

Christians At Texas State Bible Study--Genesis #2

The Experiences of Nine Significant Persons

Genesis 3:15, 20-21; 4:4, 26; 5:22, 24; 6:8-9, 13-14, 18; 12:1-3, 21:1-12, 25:5, 28:11-14, 32:28, 41:38-39, 41

3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman And between your seed and her seed; He will bruise you on the head, But you will bruise him on the heel. **20** And the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. **21** And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins and clothed them.

4:4 And Abel also brought an offering from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering. **26** And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah.

5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he had begotten Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot more sons and daughters. **24** And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

6:8 But Noah found favor in the sight of Jehovah. **9** These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; and Noah walked with God. **13** And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and now I am about to destroy them with the earth. **14** Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch. **18** But I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.

12:1 Now Jehovah said to Abram, Go from your land And from your relatives And from your father's house To the land that I will show you; **2** And I will make of you a great nation, And I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. **3** And I will bless those who bless you, And he who curses you I will curse; And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

21:1 And Jehovah visited Sarah as he had said, and Jehovah did to Sarah as He had promised.

25:5 And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac.

28:11 And he came to a certain place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and put it under his head, and he lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed: There was a ladder set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And there was Jehovah, standing above it; and He said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie, I will give to you and to your seed. **14** And your seed will be as the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and in your seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.

32:28 And He said, Your name will no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men and have prevailed.

41:38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, Can we find such a man like this, in whom the Spirit of God is? **39** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God let you know all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. **41** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.

The line of life in the book of Genesis involves the experiences of nine significant persons. We may also consider these nine persons to be eight persons, if we take Joseph as an aspect of Jacob. Experientially, these nine persons provide a description of the experience of one person.

Adam-Receiving the Promise of God's Redemption and Experiencing God's Redemption

Adam received the promise of God's redemption and experienced the anticipated redemption of God (3:15, 20-21). The fallen Adam wore the skin of the sacrifice (v. 21). Adam typifies a sinner receiving Christ as his covering righteousness

(Gal. 3:27; 1Cor. 1:30). If you are here in any kind of shame, we would like to minister Christ to you as righteousness and clothe you with the best robe (cf. Luke 15:22) so that you can lift up your head, open your heart, open your mouth, and receive God's dispensing.

Abel—Working and Living for God and Worshipping God according to God's Revelation

Abel worked and lived for God and worshipped God according to God's revelation (Heb. 11:4; Gen. 4:4). Abel was the one inheriting salvation, offering up a lamb as a sacrifice (v. 4). He typifies a believer living in Christ to become the righteousness of God, being acceptable to Him (2Cor. 5:21).

At Abel's time, human beings did not eat meat. Nevertheless, Abel raised lambs. He did this for the purpose of having the sacrifices for the worship of God. He was one who inherited the way of salvation from Adam, offering up a lamb as a sacrifice. May we all be washed from the negative influence of American culture in such a way that the younger generation would not be ashamed of their inheritance in the Lord. We need to inherit many things from the older generation. Eventually, you will grow in life and will be able to minister the inheritance to others. Like Abel, we all begin as heirs. Abel learned from his parents. Cain, his brother, was too strong in himself to take the way of his father, so he did not learn.

Enosh-Calling on the Name of Jehovah to Enjoy His riches

Enosh needed God and called upon the name of Jehovah to enjoy His riches (Gen. 4:26). Enosh was the frail one calling upon the name of Jehovah (v. 26). He typifies a frail believer calling upon the name of the Lord to enjoy Him as his portion (Acts 9:14; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 1:2).

At Enosh's time there was no human government on the earth—the earth was still under the dispensation of conscience. However, very few human beings were conscientious, and there was much violence and lawlessness on the earth. Imagine living in a society with no human government, no police, no National Guard, or no courts. Might alone ruled. Enosh—whose name means *frail*—was a frail, mortal man who needed God. He was not ashamed to admit his frailty, and he called upon the name of Jehovah to enjoy His riches. The more you need God, the more you get Him. May we all be willing to be an Enosh.

Enoch-Walking with God on the Pathway of Redemption

Enoch walked with God on the pathway of redemption (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5). He was one who pursued after God, walking with God (Gen. 5:22-24). Enoch typifies a believer who pursues the Lord, living together with Him (John 14:19b).

When we are not doing so well, God walks with us. However, His walking with us is with the purpose that we would walk with Him. Enoch was quite consistent; he walked with God for three centuries. Thus, we need to have something consistent built up in our daily living. Although we will still have day, night, and ups and downs, we must still walk with Him.

Enoch was the first one to be raptured. We all want to be raptured as well. However, we have to learn how to walk with God first. Before that, we have to learn how to call on Jehovah. And before that, we have to learn to trust the offerings. When we call and walk in this way, we will be taken and will not see death. It may be that some who are reading this message will never see death. If not my generation, then perhaps the young ones among us will be the real Enochs who walk with God and are taken as the precious firstfruits (Matt. 24:43-44; Rev. 14:4).

In the next point we will see something concerning Noah, God's co-worker. In order to be co-workers with God like Noah, we must first be co-walkers with God like Enoch.

Noah-Walking with God and Working with God to End the Age

Noah walked with God and worked with God to meet the need of that generation (Gen. 6:8-9, 13-14, 18). He changed the age through his life and work (Heb. 11:7). Noah typifies a believer who lives together with the Lord, working together with the Lord to work out his own salvation (Phil. 2:12b).

David served God in his generation (Acts 13:36). In this generation there is likewise a particular need. We would like to be today's Noahs, doing the work that meets the need of this generation. Perhaps the need of this generation is to end the age. May we all have a life and work that contributes to the ending of this age. When we appear before the Lord, we want to hear Him say, "Your life and work helped end the age. Now you are going to be with Me in the new age!"

Our work today is to build up an ark, the corporate Christ, and then enter into that corporate Christ. This is something that we need to learn about. We need to ask ourselves, "Am I doing the work to build up the ark? Will I be a part of the very thing I was objectively involved with?"

Abraham-God's Calling, God's Promise, and Justification by Faith

Abraham experienced God's calling, God's promise, and justification by faith (Acts 7:3; Gen. 12:1-3; 15:5-6). He lived by faith and lived in fellowship with God (Heb. 11 :8-12, 17-19). Abraham typifies a believer experiencing the calling and justification by God the Father and living a life of fellowship with Him (Gen. 18:1,17, 22-33; 1 Cor. 1:9).

Living by faith is not just for Hudson Taylor and the China Inland Mission, nor is it something only of the past. God's plan is in faith (1 Tim. 1:4). Eventually, we will learn to live by faith (Rom. 1:17), stand by faith (2 Cor. 1:24), walk by faith (5:7), and speak by faith (4:13). It will take us a process before we distrust our ability and no longer rely on our ability but instead rely on God word for word and live in fellowship with Him. May we all desire to live every day in God's presence and in fellowship with Him.

Isaac-Inheriting Grace, Resting, and Enjoying

Isaac inherited grace, rested, and enjoyed (Gen. 21:1-12; 26:3-5). He inherited all the promised blessings (25:5). He typifies a believer living in fellowship with God, experiencing the inheritance of all the grace in God the Son for the enjoyment in satisfaction and rest (Heb. 11:9; Eph. 3:6; Gal. 3:29). Abraham the father has all the wealth, and Isaac the son receives all the blessing from the father. Our Father has a wonderful heart. He begets a life, raises and trains that life unto maturity, and then causes that one to inherit all that He has. Because we are under the blessing of Abraham, we shamelessly need to be Isaacs.

Jacob-God's Selection, the Transformation in Life, and the Maturity in Life

Being Chosen by God to Become the Israel of God through Trials to Bless Everyone

Jacob experienced God's selection, the transformation in life, and the maturity in life (Gen. 25:22-23; 28:10-14; 32:28). He was chosen by God, experienced trials to become the Israel of God, and brought God's blessing to everyone (25:23; Rom. 9:9-13; Gen. 27:41-45; 31:1-2; 32:28; 47:7, 10; 48:9, 15-16,20; 49:26, 28).

Experientially there is a Laban for every Jacob. The years under Laban are the experience for transformation. However, strictly speaking, according to the book of Genesis, transformation did not even start until after the time that Jacob was with Laban. His time under Laban was just his experience of being dealt with, which is the preparation for being transformed. Only after Jacob was broken did transformation begin and was he brought to maturity. Then wherever he went, he blessed.

Today we may be Jacobs (heel-holders), but eventually our grasping hands will be blessing hands. We need some believers, many of whom are more qualified than they realize, to go to Romania and bless Bucharest. Do not go there with the thought of doing a big work; simply go there with blessing hands to be a blessing. Perhaps the point of all that you have been going through for so long--things that you thought had no meaning and no end--is that you become a blessing one.

Wherever Jacob went, he was a factor of blessing. Joseph, the son of Jacob, was betrayed by his brothers. He was put into slavery. Yet Potiphar's house was blessed because Joseph was there. Then Joseph was thrown into prison. As a result, the prison was blessed. When Joseph was given the authority to rule, all of Egypt was blessed.

It is not a matter of whether the brothers like you or not or understand you or not; it is simply a matter of whether or not you are a channel of blessing. We do not want a reputation or a name for ourselves; we want the reality and the integrity of being a blessing. We who are older should not have the world's view toward our later years. We should look to the Lord very much that the older we get physically, the more mature we would become in the divine life so that we could be a blessing to the church. We do not look back. We look ahead to be the blessed Jacobs.

A Believer Chosen by God, Enjoying and Experiencing God to Mature

Jacob typifies a believer chosen by God, enjoying the love of God the Father and the grace of God the Son, experiencing the transformation of God the Spirit through trials in his environment, to become a mature man to bestow God's blessing upon others (1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 15:58; Heb. 6:1; Rom. 12:14).

If we really reign in life and we are attacked and cursed, we will respond with blessing and not cursing. If we are this kind of person now, one day we will be a blessing even to those who attack us. We bless them with the experience of Christ, who is the life-giving Spirit. Let us rise up and bless the whole earth! However, to accomplish this, we need to grow in life. Maturity is manifested in our blessing of others. It is worth the price to end up in Genesis 49. The best is yet to come. How much the Lord would do if in every group of believers there were maturing Jacobs being a blessing!

Joseph-the Reigning Aspect of the Maturity of Life

Joseph demonstrates the reigning aspect of the maturity of life (Gen. 41:38-41). He reigned and dispensed widely the riches of God to everyone (vv. 40-44, 55-57). Joseph typifies a believer who is transformed, overcoming, and mature, reigning for the Lord and dispensing the riches of God in Christ to everyone (2 Cor. 2:14-16; Eph. 3:8; Rev. 20:4, 6).

This is what we want to be, and this is our ministry. Our heart is enlarged and our heart is wide to the entire world (cf. 2 Cor. 6: 11). Christ as the bread of God came down from heaven to give life to the world (John 6:33). This ministry is for all six billion people on the earth. He will bless anyone, anywhere, at any time. There is a Joseph on the earth today, and the blessing is with Him. May we co-labor with Him to be one who blesses and gives spiritual food to the world.