

The Plan

Genesis 12-17

God obviously could not leave his creation in the state it was. It was created for a purpose and not only was it not fulfilling that purpose, but by now, it had no idea what that purpose was. Because God loves to partner with us in creation, he called one of us. Abram was to help God establish a plan to reconcile the world back to the way God intended it

-(**Genesis 12:1-3**): God's Call : "I will make you into a great nation"

- What is it that God is calling Abram to do?
(Not only to follow in faith, but to make a great nation for God)
- What is Abram's response, is it holistic?
(His response is leave his land, his security, his life as he knew it, to follow a God that is asking him to do crazy things. Yes, his response is holistic, because he does it all without questioning God's motives)
- What will be the purpose of this nation?
(To show the people of the world what restoring God's intended purpose, looks like)
- Is our purpose today, any different from this one? Did God somehow change the rules on us?
(Our purpose is the same now as it was then. We are here to show the world not only what it looks like to live like this, but to announce that now, everyone is invited to be part of this great nation)

-(**Genesis 15**): God's Promise

- Why is Abram worried?
(**He thinks that he will not be able to do what God has told him he could. i.e make a great nation**)
- How does God respond?
(**He remind Abram that from his own body, a great nation will be born. He also gives Abram a glimpse into the future, to see what is in store for this nation**)
- Why do you think God shows him this future?
(**Possibly to remind him of his purpose, which was to make a great nation that should one day be a model for the world**)

-(**Genesis 17**): *God's Covenant*

- Who is this covenant between?
(**God and Abram, or as we know him now Abraham**)
- Why would God choose circumcision as a sign of the covenant?
(**Since it is in the flesh, it will be very hard to forget it**)
- Why was do you think those who were not circumcised, were cut off from their people?
(**Not only the willingness to do such a crazy thing, but it was also a visible sign and reminder the purpose they were establishing**)
- What today, is our covenant response? What is our sign of being part of God's people?
(**Colossians 2|9-12- Baptism is the circumcision done by Christ today. This is "putting off of the sinful nature" and being "buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God..." We will talk more about this later.**)

CONCLUSION:

-God has not given up on his creation. God loves our relationship so much, that he devised a plan that involves us being actively involved in restoring the world. This is not to say that God doesn't instill the ultimate restoration, but we can be partners with God in this effort.

-Abram was the beginning of this new plan and through him a great nation will be established. As we will see later, this nation is to be used to bring this message to all of God's creation.

-Today we still have the same calling from God, with one difference. Now it involves an announcement of Jesus' Lordship and Christian circumcision "baptism" as a sign of acceptance of this mission.