

INTRODUCTION

1. Start from the beginning - Lk 24:44-47. Creation - be fruitful & multiply & fill the earth w/ glory of God - agenda for redemption - Abraham.

1st: Paul's Gospel According to Abraham

1. The gospel reaching Gentiles - Jesus; Philip [A 8]; Peter [A 10].
2. Paul the apostle to Gentiles - Col 3:11. Seed of Abraham in Christ.
3. Challenges facing early church: rlnshp tw/ OCOv & NCov. Do Christians need to comply w/ Mosaic laws? Paul points rather to Abraham.
4. Gal 3:6-11 Judiazers - advocating circum as necessary for justification, a continuation of the OCov theocracy. Paul references Abraham [v6-9], Moses [v10] & Habakkuk [v11].
 - i. v6 [Gn 15:6] God's promise to give Abraham a son
 - ii. v6-7 Abraham's pre-circumcision faith & imputed righteousness
 - iii. v8 *nations will be blessed in you*; the *blessing* is justification by faith
 - iv. v9 = conclusion: believing Gentiles are *sons of Abraham* [v7]
 - v. v8 - Script = gospel preacher: God's promise to bless nations
5. Inclusion of Gentile believers into the people of God is itself a fulfillment of the very gospel preached by the OT. 3:28-29

2nd: The Situation of the Nations Prior to Abraham

1. Gn 1-11 2 epochal events: Flood [Gn 6-9] & Tower of Babel [Gn 11].
2. Gn 9:1 repeat *bles*s of Gn 1:28.
 - i. Gn 9:19 *whole earth was populated*
 - ii. Gn 10:18 *families spread abroad*
 - iii. Gn 10:31-32 tribal *nations* [3x] spread over the earth
3. Gn 11 is not chronological but rehearses the details of the spread of the nations. Gn 11:1 a time of single language. Man did not spread out & fill the earth in obedience but as a result of judgment.
4. Noah's family build a city w/ a tower w/ theological significance - 11:2-4
 - i. A repeat of Cain - *built a city - named* Enoch [Gn 4:16-17]. Common-grace culture w/ Lamech's injustice [Gn 4:23].
 - ii. Like Cain, people feared being victims of violence & build city to obtain security in death-cursed world

- iii. Tower = ziggurat: man-made mountain [recalls Eden]; atop ziggurat - sacs, incantations, rituals to acquire deity's power - His *name*: selfolatry
 - a. Akkadian "baybilu" = "gate of God" - to reverse banishment from Eden & re-enter God's dwelling: blessing of life [utopia] w/o God
 - b. Would remove distinction tw/ Creator & creature - repeat of Gn 3
- iv. Explicit motivation: NOT be *scattered over face of whole earth*
5. 11:5-9 YWHW *came down - to see*: Lord judges according to evidence
 - i. v6 [like 3:22] - Lord knows intent of heart - Gn 6:5 -> Flood.
 - ii. v7 *Come let Us* - Gn 1:26. 11:3-4 man says *come, let us sin*. God says *come let Us* judge - to advance purpose of redemption.
 - a. *confuses* ["balal"] word-play on "Babel": the Gate of God.
 - b. Man's idolatrous project: assumes he controls words [v1], but his words urging idolatry are nonsense: *Indeed, has God said?*
 - iii. v8 - unable to communicate, scattered. chpt 10 - 10:31-32.
6. 11:10ff lineage of Abram [11:27] & tension in Ab's story - 11:30. Gn 1-11 = 2 epochs, next 13 chpts focus on one man!

Applic #1: The Gospel Comes to Rebels Living in a Genesis 11 World

1. We still live in Gn 11 world as did ancient Israel.
 - i. Society searching for security yet committed to idolatry/selfolatry
 - ii. At root: *Indeed has God said?* Words w/o meaning; deception, lies.
2. Babel - Babylon [captivity]; Jesus sends the 70; Pentecost; "mystery Babylon" in Revelation - idolatrous opposition of the sons of Ab; yet the *nations* who are called into *the blessing of Abraham*.

Applic #2 We Are Sons of Abraham in Union With Son Promised to Abraham

1. The son given to Sarai's dead womb is the One who gives us the blessing of Ab. That son is Jesus - Gal 3:16. Blessing of resurrection life.
2. Gal 3:29 Ab's seed are alive w/ res life, justifi'd by grace alone thru faith alone in Christ alone according to Script alone for the glory of God alone.
3. Ab's seed are heirs of promise of life lived w/ Lord in land of glory. Arrogant Babylonian attempts to return to Eden fail, but repentant believing Babylonians receive a resurrected Eden in Jesus.

4. Meanwhile - flee Babylon - Rv 18:4.