

# 1 Overview of the Bible - Covenants

## 2 A very high level storyline of the Bible = Creation → FALL → Redemption

After the FALL, a prophecy points to REDEMPTION & the coming of Jesus and his death on the cross

- 3 Gen 3:15 ESV I [GOD] will put enmity between you[SATAN] and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring[JESUS CHRIST]; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
- 4 Man spiraled deeper into evil Gen 6:5-6 ESV The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
- 5 The flood, - gathering at Babel - God SCATTERS the people all over the earth (Gen 11)
- (Gen 12) A Covenant with Abraham → descendants, land and to "BLESS all families of the earth"

6 Mat 1:1&17 ESV The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.....17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

- 1) This segmentation (14x3 generations) spans OT History (Genesis, through the Kings to the Prophets)
- 2) Two people are highlighted (David and Abraham) God made a covenant with each
- 3) BEGINNING of the people of Israel (Abraham), the RISE to the golden era of David's reign (David), tragic & devastating fall leading to DEPORTATION (Babylon & Assyria) → to CHRIST = the end

## Abraham to David

### Abraham - Covenant given

- 7 Gen 12:1-3 ESV Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

People failed (a nation, freed from Egypt, Mosaic covenant, land, a kingdom of priests, blessing to nations)-

### Moses words to Israel before he died

- 8 Deu 31:29 ESV For I know that after my death you will surely act corruptly and turn aside from the way that I have commanded you. And in the days to come evil will befall you, because you will do what is evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger through the work of your hands."

David - Covenant given (They desired a King like the other nations) → first Saul, then David

- 9 2Sa 7:12-13 ESV When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

But the kings did not do it

### David's words to Solomon before he died

- 10 1Ki 2:4 ESV that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

## David to Deportation

- 11 Saul bad, David good, Solomon good then bad - the kingdom split
- Southern kingdom 2 tribes → Judah - 12 bad - 8 good - carried off to Babylon (after 339 years)
- Northern kingdom 10 tribes → Israel - 19 bad - 0 good - carried off to Assyria (after 204 years)

## Deportation to Christ → ***all this points to Christ and ends with Christ***

**12** Heb 6:13-18 ESV For **when God made a promise to Abraham**, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, **he swore by himself**,.....17 **he guaranteed it with an oath**

Gen 15 - Abram was in the land of promise (sojourning) → but had no son, so he calls God out on this - descendants as the stars, giving you the land..."How am I to know that I will possess it?"

### **Cutting of the covenant -**

- **13** Gen 15:9 He said to him, "**Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.**" 10 And he brought him all these, ***cut them in half***, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.

### **Two agree and walk through the blood in the midst, commit to "may I be as one of these if I fail"**

- **14** Jer 34:18 ESV And the men who transgressed my covenant and did not keep the terms of the covenant that they made before me, **I will make them like the calf that they cut in two** and passed between its parts--

### **Abram did not walk through the pieces - But God did**

- **15** 12 **As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram.** And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.....17 **When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.** 18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates

**16** By walking alone through the pieces "Even if you fail "I will not" and if you fail I will pay in my own blood"

### **Deportation to Christ exemplifies this so powerfully - God is fully committed to our redemption**

#### **Jesus fulfilled the covenant given to Abraham - all nations blessed through Jesus and gospel**

- **17** Gal 3:16 NIV The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but **"and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.**
- **18** Gal 3:7-8 ESV 7 Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. 8 And the **Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith**, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, **"In you shall all the nations be blessed."**

#### **Jesus fulfilled the covenant given to Moses → No one but Jesus could keep the law (Mosaic Covenant)**

- **19** Heb 4:15 ESV For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, **yet without sin.**

#### **Jesus fulfilled the covenant given to David**

- **20** Luk 1:31-33 ESV And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him **the throne of his father David**, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and **of his kingdom there will be no end."**

#### **He is our redeemer**

- **21** Isa 52:9-10 ESV Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, **for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.** 10 **The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Bible tells the story of the utter failure of man to keep covenant (Adam, Noah, Babel, Israel, Kings, Us) But it also tells the story of God's grace, and his all-out commitment to redeem us " his sleeves are rolled up **Where are you in the story?** -- we are the **"all the families in the earth"** blessed because of one thing -- Jesus the faithful covenant keeper, who walked alone through the pieces of the animals, and became as one of them because we failed to keep our side of the agreement.