

The Eternal Plan

Lesson #3

December 19, 2018

We have been looking at God's Eternal Plan. We learned from 1Pt.1:20 that God had a plan before the foundation of the world to save man.

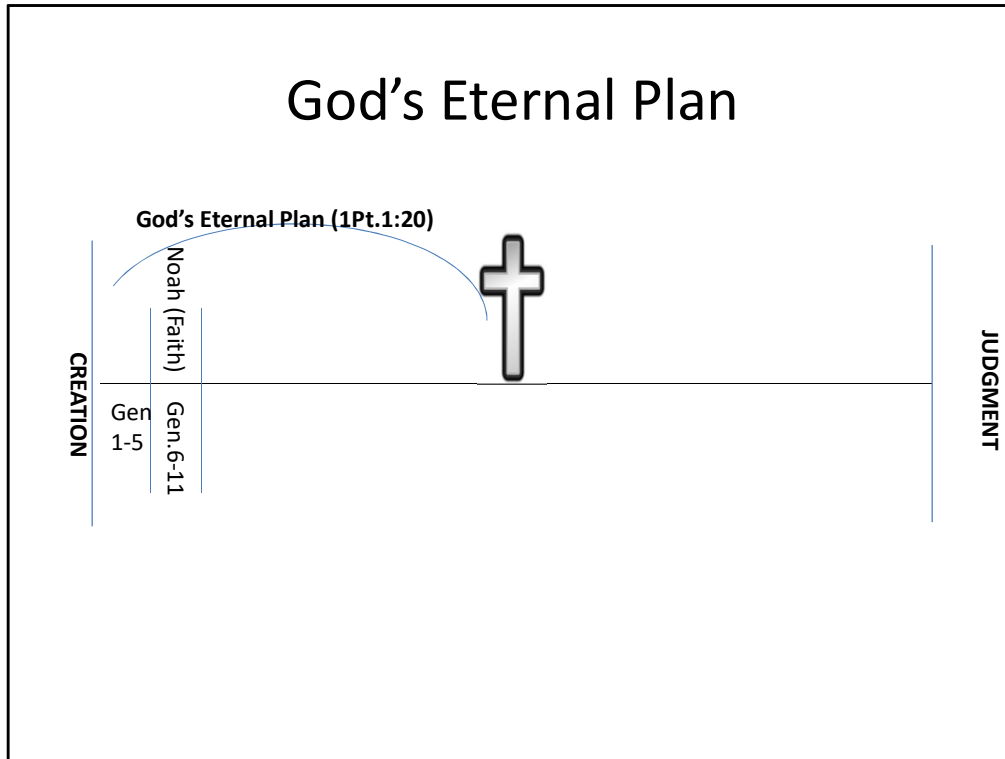
1 Peter 1:20

He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...

(read it). Of course this is referencing the Jesus Christ.

So before the world was ever created, God had a plan to rescue man, whom He knew was going to sin and lose his way.

It can be illustrated by this chart (ns).



Let's suppose you are showing this chart to someone else. But before we do, why would anyone be interested in seeing it? Why would anyone be concerned with God's eternal plan? It is because man is lost (Isa 59:1-2; Rom.3:23).

So when we look at this chart as it pertains to God having a plan to save us, look at what we have observed thus far.

What do we see from Gen.1-5? God created the universe. On the sixth day, God created his mater piece, man. He made man in his image. Man sinned. God pronounced His judgment on man, woman, and reptile. Did God provide us with any clue that He was going to rescue man? Yes, Gen.3:15. (Explain the rest of chapter 4 and 5).

This period is known as the Antediluvian Period (Before the Flood).

The next Period we looked at was the Postdiluvian Period (After the Flood).

What great Bible character were we introduced to? Noah. What did we learn about Noah? He was a man of great faith! How do we know that? Faith works. It takes God at his word and acts.

Tonight we are going learn about the Patriarchal Period.

The Patriarchal Period

- From the call of Abraham tot Egyptian Bondage
- Covers Gen.12-45
- Main Points
 - The call of Abraham (Gn.12:1-4)
 - The journeys of Abraham (Gn.11:27-12:20)
 - Abraham and Lot (Gn.13:1-14:24)
 - Abraham and Isaac (Gn.17:14-24:10)
 - Jacob and Esau (Gn.25:19-32-28)
 - The Twelve Patriarchs (Gn.37:1-45:28)

The word “Patriarch” stresses the fact that the father is the ruler over. He is the ruler over his clan or tribe and he served as a priest as well. (Read slide).

We need to cover all of this information tonight.

Let’s not lose sight of what we are looking for. We are looking for clues from God that reveal His Plan to Redeem Man. It can be a passage or a figure like we witnessed with Noah and the ark as it pertains to Christ and the church.

Our story for the Patriarchal Period begins in Genesis 12 and focuses on one key patriarch, Abraham. (Let’s read Gen.12:1-4)

Who was Abraham?

- The son of Terah
- The brother of Nahor and Haran
- The husband of Sarah
- The uncle of Lot
- The entire family travel from Ur to Canaan; stopping in Haran
- All of this is provided in Gen.11:27-32

Map of Abraham's Journey



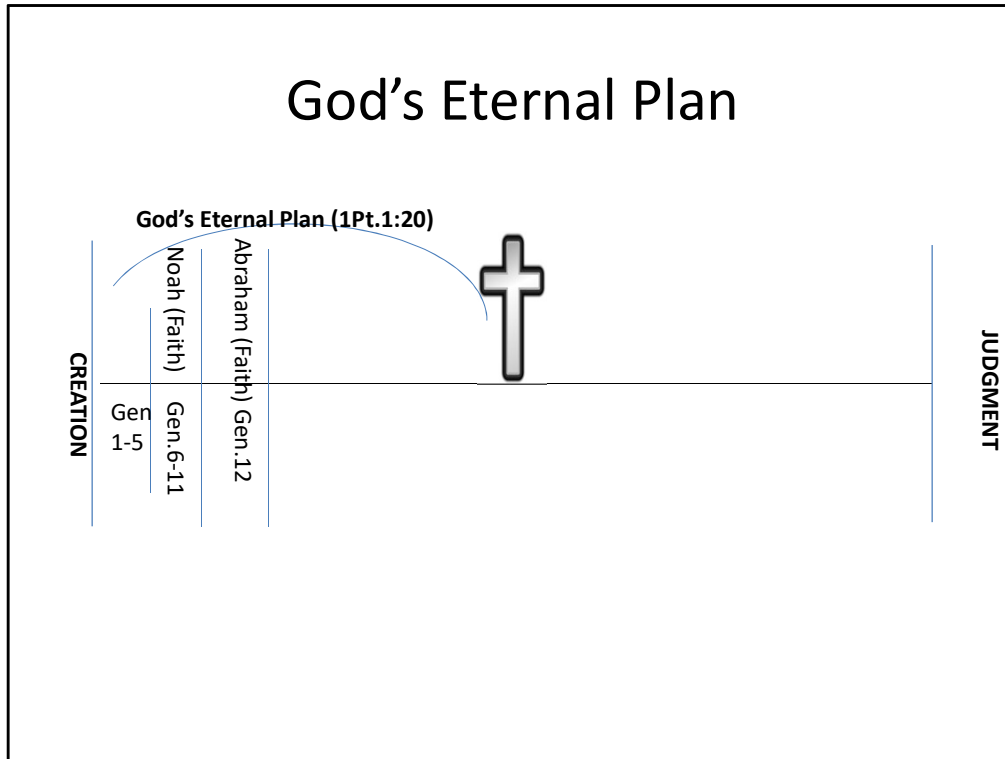
As you can tell, Abraham and his family dwelt in Ur. According to Luke in Acts 7:2-4, Abraham was informed by God about the promise we see in Gen.12:1-4. The family made their way from Ur to Haran, and that is where Abraham, Sarah, and Lot would part ways with the rest of the family.

Let's look at what God promised and planned for Abraham (Gen.4:1-4 read it).

Folks, this was a big deal. In order for Abraham to leave his father in such a fashion, it meant he was forfeiting a great deal. He left his country i.e. citizenship and all the rights due him. He left his family i.e. status among the clan. He left his father's house i.e. he forfeited his inheritance.

Why did Abraham do this? Someone read Hebrews 11:8-10. Why did he do it? He had faith in God's Word!

Let's go back now and write something new in on our chart (ns).



Faith in God prompted Abraham to obey him. Even when it cost it so much. Even when it defied logic.

Let's not lose sight of Gen.12:1-4. We'll come back to it.

So let's try to track this story in the Patriarchal Period.

(Share notes pages)

Potiphar

Historical Information

Potiphar was involved in the larger story of Joseph, who was sold as a slave by his own brothers around 1900 B.C.—that story can be found in Genesis 37:12-36. When Joseph arrived in Egypt as part of a trade caravan, he was purchased by Potiphar for use as a household slave.

The Bible doesn't contain a lot of detailed information about Potiphar. In fact, most of what we do know comes from a single verse:

Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

Genesis 37:36

Obviously, Potiphar's status as "one of Pharaoh's officials" meant he was a person of importance. The phrase "captain of the guard" could indicate several different jobs,

including an actual captain of Pharaoh's bodyguards or peace-keeping force. Many scholars believe Potiphar would have been in charge of the prison reserved for those who displeased or disobeyed Pharaoh (see verse 20) -- he may have even served as the executioner.

(Read Gn.30:1-9 then explain the rest of the story).

(Explain events in Gn.42-45 but read 45:1-8). They would send for Jacob and the rest of the family and be reunited with Joseph.

What passage or event jumps out at you that God had a plan to redeem man?

God's Plan to Redeem Man

- Gen.12:1-4
- Gal.3:5-9
- Gal.3:15-16