

Ch 3 A New Hope: The Covenant with Abraham

Suggested Reading: Genesis 10–17, 20–22

The Sad Story from Noah to Abraham (background)

- When Noah disembarks, we have a new humanity with a new Adam & a new fall
 - o Ham's sin: *looking on his father's nakedness means having relations with his mother*
 - This was a common way to usurp the rights of the father (Ham is youngest)
 - Noah curses Ham's son Canaan who is the product of the illicit union
- Themes of this story tell the greater story, same old story as Adam in the garden
 - o Consuming fruit (wine) | Nakedness | Shame | Curse
- The line between good and bad does not run cleanly between groups or individuals
 - o Sin infects all (Rom 3:23/Augustine's Original Sin)
 - Not all without exception: Mary & Jesus without sin
 - o After Noah's drunkenness, the tower of Babel incident happens very soon after
 - Mirror image of Adam's fall and the Sons of God incident
- God chooses a Chaldean (God later uses them to correct Israel) to bless humans (Gen 12:1-3)
 - o Abraham is not chosen for his own sake, but to bless all the nations
- Interestingly, Abram recues Lot and his possessions and is blest by Melchizedek (his title, Shem his name [Noah is his father])

Three Blessings to Abram (Gen 12 & 15)

- Abram's background: descendent of Shem living in present-day Iraq (Ur) & Haran (Turkey)
 - o Gen 12 The blessings (simple promises) worked into a covenant after
 - 1. A great nation | 2. A great name | 3. A blessing to everyone
 - o Gen 15 The covenant *between the pieces*
 - Walking between the pieces represented the covenant oath: death for unfaithfulness

The Fall of Abram (Gen 16)

- Sarah suggests Abram take his servant girl Hagar and he listens (oops): Ishmael

The Covenant Renewed (Gen 17)

- God renames Abram (exalted father) to Abraham (father of a multitude)
- Renewal requires circumcision, the mark or sign of the covenant in the male flesh
 - o This is a type of Christ who bears sin in his own body to make the covenant (1 Pet 2:24)
 - o While Ishmael will be blest, the son of the promise is Isaac

The Final Covenant with Abraham (Gen 22)

- God tests Abraham
 - o Abraham is to take his *only son* Isaac and offer him as a sacrifice & he goes
 - o Isaac is probably around 30 years old & gives consent
 - o Genesis 22 is the Calvary of the Old Testament (understand?)
 - o Abraham hints at the coming of Jesus as the Lamb of God (about 1700-2200 years later)
 - o Mount Moriah was in sight of Calvary, the nearby hill where Jesus made his self-sacrifice
 - o *I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore*