

Genesis IV

Genesis 24-50

Introduction

- I. Class 1: Isaac and Rebecca
Genesis 24
- II. No Class (March 4th)
- III. Class 2: Jacob and Esau
Genesis 25:19-33:18
- IV. Class 3: Rape of Dinah
Genesis 34
- V. Class 4: Judah and Joseph
Genesis 37-38, 48-49

How to Think?

“Let us reason together says the Lord” [Isaiah 1:18]

Scripture	Reason
Tradition	Experience

I. Biases

- A. Isagesis – Inserting unsupported meaning or doctrine into a passage of Scripture

II. Exegesis – What does the biblical text actually say?

III. Bias Assumptions

- A. Scripture is true and reliable.
- B. Reason is valuable and necessary to understand the Scriptures

IV. Tradition and Experience are valuable, but not necessarily reliable

Isaac and Rebecca

Narrative Overview

Abrahamic Commissions His Servant

Genesis 24:1-8 [ESV]

¹ Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years. And the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things. ² And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he had, “Put your hand under my thigh, ³ that I may make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴ but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.” ⁵ The servant said to him, “Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land. Must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?” ⁶ Abraham said to him, “See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷ The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father’s house and from the land of my kindred, and who spoke to me and swore to me, ‘To your offspring I will give this land,’ he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸ But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.”

Servants Oath and Prayer

Genesis 24:9-15 [ESV]

⁹ So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter. ¹⁰ Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all sorts of choice gifts from his master; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia to the city of Nahor. ¹¹ And he made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at the time of evening, the time when women go out to draw water. ¹² And he said, "O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. ¹³ Behold, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. ¹⁴ Let the young woman to whom I shall say, 'Please let down your jar that I may drink,' and who shall say, 'Drink, and I will water your camels'—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master." ¹⁵ Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, came out with her water jar on her shoulder.

Rebekah

Genesis 24:16-25 [ESV]

¹⁶ The young woman was very attractive in appearance, a maiden whom no man had known. She went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up. ¹⁷ Then the servant ran to meet her and said, “Please give me a little water to drink from your jar.” ¹⁸ She said, “Drink, my lord.” And she quickly let down her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. ¹⁹ When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw water for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.” ²⁰ So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw water, and she drew for all his camels. ²¹ The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether the Lord had prospered his journey or not. ²² When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, ²³ and said, “Please tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father’s house for us to spend the night?” ²⁴ She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.” ²⁵ She added, “We have plenty of both straw and fodder, and room to spend the night.”

Servant Praises the Lord

Genesis 24:26-33 [ESV]

²⁶ The man bowed his head and worshiped the Lord ²⁷ and said, “Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness toward my master. As for me, the Lord has led me in the way to the house of my master’s kinsmen.” ²⁸ Then the young woman ran and told her mother’s household about these things. ²⁹ Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban. Laban ran out toward the man, to the spring. ³⁰ As soon as he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister’s arms, and heard the words of Rebekah his sister, “Thus the man spoke to me,” he went to the man. And behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring. ³¹ He said, “Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside? For I have prepared the house and a place for the camels.” ³² So the man came to the house and unharnessed the camels, and gave straw and fodder to the camels, and there was water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. ³³ Then food was set before him to eat. But he said, “I will not eat until I have said what I have to say.” He said, “Speak on.”

Servant's Witness

Genesis 24:34-41 [ESV]

³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become great. He has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male servants and female servants, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old, and to him he has given all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I dwell, ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house and to my clan and take a wife for my son.' ³⁹ I said to my master, 'Perhaps the woman will not follow me.' ⁴⁰ But he said to me, 'The Lord, before whom I have walked, will send his angel with you and prosper your way. You shall take a wife for my son from my clan and from my father's house. ⁴¹ Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my clan. And if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.'

Servant's Witness

Genesis 24:1 [ESV]

⁴² “I came today to the spring and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you are prospering the way that I go, ⁴³ behold, I am standing by the spring of water. Let the virgin who comes out to draw water, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also,” let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’ ⁴⁵ “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, behold, Rebekah came out with her water jar on her shoulder, and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder and said, ‘Drink, and I will give your camels drink also.’ So I drank, and she gave the camels drink also. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to take the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.

Servant's Challenge

Genesis 24:1 [ESV]

⁴⁹ Now then, if you are going to show steadfast love and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, that I may turn to the right hand or to the left.” ⁵⁰ Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, “The thing has come from the Lord; we cannot speak to you bad or good. ⁵¹ Behold, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has spoken.” ⁵² When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the earth before the Lord. ⁵³ And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. ⁵⁴ And he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they arose in the morning, he said, “Send me away to my master.” ⁵⁵ Her brother and her mother said, “Let the young woman remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.” ⁵⁶ But he said to them, “Do not delay me, since the Lord has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master.” ⁵⁷ They said, “Let us call the young woman and ask her.”

Rebekah Goes

Genesis 24:58-67 [ESV]

⁵⁸ And they called Rebekah and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will go.” ⁵⁹ So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “Our sister, may you become thousands of ten thousands, and may your offspring possess the gate of those who hate them!” ⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her young women arose and rode on the camels and followed the man. Thus the servant took Rebekah and went his way. ⁶² Now Isaac had returned from Beer-lahai-roi and was dwelling in the Negeb. ⁶³ And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening. And he lifted up his eyes and saw, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴ And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel ⁶⁵ and said to the servant, “Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into the tent of Sarah his mother and took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Abraham's Story: 20 Episodes

Genesis 11:27-25:11

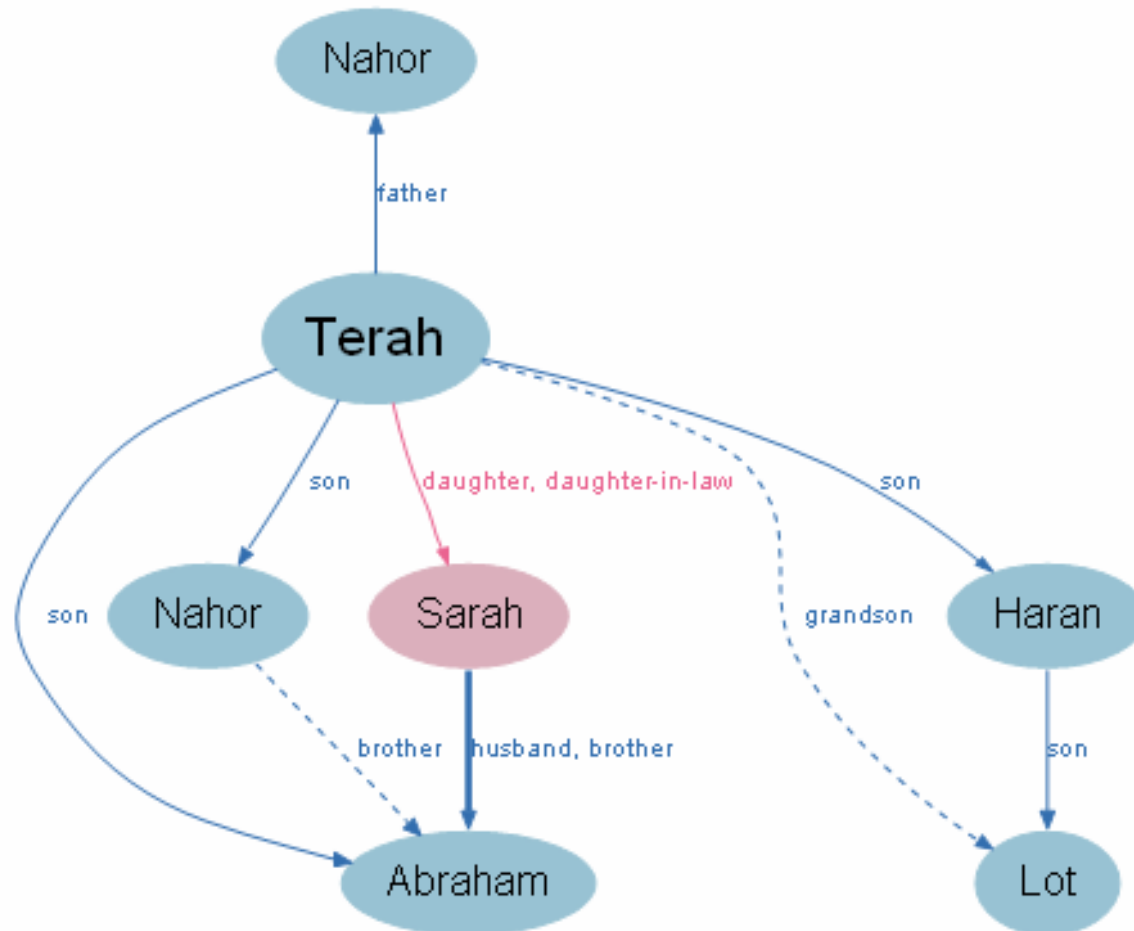
11:27-32	Genealogy and Introduction
12:11-9	Call of Abram and 1 st Journey
12:10-20	In Egypt
13:1-18	Abram and Lot Separate
14:1-24	Abram Rescues Lot
15:1-21	Covenant with Abram
16:1-16	Hagar and the Birth of Ishmael
17:1-27	Covenant of Circumcision
18:1-15	Divine Visitation and Promise Reiterated
18:16-33	Abraham intercedes for Sodom
19:1-29	Sodom and Gomorrah (Lot)
19:30-39	Lot's Daughters' Incest
20:1-18	Abraham and Abimelech
21:1-21	Isaac Born; Ishmael Leaves
21:22-34	Covenant with Abimelech
22:1-19	Testing of Abraham (Sacrifice of Isaac)
22:20-24	Genealogy of Nahor (Rebecca's Genealogy)
23:1-20	Purchase of Burial Ground
24:1-67	Betrothal of Rebecca
25:1-11	Death and Burial of Abraham (Conclusion)

Terah's Descendants

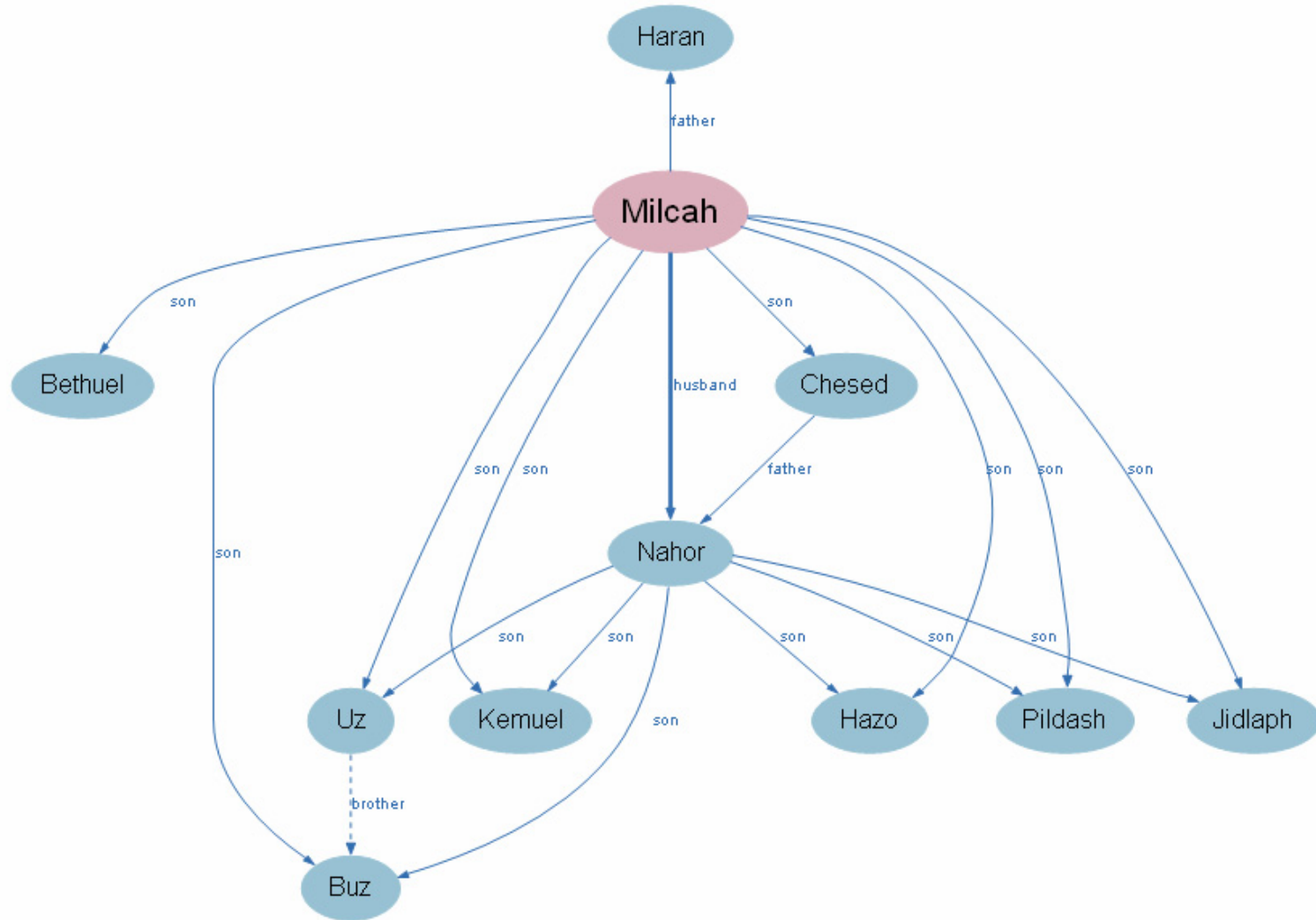
Genesis 11:27-32

²⁷ Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸ Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹ And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰ Now Sarai was barren; she had no child. ³¹ Terah took Abram his son and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram's wife, and they went forth together from Ur of the Chaldeans to go into the land of Canaan, but when they came to Haran, they settled there. ³² The days of Terah were 205 years, and Terah died in Haran.

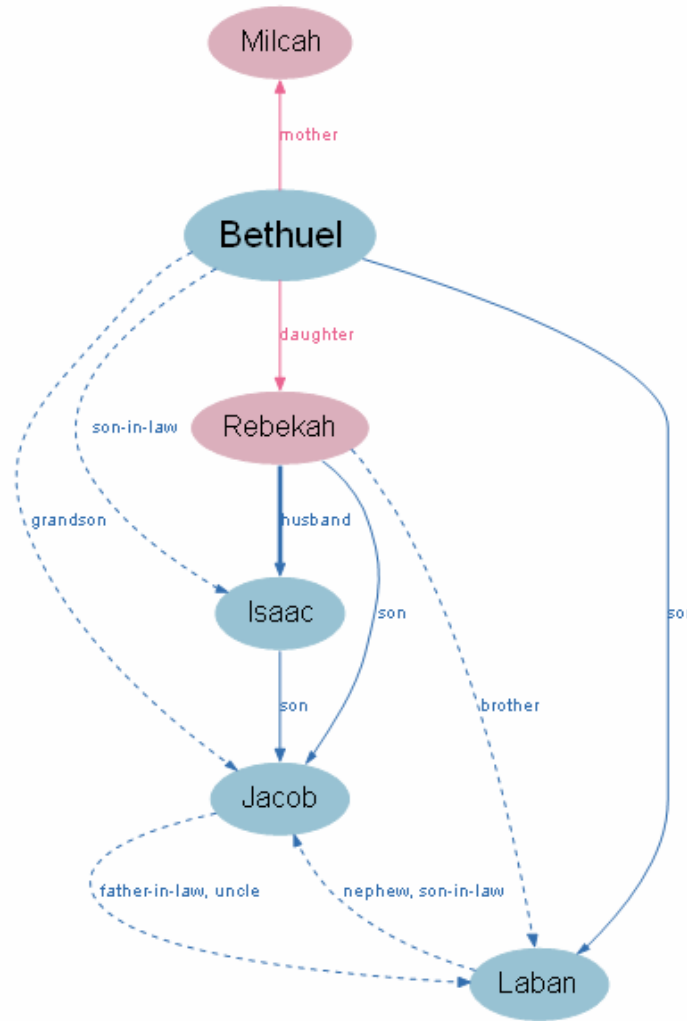
Terah's Descendants



Terah's Descendants



Terah's Descendants



Terah Conclusion

I. Terah is given prominence

A. The Patriarch of the Patriarchs

B. Striking that Abraham chooses a wife for Isaac from “his” family... and Jacob marries Leah and Rachel

II. Seems that Terah was a pagan however...

Joshua 24:1-5 ¹ Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. ⁴ And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. ⁵ And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagues Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out.

Prayer

Petitioning God



Prayer – Overview

Introduction

- I. Immense Topic
- II. Many Types of Prayers
 - A. Praise – “Hallelujah”
 - B. Thanksgiving – “Thank you”
 - C. Intercession – “Take Me Instead”
 - D. Petitions for Gifts – “Wisdom”
 - E. Petitions for Healing – “Sickness”
 - F. Restoration – “Forgive Me”
 - G. Remembrance – “Thank you for So-and-So”
 - H. Salvation – Friends, Loved Ones, etc.
- III. Many Genres – see above
- IV. Uncountable, Possibly Infinite Applications

Prayer – Overview

Samples of Ritual

- I. Protestants bow their heads
- II. Catholics pray the Rosary
- III. Orthodox Jews sway their bodies back and forth
- IV. Moslems kneel and face Mecca
- V. Some Native Americans dance
- VI. Sufis whirl
- VII. Hindus chant
- VIII. Quakers keep silent
- IX. Some religions meditate
- X. Some religions work through priests/priestesses

Prayer – Overview

Philosophical Assumptions

I. Religious Views

- A. Humanity can actually communicate with the Divine;
- B. The Divine is interested in communicating with Humanity;
- C. The prayer is heard and may or may not get a response;
- D. The prayer may affect the very fabric of reality itself;
- E. The Divine expects or appreciates prayer

II. Humanistic Views

- A. The prayer may be intended to inculcate certain attitudes in the one who prays, rather than to influence the recipient;
- B. The prayer may be intended to train a person to focus on the recipient through philosophy and intellectual contemplation;
- C. The prayer may be intended to enable a person to gain a direct experience of the recipient;

Prayer – Overview

Pagan Characteristics

I. Power and Pleasure

A. Power – Wealth and Means

1. Wealth – Opportunity, Prestige, Position, Wealth, Etc.
2. Means – Talent, Intelligence, Wisdom, Ability, Etc.

B. Pleasure

1. Sex, Appetite, Comfort, Etc.

II. Problem Solving

- #### A. Help Me – Heal, Succeed, Marry, Find Love, etc.

III. Quid Pro Quo

- #### A. If I _____, then You will _____.
- #### B. If You _____, then I will _____.

IV. Devoid of Moral Issues

- #### A. Petitions For Sinful Desires and Outcomes
- #### B. Devoid of Reconciliation/Forgiveness Language
- #### C. Morality Agnostic – No sense Right and Wrong

V. May Be Offensive – Cursing One's Enemies

VI. Ritualistic – Altars, Practices, Token, Etc.

Prayer – Overview

Evangelical ACTS Format

- I. Adoration: Praise God for one or several of His attributes (e.g., sovereign, gracious, holy, perfect, merciful, all knowing, loving, just, powerful, ever present, creative) both generally or as it applies to your circumstances. *"Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies." - Psalm 36:5*
- II. Confession: Tell God what you have done wrong and why, apologize to Him, seek forgiveness, and thank Him for it. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:9*
- III. Thanksgiving: Express gratitude to God for His love, mercy, grace, leading, sustenance, discipline, and blessing. *"Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men" - Psalm 107:15*
- IV. Supplication: Ask God to guide, heal, protect, comfort, sustain, or provide for you, or intercede for someone else. *"...Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." - 1 Chronicles 4:10*

Prayer – Overview

Definition?

I. What is it?

A. Communication with the Lord?

1. Issue of Omniscience

B. Request or Demand?

1. Issue of Omnipotence

C. Something that shapes us?

1. C.S. Lewis

D. Spiritual Gift? – i.e. Tongues?

E. Institution

1. Liturgical vs. Non-Liturgical

F. Priestly Function, Lay Function, or Both?

Prayer – Analysis

Passages for Analysis

I. Petitions for Analysis

- A. Job
- B. David
- C. Nehemiah
- D. James
- E. Paul
- F. Jesus

II. Praise and Thanksgiving

- A. Beyond scope right now...

Job's Prayer – Job Repents

Job 42:1-6 [ESV]

¹ Then Job answered the Lord and said: ² “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. ³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. ⁴ ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’ ⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; ⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

Job's Prayer - Prayer for His Friends

Job 42:7-9 [ESV]

⁷ After the Lord had spoken these words to Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite: “My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. ⁸ Now therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves. And my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept his prayer not to deal with you according to your folly. For you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.” ⁹ So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did what the Lord had told them, and the Lord accepted Job's prayer.

Job's Prayer

General Outline

- I. Job Repents
- II. God judges Job's friends
 - A. Speaking falsely about Him
- III. God tells...
 - A. Job's friends to make a sacrifice
 - B. Job to pray on their behalf
- IV. Job's friends bring the sacrifice
- V. God listens to Job's prayer
 - A. Accepts the sacrifice
 - B. Why doesn't God listen to Job's friends?

David - Psalm 51

Psalm 51:1–12 [ESV]

¹ To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

David - Psalm 51

Psalm 51:13–19 [ESV]

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. ¹⁸ Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; ¹⁹ then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

David – Psalm 51

Analysis

I. What is the context of this prayer?

II. What is David doing?

- A. Petitioning for Mercy
- B. Confessing Sins
- C. Declaring God's Justice
- D. Submitting to God's Judgment
- E. Asking for Renewal
- F. Pleading for the Holy Spirit
- G. Praising God

III. Is there Quid Pro Quo here?

Nehemiah's Prayer – The Message

Nehemiah 1:1-3 [ESV]

¹ The words of Nehemiah the son of Hacaliah. Now it happened in the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, as I was in Susa the capital, ² that Hanani, one of my brothers, came with certain men from Judah. And I asked them concerning the Jews who escaped, who had survived the exile, and concerning Jerusalem. ³ And they said to me, “The remnant there in the province who had survived the exile is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates are destroyed by fire.”

Nehemiah's Prayer – Confession

Nehemiah 1:1-3 [ESV]

⁴As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. ⁵And I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁶let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses. ⁸Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, saying, ‘**If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples, ⁹but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your dispersed be under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place that I have chosen, to make my name dwell there.**’

Nehemiah's Prayer – Petition

Nehemiah 1:1-3 [ESV]

¹⁰ They are your servants and your people, whom you have redeemed by your great power and by your strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight to fear your name, and give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man.” Now I was cupbearer to the king. ¹ In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was before him, I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. ² And the king said to me, “Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart.” Then I was very much afraid.

Nehemiah's Prayer – Conclusion

Nehemiah 1:1-3 [ESV]

³ I said to the king, “Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?” ⁴ Then the king said to me, “What are you requesting?” So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers’ graves, that I may rebuild it.” ⁶ And the king said to me (the queen sitting beside him), “How long will you be gone, and when will you return?” So it pleased the king to send me when I had given him a time. ⁷ And I said to the king, “If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may let me pass through until I come to Judah, ⁸ and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king’s forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress of the temple, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.” And the king granted me what I asked, for the good hand of my God was upon me.

Nehemiah's Prayer

General Outline

I. Nehemiah Hears the Plight of the People

- A. Nehemiah Mourns/Repents

II. Prayer

- A. Confesses the Sin of the People

- B. Declares that God has made a Just Judgment

- C. Claims God's Covenant Promises

- 1. Curses: Lev 26:33; Deut 28:64

- 2. Blessings: Lev 26:39-42; Deut 4:29-31

- D. Asks for Mercy in the context of his presence circumstances.

III. Resolution

- A. Nehemiah acts within his circumstances.

- B. Takes some risk.

- C. Behaves humbly and honestly.

James – Asking God

James 1:2-11 [ESV]

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

James – Asking God

James 1:12-18 [ESV]

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

James – Asking God

Analysis of James 1:2-18

- I. We encounter trials which test our faith
 - A. These trials develop us towards the Image of God
- II. We must make a moral decision
 - A. Wisdom of the World
 - 1. Spirit of Ant-Christ
 - B. Wisdom of God
 - 1. Spirit of God
- III. God gives His Spirit and His gifts generously to all who ask Him, without prejudice.
 - A. The un-Godly should not expect anything
 - 1. Possibility that they may receive something nonetheless

Paul – Asking God

James 1:12-18 [ESV]

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *when we pray for you,* ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,* ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5-13 [ESV]

⁹ ... “Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from the Evil One

I. Address

II. Three Petitions

- A. Hallowed Be Your Name
- B. Kingdom Come
- C. Will Done on Earth

III. Three Petitions

- A. Present – Daily Bread
- B. Past – Forgiveness
 - 1. Confession
 - 2. Forgiveness
- C. Future – Deliverance
 - 1. Temptation
 - 2. The Evil One

How To Pray

Matthew 6:5-13 [ESV]

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ **But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.** ⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

How To Pray

Analysis

I. Low View of Pagan Prayers

A. Do not be like the pagans [v8]

1. Your Father in Heaven already knows what you need
2. Do not use empty phrases
 - a. No ritual incantation
 - b. Don't try to make God “hear” you... [v7]
3. Pray secretly [v6]
 - a. Not as the hypocrites [v5]

II. Payment is the End of Godly Prayer [v6]

A. Your Father will pay/reward [ἀποδώσει]

1. Will pay out a “contractual” obligation
2. Likely a “covenant” payment

B. Implies that we receive our covenant payment

1. In the New Covenant, this is the Holy Spirit

Does God Listen to Prayer?

Thoughts to Consider

I. God honors the prayers of those in covenant relationship with him

A. Am I in covenant relationship?

1. Do I have faith?
2. Am I participating in the Holy Community?
3. Am I under authority?

B. Am I confessing my sins? (declaring God's Justice?)

1. Am I in God's will?
2. Am I "at peace" with everyone?
3. Am I honoring God's moral standards?

II. What should I be pray for?

A. Am I facing some sort of trial?

1. Am I suffering for the Gospel?

B. What do I need?

1. Mercy/Forgiveness
2. Holy Spirit (and its gifts – Wisdom, etc.)

III. Am I working and praying on behalf of another?

IV. Am I seeking to glorify God?

Servants Prayer - Analysis

Genesis 24

I. God honors the prayers of those in covenant relationship with him

- A. Am I in covenant relationship? Y
 - 1. Do I have faith? Y
 - 2. Am I participating in the Holy Community? Y
 - 3. Am I under authority? Y
- B. Am I confessing my sins? (declaring God's Justice?) Y
 - 1. Am I in God's will? Y
 - 2. Am I "at peace" with everyone? Y
 - 3. Am I honoring God's moral standards? Y

II. What should I be pray for?

- A. Am I facing some sort of trial? Y
 - 1. Am I suffering for the Gospel? Y
- B. What do I need? Y
 - 1. Mercy/Forgiveness Y
 - 2. Holy Spirit (and its gifts – Wisdom, etc.) Y

III. Am I working and praying on behalf of another? Y

IV. Am I seeking to glorify God? Y

Prayers for Healing

Rapid Overview

Prayers for Healing

Diachronic View

I. Old Testament

- A. Marian – Numbers 12:13
- B. David – Psalm 41:4
- C. Hezekiah – 2 Kings 21:5

II. New Testament – Petitions to Jesus Himself

- A. Centurion's Servant – Matthew 8:7
- B. Healing on the Sabbath – Mark 3:2/Matthew 11:10
- C. Canaanite Woman's Daughter – Matthew 15:28
- D. Epileptic/Demon-Possessed Child – Matthew 17:18
- E. Official's Son – John 4:4

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Matthew 10:5-15 [ESV]

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ **And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’** ⁸ **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay.** ⁹ Acquire no gold nor silver nor copper for your belts, ¹⁰ no bag for your journey, nor two tunics nor sandals nor a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. ¹¹ And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. ¹² As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³ And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

Spiritual Gifts – Healing

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 [ESV]

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Spiritual Gifts – Healing

Ephesians 4:11-16 [ESV]

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.