

TITLE: *The Blessing That Came To Abraham Prerequisite for Believers*

TEXT: Gen 12:1-3

Take your Bibles, please, and turn to Genesis chapter 12. You will find notes in your bulletin to use as you follow along in the message this morning. Genesis chapter 12. We are studying the ORIGINS OF LIFE AND HISTORY. Last week we were looking at the Tower of Babel and the Origins of languages. And how God confounded the languages of people in order to continue his purpose which was NATIONS. The establishment of nations. He brings nations up and he puts nations down according to the Bible that all men might seek the Lord and turn to Him before it is eternally too late.

We are ~~not~~ ^{now} coming to one of the great personages of the Bible— Abraham, the father of Jew, Mohammed and Christian. And that is a fulfillment of prophecy according to the Bible. ~~Abraham is one of the greatest persons in the Bible;~~ because it was through Abraham ~~that~~ that all the nations would be blessed. For Abraham is the father of all of them who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are just going to look at the first three verses

(Read Genesis 12:1-3)

*SUBJECT - The Prerequisite to
Blessings*

Prayer

Father in heaven, we are very much aware of our need of the Holy Spirit. We know that your Word teaches us that your Spirit will guide us into all the truth. We ~~are~~ are thankful for the promise of the Comforter and that he will bring all things to our remembrance. And will teach us of the things to come. And I pray that you will make all Christians here today aware of the importance of your Word. That we might submit unto it knowing that Holy Spirit of God wrote this Book.

We thank you Lord for the privilege of gathering ~~together~~ together in your name. And I pray, dear Lord, that you would meet the needs of every heart. We thank you Lord in spite of our many sins your grace covers them all. I thank you for your forgiveness and the love you have shown to us in Jesus Christ.....Speak to our hearts we pray in Jesus Name...Amen

The greatest blessing that has ever come to any human being was given in Geneis chapter 12. Just 3 verses, but they are full of ~~im~~formation and meaning to our lives. *This we will look at on 11-1-19 this morning*

(1B) And I would like to deal with this subject of the Blessing that came to Abraham by notice, first of all, ^(1C) the prerequisites that God gave to this man. You know, with every area and situation in our life in which God wants to bless, he always lays down prerequisites. There are always some things that God admonishes us to do. And with his promises, there always comes commands. God doesn't always tell us the reasons for what he is doing. For we who are the clay do not have the right to say to the potter, "Why have you made me like this/". Paul taught this in Romans chapter 9. So, he doesn't always give us his reasons. But with ~~these~~ ^{his} commands we ~~also~~ always find his promises. And with the promises we always find commands. And so there are prerequisites and they are very simply stated in this text. There are two of them. Two main prerequisites.

(1D) Number one, "get thee out" ~~is~~ said in Vs 1. (2D) And number two, at the end of verse 1 "unto a land that I will show you."

(1D) Very simply, as it summarizes the entire christian life, God teaches separation in our lives in order to experience blessing.

And the Bible also teaches ^(2D) submission unto the will of God even though we do not know how it is going to turn out.

I remaind ~~that~~ you that God ask Abraham to go to a place that he had never seen in his life. And he had no evidence concerning the safety and security of travelling to that land. For Abraham was to travel over 600 miles to lands he had never seen before. ~~And~~ / And God simply said to go to a land that I will show you. ^{To Receive God's Blessing} The first prerequisite is separation. And there are three ways in which this is expressed. And ~~you~~ ^{you} look at your own life and see and apply the application. Three areas.....

(1E) ...Number one, God ask Abraham and us to separate from worldly associations, *if you desire God's blessings*

He said in Vs 1.. "Go forth from your country".....^{Now} And Abraham's country was filled with idolatry and paganism. We know that they were worshippers of a moon god called Non'ar....or as the Jewish people knew him as Sin... The god Sin...Very appropriate name....

This Non'ar god, ~~only~~ one of many gods in a paganist society, and Abraham grew up in that society.

We also know, ~~they~~, that the third ~~dynasty~~ dynasty of Ur that was ruling at the time Abraham lived, was Anti-Semitic. They were against the Jews. They knew what God's word teaches. And that is, through Shem who was a son of Noah, whose name means "The Name", through Shem would come the blessing. And thus these pagan people felt very bitter against ~~these Semites people~~ ^{Semites people} ~~and Abraham~~. Because it was through them that the Messiah would come. And all the blessing was in their line. ~~And the world about them knew how highly regarded these Semites were.~~ And we learn from ancient history that during the times of Abraham these people were very much ~~against~~ ^{ANTI - Semitic} the Semites.

Now, one thing we can make clear in our minds ...Abraham was not a Nomad...that is, one who wandered the desert with the sack cloth and ashes and living in tents.....That is our concept, But it is not true.

It is interesting in studying about the city of Ur of the Chaldees from which Abraham came, I learned the following things:

1. It was a highly developed civilization with writing.
2. It had fine cities. They were laid out in an orderly fashion
3. It had the arts....all of the arts. Music..and painting..so forth.
4. They had a well established law system with courts.
5. And they had a highly developed religious system. Pagan as it was, ~~but~~ but it was highly developed.

This is the society in which Abraham lived. But God said one simple thing: "Abraham, get out of your country." "Get away from there, Abraham." "Separate yourself from all the worldly associations".

And I am reminded that in the N.T. the Apostle Paul encourages us to separate ourselves from unbelievers. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." "For what fellowship has righteousness with darkness. Light with darkness and righteousness with ungodliness."

what Fellowship

The Bible teaches us that we are to separate ourselves.

But you say we live in a world that is felled with sin? How can we separate from it?....^{Doesn't the} The Bible teaches that we are not to go out of this world because we are in it. ^{? yes} But we are to separate from them in terms of fellowship and our relationship to God.

Many new christians as well as old christians are faced with the problem of worldly associations. How do I relate to people who are not believers? God says, Separate yourself from them.....^{! In Terms of Fellowship}

The Bible teaches we are to associate with the world in only one sense: and that is, to reach them with the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

What Abraham is told here in Genesis is kind off hard to take if your are filled in your life with all kinds of associations that is controlled by the philosophy of the world...But, yet, everyone of us must face the clear Biblical command to get out...To separate...Not to have anything to do with that which is the world.....^{Separate from Worldly associations}

and

In I John chapter 2 it tells us "to love not the world, nor the things that are in the world. And if any person loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life, is not of the father but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust there-off, but he that is doing the will of God abides forever."^{Meaning of Gospel}

Come out from all worldly associations. It is not the place for the child of God. And you will hinder your growth and hinder your blessings that God wants to give to you, by the many different ways we associate with the world. Stay away from it. [And I remind you that even though you may isolate yourself on a mountain, and separate from every human being, the world can just as much be inside of us as outside of us. It is very difficult to get the world out off our system.

and

More difficult at times than it is for us to get away from what ever we think the world is...And the Bible has clearly told us what the world is. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life. Desiring to gain things, materialiam, or what ever.

Abraham was faced with it. And many people don't see that. They don't know the civilation inwhich he lived. Listen, he had great opportunity for advancement. It was a highly developed society. And yet, God said, "get out of it."

(2E) Secondly, in Vs 1, ~~God~~ tells Abraham to separate from family attachments ^{and Father}

He said to get away from your relatives. Now some of you may want to get away from your relatives....You know what they are like...^{But} And ~~yet~~ the point here is that often the family relatives situations pulls away a ^{Person} ~~man's~~ heart from what God wants him to do.....So, often this happens in the life of a Christian. And yet, there comes a time as it did in the life of Peter and John when the government told them to stop preaching about Jeus, they said: "we ought to obey God, rather than man."

There comes a time when you will realize what Jesus said, "I have not come to bring peace. I have come to bring a sword."

What did he mean?....Isn't Jesus the Prince of Peace?....Yes,..and he will establish peace on the earth when he rules over it. He is the prince of peace. But, when he came the first time he came with a sword. And he said I am going to divide people. As the sword cuts through ^{divides people} families.

He said the family will be divided. And you must forsake all for the cause of Christ. If it need be, whether it is your own life or wife or children or relativaes, or what ever....I have come to bring a sword and I will ~~men~~ ^{People} divide ~~men~~ on this issue concerning myself.

If you believe ~~on~~ Christ, some people are not going to like you as much. Some people are not going to want your fellowship. New Christians often express how, when they became a christian, there old friends ~~d~~ropped them like a hot popote. They were experience a little of what it means to have new life in christ and have the sword of Christ's life separate them from those old attachments.....

(3E) There is a third area that must have been dear to Abraham's heart because I will show you in a moment that Abraham never really took God seriously on this issue. And God had to intervene and solve it for Abraham. The third thing that God ask Abraham to separate from in Vs 1 was ~~parently~~ parently affection. And that can be very hard...

He said in Vs 1, "from your father's house."....Get out of your father's house. You saym "why, did God ask him to separate from his own parents?" It seems a little strange...

Well, the reason is given to us over in Joshua chapter 24. Will you turn there, please. Joshua chapter 24. In the case of Abraham it was absolutely necessary for him to separate from his father's house.

Joshua 24:2.....In content, Joshus is reveiwing the history of Israel. He has gathered the people together to give them instructions concerning the land of Palastine which has been conquered.

(Read Vs 2)

According to the Bible, Abraham's own father, Terah, served other gods. You might find it interesting to note that "Terah" in the hebrew in the root form is kin to the word used for "moon"..And I remaind you that where they lived it was the worship of a moon god. And we can thus conclude that somewhere in Abraham's family....his grandparants or his great grandparents.. gave a name which suggested a god that was worshipped in that paganist city. And the Bible does teach that "Terah" Abraham's father was seerving other gods... *Young people who are born with parents who are not christians*

Daron

Well what did Abrahm do?....According to the story in Genesis Abrahm did get out of his country. He went to a place called "Haran" which is about half way to the place he was told to go.

He did leave his relatives to a certain degree. Yet, he took "Lot". "Lot" was ~~the/son/of/his/brother/~~ ^{his} nephew.

And as far as getting away from his father house, he took Terah with him to Haran.....

And the Bible teaches in Genesi 11:31-32 that in, Haran Terah, A^hraham father died.....

And often it is so, that ~~we~~ when we compromise with what we know is God's will and prerequisite for blessings, when God says, "don't do this" and yet, we go ahead and do it, God in his love interv~~ens~~ and will cause ~~to~~ what appears to be tragedy, but he is sol~~ving~~ a problem which we should have solved long ago.

And God came into Abraham's own family and took the life of his father. And Abaraham, thus, went on to Canaan without his father. But he took him from Ur to Haran. When God had said, "get away from your father's ~~own~~ house."

And Abraham didn't. And thus, God had to interven.

It remains me that all of our days are numbered and it is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgement. And God knows when and where a person will die. ~~And God took Terah.~~ And I am sure ^{through that experience} ~~taught a tremendous~~ lesson to Abraham, and I hope to us.

Abraham learn a tremendous lesson

~~And~~ we should learn from this. That when God lays prerequisties down for blessings, we have no right to compromise and think that we have a better plan and still except to receive God's blessings for happiness.

~~Get thee out Abraham, to~~

~~There is a passage over in Isaish that really helped me to understand what is being said here to Abraham. Will you turn to Isaiah 51.~~

~~This is important because when ever God ask you to separate yourself,~~

There is a passage over in Isaiah which really helped me to understand what is being said here to Abraham to separate himself. Get thee out of your land, Abraham." Would you turn to Isaiah chapter 51.

(Read Isaish 51:1-2)

You see, many times God is going to call you and ask you to separate yourself. And you say..."No, I can't do that. I couldn't live without those things and my old friends. And we hang on to them even through we know they are robbing our hearts of what God really wants to do in our life.....

SOFT SLOW

SOLAR
SLOWLY

And I don't know what area of your life you are wholing back from God. I know what it means in mine. I know there are many things that want to come in and take awhole of us. And we hang on even when we know we should get ride of it. ~~But we refuse and we hang on.~~ And we say, "I don't want to be without this. I need it in my life. Surely this can't hurt my walk with God.".....

And God says, "it must go." "I have called you."

Then notice the last phrase of verse 2: "Then I blessed him".. "and multiplied him."

If you want God's blessings in your life, if you want life and life more abundantly, you must realize the ^{need} price of separation... Get yourself out from all world associations..... all those ^{friendly} family attachments which keep you from fellowship with God, ^{As hard as they may be} and even parently ~~affections~~. ^{As the Lord} And seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

(2D) (2D) Now come back to Genesis chapter 12, please. ^{and the second prerequisite} He told him not only to get out of all of this, but he said, I am going to take you Abraham

Vs 1, "to a land which I will show you. ^{And Abraham had to learn submission}

Now, a lot of us ^{get} to the point where we ^{must} separate from ^{Word by association} ~~everything we have known~~. And all of those attachments which are robbing us of the things of the Lord. But we fall to go on to complete submission to Him. This was a tremendous test in the Life of Abraham. ^{along a path in our life}

Abraham was ask to go to a place he had never seen. Hundreds of miles away. And he had no car. He had to walk. And he had to take his family. And his cattle and his servants. And it was a long jouney. And he was going under one direction: "to the land which I will show you."

Notice, God didn't name the land at this point. I just want you to go to a land which I will show you.

When God spoke to Isaiah in Isaish chapter 6 he simply said Go, and tell my people. What people? God.....Who are you talking about?..... Just go Isaish....I will tell you...

Paul cried out on the Damascus road: "Lord, what will you have me do?"..."Well, I will tell you later. There is a man in Damascus who will take care of you. And I will tell you later.".....

Many, many times ~~people~~ God will bring us to ^a the point, and ~~not knowing~~ ^{we don't} what we should do!..... Well, it is not so important what we are going to do or the place to which we should go....the issue is whether our heart is really willing to do anything God wants us to do, to be what God wants us to be. ^{This brings us to the place of submission} ~~and to~~ say, "Lord, I am submitting to you, no matter what."

The Bible says in all thy ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your path. He ~~will~~ ^{will} take you where He wants you to go, if you will put him first in your life.

Now, if you water that down and you don't separate from that which is not pleasing in His sight, then it becomes very hard receive God's blessings.

There are two things about submission which you should ~~know~~ ^{remember}.

(1) One, submission demands obedience. It always demands obedience. You can say that you are submitting to Christ, and yet ~~if you~~ don't obey him, ~~it~~ it is just hot air. People say, I will serve the Lord...and they turn right around and fail to consider him in daily decisions. ^{So} ~~Then~~, don't ~~except God to bless you.~~

You see, it is not the things about the Bible that I don't understand which bother me. It is the things that I do understand. And what I do know, I should obey and follow. To trust God and believe that all is well. Submission to God always demands obedience.

Hebrews chapter 11 tells us what happened in the life of Abraham. And how he faced this test. You see, we may not always know where God is taking us. We may not ~~not~~ always know what the circumstance will be.

(Hebrews 11:8)

People sometimes ask: "Have you every done something or gone somewher and you didn't know what you were doing?".....Certainly....That is a general discription of every day. That is the life of fatih. We only know today. We don't know tomorrow. We can't live tomorrow. And we can't worrrry about yesterday..... We live Today - - -

and

And today is the greatest opportunity we have. O.K...What does Submission to the will of God mean for me today?.....You see, that is the issue..

It means obedience even when I don't know where I am going. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

And yet, what do we do? We bring all of our understanding into the picture. We ask a thousand different people: WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOD'S WILL FOR MY LIFE?" And on and on and on it goes. Instead of walking in simple faith and obedience...

(2) ~~And that is the second principle which submission always demands~~ trust in God to lead us .. Oh, dear friends, do you really believe that? Do you believe that God could lead you even though you don't know where you are going? Do you believe that God will meet your needs, even though you don't know how?

And how you answer those questions, dear friends, will determine whether or not you are submitting to God. Because God promised that He would lead and direct us, if we yield daily to his control.

Do you know what I have learned in this whole area of submission. I have learned that God wants to bless me far more than I am willing to receive. That's right. It is true.

And do you know why I find it so hard to be obedient and submit to the will of God? It is one little three letter word....SIN....SIN...^{when} There is sin in my life, ~~and~~ this sin keeps me in the world and it keeps me from faith and trust in the Lord.

OH, dear friends, ^{Confess that sin} delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him.

Oh, the tremendous ^{penalty} ~~issue~~ of separating ourselves unto the Lord; and submitting unto His will will lead us into the wonderful position of knowing ^{and experiencing} ~~and~~ receiving all of His blessings.

Shall we close in prayer