

# GENESIS 1-25

## HANDOUT

### CREATION & COVENANT

- God is the Creator of the universe
- God is the One initiating covenant with His people
  - No other Mesopotamian god did such a thing
    - Gods represented various aspects of nature
    - Belief in multiple gods was standard, but the most powerful god was worshipped
    - During Abraham's time, the most powerful Mesopotamian god was Enlil
    - Enlil was eventually replaced by Marduk, the god of Babylon
  - Abraham's worship of God alone was a big contradiction to the culture around him
- Humankind created to share dominion with God and His Kingdom
  - God's sovereignty & human significance are not opposing ideas
  - Must know God's original design, our created dignity, & His intended destiny for humankind or we won't understand God's motives and methods of carrying out His plans for the Kingdom.
  - God created us as partners – not pawns, not equals
  - The Fall frustrated God's plans of partnership, but redemption restores our place of destiny & dominion (much more than just restoring relationship because of sin!)
- Humankind made in God's image – unique & elevated in the created order
- We are granted the status of a king – whose decisions & actions determine the course of the world that was placed our rule

### GOD'S CREATIVE WORK

- Some scholars interpret Gen. 1 & Gen. 2 as different and inconsistent accounts – NOT TRUE
- Ch. 2 is an expansion of the first account – presupposing the first & complementary

Genesis 1	Genesis 2
God the <b>creator</b>	God the <b>covenant keeper</b>
<b>Elohim</b>	<b>YAHWEH</b>
God as <b>powerful</b>	God as <b>personal</b>
Creation of the <b>universe</b>	Creation of <b>man</b>
Climaxes with <b>man</b>	Climaxes with <b>marriage</b>
The <b>six days of</b> creation	The <b>sixth day</b> of creation

*Chart by Dean Niforatos*

## TEMPTATION: THE TWO ADAMS CONTRASTED

1 JOHN 2:16	GENESIS 3:6	LUKE 4:1-13
"The lust of the flesh"	"The tree was good for food"	"Command this stone to become bread"
"The lust of the eyes"	"It was pleasant to the eyes"	"The devil...showed him all the kingdoms"
"The pride of life"	"A tree desirable to make one wise"	"throw yourself down from here"

*Chart by Dean Niforatos*

- Gen. 3:15 – Promise of redemption fulfilled in Christ
  - New Testament portrays Christ as the "Second Adam" whose obedience & sacrificial death on the cross undoes Adam's disobedience (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:45)
  - Jesus triumphed over the same sort of temptation which Adam succumbed

## THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

- Unconditional – solely on God who obligates Himself to bring about what He promised
- First given in broad outline (12:1-3), then confirmed in greater detail (13:14-17; 15:1-7, 18-21; 17:1-8)

Genesis 12:1-3	God initiated His covenant with Abram when he was living in Ur of the Chaldeans, promising a land, descendants, and blessing.
Genesis 12:4, 5	Abram went with his family to Haran, lived there for a time, and left at the age of 75.
Genesis 13:14-17	After Lot separated from Abram, God again promised the land to him and his descendants.
Genesis 15:1-21	The covenant was ratified when God passed between the sacrificial animals Abram laid before God.
Genesis 17:1-27	When Abram was 99 God renewed His covenant, changing Abram's name to Abraham ("Father of a Multitude"). Sign of the covenant: circumcision.
Genesis 22:15-18	Confirmation of the covenant because of Abraham's obedience.

### **The Abrahamic covenant was foundational to other covenants:**

- The promise of land in the Canaan Covenant (Deut. 30:1-10)
- The promise of kingly descendants in the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:12-16)
- The promise of blessing in the "Old" and "New" Covenants (Ex. 19:3-6; Jer. 31:31-40)

*Chart by Dean Niforatos*

**It is vitally important to notice that Jesus is the son of Abraham (Matt. 1:1, see also Luke 1:55, 72-73) and "no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ!" (2 Cor. 1:20)**