

We will begin the 3rd lecture on “An Introduction to the Old Testament.” /In our last lecture, we looked at what God said in Genesis from the viewpoint of studying the entire Old Testament. /God called Abram for the purpose of blessing all people after man’s fall.

/To bless all people in the world, God made a promise with Abram. /In order to use Abram as a gateway through which people are blessed, God said he will make him into a great nation. /God said he would give him land.

/By making him the source of blessing, God said every nation will be blessed through Abram. Genesis 12:3

/God promised Abram descendants, and he did want to give him descendants. /But Abraham did not have any children up to the age of 99. /He tried through human ways to have children.

/At the age of 86, Abram had Ishmael. /However, God gave Abraham a child when he was 100 years old. /During Abraham’s generation, people lived to an old age, but they did not have children when they were 100 years old.

/His wife Sarah could not have children, for she was 90 years old, long past her biological childbearing age. /But God gave Abraham a son. /He gave Abraham Isaac when he was 100 years old.

/If we look at Genesis 21, /we see the story of God giving Isaac to Abraham. /God gave Abraham Isaac when he was at an age that could not bring a child into the world. God miraculously gave Abraham a son.

/God’s miraculous power, not Abraham’s efforts, made it possible for all people to be blessed through Abraham. /Abraham’s son Isaac grew up.

/But in Genesis 22, something strange happens. /God tells Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. /This is very difficult for us to understand.

/God, as he said he would, gave Abraham a child, and now he orders Abraham to sacrifice the child. /Abraham obeys God’s command and takes Isaac and his servants to Mount Moriah.

/They arrive at the mountain in 3 days. In Genesis 22:5, Abraham climbs the mountain with his son, but he tells the servants to wait.

/Genesis 22:5 says, / “Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.””

/This verse is important. /Abraham says, “I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” /The verse here says, “I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”

/Abraham believed that God would receive the child as a sacrifice and then bring him back to life. Hebrews 11:19. /Isaac thought it strange that they were going up to sacrifice without a lamb, but he still followed his father to offer a sacrifice to God.

/Abraham tied Isaac down to the altar, took out a knife, and was ready to offer his son to God. /At that moment, God reached out to Abraham and commanded him not to kill his son. /God said that he knows that Abraham fears him.

/Abraham lifted his eyes and saw a ram caught in the thicket, and he took the ram and sacrificed it in place of his son. Genesis 22:13. /Abraham called the place “Jehovah-Jireh,” or “The LORD will provide.”

/God is not showing Abraham that he promises him a son only to take him away. /Then why did God order Abraham to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering?

/God did it to show Abraham the work of redemption that he plans to do in the future. /God wanted to reveal to Abraham the way in which he will bless all people through him. /It is the way of atonement.

/Abraham had the faith to sacrifice Isaac. The ram died in Isaac’s place as an atonement sacrifice. /Until Jesus comes, the Old Testament teaches about Jesus, who will fulfill the work of salvation of atonement.

/From Abraham’s time, God reveals the method of salvation through the principles of atonement. /Genesis 22:18 says, / “and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

/It says, “In your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” /God’s purpose, also the purpose of the Old Testament, is to bless all the nations through Abraham’s offspring.

/God will carry out his work of salvation according to the principles of atonement seen in the sacrifice of the ram in Isaac’s place. /In other words, Jesus died in our place. He became the Passover Lamb, and through him, we receive blessings before God.

/This is the lesson he gives us through Abraham. After the incident, God protects Abraham, and he wishes to see Isaac’s descendants. /God prepared a wife for Isaac.

/If we take a look at Genesis 24, we learn about the type of wife that God gives to Isaac. / Rather than selecting a woman living in the land of Canaan, God chooses a relative living in Abraham’s hometown to be Isaac’s wife.

/God brings Rebekah, Abraham’s relative who is living in Haran, to Canaan. Isaac and Rebekah get married. /God protects and guides the offspring of Abraham’s descendants.

/Isaac and Rebekah are married and have two sons. /They are the twins Esau and Jacob. /
Of the two, God chose Jacob.

/Genesis 25:23 reads, / “And the LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.”

/Before Isaac had his two sons, God chose Jacob, who came after Esau. /The firstborn is not always chosen to be one of God’s people.

/God’s supervision and his choice decide who become his people. /Esau may have been born first, but Jacob became a person of God and a descendant of Abram. /However, Isaac was ignorant about God’s plan.

/When Isaac had grown old and was soon to die, he wanted to give his blessings to Esau. /Isaac loved eating the meat that Esau had hunted. /Thus he wanted to bless Esau.

/Isaac told Esau to bring some meat to eat before he dies, that he would give him his blessing. /However, things did not proceed as he had planned. /The reason is his wife, Rebekah, loved Jacob more than she loved Esau.

/When Esau went out hunting, Rebekah dressed Jacob to look like Esau, and Jacob received his father’s blessing. /Isaac thought Jacob was Esau, so he gave him his blessing. /Esau, upon learning about this, tried to kill Jacob.

/Jacob had stolen his blessing. /Jacob was someone who had a greed for God’s blessing. / Even though God had chosen him, he tried to gain God’s blessing through human ways.

/One time in the past, Esau, who was hungry from hunting, sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew. /This time, when Esau had gone hunting, Jacob stole his blessing. /Jacob deceived his brother and stole from him God’s blessing.

/Jacob could no longer live with his parents in his hometown. /Because Esau was trying to kill him, Jacob fled to his uncle’s house. /God had chosen Jacob and had planned to bless him according to his will. However, because the person tried to take the blessing before it was to be given to him, there was a problem.

/Isaac should have been more careful and attentive, and Rebekah should have waited for God to work. /It may seem like people are in control of every situation, but it is God who does everything. /Jacob, receiving God’s blessing as had been planned, left his home and went to Haran, his mother’s hometown.

/On the way to Haran, Jacob encounters God at a place called Bethel. /In Genesis 28:14-15, God tells Jacob that he will be his God. /At Bethel, Jacob resolved to serve God.

/He went to his uncle's house in his mother's hometown, Haran. /At this place, Jacob falls in love with Laban's daughter Rachel. /To receive her as his wife, Jacob works for Laban for 7 years.

/7 years later, the day of his marriage, he wakes up to see not Rachel, but her older sister Leah. /His uncle Laban had deceived him. /Jacob made this argument, and Laban spoke. He said that in his hometown, the younger sister does not marry before her older sister.

/But if Laban was an honest man, he would have told Jacob these details 7 years earlier. /Jacob received his blessing by deceiving his brother. Now, Jacob was deceived by his uncle Laban, who was one step ahead of him.

/Thus Jacob works for an additional 7 years and marries Rachel. /Jacob, who would deceive someone to steal God's blessing, was deceived again. /He worked hard at his uncle's house, but he didn't receive fair wages.

/Jacob had many sons, but he did not have enough property to be independent. /For this reason, Jacob asked Laban to pay him fairly. /When asked about the method of payment, Jacob responded that he wanted the speckled and spotted animals.

/Jacob had worked for many years, but he was not properly paid. Because of the miraculous work of God, Jacob came to own many beasts. /His property grew, and Laban hated Jacob for it.

/Realizing this situation, Jacob decided to take his wife and children and leave the house of his uncle. God also told him to leave. /He left his uncle's house to return home, but there was one unresolved problem.

/The problem was his relationship with Esau, who wanted to kill him. /In Genesis 32, Jacob sends people to see if anyone is waiting for him. /The people who went to scout the land return, and they tell him that Esau has 400 men waiting for Jacob.

/Overcome with fear, Jacob prepares a gift. He also calls his family members separately. /Jacob prays that God will hold onto him and deliver him. /However, his heart is not at peace.

/His entire family first had to cross the Jabbok River. /Sending his family across the river first, Jacob remained and trembled in fear. /At this time, a man appeared and wrestled with Jacob.

/Jacob wrestled all night with this man, but the man could not beat Jacob. /The man touched Jacob's hip bone. /Jacob slumped when his bone was touched.

/He realized that this was a special man he was dealing with. /Jacob held onto the man and asked him to bless him. /The man asks, "What is your name?" /Jacob says, "Jacob." /He had said that his name means "one who deceives."

/The man replies to Jacob. He says that Jacob is no longer his name and says that he is to be called Israel. /The name was given to him to show that God will be with him, that he had wrestled with God and prevailed.

/Jacob, by deceiving others, tried to receive God's blessing with his own strength. /He came to realize something after wrestling with God at the bank of the river. /Jacob realized that God's blessing is not taken, but it is received as a gift from God.

/Jacob understood that he should long for God's grace, to be victorious in his grace. /Receiving this grace, Jacob meets Esau without fearing him, and he amazingly makes up with his brother.

/Jacob now had to part with his brother and go to Bethel. /When he first left his home, Jacob vowed to God that he would worship him at Bethel. /Yet for some reason, Jacob did not go to Bethel, but he stayed in Shechem for a long while.

/Bethel is not far from Shechem, but Jacob remained in Shechem. /While he was there, he encountered a problem. /We need to go to where we must go and worship God. Shameful things happened to Jacob.

/His daughter Dinah was raped by Shechem's chief. /Because of this happening, Jacob's sons commit a great sin of killing the people of Shechem. /Jacob learned an important lesson in Shechem. /That he must go to Bethel.

/He realized that he should worship God and go forward to God at that place. /When Jacob returns to Bethel and worships God, God makes a new promise with him.

/Genesis 35:11 says, / "And God said to him, "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.

/God blesses Jacob's descendants, and he prophesies about the birth of kings from his line. /Jacob especially loved Joseph, born of Rachel, from his twelve sons.

/Early on, his father had loved Esau, and Rebekah loved Jacob. In this way, Jacob loved Joseph. /Living in his father's favoritism, Joseph did things to make his brothers angry.

/He told his brothers and parents about his dreams. /In his dream, sheaves of grain, along with the stars, sun, and moon, bowed down to him. He told this to his parents and his brothers.

/Joseph's jealous brothers and his parents both interpreted the dream as predicting Joseph's future as an important person. /His brothers despised Joseph, and one day, Joseph, at his father's request, went to meet his brothers.

/Pasturing their flock from a faraway place, the brothers met with Joseph, whom their father had sent on an errand. /They grabbed Joseph and threw him into a pit. /The brothers wanted to kill him, but Judah suggested that they sell him to the Ishmaelites.

/The brothers sold Joseph to Ishmaelite merchants who were passing by. /They go to their father and lie to him. /They say that an animal killed Joseph. /Jacob, who favored Joseph, was deeply saddened, and he wailed in his miserable situation.

/In the midst of this, the Bible talks about Judah. /Judah, who sold his brother Joseph to the Ishmaelites, leaves his family and moves to the region of Canaan. /Judah leaves his family and marries a foreign woman.

/His wife gives birth to three sons and dies. /Judah sends his sons off to marriage. /His eldest son gets married, but he soon dies. /Judah gives his eldest son's wife Tamar to his second son in marriage, but his second son too dies.

/The surprised Judah sends Tamar back to her father's home. /He didn't want to give his third son to Tamar. /When his third son grows up but does not marry, Tamar returns to her father-in-law.

/She returns not as his daughter-in-law, but as a prostitute who deceives her father-in-law and sleeps with him. /Judah, who doesn't know of this fact, impregnates his daughter-in-law and attempts to have her killed. /However, he soon discovers that his mistake had gotten her pregnant.

/Through this incident, Judah realizes how stupid and sinful he is. /Because of these events, Judah changes. /Next, in Genesis 39, Joseph is taken to Egypt where he lives in Potiphar's house.

/The Bible emphasizes the fact that God was with Joseph, who was taken away to a foreign land. /God blessed Potiphar's house because of Joseph. /But Joseph's suffering was not over.

/When Potiphar's wife tries to commit adultery with Joseph, Joseph rejects her and ends up in prison. /He spent around two years in prison. /However, God did not leave Joseph alone.

/Through Pharaoh's officers, God makes use of Joseph again. /Joseph found the opportunity to interpret an extraordinary dream. /Pharaoh himself had this weird dream.

/No one could interpret the dream, so they asked Joseph to interpret it. /Joseph interpreted the dream. /He became governor of Egypt. /Joseph realized how he had arrived at such a place.

/God had given him the amazing dreams. /Joseph married and had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. / “Manasseh” means, “God has made me forget all my hardship” and “Ephraim” means “God has made me fruitful.”

/As Joseph had interpreted the dream, Egypt experienced 7 years of abundance. /People stored up the grain for 7 years. /Following the abundant years, famine came, just as Joseph had predicted.

/A countless number of people who did not have grain travelled to Egypt to meet with Joseph. /Of these people were Jacob’s sons. /Jacob’s sons, who did not recognize Joseph, sought for food to eat. /Joseph came to understand the meaning of the dream that God had given him.

/Joseph realized that God had sent him to Egypt to save his family from famine. /His brothers feared him, but Joseph, realizing God’s will, forgave them. /Joseph gave his family of 70 the best land in Egypt to live on. /When his father passed away, his brothers feared him, but Joseph comforted his brothers. /We find this message in Genesis 50:20.

/Genesis 50:20-21 say, / “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. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

/Joseph’s dreams were not the product of his ambition. /It was a dream meant to save the lives of people of all nations. /To save his people, God gave Joseph the dream, and he fulfilled the dream.

/Today, God gives people dreams and fulfills them. /To those who believe in Jesus, he gives them dreams of saving all people, and he fulfills them.

/Therefore Genesis is about God choosing the people of God and how he uses those people to save all the people of the world. /God worked through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and his family of 70.

/Through the book of Exodus, we will learn how God fulfills his plan of salvation through Jacob’s family.

/Thank you.