

The Journey

The Story of the Bible: Lesson 6 Outline: The return of Jesus hinges on the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant.

A. Outline

a. Review

- i. God's glory shines brighter when groups of people from different backgrounds unite together in worshipping God. When all nations are reached, God's greatest glory will be revealed.
- ii. God made a promise to Abraham in Genesis 12 and He fulfilled that promise in Revelation 5:9. Therefore, the Bible can be read as one book, with one introduction, one story and one conclusion.
- iii. We saw the two parts of the Abrahamic Covenant side by side in the Old and New Testaments.
- iv. This covenant is so important that God swore by His own name that He would do it and He repeated the promise 5 times to make it clear to us that He wants to bless us and He wants us to be a blessing to all nations.

b. Body

- i. Bob wants to show that unless this promise to Abraham is fulfilled...unless all nations are reached, the end (which we define as Christ's second coming) will not come. He will back that up with seven passages from the New Testament.
- ii. Scripture
 1. Matthew 24:14 Jesus tells the disciples about the signs of the end of the age and He says, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." This Bob says refers to the fulfillment of the lower level of the covenant. Bob believes Jesus is saying you are to stay focused on reaching the nations, only after all the nations are reached, will the end come.
 2. In 2 Peter chapter 3:12, Peter is addressing those who mock them about Jesus returning as He promised. They think nothing has changed and He is not coming back again. Peter says, First, God counts time differently than man does. For Him, one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years is like a day. It only seems long because of our limited perspective!
Secondly, he says that God is delaying the second coming because God wants as many people to be saved as possible. The longer he delays, the more are saved.
He then goes on and describes what the day of the Lord will be like and says these words: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of

people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.”

Bob says what Peter is saying is that we can actually speed the return of the Lord by reaching all nations. After all nations are reached, after the Father’s glory is fully revealed, then the end can come.

3. Acts 3:25- Peter quoted the Abrahamic covenant after healing a crippled beggar, therefore if we want Jesus to return sooner than later, get involved in reaching the nations.
4. Matthew 28:18-20 is called The Great Commission. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." We are to make disciples of all nations (Lower Level) and then Christ will be with us as we reach the nations and when He returns again after all nations are reached.
5. Romans 11:25- Paul wants to be clear that Israel experienced not a permanent fall, but only a stumbling.
There will be a time when the Jews see the Messiah as their own. When is that time? Paul says it in the 25th verse: 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. Bob says what Paul means is, “When there are believers from every gentile people group listed in the “Register of the Peoples, then Israel’s blindness will be taken away and they too shall recognize the Messiah.”
6. In Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song:
"You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased men for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.” This means that before the next era of time begins (before the seals are opened) all nations will have been reached.
7. In Acts 1:6-8, the disciples ask Jesus, “When are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel? They were referring to the Davidic Covenant in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. Jesus says, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Bob says that Jesus is saying to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant first, go reach all nations and the other will follow. “Reach the nations first, and then I will come and reign.

8. Philippians 1:6 says, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” This is usually applied to the Upper Level, but Bob wants to look at it from the Lower Level as well. He believes that the “good work” Paul is referring to is not merely the work of the Holy Spirit bringing about character into our lives, but rather the fulfillment of seeing all nations being reached.
9. This is seven passages, all showing the same thing, Christ will not come back until all nations are reached...until there is at least one person’s name written in the Lamb’s book of life, or in the register of the peoples.

c. Conclusion

- i. Bob says that the return of Jesus hinges on God’s covenant to Abraham. This Promise is the foundation of the story of the Bible.
- ii. This is the foundation of God’s word; it needs to be the foundation of our lives, our families, and our churches.
- iii. We have been blessed by God to be a blessing to the nations so that when they are reached, it will reveal our Father’s greatest glory to all mankind.