Module 2 AVP Transcript

This presentation introduces you to the newly formed Nation of Israel, the Covenant People of God. The “T” of the "TaNaCH" represents the Torah, which is contained in the first five books of the Bible. The more precise meaning of Torah is “instruction,” because it relates to how people are to live out what it means to be living in a covenant relationship with God (Ditewig 1).

According to a later prophet (Hosea 6:7), this covenant was first revealed at creation when man was made in God’s image. For this reason, the Torah begins with a description of how that relationship began. The creation accounts are told not simply to tell how God created but that it was God who was responsible. Unlike other creation accounts from other peoples in which creation was little more than a caprice of the gods, the Jews declare that their God, YHWH, created everything out of love and for a divine purpose. This has been called the Covenant Formula, “I will be their God and they will be my people” (Rendtorff 13-15).

As mentioned in the last module, God chose to work through the patriarchs to set his plan in motion. However, it takes 11 chapters to get Abraham. Often called prehistory, these first 11 chapters are very important to the narrative. While the creation itself will be examined with the wisdom literature, it is important to note that these first eleven chapters set the stage for the call of Abraham and the covenant with Israel through Moses.

The literary form used has little historical value. In fact, outside of the few people mentioned in chapter 10, there is not “concrete identification of historical persons, groups, movements, or institutions” (Brueggemann 11).

However, the narrative moves very quickly from creation out of chaos to the disruption of the created order via the deception of Eve (cf. 1 Timothy 2:14) that elevated created humanity to be like God, having the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:5, 22). In possession of this knowledge, they have moved from the innocence of being naked and shameless to hiding because they did not want God to see their nakedness.

With the unity and fellowship disrupted, man is now in need of redemption. Thus, God sets in order his will to release humanity from the disruptive world to which he now belongs. God drives him from the tree of life, securing his mortal destiny, living out his days, responsible for this new found knowledge.

The expulsion from Eden, coming out of the ark, and the dispersion of Noah’s sons preview what is called the Exodus motif. As the study in this module will reveal, the Exodus becomes the pivotal point in the historical narrative that transitions twelve tribal groups into a nation formed through the shared experience of God’s covenant action.

Here, you will note the work cited information.

Works Cited

