perfect Peace @ Deathbed

Jacob is in perfect peace, and his deathbed, and we know that he knows whose hands he is in. He knows who is faithful to him. He knows the promises of God are yes and amen to his life. And those very words will be recorded by the apostle Paul, nearly 4000 years later, that all the promises of God are yes, and amen. And that is so true to you as well. And here is Jacob knowing and having peace at the end of his life, and how do we know that ultimately is on his deathbed, he is prophesying. of the continuation of the God that called him is the God that will be faithful to continually to call and to bless and to lead the children of Israel as he prophesies over Joseph and his sons.

Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV)

³ You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through US.

Jacob's Maturity / God's Presence – Goodness – Promise / Maturity does That

Jacob showing his maturity, proclaiming the presence of God in his life (*God Almighty appeared to me at Luz*), the goodness of God (*and blessed me*), and the promises of God (*'Behold, I will make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will make of you a multitude of people, and give this land to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession*). Spiritual maturity in our lives will bring us into that same place, that we constantly and keenly aware of His presence in our lives, that every day we know that He walks with us every step that we take whether big stuff or little stuff. That He is with me at Rita's having an ice cream, and He is with me there at the hospital. And that we would daily see the goodness of God, His blessings upon our lives. Thank you for your daily provisions in my life, for my wife, for my family, for my brethren, for this country, Lord you are so good to me. And we rejoice in the promises He gives, inspite of the circumstances around us, Lord you have saved me from the wrath to come.

Just Think if Jacob had Quit

Just imagine if Jacob would have quit 22 years ago, in this case, it's 39 years later, just think if quit when his family was divided, he thinks that his son has been torn to piece by beast. And just think, if he'd have quit, saying, what's the use, where's God? How could he allow such a thing? And if you want to get to it as well, just think if Joseph would have quit, says, where's God? Why did he allow this slavery? I'm just gonna throw myself into this sin with this man's wife because God's not here. And yet here we see 2 men who continue on in the faith, even in the midst of the hardest times. But they don't quit so that they can complete God's story. And do you realize our story should be God's story? And too often we want to write our own story, how we think life should go and how it should end. Whereas a, God's story, is this is what God's done in my life. I yielded to him and I trusted in him. And my whole life was for one thing, that God might be glorified. And we're reading a story of glory. Because Jacob didn't quit because Joseph didn't quit. And I just say unto you, don't quit.

God Never Told Them What He was Doing

And just a reminder, for those 22 years, God never told Jacob that Joseph was alive. You know, God could have gave him a word of knowledge. To say. Hold fast, your son's alive. But God doesn't tell him. And there's times God doesn't tell us. In his sovereignty, what he's doing and why he's doing. It. And there's just this place of faith. that we have to trust him. Joseph did everything that was right. And suffered, and in the end, God did this greatness. And Jacob suffered. But here we see a man perfected. I think there was something in the life of Joseph. over these 22 years. is what made Jacob the man that we read here in these last 2 chapters of his life. And I don't know what the chapters of your life are right now. But I know there's a God who's faithful to you. Who's holding you? and is performing a great work in you. If only you'll be held. And let him do. What he desires to do. In you. And through you.

Long Road / Abide

Jacob took the Long Road to maturity; but one thing I noticed, although Jacob may have drifted off coarse a bit here and there, didn't always use the best discernment, one thing I notice is that Jacob never walked away from the Lord. Beloved, as long as we continue with the Lord, the Lord can continue His work in us. Should we leave, walk a different road, then there is nothing there for the Lord to work with. Continue abiding, and God will see us through, bring us into the best chapters of our lives.

(John 15:4 NKJV) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

(John 15:5 NKJV) "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Proof-Text the Land is Israel's

Once again, we have our proof text that surpasses politics, and cultural bias, and racism, and that God is promising the land to Jacob, whose name is Israel, and The 12 sons.

(Genesis 48:5 NKJV) "And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine.

(Genesis 48:6 NKJV) "Your offspring whom you beget after them shall be yours; they will be called by the name of their brothers in their inheritance.

(Genesis 48:7 NKJV) "But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

(Genesis 48:8 NKJV) Then Israel saw Joseph's sons, and said, "Who are these?"

(Genesis 48:9 NKJV) And Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons, whom God has given me in this place." And he said, "Please bring them to me, and I will bless them."

They go to Bless – But are Blessed / Do Missions

Joseph and sons show up to bless Jacob, but they are the ones that will be blessed. How often we go somewhere and think we will be bestowing blessings to upon others, but we end up being the one who

receives the blessings tenfold. Missions is like that, you think you are going to go bless the lost or unfortunate and return home being the one who was greatly blessed. That's just God's economy on how He does things. You can't out give God.

Measured Out- Measured Given Back

That is why Jesus is so into us ministering, because when we do, it is an avenue where the blessings can flow to us. To measure you use, is the measure that will be given back to you:

(Mark 4:20 NKJV) "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

(Mark 4:21 NKJV) Also He said to them, "Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand?"

(Mark 4:22 NKJV) "For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light."

(Mark 4:23 NKJV) "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."

(Mark 4:24 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given."

(Mark 4:25 NKJV) "For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

Out –Back / Pray for Emotional – Your Lifted / Explain Truths – See Truths

It is in giving out that you get back. It is praying for those who are doing poorly emotionally that you find your emotions lifted high, into the heavenly places as you intercede and God lifts you up to the throne. It is explaining truths to others that you get to see God's truths in ways you had never seen before.

Son's Adopted / Jacob Recognizing Joseph as First Born

In verse 5 - And now your two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine - Jacob adopts Joseph's two sons, and gives them equal status with the rest of the sons. They will become tribes of Israel. The first-born was to receive a double portion of the inheritance over the rest of the sons. Jacob is saying Joseph I recognize you as the first born, for your mother Rachael was my first love, should have been my first wife (maybe his only wife? - had Uncle Laban not deceived him), and you would have been my firstborn Joseph. So Jacob is recognizing Joseph as firstborn, and he is giving the double portion through the two sons.

Joseph Receives Double Blessing

So for Joseph's family it is a double blessing. Rather than just Joseph being a tribe, now his family will have 2 tribes, double blessing

12 tribes – 14 Tribes

Note on the 12 tribes. There are 12 sons of Jacob including Joseph. Add Joseph's 2 sons and you have 14. But when the children of Israel come into the Promised Land after the Exodus, Joseph will not be counted, but his 2 sons will (Ephraim and Manasseh). Levi will not be given the land, for they will be the Levitical priesthood and they will not be given a portion of the land for the Lord will be their inheritance/possession. Just keep that in mind as you read through the Scriptures.

(Genesis 48:10 NKJV) Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, so that he could not see. Then Joseph brought them near him, and he kissed them and embraced them.

Blind Isaac – Blind Jacob / Sons enjoy Blessing – No Fear / Don't Force a Blessings

Amazingly, many years prior Jacob has to trick and steal the blessing from his blind father, and here he is nearly blind willingly giving the blessing. Surely he must have reflected on this and took peace in how far God has brought him from Jacob, to Israel, one governed by God. These two boys won't have to go on the run, they won't have to live in fear of their brothers, they can enjoy the blessing because the blessing was freely given to them, not like Jacob. Example for us in all our dealings, receive the blessings given freely by the Lord and enjoy them fully, don't try to force a blessing into your life, try to force God to work to your plan, rather than His plan. Life just flows when we say, Lord, let your will be done, I refer you to last weeks study, life just flows when you are in God's flow:

(Genesis 48:11 NKJV) And Israel said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face; but in fact, God has also shown me your offspring!"

(Genesis 48:12 NKJV) So Joseph brought them from beside his knees, and he bowed down with his face to the earth.

(Genesis 48:13 NKJV) And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him.

(Genesis 48:14 NKJV) Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.

Right Hand – Crosses Hand

When giving a blessing the right hand was to go on the older, but Jacob switches his hands, crosses them, putting his right on the younger son, Ephraim.

(Genesis 48:15 NKJV) And he blessed Joseph, and said: "God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, The God who has fed me all my life long to this day,

(Genesis 48:16 NKJV) The Angel who has redeemed me from all evil, Bless the lads; Let my name be named upon them, And the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; And let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."

Jehovah Ra / Genesis 28

Verse 15 - The God who has fed me all my life long to this day.- The God who fed me, in the Hebrew is "Jehovah Ra", the God who shepherded me all my life long. Takes me back to when Jacob begins his journey with the Lord after the Lord broke him in that wrestling match.

(Genesis 28:20 NKJV) Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

(Genesis 28:21 NKJV) "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God.

(Genesis 28:22 NKJV) "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You."

(Genesis 29:1 NKJV) So Jacob went on his journey and came to the land of the people of the East.

Your Translation / Shepherd – Wandering Sheep

Maybe your translation says, the God who has fed me all my life long to this day; but in the original language it is much deeper and richer than just being fed. The phrase Jacob uses is Jehovah Ra, the Lord shepherded him. The Lord prepared a place for Jacob, He gave him rest in the green pastures, besides the still water. He anointed his head with oil, the Lord shepherded Jacob all the days of his life. A shepherd does more than feed the sheep, he guides them, protects them, if a sheep was wayward, constantly wandering away from the flock, the shepherd would break his leg so the sheep was helpless, then carry that sheep around his neck until it was healed, but something wonderful would happen along the way, all that time next to the Shepherds body would cause the sheep to become connected to the Shepherd. From that point on the sheep would always walk right by the side of the Shepherd. That is what God has done to and for Jacob, and that is what God will do to and for us if need be, because He loves us that much:

(Psalms 23:1 NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

(Psalms 23:2 NKJV) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.

(Psalms 23:3 NKJV) He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.

(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

(Psalms 23:5 NKJV) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.

(Psalms 23:6 NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Capital A / Redeemer

Notice the capital "A" on the word Angel there in verse 16, the reason it is capitalized is because it is referring to Jesus Christ. The word for "redeemed" is "ga'al", which is the first mention of the ga'al, the redeemer in the Scripture. Jesus would become our "ga'al", our kinsman (next of kin) redeemer. Redeemer means to purchase back, pay the ransom for, Jesus is our Redeemer. This is an important principle in the Scriptures and we will be talking about it in depth in Leviticus, Ruth, and of course in the New Testament.

Isaiah 44:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who makes all *things*, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;

Compound Name of God

Shepherd

Jehovah Ra - (Psalm 23:1) - The Lord God our Shepherd

Banner

Jehovah Nissi - (Exodus 17:15 - The Lord God our Banner

Healer

Jehovah Raphah - (Exodus 15:26) - The Lord God our Healer

Provider

Jehovah Jireh - (Genesis 22:14) - The Lord God our Provider / The Lord that Sees

Peace

Jehovah Shalom - (Judges 6:24) - The Lord God our Peace

Presence

Jehovah Shammah - (Ezekiel 48:35) - The Lord God our Ever Present One

Protector

Jehovah-Sabbaoth - (1 Samuel 1:3) - The Lord of Hosts/Army/Power

Righteousness

Jehovah Tsidqenuw - (Jeremiah 23:6) - The Lord God our Righteousness

Sanctifier

Jehovah Maccaddeshcem - (Leviticus 20:8) - The Lord thy Sanctifier

(Genesis 48:17 NKJV) Now when Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took hold of his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

(Genesis 48:18 NKJV) And Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

Joseph tries to Fix

Joseph thinks dad can't see well, so he tries to fix Jacob's hand, but dad says I know what I am doing.

(Genesis 48:19 NKJV) But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great; but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations."

(Genesis 48:20 NKJV) So he blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh!' " And thus he set Ephraim before Manasseh.

Spirit Revealed Younger will be Greater / Northern Tribe

Jacob is saying the Spirit of God has revealed to me that the younger shall be greater than the older. That is exactly what happens too. Ephraim become a greater tribe than Manasseh did. Numerically and historically, we will see in the Bible Ephraim playing key roles throughout our studies in Kings and Chronicles. When the kingdom splits, often Ephraim will be the name used often to refer to the ten Northern tribes.

Not First / Cain- Abel / Jacob-Esau / Moses-Aaron / David - Brothers

This isn't the first we will see this in the Bible either. Culturally the eldest son was thought to be the one who would be the greatest, and do the greatest, but that isn't always the way we see it in the Scriptures. Able obviously was greater than his older brother Cain who killed him. Isaac more blessed than his older brother Ishmael. Jacob more blessed than his older brother Esau. Moses more blessed than his oldest brother Aaron, and David was the youngest of his family.

Why Does God Do That? / Avoid the Cultural Flow - Stay in God's Flow

We will see often the Lord using the younger more greatly than the older, even though culturally the older is suppose to be the one destined for greatest over all the others in the family. Why does God do that? God does that so that we never get caught up in the flow of what is going on in our cultural, but that we stay focused on the flow that God is doing. We know God's flow, because His Word points the way for us.

The Emerging/Seeker Church

Let me give you something to keep an eye out for, it is in its early stages, but I believe is going to grow into the new hype, it is called the "Emerging/Seeker Church". The Emerging/Seeker Church is based on what is relevant in today's cultural, what people are into, and then they frame the church around it. Not let the church through the Word conform the person, rather let the cultural conform the church. They are saying do an analysis on what the people want in a church, and then make your church that. It sounds good at the surface, but the fact is, because the word says, that in the last days people will have itching ears, they will not be able to endure sound doctrine, so these churches most likely are going to preach a water downed, don't offend anyone, everyone is accepted gospel. More to come on this as we keep an eye as it develops.

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

As For You / John Baptist / Apostles

As for you here right now, apart from the Emerging/Seeker Church, what blessing do we see in God breaking the cultural sacred cows, we can be excited about God using us. God breaks the cultural mentality that only the gifted and talented will be used by God.

- God has shown us that He will use the weak to confound the wise.
- Look at little shepherd boy David slaying the giant and becoming a king.
- Who would you have picked to prepare the way of the Messiah, a great public official, the leading man in the synagogue, the greatest actor in Hollywood, the chart topping musician? No God picks a man (John the Baptist) who ate locust and wore a camel hair suit.
- The Apostles, there are 12 for you, fisherman, whoever believes fisherman.
- A tax collector, who trusts a tax collector.

Don't ever exempt yourself being used by the Lord because the world may say you don't fit the cultural mold. It seems the ones that do fit the mold today are just that. Christian go for it, expect great things from God, attempt great things for God.

(Genesis 48:21 NKJV) Then Israel said to Joseph, "Behold, I am dying, but God will be with you and bring you back to the land of your fathers.

I am Dying

Says, must die, and that is a truth, a fact, for every last person, we must die. We will die, barring the event of the rapture, we must die, and even in the event of the rapture, there is a death that comes before that, and that is, that we die to ourselves, stating and knowing and declaring that we cannot cleanse ourselves from our unrighteousness. And then we need a god who will come down and trade places with us and take our sin and our shame so that we can take places as sons and daughters to the Father God in heaven. And that is what we call the substitutionary attainment, where Jesus, the lamb of God, becomes the one who the punishment for sin comes upon, so that we may be. Atoned, which means at one meant with God.

Believers need not fear death

49:29 – Bury Me in the Land

I absolutely love this, that Jacob says, don't bury me in Egypt because you know what, it would have been nothing for them to build a monument for Joseph, a burial place in Memorial Monument for Jacob, the father of Joseph. They could have been immortalized before man on earth. But both of them will say, don't bury me here. Take me to the promised land, fence word, I want my identity to be, that I want to be known for the man of faith, who believed that God would fulfill his promise to Israel and make us a great nation in this very land on this very soil. And then ultimately, that I will have a home in heaven, who's built, not by hands of man, but by God himself. And if you wonder why Satan wants to wipe Israel off the map, because he wants this promise, he wants these pictures erased that we would go. There is no promise of God that is sure and true. But when we look at Israel today, and we see a nation in the land, and the Messiah came through, not just the build, a house in heaven, but for us to be, the body of Christ himself that God would dwell in. Of course, the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy that picture.

Genesis 49:29–33 (NKJV)

²⁹ Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. ³² The field and the cave that *is* there *were* purchased from the sons of Heth." ³³ And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

(Genesis 48:22 NKJV) "Moreover I have given to you one portion above your brothers, which I took from the hand of the Amorite with my sword and my bow."

No Details When this Happened

No details of when this took place, but Jacob drove the Amorites from a portion of the land by the use of the sword.

Portion – Shechem /

The word here for "portion", is "Shechem", and interestingly in Joshua 24:32; Joseph bones will be laid to rest after they leave Egypt in Shechem. Shechem today is the modern city named Nablus, which is in what is called the West Bank. You hear about the West Bank continually as that is where the Arabs live (they try to call it Palestine – but there really is no such thing), and the West Bank is where they want to make this so called two-state solution. But here again is a passage that the Land has always been given and covenanted with Israel.

(Joshua 24:32 NKJV) The bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel had brought up out of Egypt, they buried at Shechem, in the plot of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of silver, and which had become an inheritance of the children of Joseph.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

*(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;
(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;
(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."
(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."*

Passage: Genesis 49

Title: The Prophetic Blessings: Jacob's Final Words to His Sons

Summary: There's something profoundly moving about a father's final words to his children. When Jacob gathered his twelve sons around his deathbed in Egypt, he didn't simply say goodbye. He spoke prophetically over each one, revealing their character, their destiny, and the future of the nation that would spring from their lineage.

This moment, recorded in Genesis 49, is far more than an ancient family gathering. It's a window into God's sovereign plan—a plan that stretches from paradise lost to paradise restored, from the garden of Eden to the coming Messiah.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap

The children of Israel are settled into the land there in Egypt, specifically in the land of Goshen. Jacob is 147 years old, and he is ready to die so he gathers his boys together to pronounce his blessings upon them.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
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Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 49:1 NKJV) And Jacob called his sons and said, "Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days:

(Genesis 49:2 NKJV) "Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father.

Last Days / Prophetic Picture

Every time this phrase, "in the last days" is used in the Old Testament, it is referring to prophecy. So Jacob here is going to speak prophetically of what is going to come to pass in reference to these sons. We will also see it being a prophetic picture of the nation Israel also.

Future History of Sons / Future History of Nation

This is a key study for Bible prophecy. We will see an overview of the history of these sons. Many Jewish rabbi's believe these verses are also a prophetic picture of the history of the nation Israel. You can see some very clearly, others to be honest, are beyond my understanding at this time. But, maybe you will be inclined to skip through these verses, considering dry or non-applicable for your personal growth, I highly encourage you to study them through. By doing so, hopefully you will notice something totally amazing, and that is that God has never forgot His people, Israel. We read their history then, and we still read their history today. A people that survived 2000 years without a national homeland, are still making history today, and that can only be by the work of God. And as history was, so will it be, that in the last days as God fulfilled every prophetic picture of these people in these passages, so too will He fulfil them in the other passages, specifically Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Revelation.

No Chronological Order

So Jacob starts with Reuben, but he doesn't go in chronological order, or any order for that matter. So lets just do a recap on who was who. Leah was Jacobs's first wife and her handmaiden was Zilpah. Rachael was Jacobs second wife and her handmaiden was Bilhah. Jacob had relations with both handmaidens. Leah had 6 sons, their names are in the order they were birthed by their mother (parenthesis is the order in birthing of the 12): Rueben (1), Simeon (2), Levi (3), Judah (4), Issachar (9), and Zebulun (10). Leah's handmaiden Zilpah had 2 sons: Gad (7), and Asher (8). Rachael had 2 sons: Joseph (11), and Benjamin (12). Rachel's handmaiden Bilhah had 2 sons: Dan (5), and Naphtali (6). So, these are the 12 sons of Jacob (Israel).

Reuben

(Genesis 49:3 NKJV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

(Genesis 49:4 NKJV) Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it; He went up to my couch.

Unstable - Boiling

Unstable as water means "boiling water".

40 Years Earlier w/Bilhah / Potential there – but Unstable / Sowing & Reaping

Jacob is referring to what Reuben did 40 years earlier. Reuben sleeps with Rachel's handmaiden - Bilhah, one of Jacobs wife's (Genesis 35:22). 40 years later it comes back upon him, maybe he thought he got away with it, but 40 years later it comes back before him. Jacob is saying you were the first born, you were suppose to be a leader, but you failed to be all that you could have been because your lustful desires. The potential was there, the birthright should have fallen to him; but, his problem was instability. Sin has robbed you of all you could have been, the law of sowing and reaping. God says an unstable person will not prosper:

(Galatians 6:7 NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

(Galatians 6:8 NKJV) For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

(Galatians 6:9 NKJV) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

(James 1:7 NKJV) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

(James 1:8 NKJV) he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Sin Robs / Little Sins we Think no Big Deal / Trinkets

God forgives, but there are consequences for sin as we live in this fallen world. Sin will rob us from being all that we could be. Those little sins in our lives today that we think are no big deal, a look here, a thought there, a partaking here a little there a little, will rob us from being all that we could be. God has destined us for great things, don't trade that for trinkets and bobbles that glisten and sparkle, but have no value.

Never Did Excel / No Single Leader / First Overthrown by Assyrians

Incidentally the tribe of Reuben never did excel. There was not a single leader who came from the tribe of Reuben. It was a nothing tribe. They settled on the East banks of the Jordan River, where the land was rich for pasture, and didn't claim any inheritance within the land, and were the first to be overthrown by the Assyrians.

Simeon and Levi

(Genesis 49:5 NKJV) "Simeon and Levi are brothers; Instruments of cruelty are in their dwelling place.

(Genesis 49:6 NKJV) Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honor be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox.

(Genesis 49:7 NKJV) Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel.

Rape of Dinah / Plan in the Flesh – No Seek the Lord – Self-willed

It was Simeon and Levi who hatched the plan to kill the Shechemites after they had raped their sister Dinah (Gen 34:25). They didn't seek the Lord, they seek their father, they hatched a plan in the flesh. They were self-willed and it will cause them to be scattered.

Watch out for your Anger / Give no Place for the Devil

God gives us a word here about letting our anger control our actions. We do stupid things when we are angry, and we give place for the devil to work. Once anger is unleashed there is no getting it back, the effects will be felt, no matter how many times you may say you are sorry. There are things we are to be angry about, but never to the point of causing us to sin. Yes I should be angry if a child molester tries to enter my home, I should be angry about sin that is trying to destroy my family and country, but never to the point that it cause me to sin:

(Ephesians 4:26 NKJV) "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

(Ephesians 4:27 NKJV) nor give place to the devil.

Promise Land – Scattered / Simeon no Leader / Levi were Priests

When they came into the land there was no inheritance for the tribe of Levi, but they were given cities throughout the entire land, so Levi was scattered in the land. Simeon settled in the area, to the south of Judah, which today is the area of Beersheba. The tribe of Simeon never, again, produced leadership. The tribe of Levi produced Moses and Aaron and their descendants and God chose the Levites for the priesthood. This was certainly a demonstration of the grace of God. It wasn't because of the righteousness of the fathers, that this tribe was chosen for priesthood, but God's sovereign grace.

Israel History / Captivity 722BC Assyrians – 586BC Babylonians

In the nation of Israel 2 times would they be dispersed and scattered for being self-willed, not willing to seek after the things of the Lord. First the Assyrians 722BC and the Babylonians in 586BC. The made alliances, they made their own plan, being self-willed God dispersed them. Each time, and over and over again, we read of God warning them for their spiritual adultery.

But good news

Judah

(Genesis 49:8 NKJV) "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you.

(Genesis 49:9 NKJV) Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

(Genesis 49:10 NKJV) The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

(Genesis 49:11 NKJV) Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

(Genesis 49:12 NKJV) His eyes are darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

Judah means Praise / Brothers Praise for King David

The name Judah means, "praise". This is a beautiful prophecy concerning Judah. This is the tribe that the brothers will praise. This did not happen for several hundred years, until David ascended the throne; then Judah became a dominant tribe and remained dominant, especially in the southern kingdom.

History of Israel / Judah Praises for Messiah Comes

After being a disappointed people, and a dispersed people, now they can be a delivered people, this prophecy is speaking none other than of Jesus Christ the coming Messiah. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah.

(Revelation 5:5 NKJV) But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

Neck of Enemies / Lion of Judah / Shiloh – Prince of Peace

Verse 8 - Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies – Jesus is seen as a leader who will lead victory over the enemy

Verse 9 - Judah is a lion's whelp – Jesus is seen as the Lion of Judah. Jesus "roars" in victory over the enemy of sin, death, the flesh, the world, and the devil!

Verse 10 - Until Shiloh comes – Jesus is seen as the Lord. Shiloh is a name for Jesus and the root of Shiloh is "Shalom" which means peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Shiloh is another name for the Messiah.

*(Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.*

(Isaiah 9:7 NKJV) Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The Scepter - Track the Lineage / 70AD Titus – No idea who Messiah will Be

Verse 10 - The scepter shall not depart from Judah....until Shiloh comes - The "scepter – the "tribal staff" means the identity of the 12 tribes of Israel. The Jewish people took great pains to track the lineage of where every person came from. They did so because they knew that the Messiah had to come through the lineage of Judah which eventually became the lineage of David. This passage says the Messiah will come before they lose the ability to track the lineage of which tribe the person comes from. In 70AD after the Titus Roman destruction of Jerusalem, the people were dispersed for 2000 years, and ask a Jewish person today, and they cannot tell you which tribe they are from. Jesus came in 1BC, before the Scepter departed. If someone came today and said they are the Messiah, the Jewish people would have no proof of his lineage.

Lawgiver / Capital Punishment / Ask Pilate for Permission

Verse 10 - Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes - But the scepter also it speaks of a lawgiver. This speaks of the ability for the Jewish people to perform Capital Punishment upon anybody who breaks the Law of Moses, the 10 commandments. Remember when the Jews wanted to kill Jesus they had to get approval from Pilate to do so:

(John 18:31 NKJV) Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death,"

30AD / 40 yrs Before Destruction of Temple / They didn't Study their Scriptures

The Jewish writings (the Talmud) says that it was 40 years before the Destruction of the temple that the Roman Empire ceased allowing them to carry out capital punishment upon a person 70AD minus 40 equal 30AD. Jesus came in 1BC/AD. He came 30 years before they lost this right.

According to Roman historian Josephus, writes and confirms that Rome took away the right to capital punishment.

Various "traditions" say, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh come" was the phrase that caused the rabbis to run through the streets of Jerusalem screaming in anguish in the year A.D. 12. You see, it was in that year that the Romans—who were occupying the land of Israel—withdrawed the ability of the Sanhedrin to mete out capital punishment. Having taught that the mark of a nation's sovereignty resided in its ability to execute capital punishment, when this power was taken from them, the Jews thought the scepter had indeed departed from Judah—that God had broken His promise to them. After all, Shiloh, Messiah, had not yet come. Oh, but He had. For right in their midst sat Shiloh, Messiah, Jesus as a twelve-year-old boy, astounding the teachers and rabbis with His wisdom (Luke 2:46).

*Luke 2:41–50 (NKJV)*⁴¹ His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. ⁴³ When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; ⁴⁴ but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among *their* relatives and acquaintances. ⁴⁵ So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. ⁴⁶ Now so it was *that* after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸ So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." ⁴⁹ And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them.

If Jesus is not the promised Messiah of Israel, there is none. There is to be none, because here God's word plainly declares that the scepter will not depart from Judah nor a lawgiver from between his feet until the Messiah, the Shiloh, the peace has come. They didn't study their own Scriptures which they were so diligent to preserve

Picture of Vineyard owner

Verse 11 - Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, - Verse 11-12 is a picture of being a landowner, and we know Jesus purchased the world with His own blood. He is our ga'al, our kinsman redeemer, and He rode into Jerusalem lowly and riding on a donkey.

(Matthew 21:33 NKJV) "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country.

*Matthew 13:44 (NKJV)*⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

(John 12:14 NKJV) Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

(John 12:15 NKJV) "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."

Verse 11 - He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. — Jesus washed His robe in wine:

(Isaiah 63:1 NKJV) Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?; "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save."

(Isaiah 63:2 NKJV) Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?

(Isaiah 63:3 NKJV) "I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

Beautiful Prophecy of Jesus

Jacob's prophecy of Judah is a beautiful prophecy about Jesus. We could study this even deeper and you will see deeper and deeper meanings behind every word as they relate to Jesus.

Zebulun

(Genesis 49:13 NKJV) "Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He shall become a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon.

Not a Sea Port – Benefit from Trade Route

Zebulun settled in the northern part of the land which today is called the Galilee region. Although Zebulun's territory did not border the Mediterranean or the Sea of Galilee, the tribe was situated to benefit from the important trade route, the Via Maris, travelled by sea traders moving through out the territory.

Issachar

(Genesis 49:14 NKJV) "Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens;

(Genesis 49:15 NKJV) He saw that rest was good, And that the land was pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear a burden, And became a band of slaves.

Valley Meggido – Rich & Fertile - Breadbasket

He is going to be a lazy fellow. Issachar inherited the area that is known as the valley of Megiddo. That is, probably, some of the most fertile area in the land and they didn't have to do much work. Throw out your seed and it just grew. He became prosperous and lazy. That area is called the breadbasket of Israel and produces, even to the present day, an abundance of beautiful crops. It is in the area of Mt. Gilboa.

Wealthy People / Knew the Times

They became a wealthy people (1 Chronicles 7:1-5, 12:32). But what I love about them, and apply to myself and us, is that they knew the times they lived (12:32), and how they ought to live. The reference is when the divided kingdom (Saul and David), became a kingdom under one king (David), the sons of Issachar knew the times before them and rallied around David to unite the kingdom. And so too the application for us today who know the times we live in, the last days, the King of Kings is coming, and we need to rally people to Jesus, around Jesus, as we watch biblical prophecy unfolding before our very eyes.

(1 Chronicles 7:1 NKJV) The sons of Issachar were Tola, Puah, Jashub, and Shimron; four in all.

(1 Chronicles 7:2 NKJV) The sons of Tola were Uzzi, Rephaiah, Jeriel, Jahmai, Jibsam, and Shemuel, heads of their father's house. The sons of Tola were mighty men of valor in their generations; their number in the days of David was twenty-two thousand six hundred.

(1 Chronicles 7:3 NKJV) The son of Uzzi was Izrahiah, and the sons of Izrahiah were Michael, Obadiah, Joel, and Ishiah. All five of them were chief men.

(1 Chronicles 7:4 NKJV) And with them, by their generations, according to their fathers' houses, were thirty-six thousand troops ready for war; for they had many wives and sons.

(1 Chronicles 7:5 NKJV) Now their brethren among all the families of Issachar were mighty men of valor, listed by their genealogies, eighty-seven thousand in all.

(1 Chronicles 12:32 NKJV) of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Dan

(Genesis 49:16 NKJV) "Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel.

(Genesis 49:17 NKJV) Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider shall fall backward.

Dan – to Judge / Samson a Judge

Dan means to judge, and during the period of the judges a judge arose from the tribe of Dan, his name was Samson (Judges 13).

Introduced Idolatry to Israel

Verse 17 - Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path - The tribe of Dan introduced idolatry to the children of Israel. In the later years, when there was a division of the kingdom, Jeroboam set up one of the golden calves in Dan (Judges 18 / 1 Kings 12:28-30 / 2 Kings 10:22):

(Judges 18:30 NKJV) Then the children of Dan set up for themselves the carved image; and Jonathan the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

Left out of 144,000

Dan would be left out of the listing of the tribes of Israel in Revelation when the 144,000 are named, probably because of their idol worship:

(Revelation 7:4 NKJV) And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed:

*(Revelation 7:5 NKJV) of the tribe of **Judah** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Reuben** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Gad** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:6 NKJV) of the tribe of **Asher** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Naphtali** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Manasseh** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:7 NKJV) of the tribe of **Simeon** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Levi** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Issachar** twelve thousand were sealed;*

*(Revelation 7:8 NKJV) of the tribe of **Zebulun** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Joseph** twelve thousand were sealed; of the tribe of **Benjamin** twelve thousand were sealed.*

But in the Kingdom age, be restored and given an inheritance of the land. Wow what a God of Grace and forgiveness.

Ezekiel 48:1–2 (NKJV)¹ "Now these *are* the names of the tribes: From the northern border along the road to Hethlon at the entrance of Hamath, to Hazar Enan, the border of Damascus northward, in the direction of Hamath, *there shall be one section for Dan* from its east to its west side; ² by the border of Dan, from the east side to the west, *one section for Asher*;

Jewish Rabbis say Anti-Messiah Come

Verse 17 - Dan shall be a serpent by the way - Some Jewish rabbi believe also that an anti-messiah will come upon the world scene, and they believe he will arise from the tribe of Dan (take that for what it is worth).

(Genesis 49:18 NKJV) I have waited for your salvation, O LORD!

Maybe After Thought / Salvation – Yeshua - Jesus

"I have waited for your salvation, O LORD," seems to be thrown in without any reference to Dan. It is sort of a little after thought. The word salvation in Hebrew, as used here, is "Yeshua." Literally, Jacob said, "I have waited for Yeshua or Jesus." Maybe Jacob is praying for the tribe of Dan, or grieving over all his sons as he sees some headed for destruction.

Jacob waited on the Lord..... and God fulfilled. Just think if he had quit. Christian, don't quit, don't listen to the lies of the serpent who says it is not worth it, just give up, just quit. Jacob is in glory, and the 147 years was but a scratch of the thousands of years of being in glory with the Lord in His presence.

Psalms 16:10–11 (NKJV)¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Gad

(Genesis 49:19 NKJV) "Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last.

Gad – A Troop / Mighty Warriors

The name Gad means "troop." A troop shall tramp upon him, meaning his land was most vulnerable to the invaders to the east. Gad became mighty and valiant warriors with many great victories (1 Chronicles 5:18-22, 12:8-15):

(1 Chronicles 5:18 NKJV) The sons of Reuben, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh had forty-four thousand seven hundred and sixty valiant men, men able to bear shield and sword, to shoot with the bow, and skillful in war, who went to war.

Beloved, stay in the fight..... and if you are not in the fight, get it.

2 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)³ You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.

Asher

(Genesis 49:20 NKJV) "Bread from Asher shall be rich, And he shall yield royal dainties.

Bakers – Rich Cookies

Asher's descendants will be bakers and provide the land with rich bread and cookies, they were situated in the area of Mount Carmel, and had easy access to the palace. (Joshua 19:24-31).

Naphtali

(Genesis 49:21 NKJV) "Naphtali is a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words.

Deer Like Agility – Military Prowess

Deer-like speed and agility marked Naphtali's military prowess (Judges 4:6, 5:18).

(Judges 4:6 NKJV) Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "Has not the LORD God of Israel commanded, 'Go and deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun;

(Judges 5:18 NKJV) Zebulun is a people who jeopardized their lives to the point of death, Naphtali also, on the heights of the battlefield.

Poets & Speechmakers

The tribe of Naphtali will be the poets and speech makers. The song of Deborah and Barak (as Barak who hailed from Naphtali) represent the eloquence of their words (Judges 4:6, Judges 5).

Joseph

(Genesis 49:22 NKJV) "Joseph is a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall.

NIV - (Genesis 49:22 NIV) "Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall.

Greatness from Ephraim/Manasseh

Great Leaders Ephraim:

- Joshua, Deborah, Samuel

Great Leaders Manasseh

- Gideon, Japheth

Hebrews 11:32 (NKJV)³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

These things of the great leaders did not come to pass for several hundred years, not until after 400 years of slavery, but in perfect accordance to the prophecy of God, they did! Christian, don't give up, don't quit, don't say what's the use; stay in the Word, and let the Word do what it is designed to do, as it will not return void.

Isaiah 55:10–11 (NKJV)¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Joseph picture Psalm 1

Verse 22 - A bough by a well - Even in a time of famine Joseph is fruitful, a source of refreshment, a well from which others can drink from. Joseph is a picture of Psalm 1.

(Psalms 1:1 NKJV) Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

(Psalms 1:2 NKJV) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

(Psalms 1:3 NKJV) He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

We Need Living Water

A picture for us, to be like a Joseph we need to be planted by the rivers of living water:

(John 4:10 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

(John 4:11 NKJV) The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

(John 4:12 NKJV) "Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

(John 4:13 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,

(John 4:14 NKJV) "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

(Genesis 49:23 NKJV) The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him.
(Genesis 49:24 NKJV) But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),

Satan Attacks

Know this that when you start to bear fruit the devil is going to attack you and shoot his fiery darts at you.\n[Ephesians 6:16 \(NKJV\)](#)¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Joseph was Hated

Verse 23 -The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot at him and hated him - Though he was prospered abundantly, though he had the great wealth of Egypt at his fingertips, he had gone through some really heavy trials. Life was not always easy for Joseph. The archers had sorely grieved him. He had experienced a lot of grief in having them plot together to kill him. The grief of being sold by his brothers as a slave. The grief of being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, of rape, and spending years in prison because of the false charges. There was a deep hatred in the brothers hearts concerning Joseph. It says that they hated him and when he told the dreams that he had, they hated him all the more. Hatred so great that they actually conspired to kill him, then opted later to just sell him as a slave. Jacob recognizes and acknowledges before the other sons of what they did.

Didn't Retaliate / Joseph Abided

Verse 24 - And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty God of Jacob - Many arrows had gone his way; but, his bough (vine) remained in strength. That is, he did not retaliate though it was in his power to do so. Joseph doesn't try to get even, his bough (vine) abides in strength. He could have destroyed those that sought to destroy him, but he didn't. The secret of that strength was the arms of his hands were made strong by Almighty God, because Joseph was attached to the vine:

[\(John 15:4 KJV\)](#) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

[\(John 15:5 KJV\)](#) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

God was Restraining Power

God was the one that was the restraining power in Joseph's life. He is a restraining power in our lives and is able to help us if we have that habit of just sort of flying off in a fit of temper. You can know the power of God. He will hold the arms of your hands so that you will not strike back.

God the Rock / Symbolizes Strength – Protection - Safety

Verse 24 - (From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel) - Then the stone and this is the first reference to God as the "rock" or God as a "stone." Through the Psalms, this symbolism for God is used over and over. The Lord is "my rock" or "my strong defence." Even in the Song of Moses, Deuteronomy thirty-two, "their rock is not as our rock" and many other references to God as a rock in the Song of Moses. The rock was a symbol of strength, the symbol of protection. "Hide me in the rock that is higher than I." The place of defence, the place of protection, the place of safety and that is what God becomes to us.

[\(Psalms 18:2 NIV\)](#) The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Jacob points to Joseph's Strength / Never too Late to Start Doing Right

Jacob is pointing to the brothers, all the things you want to accomplish in the flesh, you didn't and couldn't. All the things you wanted, Joseph got. Why, because you put your trust in yourselves, but Joseph in all his doings, sought and trusted after the Lord. If you want blessings in your life, Joseph shows the way how. Son's it is never too late to start doing things right.

(Genesis 49:25 NKJV) By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you With blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

(Genesis 49:26 NKJV) The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.

Many Blessings for Joseph / Ephraim – Manasseh Large Tribes

Many blessings were to come upon Joseph. Those blessings of heaven, the rain that shall come down; blessings of the water that lies beneath, referring to the well of water; and the blessings of the breasts and of the womb or the multiplying of the tribe. Ephraim and Manasseh became large tribes and Ephraim became a dominant tribe. The blessings pronounced to Joseph were applicable for his 2 sons based on our study in chapter 48.

Joseph gets more than Jacob

Jacob is saying all the blessings that were pronounced upon me, I am pronouncing more upon you.

Benjamin

(Genesis 49:27 NKJV) "Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil."

Tough Fellows / Fierce Fighters

The tribe of Benjamin produced the tough fellows. History tells how fierce the Benjamites were in battle.. There were a group of Benjamites who fought with David and they were skillful with the sling (left or right handed). They could split a hair at a hundred yards it was said. The warlike nature of the small tribe of Benjamin became well known, as exhibited in their archers and slingers (Judges 20:16, 1 Chronicles 8:40, 12:2, 2 Chronicles 14:8, 17:17, Judges 19&20):

(1 Chronicles 8:40 NIV) The sons of Ulam were brave warriors who could handle the bow. They had many sons and grandsons-- 150 in all. All these were the descendants of Benjamin.

(1 Chronicles 12:1 NIV) These were the men who came to David at Ziklag, while he was banished from the presence of Saul son of Kish (they were among the warriors who helped him in battle;

(1 Chronicles 12:2 NIV) they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed; they were kinsmen of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin):

(2 Chronicles 14:8 NIV) Asa had an army of three hundred thousand men from Judah, equipped with large shields and with spears, and two hundred and eighty thousand from Benjamin, armed with small shields and with bows. All these were brave fighting men.

Saul & Paul

The first king of Israel, Saul, came from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Samuel 9), and so did the Apostle Paul (Philippians 3:5)

(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

Good Examples / Worth Meditating Over Again

Good words and examples for our lives today. It would be worth going back and meditating over each of these 12 and allow the Lord to speak to our hearts about each thing that was spoken of these boys.

(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

(Genesis 49:32 NKJV) "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

I am Dying

Says, must die, and that is a truth, a fact, for every last person, we must die. We will die, barring the event of the rapture, we must die, and even in the event of the rapture, there is a death that comes before that, and that is, that we die to ourselves, stating and knowing and declaring that we cannot cleanse ourselves from our unrighteousness. And then we need a god who will come down and trade places with us and take our sin and our shame so that we can take places as sons and daughters to the Father God in heaven. And that is what we call the substitutionary attainment, where Jesus, the lamb of God, becomes the one who the punishment for sin comes upon, so that we may be. Atoned, which means at one meant with God.

Believers need not fear death

49:29 – Bury Me in the Land

I absolutely love this, that Jacob says, don't bury me in Egypt because you know what, it would have been nothing for them to build a monument for Joseph, a burial place in Memorial Monument for Jacob, the father of Joseph. They could have been immortalized before man on earth. But both of them will say, don't bury me here. Take me to the promised land, fence word, I want my identity to be, that I want to be known for the man of faith, who believed that God would fulfill his promise to Israel and make us a great nation in this very land on this very soil. And then ultimately, that I will have a home in heaven, who's built, not by hands of man, but by God himself. And if you wonder why Satan wants to wipe Israel off the map, because he wants this promise, he wants these pictures erased that we would go. There is no promise of God that is sure and true. But when we look at Israel today, and we see a nation in the land, and the Messiah came through, not just the build, a house in heaven, but for us to be, the body of Christ himself that God would dwell in. Of course, the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy that picture.

Genesis 49:29–33 (NKJV)

²⁹ Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that *is* in the field of Ephron the Hittite, ³⁰ in the cave that *is* in the field of Machpelah, which *is* before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place. ³¹ There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah. ³² The field and the cave that *is* there *were* purchased from the sons of Heth." ³³ And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."

Passage: Genesis 50

Title: From Paradise to Prison: The Story That Ends in a Coffin but Promises So Much More

Summary: The book of Genesis opens with the magnificent words, "Let there be light." It closes with a coffin in Egypt. From the glory of God's creation to the darkness of death—this is the trajectory of humanity's story after the fall. Yet within this descent lies an incredible thread of hope, woven through generations of imperfect people who clung to an unshakeable promise from God!

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Recap

We left off seeing Jacob the patriarch pronouncing blessings and prophecy upon his sons.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

God has a Unique Blessing for Each of Us Individually (49:28)

(Genesis 49:28 NKJV) All these are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing.

His Own Blessing

Just to point that out to you, each one of the 12 received their own blessing, and no two blessings were alike. I believe that is important for us to see, that God has a special blessing for each one of us, and they are different blessings. So the blessing I receive from the Lord will not be the same as yours. Though they may be alike, they are not the same. That is important to remember, for we are so apt to compare blessings; why is he blessed in that way, yet I am not, and we can become discouraged or envious. God gives different blessings, so we have something to give to one another. You see the children of Israel will need each other when they enter the Promised Land, when they endure 400 years of slavery, they will need each other. So too for us, we need each other, for we are strangers in the land, just sojourners passing through, and God gives us all our own blessing, and we in turn are to use those special blessings to bless one another.

Bury Me Next to Leah: Something Deeper in the End (49:29-32)

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

(Genesis 49:32 NKJV) "The field and the cave that is there were purchased from the sons of Heth."

Final Wish – Bury Me at Machpelah / No Monument in Egypt / Sojourner

Now after passing blessing upon them, he passes his final wish, to be buried back in the Land that God had promised him. Do you realize with his son being second in the land Jacob could have said build me a monument and bury me there before all the people of Egypt, but he doesn't, he said bury me back home. Jacob was not looking to make his mark on this world, but looking for the world to come:

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Remember the Story / Switcharoo / 14 Years Total

Verse 31 - and there I buried Leah - Leah was Jacob's first wife, but not by desire. You remember the story, Jacob sees Rachel and falls in love with her, ask for her hand in marriage and agrees to work 7 years for her, and the Bible says they only seemed like a few days to Jacob for he loved her so much. You know the story that on the wedding night Uncle Laban did the ole switcharoo, for the wedding custom the bride would be veiled during the wedding and then they would go back to the dark tent and consummate the marriage. In the morning Jacob awoke to a rude awakening (Leah means teary eyed - or make your eyes tear). Jacob would say what gives, how could you do such a thing, and Laban would say it is custom to marry the older before the younger. So Jacob would work 7 more years for Rachael, a total of 14.

2 Wives – 1 Didn't ask For / Bury me with Leah

So Jacob now finds himself with 2 wives, and one wife he didn't ask for. But it is interesting, that when Rachael died, Jacob buried her outside Bethlehem, not at Machpelah with Abraham and Sarah, and Isaac and Rebekah. But when Leah dies, he buries her there at Machpelah, and when Jacob is about to die, his last request is to be buried at Machpelah, where Leah is buried, not outside Bethlehem where Rachael is buried.

Felt Tricked Buy – Bury me Buy / From Leah came Judah – David - Jesus

How interesting that the woman he felt tricked by, is the one he wants to be buried by. You see from Leah came a child named Judah, and from Judah would come the great King David, and through the lineage of David will come the one who would fulfil the promise, the Messiah:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

If I Knew Like That / Feel Tricked – Trapped / Want Out / What Need to See Jesus

It is an interesting suggestion in this passage. When you hear the words, or are considering saying them yourself, if I know that he/she was going to be like that, or turn out like this, I would have never married them. I feel tricked, I feel trapped, I want out of here, remember this story. All too often people want to get out of the relationship that they feel trapped in, but if they will hang in there, trust that the Lord is working, they will see as time goes by, as the months turn into years, they will see that that person was exactly what they needed to see Jesus. That Jesus was brought into the relation, that you were forced to look to the Lord, to walk with the Lord, in ways that I wasn't or wouldn't have had I just had the person I thought I was getting. It could very well be that if those things didn't happen in your relationship, you never would have sought the Lord like you have to.

Don't Quit / Learn to be Like Jesus / Been through Hard Part – get Best Part

I say so often to Christians, don't bail out, don't quit, hang in there, for nothing will make you more like Jesus than marriage. Nothing will make you see Jesus more than marriage, for you will have to die to yourself, you will have to learn to forgive and forget like never before, you will learn and know grace like never before, and in all cases you will have to see Jesus like never before in order to do so. You quit, you are never grow. You never go, deeper in the things of the Lord. I tell people, don't quit now, you are working through the hard parts, don't let them go to waste, get through them and enjoy the best parts.

Bury Me Next to Leah

Jacob says bury me Leah. So too will you.

Jacob Leaned on His Staff all the Way to the End (49:33)

(Genesis 49:33 NKJV) And when Jacob had finished commanding his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people.

Blast Off / Leaning on the Staff

Jacob tucked himself in, and blasted off. What a way to go. Hebrews gives us a little more insight into this blessing of the sons:

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

End of Life / Genesis 32 / Beautiful Picture

At the end of his life, he still has his staff. Back in Genesis 32 he says Lord I am not worthy, I came into the land with nothing but this staff and now look at all you have done for me. Now all these years later Jacob still has that staff, and he leans on it, and worships the Lord. What a beautiful picture:

(Genesis 32:10 NKJV) "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

Jacob has Total Peace

We see Jacob, no fear in death, for he knows the One he will see, and he sure of the Promise. Jacob in his last breaths worships the Lord, he takes his last energy and stands before his Lord. Then, he gets in the bed, tucks himself in, and in total peace breaths his last.

You will be Gathered to Your People / Free-will Honored on Earth & Heaven & Hell

Verse 33 - and was gathered to his people – Jacob had peace because he knew who he would be gathered to. Beloved, you will be "gathered to your people" the question is who are your people. Who are your people you? Let me just lay it out before you, if you have no interest in the things of God here on

earth, don't fool yourself, don't fool yourself. Your free-will will be honored in heaven or hell as it is on earth. By the way, hell is no party, the Scriptures make it clear:
(Matthew 25:30 NKJV) 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Who are your people?

Just as God Said it Would Be; No Limit What God Will do With You (50:1-3)

(Genesis 50:1 NKJV) Then Joseph fell on his father's face, and wept over him, and kissed him.

(Genesis 50:2 NKJV) And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel.

(Genesis 50:3 NKJV) Forty days were required for him, for such are the days required for those who are embalmed; and the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.

Just as God Said

Joseph was there to close his father's eyes just as God said he would be when he told Jacob to go.

God's words are always yes and amen:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Embalming Process – Sophisticated Process

The embalming process took about 40 days. It was a very sophisticated process, as with the pyramids we can see the Egyptians were a very intelligent and advanced people. Even today our scientist still fully do not understand how they did all these highly advanced things. Jacob a non-Egyptian honored in such a way because he is Joseph's fathers. They would mourn a King for 72 days, and here we see Jacob being honored for 70, that is such a high regard they had for Joseph.

Little Shepherd becomes 2nd in Land / No Formal Training / Whatever God Call You To

But you know what I like? A little shepherd boy with no formal training, no Bible College, no Chuck tapes, no youth group, became second in all the land. Believer there is no limit to what God can and will do with you, so never limit yourself. Whatever God calls you to do, step out in faith and allow Him to flow through you, in spite of what other people may be telling you, and do whatever it, for the glory of God:

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

(Colossians 3:23 NKJV) And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

(Colossians 3:24 NKJV) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV) Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

(1 Corinthians 1:27 NKJV) But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

(1 Corinthians 1:28 NKJV) and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,

(1 Corinthians 1:29 NKJV) that no flesh should glory in His presence.

(1 Corinthians 1:30 NKJV) But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption;

(1 Corinthians 1:31 NKJV) that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

God says come Joseph, I am going to take you from the pit and place you in the palace, all for My glory. God will do the same for you.

Jacob's Legacy Based on His Relationship with the Son (50:4-11)

(Genesis 50:4 NKJV) And when the days of his mourning were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the hearing of Pharaoh, saying,

(Genesis 50:5 NKJV) 'My father made me swear, saying, "Behold, I am dying; in my grave which I dug for myself in the land of Canaan, there you shall bury me." Now therefore, please let me go up and bury my father, and I will come back.'"

(Genesis 50:6 NKJV) And Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear."

Joseph Requests

Joseph requests of Pharaoh to fulfill his father Jacob's desire, and Pharaoh says go.

(Genesis 50:7 NKJV) So Joseph went up to bury his father; and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

(Genesis 50:8 NKJV) as well as all the house of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's house. Only their little ones, their flocks, and their herds they left in the land of Goshen.

(Genesis 50:9 NKJV) And there went up with him both chariots and horsemen, and it was a very great gathering.

(Genesis 50:10 NKJV) Then they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, and they mourned there with a great and very solemn lamentation. He observed seven days of mourning for his father.

(Genesis 50:11 NKJV) And when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a deep mourning of the Egyptians." Therefore its name was called Abel Mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan.

Atad – Means Threshing

Atad, was a place of the threshing floor. A threshing was to separate by beating, the seed from the husk. Interesting picture regarding death of the believer, as the threshing Jesus endured is what separate our soul from this body, unto new life.

[*Isaiah 53:5-7 \(NKJV\)*](#)⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Great Funeral Process / Canaanites Blown Away / President Reagan

So they have this funeral process if you would, and there was great mourning. The Canaanites saw this and were blown away, who was this man, he must have been some one great in the land. Maybe you recall the funeral of President, it would be such as that.

Jacob's Greatness based on Relationship with Joseph / Our Legacy

The fact of the matter is, Jacob's greatness in Egypt was based on one thing, his relationship to Joseph. Joseph is a picture of Jesus Christ. A picture for us, when we die, what will we be remembered for. What will be our legacy?

David's Legacy

May our legacy be that of David:

[*\(Acts 13:22 NKJV\)*](#) "And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.**'"

Solomon's Legacy

Sadly his son Solomon had a legacy:

[*\(1 Kings 11:4 NKJV\)*](#) For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; **and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.**

Our Legacy – Our Relationship / No Matter How Great- God's Own Heart

May our legacy be of whom we followed, who our relationship was with, Jesus Christ. It won't matter how great we were at work, or in high school, as good as those things may be; but may people remember us to whom we loved and served, who we had a relationship with, who we were linked to. May they say of us that we were a man/woman after God's own heart, who did His will. When it is all said and done, what else will matter.

Jacob's Best Chapters Were His Last Chapters (50:12-14)

(Genesis 50:12 NKJV) So his sons did for him just as he had commanded them.

(Genesis 50:13 NKJV) For his sons carried him to the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite as property for a burial place.

(Genesis 50:14 NKJV) And after he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers and all who went up with him to bury his father.

His Best Chapters / Finish Well

The end of the life of Jacob. He finished well, his last chapters were his best chapters, and may that be so with us:

(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Leaning on His Staff

Jacob ends his life doing 3 things, blessing, worshipping, and leaning. Leaning on the back of Jesus, the one who had broken him, and the One that made him whole:

(Hebrews 11:21 NKJV) By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

Girl from Afghanistan

I heard a tremendous story of a young girl who leaned on her staff and the Lord. She was working with the missionary group that I met when I was in the Paul she was from Afghanistan and the country they were in had made the determination that all people of refugees from Afghanistan had to leave the country and return to Afghanistan. There for her to return to Afghanistan as a bold Christian and one who lives her faith outwardly the probability of death was great for her. The American missionary as he tells me the story told her we can get you into America to which she readily said yes to. And a few days later the missionary came back and said to her everything is looking good with the people we've talked to about getting you refugee status in America but then he went on to say but my concern is that when you come to America your fire and love that you have for Jesus Christ will grow lukewarm and you'll get absorbed more into the culture of America and lose that zeal. To which this young adult woman said then I decline if there's even a possibility that my love for Jesus could grow cold as I would rather go to Afghanistan and die a martyr's death and go to America and die a spiritual death.

When You Forgive – Forget

When You are Forgiven – Receive It (50:15-17)

(Genesis 50:15 NKJV) When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him."

(Genesis 50:16 NKJV) So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying,

(Genesis 50:17 NKJV) 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you." ' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Payback Time / Joseph Wept / They Just Didn't get It

Now the brothers are afraid it is payback time, so they tell Joseph dad said to forgive us, so please forgive us. And, Joseph wept. They thought Joseph was waiting for his time of revenge that he had bottled up bitterness and hatred towards them, but Joseph just wept, because they just didn't get it.

Picture of Jesus / People's Concept of God – Keeping a Record

Joseph is a picture of Jesus. So many people have this concept of God, that He is keeping a record and at some point says that is enough, I'm going to let my fury fly on you. The Lord says I will remember your sins no more, they are wiped clean, past, present, and future:

(Hebrews 8:12 NKJV) "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

God want's to Draw You Near / Touch You / God Weeps

Christian know this, if you are here tonight, and maybe you are not doing well, know that the Lord wants to touch you, and draw you close to Himself and love on you, not step on you to teach you a lesson or two. How that must break the heart of God when we question His love, acceptance, and forgiveness. I wonder if He weeps.

Mark 3 / Jesus Touched Him – in the Church

In Mark 3, there came a man into the synagogue, the church if you will, and his hand was withered; Jesus spoke to him and said step forward, and Jesus touched him:

(Mark 3:1 NKJV) And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.

(Mark 3:2 NKJV) So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.

(Mark 3:3 NKJV) And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."

(Mark 3:4 NKJV) Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent.

(Mark 3:5 NKJV) And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

Maybe you are Withered – Dry / Jesus Interested Seeing you Whole / Not Withered

Jesus touched him, and healed him. Maybe you feel all withered up, dried out, wondering why I even bother with this church stuff; Jesus says step forward, stretch out your hand to Me, and I will touch. Jesus is always interested in seeing you whole, seeing you healthy, and He is always ready to touch so that you might do well, and be well. He never wants to leave you in that withered condition (yes there may be consequences to your sin, but that is the result of living in a fallen world, bit God pouring wrath out upon you)

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

He says Reach Out / I want to Give You Joy

God says reach out, let me touch you, receive from Me the things I want to give you, love, joy, and peace. He will not leave us, even when we are not doing well:

(Hebrews 13:5 NKJV) Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

He wants to Gather You to His Heart / No Doubt – Look at Cross / No Condemnation

The Lord wants to gather you to Himself and nestle you close to His heart. If you doubt that, look to the cross. If you ever wonder or doubt His love, look to the cross. There is therefore now no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus:

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

(Romans 8:2 NKJV) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

No Charge / Paid at Cross / Now He Freely Gives

Nothing can separate us from his love, for He is for us, and brings no charge against us for it was all His wrath was poured out there upon the cross:

(Romans 8:31 NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

(Romans 8:32 NKJV) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

(Romans 8:33 NKJV) Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Set Yourself Free; Let God be the Judge (50:18-19)

(Genesis 50:18 NKJV) Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

(Genesis 50:19 NKJV) Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?"

Fear Not – I'm not God / Wonderful Place not to Judge / Love & Judge

Joseph says "fear not", am I in the place of God, it is not for me to judge you. It is a wonderful day when a person comes to the place and realization that they do not have to be the judge of people. God will say to us, you love them, and let me judge them. So often the church has it backwards, we think it is up to us to judge them, and up to God to love them.

The Whole Story / Impossible to Know Heart / Actions & Intentions

It is amazing how your judgement can change when you have the whole story. It is impossible for us to know what is in a man's heart, what they are thinking and struggling with. I can see their actions, but I can never know what their intentions truly were. I'll look at a situation, get an overview of what is currently going on, I can be so quick to judge them and right them off, not knowing that there is so much more to the story.

Joseph Knew Big Picture

Joseph knew so much more to the story than these boys did, verse 20:

The Plan is Always Greater than the Pain (50:20-21)

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

All Brothers Knew / Joseph Knew 20 year Picture / Egypt – Prison - You

Hey, even though you meant it for evil, but God meant it for God. For these boys all they knew was they sold their brother off. But Joseph saw a bigger plan that took some 20 years to develop. First God had to get me to Egypt, hence where you boys came in. Then God had to get me to palace, hence where Potiphar's wife came in. Then God had to get you to Egypt, hence where I came in. God worked it all together because He had to preserve a people (Nation of Israel), He had to preserve the lineage of the Messiah (Judah), and He had to preserve a world (thus we are today).

Joseph Preserves Lineage / Forgive – They Know Not / Religious Leaders - Redemption

Hey I would have said death to them all Joseph, judge them so all can see you are not to be messed with, but guess what I would have destroyed the lineage of the Messiah. Our greater than Joseph, Jesus, there that day cried to the Father, "forgive them, they know not what they do". The religious leaders meant it for evil, but God had a plan; a plan for you, a plan for me, to buy us back, redeem us from the evil task master that we were in bondage to, so that He might preserve our lives for all of eternity, and provide for us daily through any feast or famine.

(Genesis 50:21 NKJV) "Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Spoke Kindly – Picture of Jesus

Joseph spoke kindly to them, and comforted them. Oh what a picture of our Jesus.

Grandparents Now is Your Greatest Opportunity (50:22-23)

(Genesis 50:22 NKJV) So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years.

(Genesis 50:23 NKJV) Joseph saw Ephraim's children to the third generation. The children of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were also brought up on Joseph's knees.

Grandkids on his Knees / Telling Stories God's Miracles / Grandparents Opportunity

I can only imagine Joseph having his grandkids on his knee, and telling them stories of all of God's miracles and goodness. What a wonderful place to be, having a youngster looking up to, listening to your words with respect, interested in hearing your stories. Grandparents have clout with their grandkids. Joseph would tell his grandkids what his father Jacob told him, and what was passed down from Abraham and Isaac. What a great opportunity for grandparents to minister to their kids telling them all about God's wonders. Take the opportunity whenever you, whether it is on your lap, or over the phone. Should you be separated from them because of the hatred and division so common in this selfish world, maybe barring you from seeing them, then raise them up on your knees, go to the Lord as often as you can and lift them up in prayer.

My Grand Dad

I can still remember stories my grandfather told me when I was a kid, I can remember many of them as if it was just yesterday, and it was 25-30 years ago. Even as a teenager I use to love just to sit with him

and hear his stories about the war, his boxing days, his real estate days. How much I remember them, I remembered them! But granddaddy never told me about Jesus, don't know if he knew Jesus, he never mentioned Him. Imagine, if I can remember so many stories 25-30 years later, just think if he would have been telling me about Jesus, how much of an impact that would have had in my life. Grandparents, don't miss this opportunity.

The Body and Bones of the Promise (50:24-26)

(Genesis 50:24 NKJV) And Joseph said to his brethren, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

(Genesis 50:25 NKJV) Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."

(Genesis 50:26 NKJV) So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Monuments & Pyramids / Look at heritage Passed On

All the other great Egyptian leaders had monuments and pyramids built for themselves, but not Joseph, he says bury me in the land, carry my bones up when you leave this place. Look how the heritage is passed down from father to son:

(Genesis 49:29 NKJV) Then he charged them and said to them: "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite,

(Genesis 49:30 NKJV) "in the cave that is in the field of Machpelah, which is before Mamre in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of Ephron the Hittite as a possession for a burial place.

(Genesis 49:31 NKJV) "There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife, there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah.

Believed Promise / Sojourners / City of God

They believed the promises of God, and knew they were just sojourners in the land, and they were looking for a city whose builder and maker was God:

(Hebrews 11:13 NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(Hebrews 11:14 NKJV) For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.

(Hebrews 11:15 NKJV) And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.

*(Hebrews 11:16 NKJV) But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for He has prepared a city for them.***

Parents - Children - Follow

Parents, where will your children want their bones to be buried? May they follow in your footsteps.

Half of OT History

Joseph's death marks about half of the history of the OT. About 2350 years.

Genesis – Ends with a Coffin

Verse 26 - and he was put in a coffin in Egypt – We begin this book with the glory of God and His creation. He said let there be light, He said let us make man in our image. God walked with His creation in the garden in perfect sweet fellowship. We close this book with death, darkness, and separation.

Repercussion of Sin / Paradise to Prison / You shall Die

The repercussions of sin, from paradise to prison. Satan said if you eat you will not die; God says if you eat surely you will die:

(Genesis 2:16 NKJV) And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;

*(Genesis 2:17 NKJV) "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"*

(Genesis 3:1 NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

(Genesis 3:2 NKJV) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

(Genesis 3:3 NKJV) "but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."

*(Genesis 3:4 NKJV) **Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.***

Moses Carry the Bones

It is interesting after 400 years of slavery who is the one that carries the bones of Joseph out of Egypt. Moses himself would carry them out:

(Exodus 13:19 NKJV) And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you."

Egyptians think this Crazy / For 400 yrs Slavery

The Egyptians must have thought this is ridiculous, why the bones, why carry them all the way up to the land of Caanan. They didn't know what the bones represented, they represented a promise, the promise of God, that He will come to His people, He will carry them out of the land into His Promised Land. For 400 years of slavery the children of Israel will have this coffin to look at as a Promise from God that He will carry them up out of the land:

(Genesis 46:2 NKJV) Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am."

(Genesis 46:3 NKJV) So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there."

(Genesis 46:4 NKJV) "I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes."

Machpelah Means Double-Doors

Abraham bought it, the only piece of land he purchased, for it was a place of the promise that there is a door on the other side of the door of death, and that is through the cross of Christ, into His eternal arms.

*John 10:7-10 (NKJV)*⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

God's Promise today = Communion

God gives us that same promise today, take eat, this is My body that has been broken for you, do this in remembrance of Me:

(Matthew 26:26 NKJV) And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

(Matthew 26:27 NKJV) Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you."

(Matthew 26:28 NKJV) "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

(Matthew 26:29 NKJV) "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Take, eat; this is My body

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)*¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV)*¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Numbers 6:22 NKJV) And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

(Numbers 6:23 NKJV) "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:

(Numbers 6:24 NKJV) "The LORD bless you and keep you;

(Numbers 6:25 NKJV) The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

(Numbers 6:26 NKJV) The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

(Numbers 6:27 NKJV) "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."