

Session One – From Creation to Abraham

Introduction

The unity of the Bible – One Author; One Story

The unifying theme:

- Jesus?
- Redemption?
- The kingdom of God?

*God’s people in God’s place under God’s rule
+
enjoying God’s blessing; serving God’s purpose*

1. Creation – the kingdom pattern established (Genesis 1-2)

(a) Genesis 1

- (1) The power of God’s word.
- (2) The order that God puts into creation
- (3) The assessment God makes that his creation is good.
- (4) Human beings are the pinnacle of God’s creation.

- (5) The rest which is the goal of God’s work

(b) Genesis 2

Human beings in relationship to...

- Creation

- God

- Each other

Summary

In the proper ordering of these relationships, man to creation, man to God, man to woman, we see the pattern for the kingdom of God

The kingdom of God	The pattern of the kingdom
God’s people	Adam and Eve
God’s place	The garden of Eden
God’s rule	God’s word of command
God’s blessing	Life; harmony in all relationships
God’s purpose	Work the garden and take care of it

3. **The flood – a new beginning?** (Genesis 6-9)

(a) Covenant

(b) The Saviour

4. **The tower of Babel – where now?** (Genesis 11)

5. **Abraham – the kingdom promised** (Genesis 12-50)

Four main elements to the covenant:

(1) A People (12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 16:10; 18:18)

(2) A Land (12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-21; 17:8)

(3) Relationship (17:7-8; 17:1)

(4) Blessings (12:3; 17:4-6; 18:18)

The promise of blessing to Abraham in chapter 12 is a promise that the curses that fell on all mankind in Genesis 3 and 11 will be reversed:

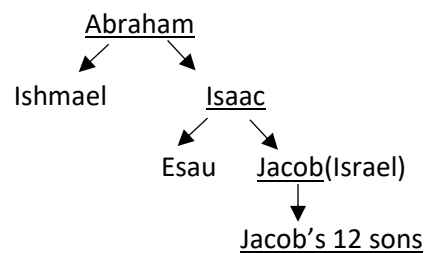
- (a) The promise of a people reverses the disunity

- (b) The promise of a land reverses the exile

- (c) The promise of a relationship with God reverses the alienation

The covenant with Abraham is a promise of the Kingdom of God. It is a promise of God's people living in God's place under God's rule, enjoying his blessing and fulfilling his purpose.

From the story of Adam's family to the story of Abraham's family...



The whole of Genesis 12 to 50 must be read with the covenant promises in mind. Three lessons emerge as we do this:

- (a) The covenant will be fulfilled by a work of God's sovereign power

- (b) The covenant rests on election and grace

- (c) The covenant man must live by faith