

THE PROGRESS OF REDEMPTION

Lesson 6 – Steps 6-7 in the Making of the Nation (Act 1)

The Progress of Redemption - Dave Sturkey

INTRO

Leaving Egypt, what did the Israelites know about the Lord? The first five books of the Bible had not been written yet. None of the Bible had yet been written. Moses would write the first books. So, they knew almost nothing. They may have had oral tradition of redemptive history. We know, for example, that almost every ancient culture had a “flood” story, a distant memory of what had happened.

What is culture? Culture is the “way” that a people does things. It is the way they think, reason, and believe.

What is a priest? What does a priest do? A prophet represents God to the people. A priest represents the people to God. The nation of Israel was called to be a “kingdom of priests.” This means that the nation was meant to bring other nations and people’s to the Lord.

STEP 6 – A CULTURE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE.

Three Types of Law from God

1) MORAL – the 10 commandments. These laws are everlasting. They are in power today and forever.

2) CEREMONIAL – These are the laws of approach to God. God knew that man would not be able to keep the 10 commandments, so he put into place laws that pictured Jesus Christ and his great future sacrifice. These laws came to an end when Jesus fulfilled the whole sacrificial system.

3) CIVIL – These are the laws of the nation. They are the applications of the moral law to society. They ended and came to a close with the coming of Christ and the focus no longer on “Israel” as an entity. They are used today as “examples” of what civil law should look like. For example, there are no property taxes in Israel’s laws.

What do the three types of law do? How do they fit together? (see above)

How does the law of God apply to the people of God today? What does God's law have to do with the Christian? How is the law of God related to the Christian? We are still under the moral law for instruction in righteousness. Calvin's third use of the law is that the moral law guides us as to what love of God looks like.

We are not under Law in the sense that our RELATIONSHIP with God does not depend on our obedience to it, but the Law is useful for the Christian in LEARNING to find and know the will of God.

Westminster Confession of Faith -- Chapter 19 Of the Law of God

1. God gave to Adam a law, as a covenant of works, by which he bound him and all his posterity to personal, entire, exact, and perpetual obedience; promised life upon the fulfilling, and threatened death upon the breach of it; and endued him with power and ability to keep it.

2. This law, after his Fall, continued to be a perfect rule of righteousness, and, as such, was delivered by God upon Mount Sinai in ten commandments, and written in two tables: the first four commandments containing our duty towards God, and the other six our duty to man.

3. Besides this law, commonly called moral, God was pleased to give to the people of Israel, as a Church under age, ceremonial laws, containing several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, his graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits, and partly holding forth divers instructions of moral duties. All which ceremonial laws are now abrogated under the New Testament.

4. To them also, as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any other, now, further than the general equity thereof may require.

5. The moral law doth forever bind all, as well justified persons as others, to the obedience thereof; and that not only in regard of the matter contained in it, but also in respect of the authority of God the Creator who gave it. Neither doth Christ in the gospel any way dissolve, but much strengthen, this obligation.

6. Although true believers be not under the law as a covenant of works, to be thereby justified or condemned, yet is it of great use to them, as well as to others, in that, as a

rule of life, informing them of the will of God and their duty, it directs and binds them to walk accordingly; discovering also the sinful pollutions of their nature, hearts, and lives; so as, examining themselves thereby, they may come to further conviction of, humiliation for, and hatred against sin; together with a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and the perfection of his obedience. It is likewise of use to the regenerate, to restrain their corruptions, in that it forbids sin; and the threatenings of it serve to show what even their sins deserve, and what afflictions in this life they may expect for them, although freed from the curse thereof threatened in the law. The promises of it, in like manner, show them God's approbation of obedience, and what blessings they may expect upon the performance thereof, although not as due to them by the law as a covenant of works: so as a man's doing good, and refraining from evil, because the law encourageth to the one, and deterreth from the other, is no evidence of his being under the law, and not under grace.

7. Neither are the forementioned uses of the law contrary to the grace of the gospel, but do sweetly comply with it; the Spirit of Christ subduing and enabling the will of man to do that freely and cheerfully which the will of God, revealed in the law, requireth to be done.

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

The only thing that ever even seems to hinder the Plan of God is the Rebellion, not of others, but of God's OWN PEOPLE. God's goal will not falter. He will fill the earth with his glory.

God forgave the people of their sins but in their disobedience they failed to PARTICIPATE in God's glory filling the earth.

God does the same thing a second time with Joshua as He did with Moses!
Notice the similarities under Joshua!

Book of Joshua can be divided into TWO PARTS.

1) CONQUER the Land

2) DIVIDE the Land

Step 7 – CONQUER/DIVIDE THE LAND

Chapters 1-12 = Conquering the Land; 13-24 = Dividing the Land.

The book of Joshua begins with Joshua and it ends with Joshua, the time span for the book is one lifetime. To understand Joshua, you must understand that the people were all gathered together at Gilgal. They had not yet occupied the land.

THE BOOK OF JUDGES

Whereas the book of Joshua covers just one lifetime, the book of Judges covers 300 - 350 years. There is no UNITY in the book of Judges.

ALL ISRAEL fought together in Joshua. Notice who fights in the book of Judges, INDIVIDUAL TRIBES.

JUDGES WERE MILITARY FIGURES!

Outline of the Book of Judges

1) Judges 1:1-3:6 - Introduction, unconquered areas, recurring CYCLES of sin.

2) Judges 3:7-16:31 - The Judges and how they dealt with the oppressing NATIONS.

3) Judges 17-21 - A Flashback to the MORAL condition of the country during the days of the Judges.

Why did it take 300-350 years for the book of Judges?
It was a time of Great REBELLION and Idolatry.

Is there progress in the book of Judges? Where? What was God doing for his goal during this time?

When it looked like God's goal was not progressing, God was working PROVIDING the KING.

"IN THE DAYS WHEN THE JUDGES RULED, GOD WAS PROVIDING THE KING."

In the book of Ruth, we find a GENTILE woman used and a man whose mother was a PROSTITUTE. And here we have the theme of God's purposes. God uses SINFUL people and transforms them to bring about his glory. He is also always at work in reaching the NATIONS.

THE PROGRESS OF REDEMPTION -- HOMEWORK

1. Read 1 Samuel 1:12-17. Why did Samuel think that Hannah was moving her lips? If you saw someone moving their lips silently at the temple, what would you think? What does this tell you about the temple at this time?

2. The King James says "the word of the Lord was precious in those days" when interpreting 1 Samuel 3:1, how does your Bible interpret that verse? Why was it "precious"? What does it mean that it was precious?

3. Read 3:20. The last time that we heard about a prophet during the time of Moses. Who recognizes this prophet (see 3:20)? Where is Dan and where is Beersheba? Is this a sign of change from the book of Judges? How?

4. What step towards being a great nation happened under Samuel? See 1 Samuel 7:3,4.

5. What was the next step according to 1 Samuel 8:1-5? Compare this with Deuteronomy 17:14,15.

6. When Israel asked for a King, they displeased Samuel and God, why? Read 1 Samuel 8:7.

7. What do we learn about Saul's family and Saul from 1 Samuel 9:1,2?

8. Saul sins and God rejects him as King over Israel, what is the significance of 1 Samuel 15:35?

Think of the identity and role of Samuel. Samuel was a _____, therefore, if Saul never again heard from Samuel then he never again heard from _____.

9. Read and compare Saul's selection in 1 Samuel 9:1-5 and David's selection in 1 Samuel 16:1-13. How are they different? What does that tell you about how God operates?

10. David was a fugitive in the wilderness for many years as Saul sought his life, what do we learn about David's heart from 1 Samuel 24:1-7?

11. Saul dies in 1 Samuel 31:1-9, and the throne was finally empty. What does 2 Samuel 2:1 show us about David's attitude towards the Kingship? Why does he ask God IF he should go up and WHERE he should go up?

12. Read the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7:4-17 and compare and contrast it to the Abrahamic Covenant in Genesis 12:1-3.

13. What does 1 Kings 3:3-15 tell us about Solomon?

14. Read 1 Kings 10:27, what does this tell you about the Kingdom?

15. Read 1 Kings 8:1-11 and 1 Kings 9:3, what does this tell you about the Kingdom? How does this relate to God's great goal on the earth?

16. What is the significance of the temple? Read 1 Kings 9:29-52.

17. If a Gentile wanted to be saved during these ancient times, what must he do?