Living for the Land to Come

Genesis 22:20-23:20

Sermon Theme: Abraham's acquisition of land assures us that the new creation will be ours in Christ; therefore let the church embrace her role as a sojourner until we take possession of our inheritance.

1) Abraham's land acquisition in its immediate context

   a) Step 1 in Covenant Perpetuation: Rebekah's birth (22:20-24)
   b) Step 2 in Covenant Perpetuation: Burial Ground Purchase (23:1-20)
      i) Introduction: Sarah's death occasions the need for a burial place (1-2)
         (1) Burial place sought, negotiated, purchased, and deeded to Abraham (3-18)
            (a) Abraham's initial request (3-6)
            (b) Abraham's second request (7-11)
            (c) Abraham's final request (12-15)
            (d) Abraham buys it and it's deeded over to him (16-18)
      ii) Conclusion: Sarah is buried in the burial place secured by Abraham (19-20)

2) Abraham's land acquisition in its gospel fulfillment

   a) The land points us to the new creation
      Gen. 1:26-2:3; Rev. 21-22; Gen. 9:1-3; 2 Pt. 3:12-13; Gen. 17:7-8; Josh. 21:43-35; Heb. 4:8-9; Matt. 5:5; Rom. 4:13; Heb. 11:8-10

   b) Abraham's ownership points us to Christ's ownership
      Gal. 3:29; John 14:1-3; John 17:11-15; 1 Pt. 1:19

   c) The deposit points us to the Holy Spirit. (Eph. 1:14)
      Eph. 1:11-14

3) Implications for sojourners

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Genesis Theme: In Genesis God promises to establish his kingdom through his Son by exalting him and giving him a great name and a great nation.

1) Promise Pictured in Creation (1:1-2:3)
   a) Creation (1:1-1:27)
   b) Adam given charge to rule creation with his bride (1:28-31)
   c) Rest (2:1-3)

2) Promise Foreshadowed by Primeval Histories (2:4-11:26)
   a) By heaven and earth's history (2:4-4:26)
      i) The garden/the Fall/the fall's effects and the seed promise (2:4-3:24)
      ii) The seed will come through Seth; not Cain (4:1-26)
   b) By Adam's history (5:1-6:8)
      i) The covenant line of Seth & the escalation of sin
   c) By Noah's history (6:9-9:29)
      i) The seed continues thru Noah who is saved through judgment (6:9-8:19)
      ii) Noah is the 2nd Adam given charge of new creation (8:20-9:17)
      iii) Noah and Ham's sin cry out for a better seed yet to come (9:18-29)
   d) By Noah & Sons' histories (10:1-11:26)
      i) The line of the true seed continues to be distinguished (10:1-32)
      ii) Sin escalates through the seed of the serpent / the seed will come thru Seth (11:1-26)

3) Promise Named through Patriarchal Narratives (11:27-50:26)
   a) Through Terah's History (11:27-25:11)
      i) Promise Introduced (11:27-14:24)
         (1) Abram (and his seed) is promised a great name and a great nation (11:27-12:9)
         (2) Promise Validated to Abram by foretastes of blessing (12:10-14:24)
      ii) Promise Strengthened (15:1-20:18)
         (1) By Content Clarification (15:1-18:15)
         (2) By Abraham's Intercession (18:16-19:38)
         (3) By God's Intervention (20:1-18)
      iii) Promise Secured (21:1-22:19)
         (1) By Isaac's Birth & Ishmael's Exile (21:21)
         (2) By Abimelech's Covenant / Abraham's Offering (21:22-22:19)
      iv) Promise Perpetuated (22:20-25:11)
         (1) By Rebekah's Birth / Burial Site Purchase (22:20-23:20)
         (2) By Isaac's Marriage / Abraham's Death (24:1-25:11)
   b) Through Isaac, not Ishmael's History (25:12-35:29)
      i) Named not through Ishmael. (25:12-18)
      ii) Named through Isaac (25:19-35:29)
         (1) Promises to Jacob foreshadowed (25:19-26:33)
         (2) Promises to Jacob Given (26:34-28:22)
         (3) Promises to Jacob Secured / Assured (29:1-35:29)
   c) Through Jacob, not Esau's History (36:1-50:26)
      i) Named not through Esau (36:1-37:1)
      ii) Named through Jacob (37:2-50:26)
         (1) Figurative Death/Burial of Joseph (37:2-38:30)
         (2) Figurative Resurrection / Ascension of Joseph (41:1-48:22)
         (3) Blessing by Jacob (49:1-50:26)