

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 03 Dec 2023 Genesis 01 The First Week
- 2) 10 Dec Genesis 02 The First Couple
- 3) 17 Dec Genesis 03 The First Sin
- 4) 24 Dec Luke 02:1-15 The First Christmas
- 5) 31 Dec Genesis 04-05 The First Murder
- 6) 07 Jan 2024 Genesis 06-07 Judgment
- 7) 14 Jan Genesis 08 Land!
- 8) 21 Jan Genesis 09-10 Protect
- 9) 28 Jan Genesis 11 Stalled
- 10) 04 Feb Genesis 12-14 Promised
- 11) 11 Feb **Genesis 15-16** **Impatience**
- 12) 18 Feb Genesis 17 Established
- 13) 25 Feb Genesis 18-20 Purged

INTRODUCTION

- Abram gets into trouble for listening to his wife – “Hey Honey, would you like to sleep with my maid?”
- Abraham – a man of faith, was also a man of flesh
 - ♦ What makes us take matters into our own hands and run ahead of God?
 - ♦ How can we prevent such catastrophes?

Passage	Comments
Genesis 15:1-8	<p>Covenant Ratified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. In essence, Abraham says, “<i>God! What will you give me? You haven’t given me much over the years.</i>” Abram was willing to follow man’s tradition of that time period and adopt his slave as his heir, but God said Abram will be the father. Was Abram showing faith here? • v5. Count the stars (about 8,000 are visible with the eye) • v6...and Abram believed in the Lord; and God counted it to Abram for righteousness. Now Abram is showing faith! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul and James saw this as establishing salvation by faith rather than works, and genuine faith produces works Rom 4:2,22-25; Gal 3:6; Jas 2:23 • v8. “<i>God! What proof do you give me that what you say is true?</i>” • Is it OK to ask God for confirmation?.....Maybe! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Gideon and the fleece was OK.....Judges 6:37-40 ♦ Mary – “how shall this be?” was OK.....Luke 1 ♦ Zacharias ended up mute for his questionLuke 1 • It’s OK to ask God the tough questions, unless there’s an attitude issue or we should know better
15:9-21	<p>Preparation For a Covenant Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv9-12. Abram is wearied from chasing away buzzards all day long. God takes his time coming down to seal the covenant WHY? • vv13-14. Prophecy – Abram’s descendants will be in a foreign land 400 years (rounded years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Israel spent 430 years in Egypt..... Ex 12:40 • v16. The iniquity of the Amorites was not yet complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God is patient and not willing that any should perish, even with the Amorites and their sexual immorality, idolatry, and child sacrifices – BUT God has His limits • ...and some descendants of these despicable went on to do great things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Rahab, a Canaanite and a harlot in Jericho was a great, great...great grandmother to Christ ♦ Ruth, a Moabite, was also in the lineage of Christ ♦ Uriah the Hittite, Bathsheba’s first husband, one of King David’s valiant and faithful warriors • v17. God established a One-way covenant by walking between the animal parts by Himself • v21. Jebusites. King David bought land from Ornan the Jebusite, and King Solomon built the Lord’s temple on it.

Passage	Comments
16:1-16	<p>Sarai Gives Abram Her Handmaid To Father A Child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. Abram and Sarai run ahead of God. Abram, like Adam, blindly listens to seemingly good advice from his wife, with dire consequences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Is it a sin to listen to one’s wife? Only if it leads to sin ♦ God may have accommodated a man having multiple wives, but He never sanctioned it see Gen 6-7 ♦ The law of the land is not always the law of God ♦ Abram is not accused of adultery, but his tryst with Hagar haunts his descendants of promise to this day – as Arabs are the descendants of Ishmael ♦ Cycle of Victory and Defeat. Abram rescued Lot, refused to take war booty, and tithed to Melchizedek (possibly, Shem) – These were great acts of heroism and faith...that followed on the heels of taking the path of least resistance with his wife’s request • Principle of Promises and Timing. If God makes a promise He also determines the timing – and His timing very seldom meets our calendars • vv5-16. Abraham again takes the passive approach. “<i>Hagar’s your problem, dear, you take care of it.</i>” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God takes the initiative to stop Hagar from fleeing ♦ God could’ve easily allowed Hagar and Ishmael to simply die in the desert, but instead He protects and directs them • v10. The “Angel of the Lord” appeared to Hagar, the Egyptian maid – a possible Christophany. This was the 2nd of 48 other possible appearances of Christ in the OT – and this time to a non-Israelite. God is not partial.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- MEN! Watch out taking the path of least resistance in our relationships and in our actions. Passivity is many a man’s downfall.
- Seek God’s guidance & counsel before making major decisions
- Be aware that what may be right and legal in one’s culture may be offensive to God

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 17. A lot happens in this single chapter: Abram gets a new name, he loses a treasured part of his body, and he tries to change history by asking God to compromise

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



“But, Honey, I just did what you told me to do!”