

January 16/Day 16

An interesting note. While Genesis is about the beginning, it is believed Job is the oldest book. It was written down before Genesis which was penned later by the hand of Moses.

Meanwhile in Genesis...

God had confused the languages of the people at Babel forcing them to spread all over the earth., then He gives us the genealogy of Shem. Observe the last few verses in chapter 11 for context:

Genesis 11:27-30

- What does this passage tell us about Sarai?

Verse 31

- Ur of the Chaldeans is an ancient Sumerian city located in the Fertile Crescent in Mesopotamia, along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (Have we seen them before? Where?) to the Persian Gulf in what is now known as Iraq. You may find it interesting to do an online search for pictures and information on the ziggurat and cuneiform writings. Ur just means land, so it was the land of the Chaldeans, a people group that no longer exists. This area was later Babylon, so Chaldean and Babylonian are synonymous. It is important also to know that the Chaldeans were idolatrous, practicing magic and astrology.

Genesis 12

Verse 1

- Who initiates a conversation with Abram?
- Do you remember this name for God? When it's all caps, it's YHWH, pronounced Yahweh or its substitute Jehovah. It's the covenant name for God, meaning "I AM". I like to say He is the "I am,,, (fill in the blank, anything we need)"
- What does God ask Abram to do?

Verse 2

- What does God promise to do for Abram? The name Abram means "exalted father", yet Sarai was barren and Abram had not children. Names were important to the ancients. This surely would have been an irony.
- Had Abraham sought God and asked anything from Him?
- Is his name great even today?

Verse 3

- You may not know this answer right now, and that's okay, keep it in the back of your mind, but how do you think ALL the families of the earth will be blessed through Abram?

Verses 4-9

- Did Abram obey God?
- How old was he at the time?
- Who went with him?
- What do we find they had accumulated and acquired in Haran?
- To what land did they travel?
- Who was in this land at the time?
- But what did God promise Abram about this land?
- In what way did He give Abram this information?
- What did Abram build in response?
- What is the purpose of an altar?
- Where did he pitch his tent?
- What did he build there? Why?
- Abram wasn't seeking after God when God called him. This is the first mention of Abram calling on the name of the LORD.

Verses 10-16

- Why did Abram go to Egypt?
- What did he tell Sarai to say? Why?
- Was this a lie? We will find out later.
- What did pharaoh do?

Verses 17-20

- What did God do to the house of pharaoh? Why?
- What happened then?

Genesis 13

Verse 1

- Who went up to the Negev? The Negev is a desert region in southern Israel.

Verses 2-7

- What does this passage tell us about Abram's financial situation? Verse 5 told us he accumulated and acquired these in Haran.

- We are reminded about Bethel, the altar, and Abram calling on the name of the LORD. Bethel means “House of God”. Any time you see “-el” in a word, it means God.
- What does this passage tell us about Lot’s financial situation? Remember, Lot’s father had died in Ur of the Chaldeans.
- What would Abram and Lot need to do because of the number of their possessions?

Verses 8-12

- Why did Lot choose the valley of the Jordan? What was it like?
- In the Bible, anytime we see “east of”, it means to be at odd with. Adam was sent out of the garden to the east. We will see it again later.
- What were the men of Sodom like? Have you ever heard a similar word on the news?

Verses 14-18

- What did God promise Abram regarding the land?
- How long was this promise to be upheld?
- How would God increase Abram’s descendants? (How would He do this since Sarai was barren?)
- What did Abram do in Hebron? Why?
- Does God still speak to humans? Does He still make promises?

Genesis 14

Verses 1-12

- What is the valley of Siddim?
- Whom had these kings served? There were kings and cities and nations and battles in the beginning.
- What did they do in the 13th year?
- Of what was the valley of Siddim full?
- What happened to the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah?
- What did the surviving kings do with the goods from the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah?
- When they looted Sodom, whom did they kidnap?

Verses 13-16

- What is a fugitive? What did he tell Abram?
- What is Abram called here? This is the first time this word is used to describe him.
- What is an ally?
- Abram had trained men. What does this mean? How many were there?
- Were Abram and his men successful?

Verses 17-18

- Who was Melchizedek?
- Salem means peace. This city would later be named Jerusalem which means “City of Peace”, is Jerusalem a peaceful city?
- Salem, shalom and salim mean “peace”.
- We see another name for God in this passage. “God Most High” is el elyon. It means He is uppermost and reigns over all. By the way, Elohim is “Creator”. Do you notice the “-im” plural there? Remember, the Trinity was involved in creation.
- We will see more about Melchizedek later, but think about this, he was a priest for the Most High God. This is Genesis, the beginning, the priesthood will not be set up until the time of Moses. Here’s a preview: Hebrews 7:1-3, For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation *of his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. And, Hebrews 7:17, (about Jesus) “For it is attested of Him, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

Verses 19-20

- Abram gave a tithe to Melchizedek. 10% of everything.

Verses 21-24

- Did Abram take anything from the king of Sodom? Why not?

Genesis 15

Verse 1

- What way did the LORD speak to Abram this time?
- What is the first thing He said?
- What does a shield do?

Verses 2-11

- Another name for God is used here, Adonai Yahweh. “Adonai” means lord, master, ruler, authority. So what is Abram implying by using this name for God?
- He assumes a servant would be his heir. Of what does God assure him? Do you remember how old he is at this point?
- Already God has said his descendants would be as numerous as the dust, now he uses the stars to describe their number.
- Abram believed God and it was counted as righteousness. Reckoned is an accounting term which means it was put on his account, or he was counted as righteous. Abram obtains

salvation through faith in this verse. But what did he believe that counted him righteous toward God? Galatians 3:16 tells us, "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ." Salvation has always been by faith in Jesus. Remember, this is hundreds of years before the Law is given to Moses.

- Abram asks how he will know he will possess it, is he talking about the land or salvation?
- Abram gathered animals for sacrifice. Where have we seen sacrifice mentioned already?

Verses 12-16

- God tells Abram exactly what will happen later in Egypt. Remember these words.

Verse 17

- God is making a covenant with Abram. God initiated the covenant. Abram did nothing to warrant or deserve it. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement which, if broken, would require the death of the one who made it. Passing through pieces of bleeding sacrificial flesh says, *If I break this covenant, may this be done to me.* Think about the significance of this as God is the initiator. What was Abram's part in the covenant, he was asleep?
- Now think about this: Jesus said in John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." No one comes to God except THROUGH Jesus. Oh, please remember this when we get to the veil in the temple and His crucifixion.
- The Trinity is pictured here as well in the smoking oven and flaming torch. Keep this in mind. We'll see it later, but God led the Israelites through the desert as a cloud by day and fire by night. God's presence also filled the temple in the form of a cloud. And God's Spirit is described as tongues of fire in the New Testament. Watch for these later, in the meantime, which part of the covenant represents Jesus? Think about it.

Verses 18-21

- There were lots of people already in the land. I wonder how Abe's descendants will be able to dwell there. Hmmm

Good stuff. Abram received salvation today. It has always been by faith. See you tomorrow.