

## The Journey

### The Story of the Bible: Lesson 4 Outline

One Sentence Summary: God is serious about fulfilling the Abrahamic Covenant and it is seen in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament.

#### A. Outline

##### a. Introduction

- i. Bob tells the story about Hunter consistently asking for a dog of his own for two years. As a result, Bob knew he was serious, so he got a dog.
- ii. Talking about something for a long time means you are really serious about it. This is true with God.

##### b. Body

- i. If God is serious about the Abrahamic Covenant, If He really wants to see all nations reached, if this is really is the “Story of the Bible,” then wouldn’t we find traces of the Abrahamic Covenant throughout the entire word of God? Looking at examples in the New Testament can show that the “Story of the Bible” brings the two testaments together.
- ii. You will never see the Abrahamic Covenant clearly spelled out, You will see the upper level and lower level side by side.
- iii. Galatians 3:4- He redeemed us (this is the upper level; our sins are taken away and we have a vital, living relationship with the God of the universe.)... In order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus.
- iv. The purpose of our salvation is that we are to be reaching out to others, not only to our neighbors, but the nations as well.
- v. Holding a bucket and saying, “God bless me, God bless me, etc is not incorrect, but it is incomplete. At the bottom of our bucket is to be a pipe through which the blessings flow. We’ve been blessed to be a blessing.
- vi. Romans 1:5, “Through Him and for His name’s sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.
  1. Upper level = Received grace and apostleship; purpose from God.
  2. Lower level = To call people from among all the Gentiles
  3. Purpose for that grace: To call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.
  4. We have received grace, and we are to turn around and tell others.
  5. Top Lines Blessings bring Bottom Line responsibilities.
- vii. I Corinthians 1:23-24, “But we preach Christ crucified; a stumbling block to Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
  1. Upper level= Our sins are forgiven; we (Jews and Gentiles) can have peace with God.
  2. Lower level = the church is to reach out to both Jews and Gentiles... Blessed to be a blessing.
- viii. Paul’s calling= Acts chapter 9
  1. On the road to Damascus, Paul met the Lord and was converted.

2. Acts 9:15= “But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. Paul was to be faithful to both the Upper Level and the Lower Level.
    - a. The Top Line refers to the people of Israel.
    - b. The Bottom Line refers to the Gentiles and their kings.
- ix. Examples of Paul’s commitment to the Upper and Lower levels side by side.
1. Acts 12:26 – Paul addressing the church in Antioch, “ Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.
    - a. He spoke to both Jews and Gentiles, telling them about salvation, fulfilling the Upper and Lower Level of the covenant.
    - b. In verse 46, because the Jews got jealous that Gentiles were receiving God’s blessings, then Paul and Barnabas tell them, “Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.
    - c. Upper and Lower Levels together- they preached to the Jews and then to the Gentiles
  2. Acts 14:1 – Paul and Barnabas went to the Jewish synagogue and spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. Top Line and Bottom line together= both parts of the Abrahamic Covenant are there.
  3. Acts 14:27- “On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.
  4. Acts 17:17 – “So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. (Jews and Gentiles)
  5. Acts 26:22 Paul speaking to King Agrippa said, “But I have had God’s help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen- that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people.
    - a. Top Line- preached to his people
    - b. Bottom Line- preached before the Gentiles
  6. Romans 3:27-29 – “Where, then is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law. Is God the God of Jews only? No, He is not. Is He not the God of the Gentiles too?
  7. Romans 9:22-26- Paul is speaking about God’s divine election. In this process, he puts both parts of the Abrahamic Covenant side by side. He says that Jews and Gentiles have been called by God to be objects of His mercy, forever and forever, prepared in Advance.

- a. He quotes Hosea, “ As He says in Hosea: I will call them my people who are not my people.
- 8. Israel’s blindness- In Romans, Paul says that Israel is being blinded (which means they should see... that is recognizing the Upper Level and be blessed by God) but they are not. Something has to happen first.
  - a. Romans 11:25 “I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.” Israel will be blinded until the Bottom Line of the Covenant is fulfilled.
  - b. The Jews (as a whole) are not going to recognize Jesus as the Messiah until all Gentile nations have been reached.
- 9. Romans 15:8-9 Paul explains that Jesus came in fulfillment of all of what the prophets were predicting and He came as a servant to the Jews, so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy. (Upper level and lower level stuff)
  - x. There are many times when you see a reference to the Upper Level, but not find the Lower Level and it is implied in the greatest context of the Scriptures.
  - xi. There are also times when you will see the Bottom Line, without reference to the Top Line.
  - xii. Railroad tracks when they are close look like two separate rails. But when you look at them over the long haul, they become one. This is what the Story of the Bible is like. The one rail is the Upper Level or the Top Line, the other rail is the Lower Level, or the Bottom Line.
  - xiii. Cats want to be on the Upper Level rail; they want the blessings.
  - xiv. If your church focuses only on the Upper Level of the Covenant and is only worried about being blessed by God... “God bless our youth, bless our Sunday School, bless our worship time., but they don’t pay any attention to the Bottom Line or the Lower Level, they are “Copping Out” in their Christianity. Bob says, “Your church could have many members, but they won’t know the purposes of God very well, they are weak theologically.
  - xv. Cats are only riding on one half of the covenant.
  - xvi. If your church only focuses on the Lower Level of the covenant, and they are so involved in reaching out to the international Students, praying for the missionaries and taking care of the poor and the fatherless and widows, they can “Burn Out” just as fast.
  - xvii. You and Dogs have to “Balance Out” and ride both the Top and Bottom lines of the covenant.
  - xviii. The railroad track keeps on running the entire way through the New Testament allowing us to read the bible as one book, with one introduction, one story and one conclusion.

- xix. There are nearly 400 paraphrases or abridgments of the Abrahamic covenant in God's word. Therefore Bob has confidence in breaking down the Abrahamic Covenant into only 2 parts: The Upper Level and the Lower Level.
- c. Conclusion
  - i. The Promise that God made to Abraham forms the foundation for a story that runs the entire way through the Scriptures, starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation. God has made a promise to bless you and me, and He wants us to turn around and be a blessing to others, not just those that are like us, but to the other "thems" in our world...
  - ii. Bob says God has talked about His commitment to reach all nations for four thousand years and He is serious about it. Bob says we should be that serious as well.
  - iii. Get involved equally in both parts of the covenant.