

Summer Study -- A Bible Overview With A Jesus Focus

Note: an on-line site like <https://biblehub.com/> -- enables rapid navigation to listed texts

Lesson 2: Jesus in Genesis

Jesus in the Old Testament (OT)

- **Luke 24:44** Jesus said to them, “These are the words I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.”
 - The Law, Prophets & Psalms were the three major divisions of the Hebrew Scripture & covered it all
- The OT points to Jesus in prophecies & types (sometimes called shadow, pattern, form, figure, etc.)
 - A *type* of Christ is an OT person or thing that foreshadows Jesus’ character or actions; for example, Melchizedek was a “type” of Jesus as priest & king (**Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 6:20**)
- The “Angel of the Lord” that appears in the OT is generally accepted as the pre-incarnate Jesus

Creation--Genesis Chapters 1-2

- *In the beginning*--starts both **Genesis 1:1** (in Hebrew) & **John 1:1** (in Greek)
- All three persons of our triune God were involved: *Elohim* (plural)) describes God’s majesty & power; God the Father created thru Jesus (**John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-16**); the Holy Spirit (*spirit* can also be “breath”) “was hovering over the surface of the waters.” (**Genesis 1:2; Psalm 33:6**)
- We were created in God’s image (**Genesis 1:26-27**); not that He has a physical body (**John 4:24**), but that we have nonphysical aspects: a soul, can reason & choose and were also created to reflect His holiness
- Jesus is the *Beginning and the End* (**Revelation 22:13**)

The Fall--Genesis Chapter 3: first prophecy of Jesus & first gospel (“good news”) (**Genesis 3:15**)

- Virgin birth: *her seed*--lineages were always male-focused, but not here! (**Luke 1:34-35**)
- *He*--the Messiah! Crush. . .strike/bruise--a crushed head is fatal; a bruised heel is not; Jesus would eventually crush the power of Satan in order to free us from sin & death (**Hebrews 2:14-15**)
- The Fall brought death to God’s perfect world; Jesus’ Resurrection rescues us from death (**Romans 6:5**)
- The Fall did not erase God’s image in us, but certainly defaced it; only Jesus can restore the pure image (**Romans 8:29**)
- In His mercy, God provided a way to temporarily cover their sin (**Genesis 3:21**) until the time He would permanently cover it thru the finished work of Jesus

Ascension--Enoch was a *type* of Jesus in walking with God (denoting relationship & obedience), pleasing Him & being taken up to heaven (**Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5; John 8:28; Mark 16:19**)

The Flood--the ark is a *type* of Jesus as salvation from judgment thru faith (**Genesis 7:13-16; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20-21**)

- Some deny the Flood happened; Jesus referred to it as real (**Matthew 24:37-39**) & said the sinful state of the world would be the same when He comes back for His people (**Genesis 6:5; Luke 17:26-27**)

Abraham: Covenant & Foreshadow--Genesis Chapters 12-22: Abram was the pattern for all who would follow Christ--strangers & pilgrims on the earth with the certain hope of God’s promise

- “All the families of the earth will be blessed thru you” & “Unto thy seed will I give this land” (KJV) (seed [singular] of Abraham--Jesus) (**Genesis 12:2,7; 22:18; Acts 3:16, 25-26; Galatians 3:8,16**)
- Abraham pursued the army that had captured Lot (**Genesis 14:14**), just as Jesus pursues to rescue those taken by sin (like He did me!) (**Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15**)

- As a *type* of Jesus, Melchizedek was also King of Peace & Righteousness (**Hebrews 7:2-3**); his bringing out bread and wine foreshadowed the Last Supper (**Genesis 14:18; Matthew 26:26-29**)
- Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness. (**Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3**)--foreshadowed our being imputed with Christ's righteousness when we accept Him as Lord & Savior!!
- In making a covenant with Abram, God Himself (the flaming torch) went between the halves of the heifer (**Genesis 15:8-18**); this declared that the one violating the covenant would pay in blood. But **Abram did not pass thru!** Only God would pay the blood penalty, which Jesus would do on the Cross for **our** sins!
- The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar & said: "I will greatly multiply your offspring." The "I" in v10 + all of v13 indicate it had to be God (**Genesis 16:10,13**); many believe it was the pre-incarnate Jesus
- Circumcision was the sign of God's covenant with Abraham--represented cutting away sin in commitment to God; baptism is similar, but represents a different covenant (**Genesis 17:10-11; Matthew 28:19**)
- God promised that Sarah would bear a son & His covenant would extend to Isaac's descendants (**Genesis 17:19**); that applies to the spiritual descendants--those that accept Christ as Lord (**Romans 9:7-8**)
- Abraham & Sarah were well past child-bearing age, but nothing is impossible with God (**Genesis 18:10-12; Luke 1:34-37**)
- God provided a ram in place of Isaac for sacrifice, just as Abraham had said; so God provided the Lamb of God in our place for sacrifice (**Genesis 22:8,13; John 1:29**)

The Patriarchs After Abraham--Genesis Chapters 26-50

- The Lord promised Isaac & later Jacob that all nations would be blessed thru their seed, meaning Jesus (**Genesis 26:2-5; 28:13-15; Luke 3:34**)
- Jesus told Nathaniel that He had seen him under a fig tree pondering upon Jacob's ladder; Nathaniel knew immediately Jesus had to be the Messiah (**Genesis 28:12; John 1:48-51**)
- Jacob's physical & spiritual wrestling match (likely with the pre-incarnate Jesus) was in the darkness of his fear & uncertainty; a "graduation exam" of faith like the command to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. (**Genesis 32:22-29**). Just so with us--we discover strength in God when we recognize weakness in self
- Joseph's coat of many colors distinguished him from his brothers, as our being clothed in Christ distinguishes us; as his brothers hated him, the world will hate us (**Genesis 37:3-4; Matthew 24:9**)
- Joseph was a *type* of Christ in: being falsely accused & punished (**Genesis 39:17-20; John 18:38**); being exalted to a position of authority to save people from certain death; and despite his undeserved, ill treatment, forgave those who persecuted him
- Judah is a *type* of Christ when he offers to take Benjamin's place as Joseph's slave (**Genesis 44:33**)
- Jacob prophesied of Jesus in blessing Judah (**Genesis 49:8-12**)
 - v8 *Praise*--the meaning of "Judah"; *bow down*--to kings such as David & Solomon; especially to Jesus
 - v9 *Lion*--speaks of strength & courage; points to Jesus as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (**Revelation 5:5**); through His death, Jesus gained the victory over His enemies & "seized His prey"
 - v10 Loaded with prophecies of Jesus:
 - *Scepter will not depart*--to Judah's line came national prominence & kingship: David, Solomon & other kings of Judea in partial fulfillment; the King of Kings will bring ultimate fulfillment
 - *Until*--Jesus would come in God's perfect timing (**Galatians 4:4**);
 - *Shiloh*--only place in OT it does not mean a town north of Jerusalem; most commentators support translation of *Shiloh* here as "He whose it is" or "one sent"--the Messiah (**John 17:3**)
 - *Allegiance of the nations*--all nations will be drawn to Jesus (**John 10:16; Revelation 21:26**)
- After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers feared his reprisal, but his words in **Genesis 50:19-21** recall Jesus' words on the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (**Luke 23:34**)