



BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2023 – WEEK 12

Genesis 49-50: All according to plan

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today..

– Genesis 50:20 ESV

- **Genesis is the story of God’s redemptive plan**

- It began in seeming darkness and confusion
- But God knew what He was doing

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. – Genesis 1:1-2 ESV

- God made a one-of-a-kind planet
 - On that planet He placed a garden
 - And in that garden He placed a man

...the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. – Genesis 2:7-8 ESV

- God made that man a mate
- Then He gave them both a mandate

“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” – Genesis 1:28 ESV

- They were to make more of their kind

God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. – Genesis 1:27 ESV

- But the **image-bearers** became **rule-breakers**

“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat...” – Genesis 2:16-17 ESV

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. – Genesis 3:6 ESV

- They were cast out of the garden
- And banned from God’s presence
- But they multiplied
- And they made more of their kind

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. – Genesis 6:5 ESV

But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. – Genesis 6:8 ESV

- **Royal reboot #1**
 - God started over
 - He began with one righteous man
 - And He issued the same mandate

*God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.**” – Genesis 9:1 ESV*

- Same mandate – similar results

These are the clans of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, in their nations, and from these the nations spread abroad on the earth after the flood. – Genesis 10:32 ESV

- At Babel man tried to disobey the mandate
- So God confused their language
- And they spread over the earth
- All the way to a place called Ur

*Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in **Ur of the Chaldeans**. And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai... – Genesis 11:27-28 ESV*

- **Royal reboot #2**

- This time He started with a pagan man
- Abram was a 75-year-old Chaldean
- Married to a barren wife
- But God promised him a land and offspring

“Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 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. 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.” – Genesis 12:1-3 ESV

- This time, God would fulfill the mandate
“I will make of you a great nation...” – Genesis 12:2 ESV
- Abram would be multiplied and made fruitful
- And his descendants were promised a homeland
“To your offspring I will give this land...” – Genesis 12:7 ESV
- And those promises were passed down...to Isaac
“Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father.” – Genesis 26:3 ESV
 - But God gave Isaac a specific command
 - *“Do not go down to Egypt; dwell in the land of which I shall tell you.” – Genesis 26:2 ESV*
 - A famine had caused Abraham to go to Egypt
 - Isaac was facing a famine as well
 - But Egypt wasn't in God's plans for them
- And those promises were passed down...to Jacob
*“I am God Almighty: **be fruitful and multiply**. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you.” – Genesis 35:11-12 ESV*
 - But during this famine...

*“I am God, the God of your father. **Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt**, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.” – Genesis 46:3-4 ESV*

- **Egypt had always been part of the plan**

- Abraham had gone too soon
 - Without God’s permission
 - And he risked the fruitfulness of **Sarah**
- Isaac was forbidden to go at all
 - But he risked **Rebekah’s** fruitfulness in the land of Gerar
- Sarah and Rebekah were critical to the plan
 - Sarah bore Isaac (the son of the promise)
 - Rebekah bore Jacob (Israel)
Israel – “let God rule”
- Genesis has been about God’s rule on earth
- But there has been a conflict between... **...God’s sovereignty and man’s autonomy**
- Israel’s descendants were to “let God rule”

- **The future revealed**

- Canaan had been a place of...

- ...cultivating faith**

- By faith he [Abram] went to live in the land of promise... – Hebrews 11:9 ESV*

- By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive... – Hebrews 11:11 ESV*

- By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. – Hebrews 11:20 ESV*

- ...producing seed**

- And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. – Genesis 21:2-3 ESV*

- When her [Rebekah’s] days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau’s heel, so his name was called Jacob. – Genesis 25:24-26 ESV*

- Egypt would be a place of...

- ...bearing fruit**

- In all, Jacob had seventy descendants in Egypt, including Joseph, who was already there. In time, Joseph and all of his brothers died, ending that entire generation. But their descendants, the Israelites, had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land. – Exodus 1:5-7 NLT*

...forming a nation

- Jacob and his clan were not yet a *gôy* – nation
 - They were just 70 in number
 - But Egypt would serve as their incubator
 - And Jacob was given a divine glimpse of the future

- **Predictions of future justice, grace, and mercy**

- These men would not be the recipients
- But their heirs would bear the burden or blessing

Reuben

- He forfeited the blessing of the firstborn for having raping his father's concubine
- The blessing went to Joseph instead
- His descendants followed his "unstable" ways

Simeon & Levi

- They would be penalized for the role in the massacre of the Shechemites
- The descendants of Simeon would receive a few cities located within the land of Judah
- The Levites would receive no land at all in Canaan

Judah

- The tribe of Judah would play a pivotal role in the leadership of Israel
- From this tribe would come future kings, including David and Jesus Christ

Zebulun

- His tribe would be given prime land located on a major trading route
- They would prosper through shipping and commerce

Issachar

- His tribe later inherited the rich farmland of the Valley of Jezreel in Galilee

Dan

- Samson, one of the greatest judges of Israel came from this tribe
- Yet, many of their leaders were idolatrous and incurred the judgment of God

Gad

- This tribe produced a great number of warriors
- Many of them became the "mighty men of David"

Naphtali

- They inherited land along the Sea of Galilee
- Jesus chose to base His ministry in this region

Joseph

- His tribe received a double portion
- His two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, would play a major role in the forming of the northern kingdom of Israel

Benjamin

- His tribe would produce warriors
 - Together with the tribe of Judah, they would eventually form the southern kingdom of Judah
- All of their descendants received land in Egypt
- No one was left out
 - All were extended grace and mercy
 - And they all became fruitful in the land (See Numbers 2)

● **The death of Jacob**

- Joseph had Jacob's body embalmed
- The Egyptians mourned him for 70 days
- Then the brothers took Jacob's body to Canaan
- But they all returned to Egypt

● **The birth of a nation**

- Joseph died after 93 years in Egypt
- But the story doesn't end there
- The Israelites continued to prosper
- And they would explode in number

Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the people of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them. – Exodus 1:6-7 ESV

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

With Joseph gone, it appears as if God went silent for the next 400 years. What do you think happened to the Israelites during that time?

God took 4 centuries to fulfill His will for the Israelites. So, why do we struggle with any delay in our story??

Why does God allow the "Egypt" in our lives?