

EBC – Adult Bible Study
“Dispensations”
2020

IV. The Dispensation of the Patriarchs– Gen 11:31-Ex 11

A. Review - *Our working definition*: “A dispensation is God’s distinctive method of governing mankind or a group of men during a period of human history, marked by a crucial event, test, failure, and judgment. From the divine standpoint, it is a stewardship, a rule of life, or a responsibility for managing God’s affairs in His house. From the historical standpoint it is a stage in the progress of revelation” (Nevin, quoted in Ryrie, “Dispensationalism” p. 30. 1995)

B. Standing Rules from the previous dispensations

1. Be Fruitful and Multiply
2. Fill the earth
3. No killing or be killed
4. Eat meat with no blood in it

C. Abraham

1. Speculation about Terah – Ge 11:31-32

- a. vs 31-Terah took his son Abram and his grandson Lot, the son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, his son Abram's wife, and they went out with them from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to the land of Canaan; and they came to Haran and dwelt there.
- b. Some think that God may have called Terah and that after he moved, got comfortable and stopped in Haran – no revelation of this
- c. Maybe God called Abram and he brought his father until he got sick and died – again no revelation unless we consider Abram as disobedient – not a problem

2. Moving from the world to Israel

- a. The Previous dispensations have dealt with all of the inhabitants of the world
- b. As we move through the Patriarchs, God’s dealings narrow to one family
 - i. Abraham has two sons in the life of Sarah – for in Isaac your seed shall be called. - Ge 21:12
 - ii. Isaac has two sons - Ge 25:23 And the LORD said to her: "Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger."
 - iii. Jacob
 - Ge 32:28 And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."
 - Joseph was used by God to keep this family together to become a great nation

3. The call of Abram - *Crisis*
 - a. Abram's Part - Get out
 - i. of your country,
 - ii. From your family
 - iii. And from your father's house,
 - iv. To a land
 - b. God's Part – I will
 - i. show you a land
 - ii. make you a great nation;
 - iii. bless you
 - And make your name great;
 - And you shall be a blessing.
 - iv. bless those who bless you,
 - v. And curse him who curses you;
 - vi. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
4. The Process of working out the call – 12:4-13:14
 - a. Abram's partial obedience and it's results – vs 4-9
 - i. Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him
 - ii. and Lot went with him
 - iii. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.
 - iv. So, they came to the land of Canaan.
 - v. Vs 7 - Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land."
 - b. God bringing him to full obedience – 12:10-13:14 - *Judgment*
 - i. Now there was a famine in the land, - vs 10
 - ii. Agreement with Sarai and it's results – vs 11-20
 - Your beautiful, they will kill me, say you're my sister - vs 11-13
 - Sold his wife for riches – vs 14-16
 - Plague brings confrontation of Abram – vs 17-20
 - iii. Abram and Lot go home rich – vs 1-13
 - Note: 12:8; 13:4 Abram called on the name of the Lord
 - Their abundance brings about obedience
 - iv. God appears and speaks – vs 14-18
 - "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are-northward, southward, eastward, and westward;
 - "for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.
 - "And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered.
 - "Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."
5. The Abrahamic Covenant – Ge 15 – *Mercy* - (Unconditional)
 - a. The Pre-covenant discussion – vs 1-12

- i. No Fear b/c of Who God is – vs 1
 - ii. I still don't have a son – vs 2-3
 - iii. You will have a son and descendants numbered like the stars – vs 4-5
 - iv. Abraham believed – vs 6
 - b. Prep for the covenant -vs 7-
 - i. "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."
 - ii. Lord GOD, how shall I know that I will inherit it?
 - iii. Get the animals prepared
 - "Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."
 - Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.
 - And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
 - c. Sleep and Prophecy – vs 12-16
 - i. when the sun was going down,
 - a deep sleep fell upon Abram;
 - and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him.
 - ii. Prophecy about Egypt
 - your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, they will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.
 - And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.
 - "Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.
 - "But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."
 - d. The Cutting of the Covenant – vs 17-21 - *Mercy*
 - i. Passing between the cut animals
 - Heb 6:13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,
 - there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces. – vs 17
 - ii. The Covenant - "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates- vs 18
6. *Twofold Judgment*
- a. Lot – as described above
 - b. Ishmael –
 - i. Received Hagar from Pharaoh for Sarah
 - ii. Hagar despised Sarah - Ge 16:4
 - iii. Ishmael mocks Isaac - Ge 21:9
 - iv. Abraham had to kick out Hagar and Ishmael - Ge 21:10-13

7. A Second Covenant – Gen 17 – (Conditional)
 - a. The Pre-covenant discussion – vs 1-3
 - i. Abram was ninety-nine years old
 - ii. "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.
 - iii. I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.
 - b. God's Blessing – vs 4-
 - i. you shall be a father of many nations.
 - ii. Change of name – Abram to Abraham - for I have made you a father of many nations.
 - I will make you exceedingly fruitful;
 - and I will make nations of you,
 - and kings shall come from you
 - iii. A covenant with you and your descendants forever
 - between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.
 - I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."
 - "As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations.
 - iv. Your Part - you and your descendants after you
 - Circumcision as a sign – vs 11
 - 8 days after birth, every male child, bond or free – vs 12
 - Everlasting covenant – vs 13
 - No circumcision, no covenant blessings – vs 14
 - v. Sarah and Isaac are included
 - Change of her name from Sarai to Sarah – vs 15
 - Blessing her - I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her
 - What about Ishmael?
 - i. No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.
 - ii. as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.
 - iii. But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."
 - vi. Abraham Obeyed – vs 23-27