

# LESSON 3: THE NATIONS AND THE PATRIARCHS

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GROW University - Old Testament 101

## The Nations (9:1-10:32; 11:10-32)

God is providentially repopulating the earth in the aftermath of the flood.

- 9:1-17: Noahic Covenant- command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the face of the earth.
- 9:21: Noah curses his son, Ham, for his wickedness, blesses his other two sons (Japheth and Shem\*)
- Chapter 10: Genealogy of Noah's sons. Check out the chart and a map at the end of the lesson.

**Genesis 10:32**, *These [were] the families of the sons of Noah, according to their generations, in their nations; and from these the nations were divided on the earth after the flood.*

- 11:10-32: a retelling of chapter 10's genealogy, but with a specific focus.

**1st Genealogy:** God's gracious provision.

*(Literally "nations" being birthed through fruitful multiplication)*

**vs.** Mankind's rebellious sin.

*(Refusal to fill the face of the earth, stay together in one place instead)*

**2nd Genealogy:** Narrows focus to one line: Shem.

-> To one man: Abram

## Context

- **History:** Abram (~2000 B.C.) – Joseph (1800 B.C.)
- **Redemptive History:** The promise that God made to the woman (Genesis 3:15) will be reaffirmed as her lineage will be carried forward through one specific family: the descendants of Abraham.
- Narrowed focus from entire world to exact line of descendants that will birth the Savior into the world.

## Theme

We can summarize these chapters like this:

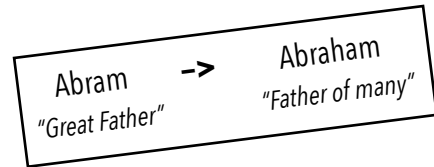
*God made a gracious covenant with one man and his descendants, through which all the families of the earth will be blessed. He will be their God, with them as His special people, in His chosen place, through a unique relationship under His rule.*

## Outline With Pivotal Texts

- I. Genesis 11:27-25:11<sup>1</sup>  
*God's promises to Abraham and his sons Isaac and Ishmael*
- II. Genesis 25:12-18  
*Ishmael's descendants*
- III. Genesis 25:19-35:29  
*God's promises to Isaac and his sons Jacob and Esau*
- IV. Genesis 36  
*Esau's descendants*
- V. Genesis 37-50  
*God's promises to Jacob and his sons; particular focus on Joseph*

## Theme Texts

12:1-3



Read **Genesis 12:1-3**

- In these promises to Abraham, we see God's purposes in His kingdom  
His people, in His place, under His rule.
- **God promises Abraham a land (v1, 6-7).**
  - God's plan of redemption is aimed at bringing His people back to a perfect land where they can have perfect love and fellowship with God and each other.
  - Typology

Type	Antitype
Shadow	Substance
Picture	The Real Thing
<u>The Promised Land</u>	<u>The New Creation</u>

<sup>1</sup> \*Notice that the longer sections I, III, and V, focus on the lineage through which the Savior will come, while sections II and IV are more brief.

**Hebrews 11:8-10**, "8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

**Hebrews 11:13-16**, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them."

- **God will make of Abraham a great nation (v2-3).**

15:1-21

- **The Primary characteristic of God's people: their faith.**

Read **Genesis 15:2-3, 5, 6**. Abraham is counted righteous in the sight of God because of his faith.

**Romans 1:16-17** "16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

**Romans 3:21-26**, "But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed...even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe"

- **God's rule over His kingdom.**
- Part of His rule is His faithfulness to His promises.
- **A covenant: a solemn bond and agreement between two parties, with terms and conditions, that can only be broken upon the penalty of death.**

The major difference between a marriage covenant and this type of covenant:

This covenant carries with it a **curse** of death as the penalty for breaking it.

Read **v8, 9-10, 13**.

Read **v17-21**. A covenant-making ceremony.

As we move on from Abraham, it's very important to keep Genesis 3:15 in mind.

25:19-34

- The doctrine of **election**: The doctrine that God has chosen who will be in a special covenant relationship with Him, and will populate the kingdom He is re-creating. Those "some" are chosen by God purely on the grounds of grace, not on the grounds of anything they have done.
- Read **25:22-23**. God is saying that the younger son, Jacob, will receive the promises made to Abraham and Isaac. Through Jacob the plan of redemption will move forward. Jacob will be the son of favor, the one whose descendants will possess the land and bless the world.
- *Q: Why would God choose one son over the other?*

**Romans 9:10-13**, *"when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac 11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated."*

- *A: So that inclusion in the covenant community, and receiving the gifts of God might come "not of works but of Him who calls."*
- *Q: Why doesn't God base entrance into His kingdom upon works?*
- *A1: Because no one could ever reach the standard of perfect holiness required to ascend to the presence of God.*

**Psalms 24:3-4**, *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**, *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast."*

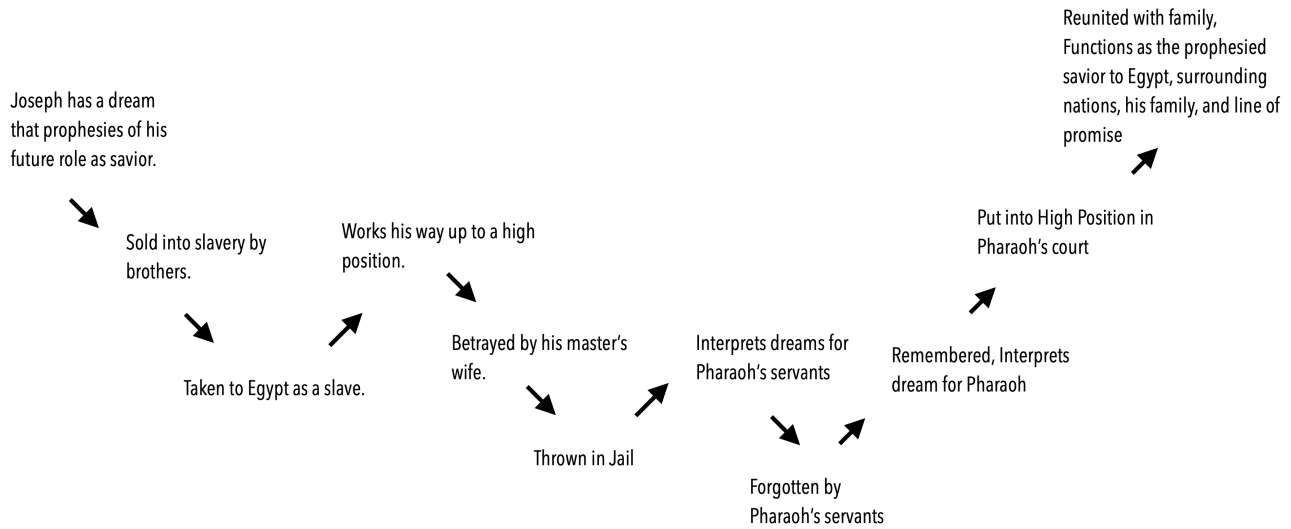
- *A2: So that God would be glorified for the greatness of His grace.*

**Deuteronomy 7:7-9**, *"7 The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; 8 but because the*

*Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments"*

## Genesis 37:2-30

- Joseph's story.
  - Read **Genesis 37:9-11**. A dream that prophesies of Joseph's future role as savior.
  - His brothers' reaction: Read **verses 18-19, 26-27**.



## Genesis 45:1-15; 50:1-26

Read **Genesis 45:4-5**. The brothers are responsible for their actions, but God sent Joseph before them to preserve life from the famine.

Read **Genesis 50:19-20**.

Humans play a real role in the events of life, and have real responsibility for what they do.

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God superintends all the events of the universe. He is in complete and total control.

**Romans 8:28-29**, "28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also

*predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."*

49:8-12

- Q: Is Joseph the One Seed promised back in Genesis 3:15? NO.
- Q: Is he at least the one through whom the promise of the Seed will continue?
  - NO – Judah

Read Genesis 49:8, 10

### **Conclusion:**

The covenant family seems to be growing, but...they are not in the land!

*What will God do next, to bring them back to the land, as He has promised in the covenant with Abraham?*

*What will He do to establish His reign and rule over His people?*

*When will the Savior come into the world?*

### **Questions:**

1.) In your own words, define the Kingdom.

2.) Give an example of typology here in this section.

3.) What's the difference between the marriage covenant and the covenant that God makes in Genesis 15?

4.) According to Romans 9, what is God's purpose of election?

5.) What did you learn most from the story of Joseph?

**List of Nations Descended from Noah's Sons**

<b>Shem</b> (Semitic Race)	<b>Ham</b> (Turanian Race)	<b>Japheth</b> (Aryan Race)
<b>Elam</b> (Elamites)	<b>Cush</b> (Ethiopia)	<b>Gomer</b> (Celts)
<b>Asshur</b> (Assyrians)	Seba (meroe)	Ashkenaz (Nysia, Phrygia)
<b>Arphaxad</b> (Chaldeans)	Havilah (Arabia)	Riphath (Riphaean)
Shelah	Sabtah (Sabbatha)	Togarmah (Armenia)
Eber	Raamah (Persian Gulf)	<b>Magog</b> (Scythians)
Peleg	Sheba	<b>Madai</b> (Medes)
Joktan (Arabia)	Dedan	<b>Javan</b> (Greeks)
Almodad	Sabtecah	Elishah (Aeolians)
Sheleph	Nimrod	Tarshish (Tartessus)
Hazarmaveth	<b>Mizraim</b> (Egypt)	Kittim (Cyprus)
Jerah	Ludim (Nubia)	Dodanim (Trojans)
Hadoram	Anamites	<b>Tubal</b>
Uzal	Lehabim (Libya)	<b>Meshech</b>
Diklah	Naphtuhitim (Napetu)	<b>Tiras</b> (Thracians)
Obal	Pathrusim (Pathros)	
Abimael	Casluhites (Philistia)	
Sheba	Philistines	
Ophir	Caphtorites (Crete)	
Havilah	<b>Phut</b> (Libya)	
Jobab	<b>Canaan</b> (Canaanites)	
<b>Lud</b> (Lydians)	Sidonites	
<b>Aram</b> (Syrians)	Hittites	
Uz	Jebusites	
Hul	Amorites	
Gether	Girgashites	
Meshach	Hivites	
	Arkites	
	Sinites	
	Arvadites	
	Zemarites	
	Hamathites	

