

Christ in Prophecy
Jesus in the Old Testament 5: A Chosen People (Genesis 12-50)
Key Verses: Genesis 12:2-3; 15:6

© 2021 Lamb & Lion Ministries. All Rights Reserved.
For a video of this show, please visit <http://www.lamblion.com>.

Opening

Tim Moore: Greetings, once again, in the name of Jesus our Creator and Redeemer, and welcome to Christ in Prophecy! I'm Tim Moore, the Senior Evangelist of Lamb & Lion Ministries.

Today we will wrap up our overview of the book of Genesis. The first book of the Bible informs our understanding of the world. It tells us how we got here, why our world is wracked with sin, and how God's plan included a path for salvation from the very beginning. You might say that Genesis provides the basis for a Christian worldview.

Our episode focusing on Genesis 1 and 2 highlighted Jesus Christ as the Creator. He was there in the Beginning, with God, because He was God.

We paused in Genesis 3 and 4 to understand how sin separates us from God and corrupts the entire Creation. Thanks be to God; we also saw that He promised a Messiah to free us from our sin.

And last week we emphasized the full character of God. He is merciful and loving, but He is also Holy and righteous, and cannot countenance sin. The penalty for sin is death, and the wrath of God abides on everyone who rejects the salvation offered only through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Today we're going to finish the book of Genesis by examining God's Chosen People, the Jews. These descendants of Abraham were sons and daughters of Isaac, the child of promise, and Jacob, the man who wrestled with God and men and prevailed. God's covenant with Abraham was so important that God promised to bless those who blessed him, and his offspring, and curse those who cursed him.

That ancient promise of God is still in effect today.

Part 1

Tim Moore: We're very pleased to welcome Dr. Randall Price to our Christ in Prophecy episode today. Dr. Price, you have the distinction of being the first guest to appear via technology remote, but we are hopeful that many more will follow in your footsteps.

Randall Price: Well, I am pleased to be here, even though we are far apart, we are near by the Word of God and the love of Christ. So, let's get started.

Nathan Jones: Sounds good. Well, Randall some of our viewers might not be aware of the fact that your background is as an archaeologist, as well as an expert on the Jewish people. In addition to serving as a professor at Liberty University in Judaic studies, you are also the curator of the Bible museum there. And that is a pretty impressive position. Have I gotten everything?

Randall Price: Well, outside of Liberty I have ministry called World of the Bible Ministries. About 25-30 years ago we started this with the purpose of trying to bring to the Word of the church, the world of the Bible. Because we live in a 21st Century context, and we look at the Bible through western eyes, it is very important to go back to the original context of Scripture to understand it in three ways. And we say, we deal with the past, present, and prophetic world of the Bible, so, we touch on somethings like you do. But basically, we look at the past, archaeological background, and I serve as an archaeologist through archaeological projects, I've been doing that for many, many years, primarily at the Dead Sea, connected with the Dead Sea Scrolls. I work with the present situation, related to Israel, which is the Middle East conflict, to try to explain that, and to make that more understandable to a present audience, especially a younger audience that has moved away from support for Israel and understanding of them as the Bible says, not as social media says. And then of course, the future, dealing with those prophetic passages which are bringing us all closer to the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Tim Moore: That is what we are all looking forward to, and that is the overriding theme of "Christ in Prophecy." Of course, our focus today is on Genesis 12-50, a sweeping passage that sees Abraham's family expand considerably. Although Isaac had two sons, only one was given the birthright blessing. And Jacob whose name was changed to Israel because he wrestled with God and man and persevered became the namesake for the nation that followed.

Randall Price: Yeah, and the purpose here is sweeping. We have God choosing and creating a people, and then creating from that people a nation. But He has to get that people as a people to the place, and the place right now in the context of Genesis is occupied by Israel's enemies. People who will ultimately face God's judgment, they are given over 400 years to get their act together, but when we come past Genesis and bring the sons of Abraham, the 12 tribes into the land of promise, we form a nation. And from that nation everything is set in place to build on the wonderful Messianic promises starting with the seed back in Genesis, concluding with the seed of David from which we now know the Messiah will come.

Nathan Jones: Yes, sir, and it is also fascinating to me, quite frankly, that this group of people that God choose were not always that admirable. I mean Jacob or Israel's sons for example, they were quite a motley crew who eventually became the 12 patriarchs. But they weren't very impressive morally were they?

Randall Price: I think they are simple people. And Abraham, is probably one of those Gentile believers that came from the revelation through Noah. We see Melchizedek and others like this on the scene, but they are not seen too often, but they are there. And from there he comes out of a pagan context to follow the Lord and establish whatever God's purposes are in a land that is not his, among a people who are not his. But the purpose is that you know there is no Bible yet. There is no given revelation, just simple principles that have come down, and then God reveals as we move on.

Abraham is subject to his culture, that is why he can't figure out if God says you are going to be the father of a multitude, where that multitude is going to come from? Is it going to come through my efforts? Through following local customs? Adopting a son as an heir? Or going through my wife's handmaid? Now, what should I do? And God progressively reveals Himself. But he's limited to that. So, some of the things that he experiences going down to Egypt or going to Philistine territory. We consider a lie about his wife, is simply trying to get by, the best he knows. Oh, yeah, so he is a character like all of us. And that should humble us and help us to

remember that God doesn't choose the best, and those who have already performed. He works through mere creatures to bring about His will, and to conform him to that.

Abraham in the passages in Genesis has ten tests, everything from the test of his own faith, to test of his family, and you see that faith grow. But one thing I think is very important when it says in Genesis 15:6 "that Abraham believed God and it was reckoned him for righteousness." We have to ask the question: What did Abraham believe? And there is an understanding of faith, going way back to Genesis 3:15 with the promise of a redeemer is given. A redeemer who will come through a seed of the woman. It is very interesting that when you come to the patriarchs that despite other things about them, they are following this promise. And when it comes to God's revealing this, someone like Sarah, the seed comes through Eve, but the seed comes through Sarah. Well, where else in the Bible do you see the woman as the one mentioned who brings forth the seed? The only other place you find is in the New Testament that speaks about the birth of Jesus, and Mary, it says, "By whom was born, Jesus." You know Joseph is out of the pictures. And we are linking these things. And I think Abraham is at the center of it. He believes what he is given from God, which is about a redeemer, he sees that confirmed in Genesis 22. How great a faith do we have of someone who believes that God will even raise his son from the dead if he goes through with what God has told him. So, there is a clear picture of a strong faith, along with simply someone who lives in the desert, and gets by with what he knows to do.

Tim Moore: Abraham is a worthy exemplar for us today because he believed what God had revealed to him. And we also should believe God's testimony whether about His act of creation or about His Son Jesus Christ. But let's shift our attention to Joseph, one of the most fascinating men in the Old Testament. His own brothers sold him into slavery, and his story could have ended there, but Joseph demonstrated great resilience. He got knocked down time after time, but he kept getting back up. What was his secret?

Randall Price: I think that though he was a youth, he was a youth of faith. You may not see it so much in his youth when he is having problems tattling on his brothers, or being his father's favorite, and just does maybe things that incur their ire. But at the same time, it is clear that he understands his purpose, he understands that God is calling him. Whether it is arrogance, or simply reporting in faith what God has revealed to him in terms of his future; the fact that his father, and mother, and brothers, will all bow down to him, deals with the fact that God is going to use him as a deliverer, as a savior for his people.

When we work backwards in this story, we see him saying, you know to his brothers, "It's not you who sent me here, it was God to bring about this present result to save many people lives." And the idea is that he is going to be, he sees himself as being sent ahead of his people who are in the land of Canaan to prepare a safe place for them to carry out their future destiny. And he has forgiveness for his brothers. All of these things are part of the story.

Well, I have to say, what he comes to Egypt with, is what he has, because there is no one teaching him the Bible in Egypt. There is no one being a witness of faith to him in Egypt. He had to come with something already. And I think God develops and grows that. His response to suffering, unjustly accused. The fact that when he is offered temptation he runs, and says, "How can I do this great sin against God?" Most youth would give in at that point, you know no one is looking, no one will know. He cares more about what the Lord thinks, in a land where no one else cares about those things.

So, I think we need to give him more credit, like we have to do all the patriarchs, despite the very human element we see in them, they are people who have some divine revelation, and are living up to what they know of it. And I think that God is working with him, and blesses him, obviously, He is with him in Egypt. So, Joseph is a man of faith, and for that reason when we look at Joseph we see many things in him that are exemplary of how we as believers should live, and things, even as we may talk later about how he is a type of our Lord Jesus.

Nathan Jones: Well, that is a beautiful way to say it. You know three different times, just in chapter 39 of Genesis it says, "And the Lord was with Joseph." Life threw him many curve balls, but again, and again we are told that the Lord was with him. When Joseph reencountered his brothers, he saw his own story from a godly perspective. He understood that he was a servant of the Lord wherever he was sent, and whatever his circumstances. And that is a model for people today, I think. Wherever you are, and whatever your circumstances you can be a servant of the Lord if you are determined to follow Him.

Randall Price: Yes, absolutely, and I think as we look at the patriarchs each in their own turn had their struggles, but they overcame them. Even Lot. When we look at Lot you think what a commendable fella he is? No, I mean he chooses to go to Sodom and Gomorrah. But in the end it tells us in 2 Peter that his righteous soul was vexed. He daily was upset by the behavior of Sodom. And it tells us that when the angels come to find him he is sitting in the evening at the gate of the city. Many people think that means that he was in a prominent place, he was one of the leaders, no, they rejected him, they taunt him about being an outsider. He was sitting in the outside of the gate because at the time of the day it was the only place he could get away from people and be on his own. I think that when we look deeper into the lives of the patriarchs they are really life lessons there that we can find that are built upon in the rest of Scripture, particularly with Abraham and Isaac, you see them used as examples of faith. And you see Abraham spoken of over, and over again and called the father of the faithful.

Tim Moore: Well, let's go back to Joseph for just a moment. This series focuses on Jesus in the Old Testament, and as you said, Joseph represents a type of Christ. How does his life prefigure that of Jesus?

Randall Price: Well, the New Testament does not use Joseph as a type of Christ, but it doesn't use many things this way. And I think it does give us with the fact that the other patriarchs in type are used that way, gives license to see Joseph that way. And it is almost inescapable. Joseph is one who from the very beginning is loved uniquely by his father. He's like an only son. He's given the favoritism of an only son. But he is clearly hated by his brothers as a result of that. And so, in the same way Jesus was not understood by his earthly brothers, and was hated by his brethren, which are the Jewish people. When it comes time for Joseph to be rejected, he is stripped of his garments as Jesus was. He was sold for a price of a slave, as Jesus was. He was condemned, although he was innocent. He was condemned with two criminals, by the way, and one of those criminals was saved, and one of those criminals was lost. If we think of in the sense of one got delivered from prison, and the other was executed.

Now, at the same time, in the big picture Joseph suffered in the plan of God, he understood his suffering to be part of God's means to bring salvation for the Jewish people. There were only 70 of them that came out of the land of Canaan into the land of Egypt. The Egyptians did not care for Israelites, or Hebrews as they called them, they wouldn't even eat with them. And they put them in a separate place in the land of Goshen, and there they were able to develop into the

nation God wanted them to be without the difficulties of intermarriage and problems they would have had in the land of Canaan. So, Joseph led the way, he brought about the salvation, ultimate of God's plan for His people. The same way the Lord Jesus came, He came, and He suffered for us. He was the one who through His suffering brought about our salvation as we put our trust in Him.

So, there are a lot of parallels, in that life, and obviously as God is orchestrating the life of Joseph, He is doing that, so we won't miss those points, and be able to see that He is in control. He is starting with that seed promise way back in the beginning of Genesis, and He is fulfilling it as He goes through. And Isaac your seed shall be called, what is the seed that would be called? It is the seed that will bless all of the nations of the earth. Well, who is that? Well, ultimately that is going to be the Messiah, and Joseph fits in very well with that preview of the Messiah.

Nathan Jones: Well, very good. You know sadly, many Christians for the past 2,000 years have and in some churches even today, have been taught that God has washed His hands of the Jewish people, and that the promises given to them throughout Scriptures have been transferred over to the Church; this chosen people has been cast aside. Well, what would you say?

Randall Price: Well, I tell people I believe in Replacement Theology. I believe that God is going to replace the Church with Israel, but that isn't always understood by many. So, let me explain very clearly. If you read your Bible Romans chapter 9, a verse where Paul is talking about the privileges God gave to those who He choose. And the purpose for which He choose them, in Romans chapter 9, let's take just verse 4 for instance. It says, "Who are Israelites; to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the Law, and the temple service, and the promises; whose are the fathers," who've we just been talking about, "from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever." The point is, if you look at this, this is all in present tense. It's present possession. These Israelites still have the adoption of sons. They still have the covenants. Nothing has changed. These covenants are still in effect. They are moving on because the fulfillment, which God promised has not yet been fully realized. That won't be realized until we come into the Millennial Kingdom. And we have aspects of this fulfilled all the way.

The Church participates in those blessings, that is a wonderful thing. In fact, we come to Romans chapter 15, and it is going to be verses 8 & 9 he says, "I say that Christ," the Messiah, "has become a servant to the circumcision," that is to the Jewish people, "on behalf of the truth of God." What is the truth of God? "To confirm the promises given to the fathers." In other words, Christ didn't come to replace those promises, He came to fulfill those promises. And He came to fulfill them first and foremost with the Jewish people. And then it says, "and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy."

In Romans 9 he will talk about how He extended mercy to Israel; He extended mercy to the Gentiles. And then God is able to graft His people back in, and He will have mercy upon all. So, all Israel will be saved. And it will talk about His full plan. So, nothing has been completed until God completes it. The Land of Promise is still the Land of Promise. It may not be possessed and enjoyed as it is intended to be enjoyed, with those who are in a right relationship with God, but they are in the right place. And some are enjoying it, those who have faith. But their enemies are still on every side, and that won't be corrected until we get the Messiah to come and put down everything under His feet, and end all these rival kingdoms, and set up His kingdom. And

then He will be the Lord over all the earth. And these are the type of promises that were made to Israel, and they are yet to be fulfilled.

Tim Moore: Amen. Well, Dr. Price, we are so grateful for your time, and your insights today, in helping us to understand the calling placed on Abraham and God's chosen people as revealed in Genesis and tied together with our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Then the continuation of His promise as evidenced by Paul and the others throughout the New Testament. So, thank you. I hope that we can include you on another episode of "Christ in Prophecy" sometime again very soon.

Randall Price: Thank you, Tim.

Nathan Jones: Well, Dr. Price, your whole life sounds like an Indiana Jones adventure. How can people find out about your research on Noah's Ark?

Randall Price: We have a website, worldofthebible.com, and at worldofthebible.com you will also find more information on us.

Part 2: Sign of the Times- Genocide and Truth

Student: Over the summer, there have been, like, protests and demonstrations in astronomical numbers standing with Palestine. But then just a few days ago there were funds allocated to continue backing Israel, which hurts my heart because it's an ethnic genocide.

Kamala Harris: This is about the fact that your voice, your perspective, your experience, your truth, should not be suppressed.

Tim Moore: The clip you just saw sums up a tragic truth about the cultural moment we are living in. An American student steeped in the propaganda that is permeated her education took the opportunity when the Vice President of the United States visited her classroom to protest the recent congressional approval of aid to Israel. Her misguided reason, because she thinks Israel ongoingly commits ethnic genocide. You almost don't know where to begin when pushing back against this particular lie. We know that the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction Movement is embraced on American university campuses. What most people don't realize is that this satanic movement is funded and promoted by terrorist organizations like Hamas. It is designed to separate Israel from its base of support in America, and it is working.

Genocide is defined as an active effort to eliminate a people group based on their ethnic, racial, or religious heritage. Turkey pursued genocide against the Armenians. China has aggressively applied genocide toward the Uyghur people. The Hutus committed genocide against the Tutsi people of Rwanda. And of course, Nazi Germany attempted to eliminate the Jews in the infamous genocide known as the Holocaust.

Wikipedia lists 37 recognized genocides in recent history, including two that are ongoing today. In a cowardly nod to the power of Chinese Communist Party to suppress truth in the Western press, its treatment of the Uyghurs is absent. Israel is not listed, because there is no genocide occurring there.

In spite of this fact, Kamala Harris affirmed this girl's misguided understanding by calling it "your truth." In a classic statement of woke illogic, she said that it is important that this girl's truth,

which is actually devoid of truth regarding Israeli treatment of Palestinians, be heard and respected as one of many equally valid truths. Such foolish pandering undermines the very concept of truth.

Paul spoke of men exchanging truth for a lie. Isaiah declared, “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil...Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!”

Jesus said, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My words.” Pilate’s scoffing response was, “What is truth?”

When the Vice President of the United States affirms the lie that each individual is entitled to their own truth, she is as unacquainted with truth as Pontius Pilate. That is not a political statement, it is a statement of fact and a sad commentary on this present darkness.

Make sure you know the One who said, “I am the way, the life, and the truth.”

Part 3

Nathan Jones: What a powerful demonstration of the delusion that has permeated the world regarding the Jewish people. God’s promises are still in effect, and yet, so many people just want to cast the Jews onto the trash heap of history.

Tim Moore: That’s why the truth, Randall Price shared with us is so important. I love the way Randall turned the idea of Replacement Theology on its head when he said that Israel will replace the Church.

Nathan Jones: That’s right. Paul said that Israel did not stumble so as to fall, but that through their transgression salvation could come to the Gentiles. For about 1,900 years, the Church has been filled primarily with Gentile believers. But Jewish people are once again embracing Yeshua as the Messiah, and in the fullness of time Scripture says that the remnant of Israel that is left will turn to Jesus and embrace Him as their Messiah.

Tim Moore: The rest of the verse you cited, Nathan in Romans has Paul asserting that the Gentiles should make the Jewish people jealous. In other words, instead of scorning them, or persecuting them, or cursing them, we should be blessing them, but also demonstrating the blessing of a relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in such a way that they are jealous and want that same relationship for themselves.

Nathan Jones: Well, God has certainly not washed His hands of the Jewish People. We have to constantly emphasize God’s Word because so many, including our own Vice President, seems to be ignorant of that truth.

On that note, we want to offer you a wonderful resource that focuses on God’s promises to Israel. For a donation of \$20 or more we’ll be glad to send you our “Israel in Bible Prophecy” DVD. It will expand your understanding of God’s prophetic plan for the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Since this episode focused on the span of time from Abraham to Joseph, we’d place this section of Genesis somewhere about 3,700-3,900 years ago. And take note, these were real historical

figures, not myths or legends as Bible scoffers claim. They were referenced by Jesus, and Paul, and other writers of the New Testament.

For those of you tracking our Key Verse from each segment, there are several we could choose from today, but Tim and I have landed on Genesis 12:2-3 and 15:6.

Tim Moore: Even as we identify key verses, I hope you caught something that Randall mentioned that has great application to each of us with children or grandchildren. He pointed out that Joseph was a young man when he was sold into slavery by his brothers, about 17 years old according to Genesis 37:3. The only faith he had then was what he'd already been taught. And yet, he was firmly grounded in the Lord. He knew enough to flee temptation, understanding that laying with Potiphar's wife would be a "great evil and sin against the Lord." That is why the Lord was with Joseph. Are we rooting our children so firmly in the Lord that by age 17 they will not wither and fade?

Nathan Jones: Well said, Tim. That is a challenge every parent and grandparent should undertake prayerfully and personally. Do not delegate the training up of your children to someone else, as parents it is our responsibility.

Well, this week we covered 29 chapters of Genesis and spanned 5 generations, from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob or Israel, to Joseph and his brothers and their children. Next week we are going to move into Exodus. Well, what chapters should our viewers read to get prepared?

Tim Moore: Well, given the nature of Exodus, we plan to spend two weeks digging into this pivotal book. Next week we'll highlight Moses, the deliverer sent by God to save His people from bondage. The following episode will focus on the Passover itself.

That gives you a preview of what's coming, but to answer your question, I'd encourage our viewers to read all of Exodus, looking for signs of Jesus throughout that important book.

Nathan Jones: Well, alright folks you've got a whole week to read the 40 chapters of Exodus. But that's less than six chapters a day—or about ten minutes per day. Look for signs pointing to Jesus—and look for His presence in the life of the one raised up to deliver the Hebrews from Egyptian bondage. Until next week this is Nathan Jones.

Tim Moore: And Tim Moore saying, "Look up, be watchful, for "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"—the One Who said, "Before Abraham was, I AM"—is drawing near. Godspeed!

End of Program