

Wk 4 Understanding The Old Testament: Patriarchs, God Appears as a Man, the Angel of the Lord, Seeking the Lord, Joseph as a picture of Jesus.

Genesis 12 - The Call of Abraham

12:1-3: All nations will be blessed

12:7a: Yahweh appeared to Abram and said.

According to the Bible anytime Yahweh is seen it is Jesus pre-incarnation. John 1:18; 1 Tim 6:16.

- Look for Anthropomorphizing [giving human characteristics to something that is not human, i.e. The Lion King].
- Look for when it says things like “stood, touched, grabbed, etc. Voices from heaven cannot stand, touch, grab, etc.” Example: 1 Samuel 3:7-10, see v10 “stood”

12:7b: Offspring singular, not ‘offsprings’ plural. - Paul: Galatians 3:16. Messianic Prophecy.

12:10-20: Abraham, deceiver? Maybe, maybe not depending on who you ask. Remember: The Bible is not shy in telling us the low points of its main characters; God uses imperfect people. The important thing is we believe in Him and be obedient to His Word and the Holy Spirit.

Word Biblical Commentary, Volume 1: Genesis 1-15 (Explanation): After the great expectations aroused by the first episode in the Abraham cycle, this second one surprises us by the unheroic performance of the hero... It was the LORD who saved Sarai from the plight in which her husband’s cleverness had landed her (v 17), and Abram’s silence in the face of Pharaoh’s remonstrations shows that the author did not approve of his conduct. This is confirmed by comparing this tale with the similar ones in Gen 20 and 26. It becomes plain that for an individual to acquire both wealth and offspring is a mark of divine blessing: one without the other is not. Here, despite the promises of vv 1-3, Abram acquires wealth (v 16), but no children. This does suggest that the writer is not here endorsing Abram’s conduct or holding it up for imitation. The echoes of the garden of Eden story also point in the same direction. The justice of the royal anger is underlined by the way Pharaoh asks the same question after the offense that the LORD asked Adam, and Pharaoh expels Abram from his land just as God expelled Adam from his garden. What then is the purpose of this story? Von Rad sees it as an illustration of the fulfillment of God’s promise despite Abram’s weakness; Zimmerli, as an example of the frailty of God’s elect; Westermann, that even in apparently hopeless situations God can deliver.

Genesis 13 - Abram and Lot Separate

Genesis 14: Lot gets captured; Abram saves lot. Melchizedek narrative.

-Melchizedek is featured a few times in the bible. *Psalm 110:4; Hebrew 5 - 7*

- Melchizedek was both King and Priest of Salem. (Salem is the name of the city that would eventually become Jerusalem)

- Because of Moses’ disobedience/unwillingness to listen to Yahweh the leadership of Israel was split in two. One Leader and One Priest. i.e. Moses and Aaron. Joshua and Eleazar. David in a way combined the two although he was not high priest. David did priestly things.

- Melchizedek, and later David are a prototype or foreshadow (type and shadow) of Jesus who is both King and Priest (Heb 5-7)

Genesis 15: The Abrahamic Covenant

15:1-5: Yahweh appears in a ‘vision’. “Visions are things you can see”.

Sand of the seashore: Physical Children i.e. Israel. | Stars of Heaven: Spiritual Children i.e. Gentiles grafted in.

15:6: “faith and righteousness”

15:7: I am “Yahweh”

15:9: Heifer, Goat, Ram, turtledove, pigeon. All used in Levitical System of Sacrifice. Goats, Rams, Turtledoves, and Pigeons were used for various reasons for the **unintentional** sins of the people. (*See Leviticus 1-5*)

Heifers (see Num 19) were burned in a clean spot outside of the tabernacle. The burnt ashes of the heifer were mixed with water and then used to purify those who had touched a dead body.

The animals represent Israel. The heifer in particular stands out as a “cleansing from the dead” or a picture of salvation.

15:10: Cut them in half. The idea of this covenant is basically “let this happen to me if I break this covenant.”

15:11: The birds of prey being driven away represent Yahweh protecting Israel from its enemies if they would keep the covenant.

15:12-16: Prophecy about what is to come, specifically Israel’s captivity in Egypt, and time for those living in the promised land to repent or be driven out before Yahweh uses Israel to execute Yahweh’s judgment upon them.

15:17: The flaming torch represents the presence of God (i.e. pillar of fire in the wilderness), this is God essentially saying as we said early “may this happen to me if I break this covenant”. God is making a Covenant that He will not break. See *Jeremiah 34:18-20*

Genesis 16 - Sarai and Hagar. Abram (and Sarai), again, use means other than what God had intended for them.

16:1-6: Scheme and Jealousy of Sarai, Mistreatment of Hagar.

16:7: The Angel of Yahweh [The Angel of the LORD].

Most of the time you see the phrase “The Angel of the LORD” it is Jesus pre-incarnate.

If “The Angel of The Lord” speaks as the Lord it is Jesus. (See Verse 10 - I will surely...”

16:13: “a God of seeing”

Genesis 17 - Sign of Covenant: Circumcision.

Many types of covenants in antiquity. Blood covenant, salt covenant.

Circumcision of every male is a sign that reminds all of Israel that they started because of a miracle that Yahweh had performed. Sarai, now Sarah. Was barren, unable to have kids. So the sign of the covenant is circumcision as a reminder that all of Israel is a result of a miracle.

17:1: “Yahweh appeared”.

Name changes: **Abraham:** Hebrew for Father of a Multitude. Av = Father; Rehem = Womb; Hamon = Multitude; Army; Abundance. | **Sarah:** Hebrew for princess.

Genesis 18 - Abraham promised Isaac within a year; Abraham intercedes on behalf of Lot.

18:1: Yahweh [Jesus] and two angels appear to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre.

Recall: Garden Imagery.

Sodom and Gomorrah: two cities who represent sexual sin in other parts of the Bible.

Genesis 19 - The Rescue of Lot and Clear Godhead reference.

19:1-13: The two angels go down to the cities and meet Lot. They judge the city/tell Lot and his family to leave.

19:16: Lot and his family really don’t seem to want to leave. Do we have the same response when the Lord asks us to leave something behind that has no place in our lives? Sometimes we face harder than necessary circumstance because the Lord in his mercy won’t let us stay where we are.

19:24: Very clear two Yahweh’s. One on earth with Abraham, the other in Heaven. NOT POLYTHEISM. This is the Godhead or Trinity in action. The Father, unseen, in heaven. The Son, Image of the Invisible God, on earth.

Genesis 19:30-38 & Gen 20 - God using (very) imperfect people.

God still loves us and works with us even if we fail again and again. This is not a license to sin; it is, however, important that we repent and allow the Holy Spirit to change us.

Note: Lot’s decedents are called Moab or Moabites. Commonly referred to throughout the Bible.

Genesis 21 - The birth of the promised son, Isaac. The Angel of The Lord appears to Hagar and Ismael again.

Gen 21:33: Abraham plants a garden and seeks the Lord there. This seeking turns Abraham from a person who believed the Lord, but several times through deception and planning tried to accomplish the Lord's promise and will for him into a person who so trusted the Lord that he would offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

Genesis 22: Isaac offered as a sacrifice. Foreshadow of Jesus as our substitute.

There is shift from Abraham pre-chapter 22 and post-chapter 22. Abraham doesn't hesitate, doesn't argue, or make excuses. He acts in faith.

22:4: "On the third day". No way that's a coincidence.

22:5: First mention of the word "Worship". True worship requires surrender and sacrifice. Are we willing to surrender ourselves to Him and sacrifice ourselves [spiritually see [Romans 12:1-2](#)] to Him in worship. Simply, this is giving Him our attention, taking our eyes off of ourselves and putting them on Him.

22:7-8: God will provide a lamb. **22:11:** The Angel of the Lord.

22:13: "lifted up his eyes." A ram was used as a burnt offering. Not a lamb. The lamb was still to come. John 1:29

Genesis 24 - Isaac and Rebekah. Christ and the Church.

Genesis 24 is how Abraham (representative of the Father), sends his servant (representative of the Holy Spirit) to find a bride for his son (representative of Jesus). **Note:** metaphors, types, and shadows aren't going to have a 1:1 equivalency on every single detail. The Holy Spirit is not the servant of the father. They are one. We must be careful with how literal we take types, shadows, and metaphors.

Genesis 25 - Rebekah is Barren. Jacob and Esau are born.

Gen 25:21: Rebekah is barren. Isaac prays to the Lord for her and she conceives.

Jesus intercedes for us, His bride, that we may bear good fruit. *Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1*

Note: All three patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) will have wives that cannot conceive without a supernatural intervention from God.

Genesis 26 - Yahweh appears to Isaac for the first time. Isaac pulls the same deception his father did.

26:12: God is not blessing Isaac because of His deception. This shows us that God doesn't withhold blessing us because of mistakes. He does, again, expect us to repent and grow in Him.

26:18-22: If what we are doing is not allowing us to dig a deep well we need to move on from what we are doing. Rehoboth means 'room'.

"I will make room for you to do whatever you want to, shake up the ground of all my tradition, break down the walls of all my religion" - Make Room

26:25: In the fruitful land Isaac "built an altar, called upon the name of Yahweh, and pitched his tent there".

Notice garden imagery and seeking the Lord.

26:25-31: Tension between Isaac /Abimelech. When you find your way into the presence of God fight to keep it.

Genesis 26:34-35 & Genesis 28:6-9 - Continued bad choices of Esau

Compare to Abraham who would only let Isaac marry someone from Abraham's country. Esau takes a Canaanite wife. We cannot be married to the Lord and to the world. Also, a picture of being equally yoked in our marriages.

Genesis 27 - Further deception by Jacob. Jacob sent to find a wife in Abraham's country.

Genesis 28 - Jacob encounter Yahweh.

28:12: Dream of the ladder which angels ascend and descend on it. See *John 1:51*

- Jesus is our ladder. Jesus is what causes heaven and earth to meet. "On earth as it is in heaven". "Whatever you bind and lose in my name". "All authority on heaven and on earth have been given to me", etc.

28:13: The Lord appeared to Jacob. Notice “the Lord ‘stood”.

Genesis 29 - Jacobs fight for (first) love. After 7 years is deceived, works another 7 years for his true or first love. Do we fight for Jesus the same way? *Revelation 2:1-7. Revelation 2:4 NKJV*

Note: NOT a defense of polygamy. God’s pattern is and always has been one man and one woman. God uses imperfect people.

Genesis 29 & 30. Jacob’s wives face bareness.

Israel is a supernatural nation, it would only exist with the direct influence of the Lord. Not only once, but with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’s wives.

Genesis 30, 31, & 32 - Jacob leaven his father-in-law and fear Esau.

Genesis 32:22 - Jacob Wrestles with Yahweh (Jesus).

Jacob is given a new name. Israel. Israel means “strives with God”.

Genesis 36: Esau is Edom. Edom is commonly referred to through out the Bible. Edomites.

Genesis 37 - Joseph. Joseph has two dreams.

37:9: Joseph’s 2nd dream compare with Revelation 12.

Joseph’s life as a picture of Jesus.

- Joseph is sold and bought. Wife of Joseph’s master falsely accuses him of impropriety. Thrown into prison. Ascends to be Pharaoh’s right hand man and has equal authority as Pharaoh in many areas.
- Beloved of the father. Accused of a crime he didn’t commit. Thrown into prison. Taken up to rule at the right hand of the King.
- Jesus is the beloved of the father. Accused of blasphemy. Takes the sin of the world upon himself and dies. Descends into the grave to take back authority. Rises on the 3rd day. Ascended to the throne to rule and reign.

Joseph and Jesus’ Second Coming

- Joseph’s brother’s don’t recognize him their first visit. Recognize him the second visit.
- Israel largely missed the Messiah the first time, Jesus and Paul prophesied the salvation of a multitude of Jews before the 2nd coming. (This is taking place rapidly now.)

Genesis 48:15-16 - The angel that is God.

Genesis 49:8-11 - Joseph’s blessing on Judah.

Important for later: 12 sons of Israel = 12 tribes. Why do I count 13?

1. Reuben; 2. Simeon; 3. Levi; 4. Judah; 5. Dan; 6. Naphtali; 7. Gad; 8. Asher; 9. Issachar; 10. Zebulun; 11. Manasseh; 12. Ephraim; 13. Benjamin. What happened to Joseph?
- Joseph’s sons each get a blessing. Manasseh and Ephraim.
- 12 if Manasseh and Ephraim are combined into Joseph.
- Levi will not get a land inheritance, they are priests their “inheritance is the Lord”