

A Brief History of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Earth

WEEK TWO: GOD CHOOSES A PEOPLE OF PROMISE

Following the flood, as nations dispersed around the world, God selected one family to carry His seed

The time after the flood

Genesis 10-11 (2350- 1800BC)

Noah's three sons spread out, Babylon is established, and a chosen family emerges

The first covenant man: Noah

- ▶ Noah was the first man on record to have a covenant with God:

Gen 9:1-17

- All three sons received this covenant.
- Only the line of Shem remained in covenant with God. (Chapter 11)
- Covenant comes via family. The family of God became the only nation to endure by its name. (Israel)

Map of Noah's descendants

Shemites) **Semitic**
people) *May [God]
dwell in His tents...*

Ham (Canaanites)
cursed be
Canaan

- **Japheth** may
God enlarge...



Likely, over 50% of the worlds population are descendants of Japheth

The origins of Babylon

Gen 11 – The Tower of Babel

- Babel: a rebellion against the commission to Noah (*fill the earth*)
- If God is not the initiator of the project, it is not founded in His Kingdom, even if it's goal seems noble.
- If the vision does not have the glory of God as its goal, then man is seeking glory for himself.

I have completed its magnificence with silver, gold, other metals, stone, enameled bricks, fir and pine...I have highly exalted its head with bricks covered with copper...A former king built it, (they reckon 42 ages) but he did not complete its head...Since a remote time, people had abandoned it, without order expressing their words. Since that time the earthquake and the thunder had dispersed the sun-dried clay. The bricks of the casing had been split, and the earth of the interior had been scattered in heaps. Merodach, the great god, excited my mind to repair this building. I did not change the site nor did I take away the foundation. In a fortunate month, in an auspicious day, I undertook to build porticoes around the crude brick masses, and the casing of burnt bricks. I adapted the circuits, I put the inscription of my name in the Kitir of the portico. I set my hand to finish it. And to exalt its head. As it had been in ancient days, so I exalted its summit.



The spirit of Babylon

Nebuchadnezzar: *'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built...for the glory of my majesty?'* (Dan 4:30)

- As with the days of Babel, the spirit behind Babel overtook Neb.
- Just like the spirit behind the King of Babylon: (Isaiah 14:3-23)
- Though other empires (Persians, Greeks, Romans) conquered this area, the bible always refers to Babylon)

The spirit of Babylon

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The Time of the Patriarchs (Genesis 12-50)

God used His “friends” to carry on the seed of His Kingdom, and establish a chosen nation.

Friends of God are 1st Called by God

The LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" Gen 3:9

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Friends of God then respond to His voice

So faith comes from hearing...by the word of Christ. (Rom 10:17)

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- A “Suzerain” covenant – coming under the protection of a sovereign
- Abraham was asleep while “passing through” the judgment of covenant!

[illegible]

Abraham's Promised Land:

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates; the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite." (Genesis 15:18-21)



Extent of the Promised Land according to Numbers 34

Land occupied by Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh

Designated city of refuge



Israel's Promised Land:

.... 'Your southern sector shall extend from the wilderness of Zin along the side of Edom, and your southern border shall extend from the end of the Salt Sea eastward. Then your border shall turn direction from the south to the ascent of Akrabbim and continue to Zin, and its termination shall be to the south of Kadesh-barnea; and it shall reach Hazaraddar and continue to Azmon. The border shall turn direction from Azmon to the brook of Egypt, and its termination shall be at the sea. As for the western border, you shall have the Great Sea, that is, its coastline; this shall be your west border. And this shall be your north border: you shall draw your border line from the Great Sea to Mount Hor. You shall draw a line from Mount Hor to the Lebo-hamath, and the termination of the border shall be at Zedad; and the border shall proceed to Ziphron, and its termination shall be at Hazar-enan. This shall be your north border. For your eastern border you shall also draw a line from Hazar-enan to Shepham, and the border shall go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain; and the border shall go down and reach to the slope on the east side of the Sea of Chinnereth. And the border shall go down to the Jordan and its termination shall be at the Salt Sea. This shall be your land according to its borders all around.'" (Numbers 34:1-12)

The chosen people...before Israel

The Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob)

- Abraham – ancestor of Shem, knew God through family heritage.
- "For **I have chosen him**, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." (Genesis 18:19)

The chosen people...before Israel

How a family becomes a nation

- Nations are families which prospered and multiplied. God calls them nations because of His promises to their patriarch.
- The Spiritual Family of God traces its roots back to Abraham – regardless of national heritage:
- *And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. (Galatians 3:29)*

Abraham's blessing births a curse

Ishmael (son of Abraham) – father of the Arabian people, an ancestor of Muhammed, founder of Islam.

- Born through good intentions carried out apart from the plan of God
- Arabs have prospered because of God's promise. *(Gen 21:18)*
- Ishmael also represents all the Jews who reject Jesus. *(Gal 4:21-31)*

God planned for a worldwide "nation" to develop through the patriarchs' family:

Abraham: *"In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Gen 22:18)*

Isaac: *"I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, ...and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; (Gen 26:4)*

Jacob: *"Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, ...and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. (Gen 28:14)*

The Chosen Nation is “Born” (Exodus —> Deuteronomy)

God chose Israel to demonstrate what it looks like for an entire nation to walk in covenant with God

Israel: The Nation of promise:

- After centuries of slavery in Egypt:
...God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. (Exodus 2:24-25)

That covenant promise included:

1. A **nation** so large it was uncountable
2. A host for His **presence** in the earth
3. A **land of promise**

Israel: The Nation of promise:

- Israel: the next stage of the growth of the seed of promise. Once a family, they are now a great nation:
- *But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. (Ex 1:7)*
- 70 went down to Egypt, 1M came out.
- Egypt served as an incubator.

Egypt: Providing while Enslaving

- Egypt: the place of bondage, and the place attempting to squelch the seed of promise.
- A place of provision, but a honeytrap.
- Ultimately, Egypt represents the Jews who rejected Jesus as well:
- *And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. (Rev 11:8)*

Israel: Hosts for God in the earth

"Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them. (Ex 25:8)

- God intended to dwell with a nation of priests and kings:

...if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant...you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' (Exodus 19:4-6)

- Israel instead chose Moses (The Law) as a go-between

Israel: invited to a special intimacy:

Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." (Ex 20:19)

- God gave the Law only to demonstrate how impossible it is to live by the Tree of Knowledge and still walk with God
- Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; (Romans 3:19)

Israel: Hosts for God in the earth

May He dwell in the tents of Shem...

- God's desire is to find people/ nations who will host His presence in the earth
- Israel represented the "Church" of the Old Covenant:

...who was in the congregation in the wilderness ... (Acts 7:38)

"Congregation "ekklesia" = Church!

Israel: Hosts for God in the earth

Out of Egypt I have called by Son...

- Applied to Jesus (Matt 2:15)
- First Israel ("my firstborn"), then Jesus ("firstborn of all creation"), then US:

But you have come...to Mount Zion...to the general assembly and church of the firstborn...(Heb. 12:22-23)

- Anything promised to Israel is for ALL God's chosen for all time!

Israel: heirs of a land of Promise

- The land of promise was first granted to Abraham, who purchased property from the inhabitants wherever he lived.
- During his offspring's 400 years in Egypt, others had multiplied in the land (Canaanites)
- Their gods were brutal and demonic: Molech, Baal, Ashterah
- God used Israel to judge those nations. Ones who were left created problems

Israel: heirs of a land of Promise

- Israel (the nation AND land) was meant to be a light to all nations:

Micah 4:1-3

- God's promises are absolute; our level of participation/ enjoyment of them is up to us.
- Israel carried out their destiny, but rarely enjoyed its benefits (as a nation)

The Years of Judges (Judges — Ruth)

Every nation, even a chosen one, must choose their Sovereign. There are only 2 choices.

Between Joshua and Saul...

- The people of God are ruled by God Himself, speaking through prophets.
- Without leadership from the priests, Israel worshipped local gods.
- Each generation had a “judge” or rescuer to bring deliverance, but the next generation would return to Baal
- Freedom, even in a land of Promise, is impossible without an internal guide.

How to maintain Freedom:

1. There must be a sense of purpose and connection to HIS-story:

...there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel. (Jud 2:10)

- Remembering history → thankfulness for what God has done. The feasts
- Honor the blood price paid by prior generations to purchase freedom, by being good stewards of the land.
- Take our part in protecting the land from partakers with darkness

2. There must be a commitment to eradicate all partnerships with Darkness

...you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed Me; ...they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.'"
(Judges 2:2-3)

- Evil grows like mildew. Darkness becomes more influential over time.
- When God's people compromise, the nation follows suit.




3. There must be a purposeful way to keep God as the national God

So they forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtaroth. (Judges 2:13)

- God left his Tabernacle and his priests among Israel – ***there is no mention of it in the book of Judges!***
- When we do not worship God, we will worship created things:

[Romans 1](#)



Even in dark times, there is always someone moving the Kingdom forward!

[The Book of Ruth:](#)

- Tells the story of King David's ancestors.
- The "kinsman redeemer" – in the bloodline of Messiah
- Boaz – David's Great Grandfather
- Ruth – a Pagan Moabite invited into the Chosen Family!

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