

Questions

- What is grace?
- Is grace more of an action or attribute of God?

The One Story—Review

- Every good story has a **context**
 - God’s creation of a “good world”
 - God’s creation of mankind in His own image
- Every good story has tension and **conflict**
 - The antagonist—Satan
 - The challenge—God’s Word set a limitation and God’s adversary offered an alternative

Overview—Big Picture

- Genesis 1-2 Creation
- Genesis 3 Fall
- Genesis 4-11 Degeneration

Review

- Genesis 1—God creates a “good world”
- Genesis 2—God creates mankind in His own image
- Genesis 3-11—Sin!
 - Dealing with temptation
 - Defining and diagnosis sin
- The story
 - The degenerating impact of sin on all individuals, families and groups

The Pivot

Genesis 12:1-3

1 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

3 **I will bless** you and **make** your name great, so that you will be a **blessing**

4 **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!**” (ESV)

I will

Show you a land

I will

Make you a great nation

I will


Bless you
Make your name great

I will

Bless those who bless you...all blessed in you

Abrahamic Promise


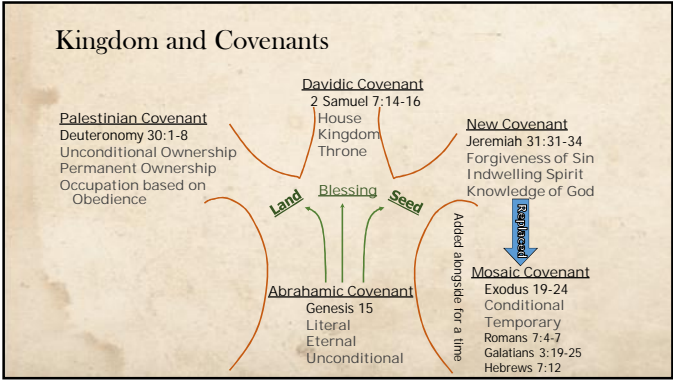
- Great nation—I will show a land
 - Genesis 12:7—I will give the land to your offspring
 - Genesis 13:14-16—I will give the land to you forever
- Great name
 - I will make your name great
- Great blessing
 - I will bless you
 - I will bless all through you



God’s kingdom and His great covenants with man


God’s covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15) was to:

- Give him a land
 - further developed in Deuteronomy 30
- Give him a seed
 - further developed in 2 Samuel 7
- Make him a blessing to all
 - further developed in Jeremiah 31


God’s Kingdom program is the outworking of His eternal and unconditional covenant, in which God fulfills His plan to establish a kingdom on earth over which His Son rules as King.

J. Dwight Pentecost



The Promise

- The choice of Abram was not because of his ability to do anything for God
- No evidence that he was a worshiper of God
 - His father is a pagan
 - **Joshua 24:2** And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and **they served other gods.**’ (ESV)
- He was old, his wife was barren—unable to produce a nation on their own



The Promise

- The choice of Abram is an illustration of God's grace
- Given what he could not gain for himself
- Given not because he deserved it or earned it
- Given with no expectation that he could repay or would repay



Grace

- Key questions
 - What is so great about grace?
 - Why is grace so great?
 - What does grace teach us about God?



Exodus 34:6-9

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6-9

8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. 9 And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance." (ESV)

Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

Grace

- In the midst of sin's degeneration—God demonstrates mercy and grace



Genesis 15 and Deuteronomy 28-29

- The promise is renewed and enlarged in the Covenant to Moses



Genesis 15:1-3

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." (ESV)

Genesis 15:18-21

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites." (ESV)

Genesis 17:8

And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." (ESV)

Promise reaffirmed

- To Isaac
 - Genesis 21:12; 26:3-4
- To Jacob
 - Genesis 28:14-15




Exodus 3:6, 15-16

6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. (ESV)

15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. 16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, (ESV)

Exodus 32:1-14

- God did not destroy Israel for idolatry (the golden calf) because of the Promise




Deuteronomy 7:7-8

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. (ESV)

The Message of the Bible


God desires to **glorify** Himself by **blessing** man.



Man's appropriate response to God


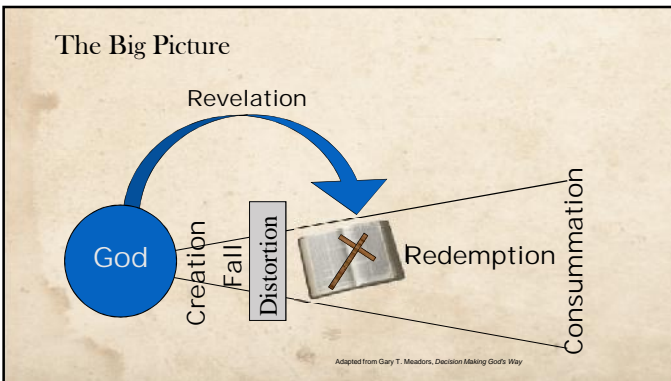
- The Message of the Old Testament and to a great extent of the whole Bible

Man can experience God's blessing by **Trusting and Obeying** God.



Application

- **God has a plan**
 - The plan comes out of His character
- **Man has a need**
 - The need comes out of his character
- **The Bible provides the story for how God's plan meets man's need**
- Central figure is **Christ**

Application

- What is so great about grace?
 - We do not deserve it
 - We cannot earn it
 - We cannot repay it
- Why is grace so great?
 - It is the motivation and mean by which the cross-work of Christ is apply to us
- What does grace teach us about God?
 - We have good and generous God!

