

THE GLORY OF GOD

Week 7 – Abraham’s Response to the Glory of God

October 22, 2024

Understanding God’s purpose for His creation leads to understanding God’s purpose for the universal flood!

WHY did God create the world? For His glory!

Prov. 16:4 - *The Lord has made all for Himself,*

Rom. 11:36 - *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

WHY did God create man?

Rev. 4:11 - *You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.* Man was created to glorify God!

When we read about “man” in the early chapters of Genesis (Gen. 1-Gen. 11) – about what type of man are we reading? Gentiles? Jews?

How about “mankind”?

WHY did God send the universal flood?

God took merciful action to stop humanity’s headlong cascade into evil (Gen. 6:5). *...every intention of the thoughts of man’s heart was only evil continually.*

We need to know from Scripture that God doesn’t take pleasure in the death of the wicked.

Eze. 33:11 - *As I live, ’says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways!’*

II Pet. 3:9 - *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Genesis highlights how the wickedness unleashed by the Fall caused God sorrow and grief (Gen. 6:1-7).

Was sin eradicated through the flood? No! The Nephilim were destroyed (II Pet. 2:4-5). The “one blood” of Acts 17:26 (*And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth*), is that of Adam through Noah. All physical characteristics of the whole race were present in the genetics of Noah, his sons, and their wives.

We read of the depravity of man in Genesis 9 through Genesis 11.

In Genesis 9 we read that Noah planted a vineyard, drank of the wine and was drunk and became uncovered/naked in his tent. Noah’s son, Ham, saw the nakedness of his father and seemingly took delight in it and told his brothers. Noah cursed Canaan, one of Ham’s sons.

In Genesis 11 we read the first attempt at globalism – one world! What had God told man to do from the time when Adam and Eve inhabited Eden? *Be fruitful and multiply!*

Gen. 11:1-9 - *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.’ ⁴ And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a*

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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.’ ⁵ But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. God then said. . . 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.

Had God’s plan been thwarted? NO! God’s plan is ALWAYS – PLAN A!!! God’s initial plan for creation will be restored. And...

Hab. 2:14 - *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord....* which will occur in the Millennial Kingdom which leads into the Eternal State (the new heavens and the new earth; the New Jerusalem)

But what about in Noah’s day moving toward Abraham’s day? The earth was not filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord.

Gen. 10:1– *Now this is the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood.* We read of 70 nations coming from Noah’s three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

And regarding SHEM'S descendants, we read...

Gen. 11:27- 31 - *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 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 (modern day Iraq) to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.*

Where does this take us? To Genesis 12. God promised to create a great nation! Here we read the beginning of the history of Israel (Genesis 12-Revelation 22 [Isa. 2:2; Isa. 66:22]; Zech.; Eze. 40-48; and many other passages! Cross reference). For the first 2,000 years from creation there was mankind. No Jews, no Gentiles. Mankind! In 2,000 BC, God created the nation of Israel.

Gen. 12:1-3 - *Now the Lord **had** said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. ² 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.* To whom is God speaking in Gen. 12:1-3? Abram! An idol worshipper? And Who will be carrying out the blessings and the curses? GOD!

But - what's happening to the one story/one narrative of the Bible? IT CONTINUES! God's plan is ALWAYS...PLAN A!!!

*Now the Lord **had** said to Abram....* Where do we read about God having said to Abram...Get out of your family, from your father's house?

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Acts 7:2-3 - *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.'*

The Glory of God REVEALED HIMSELF (because God's glory cannot be contained) to Abram who was a pagan/a heathen!! How do we know that Abram was a pagan?

Josh. 24:2 - *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.*

God REVEALED Himself. Did Abram from Ur of the Chaldeans respond?

Gen. 11:31 - 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.

We already read from Genesis 10 that **70 nations** were birthed from Noah's three sons. WHY in Genesis 12 are we reading about a new "great nation"?

Before the children of Israel entered the land of promise, Moses, in Deut. 32, told the nation of Israel, *When the Most High (When God) divided their inheritance* (Israel's inheritance; Israel's land) *to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples* (the Gentiles) *according to the number of the children of Israel.* (WHY??) *For the Lord's portion is His people;* (SO??) *Jacob* (whose name was changed to Israel) *is the place of His inheritance.* Throughout the OT we see the children of Israel connected to the land – which God had promised them. God set the boundaries of the **70 nations** according to the number of the children of Israel...which was **70**!?? How is the number of the children of Israel 70?

Gen. 46:27 - *All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were **seventy**.*

Ex. 1:5 - *All those who were descendants of Jacob were **seventy** persons.*

Is this significant?

In reading Deut. 32:8-9, it appears that God ordained a plan whereby the nations (70 nations) and Israel (70 persons going down to Egypt) would be connected. HOW?

Deut. 32:1 - *Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.* All of creation was called to be an audience to hear the message to Israel because the truth Moses was about to proclaim concerned the whole universe.

When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel. For the Lord's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

God chose Israel to accomplish His purposes for the world! God intended Israel to be a channel of blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18; Isa. 19:24-25; Isa. 42:6; Rom. 11:12, 15). God set the boundaries of the Gentiles according to the children of Israel because the Israelites were chosen to be God's instrument of blessing for the world!

CONSIDER: Joshua 2:9-11; I Sam. 17:45-46.

The nation of Israel was to be a light to the nations.

What's happening, though, to the one story/one narrative of the Bible? IT CONTINUES! God's plan is ALWAYS...PLAN A!!!

This is the record of the beginning of the nation of Israel. Israel is a nation CREATED by God.

Isa. 43:1 – But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.

Isa. 43:10-21 - “You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. ¹² I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you (Israel); therefore you (Israel) are My witnesses, (God called Israel to be witnesses to the Gentiles/pagans who believed in many foreign gods) says the Lord, that I am God.... ²¹ This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

And the Psalmist wrote of what God had told Israel to proclaim to the Gentiles...

Psa. 117 – (the middle of the Bible; the shortest chapter) Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! ² For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!

And so...the nation of Israel received promises from God which we know as an unconditional/unilateral covenant. No other nation has ever received a covenant from God: a unilateral covenant: one-sided/God's side; an unconditional covenant: no strings attached on the part of Israel. God obligated Himself to fulfill/to deliver upon His promises to Israel. Heb. 6:13 - *For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.*

No other nation has received a covenant from God. And so, we have the “nations” in Scripture who are defined as “Gentiles,” “nations,” “peoples.” And, we have “Your people,” “Israel,” “Jacob.”

II Sam. 7:22-25 – King David, in speaking with God, said, You are great, O Lord God. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. ²³ And who is like Your people, like Israel, the one nation on the earth whom God went to redeem for Himself as a people, to make for Himself a name—and to do for Yourself great and awesome deeds for Your land—before Your people whom You redeemed for Yourself from Egypt, the nations, and their gods? ²⁴ For You have made Your people Israel Your very own people forever; and You, Lord, have become their God.

We know that the Bible is one story/one narrative. Because of the creation of Israel, is salvation the same? YES!! God's promise of the Seed of the Woman remains INTACT!!! God continues to require a blood sacrifice. The people still awaited deliverance from God through the anointed One, the Messiah (Psalm 2)!

Heb. 11:13 - The author of Hebrews, inspired by the Holy Spirit, in listing MANY of the "OT saints" in Hebrews chapter 11 states, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises* (not having experienced the fulfillment of the promises – Jesus) *but having seen them afar off were assured of them* (assured of God's promise of the Messiah), *embraced them* (embraced the promise of the Messiah) *and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth* (they knew this world was not their home – that God was preparing a new Jerusalem for them [Eze. 40-48]).

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How much did Abraham know about God's plan of salvation?

Gen. 22:1ff - God "tested" Abraham (to prove Abraham's belief). God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, his only son, whom he loved!

On the way up to the land of Moriah, God told Abraham that He/God would tell Abraham the mountain on which he should offer Isaac as a burnt offering. On the trail up the mountain, when Isaac mentioned having the fire and the wood but no lamb for the sacrifice, Abraham responded with, Gen. 22:8 - *My son, God will provide HIMSELF the lamb for a burnt offering*. There is no "for" in this sentence. "Provide" carries the meaning of presenting oneself. God HIMSELF would be the lamb!!!! How did Abraham know this? Did God tell Abraham? If so, when?

The Angel of the LORD stopped Abraham from killing Isaac. We see the Angel of the LORD for the first time in Gen. 16...speaking with Hagar...telling her that she was carrying a son through Abraham! Had Hagar told Abraham? The Angel of the LORD speaks as God. The Angel of the LORD no longer appears after the incarnation of Jesus! I believe that the Angel of the LORD is a preincarnate appearance of Jesus. Abraham interacted with the Angel of the LORD!

On that mountain in the area of Moriah at that altar of burnt offering, a substitutionary sacrifice was offered in Isaac's place. A lamb? NO! A ram!? God had promised that He Himself would be the lamb provided. Here might've been the point where the Jews began looking for the lamb/for God who was to come since Abraham was emphatic with Isaac about God providing HIMSELF the lamb. Did Abraham understand? Perhaps.... In Gen. 22:14 - *And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of*

the Lord it shall be provided. In the land of/the area of Moriah (Gen. 22:2) where Jesus would be crucified.

Once again, the Angel of the LORD speaks as God in Gen. 22: 15-18 - *Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: 'By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.'*

Abraham alone came down from the Mount and joined his two servants (Gen. 22:19). Where's Isaac??? The next time we see Isaac is in Gen. 24:59-67 - meeting his bride!!!! Possible foreshadowing of Jesus' resurrection.

Heb. 11:17-19 - *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' ¹⁹ concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead...* The author of Hebrews recorded, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that Abraham concluded at the time of the near sacrifice of Isaac that God was able to raise Isaac up from the dead! Abraham knew about resurrection!

Perhaps God shared more with Abraham re: His plan which included offering Himself as the Lamb, during the time He spent with Abraham noted in Genesis 18. God and two angels arrived at Abraham's tent – in human form! We can assume that this was God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, appearing to Abraham before His incarnation and birth at Bethlehem. We assume this

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because of God the Father it says, *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father; He has declared Him (John 1:18)*, and no man has ever seen God in the Person of the Father (1 Tim. 6:16). Therefore, if God appeared to someone in human appearance in the Old Testament (and no one has seen God the Father) it makes sense that His appearance is of the eternal Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, before His incarnation in Bethlehem.

And God and the two angels ate in Abraham's tent. Then the men rose from feasting and looked toward Sodom. As Middle Eastern hospitality would command, Abraham went with them to send them on their way. The men/the angels left. We read of the Lord speaking in Gen. 18:18 (perhaps speaking to Himself), *Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?* Abraham and the Lord spoke further about any righteous in Sodom (Lot and his family) being spared.

Might God have shared more with Abraham?

QUESTIONS

What was new to you? How did it impact you?

What are your questions about this week's lesson?

What did you share w/ someone from last week's lesson?

Share how God has used your journaling re: the glory of God in your life.

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 7 w/ Bible references.

Continue to journal.

Pray about sharing what you're learning with someone.

Read Week 8's handout when you receive it.