

THE PROGRESS OF REDEMPTION

Lesson 5 – Steps 3-5 in the Making of the Nation (Act 1)

The Progress of Redemption - Dave Sturkey

INTRO

GENESIS IS ABOUT **FOUR** EVENTS AND **FOUR** PEOPLE.

Creation, Fall, Flood, Babel

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph

THE PROLOGUE TO GOD'S GREAT DRAMA

CREATION - Gen. 1-2: A **SEED** PICTURE OF THE GOAL

FALL - Gen. 3-4: THE **FAILURE** OF THE FIRST FAMILY

FLOOD - Gen. 5-10: THE FAILURE OF THE FIRST **WORLD**

BABEL - Gen. 11: THE FAILURE OF THE **SECOND WORLD**

ACT ONE -- I WILL BUILD OF THEE A GREAT NATION.

STEP ONE: ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB -- FOUNDING FATHERS

Review: How are they similar? Three things?

A TEST CASE IN OUR STUDY. The Story of Tamar - Gen 38.

THE STORY OF THE SEEMING PROSTITUTION OF TAMAR WITH JACOB IS IMPORTANT.
WHY????

Gen. 49:8-10 – Judah is chosen as the Redemptive line of God's plan.

1) THE **BOOK** OF RUTH- Ruth 4:13-22

2) THE **GENEOLOGY** OF JESUS - Matthew 1:3

3) THE **IDENTITY** OF JESUS - Rev. 5:1-5

Our thesis proves true, Tamar is important to God's story of redemption.

STEP TWO -- TRIBAL FRAMEWORK.

The 12 sons are 12 "seeds" of tribes. God is beginning to organize the basic make-up of His nation. But one of these tribe seeds is emphasized - JOSEPH.

JOSEPH - Why does God "focus" his camera on one of the 12 tribes of Israel?

JOSEPH IS INVOLVED IN THREE VERY IMPORTANT THINGS.

1) JOSEPH **PRESERVES** THE PROMISE/GOAL OF GOD.

Here is an outline the life of Joseph.

1. One of the 12 sons, one of the 12 tribes of Israel.
2. Dreamed he would **RULE** over the other 11.
3. Was sold into slavery in Egypt.
4. Rose to Power in Egypt.
5. Saved his family from the **FAMINE**

2) JOSEPH **PICTURES** GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION.

HE IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE COMING MESSIAH, THE KING OF ISRAEL.

Notice the similarities:

- 1) God prophesies his coming greatness in Joseph's dream, so was Jesus.
- 2) His people "plot" his death. He is rejected by his people - so was Jesus.
- 3) He is his father's favorite son - so is Jesus.
- 4) He is "sold" to others for silver - so was Jesus.
- 5) He is "stripped of his robe", so was Jesus.
- 6) He appears sinless, yet suffers falsely. (Potipher's wife accuses); Jesus is sinless and suffers falsely.
- 7) He saves his family from certain doom. So does Jesus.
- 8) He is "brought" back to life in the sight of his father. So is Jesus.
- 9) The nations come to him for life and salvation -- Gen. 41:57; so will the nations come to Jesus.
- 10) The Spirit of God rests upon him. Gen. 41:38, so it rested upon Jesus.
- 11) More than anything else - He is a perfect picture of what it means to be a Redeemer like Jesus.

A Redeemer is someone who gives his **LIFE** for others. He suffers and saves another through his own **SACRIFICE**. Joseph is our first clear picture of what a Redeemer is and what a Redeemer does.

3) JOSEPH **MOVES** THE PEOPLE OF GOD INTO EGYPT WHERE AN IMPORTANT STEP OCCURS IN THE PLAN OF GOD TO BUILD A GREAT NATION.

STEP 3 -- ???

Exodus 1:7

A nation is never really threatened but by **ANOTHER NATION.**

STEP 3 IS PEOPLE.

STEP 4 - A **LEADER** FOR GOD'S PEOPLE"

Story of Moses childhood.

- 1 - Born in a time of genocide by Pharaoh.
- 2 - Raised in Pharaoh's home.

How is this ironic?

MAN'S METHOD OF DELIVERANCE - I'll do it myself.

GOD'S METHOD OF DELIVERANCE - I'll do it **THROUGH** a man!

God is going to advance his glory, he is going to use men/women, but these men and women must reflect the glory back to him. That is the pattern of Scripture.

STEP 5 - DELIVERANCE

THE DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT IS THE MOST FANTASTIC DISPLAY OF GOD'S **POWER** EVER RECORDED.

One theologian has said this, "because of what God did here, a special relationship was created between God and Israel. A desperate group of families and clans were now made into a people who thought of themselves as **THE PEOPLE** of God."

They will refer back to this throughout Scripture. The deliverance from Egypt is the **SALVATION** event of the Old Testament.

Homework for Session 6

1. What is the book of Joshua about? Glance over the book or an outline of the book and summarize it. Look at the chapter headings and try to determine what the major subject is in the plan of God.
2. Read Judges 2:1-10 - Wasn't the land of Israel conquered in the book of Joshua? Why then do the people struggle and fight?
3. Read Judges 3:5-11 - What is a judge? Why do the people struggle?
4. Read Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25. What is the problem here? Why do the people struggle?
5. Read Judges 17:1-13 - What is the spiritual situation during the times of the judges?
6. Is God advancing towards his goal in the book of Judges? How? It seems like an endless cycle?
7. Read the book of Ruth. When did Ruth live? What did God do for her to advance his Great Plan?