



Lesson 7
Study of Genesis
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Disc 7

GRAFTED IN FELLOWSHIP
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My Notes:

Commonwealth of Israel

-If I am a part of Israel, what does this tell me about the dietary laws?

-I must follow the dietary laws

-Paul: When I am a believer in the way (Jesus as Messiah), I am grafted in to the commonwealth of Israel

-I become a member of the nation of Israel

-What constitutional laws apply to me? – ALL of them!

-If I am of Christ, I am of the Seed of Abraham

-The Seed of Abraham lives according to a certain covenant

-A covenant that was provided by God, and specified by Moses in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

-This becomes my method of living in the world—the guidebook for how I live!

-The problem with the Church today is that they are not following God's Law!

-The Church is NOT Israel!

-It is operating independently of the Biblical interpretation—it is deciding its own rules as it goes along

-They decide which day of the week it will worship, how it is going to worship, what and when it will eat, what the tithe will go for

-Not a single verse in the Bible saying the tithe will go to build a building, paying for staff, paying utilities

-The tithe has to do with widows, orphans, the abuse, the oppressed

-The Temple tax is for maintaining the Temple (which doesn't exist any longer, so put it in your pocket!)

-A pilgrimage to Jerusalem as required is part of your tithe!

-You are supposed to save money to go to Jerusalem as part of the tithe!

Calvin and Luther both rejected Torah

Your Notes:

The Catholic Church Creed

- Designed to remove yourself from the Jewish background
- Could not be a member of the Catholic Church without going through that

The “size of the pipe”

- God intends to use you with the maximum amount of obedience to His instruction book
- How much water can God pour through you to others? (the size of the pipe)
- If we don't obey the dietary laws, worship when we want to, and at the end of the day we allow God to have this much “pipe” in our life: (o)
- God uses it and puts as much water through the pipe
- As we grow in our faith, the pipe gets bigger (O), as we come more in alignment with His character and nature as revealed in the scripture!
- At this point, there is a road block: the concrete wall around this pipe is so thick called Christian tradition
- It does not allow the pipe to get any bigger, because anyone outside the pipe must be crazy—they are becoming “Jewish”!
- We don't allow God to have additional space, working in our lives!

Chapter 12

- Gen 12:1 - And the Lord had said to Abram, Get out from your country, and from your family, and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you;
1. Va•yó•mer Adonái el-Av•ram lech-le•chá me•ar•tze•cha oo•mi•mo•ladet•cha oo•mi•beyt aví•cha el-ha•á•retz ashér ar•é•ka. (Hebrew World)
- lech lecha (go forth)
- Nahum Sarna: “go forth” is the bookmarks to Abraham's life
- Abraham comes out of a polytheistic, idolatrous culture

Back to Chapter 9!

- Curse on Ham
- Sarna: the genealogy are not in the proper order
- Gen 9:21-22 – And he drank of the wine, and became drunk; and he lay uncovered inside his tent. 22. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside.
21. Va•yesht min-ha•yá•yin va•yish•kar va•yit•gal be•tóch aho•lo. . Va•yar Cham avi Che•ná•an et er•vat aviv va•ya•ged lish•néy-e•chav ba•chutz. (Hebrew World)
- “uncovered” actually means “naked”
- Problem: When Noah wakes up, who does he curse?
- Gen 9:25 - And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers.
Va•yó•mer aroor Ke•ná•an éved ava•dim yi•hi•yé le•e•chav. (Hebrew World)
- Noah curses Ham's child—Canaan

-Why would he curse the child of the son who saw him naked?

-Why a curse? This is as bad as it gets!

-According to the text, what does Ham do?—Ham sees his father naked and tells his brothers about it.

-Hebrew euphemisms

+Saw his nakedness

--Castration?

--Sodomy?

--Incest

+Lev 18:6-19; 20:11, 17-21; Ezek 16:36-37

++"uncover nakedness" always means heterosexual (never homosexual) intercourse with a relative

-What does Ham do when he uncovers his father's nakedness?—has sex with Noah's wife, his (Ham's) mother

-A child is born from this and the child is cursed because it is a bastard child of incest

-Why would Ham do this?--Authority

+Reuben taking Jacob's concubine to bed – to usurp his authority

-Ham is the youngest

-Gen 10:1 – Shem, Ham, Japheth

-Even if Ham is the middle son, the point is, he is trying to take over authority of the family

-Gen 5:32 – Ham is the middle son

-Tries taking authority by impregnating his father's wife

-This explains why the curse is so strong/adamant

-The curse is to the grandson and not the son who did it

-When Ham and Japheth covered their father's nakedness, they were covering their mother

-Why would Ham tell his two brothers what he had done?—to prove he has now taken over the right, he has displaced his father, you now have to listen to me

-Canaan's curse: Gen 9:25-27 - 25. And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers. 26. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his slave. 27. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall live in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his slave. (Hebrew World)

-Hebrew is a delicate language, and this will show up again in euphemisms; if you understand the idioms, then you will read it differently

-Never any mention of Ham again in scripture

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More of Chapter 12

-Sarna develops a lot of the meanings of the words

-There are a lot of "connectors" in Hebrew

-Basic story of Abraham's life:

+He is 75 years old

+He leaves his household

+He takes his wife

+He takes a lot of other things as well

+The idea that he and Sarai leave Ur alone is not correct

+Who goes with them?

--Lot and his family

--maid/manservants, flocks, camels, all his possessions

--This is a big entourage

+These people go with Abram either due to allegiance, or they are his possessions

+We will see more and more people will be added

-He goes out (lech lecha)

Beth-El

-Sarna: probably not a religious site established for the worship of the One True God

-Bethel = House of God

-Typical to be a pagan site

-A pagan mythology or place name or word is converted into something that fits within the context of the Genesis account

-It is stripped of its pagan, idolatrous background, and converted into something used in Genesis

-For example: In Gen 1, the creation of the sun, moon, stars removes the pagan idolatry that is associated with them and re-casts it in terms of a different view

Gen 12:8 - *And he moved from there to a mountain in the east of Beth-El, and pitched his tent, having Beth-El on the west, and Hai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord. (Hebrew World)*

-vayikra beshem YHVH (called on the name of the Lord)

-Why is this phrase important?

-When did we first see the phrase, "called on the name of the Lord"?

-End of Gen 5 (Noah incident)

-This is a technical phrase--a legal phrase used for ownership

+To call on the name of someone is to claim ownership by something

+In Gen 5, does this mean they called on the name of the Lord in worship?

+It can imply worship

+More importantly, it implies sovereignty/rulership

involved--to put myself under his command
+In Gen 5, "some" men recognized that God had authority over them
+This is what is happening with Abraham
+These two events are tied together
+Abram, in Ur of the Chaldees, would respond to a call from God
+How would he know there is a true God, why would he leave everything?
+Whatever happens in Abram's life, he recognizes this is calling on the name of the Lord, and God puts His sovereign hand on him and demands his obedience--
God is his owner

Between Gen 5 and Abraham

- The same thing happens later in Laban's life
- People worshipped multiple gods
- YHVH was one of them
- Isaac sends Jacob back to Laban: to find a wife from their tribe/same spiritual heritage
- Laban does worship YHVH (He comes to Laban in a dream), but he has household gods too
- Laban is a polytheist
- Ur was not exclusively sun/moon worship, but it was polytheistic
- The name of YHVH was in there some place
- Abram is called out of Ur because he feels the call of YHVH over his life
- Abram becomes the first monotheist

Bethel

- Builds an altar
- Famine
- Go forth (lech lecha) to a land I will show you
- Abram decides to take of the problem on his own
- Goes to Egypt
- Pharaoh sees Sarai
- How much of the sovereignty of God is in Abram's decision?
- Tell Pharaoh Sarai is sister
 - +The very laws in Torah prohibiting this kind of marriage are ignored in Genesis
- Pharaoh pays the bride price
- Plagues

-How did Pharaoh know Sarai was Abram's wife?--Sarai told Pharaoh!

-kach vlech (go forth) [Gen 12:19]

-Abram takes all of the bride price with him--is not returned

-There is no specific verse that holds Abram responsible/accountable for what he did, nor is there explicit punishment for this lie: is this the end of the story?

+Sarai loses respect for Abram

+Over the next 20 years, it becomes more obvious she is bitter, and more demanding: "You traded me off"

+She never lets Abram forget this

+She holds guilt as a way to manipulate his behavior

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Abram's Character

-We need to see what Abram is doing in order to see what his character is

-Is he obedient to God?--Yes!

-Does he embrace a morality that God endorses?--No.

-God sent the plagues to keep the situation from getting any worse

-Why do we call him the "Father of Faith" when he is having a lot of struggles

Gen 13:1 - *And Abram went up from Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, to the Negev. (Hebrew World)*

-He went up from Egypt

-He constructs another altar

-Strife between herdsmen (Lot's and Abram's)

-What is unusual about the arrangement between Lot and Abram?

+Lot is the nephew

+Abram is the paterfamilias of the clan

+The nephew should always defer to the superior

+But Abram gives him the choice

-In each step of Abram's life, there is a moment of character development, then a relapse

-Why is he able to give Lot the first choice?--He is trusting God

-Lot chooses what seems to be in his best interest (his desire for prosperity)

-Abram is able to say it is not his desire that matters, but God's sovereignty that matters, I will trust God

-Lot trusts his own desire

Chapt 13:14-17 - 14. And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, Lift up now your eyes, and look from the place where you are to the north, and to the south, and to the east, and to the west; 15. For all the land which you see, to you will I give it, and to your seed forever. 16. And I will make your seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can count the dust of the earth, then shall your seed also be counted. 17. Arise, walk through the land in its length and in its breadth; for I will give it to you. (Hebrew World)

- For the first time, God makes clear that the promise of the land is shown to Abram
- God doesn't show until Abram has learned the character lesson of trusting God
- The promise is extended from land to generations

Chapter 14

- The kings take Lot and his family captive
- For the first time, we discover a very unusual thing: Abram is capable of a military engagement
- Another unusual event--Melchizedek
- What does Melchizedek mean?
 - +King of Shalem (Jerusalem)
 - +Melek and tzedek: "King" of "righteousness"
- Melchizedek is a priest of the Most High God (Gen 14:18)
- Sarna: Discussion about El Elyon (The Most High God)
 - +Most likely comes from Semitic language, but it is a pagan god's name
 - Christian understanding is that he is a priest of the True God
 - The text also implies this, since Abram treats him as such
 - +Sarna gives examples from pagan literature of the use of this term "The Most High God"
 - +The point is, even if it is a pagan name, it has been incorporated into scripture and stripped of its idolatrous form and attached to the One True God, YHVH
 - +Abram's paying the tithe to Melchizedek is a sign he recognizes that Melchizedek worships the True God
 - +Even though the name comes from a pagan religion
- Another interesting point: How does Melchizedek -- who has no connection to Abram, to the gods of Ur, to the YHVH that is served by the polytheistic believers, or to the men who called on the name of the Lord -- know anything about God?
- How is Melchizedek not only a believer of the One True God, but a PRIEST of the One True God?

-What does this imply?

+There were other people other than Abram and his family who eventually became the Jewish Nation, who worshipped God!

+The worship of God was not restricted to Abram

-What does this tell us about the structure of the book of Genesis?

+Is it about everybody who worshipped the True God?--No

+Genesis starts with everyone (Chapter 1)

+It narrows and narrows until what happens to Adam

+It follows Adam through Noah

+It expands from Noah to the people who repopulate the earth

+It collapses into what God is going to do with one person: Abraham

+The rest of Genesis only follows the story of Abraham

+Except for verse like these where we know God is doing something with somebody else, we don't have any stories about it

+God chooses exclusively Israel to bring His message to the world

+This does not prevent Him from using other people and being involved in a relationship of worship with other people

+It isn't germane to the story of the Bible

+It is a story of how God uses Israel

-How does Abram treat this King of Righteousness?

+Yes, he gives him a tithe

+Abram allows him to bless him!

+The person receiving the blessing has to recognize the authority of the one giving the blessing, and submit to the blessing

+Under whose authority does this person come?

--YHVH's authority

+The fact that Abram accepts the blessing endorses his position

-Remember, Abram has refused to have any interaction with the King of Sodom

-Melchizedek's blessing

-Abram gave him a tenth

+Interpreted as the establishment of the tithe

+Why does Abram give him 10%?

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- +It was common practice in warfare to pay tribute to a king when you returned from war
 - +It has nothing to do with a tithe
 - King of Sodom said give me the persons and take the goods for yourself
 - +Abram does not want to establish a tribute relationship where more will be demanded of him later
 - +Abram tells the king to take it all so that he doesn't owe him anything
 - +You have given me a blessing, I don't owe you anything in return
 - This all shows the development of the character of Abram
 - +First, My victory comes at God's hand and no one else's
 - +It has nothing to do with me--it is God Who is causing all this to happen
 - +I deny my affiliation, obligation or negotiation with anyone who is not within the confines of the worship of the One True God
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