

REVIEW:

What is the point of Gen. 1-3? 4-11?

GOD BEGINS TO DO SOMETHING

Gen. 3-11 - Human authored history of MISERY.

Gen. 12 and following - God authored history of MIRACLE.

Whenever God wants to do something on this earth, He will look for a PERSON. This is the focus of Scripture. God works with people to accomplish his plans.

We look for the best man, God if anything, looks for the LEAST LIKELY PERSON.

THE ABRAHAMIC PROMISE (Gen. 12:1-3)

1 – "I will make you into a great nation."

2 – "I will bless you."

3 – "I will make your name great."

4 – "I will make you a blessing."

5 – "I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you."

6 - "I will bless all the families of the earth through you."

Albert Pieters says "What in the Bible precedes this text is introduction, and all that follows, even to the last chapter of Revelation, is the story of the DEVELOPMENT and FULFILLMENT of this Promise."

ACT ONE -- I WILL BUILD A GREAT NATION

The Constitution for the RECOVERY (REDEMPTION) of Man reads this way.

"And God said to Abraham, I will make of thee a great nation."

ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB

LESSON FOR YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE - GOD SOMETIMES MOVES VERY SLOWLY (towards his goal), BUT HE ALWAYS ADVANCES TOWARDS HIS GOAL!

We know basically three things about Abraham.

- 1 - God made a COVENANT with him (Gen. 13:14-17).
- 2 - We have a lot of information about Sarai interspersed throughout his life story. (Gen. 11:30)
- 3 - He desired a BABY. (Gen. 15:2).

We know basically three things about Isaac, Abraham's son.

- 1 - God RENEWED the Covenant he had made with Abraham (Gen. 26:24).
- 2 - He obtains a wife through Divine guidance (Gen. 24).
- 3 - He asks the Lord for a BABY (Gen. 25:21).

Jacob's biography reads the same.

- 1 - God renews the ABRAHAMIC Covenant" (Gen. 28:12-15).
- 2 - His wives, Leah and Rachel, are an important part of God's plan for him (Gen. 29).
- 3 - A tension arose in the family as to who would give him a BABY (Gen. 30:1ff).

Genesis 11:30 Now Sarai was barren; she had no children.

Genesis 25:21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant.

Genesis 29:31 When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.

Genesis 30:1 When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!"

We have before us men who are **PROMISED** the same thing and who have the same **PROBLEM (their wives are barren)**.

MAN HAD HIS CHANCE IN THE FIRST 11 CHAPTERS OF GENESIS, BUT NOW THE STORY CHANGES. NOW **GOD** IS GOING TO DO SOMETHING ON THIS EARTH.

God only uses those who are **BROKEN**.

1 Samuel 17:32-37 David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." [33] Saul replied, "**You are not able** to go out against this Philistine and fight him; **you are only a boy**, and he has been a fighting man from his youth." [34] But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, [35] I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. [36] Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. [37] **The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.**" Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

STEP ONE - Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the **FOUNDING FATHERS** of the nation of Israel. They are **the SEED** of Israel. The nation of Israel will grow from these three men.

Compare Gen. 49:1 with Gen. 49:28.

STEP TWO – TRIBAL SYSTEM (God now moves to a new step. Jacob has many sons, and these sons are the 12 tribes of Israel. They are the SEEDS of the tribal system, like American states.

1. Read Exodus 1:1-22 - What was the big problem with Israel? Why did the Egyptians fear them? How does this relate to God building a nation? What is this step?

2. We are here in Egypt, and there is a great problem. Egypt is going to destroy the Israelites, and yet God wants them to be a nation. What step towards nationality happens in Exodus 2-4.

3. Read Exodus 2:24-25; Why does God decide to deliver them?

4. Exodus 3:1-10. What is God's method of deliverance? How does God move to deliver them?

5. Exodus 9:13-16. Do you see God acting for His goal here? What is God wanting to accomplish here?

6. According to what God is attempting to do with Abraham, (remember the 6 promises in Gen. 12:1-3), why must God deliver them from Egypt?

7. Think back to the Israelites as they left the land of Egypt. What facts about God did they have (what had God revealed about Himself up until that time; for example, remember, they did not yet have a temple or a written Word)? What did they not know?

8. Define "culture".

9. Read Exodus 20. What did the Law make the Israelites realize about themselves? What was God's reaction to their reaction (what did God do for

them)?

10. There are different "types" of Law that God gave in the Old Testament. One is the moral law, which is the Ten Commandments, the second is the ceremonial law, and the third is the civil law. Which of these three types relates to the Christian?

11. Why did Israel fail to enter the Promised Land? What was the report from the spies who went in to spy out the land? Read Numbers 13:30-33.