

## What's the Bible All About?

### 3 - The Greatest Promise - Salvation

Gen. 12 - Malachi  
Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney

*The Bible has one primary purpose with one big theme, surrounding one glorious main character – Jesus Christ, as it answers one big question:  
How can sinners be right with God forever?*

**Genesis 3:15** God made a promise immediately after man sinned that He would send a Redeemer, “I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman... your seed and her seed. He (Jesus) shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.”

“Christians don’t live on explanations; they live on promises.” -**Warren Wiersbe**

God’s promises are not like human promises. Not one word of our God has ever failed. He’s not like people.

#### **Abraham Called** – Genesis 12

God chooses Abraham and calls him to leave all that he has and go to a land He’s going to show him. This was a difficult calling! Obeying God is rarely convenient.

**Genesis 12:1-3** “Now the Lord said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”

#### **Twelve Tribes:** Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel)

And so Abraham has Isaac who has a Jacob... who has 12 sons that become the 12 tribes of Israel. A nation is formed who’s sole purpose was to be the channel through which God would bring salvation to all people!

But even here, dysfunctional family #2 (Adam and Eve were exhibit #1 when Cain killed Abel) is on view for you. Jacob has a favorite son – Joseph. He had a favorite son because he had a favorite wife. What a mess!

Gen. 37 says...

v. 4 “... and they hated him – and could not speak peaceably to him.”

v. 5 “... they hated him even more”

v. 8 “... they hated him even more.”

From the moment that sin came on the scene the only kind of people God has to work with are broken, sinful people. But His power and His grace are big enough to work through broken sinful people.

**Romans 5:20** “... where sin abounds, grace abounds much more.”

There are lots of great things to look for in the Bible, but two of the best are the ‘But God’s and the ‘Much more’s’ (Check out Romans ch. 5, as the phrase ‘much more’ is used 5x in NKJV)

So I want you to see God in the midst of this sinful mess... working all things together for good and to accomplish His purposes.

In God’s perfect timing, He raises Joseph up out of the prison to interpret the dream of Pharaoh. So Pharaoh looks at Joseph and says, “You’re the man!” He makes Joseph #2 in command over the entire land of Egypt.

God made a promise that there will be a seed through Abraham that will come to crush Satan's head... so Satan is doing everything possible to see that it doesn't happen. But God is always working His plan to fulfill His promise! And I want you to know He's still working like that today – whether you can see it or not.

“God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of three of them.” –John Piper

Always remember – you're only seeing a tiny fraction of all that God's doing in your life. The part you DO see might be painful and make no sense to you, but it doesn't mean God's not working.

Joseph could've been a bitter, bitter man – but he wasn't! Three times in the story of Joseph the Bible tells us why Joseph wasn't bitter:

**Gen. 39:3** “the Lord was with Joseph...”

**Gen. 39:21** “But the Lord was with Joseph...”

**Gen. 39:23** “...because the Lord was with Joseph...”

If you're a Christian, the Lord is with you. You're not alone. Never. It might feel like it... but feelings are great liars.

Put this fact that God was with Joseph in stark contrast to what you see in...

**Gen. 40:23** “Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”

People around you might forget all about you; but your God never does!

**Genesis 50:19-20** “... am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

The purposes of God cannot be stopped! He uses ordinary, broken, abused people to bring it about.

### **Moses / Egypt / Exodus**

So they move down and settle into the best of the land, but Satan strikes back again:

**Exodus 1:6,8** “And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation... Now there arose a new King over Egypt who did not know Joseph.”

The new Pharaoh said, “Joseph who?” So he takes the whole nation of Israel and makes them slaves. The people of God cry out in anguish... for 430 years. But God heard their cry.

**Exodus 2:23** “... then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage and they cried out; and their cry came up to God.” Just like your cry does! Just because you haven't seen the changes you want to see doesn't mean God hasn't heard your cry.

**Exodus 2:24** “So God heard their groaning and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.”

God hears the cries of the people in the land of Egypt, and He raises up Moses. And God leads them out of Egypt and into the promised land; but when they get there, there's a problem. There are giants in the land.

## **Wandering / Numbers**

The book of Numbers records how after all they've seen God do, the people question whether they can take the land. So God turns them around and sends them back out into the wilderness for 40 years of wandering.

## **Promised Land**

After 40 years of wandering, and the death of Moses, Joshua leads them into the land. There's now a nation... there's now a land. God is keeping His promise.

## **Judges**

But once they get into the land they go through a cycle of rebellion and idolatry that gets repeated 7x in the book of Judges, as God raises up judges to deliver them (Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Deborah, etc.)

God is on the move keeping His promise while at the same time working through the most ordinary people to fulfill His extraordinary purpose of making men and women right with the God of the universe.