

Repairing what was Broken

- What are some things that, when broken, can be fixed so they are “as good as new”?
- What are some things that, when broken, might never be the same again?
- What do you tell others when these things are broken?
- What do you tell yourself when these things are broken?
- What is God’s word about things that are broken?

From Brokenness to Beauty

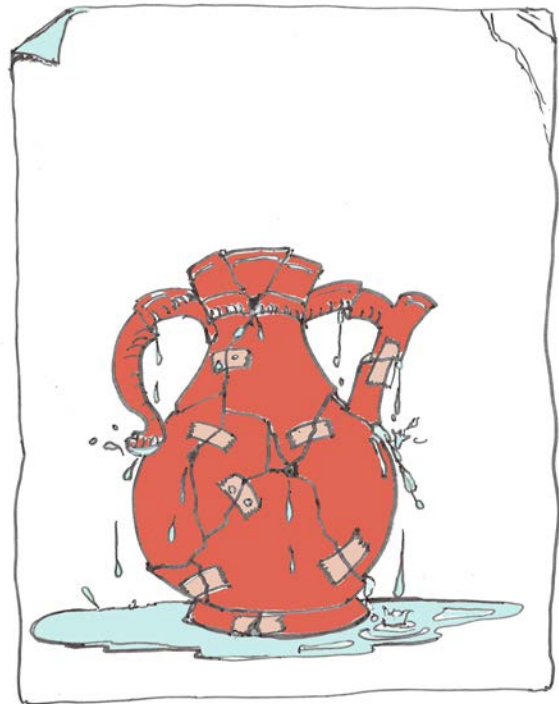
Genesis 11:27-12:9

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A Brief History of Time

<u>Creation</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Redemption</u>	<u>Restoration</u>
Genesis 1–2	Genesis 3–11	Genesis 12– Revelation 20	Revelation 21–22

- Rebellion & curse (3)
- Death (4–5)
- Stopping the worst of evil (6–9)
- Division (10–11)
 - “clans, languages, territories, and nations”

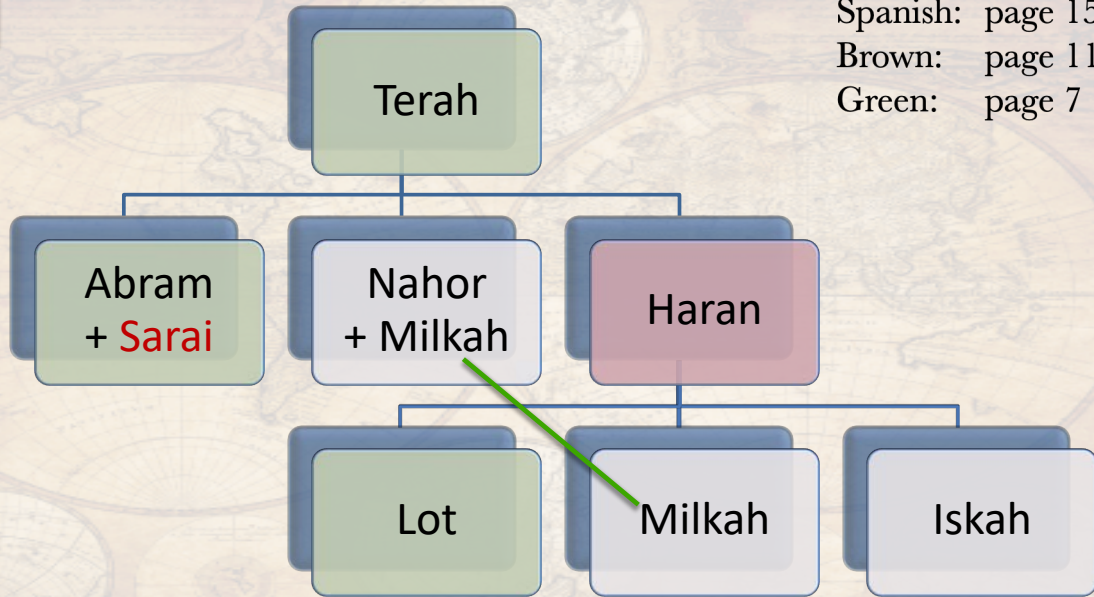
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27-32:

1-3:

4-9:

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Genesis 11:27-12:9

27-32: Abram's (broken) family setting

- 1-3: • Haran's premature death
- 4-9: • Sarai's inability to have children
 - A metaphor for hopelessness
 - Gods were tied to geography and family
 - Ur & Harran: places of moon worship
 - Perhaps people names connected to moon worship
 - Represents humanity's brokenness
 - Death / Division / Decay / Despair

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Genesis 11:27-12:9

27-32: Abram's (broken) family setting

1-3: God calls Abram: Go from..., to a blessing

4-9: • Go FROM:

Land People Household (inheritance? legacy?)

- God's promise:
 - Land Nation A great name
- Contrary to values and conventional wisdom
- Promise of God's protection (required trust)
- Blessing for all tribes/families ("clans") of earth
 - Bless what came from Babel:
 - clans, languages, territories, and nations

Genesis 11:27-12:9

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Genesis 11:27-12:9

27-32: Abram's (broken) family setting

1-3: God calls Abram: Go from..., to a blessing

4-9: Abram obeys, claims the land as the LORD's

- Obeys God and leaves his foundations
- God's promises have significant barriers
 - The land was occupied
 - Sarai was barren
- Worshiping God in a place of trouble claims the place for God
 - The LORD is God rather than the 'god' of that place

Genesis 11:27-12:9

27-32: Abram's (broken) family setting

1-3: God calls Abram: Go from..., to a blessing

4-9: Abram obeys, claims the land as the LORD's

“This is the genealogy of **Jesus the Messiah** the son of David, **the son of Abraham.**”

Matthew 1:1

Understand, then, that those who have faith [in Jesus Christ] are **children of Abraham**. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and **announced the gospel in advance to Abraham**: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’”

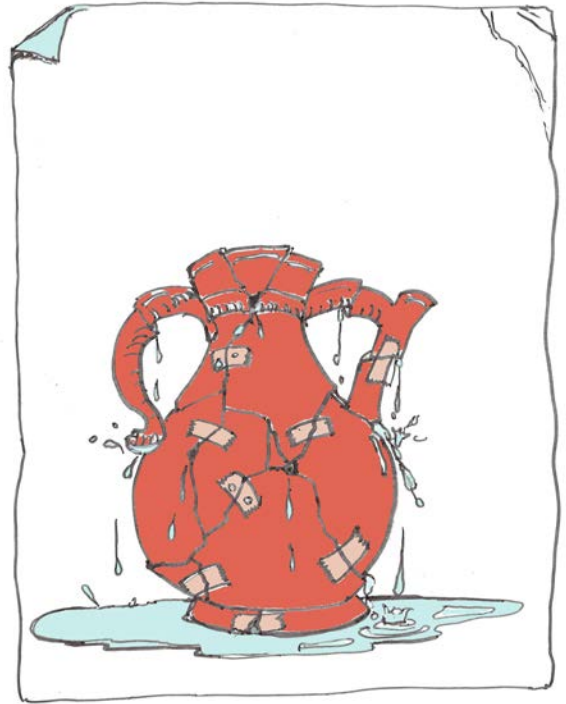
Galatians 3:7-8

The Big Idea

**God turns
our brokenness
into blessings for us and others
by His grace in Christ
as we trust and obey Him**

Humanly speaking,
some things, once broken,
can never be made
whole again

In Christ, **every person**
can be redeemed and restored
to be better than new
by His grace



Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the **poor**.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom
for the **prisoners**
and recovery of sight for the **blind**,
to set the **oppressed** free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 5:18-21



The Big Idea

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Application

- **Leave our gods in order to follow the true God**
 - Where do you find your identity, value, wholeness, hope?
 - What do you most fear losing?
 - What do you most regret not having?
 - Abilities, relationships, ethnicity, nationality, power, possessions, pleasure, praise, impact, security, autonomy, ...
 - That may be a god in your life, and **it will fail you**
 - To find true blessing, we must leave our false gods
 - Sometimes literally: Abram. Rich young ruler. Nebuchadnezzar
 - Always spiritually: stop putting our hope in them
 - Possibly a long and fierce battle, with certain victory in Christ

Application

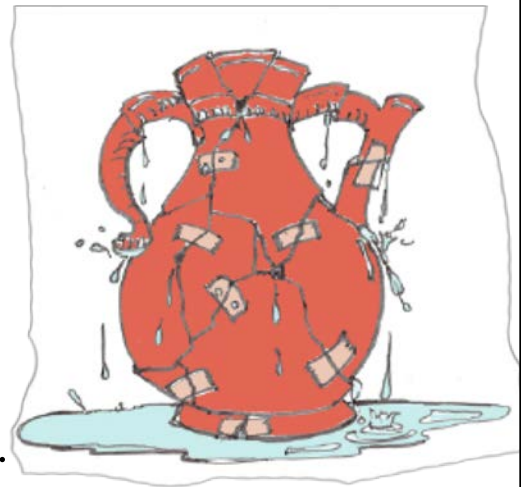
- **Leave our gods in order to follow the true God**
- **Trust God to turn our brokenness into a blessing**
 - God turns what we give to Him (brokenness) into blessings
 - Often in unexpected ways
 - Always for our good and His glory
 - In part now. Completely in the new heaven and new earth
 - Including ethnicity, nationality, personality, relationships, ...
 - God will grow the good, heal the broken, and kill the bad
 - Redeemed diversity is to the glory of God!
 - **“Worshiping God in the place of trouble claims that place for God” → so build an altar there**
 - It takes courage and faith

Application

- **Leave our gods in order to follow the true God**
- **Trust God to turn our brokenness into a blessing**
- **Be a blessing, and a channel of blessing, to all “clans”**
 - How we live: blessing, loving, serving, listening, in humility
 - What we proclaim, by words and actions
 - Within my “clan”: people I naturally connect with
 - Clan: common ancestry, interests, experiences, troubles, ...
 - Outside of my “clan”: people who see me as an outsider
 - What is our reputation with “outsiders”?
 - God’s intention: they’ll praise God for blessings received
 - And “outsiders” become “insiders”

The Big Idea
**God turns
 our brokenness
 into blessings for us and others
 by His grace
 as we trust and obey Him**

“Come, let us return to the LORD.
 He has torn us to pieces
 but he will heal us;
 he has injured us
 but he will bind up our wounds.
 Let us acknowledge the LORD;
 let us press on to acknowledge him.
 As surely as the sun rises,
 he will appear;
 he will come to us like the winter rains,
 like the spring rains that water the earth.”



Hosea 6:1,3