

The Seed of Abraham

Lesson for Sunday, March 12, 2023

TEXT: Genesis 12:2-3

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Welcome to Week #5 in our series, “The Whole Story of the Bible in 16 Verses!” Review:
 - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
 - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God’s image.
 - Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
 - Genesis 3:15 – God’s promise of redemption.
- ⇒ Ever since Genesis 3:15, God was working to fulfill His promise that the seed of the woman would one day crush the Serpent. While God’s timing most often doesn’t coincide with our desires, His timing is always perfect and He always keeps His promises.

BIBLE STUDY:

1. A Limited Man (Genesis 12:1-3)
 - a. In this important chapter, we see God choosing a man, Abraham. Why do you think God chose Abraham? *Allow for discussion...*
 - b. It’s important to realize that Abraham wasn’t an unusually outstanding man. Read Joshua 24:2 and see that he was actually an idolater – a worshiper of other gods!
 - c. God did not decide to make Abraham’s name great because he had fame or a righteous character. Instead, God graciously took the initiative and chose him.
 - d. Read Genesis 12:1. God gave Abraham a specific command to leave his homeland and even his family, and go to a land that God would later show him.
 - i. Discuss: What would make this call difficult?
 - e. Read 12:2-3. This is what would make the call a little easier to obey! God made several promises to Abraham:
 - i. “I will make thee a great nation.”
 - ii. “I will bless thee.”
 - iii. “I will make thy name great.”
 - iv. “Thou shalt be a blessing.”
 - v. “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”
 - f. In summary, God chose Abraham to be the man that God’s seed would come through – the seed that would eventually crush the head of the Serpent. Point out that this was a promise that was much bigger than one nation of people – it was a promise to bless all the families of the earth (that includes us)!
 - g. All that was required of Abraham was a willingness to obey. Read 4a: “So Abraham departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him.”
 - h. God’s promise to Abraham is worth a little extra discussion! These promises can be summarized in two parts: He would make Abraham a great nation and a great blessing.
 - i. Think this through: What do you need to make a great nation? At the very least we need land and people.
 - ii. Both of these were obstacles for Abraham.
 1. He was not a homeowner. He was a nomad, a wandering shepherd.
 2. A look back to 11:29-30 reveals a second issue: Abraham and his wife had no children.
 - i. But in Abraham’s obstacles we see...
2. An Unlimited God
 - a. Abraham was childless, homeless and idolatrous. He seemed to be an unlikely candidate to fulfill God’s promise from 3:15. But this is a wonderful lesson for us to recognize: *In God’s Story, He often uses unlikely people and unlikely ways to accomplish His purposes.*

- b. Abraham's barriers were no match for the unlimited God. Summarize the following episodes in Abraham and Sarah's lives:
 - i. Childless: They had plenty of reasons to doubt God's promise.
 - 1. They were older and seemingly past child-rearing age. At one point, they even tried to take matters into their own hands. But God cannot be manipulated.
 - 2. As the years passed, God kept reminding them of His promise. After 25 years, it happened. They had a son named Isaac. It was through this offspring that God would one day crush the Serpent's head.
 - ii. Homeless: If you thought 25 years was a long time to wait...
 - 1. Isaac had two sons and then the family tree began to branch out. Just as God had promised, the family would become a nation. Throughout this time, they still did not have a land.
 - 2. They had to go to Egypt and wait for hundreds of years before the land would become theirs.
 - c. Two applications to consider: (1) God always keeps His promises, and (2) God's timing is not always our timing.
3. An Unbreakable Promise
- a. Several times God would show up to remind Abraham of His promise. One such time was in chapter 15 when it appears that Abraham is discouraged and questioning if God would really do what He had promised.
 - b. Another time was in Genesis 17:6-8. In this account, God makes a statement that ought to catch our attention. Look at the end of verse 8, "and I will be their God." This was no small promise!
 - i. God was promising to give the same blessing to Abraham and his offspring that he gave to Adam and Eve: He would live with them as their God and they as His people.
 - ii. But Adam and Eve had failed! What would keep Abraham from doing the same? How could God make this guarantee? The answer is Genesis 15.
 - c. About a year before Isaac was born, God came to Abraham and gave him a strange vision.
 - i. God asked him to sacrifice several animals and cut the carcasses in half.
 - ii. Then God appeared as a smoking firepot and a flaming torch that passed between the two halves of the animals.
 - d. In the ancient world, the meaning was clear. It was common for two partners who were entering a covenant to do just what was happening here. The two partners would BOTH walk through the animals as a way of promising to keep the covenant.
 - e. In Genesis 15, only God walked through! By doing this, He was binding Himself to keep both sides of the covenant. There was nothing Abraham could do to break it!
 - f. Do you see why we have to talk about Abraham? It was to him that God clarified that the line of the seed of the woman would run through this family, and when God committed to make this promise happen.

DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ Summarize the timeline with the first five parts:
 - Genesis 1:31 – God created it all
 - Genesis 1:27 – We are all created in God's image.
 - Genesis 3:6 – The Fall changed it all.
 - Genesis 3:15 – God's promise of redemption
 - Genesis 12:2-3 – The Seed of Abraham
- ⇒ What other takeaways can you discuss?