

THE GOLDEN THREAD OF PROPHECY

Lesson 01C: "THE GOLDEN THREAD"

3. The Law, the Covenant and Time prophecy

The First Babylon

Genesis 11:4 "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

Shortly after the flood, people banded together to try to create a 'city' [represents in prophecy a civil power] and a 'tower' [represents in prophecy a religious power] Their plan was to become established in such a way that they could control everyone and force them to follow the false religion they were resurrecting from before the flood.

God put an end to their schemes by confounding their language, and scattered them upon the earth. Scattering is one of the ways God deals with those in rebellion against Him.

Genesis 11:9 "Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

One ancient family settled not far from Babel and built Ur of the Chaldees.

God's Covenant with Abram:

God called Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees, and offered him a Covenant Promise if he would obey God's command.

Genesis 12:1-3 "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 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: 3 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."

How did Abram show he accepted the covenant?

Genesis 12:4 "So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him;"

He made the choice to OBEY God and acted on that choice. Years went by and no heir was born to Abram and he began to wonder. Then, one night, God renewed the Covenant Promise:

Genesis 15:5, 6 "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

It is righteous to believe God's Word! Then God gave Abram a time prophecy:

Genesis 15:13, 14. "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."

Abram was a prophet at the beginning of a Time Prophecy. His name had meaning in regard to his message. Abram= 'the Father is exulted'. Everywhere Abram went, he would build an altar to the God of heaven and offer sacrifices and worship the True God.

Genesis 15:18 "In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land,"

Later his name was changed to Abraham, 'Father of a multitude'.

The Covenant Promise passed to Isaac:

Genesis 21:12 "And God said unto Abraham, . . . in Isaac shall thy seed be called."

Jacob's Covenant

Esau was first-born and the rightful heir of the covenant, but he despised his blessing and Jacob coveted it. One day Jacob asked Esau for the Birthright in exchange for a dish of food Esau wanted.

Genesis 25:32, 33. "And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob."

But the time came when Isaac was about to give the Blessing to Esau and, at his mother's instigation, Jacob deceived his father and robbed his brother.

Because of his deceit, Jacob had to flee, he was repentant for what he had done and very disheartened. Then God appeared to him in a dream of a ladder:

Genesis 28:13, 14. "And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed."

Joseph's Time Prophecies

In the experience of Joseph, we again see prophecy and time prophecies.

Dreams:

Genesis 37:6, 7 "And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf."

Genesis 37:9 "And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me."

Did those dreams come true? Yes indeed, later they did. We all know the story of how Joseph, sold as a slave, ended up in prison in Egypt.

There we see more dreams and prophecies. In the prison, Pharaoh's Butler and Baker had each a small time prophecy:

Genesis 40:9-13 "And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, . . .12 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: 13 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh . . . restore thee unto thy place: . . . after the former manner when thou wast his butler."

Genesis 40:16-19. “When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: 17 And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head. 18 And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days: 19 Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.”

Both dreams came true on schedule!

Then we see Pharaoh having Time-Prophecy Dreams:

He saw seven fat healthy cattle come out of the river followed by seven lean, starving cattle (kine), who ate up the fat ones.

Then He saw seven fat healthy ears of corn followed by seven lean, blasted ears of corn, who ate up the seven good ones.

“I told this unto the magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.” Genesis 41:17-24. Magicians and soothsayers cannot interpret prophetic dreams, but Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams:

Genesis 41:26, 27 “The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.”

These time-prophecies were fulfilled to the letter. In this fulfillment Joseph’s earlier dreams were also fulfilled.

Genesis 42:6 “And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph’s brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.”

Moses and the end of Abraham’s Time Prophecy

“And he (God) said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.” Genesis 15:13, 14.

Exodus 1:8, 11, 13. . . “Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph”. . . “Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. . . And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:”

A special prophet always announces beginning and ending of a time prophecy. Abraham announced the beginning, and now Moses is raised up to fulfill the time prophecy and gather the people.

Exodus 3:6, 7 “Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. 7 And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;”

Exodus 3:15 “And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.”

Exodus 3:17 “And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, . . . unto a land flowing with milk and honey.”

The Exodus came at the end of the Time Prophecy:

Exodus 12:41 “And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, even the selfsame day it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt.”

Exodus 12:51 “And it came to pass the selfsame day, that the Lord did bring the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt by their armies.”

Restoring the Covenant Promise to the Children of Israel:

After the Children of Israel came out of Egypt and into the wilderness of Sinai, God gave the Covenant Promises to them.

Exodus 19:5-8 “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. 7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord.”

Again we see the Covenant Promises given on condition of obedience to God.

God’s Law

Notice that there is no place found in Holy Scripture, Old or New Testament, where God makes a Covenant Promise to people that does not include obeying His Laws and Statutes.

Now in a scene of great solemnity and awesome grandeur, God actually spoke His law in their hearing. This was not a new law made up for the occasion; God gave them His Law, the very foundation of His universal government.

Then Moses went up into the dark clouds at the top of Sinai to receive Two Tables of Stone with that holy Law written on them by the very finger of God.

Breaking the Promise

Exodus 32:7, 8 “And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.”

How quickly people can forget. In such a short time we see the people eager to break the Covenant and make an idol in the shape of an animal and worship it.

The 40 days/years prophecy

The time came when they were at the very border of Canaan. God had promised them the land and now told them to send men to spy it out. The reports came back that it was a goodly land, but ten of the twelve began to paint a dark picture of giants and walled cities.

Only two had faith and urged the people forward in the name of the Lord and the people wanted to stone them! The majority are seldom right.

Rebellion at the border brought a sentence from God that for each day that the spies had searched the

land, they would spend a year wandering in the wilderness.

Numbers 14:34 “After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, **each day for a year**, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.”

This is one of the places we see the rule demonstrated that a prophetic day equals a literal year. We call this the ‘Day-Year’ principle.

Moses and the Blessings and Cursings

God gave to the people a wonderful list of promised blessings that would be theirs on condition of their obedience to His Commandments and statutes. You can read them in Leviticus 26:1-13.

Following these blessings is a list of terrible curses that would come upon them if they refused to be obedient and walked in their own ways and the ways of the heathen. Leviticus 26:14-39.

The Seven Times Curse

In the list of curses there is a time prophecy found and repeated four times:

1. Leviticus 26:18 “And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.”
2. Leviticus 26:21 “And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.”
3. Leviticus 26:24 “Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.”
4. Leviticus 26:28 “Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.”

This was punishment that would come upon them if they refused to obey and stubbornly refused to repent.

But hope is also presented in verses 40-45 that if the people upon whom these curses of the ‘Seven Times’ would come, would repent and return fully to the Lord and obedience to His Commandments, and admit that what had come upon them was just and right and a result of their sins, He would remember His covenant with their fathers and not destroy them utterly.

Moses read these Blessings and Curses to the people and wrote them in a book and a song for them to remember. He read them again just before he died.

Entering Canaan and reading the Blessing and Curses.

Moses told the people that when they entered the Promised Land, they were to hold a special convocation and the Blessings and the Curses were to be read to the people and also written on a pillar as a monument. They were to teach them to their children and never to lose sight of them.

Covenant, Law, Promises and Prophecy always go together:

God’s Laws and His Promises go hand in hand always. Those who rebel against His Commandments cannot hope for His blessings. And yet for those who repent and return to Him, looking to the Saviour for cleansing and victory over sin, forgiveness is offered and grace and mercy in abundance. Golden Threads of Prophecy woven throughout Scripture trace the working out of the Plan of Salvation.