

The Women Who Carried the Promise

FINDING THE ANCIENT PATH | STUDY GUIDE

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNVdv2P5kzE>

Purpose

Study how the Teaching describes women as essential to Yahovah's promise, and distinguish biblical accounts, speaker interpretation, and personal testimony.

Learning Objectives

- Explain the Teaching's three-part description of carrying the promise.
- Identify the scriptural roles of Eve, Sarah, Ruth, Rahab, Jehosheba, Tamar, and Leah.
- Compare acts of courage and faith with the covenant narrative.
- Distinguish biblical text from participants' interpretations and testimonies.

Teaching Outline and Study Notes

Introduction: Women in the Covenant Story

The speaker argues that readers often focus on patriarchs, kings, and prophets while missing the essential actions of women. The prepared teaching focuses on Eve and Sarah, then turns to fellowship contributions.

The Promise and the Seed

The speaker describes the promised seed through reception, preservation, and progression. The lineage is portrayed as continuing through specific families toward its intended fulfillment.

Eve and the First Promise

Genesis 3:15 is presented as the earliest declaration of a coming victory through the woman's seed. The discussion of Genesis 6 reflects the speaker's particular interpretive framework.

Sarah: Faith in an Apparent Impossibility

Sarah's renaming, promised motherhood, laughter, and eventual role in the covenant illustrate the tension between human limitations and Yahovah's promise. Marian adds personal testimony about waiting for a child.

Ruth: Choosing a People and Their God

Sandra focuses on Ruth's decision to remain with Naomi and her own experience reading Ruth alongside Ephesians 2. The precise festival timing mentioned is expressly uncertain.

Rahab: Faith Expressed Through Action

Daria describes Rahab's choice to protect the spies and connects her story with James 2:25 and hope for people whose past may seem defining.

Jehosheba: Preserving the Royal Line

Lori recounts Jehosheba rescuing Joash from Athaliah's campaign against the royal heirs and the importance of that act for the Davidic line.

Tamar: Perseverance and Lineage

Angela discusses the difficult account of Tamar in Genesis 38, her children, and her appearance in the ancestry of Yeshua. Several symbolic comparisons are the participant's interpretations.

Leah: Seen in Affliction

Candice considers Leah's marriage, her longing to be loved, and the births of her children, emphasizing that Yahovah saw her affliction.

Fellowship Reflections and Conclusion

The closing discussion expresses appreciation for women's indispensable roles and includes a difference of interpretation about Sarah's decision involving Hagar.

Key Scriptures

- **Genesis 3:15** - The speaker identifies the woman's seed as the first promise of ultimate victory over the serpent.
- **Genesis 5:1-32** - The lineage from Adam toward Noah is used to explain preservation of the promised seed across generations.
- **Genesis 6:1-4** - The speaker interprets the sons of God and Nephilim account as an adversarial attempt to corrupt the seed; this is his interpretation.
- **Genesis 12:10-20** - Marian recalls Sarah's experience in Egypt and emphasizes trusting Yahovah amid danger.
- **Genesis 16:1-4** - Sarah and Hagar's account raises questions about waiting for and attempting to fulfill a promise.
- **Genesis 17:15-16** - Sarah is renamed and specifically promised a son and a role as mother of nations.
- **Genesis 18:1-15** - Sarah laughs at the announced birth despite her advanced age; the speaker stresses that nothing is too hard for Yahovah.
- **Genesis 21:1-7** - Isaac's birth demonstrates the fulfillment of the promise to Sarah.
- **Hebrews 11:11** - Sarah's faith is emphasized because she considered the One who promised to be faithful.
- **Psalms 113:9** - Marian shares how the promise concerning a formerly barren woman shaped her own experience of waiting.
- **Ruth 1:16-17** - Ruth chooses Naomi's people and God, a turning point emphasized in Sandra's testimony.
- **Ruth 4:13-22** - Ruth and Boaz are connected to the lineage leading to David.
- **Ephesians 2:11-19** - Sandra relates Ruth's story to Gentiles being brought near and joined in one household through Messiah.
- **Joshua 2:1-21** - Rahab protects Israel's spies and expresses confidence in Yahovah.
- **James 2:25** - Rahab's actions are presented as an example of faith made visible through deeds.

- **2 Kings 11:1-3** - Jehosheba rescues Joash and shelters him during Athaliah's attack on the royal heirs.
- **2 Chronicles 22:10-12** - Jehosheba's courage preserves the royal descendant, supporting the continuing Davidic line.
- **2 Chronicles 24:1-27** - The account of Joash's reign and later turning is noted in the fellowship testimony.
- **Genesis 38:1-30** - Tamar's story centers on Judah's family, her treatment, and the birth of Perez.
- **Ruth 4:11-12** - The community's blessing remembers Tamar and Perez in the context of family lineage.
- **Matthew 1:1-6** - The genealogy explicitly includes Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the line leading to Yeshua.
- **Genesis 29:16-35** - Leah's marriage, her distress, and the births of her sons are central to Candice's reflection.
- **Genesis 33:1-3** - The family's arrangement before meeting Esau is cited as an example of Leah's difficult position.

Key Takeaways

- Women are essential to the biblical story of covenant preservation, even when the narrative gives them less space.
- The speaker describes the promised seed as received, preserved, and progressively carried through generations.
- Eve is connected with the first announcement of the woman's seed in Genesis 3:15.
- Sarah's promised son demonstrates that Yahovah's faithfulness is not limited by human circumstances.
- Ruth's commitment to Naomi and Yahovah is presented as a model of covenant allegiance.
- Rahab's protection of the spies illustrates courageous faith expressed in action.
- Jehosheba's protection of Joash preserved a threatened Davidic royal descendant.
- Tamar's difficult story is presented as part of the lineage leading to David and Yeshua.
- Leah's suffering and motherhood remind listeners not to overlook those who feel unloved or unseen.
- The women's own testimonies show that Scripture can speak powerfully through different lived experiences.

Questions Answered / Bible Questions to Link

1. What does it mean to carry the promise?

The speaker describes a chosen lineage through which Yahovah's declared covenant outcome is received, preserved, and advanced. (Genesis 3:15; Genesis 17:15-16)

2. Why should women receive more attention in biblical teaching?

The speaker says their contributions are often overlooked although they are indispensable to the unfolding biblical narrative. (Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:1-6)

3. Who is the first woman discussed as carrying the promise?

Eve (Havah), through the promise concerning the seed of the woman. (Genesis 3:15)

4. What does Genesis 3:15 contribute to the Teaching?

The speaker understands it as the initial announcement that the woman's seed would defeat the serpent. (Genesis 3:15)

5. How does the speaker interpret the events of Genesis 6?

He views the account as an adversarial attempt to interfere with the promised lineage; this is an interpretive claim made in the Teaching. (Genesis 6:1-4)

6. How was the promised line preserved through early generations?

The speaker traces a selected lineage through Seth and the generations leading to Noah, noting the unnamed women involved. (Genesis 5:1-32)

7. Why is Sarah central to the promise?

Yahovah specifically promised a son through Sarah and said nations and kings would come from her. (Genesis 17:15-16)

8. What does Sarah's laughter teach in this presentation?

Her reaction reflects the apparent impossibility of childbirth in old age, while the speaker emphasizes Yahovah's ability to fulfill His word. (Genesis 18:9-15)

9. What is emphasized about Sarah in Hebrews 11?

The speaker highlights that Sarah regarded the One who made the promise as faithful. (Hebrews 11:11)

10. What did Marian share about Sarah's story?

Marian described her own experience of infertility, waiting, and ultimately having a son, drawing encouragement from Sarah and Psalm 113. (Psalm 113:9; Hebrews 11:11)

11. What choice did Ruth make?

Ruth committed herself to Naomi, Naomi's people, and Naomi's God, leaving her former life behind. (Ruth 1:16-17)

12. How did Sandra connect Ruth with biblical identity?

Sandra described reading Ruth alongside Ephesians 2 and coming to understand Gentiles as brought near to Israel's covenants through Messiah. (Ruth 1:16-17; Ephesians 2:11-19)

13. How did Rahab demonstrate faith?

She sheltered and helped the Israelite spies because she believed what she had heard about Yahovah. (Joshua 2:1-21; James 2:25)

14. Who was Jehosheba and what did she do?

Jehosheba rescued the young Joash from Athaliah's destruction of the royal heirs and concealed him, preserving the royal line. (2 Kings 11:1-3; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12)

15. Why is Tamar included in this Teaching?

A participant explains Tamar's place in Judah's family and the birth of Perez, linking her story with the lineage leading to David and Yeshua. (Genesis 38:1-30; Ruth 4:11-12; Matthew 1:1-6)

16. What does Leah's story highlight?

Candice emphasizes Leah's experience of being unloved and how Yahovah saw her distress and blessed her with children. (Genesis 29:16-35)

17. Which women appear in Matthew's opening genealogy?

The Teaching points to Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth among women associated with the lineage leading to Yeshua. (Matthew 1:1-6)

18. Did everyone in the fellowship describe Sarah and Hagar the same way?

No. One testimony called Sarah's decision an attempt to help the promise along, while a closing participant argued it was not disobedience because the specific promise through Sarah came later. (Genesis 16:1-4; Genesis 17:15-16; Hebrews 11:11)

Discussion and Personal Study

1. Read Genesis 3:15 and Matthew 1:1-6. How does the Teaching connect the beginning and later lineage?
2. What do Genesis 18:9-15 and Hebrews 11:11 each emphasize about Sarah?
3. Compare Ruth 1:16-17 and Joshua 2:1-21. What do Ruth and Rahab choose to do?
4. Why does protecting Joash matter in the story of Judah's royal line?
5. How does Genesis 29 describe Leah's experience? What does the passage explicitly say?
6. Identify one interpretive or typological claim from the discussion. What text is cited, and what remains interpretation?
7. How do the two comments on Sarah and Hagar differ? What passages would you study further?
8. Which woman's story would you study in greater depth, and why?

Study Note

Use the referenced passages to examine the Teaching's claims. Personal testimonies are presented as experiences shared by participants, not promises of identical outcomes for every reader.