

OT 5

# THE BIBLE PROJECT 2.0

## God's PROJECT RESET

Genesis 12-17



**BIG IDEA 1: GOD PLANS FOR THE RESCUE OF THE WHOLE WORLD - HE IS STILL WORKING ON HIS PROJECT**



God's aims have not changed—but now he has a different STRATEGY. His aims are still universal.

**God's project:** To create a world where his will is done, all creatures live in joyous concert and all fellowship fully with their Creator.

**This is the Foundation of the ALL of Scripture. GOD ALWAYS MEANS TO INCLUDE EVERYONE.** BUT now he adopts a geographic strategy. Canaan is at the hub of the whole world. See above picture.

Geologically Canaan is at the focus of the Jordan Rift that extends down to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. For example the African fish tilapia is the “St. Peter’s fish” found in the Sea of Galilee. Confluence of the continents.

## **BIG IDEA 2: GOD ESTABLISHES COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM**

Covenant Form THE REASON TO EMPHASIZE THE HITTITE COVENANT FORM IS TO ESTABLISH THE UNILATERAL IMPOSITION OF THE TREATY/COVENANT. THIS IS NOT A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT, BUT THE IMPOSITION OF TERMS.

*Berith* is unilateral: God makes the relationship; man fits into it.

- Promise □ I will bless you
- Obligation □ so that you will be a blessing
- Promise/prophecy □ by you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

**“Nations” = “Gentiles” MISHPOCHOT/ETHNE/GENS Hebrew/Greek/Latin**

**God intends Israel to BLESS the Gentiles.** Right from the beginning.

THIS IS A REVOLUTION IN OUR THINKING ABOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT.

BUT Israel inverts the horn of plenty for the Gentiles and makes it a funnel for Israel to receive the blessings.

Other covenants:

1. Noah – already mentioned
2. Abram
3. Israel – Sinai (Mosaic)
4. Davidic – basis for kingship
5. Jeremiah – “new covenant” because God’s people have broken the first after the exile
6. New Covenant in Jesus
  - 1 Cor 11.25 - this cup is the New Covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

More specifically, using the Mosaic Covenant as an example:

Preamble (Title)	I am the LORD Your God
Historical Prologue	Who brought you out of Egypt
Stipulations	
General Law	You will be Loyal – No other gods
Specific Law	No idols, etc
Sanctions	
blessing	I set before you the way of life
cursing	Death and destruction come to disobedient
Witnesses	gods of Suzerain and vassal as called
Document clause	what to do with text of covenant – Ark of the Covenant
Covenant Ceremony	Exodus 24 Sprinkling blood after people promise allegiance
Covenant Sign	Passover celebration

## **BIG IDEA 3: THE COVENANT REQUIRES EXCEPTIONALISM**

Distinction obligatory: COME APART FROM

Country

Ethnicity

Family

Lot and Abraham split



Visual Guide to Bible Events [VGBE]

**“Exceptionalism”** is the term The Bible Project uses for the idea that God’s people have been made special, unique, different, “holy”, for a purpose. They are not morally better, but set apart for a specific mission - **to be a blessing**.

## **BIG IDEA 4: GOD COMMITS NEW FUTURE TO ABRAHAM**



Abraham’s Journeys

*Nelson's Bible Maps*

To a new LAND

To a huge progeny

To a world benefit

## **BIG IDEA 5: GOD SHOWS HIS PRESENCE AND BINDS HIMSELF UNLIKE ANY OTHER SUZERAIN.**

“Cutting” the Covenant

Smoking Firepot and Blazing Torch: **Shekinah**

## Read and explain Genesis 15

<sup>6</sup> Abram believed the Lord, and he [the Lord] credited it to him [Abram] as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

<sup>8</sup> But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

<sup>9</sup> So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

<sup>10</sup> Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. <sup>11</sup> Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to him, “Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. <sup>14</sup> But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup> In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi<sup>[e]</sup> of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, <sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”

*Where do we see what God promises fulfilled when he says to Abraham I will be cut up and killed if I don't bring what I promised to pass?*

### GRACE - Gen 15.6

GOD COMMITS HIMSELF **BEFORE** THE COVENANT SIGN OF CIRCUMCISION IS APPLIED TO ABRAHAM.

NOTE FOR FUTURE RECOLLECTION: for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure. Gen 15.16

## **BIG IDEA RECAP**

**BIG IDEA 1: GOD PLANS FOR THE RESCUE OF THE WHOLE WORLD -  
HE IS STILL WORKING ON HIS PROJECT**

**BIG IDEA 2: GOD ESTABLISHES COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM**

**BIG IDEA 3: THE COVENANT REQUIRES EXCEPTIONALISM**

**BIG IDEA 4: GOD COMMITS NEW FUTURE TO ABRAHAM**

**BIG IDEA 5: GOD SHOWS HIS PRESENCE AND BINDS HIMSELF  
UNLIKE ANY OTHER SUZERAIN.**

**Consider the following if you choose to prepare for next week, OT 6**

Suggested Review: Genesis 15-33

Give attention to Genesis 18-19

**Be prepared to raise questions on what you have heard/read so far.**

If you wish to keep the idea of timeline order in place, note this is where you would read Job. At least according to some commentators.

**MARKERS**

Gen 27	Jacob steals the blessing
Gen 32	Jacob meets Esau
Gen 37	Joseph story begins
Gen 50	Jacob blesses his sons with prophetic insight

**What “BIG IDEAS” stand out so far?**

## The Divergent Ways: Genesis 4 - 11

<b>Cain</b>		<b>Abel / Seth</b>
"I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." Gen 4:1	<b>Eve's reaction at birth</b>	"God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel." Gen 4:25
Tiller of the soil	<b>Occupation</b>	Shepherd (Abel)
Fruit of the ground	<b>Offering</b>	Firstling of the flock
<b>Way of Cain</b> Evil (1 John 3:12) Unbelief	<b>Attitude</b>	<b>Way of Abel</b> Righteous (1 John 3:12) Faith (Heb 11:4)
Sacrifice unacceptable	<b>The Proto-Evangelium</b>	"A more excellent sacrifice"
Worshipper warned, no change, rejected Persecutor, murderer Wrong relation to God / brother SELF-AFFIRMED EARTH ORIENTED	<b>FAITH makes the difference</b>	Worshipper accepted Righteous sufferer First martyr (Matt 23:35)  PILGRIMS IN FAITH
Godless culture, city of man (Gen 4:16-24)	<b>Developed</b>	YAHWEH worship (Gen 4:26)
City dwellers Rampant wickedness Under Lamech: bigamy Bloodshed, boasting, pride	<b>Illustrations</b>	Walk with God - Enoch Looked for a better city/country (Heb 11:10, 16)
Kingdom of the world ☐	☐ <b>CONFLICT</b> ☐	☐ Kingdom of God

Satan's first blow against "the seed of the woman"

Unsuccessful: Kingdom of God survives persecution

God raises up "another seed."

Compromise; distinction between the two lines breaks down (Gen 6.5)

Kingdom survives apostasy, syncretism, division, because of judgment—namely flood.

Kingdom of this world frustrated by ethnic/language barriers

Noah was a failed new beginning—resulting in Canaan

**Another new beginning: ABRAHAM.**