June 11, 2023 THE CALL OF ABRAM

Genesis chapters 12-50 presents a brighter future characterized by God’s promises and blessings. Although the people in these chapters remain quite human and capable of sin – sin that has consequences.

In our first reading for this Sunday from Genesis 12:1-9, we learn about God's Call to Abram and Listen to what God said: "The Lord told Abram, LEAVE your country, your relatives, and your father’s house, and GO to the land that I will show you. I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and... All the families of the earth will be blessed through you." Abram chose to leave his kindred and the place of birth and make God as his source of his life.  “When God Calls - Choose to Obey”.

When I left my family after my college graduation in 1970, and moved to another city, heading to be out on my own, it was a little scary. To be 100 miles away from home, to say goodbye to my parents and siblings was not easy. It took almost 10 years for me to settle down in life.

I can imagine for Abram, it must have been a hard step, but this led him to walk into the Blessed Life. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Abraham was told that he would have to make this new step that his life would take him out of familiarity into the unknown. God was going to be the source of blessing. God is the root cause for all Abraham’s greatness.

The Call to Abram is a big call, isn’t it? God was telling Abram to leave behind everything that he has known up to this point -- security, family, friends, etc. to go to a place that God would lead him. And notice, God left the destination vague, He was saying, "Abram, leave it all behind -- come follow me and I will bless you." How do you think you would respond? I suspect that most of us would struggle with this.

God is a Lord of promises. God gave a great promise to Abraham which we are now able to participate in. The emphasis is on what God would do far more than on what Abraham was expecting to attempt. There was a triple fulfillment of the promise:

Abram’s step is our step too, we must believe what God has said He will do and follow His Word. You will not have a blessed life following your own agenda. You may attain some success by the world’s standards, but you will not have the true riches of Christ.

To Abram God has made a great and wonderful promise. He promised Abram that he would become a great nation and in that all families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:2-3). In truth, the earth would be given to him as his inheritance. Now that the promise came to Abraham because of faith that he had in God. It did not come because he piled up merit by doing works of the law. It was the outgoing of God’s generous grace in answer to Abram’s absolute faith. The promise was dependent on two things, that is “Free grace of God” and “the perfect faith of Abraham”.

The promise was partially fulfilled in Abraham’s day and throughout the period of the Old Testament. The second is the promise that was fully portrayed in the life of Jesus. The promise also will be perfectly fulfilled at the end of the age. This promise is now being fulfilled as Jesus builds His church. We must understand the grounds upon which missions rest otherwise we will tend to give in to the hostile, indifferent or incorrect views that people have about the great commission.

These four steps will be the key to a Blessed Life. Stepping Out in Faith- to a place that God will show you. It will not be easier just to make us great without the step of faith. Stepping out seems so risky it makes us leave the comfort zone. But without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith is always established in our lives through the Word. For us to have blessings, we must learn to apply God’s principles in our lives.

Remember when you step out with God and the next day you become great. I am sure that many people who look for quick fixes in life want God to operate on that timetable, but the truth is, Abram’s greatness was a process, and reaching his destiny took a lifetime. I am sure Abraham had his discouraging days, and sometimes complained that the valley was too low, or the mountain was too high, or the journey was too long, he was human. But he never stopped believing in his destiny, what God promised He was able to fulfill.

But practically Abraham was a blessing to his family. He was a blessing everywhere he went, with everyone he met. God didn’t just make him the father of children, but the father of the nation. If you would like to know more about the call of God, please join us in our Sunday worship at 11:00 AM.

Peace!

Rev. Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj

Minister