

“Covenant Plans”

Genesis 12:1-4

VIDEO: *Human Diversity (Nat.Geo)*

- Current Contextualization
- Sermon Series Contextualization
- Biblical Contextualization
 - Genesis 1 & 2 = Creator Christ
 - Genesis 3:15 = Creator-Savior-Christ
 - Abram & People of God = ***Promising Plans***

T/S: Today we'll look at what Theologians call the
“Abrahamic Covenant”

Note: When it comes to God...
He sets the terms, we accept/reject

T/S: Covenant = hybrid of a Promise & a Contract...

Qt: “...the elements of a covenant are...
a. Clear stipulation of the parties involved (**John 3:16**)
b. Statement of the “conditions” of the covenant (**Eph. 2:8-9**)
c. Promise of blessing for obedience
d. Promise of punishment for disobedience...” - Wayne Grudem
(Systematic Theology p.517)

SEE the GOSPEL... AGAIN ~ from the BEGINNING!

T/S: If we're going to "get" Abraham and
"Perfecting Promise" (a.k.a. Abrahamic
Covenant)... we've got to REALIZE how WRONG
things were/are...

ILLUSTRATION: (A) Building Blocks...

Genesis 12:1-4

12:1 *The Lord said to Abram: Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you. I will curse those who treat you with contempt; and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

4 *So Abram went, as the Lord had told him...*

T/S: Let's take a look at the:

POWER

PROVIDENCE

PRINCE

PURPOSE &

PEOPLE

of God's PERFECTING PLAN...

I. Power (1a)

“LORD” (Yahweh)

6 X “I will” power-promises

“I will” show you

“I will make of you...”

“I will bless you...”

“I will make your name great...”

“...so that you will be a blessing.”

“I will bless those who bless you...”

“I will curse... (those who dishonor you)”

“...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”

“said” (same One who spoke creation into being)

Note: Imperative given:

from One with power/authority... “Go...”

***** Connect THEN & NOW *****

II. Providence / Plan (Connect THEN & NOW)

Sent & Set-Apart (Humans)

Disruptive (Note: God doesn't go by our plans)

Uncomfortable ("from your country, family, home...")

VIDEO: "Trader – Missional Living"

Adventure ("I will show you...")

Sovereign (Him) - "I will show you"

Connect:

Gen. 1&2... = *STARTED/SUSTAINED*

Gen. 3:15... = *SAVED*

Gen. 12:1-4... = *SENT*

Gen. 17:1-7... = *SET-APART*

Rev. 21:3-8... = *SOLUTION*

Genesis 17:1-7 = *Now when Abram was ninety-*

nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless. **2** "I will establish My covenant between Me and you, And I will multiply you exceedingly." **3** Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying, **4** "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you will be the father of a multitude of nations. **5** "No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. **6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings will come forth from you. **7** I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you.

Revelation 21:3-8 = Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look! God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. **4** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away. **5** Then the One seated on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." **6** And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End I will give water as a gift to the thirsty from the spring of life. **7** The victor will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son. **8** But the cowards, unbelievers, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

III. Prince of Peace (Jesus is the KEY)

Romans 5:13 = *For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.*

2 Cor. 5:17-21 = *"...if anyone is **in Christ**, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come. **18 Everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ** and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."** **21 He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."***

VIDEO: David Crowder "How He Loves Us"

(Connect THEN & NOW)

IV. Purpose

...to make Abram “a blessing”

...to bless all the families of the earth thru Abram!

(Connect THEN & NOW)

Key: ***Redemption of mankind***

Gen. 1&2 “perfect state” to be reconciled

ILLUSTRATION: (B)
Building Blocks vs. Broken Eggs

Genesis 3:15 promise to be fulfilled

Abram is pivot point in God’s sovereign plan:

Choose & Create a “people”

Call a “man to the plan” (faith req’d)

Change the world...

“BE” Church...

God’s power will empower

Rhino “wreck” vs Hippo “bloat”

VIDEO: "Changing Church Culture"

Romans 1:14-22 = 14 *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15* *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

The Righteous Shall Live by Faith

16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17* *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

God's Wrath on Unrighteousness

18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19* *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20* *For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21* *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22* *Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23* *and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

T/S: Christ is the Hope... Christians are His helpers. - JDP

V. People

“People always begin with a person.” – JDP (Gen. 12:4)

Abram is the Christ-like catalyst... (and so are YOU!)

Those blessed (Israel & the Church)

Romans 9 = *“not all Israel is Israel...
not all in Abraham’s family
are Abraham’s family...”*

Galatians 3:6-9 = **6** *Just as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness, 7 then understand that those who have faith are Abraham’s sons. 8 Now the Scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and told the good news ahead of time to Abraham, saying, All the nations will be blessed through you. 9 So those who have faith are blessed with Abraham, who had faith.*

Note the Purpose, Practice, & Power of God’s People:

Purpose = Bring glory to God via...

*Great Commandment
&
Great Commission*

Practice = Matthew 28:18-20

Power = Acts 1:8

(Connect THEN & NOW)

1. “Witness” – Acts 1:8
2. “fishers of men” – Mark 1:17
3. “ministers of reconciliation” – 2 Cor. 5:18-20

“...18 Everything is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed the message of reconciliation to us. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, certain that God is appealing through us. We plead on Christ’s behalf, “Be reconciled to God.”

4. “BEing”
 - a. “salt & light” - Matthew 5:13-16
 - b. “the aroma of Christ” -2 Cor. 2:14
 - c. “ambassadors for Christ”-2 Cor 5
5. “DOing”
 - a. “bearing fruit” - John 15:8
 - b. “making disciples” - Matt 28
 - c. “interceding for others”-Rom 10:1
6. “Telling”
 - a. “proclaiming the gospel”-Mk 1:14
 - b. “declaring His praise” - 1 Pt 2:9-10
 - c. “teaching & preaching” - Acts 5:42
 - d. “exalting His name” - Acts 2:38

7. "Depending"
 - a. "on the Father" - John 6:44
 - b. "on the Son" - 1 Cor. 1:17-18
 - c. "on the Spirit" - Acts 1:8; Jn 14:26

CLOSE:

***Perfecting Promise thru the Prince of Peace
&
Imperfect People...***

1 John 2:1-6 = *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world. 3 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. **By this we know that we are in Him: 6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.***

*May we BE such a people...
by His GRACE & for His GLORY*

Let's PRAY

PRAYER:

1. *Christ Sligh:* "Empty Me"
2. *FFH:* "One of These Days"
3. *Sidewalk Prophets:* "Live Like That"