

THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS

"Israel is called God's son in Ex. 4:22 using the same term Hosea refers to Israel in his writings. Since Jesus is the Son of God, the history of Israel is 'a typical anticipation of the life of the Messiah.'" —Stanley Toussaint, Behold the King

"Abraham & Jesus: God's People Delivered from their Past"

An Introduction to Biblical Theology:

"The task of biblical theology is to present the teaching of the Bible about God and his relations to the world in a way that lets the biblical texts set the agenda. This goal is achieved by allowing them to serve as the very stuff of inductive study and by reading the books more or less in their historical sequence. In other words, biblical theology subscribes to the primacy of the text..." —New Dictionary of Biblical Theology

- **Biblical theology is concerned with the individual books of that make up the Bible as well as its coherent, overall narrative.**
 - ⇒ BT is concerned with analysis and synthesis, biblical concepts and words, finding proper unity in the diversity of the Bible's storyline, and seeing that Christ is the foundation and pinnacle of all of Scripture.
- **In a simple way, biblical theology takes seriously the account of Jesus' conversation with some disciples on the road to Emmaus following His Resurrection:**

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." —Luke 24:27

Jesus in Egypt: Matthew 2:13-15

"Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON."

- This passage recounts the journey of Jesus' family to Egypt following the visit of the Magi.
 - ⇒ What caused them to go to Egypt? ➡
- The difficult part of this passage is Matthew's quotation from the prophet Hosea:

Hosea 11:1-2—"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

⇒ How are we to understand a quote that seems to be taken so far out of context?

Abraham & Egypt

1. Abram and Sarai's _____ in Egypt (Gen. 12:10-20)

⇒ What caused them to go to Egypt? ➡

2. Abram's sin _____ Hagar the Egyptian (Gen. 16:1-4)

⇒ Abram and Sarai's attempt to build their own family apart from the Lord intertwined their lives and the lives of their future descendants with people of Egypt.

3. Sarai's sin _____ Hagar the Egyptian (Gen. 16:6)

⇒ It was Israel's first parents who initiated the oppressive relationship between themselves and Egypt.

Corporate Solidarity:

- This refers to the concept in that Scripture an _____ can stand as the representative head of a _____.
- As the father of the nation of Israel, Abraham's sinful choices that involving the land of Egypt and an Egyptian woman bound his descendants into a contentious relationship with that land and people.

God's Covenant with Abraham:

"Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions."

⇒ Abraham's descendants will be sojourners →

⇒ Abraham's descendants will be servants →

Point of Emphasis: Israel as a whole will _____ as a community the experiences of their first parents.

Matthew 2:13-15 in Light of the History of Abraham & Israel

Corporate Solidarity

- Matthew's genealogy is structured around the fact that Jesus is descended from both Abraham and David (Matt. 1:1) as well as the fact that he has already quoted a verse from the OT in Matt. 2:6 that carries this concept:
Micah 5:2b—"...for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."
- Matthew quote in 2:15 is from the book of Hosea which carries within it this concept.

Under a Patriarch (Hos. 12:2-5)—"The Lord has an indictment against Judah and will punish Jacob according to his ways; he will repay him according to his deeds. In the womb he took his brother by the heel, and in his manhood he strove with God. He strove with the angel and prevailed; he wept and sought his favor. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us—the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord is his memorial name: "So you, by the help of your God, return, hold fast..."

Under Messiah (Hos.1:11)— And the children of Judah and...Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head.

The Connection to Abraham

- There is a likely connection here between Jesus and Abraham given the significance of Abraham in chapters one and three of Matthew's Gospel.
⇒ Matthew's genealogy is focused on tracing Jesus' ancestry back to Abraham (Matt. 1:1-2)
⇒ Matthew records that one of John's main critiques of the religious leaders of the day was their misunderstanding of the significance of Abraham and their relationship to him (Matt. 3:8-9)

Interpretation

- In light of corporate solidarity, just as Abraham was the head his people, so _____ is the Head of His people.
- Though Abraham went to Egypt in disobedience and bound his people to that land, Jesus both goes to and comes out of Egypt in obedience to God's Word demonstrating that He is the one who can lead His people to _____.

Point of Emphasis: Jesus is undoing the initial _____ of Abraham and showing that He is the true Savior who has come to redeem even the Patriarchs themselves.

What we need is not someone to erase our past, for then who we are and have become would be erased. What we need more than anything is someone who will redeem our past, forgiving our own sin and delivering us from the sins of others that have affected us.

The Events of Jesus' Life and the History of Israel

- Israel passed through the Red Sea (1 Cor. 10:2) →
- Because of their sin, Israel wandered in the wilderness 40 years →
- Israel was formed of 12 tribes led by 12 brothers →

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days
Jesus called to Himself 12 disciples