

THE PENTATEUCH I: GENESIS

WEEK 5

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OUTLINE

THE SIXTH TOLEDOT: TERAH

Narrative Features

Fulfillment: Covenant and Typology

Abraham, A Character Study

THE SEVENTH TOLEDOT: ISHMAEL

Twelve Tribes

The East

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NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

1. Prologue: Terah's Pilgrimage to Haran (from Ur)
2. Theophany I, II: Abram's Call to Canaan (Gen 12: 1-9)
3. Famine, Sojourn in Egypt (Gen 12:10ff)
4. Return to Canaan, Separation from Lot (Gen 13:1-13)
5. Th. III: Nation → Many Descendants (Gen 13:14-18)
6. Battle of 9 Kings, Lot Rescued (Gen 14)
7. Th. IV: Recap. of I-III, Covenant, Exodus Prophecy (Gen 15)
8. Hagar Affair, Special Th. A: Hagar (Gen 16)
9. Th. V: Renaming, Covenant of Circumcision, Sarah (Gen 17)
10. Th. VI: Abraham Intercedes for Sodom (Gen 18)

NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

11. Destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, Lot's Rescue (Gen 19:1-29)
12. Lot & Daughters: Birth of Moabites, Ammonites (Gen 19:30ff)
13. Sojourn in Gerar, Sp. Th. B: Abimelech (Gen 20)
14. Isaac's Birth (Gen 21:1-8)
15. Ishmael's Exclusion, Sp. Th. C: Hagar (Gen 21:9-21)
16. Covenant with Abimelech (Gen 21:22ff)
17. Th. VII, VIII: Abraham's Testing (Gen 22:1-19)
18. Death of Sarah, Purchase of Ephron's Field (Gen 23)
19. A Wife for Isaac: Rebekah (Gen 24)
20. Epilogue: Abraham's Death, Other Families (Gen 25:1-11)

SODOM AND GOMORRAH, A REASSESSMENT

Sodom and Gomorrah is often portrayed as an example of God's savagely brutal judgment. I claim that when taken in context, it provides us an awesome example of faithful prayer.

1. *Ask in accordance with God's revealed character* (18:25) "Far be it from you to do such a thing— to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. For be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"
2. *Be bold in your prayers!* (18:27a) Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord" (Cf. Luke 11:5-8)

SODOM AND GOMORRAH, A REASSESSMENT

3. *Be humble and respect your place before God.* (18:27b)
“... though I am nothing but dust and ashes, what if the number of righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?”
4. *Persistence!* (18:26-32)–50 → 45→ 40 → 30 → 20 → 10! (Cf. Luke 18:1-8)

Illuminating Conclusion:

(Gen 19:29) So, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH, A REASSESSMENT

Other reasons to hesitate on the common interpretation of this passage:

- ▶ Contrast-Historical pervasiveness of homosexuality
- ▶ The bigger issues:
 - ▶ Gang-rape
 - ▶ Contempt for hospitality (Cf. ANE standards)
 - ▶ Indifference to the poor (Cf. Gen 13:10; Ezekiel 16:49,50)
- ▶ Luke 13:4,5— “Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

EPILOGUE

Abraham had two wives proper: Sarah and Keturah; Hagar is a concubine of sorts. There might be even others (25:6—“sons of concubines-*pl.*”).

Sarah is clearly his primary wife and the one through whom God fulfills his covenant.

It's not clear when Keturah (second wife) entered the picture, or just how flexible ‘concubines’ is (25:6). Ishmael is clearly the first born, given Gen 15:1,2 (“I am childless”). Isaac is clearly the son of promise (17:19, 25:5).

THE MISSING TOLEDOT: ABRAHAM

Each Toledot is named after some patriarch, but it mostly follows the lives of his children. For example, Abraham's life is described in *The Generations of Terah*.

Note we find the next two are *The Generations of Ishmael* and *The Generations of Isaac*—no Abraham! The point: Isaac's personal life isn't worth mentioning. His weak character is exemplified in the chaos of his home.

This obviously intentional gap stands as an implicit judgment against the miracle child who in his later later gives himself over to sensual pleasures at the expense of spiritual discernment (Waltke, 41)

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COVENANTS OF PENTATEUCH

Genesis Covenants			
Covenant	Delivery	Standard	Details
Noahic	9:8-17	Unconditional	No more flood
Abrahamic	15:9ff	Unconditional	Canaan for Abraham's Descendants
Circumcision	17:9-14	Conditional	Membership in Community of Promise
Other Pentateuchal Covenants			
Covenant	Delivery	Standard	Details
Mosaic	Lev. 26	Conditional	God will protect Israel will obey
Levitical	Num. 18:21	Conditional	Levites Serve Tent God Gives Tithe
Phinehasian	Num. 25:13	Unconditional	Permanent Priesthood

DETAILS OF ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

The roots of Abrahamic Covenant are found in Gen 12:1-3:

1. Make Abraham into a *great* nation (12:2)
2. Blesses those who bless you, curse those who curse you (12:3)
3. Give him and his seed Canaan (12:7)
4. In you (through your seed), all the families of the earth will be blessed (Cf. Gen 22:18)

Repeated and Confirmed numerous times: Gen 14, 15, 17, 18, 22. It's echoed through all of Scripture.

ISAAC, TYPE OF CHRIST

Isaac is a type of Christ during episode of Gen 22.

1. Mount Moriah-2 Chron 3:1-*Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah . . .*
2. Miraculous Birth- Virgin Birth vs. Geriatric Birth
3. Father's "Only Son"- Hebrews 11:17-*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son*
4. Resurrection-Hebrews 11:19-*He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.*

TIME AND PROMISE

Reveals Much of God's Timing:

GEN 12:1 < 75 Years, Call to leave Haran

GEN 12:4 75 Years, No child

GEN 12:5 > 75 Years, Promise of Canaan

GEN 15:1 75-85 Years, Covenantal Promise

GEN 16:3 85 Years, Hagar Given to Abram

GEN 16:16 86 Years, Ishmael Born

GEN 17:1 99 Years, Ishmael Not Son of Promise

GEN 21:5 100 Years, Isaac Born

TIME AND PROMISE

What can we learn from this?

- ▶ God's scale of time and fulfillment is radically different than ours (Cf. Noah)
- ▶ Abraham is given a direct promise, whereas we whine and grumble when non-promises aren't granted
- ▶ Abraham only saw the beginnings of the promises fulfilled, not the completion (in Christ).

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FAITH

Abraham is justly called the *Father of Faith*. For discussion of Abraham, see Gal 3:6ff, 4:21ff, Rom 4, Heb 11:8-19.

For perspective, note the following:

- ▶ Joshua 24:2- Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods . . . ’ ” (Cf. Genesis 31)
- ▶ Abraham predates Moses, hence the first written revelation (indeed, the Law!)
- ▶ He was old even at the announcement of the promise (75 years)
 - ▶ Hebrews 11:12- “as good as dead” (Cf. Gen 17:17)
 - ▶ Would not succumb to cynicism

WEAKNESSES

What clues does the text provide of Abraham's moral weakness.

- ▶ The Hagar incident: "Abram listened to voice of Sarai" (16:2) echoes God's words to Adam, "because you have listened to the voice of your wife" (3:17)!
- ▶ Permits Sarah to mistreat Hagar even knowing she's pregnant with his son
- ▶ The She's-My-Sister incidents in Egypt, Gerar- "There is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife," is ironic since it shows he fears man more than God.

It's interesting to note that many of them are related to his wife. (Not prophetic necessarily but foreshadows Israel's weakness with women.)

OTHER CLUES OF INTEGRITY

What are (further) examples of Abraham's Integrity?

- ▶ Separates from Lot, giving him choice of land (Gen 13:8-9)
- ▶ Saves Lot (Gen 14:16)
- ▶ Tithes to Melchizedek (Gen 14:20)
- ▶ Wouldn't Receive Spoils From King of Sodom (Gen 14:22)
- ▶ Prays for Lot (Gen 18)
- ▶ Insists on Paying for Field for Burial (Gen 23:17)

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TWELVE TRIBES

Examples of Twelve Tribes:

- ▶ Nahor (Abraham's Brother): Uz, Buz, Kemuel, Kesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, Bethuel, Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, Maakah. (Gen 22:20ff)
- ▶ Ishmael: Nebaioth, Kedar, Adbeel, Mibsam, Mishma, Dumah, Massa, Hadad, Tema, Jetur, Naphish, Kedemah.
- ▶ Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin (Gen 29-30)

Some suggest that this is a device for establishing nations. One wonders if some include multiple generations or have stopped short on some.

TWELVE TRIBES

Counterexamples of the Pattern:

- ▶ Abraham: Ishmael, Isaac, Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah (8)
- ▶ Jokshan: Sheba and Dedan (2)
- ▶ Ephah, Epher, Hanok, Abida and Eldaah (5)
- ▶ Isaac: Esau, Jacob (2)
- ▶ Esau: Eliphaz, Reuel, Jeush, Jalam and Korah (5)
- ▶ Eliphaz: Teman, Omar, Zepho, Gatam, Kenaz, Amalek (6)
- ▶ Reuel: Nahath, Zerah, Shammah, Mizzah (4)
- ▶ Edomite Family Sizes: 7, 2, 5, 2, 1, 4, 3, 2,

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THE EAST

In Genesis, the East is associated with paganism and alien tribes:

- ▶ Adam and Eve are sent away to the East (even though Eden is not in Canaan.)
- ▶ Lot settles to the East.
- ▶ Ishmael settles in the East
- ▶ Mount Seir (Esau's settlement) is to the South East.

(Not because the East is wicked *per se* but because that indicates the peoples outside of Canaan, which has water on its Western border.)