

# Genesis

## ***Embarrassing Ancestors and Our Glorious Hope***

*Genesis* is all about God making an extravagantly gorgeous Creation to declare His glory and the horrifying result of our ancestors' rebellion against His kingly rule. It was written to remind us of our good God's promise to undo all the terror that our treason has wrought. It shows us our ancestors' faltering walk of faith and His faithful care for them, all the while paving the way for the coming King who would deliver us from ourselves and all who oppose our good God. The New Heavens and Earth will perfectly declare His praise.

### APPLYING GOD'S WORD

*Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you:*

**Open Up about Your Fears!** Admit the things that you have been afraid of and with which you have a difficult time trusting Christ.

**Ask God to Embolden you in Christ's Love!** He delights in us through Christ. Trust Him in that.

**Encourage Others to Turn to Christ too!** As you see others afraid of not getting what they need; share with them that you have the same problem. Let them know that Christ is making a difference in your life and He can in their lives too.

## The Life of Faith—Hebrews

### ***Rooted in God's Promises & Running to New Jerusalem***

The book of *Hebrews* was written to encourage and exhort God's people who were tempted to turn back from the gospel. They were reminded that the promise of salvation comes through the Son who reveals His Father's glory and provides Sabbath rest. This is the basis for the Christian hope as we await the New Jerusalem whose architect has secured our resurrection life in the eternal city of peace.

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional  
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren  
June 30th, 2019

Morning Service:

Genesis 29: 1 – 35

## **Ugly and Unlovable**

1. Leah's Story Is Revealed in Her Children's Names.
2. God Hears/Sees the Cry of the Unloved.
3. Christ Is Making Us Beautiful.

Leah is ugly and unloved, yet God sees her suffering and hears her pain. He cares for her and graciously helps her to see His love for her is all that she needs. Christ reveals that God has seen and heard us too and that He not only cares for us, but is transforming all who are in Him to be as beautiful as He is.

Evening Service:

Hebrews 7: 4 – 28

## **A Better Hope**

1. What's Your Tribe?
2. Who Is the Chief/Priest? How Do They Work?
3. How Good Is Your Guarantee?

The People of God have always had the hope of God's promise, but now that Christ has come we have a better hope. Christ's sufficiency and perfection as our priest is substantially better than the Aaronic priesthood that Israel had. It is this certainty that we have to be saved completely with Christ Himself as our guarantee. Let us walk together in the reality of this better covenant.

## Taking Gathered Worship Home

We all want to be loved. We need to be loved. It is the way that we were made—to be in intimate fellowship with God and one another. Yet in this broken world of sin and death, we struggle to reconnect, to find that intimacy for which we were designed. Leah is a poignant example of this longing and God hears/sees her and loves her.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

### Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 29:1-35; First Chronicle 29:10-13** (below). DISCUSS, How is Leah described? Why is this significant? What does she want? Can you relate? How? How is God enough for us? PRAY thanking God for His sure and certain promises in Christ.

### Sunday PM

READ tonight's passage: **Hebrews 7:4-28**. DISCUSS, How does this better hope provide what we need to trust Christ with our daily struggles? Why? PRAISE Christ for being the Lord of our better hope.

### Monday

READ **Genesis 29:1-14; 24:1-28**. DISCUSS, What similarities and differences do you notice between these two passages? Why is it important for both Isaac and Jacob to not marry Canaanites? PRAY for God to help us turn to Christ in our need. EXTEND His grace by blessing them as you have been blessed. PRAY for our neighbors.

### Tuesday

READ **Genesis 29:15-30**. DISCUSS, How do Jacob's deceitful ways come back to haunt him? Why is truth so important? How is God truthful in all His ways? PRAY, "Lord, forgive us for ways that we are not truthful. Whether we are outright deceitful or shade the truth, forgive us for not being perfectly truthful as You are. Thank You for all the ways that we can count on You to be perfectly honest and true."

### Wednesday

READ **Genesis 29:31-35**. DISCUSS, How do we see Leah grow in her walk with God through the naming of her children? How does God meet her? PRAY, Ask God to reveal ways that you (we) are desperate for more than just Christ. Take those things to God and ask Him to show you how Christ is enough.

### Thursday

READ **Genesis 29:31-35**. DISCUSS, If you were to name four children to signify your struggles/fears/needs, what would their names mean? How are you trusting Christ with that? PRAY, "Jesus, help us to be honest with You with all our fears."

### Friday

READ **Genesis 29:1-35**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning from this passage this week? PRAY, Lord thank You for loving us so fully in Christ.

### Saturday, 6/22

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ **Genesis 30:1-43**. Come to worship tomorrow expecting to hear from God through His Word and to learn more about our God together. Pray for God's glory to be more and more manifested in the Woodstock area.

## First Chronicles 29: 10 – 13

Therefore David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name."