

Top 150 Bible Stories

Week 7 February 17

Everlasting Covenant

Genesis 17:1-10

Have you ever thought of how many years it would take for “forever” to get here? So, if you say something like, “I’ll be your friend forever!”... how many years would that be? Or if you hear a teacher say, “You have to get this math, you will use it forever!”... how many years is that? This story has a “forever” in it. God uses the word “everlasting” in this story, which means “forever”. God uses the word everlasting, because He promises His love and His care to families for generation after generation after generation- that’s a really long time! So, just like your family keeps on going like it has since your great-great grandmother lived; God will always be with you even as long as your children have children (and beyond). God can do that because He is “God Almighty” (v. 1). God is our everlasting possession (v. 8). He will never go away. He promises to keep this covenant of salvation forever (v. 7). He does this by sending His Son Jesus. Although we cannot keep the covenant (walk with God and be blameless, v. 1) for even one year, God sends Jesus to be blameless in our place, forever. Because of what God does for us, we are to strive to live forever as one who is given a new name (belongs in the covenant), just like Abraham (v.5).

Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 22:1-19

Have you ever watched the movie “Holes?” The movie is based on the book by Louis Sachan, which won the Newberry Medal in 1999 for the “most distinguished contribution to American literature for children” that year. You might remember the main character, Stanley, and his friend named Zero. They had to climb a mountain that they called “God’s Thumb.” From a distance, it looked like a fist with its thumb pointing upward. Coming out of the desert, the boys were hungry and thirsty. On the mountain the two boys found a pool of water and a crop of onions. So they ate and drank until they were stuffed. In a sense the mountain “provided” for them and even “protected” them when they later encountered the venomous lizards (because of the onions they had eaten). The story about Abraham and Isaac is about the One who truly provides (v. 14). God provides all that we need even in hard, testing situations like in this Bible story. What’s more, this passage points directly to God providing for our salvation through Jesus. The phrase only son (v. 2, v. 12, v. 16) and the picture of a sacrificial offering come together to help us look forward to the New Testament and what God did for us with His only Son, Jesus. We are to rely on God’s provision. In our sin, we want to be self-sufficient, yet we cannot rightfully and fully supply our needs, physically OR spiritually.

Parable of Weeds

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

When I was a boy my dad grew a vegetable garden. He loved that garden; I did not! That garden brings back haunting memories for me. You know why? Because I had to weed it! Most every day in the summer (a season of vacation from school and from homework) I had an assignment in the garden. My dad would say, “Danny, please weed the first row of beans.” You would not believe how hard that chore was. It was hot (because I usually waited until after lunch) AND those weeds grew shoulder-to-shoulder with the good plants (beans) like when you are crammed into the back seat of the car with your brothers and sisters! Weeds! That’s what this parable (story) is about. Jesus comes to sow the good seed in His kingdom. But Satan sows the weeds to try to mess-up the kingdom! So there are weeds to be pulled out of the kingdom. It is comforting to know that God does the harvesting. He saves His people but casts those who do not trust in Christ (the weeds) into the fiery furnace. We, His people, are certain of our salvation because God does the harvesting through Christ. The final phrase says, “He who has ears, let him hear” (v.43). We are to be people who hear it’s a warning

