

Summary of Genesis 12-25

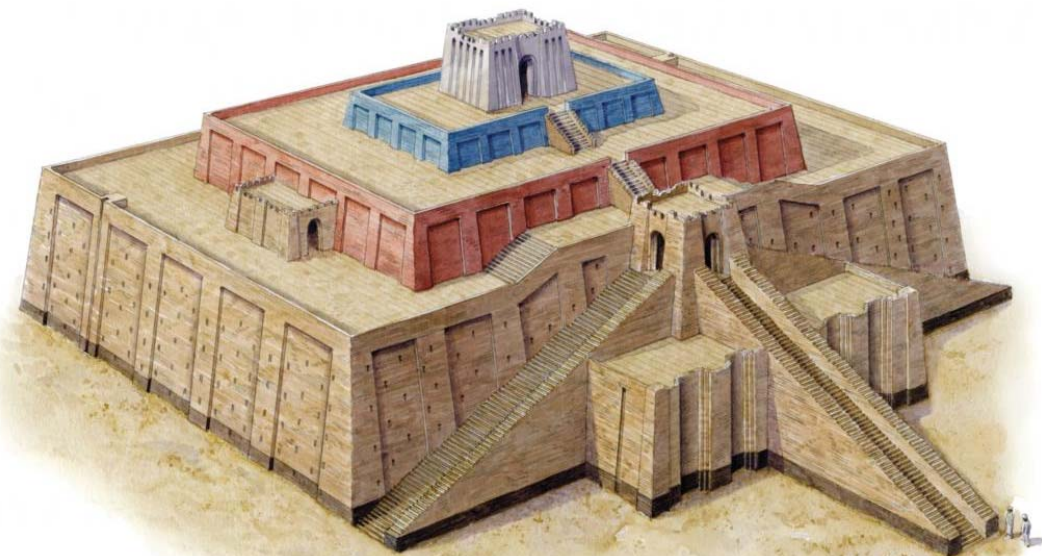
Last week we discussed Genesis 9-11 and the post-flood world. We observed the overwhelming similarities between Noah and Adam and discovered that Noah is a New Adam with the charge to repopulate the New World (re-created). We also looked at the establishment of the nations (70) that came from Noah's sons and how the nations were disbursed throughout the world due to judgment upon the people at Babel.

I. Tower of Babel – Backdrop of the Life of Abraham

The rebellion of humanity that we saw in the Garden repeats itself on a larger scale in the Tower of Babel event. God had commanded both Adam as well as Noah to be fruitful, to multiply, and to fill the earth. However, in Genesis 11 we see that people were unified in rebellion against God by not dispersing and filling the earth. As a matter of fact, they are seeking to be like God in their actions, but they are doing it the wrong way. Their language is in the form of divine imitation of the creation of the world with the “let us make” of Genesis 1:26. Notice:

Genesis 1:26: Then God said, “**Let us make** man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 11:3-4: And they said to one another, “Come, **let us make** bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, **let us build** ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and **let us make** a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”



So just like Adam and Eve in the garden, these people are united (with the Serpent) in rebellion against God. So what is God's response? He came to them in judgment by giving them different languages to confuse them and create "enmity" so that they spread over the earth. This is very similar to what God does in the Garden to Adam and Eve. Notice the similarities:

Genesis 3:22-24: Then the LORD God said, "**Behold**, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever-" 23 therefore **the LORD God sent him out** from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 **He drove out the man**, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Genesis 11:6-8: And the LORD said, "**Behold**, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, **let us** go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." 8 **So the LORD dispersed them** from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there **the LORD dispersed them** over the face of all the earth.

It is interesting that God has to curse those building Babel in order for them to fulfill what God purposed (filling the earth). Now this leads us to another place that begs the reader, "Is God going to leave humanity in this cursed state?" The rest of Genesis 11 (verses 10-32) leads us to another "Reverse the Curse" promise of blessing that will be given to the man Abram.

II. Abraham and the Reverse of the Curse

Even though God had cursed the nations and caused them to disperse by giving them different languages, he did it in view of his choosing of Abraham who are going to be an agent of blessing to the nations (12:3) and therefore a reverse to the curse:

Genesis 12:1-3 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."

This "Reverse-the-Curse" theme is evident by Moses having placed the curse to Babel right before the blessing to Abraham in the Genesis story. This is also significant as Abraham becomes the Father of biblical Israel who existed to be a blessing to the world. It is this passage that becomes the "Land Charter" for Israel in the time of Moses to conquer the promised land of Canaan. We will look at this passage in detail next week.

III. Survey of the Life of Abraham

1. Call of Abram (12:1-3)
2. Journey of Abram to Canaan (12:4-9)
3. Famine and travel to Egypt (12:10-20)
4. Abram and Lot settle the land (13:1-18)
5. Abram goes to war to rescue Lot (14:1-24)
6. God ratifies His covenant with Abram (15:1-21)
7. Sarai gives Hagar to Abram (16:1-15)
8. God calls for circumcision of Abram and offspring (17:1-27)
9. Isaac is promised to Abraham and Sarai (18:1-21)
10. Sodom and Gomorrah are judged (18:22-19:38)
11. Abraham encounters Abimelech (20:1-18)
12. Isaac is born (21:1-34)
13. Abraham offers up Isaac (22:1-24)
14. Sarah dies and is buried (23:1-20)
15. Rebekah is chosen as Isaac's wife (24:1-67)
16. Abraham dies and is buried (25:1-11)

