

Thursday, June 11, 1981

BIBLICAL MUSINGS

by Garry L. Barton



This week, let us continue our study of the Book of Genesis. Assistance in this study was found in the book, "What the Bible Is All About," by Henrietta C. Mears. I highly recommend the book to serious students of the Bible.

God's Word tells us in no uncertain terms that the Book of Genesis was written by Moses. "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father," Jesus told the Jews in John 5:45-47. "There is one

that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me." See also Luke 24:27. "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded (explained) unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."

As noted last week, the first 11 chapters of Genesis are concerned with origins. Beginning with Chapter 12, the history of the Hebrew race is

presented. The Hebrew race was founded by Abraham for the sole purpose of the whole world being blessed by it.

There are 3 promises made by God to Abraham. These promises (or covenant) is found in Genesis 12:1-3. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram (Abraham), Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

The three promises included in the covenant made by God to Abraham (the Abrahamic Covenant) are: 1. The Hebrews will inherit the land of Canaan (see Genesis 12:5-7); 2. The Hebrew race (Jews) will become a great nation; and 3. Through the Hebrews all families of the earth will be blessed.

Also, I discovered 4 spiritual messages presented by

the history of 4 great men in Genesis.

The first message concerns Abel. Read Genesis 4:4. "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." Read also, Hebrews 11:4. "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." The message to be learned here is: Let us kneel at the Cross of the slain Lamb (Jesus). Abel's sacrifice was symbolic of God's ultimate sacrifice of His only begotten Son (Lamb), Jesus Christ who died on the Cross of Calvary for the remission of man's sins.

The second message concerns Enoch, found in Genesis 5:21-24. "And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

And Enoch walked with God: and he was not: for God took him." The message found here is: Like Enoch, have a close walk with God throughout life here on earth and you will spend an eternity in heaven with God.

The third message concerns Noah, found in chapters 6-9 in Genesis. The message is: Believe in and obey God like Noah did and you will be saved just like Noah was. Remember that Noah also walked with God. "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. . . . Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." Genesis 6:8,9.

The fourth message concerns Abraham, beginning in the 12th chapter. The message here is: Have faith in God, and obey God like Abraham and you will be blessed. For, as seen in Hebrews 11:6, "without faith it is impossible to please him" (God).

No doubt, there are messages conveyed to us in each of the men mentioned in Genesis. See if you can discern them.

It has been said that 3

words were used to outline the Book of Genesis. They are: Generation. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1). Degeneration. "Now the serpent (devil) was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made." (Genesis 3:1). Regeneration. "Now the Lord had said unto Abram. . . . Genesis 12:1 (this is the beginning of the Hebrew race).

In order to fully comprehend and understand the Book of Genesis, it is important to be as familiar as possible with the Abrahamic Covenant made by God to Abraham (found in Genesis 12:1-3). The whole history of the chosen people (Hebrews), through whom all families of the earth will be blessed, is centered around this covenant.

God only repeated this covenant to two others in the Bible. To Abraham's son, Isaac (in Genesis 26:1-15). And to Abraham's grandson, Jacob (in Genesis 28:13-15). That is why these three are known as the "Covenant Fathers." And that is why you

read in Acts 7:32. "I am the God of thy father, The God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." God only made the promise or covenant to these three; they were expected by God to pass the promise on to the rest of the world.

Continue to love and to pray for one another. And next week we will ponder over the history of Joseph in the Book of Genesis.



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Engagement Announced



Mrs. Vivian Locklear, of Rt. 2, Pembroke announces the engagement of her daughter, Audena, of Charlotte, to Randy Hugh Carder of Charlotte, son of Mrs. Bobbie Jean Carder of Southern Pines and Otis Carder of Fayetteville. The bride-elect is also the daughter of Walter Lee Locklear of Rt. 3, Maxton. Miss Locklear graduated in 1975 from Prospect High School and in 1978 from Pembroke State University. She is employed by the Insurance Company of North America. The bridegroom-elect is a 1976 graduate of Lumberton Senior High School. He attended Pembroke State University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is an employee of Waddell and Associates. The wedding is planned for June 27 at Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church in Pembroke.

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