

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 5 – The Abrahamic Covenant...the GLUE!

February 24, 2026

How does Genesis 12 fit into the “one story” of Scripture? This is a helpful question to ask as we are studying this topic.

Genesis 12 is God’s response to mankind’s sin.

Gen. 6:5 - ...*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.*

Rom. 8:20-21 – When man rebelled against God...when sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, *the creation was subjected* (placed under) *futility* (creation was given over to vanity;

perverseness; depravity; devoid of truth). At the fall, when sin entered the world, what was lost? EVERYTHING! BUT, here is THE HOPE: ²¹ *...the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God* (ultimate redemption of man - when we see Jesus face-to-face...when we are resurrected bodily...) The Apostle Paul wrote about the bodily resurrection...

I Cor. 15:50-54 - *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God* (corrupted flesh and blood).; ⁵¹ *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—* ⁵² *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.* ⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* ⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’*

After Genesis chapters 1-11, which speak of the creation, fall, and growing alienation from God, Genesis 12 begins the process of ultimate restoration through God’s promises which bring us to Revelation 22!!!! The Abrahamic Covenant establishes the path for redemption moving forward to restoration... through to Rev. 22...into the new creation...the new heaven and new earth...The New Jerusalem (eternity future). God’s promises to Abram in Genesis 12 set in motion God’s ultimate plan to restore a broken world!

The Abrahamic Covenant is EVERLASTING, UNILATERAL, and UNCONDITIONAL which means that God alone guarantees its fulfillment FOREVER! (Heb. 6:13).

How does Gen. 12 fit into the Bible’s storyline?

Gen. 12:1-3 – God promises Abram and his descendants:

- Land – with boundaries noted in Gen. 15:18-21 - *To your descendants I have given this land, (PERIOD!) 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.*

- Seed – to populate the great nation that God promised to make of Abram. Seed means physical descendants; collective seed; and THE Seed (the Messiah [Gal. 3:16]) Who will sit on King David’s throne in Jerusalem and reign for 1,000 years in the Millennial Kingdom.

- Blessing – salvation for both Jew and Gentile through the Messiah. Gal. 3:14 - *that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* Heb. 11:8-10. – ***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. Heb. 11:13 – Re: all the OT saints mentioned in Hebrews 11, it is recorded in Scripture by the Holy Spirit, *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.*

The three promises of land, seed, and blessing are amplified – given more details for each promise through sub-covenants which expound on the Abrahamic Covenant:

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

The Land Covenant

Deut. 30:1-6 - *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, ² 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, ³ 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. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. ⁶ And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

- God drove Israel from the land... among the nations...to remote locations.
- Currently Israel is in the land in unbelief – Eze. 36:24-27.
- The return noted in Deut. 30:1-6 is in sync with their return to the Lord – with all their heart and soul...a circumcision of their hearts. Deut. 6:5....
- This return is in the future.
- Since God promised the land under Abram, they have had ownership which continues. In this passage their possession of the land is noted.

The Davidic Covenant

- Regarding the seed, the promises to Israel's descendants through Abraham are amplified in the Davidic Covenant.

- God entered into a covenant with King David which promised that through David's physical lineage would come an eternal house, throne, and kingdom forever. II Sam. 7:12-16 - *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*

- The Davidic Covenant is repeated in I Chronicles 17 and it is confirmed in Psa. 89.

- The Davidic Covenant does not refer to the Church or to a reign of God in heaven. It is linked to the earth, to the seed of Israel, and to the land. It will be fulfilled on earth.

The New Covenant

- The blessing promise is amplified in the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34). *Behold, days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.*
- Note wonders, blood, cosmic disturbances in Joel 2:28-31 – before the day of the LORD.
- God promised to write His laws on the hearts of the Jews. This eternal covenant (Jer. 32:37-40) will bring forth regeneration (Jer. 31:33) and universal knowledge (Jer. 31:34) for Israel. Future fulfillment. God writing His laws upon the hearts of Israel has yet to be fulfilled.
- When the New Covenant is fulfilled, the world will experience the universal knowledge of God. Habakkuk 2:14 – *The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God.*

Let's MARVEL at the duration of the promises throughout Scripture – promised to Israel!

The Abrahamic Covenant is the GLUE of the Scriptures: The Abrahamic Covenant forms the FRAMEWORK for understanding God's plan of salvation **and** His end time program!

The Abrahamic Covenant is timeless...because it is solely dependent on God! Our salvation is solely dependent upon God! Eph. 2:8-9 - *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.*

When we're saved...we're completely saved...we're saved for all eternity! How about, "Once saved COMPLETELY saved"?!! If we believe that we, as believers can lose our salvation...are we then believing that WE did something to earn our salvation?!!

Romans 8:30 - *...whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

I John 3:2 - *...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.*
ASSURANCE – from beginning to end..."one story"!!

I Peter 1:3-5 - *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, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. "One story"!!*

BUT Israel disobeyed God so many times! BUT GOD! What do we do with that? Nothing! GOD is TOTALLY IN CONTROL!

Gen. 12:9-10 – IMMEDIATELY after God made the promises to Abram and his physical descendants...after Abram built an offer to sacrifice to God...to worship God...after Abram pitched his tent... *Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South. ...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.* EGYPT??

Did Abram consult with God? BUT GOD gave them the land of Canaan. Wouldn't God provide? Once in Egypt, Abram told Sarai to lie to Pharaoh and claim that she was Abram's sister. The reasoning...if Pharaoh knew Abram and Sarai were husband and wife, Pharaoh would get rid of Abram – and let Sarai live. Again, wouldn't God protect?

Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's harem and Pharaoh treated Abram well (much livestock and male and female servants) (Gen. 12:11-16).

And the LORD plagued PHARAOH (!!!) and his house with great plagues (??). Abram told Sarai to lie and Pharaoh was punished...and Abram and Sarai left with no harm to either...and with great treasures??

God's promises were to come through Isaac (Gen. 17:19; Rom. 9:7). Isaac was to be born to Abram and Sarai. Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's harem!! Here was an attempt on the part of Satan to pollute the line of the Messiah!

Pharaoh gave Sarai back to Abram AND gave them many gifts and told them to return to their land! God's purposes can NEVER be thwarted.

Gen. 20:1-18 – “deja vu” with Abimelech who took Sarah. After Abraham and Abimelech hashed things out, we read in Gen. 20:17-18 - *So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; ¹⁸for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife!!!!!!*.

Again, God was protecting the polluting of the line of the Messiah. The son of promise was Isaac – who would come through Sarah. Gen. 17:19 - *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.*

- God later confirmed the covenant w/ Abraham's son, Isaac (Gen. 26:1-4).
- In spite of Isaac's sin after that confirmation (Gen. 26:6-11), God later confirmed the covenant with his son, Jacob (Gen. 28:13-15; 35:9-12; 48:3-4).
- Even though Jacob and his sons were guilty of various sins (Gen. 37:18-36; 38:12-26), Joseph regarded the covenant to be in effect at the end of his life and was convinced that it would continue to be so into the future (Gen. 50:24-26).
- Several generations after Joseph, when the people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt, God made it clear to Moses that the Abrahamic Covenant was still in effect (Ex. 2:24; 6:2-8).

STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

QUESTIONS

What was new to you?

How does Genesis 12 fit into the “one story” of Scripture?

Does Genesis 12, connected to MANY other Scriptures in several timeframes, help in understanding the “one story”? How?

Explain the covenants. How many were eternal, unilateral, unconditional?

What is your view of God after reading this lesson?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 5 w/ Bible references.

Continue journaling

Share this lesson with - ?

Read Week 6 when you receive it.