

Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired
11/8/2015 Genesis #44 AM Service
"God's Faithfulness"

Genesis 11:11-32

Introduction: Today we come to the last message in our study of the first 11 chapters of the book of Genesis. These first 11 chapters are so important because they contain the origins of everything which we know in our lives today.

We have looked at the origin of:

1. World and universe
2. Animals
3. Man
4. Family
5. Sin
6. Curse
7. Salvation
8. Substitutionary sacrifice
9. Society
10. Judgment
11. Nations
12. Languages

These are just a few of the origins which we have seen so far in our study of these first 11 chapters. Now as we have worked our way through these chapters we looked in detail at the entrance of sin into the world and the effects which it had on God's perfect Creation.

Also in the midst of all of that we looked at Genesis 3:15 and within that verse was the very first promise of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Within this verse is the first promise of the future Redeemer Who would come and would destroy Satan. With this first announcement of the coming Seed of the woman came also a major spiritual battle. Satan launch a full blown attack against the human race so as to do all he could to stop the coming of the Redeemer.

Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired
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There was:

1. The murder of Abel.
2. The demon worship and the world wide corruption of Genesis 6.
3. The Tower of Babel and the world wide rebellion against God.

These are just the high points of the satanic attempts which were designed to destroy the promise of 3:15. So with the battles coming in relentless fashion there is the question about the fulfillment of the promise of the promised Redeemer.

That is where Genesis 11:11-32 come into the picture. Here in this chapter God shows his faithfulness to the entire human race.

In Genesis 11:11-26 we can trace the descendants of Shem right down to the birth of Abram. Then from Genesis 11:27-32 the focus falls upon Abram because it will be through Abram that God's promise of Genesis 3:15 will be fulfilled.

So what we find here in Genesis 11:10-32 is the origin of the Nation of Israel.

But there is so much more within this chapter and the first part of chapter 12. The Old Testament is full of many spiritual pictures which the New Testament speaks of.

Let me show you 2 verses.

1 Corinthians 10:11

¹¹ Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Romans 15:4

⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The Old Testament is full of typology for us to see and to learn from. One of the types which are found in the Old Testament is Abram and he can be seen as a type of the believer and as we follow his life we can see many of the different challenges which we face in life.

I want to take some time today and show you some typology from the life of Abram.

I. The Call

Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired

11/8/2015 Genesis #44

AM Service

Notice Genesis 12:1

I want you to notice that this verse is referring to a past event. We are told here that the Lord HAD called Abram from his father's house.

Let me show you a portion of the sermon of Steven from Acts 7.

Acts 7:2-4

² *And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,*

³ *And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.*

⁴ *Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.*

Here we see that God appeared unto Abraham when he lived in Mesopotamia before he dwelt in Haran. Mesopotamia would have been Ur of the Chaldees.

Notice Genesis 11:27-31

²⁷ *Now these are the generations of Terah: Terah begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran begat Lot.*

²⁸ *And Haran died before his father Terah in the land of his nativity, in Ur of the Chaldees.*

²⁹ *And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.*

³⁰ *But Sarai was barren; she had no child.*

³¹ **And Terah took Abram his son,** *and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there.*

Here in we find some very interesting information in verse 31. Terah was the father of Abram and we see here that Terah is leading the family to the land of Canaan. But when they reached the city of Haran they stopped there.

*Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired
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But in *Genesis 12:1* and in *Acts 7* we were able to see that the call did not come to Terah but to Abram. But then when we read *Genesis 11* we see that Terah seems to be the one who is leading the family and ultimately leading Abram.

Application:

Within all of this there is a picture which we need to see of the believer's call.

The call of Abram is a picture of the unsaved person who is being called by the Holy Spirit to a new life in Christ. He or she is living in sin and then God uses His Word to stir their hearts and the Holy Spirit begins to draw them toward Jesus Christ.

John 6:43-44

⁴³ *Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves.*

⁴⁴ *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

There is another picture of this in the Creation account.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

² *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Here the Spirit was moving on the earth in preparation of the Creation of life. The same is true of those who hear the Word and they allow the Word to have the proper place in their lives.

Back to the point/it is God who draws the unbeliever to Jesus Christ.

Now let us get back to Abram.

God had called him from Ur of the Chaldees and they left there and went to Haran.

Application:

Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired

11/8/2015 Genesis #44

AM Service

This is a picture of the struggle which the believer experiences as the Spirit of God draws the person one way and the desire for the world draws the person the other way.

You see Abram was in the midst of a pagan family. There were worshippers of false gods.

Joshua 24:2

² And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

Now what we do not see in the Bible is that there was a temple which existed at Haran where the moon god was worshipped. So Abram and his family most likely stopped there because of the temple to the moon god. They stopped there to worship.

But there is still something else here and that is the position of Terah in the family. Terah was the one who lead the family to Haran. Terah was the old man. He is a picture of the sin nature within the unbeliever who has been called by God. The "old man" craves the old life. This is clearly spoken of by Jesus in the Gospels.

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

This is an invitation given by Jesus to all who read this passage. It is an invitation to eternal life. Now at first glance it looks to be very easy to enter the strait gate. But it is not easy and it is seen in 2 ways.

1. Only a few will get through.
2. Jesus tells the unbeliever to "strive" to get through.

Luke 13:22-24

²² And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

²³ Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired

11/8/2015 Genesis #44

AM Service

²⁴ Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

Jesus tells His listeners to "strive" which means to put forth every effort. The striving is the battle between the old man and the Holy Spirit. Each pull in a different direction and it takes the unbeliever reaching the place where they reject this world and are willing to accept the new life which God offers.

Notice Genesis 11:32

Here is where Abram was free to go. It was after his father died.

Application:

This is a picture of true salvation. A person must come to the place where the "old man" dies. By that I mean a person must be willing to walk away from the old life and trust God for a new life in Jesus Christ.

But there are few that are willing to say "NO" to the old man.

Luke 18:18-23

¹⁸ *And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*

¹⁹ *And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.*

²⁰ *Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.*

²¹ *And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.*

²² *Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.*

²³ *And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.*

This man had 2 things in his hands which kept him from entering into the strait gate.

1. **Pride - He would not admit he had sinned.**
2. **A love for the world - He was not willing to walk away from his wealth.**

Sunday June 29, 2014 Recorded 11/4/2015 Aired

11/8/2015 Genesis #44

AM Service

These are 2 of the major hold ups which keep people from coming to Jesus. You see a man cannot be saved until he sees himself as a sinner who has offended God and he is willing to walk away from the old life.

Conclusion:

Have you entered through the strait gate or have you entered through the wide gate.

Matthew 7:13-14

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