

God's Plan of Redemption Genesis 12:1-8

God's Plan of Redemption Introduction

- Some of us have grown accustomed to thinking in terms of “Bible stories” – as in, the Bible is a collection of stories.
- That may be true at one level.
- At another level it can be misleading.
- We can miss the connection between the various stories in the Bible.
- This is a big mistake.

- It is helpful to think in terms of “the Bible story.”
- In other words, we can view the Bible as one continuous storyline from Genesis to Revelation.
- This gives us the big picture of Bible narrative.
- It is the unfolding of God's grand plan of redemption.
- It is (big word alert) the Bible's *metanarrative*.

- A *metanarrative* is a story about other stories, a larger narrative that explains other narratives.
- It is the grand, all-encompassing account, the framework upon which all other stories are built.
- The Bible's metanarrative asks us to see the Bible as one big book, with one continuous storyline, authored by the Holy Spirit.

- Genesis 1 – 11 can be seen as the Bible's introductory material. It gives us the background information that sets the stage.
- Beginning in Genesis 12 with God's promise to Abraham, the plan of redemption begins to unfold.
- It does not end until the final “Amen” of Revelation 22.

God's Plan of Redemption Background

- The Corruption of the Race:
 - Genesis 6:5-8
 - God's response was the flood.

- The Rebellion of the Race:
 - Genesis 9:1 The command to fill the earth
 - Genesis 10:1, 5, 8-10, 20, 31-32 Nations and families
 - Genesis 11:1-9 The close up of Babel

- God's response to the rebellion was the confusion of languages and dispersion of peoples.
- The division of the human race by families and languages into nations originates here.

The Promise to Abram (Abraham)

- The Plan of Redemption is now introduced.
- Genesis 12:1-8
- God gives Abraham's descendants a particular land.
- He promises to make them a great nation.
- Blessing will come to all nations through them.
- This is sometimes called the Abrahamic Covenant. It is the agreement that God made with Abraham.

Abraham as an Example of Faith

- Hebrews 11:8-12
- It's OK to be unclear about the future as long as you are obedient and walking by faith.
- Abraham wasn't sure where his journey would end.
- This is not an encouragement to recklessness.
- It is an acknowledgement that obedience and faith usually leave plenty of questions unanswered.

The Great Commission in Foundational Form

- The placement of this right after the separation by nations and languages is important.
- Genesis 12:1-3
- God never intended the end of the story to be dispersion, division and confusion.
- God blessed Abram so that he would be a blessing to all the families of the earth.
- That story still continues.
- We are now the blessed and the means of blessing to others.

Your Place in God's Plan

- Seeing the Bible as a collection of random stories is not the only mistake we are likely to make.
- We can also see our own life in isolation – as something separate from the overarching plan of God.
- This can be the most tragic mistake of all.
- When we see our lives as something separate from God's overarching plan, we tend to see our faith as something overly personal and disconnected.
- We miss the fact that we are a part of the metanarrative.
- We miss the fact that we are a part of God's big plan.
- When we fail to see ourselves as part of God's big plan:
 - We fail to see beyond our own needs.
 - We fail to see the eternal value of who we are.
 - We fail to see the eternal value of what we do.
 - We fail to see our lives from God's perspective.

- The grand story of the Bible is not over yet.
 - Just as God had a place and a plan for Abraham, he has a place and a plan for you and me.
 - Abraham's life is a challenge for us to live by faith and walk in obedience to God's calling upon our lives.
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- It is a challenge for us to accept our place in God's plan.
 - It is a challenge to go and to do what he asks of us.
 - It is a challenge that gives our lives meaning that will last for all eternity.
 - Are you willing to accept that challenge?