

A Nation Is Born

Genesis 35

Genesis 12:1-9

Galatians 3:1-14



19 February 2023

God's Eternal Purpose

- Are YOU one of God's special people?
- Are God's special people DIFFERENT from other people in the world?
 - NO
 - YES
- The Body's responsibilities as a part of God's eternal plan.
 - ★ Treasure, glorify, praise, worship and enjoy God. (1 Peter 2:9; Psa 36:7-9)
 - ★ Grow! Grow TOGETHER to the stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:16)
 - ★ Make and grow a s disciples (scholars). (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - ★ Shine as children of light in a very dark world. (Eph 5:8; 1 Thess 5:4-5)
 - ★ Grow, eagerly wait and watch for the second coming of Christ. (Hebrews 9:28; Philip 3:20-21; Luke 12:37; Titus 2:11-14; Romans 8:23-25)
- Are YOU one of God's special people?

Growing TOGETHER

- Goals: Thanksgiving
 - (1 Thessalonians 5:18) We are to be thankful in **everything** because this is God's will for us. And those who do the will of the Father go to heaven (Matthew 7:21; 12:50; 1 John 2:17)
 - (Colossians 4:2) We are to **continue earnestly** in prayer, being **vigilant** in it with thanksgiving.
 - (Philippians 4:6) We are to worry about NOTHING but in **everything** by prayer with thanksgiving make our requests known to God.
 - (Colossians 3:17) **Whatever** we do in word or deed we are to do it all in the name of Christ, giving thanks to God through Him.
 - (Hebrews 13:15) We are to **continually** offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks **to** His name.
 - (2 Timothy 3:1-5) The "church" of these days is described in God's Word as being **UN**thankful.
 - ★ **WARNING: Romans 1:18-28** - Those who will not glorify (treasure, praise, and enjoy God for His INFINITE worth and beauty) and be **thankful** for all that He has done, is doing, and has promised to do will become futile in their thoughts (thinking) and become fools in the eyes of God because HE will hand them over to uncleanness and a reprobate mind.
- A Body (local church) does EVERYTHING TOGETHER in order to grow into the "perfect man" to the stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:16)

- Catechism and Meditation (Forgiveness)
- Prayer for Revival

The Glorious **ULTIMATUM** from God (Mark 1:14-15)

- God is the Creator of the world and all history. It is HIS world and it is HIS time.
- God is working out His eternal purpose in the world in time.
- God is HOLY, HOLY, HOLY. He commands all men everywhere to REPENT - live their lives on EVERY word that comes from HIS mouth. (Acts 17:30; Luke 4:4)
- The Gospel is God's message GOOD NEWS and BAD NEWS!
 - ★ **GOOD NEWS** to all who bow their knees and acknowledge that He is Lord, repent in their continuous rebellion against Him, and accept the His terms for having peace with Him. To them He promises glory, honor, immortality, and peace. (Romans 2:6-7, 10)
 - ✗ **BAD NEWS** to all who continue to live their lives as they wish in their own way, who do not continually repent, and believe Him, He promises indignation and wrath. (Romans 2:8-9)
- The Gospel is a message of eternal life or eternal death.
- The Gospel is a message of heaven or hell.
- **WARNING: Psalm 2:10-12** (Will you ignore this warning?)
- (1 Corinthians 1:18) The preaching of the Gospel is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God!

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

- **GOD** fulfilling His eternal purpose/plan.

God's Call: Abraham (Genesis 12:1-5)

- God sovereignly chose Abram to be the father of Israel and the father of all who would believe (Romans 4:11-18) - no one else!
- God's promises to Abram:
 - ① "I WILL be with you." (Matthew 28:20)
 - ② "I WILL guide you." (John 10:4, 27-28)
 - ③ "I WILL make you a great nation." (With 1 Peter 2:9; Job 12:23)
 - ④ "I WILL bless you." (2 Peter 1:3-4; Ephesians 1:3; Colossians 3:11)
 - ⑤ "I WILL make your name great." (In contrast to Genesis 11:4; 1 John 3:1)
 - ⑥ "I WILL make you a blessing to others." (John 7:37-38; Gal 5:22-23)
 - ⑦ "I WILL avenge you." (Rev 6:10-11; Rom 12:19; Nahum 1:2; Luke 18:7-8)
 - ⑧ "I WILL bless all the families of the earth through you." (Acts 1:8)

God's Promised Son - Isaac (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8)

- Promise of the improbable and impossibility FULFILLED!

- (Genesis 22) The sacrifice of the son by the father - a picture of God Father and God the Son and the glorious gospel.
- God's arranged marriage for the promised son. (Genesis 24)

God's Sovereign Choice - Jacob (Genesis 25:19-28; 28:1-22)

- BEFORE Jacob did anything right or wrong - God decided.
 - ★ A key passage concerning the doctrine of election. (Romans 9:10-18)
- God affirms His covenant with Jacob. (Genesis 28:12-15)
- God calls an undeserving soul to be His instrument in fulfilling His purpose.
- God, as always, takes the initiative. Jacob was NOT seeking God. (Rom 3:11)
- God will use whomever He wants, however He wants, and whenever He wants to accomplish His eternal plan/purpose. And He will work in whom ever He want to will and do God's pleasure. (Isaiah 46:9-11; 14:24-27; Daniel 4:35; Prov 19:21; 21:30; Ephesians 1:11)
- God takes the initiative and makes Himself known to Jacob. (Genesis 28:13)
- (Genesis 28:13-15) God's promises to Jacob:
 - ① (v. 13) Promise the land to him and his descendants.
 - ② (v. 14) Your descendants will be as the dust of the earth and they **will be** spread over the whole earth.
 - ③ (v. 14) In you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. (Memorize/meditate on Galatians 3:16)
 - ④ (v. 15) I AM with you and I WILL keep you wherever you go.
 - ⑤ (v. 15) I WILL bring you back to the land.
 - ⑥ (v. 15) I WILL NOT leave you until I HAVE DONE what I have spoken.
- IN ALL of these promises God added NO "IF's"!
- God was fulfilling His covenant that He made with Christ in eternity!
- (Genesis 28:20-22) Jacob's vow - the LORD (Yahweh) will be my God!!

God Molds Jacob: Twenty Years of Labor (Genesis 29-30)

- God is not in a hurry.
- God's plan will never fail despite what man does or not do!
- Through ONE MAN the nation of Israel is born!
- In Padan Aram eleven of Jacob's sons are born!
- Jacob has **NO IDEA** of all of God's plans for his descendants.
- ★ **NOTE:** The timing of each birth and the utterances of their respected mothers, as recorded in Scriptures, are all prophetic of Israel's history that had just begun!

A Maturing Jacob Returns to the Promised Land (Genesis 31, 32)

- God's promise. (Genesis 31:13) The Angel of God said, "I AM the God of Bethel, . . . arise and return to the land of your kindred." = Our times are in His hand! (Psalm 31:15; James 4:13-16)

- (Genesis 31:24) God assures Jacob's safety - just as He promised!
- (Genesis 31:42) Jacob gives all glory to God.
- (Genesis 32:9-12) Learning from Jacob's prayer (first real prayer recorded):
 - ① Jacob addresses God as the Covenant-Keeping God - an intimate, sure and established relationship.
 - ② His prayer has its foundation on God's promises - His faithfulness.
 - ③ **Acknowledges his complete unworthiness of God's mercy.**
 - ④ God's glory and God's name was his chief concern
 - ★ If Jacob was not delivered it would dishonor God's Word and God Himself!
- (Genesis 32:24-32) Wrestling with God!
 - We see God's patience in teaching us our helplessness.
 - We see how easy it is for God to "cripple" us - to show us our weaknesses.
 - From wrestling to only clinging Jacob asks for a blessing.
- (Genesis 32:28; 35:9-13) Jacob is given a new name - ISRAEL and a nation is born!
 - God reaffirms His covenant of the land to Jacob and *his descendants!*
- (Genesis 35:16-20) Jacob's final son, Benjamin, is born and Rachel is buried on the way to Bethlehem (first time it is mentioned!).

Seeing the Gospel in the Life of Jacob

- God sovereignly choosing him before he was born. (Genesis 25:21-23; Romans 9:10-15; Malachi 1:2-3)
- Jacob left his father's house and fled the wrath of his brother.
- Jacob falls asleep - man is never more helpless than when he is asleep!!
- God takes the initiative and comes revealing Himself (making Himself known) to Jacob (**a helpless worm** - Isaiah 41:14) and His plans for Jacob - a chosen vessel to accomplish God's purpose.
- God enters into a covenant with Jacob - the covenant is all about what God will do not what Jacob will do or not do!
- God's faithfulness is working in Jacob what is well pleasing in His sight.
- Jacob came out of Haran a **DIFFERENT** man!

God's Covenant with His Church

- God has chosen His people before they were born. (Ephesians 1:3-4)
- Only by God's initiative, does He seek, find, draw and save His people. (John 6:44, 65; Luke 15:4; 19:10; Hebrews 7:25)
- What God has begun He finishes by sending His Holy Spirit to conform us into the same glory and image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6; Psalm 138:8)
- God, and not us, will bring us home - to a city (place) He has prepared for us! (Hebrews 11:10, 14, 16; 12:22; Gal 4:25-26; Revelation 3:12; 21:1-10)