



BAND of BROTHERS – WEEK 4: The Coming of the King

FALL 2021

Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly being and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet. – Psalm 8:5-6 ESV

- **The Flood**

*And **all** flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, **all** swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and **all** mankind. – Genesis 7:21 ESV*

*He blotted out **every living thing** that was on the face of the ground, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens. – Genesis 7:23 ESV*

- **Post-Flood**

*And **God blessed Noah and his sons** and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.” – Genesis 9:7 ESV*

*“And you, **be fruitful and multiply**, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.” – Genesis 9:7 ESV*

- God reiterated the mandate He had given to Adam and Eve

- ...be fruitful and multiply
 - SPREAD THE IMAGE OF GOD
 - ...fill the earth and subdue it
 - EXTEND THE DIVINE PRESENCE
 - ...have dominion
 - RULE OVER CREATION AS GOD’S PROXIES

- But things were going to be different

- “The **fear of you** and the **dread of you** shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. **Into your hand they are delivered.**” – Genesis 9:2 ESV

- Now Noah and his descendants were to have dominion over God’s creation
 - Noah was given the same mandate as Adam
 - And he had a “new” creation in which to do it
 - He was to be God’s vice-regent
 - **Spreading** the image of God
 - **Extending** the divine presence
 - **Ruling** over God’s creation as His proxy

Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. – Genesis 9:20 ESV

'ăḏāmâ – land, earth, ground

- Is this what God had told him to do?

...the Lord God formed the man ('ăḏām) of dust from the ground ('ăḏāmâ) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. – Genesis 2:7 ESV

- Noah planted a vineyard
 - He had started out so well

Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.
And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. – Genesis 6:9-10 ESV

Noah...did all that God commanded him. – Genesis 6:22 ESV

- MY will be done
 - Noah made an autonomous decision
 - He decided to plant a vineyard and settle down
 - Adam and Eve decided the autonomy was better for them
 - Cain decided that his life was of more value than Abel’s
 - Their descendants decided that wickedness was preferable to righteousness

Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent. – Genesis 9:20-21 ESV

- He became intoxicated and left himself exposed
- His youngest son, Ham, walked in on him
- And Ham evidently gossiped about it to his brothers
- Line of descent
 - When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, “Cursed be Canaan...”* – Genesis 9:24 ESV
 - Noah curses his grandson and descendants

- In a sense, he divides his family against itself

*The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put, and Canaan. ...Cush fathered Nimrod...**The beginning of his kingdom was Babel**...From that land he went into Assyria and built **Nineveh**.... Egypt fathered...Casluhim (from whom the Philistines came).... – Genesis, 10:6, 8, 10, 13 ESV*

- But God is sovereign over all

- Line of ascent

When Shem was 100 years old, he fathered Arpachshad two years after the flood. – Genesis 11:10 ESV

Shem – Eber – Peleg – Rue – Serug – Nahor – Terah

When Terah had lived 70 years, he fathered Abram.... – Genesis 11:26 ESV

- This represents a turning point in the story
- 10 generations after Noah, God starts over

This is the account of Terah’s family. Terah was the father of Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran was the father of Lot. But Haran died in Ur of the Chaldeans, the land of his birth, while his father, Terah, was still living. – Genesis 11:27-28 ESV

*One day Terah took his son Abram, his daughter-in-law Sarai (his son Abram’s wife), and his grandson Lot (his son Haran’s child) and moved away from Ur of the Chaldeans. **He was headed for the land of Canaan, but they stopped at Haran and settled there.** Terah lived for 205 years and died while still in Haran. – Genesis 11:31-32 ESV*

- Noah ends up in Haran

- **Abram: an unlikely candidate for a king**

“Abram had been brought up in a pagan household, in a pagan culture, and was dedicated to the worship of pagan gods.

“Indeed, at the time God appeared to him Abram lived in spiritual darkness. Yet God appeared to Abram not because he was righteous or seeking God but rather as a revelation of His glory to prepare an instrument through which He would work to establish His kingdom in this earthly sphere.” – J. Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come: Tracing God’s Kingdom Program and Covenant Promises Throughout History*

- Abram is 75-years old

- He's married but lives with his parents
- He's wealthy but has a barren wife, so he has no heirs to inherit his estate
- He's got absolutely **nothing** to offer God

"What a pathetic sight is this man, trudging the dusty Mesopotamian roads, whose journey has come to a dead end northeast of Canaan. How could it be possible that one without such promise could hold so much promise?" – Stephen G. Dempster, *Dominion and Dynasty*

And yet...

- **A royal reboot**

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." – Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

Genesis 1-11 = 1,000+ years

Genesis 12-22 = 25 years

- Something significant is taking place
- The world has been waiting for this moment

"Abram is told to leave the world of Babel so that he can have God's piece of geography. Moreover, he and his barren wife, Sarai, hold the key to the promise, as they will be shown that land and, what is more, they will become a great nation through which all families of the ʾăḏāmâ [earth] will be blessed." – Stephen G. Dempster, *Dominion and Dynasty*

- Be blessed...
 - All creation had been placed under a curse

"...we see as a result of the sin of Adam and Eve the earth needs **redemption**; the creatures of the earth need **redemption**; and fallen, sinful mankind needs **redemption**." – J. Dwight Pentecost, *Thy Kingdom Come*

- Man cannot redeem himself

*The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that **everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil**.* – Genesis 6:5 ESV

- **The king surveys his domain**

"Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust

of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” – Genesis 13:14-17 ESV

- God is promising Abram a land, and a seed
 - o A land in which to live
 - o And abundant offspring to occupy and settle it
 - o But Abram has a few problems:
 - A barren wife
 - No heir
 - A nephew who has taken the best of the land
 - And plenty of competition for kingship
- Genesis 14
 - o The word, “king” is used 28 times in this chapter
 - o These are the kingdoms of men doing battle for possession of the land
 - o But, according to God, the land belongs to Abram
 - o And the one man who does not bear the title of “king” wins the victory
 - o And he receives a blessing

*“Blessed to Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies in your hand.” – Genesis 14:19-20
ESV*

- The promise of God
 - And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “**So shall your offspring be.**” – Genesis 15:5
ESV*

*Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know for certain that your **offspring** will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.” – Genesis 15:13-14
ESV*

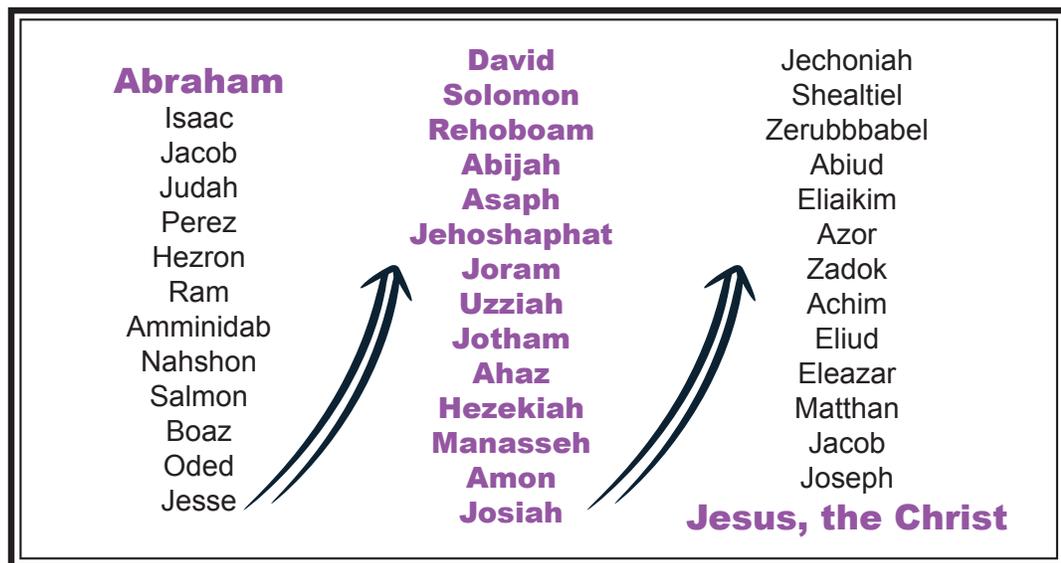
*“No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. **I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you.** And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your **offspring** after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your **offspring** after you.” – Genesis 17:5-7
ESV*

*“By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring** as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your **offspring** shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your **offspring** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed...” – Genesis 22:16-18
ESV*

And the Lord appeared to him [Isaac] and said, “Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you. Sojourn in this land, and **I will be with you and will bless you**, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the **oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring** as the stars of heaven and **will give to your offspring all these lands**. And in your **offspring** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...” – Genesis 26:2-4 ESV

And God said to him, “Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” So he called his name Israel. And God said to him, “I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. **A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body**. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and **I will give the land to your offspring after you.**” – Genesis 35:10-12 ESV

- Don't miss what God promised Jacob:
“...and kings shall come from your body...” – Genesis 35:12 ESV
- Fast-forward to the future
The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. – Matthew 1:1 ESV



- The protoevangelium – the first gospel
“I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.” – Genesis 3:15 ESV

Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way

could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. –
Hebrews 2:14-15 ESV

Next Week: The Coming of the King

For Further Discussion

- Why do you think it so important that we know and understand the Old Testament backdrop to Jesus' coming?
- What is significant about God choosing Abram, a pagan living in the land of Babel, to bless the nations of the world?
- Read Hebrews 2:14-15. According to this passage, why was it so important that Jesus come as a human being?



WEEK 5 HOMEWORK: The Coming of the King

FALL 2021

In this lesson the goal will be to establish Jesus as the fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants. He was the anointed one of God and the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. We will unpack the significance of the incarnation and explore why all four gospel authors put so much emphasis on Jesus' divinity and kingship?

- Begin by looking at Genesis 3:15, which contains what theologians refer to as the *protoevangelium* or the first gospel. How do you see the promise of Jesus in this passage? In what ways did He fulfill what God promised?
- Now, go back and Genesis 12:1-7, which contains the initial promise that God gave to Abram while he was still a pagan living in the land where Babel once stood. Write down the key promises found in the covenant:
- In his letter to the church in Galatia, the apostle Paul provides an important explanation or insight into the Abrahamic covenant. Read Galatians 3:16-18 and then put in your own words what you think he is saying.

Since Paul describes Jesus as the ultimate “offspring” or seed of Abraham, in what ways is He the fulfillment of all that God promised?

What do you think is the significance of Paul’s reference to the law and the promise? He says that the promise came before the law. Why is this important for us to remember?

Read the following passages and then make a note of how each one further supports Paul’s point:

Romans 3:20

Romans 3:28

Acts 13:39

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 3:11

- Finish your time by reading Matthew 5:17-18. What do you think Jesus is trying to say about Himself and His relationship to the law?
- What connections do you think there are between the promise made to Eve in Genesis 3:15 and the promises made to Abram and his descendants? How is Jesus the fulfillment of all these things and why would His kingship be a critical part of their fulfillment?