

Adult Bible Study 2024
Week Eleven Notes
9/29/Sunday
Genesis 15, 17

Main Ideas

- Covenant: a kinship bond established by an oath
- Trust is the foundation of business, belief, life, and faith in a culture!
 - A marriage makes a family
 - A group of families make a clan
 - A group of clans make a tribe
 - Tribes unite either through a covenant OR they are enemies warring with each other
- Suzerian Vassal Treaty
 - It is a treaty between someone more powerful to someone less powerful
 - God to man
 - In the pagan world, this doesn't exist
- 4 Parts of Abraham's Covenant
 - Genesis 12: Encounter & Promises
 - Genesis 15: Another encounter with further promises - Theophany
 - Genesis 17: Sign of the Covenant - Circumcision
 - Genesis 22: God ratifies this covenant
- Genesis 15
 - God is the great reward or simply that God will protect his people
 - God is the shield of Faith
 - Original Attitude - God comes for me, for us
 - Abram's belief in God's promise is a REVERSAL OF THE FALL
 - A reversal of the effects of the Fall when Eve doubted God
- Always see the encounter as a place to launch into action
 - Faith is an attitude! Works go hand in hand with an attitude
 - Attitude & Action | Belief & Action
 - The imperative is GO given by God
- Encounter & Promise | Ritual of the Covenant
 - These two things go together!
 - THIS IS SO CATHOLIC
 - Abram wants to know in space and time how he can experience the covenant
 - Spiritual and physical being brought together
- Abram's deep sleep - Tardama - just like Adam
 - Transcendence comes into man's conscience
 - Abram is incapacitated

- This theophany is TERRIFYING!
- It's a prophecy - entering into God's counsel
- Fire burning is a sign of a theophany
- God is saying **I will take care of it. I will make sure this happens. If it doesn't, then what happens to these animals, in this theophany, may it happen to me**
 - God doesn't speak this with words but rather with ritual
 - Liturgy!
- Promissory oath/covenant vs. Obligatory oath/covenant
 - God is always engaging in free will
 - A relationship takes two - we are a free agent with integrity
- Consider the signs of the early covenants
 - Adam - trees and garden
 - Noah - Rainbow and ark
 - Abram - Circumcision
 - Abram means "exalted father"
 - Abraham means "father of many nations"
- Genesis 17
 - God works in the impossibility
 - He wants us to understand that He can work and operate in modes and manners in which all seems hopeless
 - This covenant is based in the flesh (in a sense, it's incarnational)
 - The member of man is rooted in the seed motif
 - The foreskin is a symbol of alienation from God, of attachment to the pagan/idolatrous world
 - No longer does man live for this world
 - He is bound to God and to his wife!
 - Circumcision is a sign of man's covenant AND it brings his wife and daughters (the women) into the covenant.
 - The circumcision of the flesh is also a circumcision of the heart - of a stripping of morals and spirituality to be given back to God
 - It is an eschatological sign - a pointed to the fulfillment of time into eternity
 - Baptism is now our sacrament - a circumcision of heart that brings us into covenant

Motifs

- Sacrifice
- Birds of Prey
 - Demons swarming over the sacrifice trying to PREVENT the sacrifice
- Doves
 - Angels