

PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 201

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

(How To Apply The Prophetic View Of Scripture To The Book Of Genesis)

Session Ten

“The Fundamentals Of A Biblical **Faith**”

I. Pulling Back To Push Forward

A. Review And Preview

1. In the prophetic/contextual view of scripture, the Bible student is encouraged to consistently seek the “higher” perspective of each text/chapter/book of the Bible.

2. In our 201 course on the Book of Genesis, we’ve spent a lot of time focusing on the first 3 chapters of the Bible because the “seeds” of every major Bible doctrine are found there.

3. With the conclusion of the establishment of the “City of Man” (Babylon) in Genesis 11, we conclude the first major section of Genesis, and now look to a survey of Genesis 12-48 to conclude our course.

B. The Two Major Sections of Genesis

1. The Book of Genesis has two distinct sections: Genesis 1-11 and Genesis 12-50.

2. The first section of Genesis, Chapters 1-11 focuses on 4 outstanding events:

- The Creation
- The Fall
- The Flood
- The Dispersion

a. Creation: God creates all things, climaxing with making man “in his own image and after his own likeness”

b. The Fall: Man sins, and falls from innocence, aligning himself with the Kingdom of Darkness

c. The Flood: The race multiplies rapidly but is in moral “free-fall”, descending into depravity to the point where God judges the earth with a deluge called the “Flood”; only

Noah and his family are saved; Noah's 3 sons become the "heads" of the nations that repopulate the earth

d. The Dispersion-In Genesis 11, we see man's attempt to build a Utopian society without God, resulting in the judgment, a "scattering" of the race in what is called the "Dispersion". This gloomy event seems to introduce another universal moral free-fall; But in Genesis 12, everything changes with the introduction of God's saving grace, as seen in the life of Abraham.

3. The second major section of Genesis, Chapters 12-50, will focus on 4 outstanding persons:

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob
- Joseph

4. The call of Abraham not only launches the 2nd major section of Genesis, but proves to be a most significant event in scripture and in the history of the world!

a. Abraham becomes the "father" of the nation of Israel

b. Abraham becomes the "father of all who will believe"

c. Abraham becomes the Patriarch of the world's 3 great religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam

5. Abraham is a "prototype" of all those who will believe in the one true God, the God of the Bible!

C. The Abrahamic Model Of Genuine Faith

1. Genesis 12 launches us into the second major section of the Book of Genesis with an introduction to one of the most significant persons in human history, the Patriarch Abraham.

2. In his epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul "connects the dots" of this man's life with that of New Testament believers:

11 and he (Abraham) received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be reckoned to them, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

Romans 4:11-13 NAS

3. Paul points to Abraham as the prototype (or first model) of all Christians, true believers who will “follow” him in his “steps of faith”.

4. Abraham’s story is our story in “seed form”!

5. Every Christ-follower should pursue a detailed study of the life of Abraham and be fully acquainted with the patterns and principles that marked his life.

- Faith and Patience
- Called by God
- Sanctified (Separated) to God

II. Faith And Patience: The Power Twins

A. The Two Principle Ingredients Of Genuine Faith

1. All disciples of Jesus Christ are called to “imitate” (follow, or mimic) all those who truly believe, specifically the Patriarch Abraham:

11 And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you." 15 And thus, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:11-16 NASB

- a. We are called to diligently imitate Abraham
- b. We are to observe the close connection between “faith” and “patience”
- c. Only through faith *and* patience do we obtain God’s promises!

2. Faith is the subject of much preaching and teaching; unfortunately, there is not nearly as much emphasis on patience!

3. When we revisit what we learned in the Fall of Adam, we can readily see that Adam’s sin was not only a lack of faith in what God had said. It was a supreme example of *impatience!*

a. God had told him to “take dominion” over the earth, but gave him a limited jurisdiction as a beginning: he was to cultivate and guard the “garden”

b. The oft-overlooked implication of this was that dominion was to come *gradually*, that subduing the earth would take time; that the accomplishment of the task would involve *generations!*

c. Only in creation do we find the immediate appearance of living things in full-grown form. The model from there forward would be the “seed” principle of gradual growth and progress and maturity. These scriptures connect the dots:

29 I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate, and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. 30 I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.

Exodus 23:29-31 NASB

And the Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little; you will not be able to put an end to them quickly, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you.

Deuteronomy 7:22-23 NASB

4. The serpent’s success in the temptation of Adam played upon man’s impatience!

a. God intended the man’s dominion and maturity to come gradually...but the serpent offered him *immediate gratification!*

“you shall be as God...(now)”

5. The Adamic nature always seeks a short cut!

6. When man grasps, he always falls!

* One interesting interpretation of the Fall holds the view that access to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would be eventually permitted to Adam, based on his arrival at a maturity level where he could handle it. James B. Jordan, in his book “*Primeval Saints*”, points out that “everything God made was “very good”, including the forbidden tree, and that Adam was given “every tree” as food. (Genesis 1:29) Jordan’s view is that God’s prohibition of the forbidden tree was to withhold the power and privilege of *judicial* knowledge, not ethical knowledge, since judgment is so godlike in nature that men must demonstrate maturity and faithfulness before it is granted. This view is worthy of consideration.

7. The Kingdom of God is all about dominion, but Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God would come *gradually!*

31 Another parable he put forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. 33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Matt 13:31-33 KJV

8. When we teach the Christian faith apart from patience, we fail to teach the Christian faith.

a. Parents must teach this principle to their children.

b. Dominion in the spheres of government works from the inside out: Self-government=Family government=Church government=Civil government: When Christians attempt to bring the Kingdom of God by means of politics or national systems, failure is ensured.

c. The construction of the “City of Man”, (Babylon), is man’s attempt to “short cut” proper dominion.

9. Contrast this with the model of Jesus:

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly **exalted Him...**

Philippians 2:5-9 NASB

a. All “get rich quick schemes” are echoes of Eden

b. All “grasping” at power and fame betray the biblical model

c. Adam modeled “grasping”; Christ, (the “last Adam” of 1 Corinthians 15), modeled faith and patience.

“The prerogatives of judicial authority are not to be seized. Rather, they are to be bestowed...so also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become (our) High Priest...It was after His earthly labors that Jesus was designated by God as a High Priest, (Hebrews 5:1,4,10)

James B. Jordan in “Primeval Saints”

B. Abraham’s Model

1. No one models faith and patience for us better than Abraham.

2 Now the Lord said to Abram, " Go forth from your country, And from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; And *I will make you a great nation*, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. *And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* "

Gen 12:1-3 NASB

2. God makes these promises to a 75 year old man who is childless!

3. The fulfillment of these promises rests with God and:

- It would be 24 years before Abraham had a child

6 "And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you. 7 And 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. 8 And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."

Gen 17:6-8 NASB

- It would be several hundred years before Abraham would be a great nation (Exodus 20)
- The promise that God would "make nations of you" continues to this very day!

4. Time and again, Abraham would match his faith in God with patience:

a. He refuses to try to "rule" over his nephew Lot (Genesis 13)

b. He refuses to accept anything of the booty of war from the King of Sodom (Genesis 14)

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Gen 14:21-23 KJV

C. Abraham's Failure

1. There is much in Abraham's life of faith we should imitate. But even the major failure in his life provides us with instruction.

2. In Genesis 16, Abraham and Sarah waver in their faith by resorting to a "short-cut": Sarah suggests Abraham have a child by her Egyptian maid servant, Hagar

3. The result is the birth of Ishmael, the father of the nation of Islam, which continues to this day and is the root of the modern middle-east controversy between Israel and her Arabic neighbors!

4. There is an interesting parallel between Abraham and Adam:

- Adam's choice was between the two "trees"; Abraham's choice was between two women
- Adam sought a "short-cut" to dominion by eating of the forbidden fruit; Abraham sought a "short-cut" to the promise of God by sleeping with the wrong women
- Adam's impatience led to his fall; Abraham's impatience brought strife and division to his household and the agony later of having to "cast out the bondwoman and her son"

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, *mocking*. 10 *Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.* 11 *And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.* 12 And

God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. 13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, because he is thy seed.

Genesis 21:9-13 KJV

5. The lessons here are “seed form” instruction and warning for every child of God:

- a. Whatever we birth after the flesh will mock that which is of God
- b. Eventually, we will have to cast out whatever we birth after the flesh
- c. The process will prove “grievous” (distressing) to us

6. Ishmael is an illustration of the fruits of *impatience*.

III. Conclusions

A. First Principles Of Faith

1. The prophetic view of scripture establishes the patterns of Genesis for the rest of God’s story and ours.

2. Trusting God means having a faith that is permeated with patience, faith that sustains us during delay. James B. Jordan comments in “*Primeval Saints*”:

“An abiding temptation before all men, ever since Adam, is to seize at privileges and prerogatives, rather than wait for them to be bestowed. Jesus warned about this in a parable recorded in Luke 14:7-11...”

7 And He began speaking a parable to the invited guests when He noticed how they had been picking out the places of honor at the table; saying to them, 8 "When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you may have been invited by him, 9 and he who invited you both shall come and say to you, 'Give place to this man,' and then in disgrace you proceed to occupy the last place. 10 "But when you are invited, go and recline at the last place, so that when the one who has invited you comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will have honor in the sight of all who are at the table with you. 11 "For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

Luke 14:7-11 NASB

3. Consider the prophetic parallels presented in this Course:

- In a previous class, we learned that the manifestation of Lucifer’s pride was his “grasping” for God’s throne, resulting in his fall. (Isaiah 14:12-15)
- In a previous class, we studied how Adam’s “grasping” for self-deification resulted in the fall of the human race.
- In this class, we have considered how Abraham’s “grasping” for the fulfillment of God’s promise by means of the flesh resulted in terrible strife and conflict.

4. In contrast, we see that the “mind of Christ” is rooted in humility; the simple trust we must have in God to bring the fulfillment of His promises to our lives.

5. There are no “short-cuts” in the life of faith. We can use this revelation to interpret the rest of scripture, and make sense of our own personal walk of faith in Christ!

Relate These Passages To The Principles Taught In This Class

- Saul’s loss of the kingdom in 1 Samuel 13:1-14
- God’s judgment on Miriam in Numbers 12:1-15
 - Israel’s defeat in battle in Numbers 14
- God’s judgment on Israel’s idolatry in Exodus 32:1-14
- The reason God sent fiery serpents among them in Numbers 21:4-9

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why does he yet hope for? 25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then do we with patience wait for it.*

Romans 8:24-25 KJV

7 Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. 8 You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door. 10 As an example, brethren, of suffering and patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we count those blessed who endured. You have heard of the endurance of Job and have seen the outcome of the Lord's dealings, that the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.

James 5:7-11 NASB