



ABRAHAM'S BLESSINGS

Adegboyega Adejobi

The man Abraham was originally called Abram meaning high father. He lived with his father, Terah in Ur of the Chaldees. He married Sarai, his half-sister and moved with Terah, his father from Ur and with his wife and Lot his nephew. They stopped over at Haran and eventually settled there. Afterward, God called Abraham:

“ Now the Lord had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation: I will bless you and make your name great: And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”. So, Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him and Lot went with him. And Abraham was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Then, Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother’s son and all their possession that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran and they came to the land of Canaan. Genesis12: 1-5.

Abraham obeyed the voice of God and left with his household and Lot, his nephew. As a result of this act of obedience to God, God blessed Abraham greatly. Lot was blessed too. In a short while, Abraham and Lot had to separate on the account of their increasing possessions, as the land could no

longer contain both of them. Abraham was so magnanimous by giving Lot the preference of choice. He displayed godly confidence. Lot chose the plain of Jordan towards Sodom (Genesis13: 5-12) and Abraham moved his tent to the Oak of Mamre at Hebron (Genesis13: 18).

Afterward, God appeared to Abraham and made his covenant with him. This covenant and blessings was confirmed severally. In Genesis13: 16, God said, *“And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered”*. In Genesis15: 5, God said, *“Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them”*. And He said to him, *“so shall your descendants be”*. And in Genesis22: 17, God promised again saying: *“...in blessing, I will bless you, and in multiplying, I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies”*.

God confirmed His covenant with Abraham by the promise of an heir and Canaan as an inheritance. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. When Abraham was ninety-nine years of age, God renewed His covenant with him. Circumcision was then instituted to seal this covenant. This was when his name was changed from Abram to Abraham, meaning ‘father of many nations’. Correspondingly, the name of his wife also was changed from Sarai to Sarah meaning ‘mother of many nations’. God’s challenge to Abraham was: *“...walk before Me and be blameless” (Genesis 17: 1)*.

Abraham accepted the challenge and since that time entered into a unique covenant relationship with God and God blessed him. Eventually, Isaac, the seed of promise was born but before this happened, Ishmael had been born. Due to delay in conception and pressure from Sarah, Abraham went in to Hagar, his housemaid from Egypt. She conceived and gave birth to Ishmael.

Although, Hagar and her son Ishmael were later driven away from home after Isaac was born due to her conflict with Sarah, her mistress. This however, did not happen until Ishmael had received his own portion of the blessing of Abraham. Ishmael later became the patriarch of the entire Arab world. These Arabs constitute the dust of the desert that God mentioned to Abraham earlier on.

Isaac also gave birth to Jacob and Esau and the twelve sons of Jacob became the founding fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. Like the sand by the shore that is constantly beaten by the wave of the sea, the nation of Israel till today has always received the pounding of the nations around them. The nation of Israel today can truly say like Paul, the Apostle that, *“We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed, we are perplexed but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken, struck down, but not destroyed”* (2Corinthians 4:8-9). And, *“yet in all these things we are more than Conquerors through Him who loved us”* (Romans 8: 37).

They truly are the seeds of Abraham. Ultimately, when Jesus Christ was born into the world, He came through the lineage of Abraham. He opened the floodgate of salvation to both the Jews and Gentiles. These born-again Christians from every corner of the globe then are like the stars of heaven whose birth is supernatural or spiritual and not of this world. They are born not of flesh and blood but of the spirit of life that is in Christ Jesus.

The promises of God to Abraham were thus fulfilled to the letters. His descendants through Ishmael multiplied and spread like dust over the vast desert of Arabia. The descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob, like the sand by the seashore have settled in the land of Israel. And by the sacrificial death of Christ on the cross at Calvary, the Gentiles as vast as the stars of heaven are now grafted into the blessings of Abraham, shining in the glory of God.

Virtually, everyone that came in contact with this man, Abraham was blessed one way or the other. Abraham now stands for us today as the symbol and standard of God’s blessing. He was rich in silver and gold and also, cattle and herds. He became exceedingly great and waxed strong. God gave Abraham both natural and supernatural posterity. Till now, the name of Abraham is a universal one cutting across every nation, race, tribe and tongue. We want not just his name but his blessing also. Indeed, in this one man - Abraham, all the families of the earth are blessed.

Though the promises of God to us today may seem so remote, let us not despair. Rather, we should learn how to trust God and wait on Him. We should know that really, there is no failure or disappointment in Him. The secret of Abraham’s blessing lies in the simple fact that he believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. If only we could believe God like Abraham did. If only we could embrace righteousness like him. Then, we

shall discover like Abraham and the prophet Balaam that truly, “*God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent*” (*Numbers 23: 19*). He makes good His promises and does whatever He says He would do.