

- a. The New Way God will deal with Evil
 - i. In the past God has dealt with evil through exile, destructive forces of nature, and through scattering evil doers.
 - ii. Now God calls Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 12 and promises to in some way “bless” the cursed world through their offspring.
 - iii. Abraham is viewed as the polar opposite of Adam.
 - 1. He trusts God no matter how difficult that is.
 - 2. He obeys God no matter how terrible the command.
 - 3. In all things he trusts that “God will provide.”
 - iv. This new way of dealing with evil promises to be costly and painful for God.
 - v. God will continue to work His purpose out until blessing replaces curse, homecoming replaces exile, olive branches appear and a new family is created in which the scattered will be re-united.
 - vi. From Genesis 12 to the end of the Old Testament, the story of Abraham’s family, God’s instrument to redeem His creation, will be told. In that story we discover that Israel is as much part of the problem as they are the solution to it.
 - 1. The flawed Abraham
 - a. The lie about Sarah
 - b. The Ismael tragedy...innocent suffering in the story of redemption.
 - 2. Flawed Jacob

- a. Cheats his brother and deceives his father- suffering Esau.
 - b. Is cheated by Laban
 - c. His sons sell one of their brothers into slavery. Suffering Joseph and Jacob
3. A lesson about what God is doing about evil.
- a. He brings good out of it
 - b. He restrains and contains but does not eliminate-no reason given for this.
4. The Hebrews in bondage
- a. Liberated by the God who hears their cries-but did not prevent the slavery.
 - b. The liberated ones quickly turn on the One who liberated them and prefer returning to slavery.