

Jason Dirks==Genesis 12:1-20==10/8/23

The first 3 verses of *Genesis 12* are some of the most important in the Bible.

Whenever we are going through our God's story Project... I say that really the rest of the OLD TESTAMENT... the other 38 books... Exodus through Malachi are really the working out of the first 3 verses of Genesis 12...

Really to understand the Old Testament...you need to understand Abraham...
To Understand world religion... you need to understand Abraham!!!

3 of the Largest World religion's find their Roots in this man Abraham... Judiasm, Islam and Christianity.

So far in Genesis we have been looking at the CREATION of the World... the Fall of HUMANITY in Adam, the Judgment of the World in the Noah account... the Scattering of Humanity and languages in Babel.....and then WE ZOOM in to ONE FAMILY.... Now.. through this ONE FAMILY God will save the world... but the Focus is on One Man and His family.....

In the First sentence of the N.T. ---recording the geneology of Jesus it says this..*Matt. 1:1* ...

A way to think about the Old Testament... is that God makes these *incredible Promises* to Abraham.... He believes them..... and the rest of the Old TESTAMENT is *The PROMISES IN JEOPARDY* and God's rescue.....threats against, the attack on the resistance to those promises...

So.... What a Joy today for us to dive into the call of Abraham.

Abram is living with his extended family in the land Ur... *Joshua 24:2* says that Abram's family *served other gods... they worshipped idols.*

Then *God Speaks* to Abram (*12:1*).... Remember last week that *God spoke to NOAH*... Noah received revelation from God... God revealed Himself and His truth to Abram...

Just as God has spoken to us through HIS SON JESUS and through the SCRIPTURES....

Everything rises and falls on *WHAT YOU DO WITH GOD'S TRUTH*... --- It was the same for NOAH, the Same for ABRAHAM... and the same for YOU.

God speaks to ABRAM... and what does God say???? GOD makes *promises* to Abram...

Marvel that this is the kind of God we serve... A God who saves and delivers and RESCUES...
And God says to ABRAM... this is **what I will do for you**.

And the **promises** are spectacular....

God will give Abram **a LAND**

God will give Abram... **a son**, descendants... so many that Abram's family will become **a GREAT Nation!**

God will **bless** Abraham

God will make Abraham's **name great**

God will make Abraham **a blessing**...

God will Bless those who bless him, and curse those who dishonor him.

And then **the BIG ONE>.....**

God will **Bless all the families of the earth** through Abraham!!!!

Abraham will have **A Son** who becomes **a nation** that inherits **a land** that becomes **a blessing** to the **entire earth!**

This is at the **VERY HEART of CHRISTIANITY**... **God is a BLESSER**... God is an **INITIATOR**... **(Call)**...

Abraham **did not** come up with **this plan** and make a presentation to God... No... Abraham is **dead** in the water... he and his family are idolaters in Ur...

No...God STEPS in... GOD RESCUES and SAVES and PROMISES...

And the PROMISES.... **They are IMPOSSIBLE!!!**

Abraham is 75... he has no children.... Sarah is Barren... she is unable to have children.

Is God a REALLY bad picker???

If God is going to save the World **through one man having a Family**, who becomes a Nation, that produces **the Messiah**, the Savior of the World...

Why would God pick a couple that Can't have KIDS????

Because God is **displaying HIS GLORY!!!** God is showing off HIS POWER and MIGHT and the reality that **NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD!!!**

God wants you to know these accounts so that **when you are looking at a PROMISE** in the Bible **that LOOKS impossible** for you're life... You will remember Abraham and Sarah...

It's the same with us... we are **DEAD in our trespasses** and **Sins**... But God Makes a way through JESUS and then **INITIATES**... HE Comes to us... HE **calls us**.... He **PROMISES us** that if we will come and believe upon Christ we can be blessed **with salvation**.

→ What MUST ABRAHAM DO???? What is HIS role??? What is **HIS RESPONSE???**

He must BELIEVE GOD.... (It was the **same with Noah right???** God told Noah of the **coming wrath and judgment** to come upon the world because **of Sin**... and Noah BELIEVED GOD...)

And **that Believe** always **LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING**....

Q→ It's a great question to ask yourself this morning... what does my Faith look like?

For Noah... his faith looked like... **picking up a saw... and felling trees.. and spending the next decades of his life BUILDING a boat that made sense to NO ONE**... all the while **preaching of the coming judgment** that he could Not yet SEE! .

For Abraham to Believe God... it doesn't demand that he devote the rest of his life to enormous ship building.... If ABRAHAM believes God... he will..... **LEAVE.**

He will **LEAVE his old life**... He will **leave** the **safety and security** of his **country** and his **family** and his **father's house**... and he will **GO** to a place he **has never been**... has **never seen**... **knows nothing about** and **Trust God that**... God will do **something spectacular** in that place... that **God will save the World in that place!!!**

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******Essentially for Abraham to **Believe God**... it means **LETTING go of everything he knows** and Following God into **MORE than He can imagine**.
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And **everyone who Believes upon Jesus** must essentially do **the same thing**... Jesus said, **"if anyone would come after Me, he must deny Himself, take up His Cross and follow me."** **Matthew 16:24** ...

2 Corinthians 5:17.... Says... The Old has passed away.. the Old is gone...

Your **HOPE** can't be in 2 places... you are either going to live **your way**.... You are going to try **to find Life** and eternity in your own EFFORTS... Your own designs.... Your own plans... Your **own works**... Following your **deceitful desires**...your broken flesh.. (**Tower of Babel**)

Or you are going to **TRUST GOD for LIFE!!!**

Now... what is true is that Following God always demands **FAITH!!!**

Abraham knows what is **behind him in UR**... he **knows the old life**... **he is 75** at this time... he is married... he is **well known**, he's a stand up guy, he's **a hard worker**... he has **established a life** for he and Sarai (SARAH)... **they got plans**...

Abraham knows all of that... it's tangible... he **can see it**... quantify it... **calculate it**... count it.

And everything that God has promised... is... **UNSEEN**.

You know what Abraham **does not have????** **A positive pregnancy test... A Sonogram picture... Sarah with a baby bump picture...**

Abraham **does not have** **a real-estate brochure from the Promised land**...

Abraham **does not have** **any specifics about how the family... that he does NOT YET have** **is going to BLESS THE ENTIRE WORLD**...

He has **NONE of that**....

What does He have??? **The WORD OF GOD**... and Believing that Word gives him CONFIDENCE... **CERTAINTY** in the UNSEEN...

Remember our definition from last week... out of **Hebrews 11:1**...

This was the Case with Abraham... Look at **Hebrews 11:8** ...

Hebrews 11:13... Faith gives Abraham the ability to **see from afar**... and **"greet"**... have an introduction to the BLESSINGS God has promised..

Here is **the Beauty of FAITH**.... Faith in God's Word enabled Abraham **to LOOK back** to his OLD LIFE... That which he can see and know and experience..... the life he lived for 75 years... **his wealth, his security, his plans, his people**...

And LOOK AHEAD to the PROMISES of GOD... to the UNSEEN.... And by Faith Abraham could say.. the UNSEEN is **BETTER!**

What God has for me is **BETTER!** God's plan and truth and promises are **BETTER!!!**
Hebrews 11:13–16 ..

Better is a **VALUE ASSESSMENT**.... Abraham was saying... *what I'm leaving* is **not Worth** what **God has PROMISED**... even though... *I don't possess it yet*... Even though I don't see it yet.. .

Faith gives me the confidence to know that God's PROMISES are CERTAIN and they are worth it!

This is what Paul was saying in *Philippians 3:8-9* ...

When God called Abraham and Made Him these PROMISES... Abraham was believing **His LIFE and REWARD** was **bound up with God**.. where God told Him to Go... Doing what God told Him to do...

The Same is true with you today.... If you believe **the Promises of God**... the Promises of JESUS>. *John 14:6* says... Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE... *John 6:35* ... *Romans 8:28.....Romans 10:9,13..... 1 John 1:9....*

If you believe these.... You WILL ---- LEAVE the old life!!! *Ephesians 4:22-24*

You will **Leave the old patterns**, the old sins, the old ways of living that never satisfied your Soul and you will **Seek JESUS**, know JESUS, **obey Jesus**, follow Jesus!!

You will **Follow Jesus** in what He says about your **TIME and your Marriage, and your Money and your Relationships!!**

There is LIFE in REPENTANCE... in Worship in MISSION!!!

Faith causes you to Give your LIFE in PURSUIT **of God's BETTER**...

What is also clear here...

Is that Believing God not only brings you into God's Blessing... it also makes you a Blesser. Genesis 12:2-3 ...

The Gospel is in those verses.... **Gospel:** The Good news that God sent Jesus to save all those who will trust Him!

Q → You might be ASKING... How is that **the gospel?**

First, let me **prove to you that****Jesus**is exactly what is being spoken of here... even though Abraham lived around **2000 years** before JESUS stepped out of the heavens and into human flesh as a Baby in Bethlehem...

Galatians 3:8

Abraham is to have a Son... who will have **a family** and that family will grow into a **Nation**... the Nation of Israel... and from the Nation of Israel will be **Born a KING**, a **PROPHET**, a Champion, **a Messiah** who will SAVE people from their sins... **from every tongue, tribe and nation**...

This verse is the **first hint** of **where** will the Messiah come from.... **Abraham's family**... And this Messiah will save **not just** Israel... but **people from every people group on the planet!**

God's PLAN IS **GLOBAL!!!** From the Beginning!

And **ABRAHAM will be a part of this!!!** Not just through producing **a blood line**... **a biological, family connection**...

But God will **Bless Abraham**... to **be a blessing**.

This is the WAY IT WORKS FOLKS>.... Whenever **God blesses you**... whenever God brings you into His Family **dumps His MERCY upon YOU** and **forgives you of Sin** and **changes your HEART**...

He purposes that you would take that grace and mercy from HIM and **turn and be a blessing to others**...

Abraham was to be **a visible display** of the **ONE TRUE GOD TO THE WORLD!!!**

LISTEN... if you are a **recipient of God's Grace** and **Blessing** today... that is the plan for you as well.

There is **NO ONE who God dumps** out **His grace and glory on** that is supposed to just **sit on it**.

If God has revealed Himself to you and called you into His kingdom... then you are to **be a part of the MISSION!!!**

Psalm 67!!!

If you would say.... "I AM BLESSED with the Grace of God, the Mercy of God, the salvation of God"----- then you are **Called to be a blessing....** You are called to **Take JESUS to the World!**

God **does not** pull you into HIS BLESSING for you to **simply go on with your life and then enjoy HEAVEN....** That is not in the Bible!

You are blessed... to be made a Blessing.

NOW Folks... This is STILL the Way that Following God looks--- This is still the way that we come to know and love and believe and follow God.

2 Peter 1:3-4 ... We become like Him by believing His **precious promises...**

Our Faith is NOT PERFECT Yet.... Neither was Abraham's... (Neither was the disciples...remember Jesus rebuking them for their "little faith." ----but our Faith **should be growing!!!**

Genesis 12:4--- Abram goes...

Genesis 12:6—9--- Abram gets to the Land.. builds an Alter and WORSHIPS!!
Calls on God.. **Proclaims (Preaches) about God.**

He is being the blessing!

But then **his Faith is Tested**... this is going to happen to you as well..

There will be **PRESSURE**.... In addition to God's Promises...

Genesis 12:10 ... **Famine**... Goes to Egypt for Food...

Abram is **AFRAID**..... Foreigner coming in to a nation he doesn't belong... in a day where foreigners would be taken advantage of.... A husband might be killed if someone wanted his wife..

Hold up.... Abram... The PROMISES!!!!!! That's not going to happen!!!

But Abram is fearful... and in weakness... He is **more afraid of the men of Egypt** than the **Eternal God who made him the promises...**

In **Weakness Abram reverts back to the old life...** he goes from Trusting to scheming...
From Faith to deception
From Confidence to Fear.
From Trusting God to **taking matters in his own hands..**
He reverts back to.... Taking care of #1... instead of trusting God to do what He promised.

And it's a disaster... Sarah is taken!! -----Abraham is completely **HELPLESS TO GET HER BACK!**

Remember I told you that this is what **the rest of the O.T. is about!!!** God made these promises and through Abraham's family the world will be saved...
And **everything comes against** Abraham's family...

Including their own weak faith!!!

God rescues Sarah, brings plagues on Egypt and delivers Abraham and Sarah out richer than he came in. (a Mini-Exodus)...

God is FAITHFUL!!

Do you know God's Promises?
Do you Believe them?
If so... What have you left?
How are you by Faith pursuing the UNSEEN?
If you are Blessed... how are you a Blessing?