



NOVEMBER 21, 2024  
THE COMING HOPE (CH. 11:10-12:3)

CREATION, DESECRATION, RESTORATION

- I. The Call of Abraham: God's Redemptive Plan (Genesis 12:1-3).
  - a. Historical Context.
    - i. 2091 B.C.: The year scholars attribute to the call of Abraham.
    - ii. God's promise to Abraham:
    - iii. "I will make of you a great nation."
    - iv. "I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."
    - v. Abraham was chosen to be the foundation of God's redemptive mission.
  - b. The Challenge of Barrenness.
    - i. Genesis 11:30: "Sarai was barren; she had no child."
    - ii. Sarai's barrenness is not incidental but central to understanding God's ways.
      1. Human logic: Choose a young, fertile couple.
      2. Divine purpose: To display His power and glory.
- II. God's Mission: From the Natural to the Supernatural.
  - a. God's Command to "Be Fruitful and Multiply."
    - i. Genesis 1:28: The mandate given to Adam and Eve.
    - ii. Genesis 9:1: The same mandate reaffirmed to Noah after the flood.
    - iii. Pattern: "Knowing and begetting" leads to generations and multiplication.
  - b. The End of Human Effort.
    - i. Abraham's story marks a shift: The natural cycle of knowing and begetting comes to a halt.

- ii. God's plan now requires divine intervention.
  - c. God's Power in Barrenness.
    - i. Only God can bring life out of what is dead.
    - ii. Barrenness becomes the platform for God's glory and unmistakable work.
    - iii. "What was natural must now become supernatural."
    - iv. God's choice of Sarah ensures that credit belongs solely to Him.
  
- III. Examples of God's Power in Barrenness Throughout Scripture.
  - a. Old Testament Examples.
    - i. Sarah (Genesis 21): Isaac, the child of promise.
    - ii. Rebekah (Genesis 25:21): God grants her children after Isaac's prayer.
    - iii. Rachel (Genesis 30:22-24): God opens her womb to bear Joseph.
    - iv. Hannah (1 Samuel 1:19-20): God grants her Samuel, the prophet.
  - b. New Testament Examples.
    - i. Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25): Mother of John the Baptist.
    - ii. Mary (Luke 1:26-38): Though not barren, her virgin birth highlights God's power.
  - c. God's Glory in the Impossible.
    - i. Luke 1:37: "For nothing will be impossible with God."
    - ii. Barrenness in Scripture symbolizes human inability and God's sufficiency.
    - iii. God's mission thrives where human effort fails.
  
- IV. Abraham's Response: Faith in God's Promise.
  - a. God's Promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:5).
    - i. Abraham's complaint: "I remain childless."
    - ii. God's response: "Look toward heaven, and number the stars... So shall your offspring be."
  - b. Abraham's Faith (Genesis 15:6).
    - i. "And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness."
    - ii. Faith is trusting God to do what is humanly impossible.
    - iii. Faith is the meeting point of *barrenness* and God's *faithfulness*.
    - iv. Abraham trusted in God's power, not his own resources or circumstances.
  
- V. God's Fulfillment: Turning Barrenness into Blessing.
  - a. The Child of Promise.
    - i. In 2066 B.C., Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah.
    - ii. God fulfilled His promise despite their advanced age and Sarah's barrenness.
  - b. God's Faithfulness and Glory.
    - i. The fulfillment highlights God's ability to bring life out of death.
    - ii. God's mission proceeds on His terms, not ours.
  
- VI. The Gospel before the Gospel.

- a. Abraham and Sarah’s story foreshadows God’s redemptive work in Christ.
- b. Jesus, the ultimate descendant of Abraham, is the blessing for all nations.

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of **ABRAHAM**.*

*<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup> and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup> and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup> and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of **DAVID** the king.*

*And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup> and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup> and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup> and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup> and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup> and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.*

*<sup>12</sup> And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup> and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor; <sup>14</sup> and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup> and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup> and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom **JESUS** was born, who is called Christ.*

*<sup>17</sup> So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. (Mt 1:1–17).*

## VII. Application: Trusting God in Impossible Circumstances.

- a. God’s Mission in Our Lives.
  - i. God’s plans often require stepping out in faith, beyond human logic.
  - ii. Reflect on areas where you feel barren—physically, emotionally, or spiritually.

## VIII. The Challenge of Faith.

- a. Like Abraham, we are called to believe in God’s promises even when they seem delayed.
- b. Let go of the “ideal circumstances” checklist. Trust God’s sufficiency.
- c. Encouragement to Trust God-- “Nothing is impossible with God.”
- d. God specializes in creating life out of deadness and fulfilling His promises in unexpected ways.

## IX. Conclusion

- a. Key Verse: Genesis 12:2-3: “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”
- b. Barrenness is not the end but the beginning of God’s work. Trust in His promises and His power to do what only He can.