

Gospel Clarity Study Series: The Gospel and Ethnic Identity
Session 3: Our Common Redemption: a Reunited Humanity
Genesis 12:1-Jude 25

- Anticipated in God's _____.

“The Lord said to Abram: ‘Go out from your land, your relatives, and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you. I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.’”

–Genesis 12:1-3

- Although ethnic identity is _____, it cannot be treated as _____.
 - God called Abram to leave his _____.
 - God called Abram to leave his _____.
 - God called Abram to leave his _____.

“Don’t assume that I came to bring peace on the earth I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. The one who loves a father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; the one who loves a son or a daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

–Jesus, Matthew 34-37

- God formed a _____ people for _____ peoples.

“The call to Sarah and Abraham has to do not simply with the forming of Israel but with the re-forming of creation, the transformation of the nations.”

–Walter Brueggemann

- God promises to _____ all peoples under his _____.

- Anticipated in God’s Redemption of Israel

- The Book of Exodus serves as a _____ of redemption.
 - Israel was rescued from slavery (Ex. 1:1-15:21).
 - We too are rescued from slavery to sin.

“Jesus replied, ‘Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.’”

–John 8:34

“But thank God that, although you used to be slaved of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.”

–Romans 6:17-18

- Israel is sanctified as they sojourn through the wilderness (Ex. 15:22-24:1).

- We are being sanctified as we sojourn through the world.

“Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and exiles to abstain from sinful desires that wage war against the soul.”

–1 Peter 2:11

- Israel was brought into a partial enjoyment of God’s glory (Ex. 24:2-40:38).

- We will be brought into the full enjoyment of God’s glory.

“I did not see a temple in it, because the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.”

–Revelation 21:24

- The Book of Exodus anticipates the _____ of all peoples in redemption.

“The Israelites traveled from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand able-bodied men on foot, besides their families. A *mixed crowd* also went up with them, along with a huge number of livestock, both flocks and herds.”

–Exodus 12:37-38

- Anticipated in God’s Law.

- Israel was redeemed to _____ as a light to all nations.

“I am the LORD. I have called you for a righteous purpose, and I will hold you by your hand. I will watch over you, and I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people and a light to the nations.”

–Isaiah 42:6

- God’s Law was designed to _____ Israel how to shine.

- Concerning her treatment of _____ and _____.

“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt.”

–Exodus 22:21

“He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. You are also to love the resident alien, since you were resident aliens in the land of Egypt.”

–Deuteronomy 10:18-19

- Concerning her approach to _____.

“When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess, and he drives out many nations before you—the Hethites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and powerful than you—and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you and you defeat them, you must completely destroy them.

Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy. You must not intermarry with them, and you must not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, because they will turn your sons away from me to worship other gods. Then the LORD’s anger will burn against you, and he will swiftly destroy you.”

–Deuteronomy 7:1-4

- The prohibition concerned the inhabitants of Canaan _____ foreigners in general.
- The prohibition was _____ not _____ in intent.

- Anticipated in God’s Prophets

- The prophets indicted Israel for her _____ of foreigners and sojourners.

The people of the land have practiced extortion and committed robbery. They have oppressed the poor and needy and unlawfully exploited the resident alien.”

–Ezekiel 22:29

- The prophets proclaimed that God is the _____ of all peoples.

“In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s house will be established as the top the mountains and will be raised above the hills. All nations will stream to it, and many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about his ways so that we may walk in his paths. For instruction will go out of Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He will settle disputes among the nations and provide arbitration for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plows and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not take up sword against nation, and they will never again train for war.”

–Isaiah 2:2-4

“Knowing their works and their thoughts, I have come to gather all nations and languages; they will come and see my glory.”

–Isaiah 66:18

▪ Anticipated in God’s Son

- In His genealogy

“An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”

–Matthew 1:1

- Included in his genealogy are four women of _____ origins: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba.

- In His identity

- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the _____.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

–John 1:29

- In His ministry

- Jesus crossed ethnic boundaries in _____ and service to non-Jewish peoples.

“He had to travel through Samaria.”

–John 4:4

“The ethnic and cultural boundary between the Jews and the Samaritans was every bit as rigid and hostile as the current boundary between Blacks and Whites in the most racist areas of the United States.”

–J. Daniel Hays

- In His teaching

- Jesus taught that loving one’s neighbor must _____ all ethnic boundaries.

“Which of these three do you think provided to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ ‘The one who showed mercy to him,’ he said. Then Jesus told him, ‘Go and do the same.’

–Luke 10:36-37

- We must actively _____ racial equality not just mentally _____ to racial equality.

- In His death
 - Jesus was _____ at the cross by a Roman soldier.

“When the centurion who was standing opposite him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said, ‘Truly this man was the Son of God!’”

–Mark 15:39

- In His resurrection
 - Jesus explained the global _____ of his life, death, and resurrection.

“He told them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He also said to them, ‘This is what is written: The Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead the third day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”

–Luke 24:44-48

- In His ascension
 - Jesus _____ His disciples by His Spirit to proclaim the gospel among ethnic-linguistic peoples.

“You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. As for you, stay in the city until you are empowered from on high.”

–Luke 24:49

- The Power of Pentecost and the Reversal of Babel

“When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues as the Spirit enabled them. . . . They were astounded and amazed, saying, ‘Look, aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the magnificent acts of God in our own tongues!’”

–Acts 2:1-4, 7-11

- Anticipated in God’s Church

- The Church’s _____ requires crossing ethnic boundaries.

“Peter began to speak: ‘Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism, but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. He sent the message to the Israelites, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.’”

–Acts 10:34-36

- The Church’s _____ reveals that Jesus died to reconcile races in the family of God.

“So then, remember that at one time you were Gentiles in the flesh—called ‘the uncircumcised’ by those called ‘the circumcised,’ which is done in the flesh by human hands. At that time you were without Christ, excluded from the citizenship of Israel, and foreigners to the covenant of promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed through regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. He did this so that he might reconcile both God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death.”

-Ephesians 2:11-16

"We used to hate and destroy one another and refused to associate with people of another race or country. Now, because of Christ, we live together with such people and pray for our enemies."

-Justin Martyr

- The Church _____ unity in the midst of much ethnic diversity.

"For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female,; since you are all one in Christ. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise."

-Galatians 3:27-29

"In Christ there is not reek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all."

-Colossians 3:11

Bottom Line:

God purposed to _____ a multi-ethnic people by His grace and for His glory.