

BTL Week 4 Patriarchs 1

Review of original covenant with Adam and Eve: created into a **familial** relationship with God, a family relationship that was broken when Adam and Eve lost their **trust** and **chose** to turn away from His **friendship**; the rest of the story is how God is going to reconcile His family through a series of six Covenants. 1) Adam/Eve: Happiness w/Him forever, 2) Noah: Never destroy the land again, 3) Abraham:

a. Blessing/Land, b. Make your **NAME** great, c. Worldwide blessing; Kingdom

Tower of Babel: Happened between Noah and Abraham; people scattered

Abraham: God calls one man, Abraham (Abram), to step out, **trust** Him: **covenant between God and Abram** lays groundwork for the way God will call first Israel, then all the nations and people back into **covenant relationship** with Him through **Abram's father Terah, who was in the line of Shem** (means "name")
Importance of OT "blessings": God gives a blessing on man and woman clear back at the beginning of the Bible, who is created in His likeness. And He wants that blessing to be passed on through the generations.

Covenant w/Abraham: Leave your land (EAST of Eden?) and go to land of Canaan (EDEN?); Leave your family and become mine; **TRUST ME!** (Abram had insurance plan -just in case-brough his kinsman, Lot with him); God punishes with famine

Land of Canaan: Fertile Crescent (rain, snow, desert, fertile ground); land bridge between Europe and Africa; everybody wants it; to have it and keep, must **TRUST GOD.**

Big Obstacle: Abraham's wife is old and sterile; needed children for promise to be fulfilled

Abraham in Egypt: Lesson learned: **God helps those who abandon themselves in trusting obedience to God.**

Returns to Bethel: Lesson learned: Even if you fall away from God's plan, He will take you back.

Family Feud: Abram and Lot fight over land; Lot leaves – no more insurance plan; Abram completely dependent on God; Lot goes Sodom and Gomorrah, gets in trouble, Abram to rescue; returns to Canaan; meet King of *Salem*

Melchizedek: King of *Salem* (future *Jeru-salem*); name means *My King of righteous*; throne name, possibly Noah's son Shem who received his father's blessing; possibly a priest; give Abram bread and wine. (Pre-cursor of Eucharist?)

Abram's doubt: Can't have lots of descendants if I don't have children; God promises him it will happen;

Abram's Plan B: have relations with Sarah slave. Questions God. God had him count the stars in mid-day? Cannot see stars in mid-day – meaning, **TRUST ME. We don't walk by sight. We don't walk by feelings. We don't walk by all of these sensory things. We walk by faith.**

Covenant Language: God entering into covenant with Abram via sacrifice¹; creates *kinship bond*;

Order of Contract:

1. Meet, discuss *terms of covenant* (Heifer cut down middle and crossed so blood pools in middle)
2. They would read the terms of the covenant, review them and
3. Walk between the pieces swearing an oath
4. Exchange names
5. Now they are family, and they can inter-marry.

This covenant is a very strong bond between two people or two nations to try to bring families together.

A marriage is a covenant

Muslims: Derive from Abram's Plan B with Hagar (Sarah's Egyptian slave) who birthed Ismael; Muslims see God as *slave master*, Christians and Jews as *Father*.

Genesis 17: God changed Abram's name to Abraham which means "exalted father"; Sign of the covenant is circumcision. Egyptians were the first to use circumcision, and perhaps we can surmise that God gave this as sign to remind him about the mistake of going to Hagar.

Isaac (hahaha, laughter): God had last laugh of those mocking Abram for no children

Genesis 19: Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; Abraham intercedes on behalf of the people, God listens to him. *Intimate relationship* with God (**See Exodus 33**)

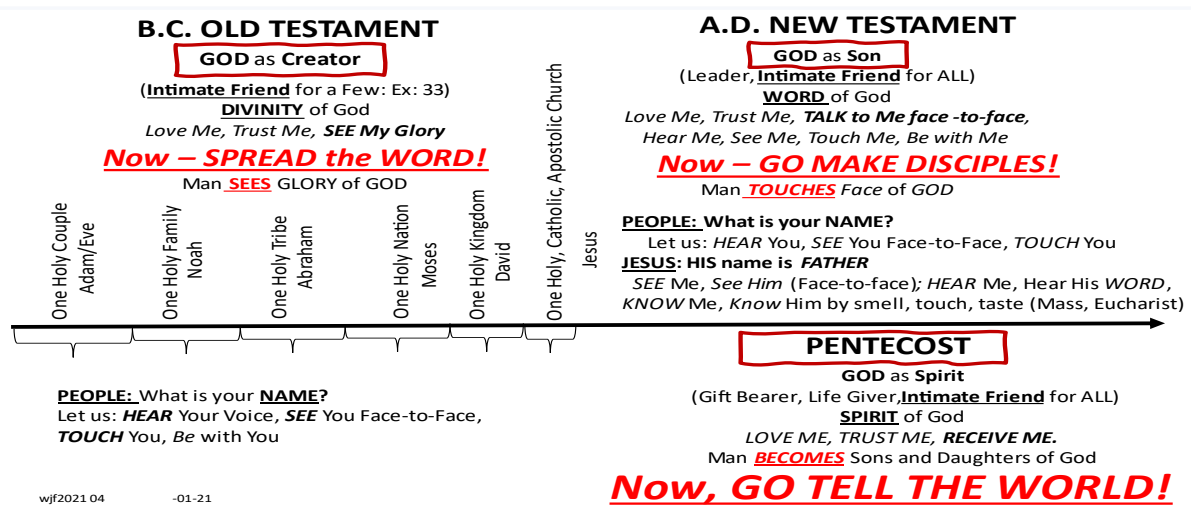
Gen 22: God commands Abraham to take his only son to Mariah in Jerusalem (where golden dome is today/where Solomon's Temple built in the future), and God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac

who asks, "Father, we have the fire and the wood but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

Abraham replies, **"Son, God will provide for Himself the lamb."** Abraham learned a very important lesson. This thread is pulled through rest of OT in the sacrificial system of Israel: Israel will not forget God promise and will look for **God's sacrificial LAMB: God's Word.**

Gen 20:24: Isaac marries Rebecca . (Marriage first, then love was norm); what holds it all together **divine covenant love.**

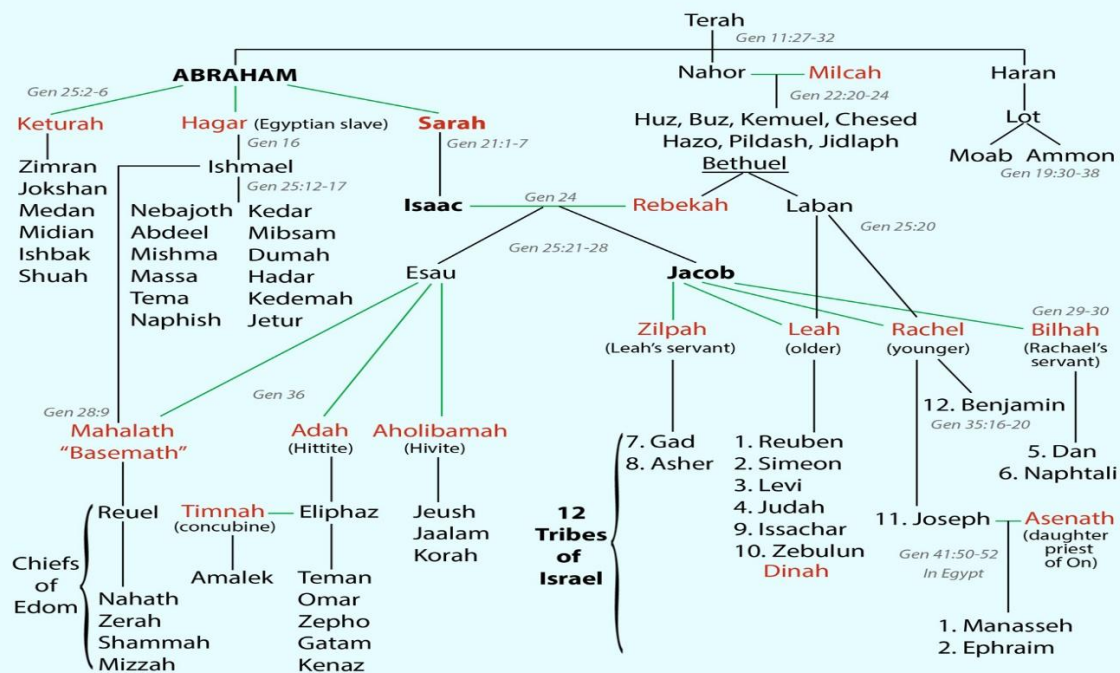
¹Basic to both animal and human sacrifice is the recognition of blood as the sacred life force in man and beast. Through the sacrifice—through the return of the sacred life revealed in the victim—the god lives, and, therefore, man and nature live.



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GENEALOGY OF ABRAHAM



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