

Genesis—Series Overview

Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope

The book of Genesis is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:

Where are you (we) in the promise to Abraham? Place yourself in the narrative. How does this promise relate to you?

What is our place among the nations? How are we to interact with them as princes/princesses? How are we to interact with them as servants given Christ's assuming a servant role?

Look to Christ! It is Christ with whom we are co-heirs. Ask Him to strengthen you (us) to believe His promises and act on that faith.

The Life of Faith—Hebrews

Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem

The book of Hebrews was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
April 14th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 21: 9 – 34

God's People and the Nations

1. God Is Establishing Abraham's Progeny as a Unique Nation.
2. He Distinguishes Abraham's Promised Seed from Others.
3. He Blesses/Curses Nations Based on Their Dealing with Us.

The story of God's work in redeeming His people continues to unfold in Genesis as God now provides Abraham and Sarah the promised child through whom His unique nation will descend. Immediately following the birth of this child God handles some of the nations that will surround Israel and shows how He deals with them on our account.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 2: 9 – 18

Sons of Glory

1. Jesus, Our Glorious King, Was Made Like Us.
2. He Was Made Like Us to Make Us Co-Heirs with Him.
3. Christ's Atoning Work Has Made Us Sons of Glory.

Christ was made like us in order to make us like Him. His suffering and death are the means by which we are transformed from rebels to purified sons, restored to the glory of our King and God.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God has been showing how He will deal with a *specific people* and a *particular land* to accomplish His promise of redemption. While He continues to narrow His focus on the descendants of Abraham, He also demonstrates how other nations will be given favor or hostility based on their relationship towards this one nation He is establishing.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 21:9-34**. DISCUSS: How does Ishmael threaten Isaac and the promised line? How does God deal with this threat? How does God faithfully deal with all of His promises? PRAY, “Lord, thank You for Your grace. You bless us so abundantly and we continue to distrust You anyway. Teach us how to trust You more than what we can see. Help us, Holy Spirit, we pray.”

Sunday PM

READ today’s passage: **Hebrews 2:9-18**. Why was Christ made like us? How is He making us glorious? With whom are we co-heirs? REJOICE in God’s faithfulness. PRAISE Him for His generosity.

Monday

READ **Genesis 21:9-21; Romans 9:6-18**. DISCUSS: To whom does God show mercy? Why? Is this fair? Why or why not? How does anyone deserve what Christ did? PRAY for God’s mercy to be made known. REPENT of ways you (we) take for granted what God has given us. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead us in biblical gratitude.

Tuesday

READ **Genesis 21:9-21; Hebrews 11:11-12**. DISCUSS: What does God give to those whom He will save? What are we supposed to do with that gift? Why was God gracious to Sarah? Why is He gracious to you (us)? How do we demonstrate that through our lives? MEDITATE on God’s grace in blessing Sarah. PRAY, “Lord God, You alone are Sovereign over all things. You are the One worthy to appoint where we

live, how we live, and with whom we live. Forgive us our rebellion against You. Amen.”

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 21:22-34; Romans 4:16-25**. DISCUSS: What was the promise given to Abraham? How did it point to Jesus? How do we tend to misunderstand or mistrust this promise? PRAY, “Lord, You are merciful beyond all imagining! You have made promises to us that we don’t deserve. You have kept them even when we disbelieve You and continue to rebel against You. Jesus, You alone have fulfilled all that You promised. Thank You!”

Thursday

READ **Genesis 21:22-34; Galatians 3:6-9**. DISCUSS: Who are the sons of Abraham? Through whom will the nations be blessed? What is our role with the nations? REJOICE over the privilege we have in Christ. SING praises to the Lord. Use a favorite hymn or praise chorus to sing your praises to our King. PRAY, “Lord Jesus, I struggle as much as Abraham did to believe You and trust in Your promises. Please teach me to rely on You more and not on my own abilities. Strengthen my faith in You. Amen.”

Friday

READ **Genesis 21:9-34**. DISCUSS: What have you been learning this week? How is the Holy Spirit convicting you of ways that you haven’t been trusting Christ? REJOICE, for Christ has set us free from our bondage to death. PRAY for your neighbors who are deceived and unable to even see their own sin for what it really is. Pray for their repentance. Reach out in friendship.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Genesis 22**. DISCUSS: What did God tell Abraham to do? Why? PLAN AHEAD: Do what you can today to free you up tomorrow to concentrate on worshipping Christ with His people. INVITE someone you know to join you for the worship service tomorrow. Ask Christ to draw them to Himself.