

IMMERSE: BEGINNINGS

Week 2/Week 3 – GENESIS – Creation/Fall/Redemption/Restoration

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From Gen. 3:15 – the plot of redemption begins and continues through Revelation!

Foreshadowing of Redemption and Restoration:

Gen. 3:20 - *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.* Eve means “living”! The curse was upon the earth! Man's dominion was usurped by Satan (II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-2). Here we see a foreshadowing of God's promise of redemption AND restoration! God is going to RESTORE all that was lost following the creation.

Consequences of sin entering the world:

Gen. 3:23-24 - ...²³ *therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.* 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.* WHY? ...so that Adam and Eve could not return and possibly eat from the tree of life – making them immortal and living forever in their cursed state.

Gen. 4:1 - *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man: the LORD (Jehovah)."* (Cain means “acquired”). Based on the hope announced in Gen. 3:15 (the destruction/doom of the adversary/Satan), and based on the Hebrew rendering of Eve's announcement, Eve seems to have connected the birth of her firstborn son with the immediate fulfillment of the promise concerning the “Seed of the woman.”

Gen. 4 & 5 – we are introduced to the heart conditions of mankind through Cain & Abel – wickedness (separated from God) and righteousness (right relationship with God).

Gen. 4:2-5 - ² *Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel* (breath, vapor, fading away) (How quickly Eve must have been disappointed. Her first born didn't appear to be the resolution for sin). *Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.* ³ *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground* (no blood shed; “an” offering – no indication that it was the best fruit of the ground) *to the LORD.* ⁴ *Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat.* (A blood sacrifice. Did Abel know that he would have additional sheep? No. Yet he offered his best to God). *And the LORD respected Abel and his offering,* ⁵ *but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.*

...yet God pursued Cain. God lovingly confronted Cain. And, God warned Cain (God's grace is evident) provided the way to Himself.

I John 3:10, 12 - In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: ¹² not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. In Cain and Abel we see two people groups within “mankind” – the wicked and the righteous of God.

Gen. 4:25-26 – 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. Then men began to call on the name of the LORD.

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Gen. 5:5, 8, 11- ...all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. ... ⁸ So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years; and he died.... ¹¹ So all the days of Enosh were nine hundred and five years; and he died. When we check out the meanings of the names within Adam's line, Seth's son, Enosh – Enosh's name means mortal/frail. Of course it does!!! People were dying!! Man is frail; man is mortal! Then men began to call on the name of the LORD! Man was faced with their mortality. Man realized their NEED of God – to DEPEND upon Him.

Adam's name means “man.” Seth's name is translated for us in Gen. 4:25 – God appointed another seed. Seth's name means appointed. When we study the root meanings of the names in Hebrew, we are given fascinating insights. BUT we need to know that the root meanings are not free from controversy! www.blueletterbible.org look for the name you wish to research and then check on the root meaning.

Some have suggested the following message in the names of Adam through Noah:

Hebrew	English
Adam	Man
Seth	Appointed
Enosh	Mortal
Kenan	Sorrow; a dirge
Mahalalel	The Blessed God; God be praised (“el” – God)
Jared	Shall come down (from verb <i>yaradh</i>)
Enoch	Teaching (Enoch was the first of four generations of preachers [Jude vv. 14-15 – teaching judgment])
Methuselah	His death shall bring

Hebrew	English
Lamech	To the low; the despairing;
Noah	Rest, or comfort.

In the midst of judgment and death, God’s GRACE prevails – looking toward REDEMPTION and RESTORATION!

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Gen. 5:21, 22, 24 - Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah. 22 After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, ...24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. Enoch was translated bodily. A foreshadowing of the rapture?

Let’s return to Methuselah’s name....

Master’s Seminary/John MacArthur

“Methuselah’s Age and the Patience of God”

Nathan Busenitz

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When Methuselah was born, the text of Genesis 5 indicates that his father Enoch began to walk with God in earnest (Gen. 5:21–22). Many commentators believe that it was during the time of Methuselah’s birth that God revealed to Enoch the reality of the coming Flood—which is why Enoch spent the next three centuries warning the world around him of God's impending retribution (Jude 14-15).

Methuselah’s name can be translated as either “man of the javelin” or “man of the sending forth.” It is likely, especially given the context of Genesis 5–6, that his name referred to the reality of God's coming judgment—a global Flood that would be sent forth with sudden force and destruction. The further implication is that divine wrath would not fall until after Methuselah died. (Some scholars even render the meaning of his name as "his death shall bring forth.")

Methuselah lived 969 years. Methuselah was 187 when Lamech was born. Methuselah lived an additional 782 years. Lamech had Noah when he was 182. The flood came in Noah’s 600th year. $187+182+600 = 969$ years. That means, in the very year Methuselah died, the Flood was sent forth like a javelin on the earth.

Why did God allow Methuselah to live for so many years — longer than anyone else in human history? I believe it was as an illustration of His incredible patience. The fact

that Methuselah lived almost 1,000 years demonstrates the longsuffering nature of God. From the time God revealed the reality of that judgment to Enoch, it was almost a millennium before raindrops of wrath started to fall in the days of Noah.

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Lamech – meaning of name, “to be low,” from the Ancient Hebrew Research Center and from www.abarim-publications.com

Noah – meaning of name, “rest/comfort”- which is verified in...

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Gen. 5:28-29 - Lamech lived one hundred and eighty-two years, and had a son. 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.’

Noah – approx. 1600 years following creation.

Genesis 6 – The Universal Flood. WHY? We need to read the universal flood account against the backdrop of sin, a fallen world, the 2 groups of people (wicked and righteous), and the promise of the “Seed of the woman” Who will be born and destroy the enemy!

Gen. 6:5-7 - 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. ⁶ And the LORD was sorry (to be moved to pity; to have compassion) that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 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.’ ⁸ But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. God’s sorrow and grief is how the unfolding of His plan affects Him.

WHY was there great wickedness? WHY does Gen. 6:5 begin with “Then”? What happened prior to? *Gen. 6:1-4 - Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, 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. 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.” 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.*

- We need to know that one third of the angels fell with Lucifer (Rev. 12:4).
- “Sons of God” are noted in other passages as angels (Job 1:6; Job 2:1; Job 38:4-7)
- These particular “sons of God” (fallen angels) in Gen. 6:2 saw and took women of the human race.
- Unnatural union! Satan’s attempt to corrupt mankind’s DNA!

- Fallen angels, in order to procreate physically, possessed human male bodies! There was much demonic activity in Jesus' day with demons possessing human hosts. (Demons are those who haven't been chained. The fallen angels in Gen. 6 – after this procreating with human women – were chained and reserved for judgment)
- II Pet. 2:4-5 speaks of fallen angels in Noah's day – *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; 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;*

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- Jude vv. 6-7 – *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain (they possessed human male bodies), but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; 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, (The population of Sodom desired to know the angels that were sent by God, His holy angels, to determine the number of righteous people in Sodom) are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

While the flood was intended for the destruction of wicked mankind, the ark was designed to save Noah and his family.

The sin of man continues...

Gen. 8:21 - ...*the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth.*

Gen. 9 - we read of Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Gen. 9:25-27 - God is specifically the God of Shem (the Semitic people) – we have a narrowing re: the people of the earth. Noah said, *Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem.... May God dwell in the tents of Shem....*

Gen. 10 – From Noah's three sons – 70 nations came forth.

Gen. 10:25 - *To Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg (division), for in his days the earth was divided; and his brother's name was Joktan.*

Gen. 11:18ff – from Peleg - *Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.*

Peleg is found in the New Testament. In [Luke 3:35](#), Peleg is mentioned in the genealogy of Jesus.

When we turn to Gen. 11, and read of the Tower of Babel, we read... Gen. 11:1-4 - *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.” Anything seemingly off with this picture? Should man be hunkering down?

In Gen. 11 the saga continues.... *But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.* (God’s sense of humor – He “came down”! These people thought they were so lofty – they wanted to reach heaven! And, *the LORD came*

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down to see the city) 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.*

Chronologically speaking, Gen. 11:1-9, the Tower of Babel, when man had one language, occurred before Gen. 10. In Gen. 10, the sons of Shem, Ham, and Japheth were separated into lands – everyone according to his language. In Gen. 11 we then read of the descendants of Shem – among whom God will personally dwell.

Gen. 11:26-31 - *Now Terah lived seventy years, and begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran.*

²⁷ *This is the genealogy of Terah: Terah begot Abram, Nahor, and Haran. Haran begot Lot. ²⁸ And Haran died before his father Terah in his native land, in Ur of the Chaldeans. 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. ³⁰ But Sarai was barren; she had no child. 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.*

And now we read of God calling out Abram from the nation of Ur of the Chaldees and directing him to travel to the land He, God, would show him. Beginning in Genesis 12 going through to Malachi, we read of God dealing with Israel. God created Israel (Isa. 43:1).

Gen. 12:1-3 – I will make of you a great nation!

Gen. 1-11 presents an entire world of people.

Gen. 12 through Malachi – Israel is focused upon but with the directive that they were to serve as God’s witnesses (Isa. 43:10 to the nations of the world – to the 70 nations (Deut. 32:8-9)).

Through Israel, God would accomplish His plan of redemption (the Messiah; 144,000; 2 witnesses).

Isa. 42:6 – Israel’s mission was to be “a light to the nations/Gentiles”

God promised land, seed/Seed, blessing – 3-fold promise was the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant.

The rest of Scripture bears out the fulfillment of these promises.

AFTER 2,000 years of dealing with MANKIND – no Jews or Gentiles, just “MANKIND,” God calls ABRAM – whose father, Terah, was a pagan – a worshipper (Joshua 24:2 – Terah served other gods!) Abram – a GENTILE!

WHY would Abram respond to God’s call?

Acts 7:2 – Stephen (who served tables in the early church) was accused of blasphemy and addressed the Jewish religious leadership, *Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before*

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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.’

And God cuts a covenant with Abram – an eternal, unilateral, unconditional covenant with Abram and his physical descendants.

- “Unconditional” means that the outcome of this agreement RESTS on ONE PARTY – GOD! God swore by Himself (Heb. 6:13).
- The FULFILLMENT of what was promised depends upon GOD solely. God carries out the workings of the Abrahamic covenant REGARDLESS of what Abraham and his descendants do.

Through the Abrahamic Covenant, God made many promises to Abraham and to his descendants through Isaac and Jacob. Israel is a specific people group.

- Land – boundaries given in Genesis 15:18-20.
 - The promise of the land is highlighted in the Land Covenant (Deut. 28-Deut. 30). This will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.
- Seed – the promise would come through Isaac and the Messiah would come through the line of David.
 - The promise of the Messiah reigning on David’s throne is highlighted in the Davidic Covenant - II Samuel 7– Davidic Covenant – Millennial Kingdom.
- Blessing – salvation to all the families of the earth through the Jewish Messiah.
 - This will be fulfilled in the New Covenant (see Jer. 31:31).

The ceremony recorded in [Genesis 15](#) indicates the unconditional nature of the covenant. When a covenant was dependent upon both parties keeping commitments, then both parties would pass between the pieces of animals. In [Genesis 15](#), God alone moves

between the halves of the animals. [Abraham](#) was in a deep sleep. God's solitary action indicates that the covenant is principally His promise. He binds Himself to the covenant. Later, God gave Abraham the rite of [circumcision](#) as the specific sign of the Abrahamic Covenant ([Genesis 17:9–14](#)).

What seems perhaps as an unfair narrowing of God dwelling in the tents of Shem – narrowing to Abram, Isaac (not Ishmael [Gen. 17]), and Jacob (not Esau; God told Rebekah she had 2 nations in her womb and the older [Esau] would serve the younger [Jacob]) was to be the very means for EXTENDING the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant to ALL nations (Gen. 18:18).

The two sentences which essentially define the entire Bible:
The Bible lays out God's plan for the nations through the nation of Israel.

And, within God's plan for the world, following sin entering the world, we read the unfolding of God's plan of redemption for both Jew and Gentile.

Gen. 16 – the Angel of the LORD finds Hagar in the desert on the way to Egypt.... The exact identity of “the Angel of the LORD” is not given in the Bible. BUT... When the definite article “the” is used, it is specifying a unique being, separate from the other angels. The Angel of the LORD speaks as God, identifies Himself with/as God, and carries out the responsibilities of God (i.e. pardoning sin!!!) In several of these

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appearances, those who saw the Angel of the LORD feared for their lives because they had “seen the LORD.” AND, “the Angel of the LORD” does not appear in Scripture after Jesus is born in Bethlehem. I understand “the Angel of the LORD” to be a pre-incarnate/ pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus. Jesus told the religious Jewish leadership *before Abraham was, I AM!* As such, wouldn't Jesus be active and manifesting Himself?

Gen. 22 –In Gen. 22 We are told about a father sacrificing his son, his only son whom he loved! And, Whom do we see? Gen. 22:11-18. Gen. 22:8 – the lamb!!!!

As we move forward in Genesis, we meet Jacob who is the father of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jacob's name is changed to Israel (striving with God). Dysfunctional family! God uses them. Ordinary people being used by our EXTRAordinary God!