

## UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 6 – The Greater Purpose of God!

March 3, 2026

Why would God bless Abram in the midst of Abram and Sarai going down to Egypt? God has done so...*for His glory...AND, because ...God so loved the world!*

The greater purpose of God...voiced by God...*that the world may know that I am God...* is noted over 63 times in the book of Ezekiel.

I Sam. 17:46 – David told Goliath, *This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

I am suggesting that the theme of the one story of Scripture is...the glory of God! God is going to restore this creation and mankind back to His initial plan. And He is going to enhance it!

Isa. 65:17 - *For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth...*

Isa. 66:22 - *For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me,” says the Lord, so shall your descendants and your name remain.*

Rev. 21:1-2 - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...*

Hab. 2:14 - *the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord...*

What should be our RESPONSE? Magnify and exalt Him! Magnifying the LORD is acknowledging His supreme worth through our reverence and adoration. Magnifying God is also an act of humility...recognizing our own limitations and the infinite nature of God's attributes.

Read Psalms and the Prophets:

Psa. 34:1-3 - *I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. <sup>2</sup> My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. <sup>3</sup> Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.*

Jer. 9:23-24 - *Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; <sup>24</sup> But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,' says the Lord.*

God delights in the display of His nature, His character; and when it is known and understood by humanity. Grab hold of God's word and by faith, trust in Who He is and in His plan.

Marvel...be awestruck in Who God is in all His glory

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Last week we considered the faithfulness of the children of Israel. What are we spotlighting throughout Scripture? The faithfulness of God! He alone is faithful; He alone is worthy. We are sinners saved by God's grace!! But, how do we answer the question: How many Jewish people came to know God through the promise of the Messiah – since Gen. 3:15? I was asked that question years ago. I didn't know the answer. I'm going to share w/ you in class my journey through Scripture. Briefly, at this point, God directed me to Psa. 84:1 - *How lovely is Your tabernacle (Your dwelling place) O Lord of hosts! <sup>2</sup> My soul longs, yes, even*

*faints for the courts of the Lord;* The sons of Korah wrote Psa. 84 along with 10 other Psalms including Psa. 42 (read). Who was Korah (Num. 16 - read)?

In preparation – read Hebrews 11 followed by...

Hebrews 12:1-2 – *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, <sup>2</sup> 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.*

...since we are **SURROUNDED** by **SO GREAT** a **CLOUD OF WITNESSES**!!!!

Who are these witnesses? Those about whom, in Israel's history, the author of Hebrews did not have enough time to write in Heb. 11! What were they witnessing?

Those who died, about whom we read in Hebrews 11, are described as a GREAT CLOUD?? "GREAT CLOUD" – in the Greek means a large dense [cloud – molecular denseness] multitude, a throng - A throng refers to a large, densely packed crowd of people. A collection of vapour obscuring the heavens!!!! SO?

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Through pondering why God would bless Abram in the midst of weakness and disobedience, we want to understand our faithful God and His greater purpose. We want to behold His glory and so desire to respond accordingly in marveling at Him!

Let's visit Abram returning to the land of Canaan after Abram and Sarai and Lot departing from Egypt.

Gen. 13:1-3 - *Then Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the South (to the Negev southern part of the land of Canaan). <sup>2</sup> Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. <sup>3</sup> And he went on his journey from the South as far as Bethel, to the place where his tent (his temporary dwelling) had been at the beginning (when he first arrived – following God), between Bethel (house of God) and Ai (heap of ruins).*

*Bethel* – place of communion with God. *Ai* – that which had been destroyed.

Isn't this where we live now and have always lived? We should always commune with our personal God, worshiping Him, serving Him as we temporarily reside in this world system which is chaotic and crumbling.

And, we remain here until Jesus returns.

Gen. 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.*

I'm observing a humble Abram...returning to where he was when God led him at first to this land that God had given him...at the beginning. Abram realized that God did indeed protect Sarai and Abram in Egypt. AND...perhaps Abram realized that this God of glory had a plan. The great nation that God promised Abram would come from a son fathered by Abram in his older years with Sarai who had been barren. And through Abram's descendants the world would be blessed through the ULTIMATE SON – the Messiah – Who would come through the Jewish line!

God protected the line through which the Messiah would come. And He came! We are indeed seeing the greater purpose of God! During the time in Egypt the spotlight was on God and His

plan. In Egypt God proved His faithfulness in fulfilling His promises which would impact the world. The spotlight is always on God and He is forever faithful!

Gen. 13:4 - *And there (at the altar between Bethel and Ai) Abram called on the name of the LORD. Abram called* – Abram PROCLAIMED the name of the LORD. Abram now had a deeper understanding of God. Abram PROCLAIMED his God! Abram renewed his worship and glorified God! Abram longed for how it was at the beginning – “at first.” In returning, Abram’s faith was strengthened because God revealed Himself further.

Do we often remember our time with God – at the “beginning”? Do we long for those days when we called out to God...acknowledging Who He is and who we are? What gets in the way?

We are learning as we go through Scripture. Where is the learning leading? Marveling at God? Magnifying and exalting God? Perhaps not automatically. Is absorbing God’s word leading to the Holy Spirit convicting us? The Holy Spirit does convict us! Praise God that He does so! Have we known the times that the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin to be so precious as He reveals to us more of Himself, as He stirs our hearts to desire to know Him like never before...or to desire to know Him for the first time!

#### QUESTIONS:

What have you learned?

What are you taking away from this lesson? WHY?

How does living between communing with God and living in this crumbling world impact you?

In what way are you magnifying and exalting God?

#### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 6.

Journal – based on this lesson.

Share with someone how God is working in your life.

Register for the Passover Seder!

Read Week 7 when you receive it.