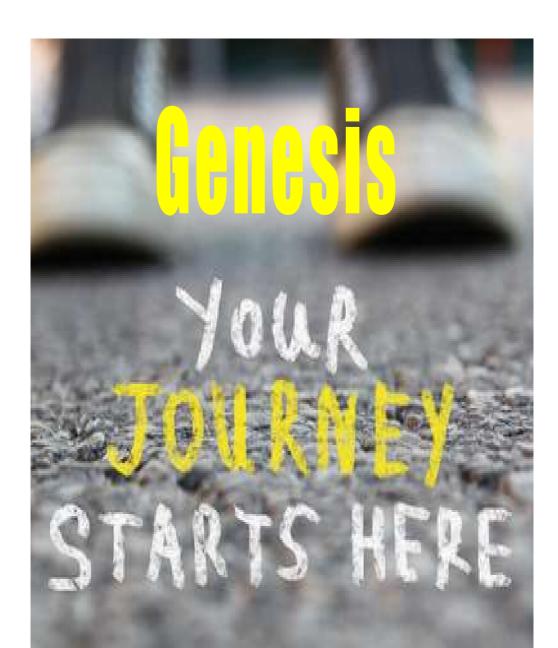
# Let's Worship God

12th-17th December 2022 Genesis





# Monday - Genesis 17:7-14 - The Sign of the Covenant

God has established a covenant with Abraham that will continue forever. It will not die with Abraham, but it is a covenant with his descendants - not just his biological children, but those who believe and trust in God are also Abraham's children, and this covenant is with them as well. This is an everlasting covenant that is in God's mind from before time began and will carry on into all eternity.

What is this everlasting covenant that God makes with Abraham and his descendants? It is a covenant of promises. First, God promises to be their God. His wisdom will guide them; His power will protect them; and His goodness will take care of them. The second promise is that Canaan will be their everlasting possession. This Canaan is a picture that makes them look forward to heaven, the everlasting possession of the people of God.

What is the sign that Abraham agrees to and will keep this covenant? Circumcision. This sign reminds them of God's promises - both of Canaan on earth and a heavenly Canaan. This sign requires them to accept the covenant, agree to it, get rid of sin in their lives, and obey God's commands. Circumcision is for men only as heads of families, but women are included in the covenant. Infants are circumcised as part of the covenant-keeping family, and those who break the covenant by refusing or neglecting to be circumcised are no longer part of God's people. The sign that Abraham's spiritual seed will keep covenant with God is baptism.

## Questions

- 1. Who is God's covenant with Abraham?
- 2. What is the sign of this covenant?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that our covenant children will be covenant-keepers.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters

# **Memory Verse**

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." Genesis 17:7

Praise: Psalm 106 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



#### Tuesday - Genesis 17:15-27 - A Princess

God makes a promise to Abraham of a son by Sarah. God sometimes reveals His purposes in degrees. He has told Abraham that he will have a son, but He never said by Sarah, until now. God changes Sarai's name to 'Sarah,' meaning 'a princess' - she will be a princess of multitudes, and one day Messiah, the prince, will come from her line.

Abraham falls on his face in humility, and he laughs in joy and amazement at God's promised blessing. Jesus says in John 8:56, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." How could Abraham have seen Jesus' day? Well, just like Abraham sees heaven in the promise of Canaan, he sees the coming of Christ through the promise of Isaac.

Abraham prays for Ishmael, that he will not be abandoned by God. We can always pray to God for other people to receive God's blessing, and parents especially are to pray for their children. The thing all parents should wish for their children is that they live before God in obedience with God's blessing. God will bless Ishmael with many and mighty children, but the blessings of the covenant, the blessings of a relationship with God, the best blessings are given to Isaac. Abraham obeys God that very day, without questions and without exceptions.

#### Questions

- 1. What does Sarah's name mean?
- 2. Why was Abraham so happy about the promise of Isaac?
- 3. Who does Abraham pray for?

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that we obey God quickly, without questions or exceptions.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters

# **Memory Verse**

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." Genesis 17:7

Praise: Psalm 107 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



#### Wednesday - Genesis 18:1-15 - Sarah Laughs

Abraham is sitting in the door of his tent at the hottest time of the day when he sees three strangers approaching. Without stopping to think of the inconvenience, he immediately sees this as an opportunity to do good to others, so he rushes out to show them hospitality. His wife and servants also share his desire to show kindness to strangers.

These three men are no ordinary strangers, but heavenly beings who have taken on human form. Two are angels, and one, the LORD, is a pre-birth appearance of Jesus Christ. They have been sent to give Abraham a message from heaven, but first they ask after his wife, Sarah, who is in the tent. This probably makes her prick up her ears, and she hears the promise that she will have a son in one years' time. God often repeats his promises to us to encourage us in our faith.

Sarah thinks this news is too good to be true, and she can't really believe it. Not able to get past her age, she laughs in doubt that God could do this thing. Even those who believe, often struggle with unbelief. The angel that is Jesus, reproves Sarah for her doubting laughter. Our unbelief and lack of trust offends God, for nothing is too secret or difficult for God. Sarah then tries to cover up her sin by lying. We should always admit our sin and seek forgiveness instead of trying to hide it from God and others.

# Questions

- 1. Who were the three strangers?
- 2. What did Sarah do when she heard the promise of a son?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that we would show hospitality to others.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters

# **Memory Verse**

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." Genesis 17:7

Praise: Psalm 108 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



# Thursday - Genesis 18:16-22 - A Friend of God

The messengers from heaven have now finished one part of their business, which is to bring a gracious promise to Abraham and Sarah, but now they have another job before them - the judgement of Sodom.

As they get up to leave, Abraham walks along their way with them. At this point, Jesus speaks openly to Abraham of who He is and what they are planning to do to Sodom and Gomorrah. Why does God tell Abraham about His purposes? First of all, Abraham is a friend of God who spends time with God, loving God and doing what God says. When we spend time with God through worship, reading our Bibles, and prayer, God reveals His purposes to us in His Word. God has great things in store for Abraham, he is going to be the father of a great nation, and one day the Messiah will come from Abraham. God is telling Abraham of Sodom's judgement, so Abraham can teach his household to love and obey God. Abraham's children are part of the covenant, and they belong to the Lord, so they must be trained in the Lord's work for generation after generation. The warning of Sodom and Gomorrah will help in this training.

#### Questions

- 1. What is the second job of the messengers from heaven?
- 2. Why does God tell Abraham about the coming judgement?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that we would train our children to love and obey God.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters

# **Memory Verse**

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." Genesis 17:7

Praise: Psalm 109 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



# Friday - Genesis 18:23-33 - Negotiating Through Prayer

In the Bible, God talks to us, and in prayer, we talk to Him. God has revealed to Abraham His purposes concerning Sodom, now Abraham speaks to God on Sodom's behalf. God's Word always gives us much to pray about.

Abraham comes to God in faith that God will hear him, and he prays that God will spare Sodom. Abraham probably hated the sinfulness of the Sodomites and would never have chosen to live near them, as Lot did, but he still prays for mercy for them. He prays that the righteous will be spared, probably thinking of Lot. Then he asks that the city be spared for the sake of the righteous living in it. We are to pray for other believers who live in areas of great wickedness, that God will protect and care for them.

Abraham has great faith that God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked but will judge rightly. The righteous and the wicked are much mixed together in this world, but the day will come when God will judge between them. Abraham also is very humble and realises his own unworthiness to ask anything of God and God's grace in listening to him. It is through Jesus that our prayers are made acceptable to God. So Abraham, in faith and humility, boldly negotiates with God for mercy, and God agrees to each of his requests. This is the power of prayer - that God listens and answers when we come to him in bold and humble faith.

#### Questions

- 1. Why does Abraham pray for Sodom?
- 2. For how many righteous men will God spare the city?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray that we would be people of prayer as Abraham was.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters

# **Memory Verse**

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." Genesis 17:7

 $\label{praise: Psalm 110 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune\ helps.$ 



#### Saturday - Genesis 19:1-11 - One Good Man

Two of the three strangers that have just been with Abraham, the angels, journey on to Sodom. They soon find the one good man in Sodom. Wherever we go, we should seek out other Christians. Lot does not act like the rest of his neighbours he is respectful and hospitable, wanting to protect these two men from the dangers of the city.

The city of Sodom has truly earned its wicked reputation. The evil is universal in young and old, with no attempts to hold it back. They have even reached incredible depths of sin in their homosexuality, which is an abomination to the Lord (Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:18-32). They are not ashamed of their wickedness, and they are quite prepared to use force, if necessary, to practice it.

Lot tries to turn the men of Sodom away, but his solution, of turning his daughters into prostitutes, is an evil one. We must never do evil so that good may come. Lot only manages to enrage the men at his door, and now they try to attack him. Lot and all his household are in great danger. The power of God, shown through the angels, saves Lot and strikes the men of the city with blindness. However, this blindness doesn't make the men of Sodom turn to God in repentance, instead they exhaust themselves looking for the door to Lot's house.

# Questions

- 1. Where do the two angels go when they leave Abraham?
- 2. Why do the men of Sodom get angry at Lot?
- 3. How do the angels help?

# **Prayer Points**

- 1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters

# **Memory Verse**

"And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." Genesis 17:7

Praise: Psalm 111 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

# The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!

Let's Worship God is produced by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.