



## **BLESSING ABRAHAM**

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***“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” – Genesis12: 1-3.***

If you read the last edition of the ‘LAGOS POWER CONTACT’ you must have observed that this month’s title is the reverse of the previous one. We all know by now that Abraham was called and tremendously blessed by God. As a result, he became very rich in silver and gold, cattle and herds, menservants and maidservants. He was so blessed of God that virtually everywhere he turned and everything he touched turned to gold. His confidence in God and God’s blessing that makes rich without adding any sorrow was such that made him prefer Lot his nephew in matters of choice and also shun the gifts of the king of Sodom after he conquered Chedorlaomer and the other kings in the valley of Shavey. He knew assuredly that God would always bless him.

Today, Abraham stands out clearly for us as the symbol of God’s blessing and true greatness and so, we all now sing the song, ‘Abraham’s blessings

are mine'. Apart from the blessing of great wealth and promise of Isaac, his covenant child, the land of Canaan was also deeded to him. Above all, God promised Abraham that He would bless those who bless him and curse anyone who curses him. Isn't that really great? Or do you know anyone else in history that God gave this same promise?

There are many ways today whereby men seek for God's blessing yet, one sure way to be blessed by God is to bless Abraham. If I were living in Abraham's time, I would seek for every occasion and opportunity to bless this great man because I know God would bless me in return for blessing him. I would never curse Abraham for that would invoke the curse and wrath of God.

Abraham might have died and been buried long ago but his seeds still remain. There are still ways then to bless Abraham. Blessing Abraham's descendants is the same as blessing Abraham himself and by blessing the children of Abraham we can bring the blessing of God upon our lives.

We all know that Ishmael was born in error by Hagar, Sarah's housemaid from Egypt as a result of Sarah's impatience. Isaac was the authentic covenant child of Abraham. Little wonder then that Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman was cast out of the house together with his mother even in the lifetime of Abraham. Isaac later married Rebecca who, then gave birth to Jacob and Esau. Jacob also gave birth to twelve sons who afterwards became the patriarchs of the twelve tribes of the nation of Israel as it is today.

In fact, God gave the name, 'Israel' to Jacob originally. Even the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world has his human root in Jacob, Isaac and Abraham. Jesus came as a true Seed and Son of Abraham. The children of Israel then are the original and first class descendants of Abraham. This was the argument of Paul, the Apostle in the book of Romans, chapter nine when he asserted that to these Israelites truly belong ***"...the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises (Romans 9: 4).***

But do you know that these Israelites are still aliens to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ? They have refused to acknowledge and accept Christ as their true Lord and Saviour. According to Apostle Paul, ***"...Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness"*** and this is ***"because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the***

***law. Therefore, they stumbled at (Christ) that stumbling stone” (Romans 9: 31-32).***

Not all of us may have the opportunity to visit Israel and there are some who may even never come across a Jew in a lifetime but we all can pray and intercede for the nation of Israel. This was Apostle Paul’s submission. He said, ***“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge” (Rom.10: 1).*** Paul’s burden and concern for his Jewish brethren was so much that he said, ***“ that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh” (Romans 9: 2-3).***

We also should emulate this worthy example of Paul and answer the noble call to prayers for Israel. We can bless Israel with our prayers. By blessing Israel, the natural branch of Abraham, we are blessing Abraham himself, and by blessing Abraham, we would partake of the promise of God and bring down the hands of God in blessing upon us individually, our families and our nation. Let us remember the testimony of the scripture concerning Job. For it is written; ***“And the LORD restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends” (Job 42: 10).*** Apart from praying, there are several other ways to bless Israel too. All it takes is for us to truly appreciate the wonderful blessing that accompany blessing the Israel of God. We would then not spare anything, even our ‘widow’s mite’ to bless this wonderful people of God.

So, let us not join the bandwagon of nations and peoples that have entered into enmity with Israel. Instead, let us befriend this God-chosen nation, pray and support her in every possible way with all our resources. This way, our land shall be restored and we shall be blessed.

***“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May they prosper who love you. Peace within your walls, prosperity within your palaces. For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.” Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good” (Psalm 122: 6).***