

STRETCH

Module 3: Genesis Session 7

What is the story about?

- Chapters 1-11 establish the **need** for a covenant
- Chapters 12-50 establish the **formation** of the covenant

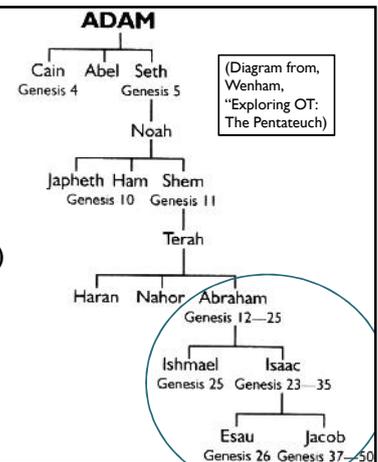
The only way they can overcome sin is to 'own' God's promise to bless them and make them a blessing

Who gets the inheritance?



Who will inherit the promise?

- Abraham
- Isaac
- Jacob (Israel)



Genesis 22:15-18

"By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Covenant confirmed to **Isaac** **Gen 26:1-5**

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines. And the LORD appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

Discussion

Why don't both of Isaac's son's inherit the promise?

- Genesis 25:29-34
- Genesis 27:1-40

Was anyone in the right?

- **Rebekah?** Manipulated what God showed her would happen (25:19-28)
- **Jacob?** Wanted the birth-right and the blessing. Obeyed his mother. Tricked his brother.
- **Esau?** – Despised his birth-right (29:34)
- **Isaac?** – On his death bed was only concerned for his stomach! Lack of discernment. (27:1-4), compare to Abraham (24:1-4)

Discussion

• *In Chapter 28 – what evidences do you see of God confirming the covenant promises to Isaac & Abraham?*

- 28: 3-4 Isaac's blessing
- 28: 13-15 Jacob's dream

Discussion

After making a vow to God (Gen 28:20-22), Jacob goes on a long journey where God does some serious work on his character

- *In what ways do you see Jacob get a taste of his own medicine in chapter 29 - 30*

Jacob's redemption

- He is deceived by Laban (29: 25)
- He is manipulated by his wives (30:16)
- He is cheated by Laban (30:35-36)
- God blesses him (30:43)
- Reconciled with Laban (31:43-55)
- Still needs to be reconciled to Esau

Genesis 32:9-12 – Jacob's prayer

And Jacob said, "O God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, O LORD who said to me, 'Return to your country and to your kindred, that I may do you good,' I am not worthy of the least of all the deeds of steadfast love and all the faithfulness that you have shown to your servant, for with only my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps.

Genesis 32:9-12 – Jacob's prayer

Please deliver me from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him, that he may come and attack me, the mothers with the children. But you said, 'I will surely do you good, and make your offspring as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.'"

What does this prayer show us about the way he has grown?

Jacob's Repentance

32:4-5, 13-21

- He says where he has been – not sneaking around
- He says what he has – not coming to steal
- He sends an offering – a sacrifice to make peace

Before he can make peace with Esau he must make peace with himself

Wrestling with God – why?



How will blessing come?

- Jacob is 97! No contest for God – not about physical strength.
- He won't let go until he receives a blessing - Was he wrestling *for forgiveness?*
- The blessing is a name change – showing his character has been changed – no longer the "trickster"
- His blessing comes with a limp – humbled. With God, you have to lose to win

Discussion

- How was Jacob's prayer answered?
- Genesis 33: 1-11

Jacob's Journey

Jacob recognises the injustice of the way he treated Esau

He tries to return the blessing

He repeatedly bows down

He describes himself as Esau's servant

He seeks to reverse what has happened

Our Journey – Repentance

God must bring us to a place where we realise our need for change



Our Journey – Renewal

God can change our character

New name

New nature



Our Journey – Reconciliation

God can overcome hostility

Reconciled with God
Reconciled with each other



Our Journey – Reliance

God wants to break self-reliance

Winning through losing

Walking with a limp



Israel arrives (Gen 33:18-20)

“And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel. (God, the God of Israel)

Israel arrives, again (Gen 35:9-15)

God appeared to Jacob again, when he came from Paddan-aram, and blessed him. And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name." So he called his name Israel. And God said to him, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

God blesses Israel

- Blesses him (v 9)
- Confirms his name – Israel (v10)
- Confirms his name will be great – kings and nations...(v11)
- Confirms the land is his and his offspring (v 12)

Jacobs Offspring... Gen 35:



Judah's Crime – Gen 38

- Prevents his Daughter in law marrying
- Returns Tamar to her Father's house = shame.
- Does not releasing her for marriage or work
- Condemning Tamar to lifelong barrenness = shame
- Places his own welfare above "own flesh and blood" – a failed patriarch.

Judah's Redemption

- Offers himself in place of Benjamin (43: 8-9)
- Shows remorse and repentance (44:16)
- Pleads for Benjamin's release (44:18-34)

Jacob's (Israel) blessings

- Joseph's sons included – (Gen 48)
- But Ephraim displaces Manasseh in Jacob's blessing (again – wrong order)
- Judah and Joseph displace Reuben to the rights of the firstborn in Jacob's blessing. (49:8-12, 22-26)
- Judah is prophesied kingship, which comes through the line of **Perez**
- Judah – Perez... David... Jesus!

We are blessed.. IN JESUS

