

Genesis part 3 - God's People - Genesis 12:1-3

Intro - Survey of Genesis. It covers 2333 years of history from Creation to Joseph's death in Egypt. A more closely connected time than thought – Noah's dad could have known Adam & his son know Jacob. Ch. 1-11 = Gods World - Creation, Man, Sin, Fall, Flood, Division of languages/land, separate nations. 1656 yrs from creation to Flood. 292 yrs from post flood to Abram. From Creation to Abram = 1948 yrs. Ch. 12-50 = God's People - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph. 385 yrs/39 chapters focus on the Patriarchs God's people get the most ink – they are: Favored, have Faith, many Faults, remain Foreigners

FAVORED

- Genesis records the table of nations/peoples
 - God judged humans (flood) separated them after the flood by language/land/nation
 - Out of all the sinful/rebellious families of the earth God chose one family to favor
- Most favored nation status. Israel is the only nation to have that status with God
 - I wanted to say chosen people but didn't start with an "F" (Gen. 6:8 – Noah found favor)
 - God set His love on, and chose/favored, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their descendents
 - Deut. 4:37 Deut. 7:6-8 1Chron. 17:21 Amos 3:2
 - Not all their descendents were chosen - Isaac not Ishmael Jacob not Esau
 - Choice not dependant on parents or performance Rom. 9:11-16
- These chosen Patriarchs dominate the narratives and thru the Jews God deals with humanity
 - Jesus defines Kingdom of Heaven is a feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob Matt. 8:11
 - God has communicated to us thru the Patriarchs and Jewish Nation Rom. 3:1-2
 - We have record of God's Word because of the Jews Conduit of communication
 - Theirs is the: Adoption, Sonship, Promises, Covenants, Patriarchs....Jesus Rom. 9:4-5
 - All nations of the world are blessed because of favored Israel Gen. 12:3
- God has not rejected His chosen people Rom. 11:1-2, 29
 - Jer. 31:35-37 - until sun, moon, stars vanish...Israel will remain Gods favored nation
- Because God has favored them we should favor them also
 - Romans 11:28 enemies of gospel but for election are loved on account of the Patriarchs
 - Gen. 12:3 is a good reason to support the favored nation of Israel
 - The Jews are hated because they are favored (Joseph's brothers hated him because...)
- What is established in Genesis is built upon throughout Scripture
 - The church is chosen - 1 Peter 2:9-10 Abraham's seed by faith – Gal. 3:29 (All hail vs 2)
 - Spiritual anti-Semitism seen in resistance to doctrine of election

FAITH

- The distinguishing mark of the Patriarchs/chosen nation is that they had faith
 - Genesis 15:6 Titus 1:1 the faith of God's elect

- Faith is taking God at His word. Believers believe God’s promises
 - 1 John 5:10 - unbelievers call God a liar and His testimony a lie (John 3:33)
 - Without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb. 11:6 (Can’t please Him and call Him a liar)
- The Patriarchs believed God in hard things, impossible things and day to day things
 - Moving locations, having children, blessing children according to their faith (Heb.11:20) instructions about burial, tithing, work ethic
 - They lived in faith, died in faith, made decisions on faith in what God promised
 - They believed God in every area of life
 - They believed God rather than their circumstances that challenged their faith
 - Given all the land but not owned any of it. In Egypt but bury me in promise land
 - Father many nations but not have any kids. Stay and work for a cheating boss and you will be blessed. Go back to land when life threatened there
- Their faith moved them to be obedient in an immediate way no delay, just obey
 - Move away, Circumcision, sacrifice son, go to Egypt
 - They didn’t pray about it they just did it Trust and Obey

FAULTS

- The Patriarchs had faith but they also had many faults
 - There is no “spin” in Scripture. Only ONE person without fault - Jesus Christ
- These families of faith had many problems of their own making.(interesting dynamic/dysfunction)
 - Poster for “Convention for Functional Families” one guy alone in huge auditorium
 - Unchivalrous, lying, cheating, incest, murder, prostitution, envy, deceit, idolatry, greed
- These chosen people had faith as well as many faults..... but they had forgiveness
 - They found favor (grace) and were granted forgiveness. No spin for sin just grace
 - Gods true word tells things as they truly are and it gives true hope
- OT sinners were saved the same way we are - Faith in Gods promised Redeemer
 - They looked forward - God will provide Himself...Seed of Promise.....just Him for sin

FOREIGNERS

- God gave His chosen people a land. He separated the nations and gave boundaries – Acts 17:26
 - God set the boundaries for land given to Israel Genesis 15:18
- Though Abram was promised it all he ever owned was a burial place
 - They remained foreigners/sojourners in the land of promise
- Even today the nation of Israel is considered a foreigner/occupier in the land promised to them
- This is a good reminder to us the chosen people of faith with faults.
 - As believers we are promised it all – inherit earth, heirs of God, co-heirs with Christ –
 - We are foreigners and strangers on the earth. 1 Peter 2:11a
 - This present place is not our home and we will never be truly welcome here
 - We long for a New heaven/earth/ new city/ eternal life promised by God Himself
 - We don’t see it yet but we believe it....just like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob