

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction,
so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

Genesis 3

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

The vehicle that God uses to redeem men from the curse is through the birth process

Genesis 15

1 After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward.”

2 But Abram replied, “O Lord GOD, what can You give me, since I remain childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

3 Abram continued, “Behold, You have given me no offspring, so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Genesis 15

4 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “This one will not be your heir, but one who comes from your own body will be your heir.”

5 And the LORD took him outside and said, “Now look to the heavens and count the stars, if you are able.”

Then He declared, “So shall your offspring be.”

6 Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Genesis 16

1 Now Abram's wife Sarai had not borne a child to him, but she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar.

2 So Sarai said to Abram, "Look now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go to my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family by her."

Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 16

3 So after he had lived in Canaan for ten years, his wife Sarai took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to Abram to be his wife.

4 And he slept with Hagar, and she conceived. But when Hagar realized that she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

Genesis 16

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done to me be upon you!

I delivered my servant into your arms, and ever since she saw that she was pregnant, she has treated me with contempt.

May the LORD judge between you and me.”

6“Here,” said Abram, “your servant is in your hands. Do whatever you want with her.” Then Sarai treated Hagar so harshly that she fled from her.

Genesis 16

15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.

16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty. Walk before Me and be blameless.
2 I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will multiply you exceedingly.”
3 Then Abram fell facedown, and God said to him,
4 “As for Me, this is My covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations.
5 No longer will you be called Abram, but your name will be Abraham, for I have made you the father of many nations.

Genesis 17

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will descend from you.

7 I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

8 And to you and your descendants I will give the land of your sojourn—all the land of Canaan—as an eternal possession; and I will be their God.”

Genesis 17

15 Then God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, do not call her Sarai, for her name is to be Sarah.

16 And I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her.

I will bless her, and she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will descend from her.”

Genesis 17

17 Abraham fell facedown. Then he laughed and said to himself, “Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old?

Can Sarah give birth at the age of ninety?”

18 And Abraham said to God, “O that Ishmael might live under Your blessing!”

19 But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you are to name him Isaac.

I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Genesis 17

20 As for Ishmael, I have heard you, and I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly.

He will become the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation.

21 But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year.”

22 When He had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.

Genesis 21

1 Now the LORD attended to Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what He had promised.

2 So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

3 And Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore to him.

4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God had commanded him.

5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

7 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

1. The “Historical Account” Lens

...Of God using one man to ultimately bring into the world the One who will bring us redemption from the curse.

HERE 1475 FT
ABOVE
THE OCEAN
THE MIGHTY
MISSISSIPPI
BEGINS
TO FLOW
ON IT'S
WINDING WAY
2552 MILES
TO THE
GULF OF
MEXICO



7 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

1. The “Historical Account” Lens

- ...Of God using one man to ultimately bring into the world the One who will bring us redemption from the curse.
- ...Of a supernatural birth which points to a future supernatural birth of the One who will bring us redemption from the curse.
- ...Of the beginning of the Nation of Israel through whom came the One who will bring us redemption from the curse.
- ...Of flawed and imperfect people through whom came the One who will bring us redemption from the curse.

7 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

2. The “Seed War” Lens

Matthew 7:13 Enter through the narrow gate.

For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it.



7 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

3. “God’s Sovereign Mercy” Lens

God uses even our sinful decisions for His divine purpose

Romans 9

16 So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

18 Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden.

7 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

3. The “Sovereign Mercy of God” Lens

God uses even our sinful decisions for His divine purpose

1. His sovereign mercy is a redeeming mercy for those who are saved by His mercy
2. His sovereign mercy brings Him glory

Romans 11

32 For God has consigned all men to disobedience so that He may have mercy on them all.

Romans 8

28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.

7 Lenses Through Which to See the Birth of Isaac and Ishmael

4. The “Sovereign Grace of God” Lens

God promises us what only He Himself can provide...

...so that we will trust only in Him ...

...so that He alone will receive the glory.

1. Our salvation is God’s doing – it is by His grace
2. Our Loved ones are entrusted to His grace
3. Our own obedience is by His grace

1 Corinthians 1

26 Brothers, consider the time of your calling:

Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were powerful; not many were of noble birth.

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

28 He chose the lowly and despised things of the world, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast in His presence.

1 Corinthians 1

30 It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God: our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.”

THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction,
so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.