

Legapsi - Lesson 9

Big Question: Now that Jesus has fulfilled the promises to Abraham, what does that mean in relation to how Christians are judged?

Key points

In our early lessons, we focused on the covenant between God and His People (Israel) and the promises He made to them. In the last few lessons, we saw how these promises were fulfilled surprisingly in Christ. In these final lessons, we ask, “Now what?” What does it mean to live as the People of God on this side of Christ’s incarnation, death, and resurrection? Teachers should understand these few key points before the lesson, and students should take these points away from the classroom.

- A. Everything we have discussed so far concerns God’s plan for our salvation.
- B. The covenant made with Abraham, when read in isolation, looks like a private agreement between God and His “favorite” people. When read in the context of the entire narrative of Scripture, however, we see that it comes as a direct response to the Fall (Gen. 1-3) and sets in motion an entire trajectory in which humanity is offered the opportunity to return to communion with God.
- C. The giving of the Law to Moses is a next crucial step in this process, showing Israel how to be holy as God is holy.
- D. Yet this was not the end of the story, as we see throughout the Scriptures Israel continuing in sin just like the pagan nations which surrounded her.

Review

Ask students:

1. What did we learn last class? Review your notes and rewrite a key point or takeaway that you found significant. If you were absent, your job is to review the student guide from last class and then ask your fellow students questions about the points they’re about to share.

Give them 3 or so minutes to review and write, then ask them:

- Share what you’ve written (go around the room systematically to get feedback)
- Then ask students who were absent last class: do you have any questions they have about their points? Students may not be able to answer their questions, and that’s okay. You can affirm the question, and if it’s easy to answer yourself, do so. And if not, say “We’ll hold on to that question to see if it’s answered in any of the future classes.”

Finally, review any key points from last class that were missed, especially if they are really important for this upcoming lesson.

Opening Reflection

Say something like:

- We have now seen that all the events we looked at in the Old Testament – the Abrahamic promises, the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, the building of the Temple – all of this now finds its fulfillment in Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.
 - So what more could be said in this final lecture?
 - The question before us is “Now what?”
 - Everything we examined in the stories of Abraham, Moses, and David were not merely stories about things that happened, but also contained instruction for how God’s people were to conduct their lives.
 - A question that should linger in our minds is: now that all of this has been fulfilled, how are we to conduct our lives as Christians today?
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- In our last lesson, we discussed the work of Christ in fulfilling the Law and the promises to Abraham through His life, death, and resurrection. We can of course read about all of this in the first four books of the New Testament – the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
 - Yet the New Testament does not end after these gospels, but continues with documents discussing the life of the Church in the decades immediately following Jesus’ ascension.
 - These early Christians, some Jews and some Gentiles, discerned how to live faithfully as God’s people in light of what had happened in Christ.
2. Now that Jesus has fulfilled the promises to Abraham, what does that mean for us today?

Preparing for Video Clip

- As we prepare to watch this lecture, let’s try to put ourselves in the shoes of the Apostle Paul, whose letter to the Romans we will look at.
 - Paul is a devout Jew who is steeped in the traditions of Abraham, Moses, and David we have been discussing. However, he has now seen all of this as finding fulfillment in Christ. This means that all God had done in Abraham, Moses, David, and the people of Israel must be seen in a new light because of Christ.
 - This lesson may seem a bit of a “downer,” as we will focus especially on the problems of humanity’s sin and God’s judgment. However, in the next lecture, we will see how all of this has been worked out in Christ’s saving work on the cross.
3. Now fill in the points Dr. Legaspi makes in his video clip
- a. What year was the Temple Destroyed?
 - b. Matthew reveals Jesus to be the _____ of Israel with perfect _____ to God.

- c. According to Paul in Romans, the wrath of God is revealed against all _____ and _____.
- d. Both those who have the Law and those who don't are subject to God's _____.

Reflection on the Video

- 4. As Christians, are we still subject to God's judgment? If so, in what ways?
- 5. What is the relevance of the Law for us as Christians today?
- 6. Any final thoughts?

Close with any of the key points that they might not have addressed in their own sharing/discussion.