

Survey of the Old Testament

The Abrahamic Covenant: God Creates a New People

Pastor Eric Douma
Twin City Fellowship

Cain's Banishment

Gen 4:12-16 When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is too great to bear! "Behold, You have driven me this day from the face of the ground; and from Your face I will be hidden, and I will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." So the LORD said to him, "Therefore whoever kills Cain, **vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold.**" And the LORD appointed a sign for Cain, so that no one finding him would slay him. Then Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Men's Wickedness Increases

Gen 4:19-24 Lamech took to himself two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other, Zillah...Lamech said to his wives, "Adah and Zillah, Listen to my voice, You wives of Lamech, Give heed to my speech, For I have killed a man for wounding me; And a boy for striking me; If Cain is avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

Men's Wickedness Increases

Gen 6:1-3 Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years."

1. The sons of God are the godly line of Seth marrying the ungodly line of Cain (daughters of men).
2. The sons of God are human rulers or judges who are polygamous.
3. The sons of God are angels who have relations with women.

1. **Strengths:** The sons of God are descendants of Seth who intermarried with Cain's descendants.

- Gen 4:16-24 refers to ungodly line of Cain (daughters of men)
Gen 4:25-5:32 refers to godly line of Seth (sons of God)
- Deut 14:1 "You are the sons of the LORD your God; you shall not cut yourselves nor shave your forehead for the sake of the dead."
- Exodus 34:16 and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters might play the harlot with their gods and cause your sons also to play the harlot with their gods.

Weakness: בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים is used 3 other times outside of Gen 6 - (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). All are referring to angels.

2. **Strengths:** The sons of God are angels who had relations with women.

- Deut 32:8; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7; Psalm 29:1; 82:6; 89:6; Dan 3:25 – all have variations of "sons of God" and are all referring to angels.
- The N.T. seems to give an "angelic interpretation" to the passage: Jude 5-7 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire (cf. 1 Pet 3:19-20; 2 Pet 2:4).

God Explains Why He Must Send The Flood**Structure:**

Gen 5:2 (Ø) – waws – 6:3

Gen 6:4 (Ø) – waws – 6:8

Gen 6:4-5 The Nephilim were 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. Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 6:6-7 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth...So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created..."

Summary Slide God's Government**Pre-flood: God rules directly**

Gen 3:8 ...heard the sound of the LORD

Gen 3:24 cherubim with flaming sword

Gen 4:15 Cain has mark of Yahweh for protection

Gen 4:16 Cain went out from presence of Yahweh

Angelic Cohabitation: Gen 6:3 "My Spirit shall not remain with man forever...his days shall be 120 years

Post-flood: God rules through men

Gen 9:6 Man is to avenge man's blood

Gen 11:4 "Let us make a name for ourselves"

Gen 11:8/Deut 32:8 "host of heaven" given the nations

Deut 32:9 Israel alone is God's inheritance!

The Reason For The Conquest of Canaan

Gen 9:21-24 He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.

The Reason For The Conquest of Canaan

Gen 9:25-27 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. "May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant."

Why curse Canaan?

1. God had already blessed Noah and his sons (9:1)
2. Noah "wishes" Ham's youngest son to bring disrepute upon Ham – just as Ham (Noah's youngest) did to him.
3. Noah's sons personify and embody the actions of their descendants. The Canaanites were known for their sexually evil practices. (cf. Lev 18:3)

Gen 9:25-27 So he said, "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. "May God enlarge Japheth, And let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant"

1. Will Canaan serve Yahweh or Shem?
2. Is the "him" referring to Yahweh or Japheth?
3. How is Shem blessed?

Japheth dwelling in Shem's tents would not be a blessing on Shem!

Yahweh will "dwell" in the tents of Shem! וַיֵּשֶׁב

God's New People

Gen 12:1-7 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed..." Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions ... Now the Canaanite was then in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him.

1. Great nation
2. Salvation/Giver of Salvation
3. Protection
4. Salvation to all nations
5. Messianic Land

The Issue: Where Is The Seed?

Gen 15:1-3 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great." Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir."

Gen 15:4-6 Then behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir." And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." **Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.**

God Cuts The Covenant

Gen 15:8-10 He said, "O Lord GOD, **how may I know that I will possess it?**" So He said to him, "Bring Me a three year old heifer, and a three year old female goat, and a three year old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, and laid each half opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds.

Heifer = For the defiled – Num 19:1-10; Hebrews 9:13

Female goat = Sin offering – Lev 4:28

Ram = Guilt offering – Lev 5-6:7

Turtle dove/Pigeon = Burnt/Guilt offering – Lev 1:14; 5:7

Gen 15: How may I know?/ Animals cut – Covenant

Sacrificial: How may I know?/ Animals cut – Covenant

Ritualism Is A "Self Made" Righteousness

Isaiah 1:11 What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle; And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.

Romans 10:1-4 Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

Gen 15:12-21 Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, terror and great darkness fell upon him. God said to Abram, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be enslaved and oppressed four hundred years." But I will also judge the nation whom they will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. "As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. "Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, *there appeared* a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land..."

God's Covenant Given By Grace

Gen 17:2-5 “I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly.” Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, “As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. “No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations.

- God “gives” His covenant by grace! = וְאֶתְּנָה בְּרִיתִי בֵּינִי וּבֵינְךָ
- God “cut” the covenant. = בַּיּוֹם הַהוּא קָרַת יְהוָה אֶת־אֲבָרָם בְּרִית

Abraham Cuts The Symbol Of The Covenant

Gen 17:2, 7, 11 "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly...I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your **seed** after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant...And you shall circumcise in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

אֹת

1. Sign – symbolizes a greater reality
2. God cuts the covenant/ Abraham cuts the symbol of "Seed promise"
3. Christ cuts the covenant: Matt 26:28 ...this is My blood of the covenant which is poured out for many...

~~Abraham Travels To "Chosen by Yahweh"~~

Gen 22:2-3 He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:4-5 On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you." (cf. Heb 11:19)

Gen 22:6-8 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

* Abraham calls the place "Yahweh will provide"
Lamb = איל * What happened to the Lamb?

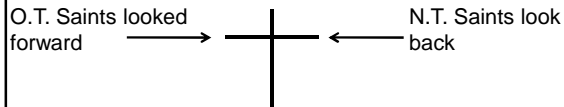
Gen 22:10,12-13 Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son... He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. Ram = איל

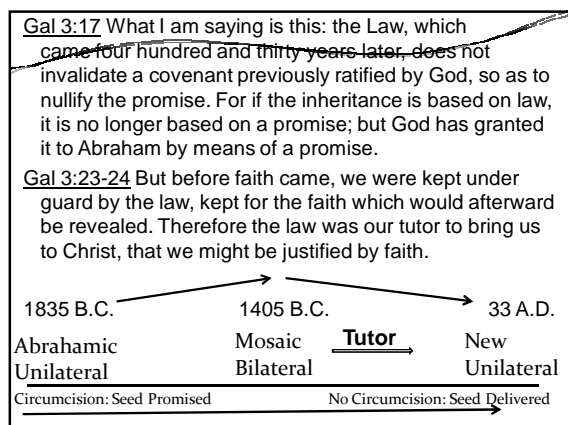
~~Salvation Has Always Been By Faith In Christ~~

John 8:56 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad."

Heb 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

O.T. Saints looked forward → ← N.T. Saints look back





Summary

1. The longing for fallen angelic "relations" helps explain the utter depravity of man – and the need for the flood.
2. The fact that those in Canaan went after the "host of heaven" and sinned egregiously against the Lord explains why their land was given to Israel.
3. The seed promise incorporates the land belonging to Christ.
4. God alone "cut" the Abrahamic covenant (Gen 15) – Abraham "cut" the symbol of the covenant (Gen 17).
5. Abraham's faith (Gen 15:6) led him to act (Gen 22).
6. Salvation has always been through faith in Christ!
