

## Where Do You Get Your Name?

Genesis 11:1-32, Sunday AM, CBC, March 10, 2024

Intro: On August 27, 2023, we finished Genesis; Started series on Jacob & Joseph, Genesis 25:19-34, skipped Gen. 26 (Isaac), then Gen. 27-50, skipping only Gen. 36, Esau's line; 66 sermons from Aug. 17, 2003-Aug. 27, 2023; study resulting from inspiration from Dr. Walter Kaiser as 9-12 year old at EFCA conference for pastors—encouraged them from Elijah; recognized these not merely stories of God's power and faithfulness, these were relevant to strengthening struggles of faith right now; looked with renewed hunger at OT and wanted to make these narratives come alive for any I preached; as looked for new section, thought of Elijah, Elisha, but then came back to Abraham; I'm concerned for roots—Col. 2:5-8 what is faith in Christ, faith accepted by God, saving, born again faith, evidence of Spirit of God?; without this faith, NO heaven, NO reconciliation with God, NOTHING God accepts; need true gospel roots; grew up oblivious to how worldview played out as glad to accept what heard about God, world as grew up (assumed it; didn't appreciate, pushed against it, but wanted to live for God—words like faith, trust, love not a problem); Christian school in line with worldview; then moved (church kerfuffles from expecting leaders in church to live with certain Christian norms started raising thoughts of what following Christ meant; different Christian school; Word of God NOT forefront—swearing/bullying/skipped grade, led to homeschooling—back to familiar worldview; public high school—clear, us/them, but what DID Christian have with them? Reach for Christ; be salt/light—what did that mean? For me, meant ALL girls off limits even if they had interest—for me, meant engaged w classmates at school, NOT at home b/c home/church where life of kingdom safely lived—I was NOT part of them; worldview issues pushed (sex ed, got excused—licitious books for English, got excused—remember plenty more, but remember history class showing 8 part 1977 tv mini-series Roots: The Saga of an American Family—set during and after the era of slavery in the US based on Alex Haley's 1976 novel, Roots—glad to watch anything over lecture, but this was scorching picture of life of one free in Gambia, West Africa, Kunta Kinte—family, life, religion, position uprooted as captured and taken as slave to plantation owner in Virginia; first encounter I had thinking deeply about identity and legacy where not merely different, but painful, rife with injustice; but unlike other parts of my childhood, found and continue to find it hard to talk about issues of injustices and identity, to process what hearing/seeing without having someone forcefully telling you how to process and feel before even get pieces on table; how do you process identity, roots, heritage? Do you like your heritage/roots? Do you live close to your roots? For what do you thank your ancestors? Would others link you with them good and bad? Are you thankful for differences? WHAT drives your desire for differences from your spouse/forefathers? ordered/not; calm/loud; blunt/rough/gentle; JUSTICE/mercy; patience/NOW; When have “dealt with it/them,” is discussion about your roots/identity/effect on you done? How do you LIVE now regardless of your answers? not only HOW answer these questions, but what is STANDARD by which you judge those answers? Can you identify your final word? Lest spend whole morning in psychoanalysis of you/me/our different experiences, want to evaluate your roots in relation to faith in Christ; you who profess faith in Christ, what are your roots? fact that God's Word does not lead to worship, growth, spreading His kingdom as He desired—so many side shows, people's desire to be Christian but do own thing and church's scrambling to listen/accommodate/keep them “seeking” without yielding to God Almighty; frantic @ people renouncing the faith; NOT trying to stop all apostasy, THAT WILL HAPPEN, IS part of narrow/wide road but seeking to give biblical foundation for the gospel and life springing from proper reception of it; It is this that makes me want to spend more time in Genesis (beginnings—this is a football), specifically Father Abraham—grew up singing Father Abraham had many sons, I am one of them, so are you (even in Mexico); whether we have to swing arms or not, are you child of Abraham? Jn. 8 father the devil; what mean to be child of Abraham; man known for his saving faith Gen. 15:6, Rom. 4:2-3, 9, 22, Gal. 3:6, Jm. 2:23; say gospel simple, Jesus died for my sins; just go to NT and read this, just need faith in Jesus, this pinnacle/climax; Yes, BUT; some pretty rough waters working through this in SS as talked about love for God undergirds love for Jesus; IF see Jesus first, leads to love for God; IF love God, care for all God cares about, not just “saved,” saved for what? How does living faith in Son of God affect how live/deal with people, health/time/ money issues, my time/place/ circumstance in history right now, right here? Know from Jm. 1/Rom. 5 true saving faith leads THROUGH

tribulations and produces godly character AND hope that does not disappoint; testing of faith leads us to humble selves, look for roots—**Luke 24:21** Jesus' response? that sure stinks; don't worry, be happy; NO, **Luke 24:25-26** don't you think this hurt? perhaps thought KNEW prophets/Jesus' words, **but struggled b/n reality of what thought to be true, and reality in daily life** (Habakkuk)—shaky; what does Jesus do? **Lk. 24:27** think, books of **Moses—when did he live?** When people of God had shaky faith, living b/n Egypt and Promised Land; **where is your faith shaken?** we need the simple words of the gospel—**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—to bring us to God**, but this has roots running far deeper than morals of stories in OT, even more than just prophecies in OT—Bible is HIS STORY; Augustine 4<sup>th</sup> century quoted as saying “**The New Testament is in the Old Concealed; the Old Testament is in the New revealed.**” inside the narrative/laws of OT, see roots that strengthen veracity of words of gospel “**Jesus did not arrive unannounced; his coming was declared in advance in the Old Testament—not just in explicit prophecies of the Messiah, but also by means of the stories of all the events, characters, and circumstances in the Old Testament.**” God was telling a larger, overarching, unified story. From the account of creation in Genesis to the final stories of the return from exile, God progressively unfolded his plan of salvation. And the Old Testament account of that plan always pointed in some way to Christ.” Duguid, p. x hope to cover Abraham/ Isaac, Gen. 12-26; as father able to preach, take some time, if/when he can't as much or at all, will go faster; but in researching, found roots of Abraham's legacy in Gen. 11; want to lay foundation for Abraham by asking, **Where do you get your name?** see great divide in the source of legacy

## **I. A Legacy From Earth to Heaven vv. 1-9**

**v. 1** talking about unity (one set of words, one lip) felt it? Braves tomahawk, Penn State whiteout, whole arena singing Sweet Caroline; **TOOK** this unity and moved east to **plain** of Shinar **v. 2**; not exactly sure where ark—mountains of Ararat—but left and probably headed back toward home, pulled up stakes, traveled in tents east from there along Euphrates; **find** wonderful place and have idea for permanence. **v. 3** no stone here like Israel, but very creative—used kiln-fired brick/held together by bitumen/mineral pitch—hard cement; so successful that they have farther idea **v. 4** come now! Willful resolve, exclamation—YES, let's do it! City, not so much to live in as wall which held religious buildings and storage facilities so could have **large scale irrigation and hold excess grain**, Matthews **tower—ziggurat massive, solid-brick, staircase structure; center of city, sometimes the entire temple complex**, Waltke p.179 **stairways from the heavens—gate of the gods [Akkadian bAbilu, Waltke p. 181]—so could come down into their temple and bring blessings to their town**, Matthews **Work**, striving, plan, dream, talking, planning—then carrying it out—unity of purpose to bring people together; **what drove them?** **let us make for ourselves a name** (reputation, legacy) **WHY?** **so not scattered over face of world** fear; work together, sounds good, but **v. 5** now God's turn to come & see—**showing He saw**, has a say; **vv. 6-7** uses their words—now God will come and **DO—STOP** them! **WHY?** what is wrong? We have hints w language used in account--**East in Genesis speaks of events of separation Matthews Gen. 3:24, 4:16, 13:10-12, 25:6, 29:1**; told to fill the earth, scatter, spread Gen. 9:1, 7, **what drove them?** Pride, fear; sought significance and protection which is fine--where was God? He isn't—why? so focused on what they need; Richardson, “The hatred of anonymity drives men to heroic feats of valour or long hours of drudgery; or it urges them to spectacular acts of shame or of unscrupulous self-preferment. In its worst forms it tempts men to give the honour and glory to themselves which properly belong to the name of God.” Ross, p. 245 think about what drives us—Paul Tripp *A Quest for More* we are consumed with earth-bound treasures and anxiety bound needs pp. 52-53 **what is it for you?** control of life, health, relationships, circumstances, people's opinion of you, your safety, family's safety? These all have place, we have responsibility, but Matt. 6 says, “for the pagans run after all these things.” Seek first the kingdom of God. **THEY are determined to find security and legacy on own—driven by pride that shows positively and negatively (wanting to make name for self, ALSO fear of being scattered/run over—desire to protect themselves** (think—job as identity, think failure as father/mother, think defensiveness when others question what we say/do, or lack of willingness to let those God has placed in our lives to walk w us be part of what going on in soul—none of their business—**GOD CAME DOWN**; saw pride/fear and sin of Adam/Eve—seeking good apart from Him; “**The focus of the author since the beginning chapters of Genesis has been both on God's plan to bless humankind by providing them with that which is 'good' and on the human failure to trust God and enjoy the 'good' that God had provided. The characteristic mark of human failure up to this point in the book has been the attempt to grasp the 'good' on their own rather than to trust God to provide it for them.**” John Sailhamer P. 135 **earth-bound treasures/anxiety bound needs**; Tripp, “**If true humanity is bound up in community with God and godly community with others, I will never experience it when all my eyes ever see is my own need.**” P. 53 “The more I live with the meeting of my needs as my central focus of concern, the more things in my life get

defined as needs.” P. 54 “So, if my heart is ruled by the earth-bound treasures and anxiety-bound needs of the little kingdom, my search for personal treasure and my quest to meet my needs will shape the way I respond to everything in my life.” p. 55 **we miss hand of God, opportunities to grow in faith b/c focused on name/identity issues, protecting self from fears;** **W**hen you live to please yourself, circumstances that God designs to teach you to trust and obey Him instead become temptations for you to fear and worry. Self-Confrontation

Manual, Lesson 19, Page 4, Used by Permission of the Biblical Counseling Foundation. John Broger talking about genuine fear handled by moving away from risks that come along path of building what God wants to build; **W**orriers act as if they might be able to control the uncontrollable. Central to worry is the illusion that we can control things... The illusion of control lurks inside your anxiety. Anxiety and control are two sides of one coin. When we can't control something, we worry about it. Worry – Pursuing a Better Path to Peace, P&R Publishing, 2004, p. 12. (Most quotes from GraceQuotes.org, David Powlison **I** is only when we want to take our lives out of the Father's hands and have them under our own control that we find ourselves gripped with anxiety. The secret of freedom from anxiety is freedom from ourselves and abandonment of our own plans. But that spirit emerges in our lives only when our minds are filled with the knowledge that our Father can be trusted implicitly to supply everything we need. The Sermon on the Mount, 1987, p. 144.

By permission Banner of Truth, Carlisle, PA. Sinclair Ferguson; taking matters into own hands, dangerous to human race as they will follow own designs rather than God's **Kidner**, notes this shows that unity and peace are not ultimate goods; better division than collective apostasy **Lk. 12:51**; so God mimic's their language and COMES DOWN; reverses their work, scatters, how? Confuses language; **vv. 8-9 Akkadian BABiLU, becomes babel, Hebrew phonological equivalent meaning confusion** Waltke p. 181 “**I** language is the audible expression of emotions, conceptions, and thoughts of the mind, the cause of the confusion or division of the one human language into different national dialects must be sought in an effect produced upon the human mind, by which the original unity of emotion, conception, thought and will was broken up. This inward unity had no doubt been already disturbed by sin, but the disturbance had not yet amounted to a perfect breach.” Keil/Delitzsch, p. 111 His work prevented them, also judged them; similar to **Gen. 3:22-24**); they who would make a name for themselves are left w name of shame; **who are these people?** They are those mentioned in **Gen. 10:8-10**, Nimrod's rule tyrannical; God acts, their work is undone--This is the LAST unified language, ALL mankind together—NO HOPE “In each previous judgement there was a gracious provision for hope, but in this judgment there is none. It does not offer a token of grace, a promise of any blessing, a hope of salvation, or a way of escape. There is no clothing for the naked sinner, no protective mark for the fugitive, no rainbow in the dark sky.” Allen Ross p. 242 **just scattering, confusion—the beginning of nations separated by language, culture—pride and fear; left wondering what will become of mankind**

## **II. A Legacy From Heaven to Earth v. 10-32**

**vv.10-18** wait, we heard about Shem—**10:22-32**; what happened to Joktan? Dead end, ends with Babel account; **but** NOW following Peleg and goes on **vv. 18-26**; List of names which ends in Terah's 3 sons; **v. 27** heading—“what became of Terah” **vv. 28-32** show the main players in the act to come; **v. 28** shows why Lot tied to Abram; pain of father watching son die; **Ur**—two options; **v. 29** endogamy (uhn DA guh mee) marriage w/I family group—Sarai, same father Terah, different mother Gen. 20:12, Milcah Haran's daughter married uncle Nahor—gave 8 sons 22:20-24, one of them, Bethuel was father to Rebekah (Rebekah was Milcah's granddaughter); Isaac's wife; Rebekah's brother Laban would father Rachel & Leah who would marry Jacob (their cousin); **vv. 30-31** set out from Ur toward Canaan—b/c of call of God to Abram or not? don't know, but came to Haran-- The city of Haran was located 550 miles northwest of the southern Ur, on the left bank of the Balikh River (a tributary of the upper Euphrates). Today it is in modern Turkey about ten miles from the Syrian-Turkish border. DO know **Josh. 24:2** Ur and Haran honored moon god Nannar—probably one of many gods worshipped by Abram's ancestors **Matthews** more problems, more hopelessness **barren Brueggemann** declares this to be “effective metaphor for hopelessness . . . no human power to invent a future.” In Waltke, p. 200 Lot as only male heir from Terah; he would turn to Sodom and incestuous relations w daughters (Ammonites & Moabites); but this time, not without hope—Abraham not beginning, part of larger story—while Joktan's line ends as unfaithful to God; Cain's line w 10 names Gen. 4:17-22 and city named after son (Enoch) destroyed in flood; **see** another line in Gen. 5, list of 10 combined w 10 names here in ch. 11, each ending w 3 sons, connects line from Adam to Noah, from Noah to Abraham; **Adam's line almost destroyed, but something at stake here**—promise of God to provide deliverance from seed of woman; Eve believed **Gen. 4:25-26**; **there is another line**; God preserving seed through flood, destruction of cities, through selection of one brother over another; **going from all people as one to scattered and nations, but zeroing in on one family and one man, Abraham, in vv. 27-32**; God preparing Abraham to listen and obey as gave more promises Gen. 12:1-2; **Sarai barren, so could see that God alone could bring multitude to life** **Gen. 17:17,18:11-12, 21:1, 7**, trust—just beginning of life of faith in Abraham; **most of divine revelation came by way of promises**; Abram had to maintain life of trust through all the circumstances of life. **A** faith, which laid

hold of the word of promise, and on the strength of that word gave up the visible and the present for the invisible and future, was the fundamental characteristic of the patriarchs.’ “This faith Abram manifested and sustained by great sacrifices, by enduring patience, and by self-denying obedience of such a kind, that he thereby became the father of believers.” Keil/Delitzsch, p. 117 and all those who believe in an eternally saving way are called Abraham’s children [Gal. 3:6-7](#)

**Conclusion:** Where do you get your name? from below or from above? If from above, you must yield control of your dreams and fears in pursuit of God’s kingdom and the Eph. 2:10 works He has prepared for us—THESE are more important than even what you think are your necessities (Matt. 6); it is not safe to follow Christ and you will not have clean lines and safe relationships and avoidance of tragedy; **we** have too often drunk false gospel that if we worship God, seek to obey Him, then it will make sense, we won’t fail, and we will not feel like falling away—Iain Duguid—*Living in the Gap Between Promise and Reality* [get/read this book](#)—we can benefit together; Iain speaks of his struggles, closed church plant, broken relationships—sins that have effected marriage, children, church, etc. and asks, “**How do you stay strong in the reality gap? The answer is simple—at least in theory. You cling to the promises of God and the God of the promises. You don’t have to understand what God is up to; you just have to cling. That is the lesson that Abraham had to learn. Like so many of us, he had to learn the lesson not once, not twice, but repeatedly.**” P. 9 Where will you get your name? will YOUR line end as dead end, or are you willing to play your role in His program? Your role, not their role, not your desired role—because it will cost [Heb. 11:17-19](#)—but not merely looking for example of Abraham, looking for object of his faith; the God of promise—and remember the where those promises all focused? remember what Jesus showed the men from Emmaus beginning at Moses? JESUS [Rom. 4:19-25](#); remember the one voice we started w? they all given confusion/division, but Pentecost showed more of where heading—one gospel spoken in many tongues, the work of the church to speak with One voice [Rom. 15:5-6](#), THIS is path of those who yield to God for a name and for protection; [Rev. 2:17](#)

**Genesis 3:22–24** Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Genesis 4:25–26** Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, she said, “God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him.” 26 To Seth, to him also a son was born; and he called his name Enosh. Then men began to call upon the name of the LORD.

**Genesis 15:6** Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**Joshua 24:2** Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘From ancient times your fathers lived beyond the River, namely, Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, and they served other gods.

**Luke 12:51** “Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division;

**Luke 24:21, 25-27** “But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened. 25 And He said to them, “O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 “Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

**Romans 4:2–3** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

**Romans 4:9, 22** Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**Romans 4:19–25** Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

**Romans 15:5–6** Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 3:6–7** Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.

**Colossians 2:5–8** For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ. 6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, 7 having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

**Hebrews 11:17–19** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; 18 it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED.” 19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

**James 2:23** and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.

**Revelation 2:17** ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’