

***“The Foundations of Our Faith Revealed, Theme by Theme in Genesis —
The Heart of the Matter, the Provision of a Substitute”***

***Review: What’s In A Name? The Working of God Has Always Been Through
Personal and Intimate Relationships with Sinners”***

So we have seen how important it was that the Lord renamed Jacob as Israel. He twice tells Jacob that and emphasizes its importance. Names are Significant for they Indicate Personal and Intimate Relationships, especially when they are given by Almighty God himself. And, in that case, there were often prophetic meanings as well. For the name signifies what God is doing to accomplish his final end for each person.

Some, however, are of the Names of God’s Own children. For us who are saved, those names are so important as they are all about God’s personal and intimate working in the lives of sinful man directly, to accomplish his purpose for now and eternally.

The Outline Last Time: “What’s In A Name? The Working of God Has Always Been Through Personal and Intimate Relationships with Sinners”:

- ***The End of It All — The Book of Life & The Lamb’s Book of Life, Judgments and Blessings, with Dispensational Realities***
- ***How It Begins — Names are Given — A Personal Relationship with Almighty God is Revealed***
- ***The History of God’s Working in the Lives of God’s Chosen Nation in General Is Recorded — A Personal Relationship with Almighty God is Revealed***
- ***The Designed End of Redemption Is Testified — A Personal Relationship with Almighty God is Revealed***

- ***The End of It All — The Book of Life & The Lamb’s Book of Life, Judgments and Blessings, with Dispensational Realities***

- ***This is about them, not us, but what About us? Where Do We Fit In God’s Eternal Plan?***
 - ***Well, regarding us, members of Christ’s heavenly Body, wonderfully Paul writes:***

Phil. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and [with] other my fellowlabourers, whose names [are] in the book of life.

- ***We shall have what they have still not yet received, our heavenly inheritance. Are they in heaven? Yes. But that is not what was promised to them. They were promised what the Book of Revelation refers to as a “city” and a “country” here on earth. It will come some day to fruition for each of them currently waiting in Abraham’s bosom, as it were, as the Lord spoke of it (recorded for us in Luke 16).***
- ***But we shall have our inheritance first, a heavenly one. Amen. When Paul wrote Hebrews they were all still waiting, all of those listed directly by their personal names, or referred to in more descriptive and general terms.***
- ***But there was a veil of sin and death and many tears shed as God’s people lived under the curse the Lord God had brought on Adam and his offspring.***

Introduction:

However, and this is really most important, there was also a scarlet thread, it has often been said, from Genesis to Revelation...a trail of blood (really, two, one of sin and one of righteousness).

These two trails of blood began firstly with Adam in the Garden of Eden and then with Cain East of Eden when he killed his brother. Those two continued throughout the book of beginnings, Genesis (which means “beginning”).

Genesis is the book of creation and life, surely. But it is also the book of death. The word “died” is found 33 times in Genesis, twice as much as in any other book of the Bible, and “death”. So there was life and due to Adam’s sin there was death reigning as well.

There was also the revelation in the stars, as we have explained in our previous studies, but what about the record we see in Genesis and its teachings? That is our final (?) theme in Genesis, considering the heart of the matter, the Lord’s management of a sin-cursed world with a plan of redemption revealed both in the creation and in his word of truth, the Bible, beginning here in Genesis. For the Lord God did not allow sin and death into the world without a plan of redemption and life abounding.

What we see in Genesis are those two trails of blood, the one was redemptive and began in the Garden when the Lord God shed the blood of an animal to make coverings for Adam and Eve, now sadly sinners who had lost the covering of God's glory given to them at the beginning, and then the testimony of Abel regarding the necessity of blood sacrifice if one might approach unto God worshipfully. The second trail of blood was the testimony of the first-born son of Adam and Eve, Cain, when he took the life of his brother. His blood, our Lord Jesus told the scribes and the pharisees, still cried out from the ground even four millennia later. Both trails occupy the minds and hearts of those lives recorded here in Genesis and this is our Genesis theme today.

Our Outline Today: "The Heart of the Matter, the Provision of a Substitute and the Scarlet Thread of Redemption"

- ***The Example of Adam — Sin Enters the World But God Offers Hope***
- ***The Example of Abel — An Animal Sacrifice Makes the Difference***
- ***The Example of Seth — Even His Name Foreshadows the Coming Substitute***
- ***The Example of Noah — True Worship Revolves Around the Altar***
- ***The Example of Abraham — From Beginning to End, Only God is Worthy***
- ***The Example of Isaac — A Quiet Life Demonstrates God's Heart of Blessing***
- ***The Example of Jacob — The Altar Testifies of a Transformed Life***

I. The Example of Adam — Sin Enters the World But God Offers Hope:

Gen. 3:14-24

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

[READ] Gen. 5:1-5

1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

4 And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:

5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died.

- *Adam was created in the image of God. But now all would have the image of Adam. Through one man sin came into the world and death by sin...*

Rom. 5:6-11

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

[READ] Rom. 5:12-15

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

“For until the law sin was in the world: ... Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.” These words are most significant!

- ***It was a sad time indeed as Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Then Abel was murdered and death indeed reigned on those made in the image of Adam. There was a trail of blood due to sin and death reigning.***

But this was not without another thread of crimson revealed from Abel onwards.

- ***Made in God's image / Cain evil — Abel first prophet; Seth == substitute, begotten in his father's image and likeness, not God's as his father Adam was***
- ***But in verse 21 of Genesis 3 we see the first revelation of the necessity of a substitute, of a covering for sin and its consequence, and for the shedding of blood of an innocent one, all types of the coming redeemer:***

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them”

- ***There is a scarlet thread, a trail of blood, even from the Garden of Eden and that revelation necessarily dominated the minds of those who were redeemed through it as this testimony through Adam and Eve must have been made so clear. Surely Cain, their first born knew it and also Abel, their second born. We will look at Abel next...***

II. The Example of Abel — An Animal Sacrifice Makes the Difference:

[READ] Gen. 4:1-4

1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

- ***Cain refused the godly worship of the sacrifice of an animal and instead brought the fruit of his own efforts.***
- ***Abel brought the same but he “also” brought of his flock the very best.***
- ***But Cain shed the blood of his brother instead of the shed blood of the lamb “that lieth at the door”.***
- ***Abel had revelation from God regarding God’s requirements for fellowship of sinners and God testified of that in a way that no one could deny, not even Cain himself. Perhaps it was with fire that the Lord God received Abel’s offering.***

[READ] Matt. 23:33-39

33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and *some* of them ye shall kill and crucify; and *some* of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute *them* from city to city:

35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Gen. 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

- ***So the trail of blood beginning with Cain's offering up on his brother's blood and the crimson thread of redemptive blood both testified at the beginning, one of sin and death as a result of Adam's sin, and the other of life and hope through the provision of a substitute. Praise God for the revelation of these in the book of beginnings, Genesis.***
- ***Now we come to chapter 5 and Seth whose name means "comfort" or "rest":***

III. The Example of Seth — Even His Name Foreshadows the Coming Substitute:

Gen. 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

- ***But before we go to the next one singled out here in this sacred history, we need to take note of what stands written for our edification in chapter 5 of this great book.***
- ***We have here the genealogy that proves to be so meaningful considering the theme we are looking at today. What is revealed there?***
- ***"Seth" == "substitute". He was God's substitute for Abel, a fitting name considering that the innocent victim was intended to be the substitute for the sinner. Even in his name this is made clear. Yes, he was the substitute for Abel, but more than that, he would be the reigning patriarch over this family, the Sethites living in a sin cursed world dominated by another family, the Cainites, descendent from his brother Cain. There would be little in common between them at the beginning, I am sure.***
- ***The testimony of God regarding Abel would be on Seth's mind always I am sure. And he would pass it on to his offspring, all those listed here in chapter 5, generation by generation. Due to the long life spans before the Flood, there would be much opportunity for***

teaching and for testifying of what God was revealing of the law of sin and death and the plan of redemption as demonstrated in the shed blood of a sacrificial animal substituting for the sinner himself.

- ***Fellowship with the creator God had been broken, but to a degree it was regained through the shed blood of an innocent animal.***
- ***Some things to take note of here in the genealogy are these (and I focus on this because it helps us understand much better the testimony of God through these fathers of the faith once revealed):***
 - ***Adam and as many as seven generations were living together during these 1056 years from Adam until Noah.***
 - ***Noah's father Lamech was 56 years old when Adam died! Did he know him? Surely. Lamech was 168 years old when Seth died! Did he know him and his teachings? Surely.***
 - ***Noah himself was born only 14 years after Seth died! There were seven generations living side by side then.***
 - ***Noah lived 400 years alongside Lamech, his father, who knew Seth and all the other patriarchs including Enoch, alongside of whom he lived 113 years. Enoch was the one who walked with God and was taken into heaven! Did he know him and his teachings well? Surely!***
 - ***Lamech died only five years before the Flood year. Methuselah, Lamech's father and Noah's grandfather, died in the beginning of the Flood Year!***
 - ***So the trail of blood and the scarlet thread of redemption was ever so well known by these patriarchs, and by Noah, which explains what we next read of here in chapter 5:***

IV. The Example of Noah — True Worship Revolves Around the Altar:

Gen. 5:28-32

28 And Lamech lived an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:
29 And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

30 And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

31 And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.

32 And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

- *Noah was 500 years old when he fathered Japheth, then Ham, and finally Shem. And he preached the righteous judgment of God for one hundred years. The flood came in his six hundredth year.*
- *Noah's father Lamech died 5 years before the flood according to the sacred record here and his grandfather Methuselah died at the beginning of the flood year as we read earlier.*
- *So Noah brought peace and comfort but not as his father might have expected (or perhaps he knew through revelation and named him prophetically "Noah" due to that knowledge. But what followed is significant indeed:*

[READ] Gen. 8:20-22

20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

- *The flood had subsided, and immediately Noah did what he had already learned so well, it seems. He built an altar and offered a burnt offering on that altar in worship and thanksgiving to Almighty God. Amen.*
- *The crimson thread continued with Noah. I believe he had offered up many burnt offerings while on the Ark as well, as the number of "clean" animals suitable for sacrifice was seven pairs compared to two pairs for the unclean.*
- *So the scarlet thread continued after the flood.*

V. The Example of Abraham — From Beginning to End, Only God is Worthy:

- ***Lessons from the genealogies in Genesis — after Noah...***
 - ***Abraham was born two years after Noah died and Abraham's father Terah lived his entire life while Shem and other ancestors were still alive! He died before Shem died but lived for 128 years while Noah was still alive!!***
 - ***Abraham lived with Shem still alive for 150 years.***
 - ***Isaac lived with Shem alive for 50 years!***
 - ***So are we surprised that we read in Gen. 12 that Abram when promised a “seed” and a “land” would build an altar and offer up an offering? What had he been taught by so many of his ancestors? Just that, no doubt. TRUE AND AUTHENTIC WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD REQUIRED BLOOD SACRIFICE!***

For sin had left its crimson stain, but he had learned well that there was a covering available as God had shown Adam and Eve in the Garden and Abel east in Eden. For the love of God expressed in this truth would cover a multitude of sins.

Gen. 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him.

Gen. 12:8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, [having] Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.

Gen. 13:18 Then Abram removed [his] tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which [is] in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD.

Gen. 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Gen. 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind [him] a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

- *Isaac learned then a lesson he would never forget — that the Lord God alone could provide the ultimate substitute. But until then, the shed blood of an animal would suffice. Amen. His life was saved by that animal caught in the thicket by the hand of God!*
- *I am sure Abraham would need forget it either.*

VI. The Example of Isaac — A Quiet Life Demonstrates God's Heart of Blessing:

- *Isaac lived a quiet and simple life after the conflict with Abimelech and his servants over the wells. One of his main dwelling places seems to have been in the area of Beer-lahai-roi or the well of "him that liveth and seeth me". I am sure the story of Hagar told by his father perhaps many times was part of the family lore that could never be forgotten.*
- *It is very interesting that Isaac made this area perhaps his main dwelling place.... Abraham and Isaac had dwelt there both before and after Abraham had offered up his son on Mount Moriah (or Jerusalem), a three day journey from Beersheba which was close to that well, it seemed.*

Gen. 24:62 And Isaac came from the way of the well Lahairoi; for he dwelt in the south country.

Gen. 25:11 And it came to pass after the death of Abraham, that God blessed his son Isaac; and Isaac dwelt by the well Lahairoi.

Gen. 26:25 And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD, and pitched his tent there: and there Isaac's servants digged a well.

- *So very much in the lives of these fathers of the faith was all about wells, and we can easily understand why that might be, can't we? For they lived in a land that was dry on the surface but very well endowed with water underground.*
- *Had he ever forgotten for a moment how God had provided "himself for an offering", Gen. 22. His father Abraham had offered him up, the seed of the promise, expecting that he was able to bring him back from the dead. And he did, as it were, in a figure:*

- ***For Isaac his entire life may very well have been focused on that Mt. Moriah experience so many years before and on his years dwelling with his father and mother in this very place. He Lived A Quiet Life Demonstrating Well God's Heart of Blessing that rested upon him.***
- ***Again, there is a trail of blood, a scarlet thread ...***

VII. The Example of Jacob – The Altar Testifies of a Transformed Life:

Gen. 31:54 Then Jacob offered sacrifice upon the mount, and called his brethren to eat bread: and they did eat bread, and tarried all night in the mount.

Gen. 33:20 And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.

- ***God had delivered Jacob from his brother again. He fulfilled the promise he had made when he went to Laban's country... So he builds an altar of sacrifice to the God, now of Israel! Amen. Jacob was truly a builder of altars as Abraham was a digger of wells (as was Isaac as well).***

Gen. 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.

- ***At another crisis point in his life, he is commanded to build an altar unto the God that had previously so often delivered him ...***

Gen. 35:3 And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went.

- ***God now again announces his new name. But in addition he renews the promise concerning sons and an entire nation of nations as had been promised to his father and grandfather before. And Jacob sets up a pillar and offers***

[READ] Gen. 35:9-18

9 And God appeared unto Jacob again, when he came out of Padanaram, and blessed him.

10 And God said unto him, Thy name *is* Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.

11 And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;

12 And the land which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land.

13 And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him.

14 And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. [See chapter 28:16-22]

15 And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel.

16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour.

17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.

18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

- *But immediately after this high point in Jacob's life his last son was born with his dear wife Rachel dying in the birth process. Such a sad ending that was after such a spiritual high at Bethel.*
- *Finally we reach the end of the story, Jacob's travel with all of his family to Egypt by way of, of course, Beersheba.*

Gen. 46:1 And Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices unto the God of his father Isaac. **[on the journey to Egypt]**

- *Jacob (now named Israel) could not forget his unworthiness and the great gift of truth with its many blessings. On their way to Egypt he stopped in Beersheba, where he had lived with his ancestors.*
- *Don't you wonder what all the Egyptians who were traveling with him thought when he stops there in such a special place to offer sacrifices? Amen.*
- *So, again and again, there was a trail of blood, a scarlet thread more powerful than the stain of sin ... all pointing forward of course, millennia in the future to the coming of the Seed of the Woman, who would accomplish by his sacrifice what mere animal sacrifices never could, the cleansing of the heart of sin forever. Through that death and his glorious resurrection sin and death would be put away*

ultimately forever!

Praise God for his unspeakable gift!

Conclusions / Application:

- *There are many lessons to be learned here and encouragements to be gained as we consider what stands written here...*
- *What had those patriarchs learned so well? That sin reigned and the stain of sin was death. But that the crimson stain of sin could be covered by the blood of an animal sacrifice.*
- *What have we learned so well? That the shed blood of our innocent savior washed the slate clean once and for all. These words some of us know so well say it so powerfully:*

"Jesus Paid It All" by Elvina Hall

- I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."
 - Refrain:
Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.
- For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy **grace** to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.
- And now complete in Him,
My robe, His righteousness,
Close sheltered 'neath His side,
I am divinely blest.
- Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,

**Can change the *leper's spots [*leopard's]
And melt the heart of stone.**

- **When from my dying bed
My ransomed soul shall rise,
“Jesus died my soul to save,”
Shall rend the vaulted skies.**
- **And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
I'll lay my trophies down,
All down at Jesus' feet.**
- ***There are so many applications of the scripture we have studied today to our current lives, even though we live in a very different dispensation indeed.***

But God has called out some in every generation and in every dispensation for his glory. We are most blessed to be included in that great train. Remember these words we have used as key verses in our study: “And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.” (Heb. 11:39-40)

- ***What about his promises to us? Amen. They are secure through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and his glorious resurrection.***

But the foundations are laid in Genesis, aren't they? God works in intimate and personal ways to accomplish his great plan, does he not? Amen.

Praise God for his abundant grace and truth.