

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson Four

#### Review

- Beginnings (Genesis) of humanity, world, evil, sin, redemption, people of God institutions
- Moses (1446-1400)
- Structure—Primeval (1-11), Ancestral (12-50)
- Creation (1-3)—not to answer specific scientific questions but showing origins of humanity and the purpose and order to creation.
- Theories (Gap, Step-by-Step, literary, created with age)
- Dual creation narratives (JEDP, 6<sup>th</sup> day expansion, or close up after panorama)
- Lessons from creation about God and humankind
- Adam and Eve—uniqueness of humanity
- Fall—judgment/mercy
- Life of Cain/Seth
- Flood/Noahic covenant
- Tower of Babel
- Line of Shem—toward Messiah (seed)
- Motifs—order to disorder and seed

#### Ancestral History (Patriarchs)

- Patriarch=individual who stood at the fountain head of our faith
- They, their wives, families paved the way for ancient Israel
- 1-11 showed humanity, created for divine fellowship, separated from God
- Now—the plan of restorative/redemption begins

#### I. Abraham (12:1-25:11)

##### A. Role in history

1. Judaism, Islam, and Christianity all consider him to be the first patriarch
2. Also great man of faith

## B. Life before the call

1. Born into family that did not worship true God.

*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. 3 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. Joshua 24:2-3 NKJV*

2. Father Tereh worshiped moon god
3. In response to call, he left his father in Haran

- a. Originally in Ur at of Chaldeans—by Tigris-Euphrates River valley near Persian Gulf
- b. Left there with his father
- c. Then in response to call left Haran

(READ: Genesis 11:27-12:4)

- d. Stephen describes

*And he said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, 3 and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' 4 Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. Acts 7:2-4 NKJV*

## C. Abraham's culture and action

1. **His deceit** (12:10-20—lied about Sarah in Egypt; 20—lied to Abimelech—  
NOTE: v. 12—half-sister)

NOTE: His faith was imperfect and weak at times but God still blessed him.

2. **Customs of inheritance**

NOTE: Childless couple could adopt servant's son for purpose of inheritance—Genesis 15—Eliezer. God said "no" and promised him an heir

3. **A maid as a wife** (16; 21:1-2)

- a. Common practice in that culture
- b. Hagar and Ishmael

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- c. Isaac would be son of promise not custom
  - d. Created problems after Isaac's birth
4. Site for burial—Genesis 23—bought a tomb from the Hittites—cave of Macpelah

#### D. Abraham's faith (12-14)

##### 1. 6 blessings of 12:2, 3

*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." Genesis 12:2-3 NKJV*

##### 2. Fulfilled in Christ

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Matthew 1:1 NKJV*

*Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. Galatians 3:6-9 NKJV*

#### E. Abraham's intercession (18, 19)

##### 1. Friends of God

*"But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend. Isaiah 41:8 NKJV*

##### 2. Intercedes for Sodom and Gomorrah

##### 3. Even though he destroyed—saved Lot and his family

#### F. Abraham's testing (22)

##### 1. God's testing

*Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Genesis 22:1 NKJV*

## 2. Abraham's obedience

### G. Pictures of Christ—(14)—Melchizedek

1. Rescue (14:13-16)
2. Melchizedek (17-20)—see Hebrews 7
  - a. Melek—King
  - b. Tsadaq—Righteous
  - c. Salem--Jerusalem

## II. Isaac (24:1: 28:9)

### A. God's promises to Abraham are reinstated to Isaac

*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. 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. 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 26:1-5 NKJV*

*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 26:24 NKJV*

### B. Abraham knew that for God to fulfill His promise Isaac would need a wife— (Genesis 24)

#### 1. Reveals intersection of God and humanity in prayer

*Then he said, "O Lord God of my master Abraham, please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham. 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. 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." 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. Genesis 24:12-16 NKJV*

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*"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, 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," 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.' 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.' 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. 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. Genesis 24:42-47 NKJV*

*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. 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 24:48-49 NKJV*

2. Also picture of Holy Spirit seeking a bride

### C. Faith of Isaac

*Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. Genesis 25:21-22 NKJV*

- Prayer for Rebekah's infertility
- God answers prayer—twins

### III. Jacob (25:19-35:27)

#### A. Rebekah's twins—Jacob/Esau

1. Struggle from inside of the womb

*Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. 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. Genesis 25:21-26*

2. Birthright (25:27-34)

3. Father's blessing (27)

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4. Sins in this family occur when they try to help God out in His plan

B. Hatred between Jacob and Esau

C. Jacob's bad choices forced him to seek help from Laban—his uncle—ended in:

1. 2 wives
2. Bitterness toward Laban
3. Favoritism toward Rachel—sibling rivalry with his sons
4. God remains faithful

#### IV. Joseph (37-50)

A. Favored son—hated brother (37)

1. Coat
2. Slavery
3. Dreams

B. Trusted servant, prisoner, interpreter of dreams

1. Potiphar
2. False accusation
3. Prison
4. Butler/Baker
5. Famine dreams
6. Exalted position

C. Family rescued (42-50)

1. Trip #1

- a. Brothers didn't recognize him
- b. To test their sincerity he tricked them
- c. Allowed return if they brought Benjamin

2. Trip #2

- a. Benjamin falsely accused of stealing cup
- b. Judah begged to take his place
- c. His dreams fulfilled
- d. His identity revealed

### 3. The brother who they tried to kill—saves the family—AND THE SEED

*Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 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. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. 22 So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's household. And Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. 23 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. 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. 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." 24 So when her days were fulfilled for her to give birth, indeed there were twins in her womb. 25 And the first came out red. He was like a hairy garment all over; so they called his name Esau. 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 50:19-26 NKJV*

#### **Conclusion:** Themes and important transitions

##### A. Seed in danger

1. Barrenness of Sarah
2. Sacrifice of Isaac
3. Judah and Tamar (Genesis 38)

(Er, Onan, Shelah)

*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. Matthew 1:1-3 NKJV*

NOTE ALSO: Irony of Judah (37:24-32; 38:24-26)

4. Extinction of Israel in famine—God preserves

## B. Christophanies

1. Melchizedek
2. Angels in Genesis 18

*Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" Genesis 18:12 NKJV*

3. Jacob wrestles with angel

*Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day. 25 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. 26 And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" 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." 29 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. 30 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." Genesis 32:24-30 NKJV*

## C. Fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham

*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. 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." Genesis 15:13-16 NKJV*

## D. God is the key person in the narrative not the Patriarchs—

1. He is faithful to His promises
2. In Garden good and evil possible
3. Now, he takes evil and makes good emerge