

Southern California Praise & Ministry Meeting



Irvine
Feb 3, 2024

Introduction

“My name is _____

I am presently _____

I am on my way to (or becoming)_____”

Our introduction to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3:

12:1 Now Jehovah said to Abram,
Go from your land
And from your relatives
And from your father's house
To the land that I will show you;

12:2 And I will make of you a great nation,
And I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.

12:3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And him who curses you I will curse;
And in you all the families of the earth will be
blessed.

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“My name is *Abraham*

Presently I am *an ordinary
Mesopotamian*

I am on my way to *a promised
land, and I am becoming a
great nation and through me all
the families of the earth will be
blessed.*”

Takeaway #1: We are all on a journey Godward

Typified by Abraham and God's people in the Old Testament:

“We walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham” (Romans 4:12)

“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

Now therefore if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My personal treasure from among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine.

And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the children of Israel.” (Exodus 19:4-6)

How do we get to where we are headed?

How do you go onward (Godward), in your Christian walk?

Moses' bargain with God in Exodus:

33:11 And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion...

33:13 Now therefore if I have found favor in Your sight, please let me know now Your ways, that I may know You...

33:14 And He said, My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.

33:15 And he said to Him, If Your presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here.

33:16 For how then shall it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, are distinct from all the *other* people who are on the face of the earth?

How do you go onward (Godward), in your Christian walk?

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What best characterizes your walk with the Lord?



*Dear Lord Jesus, precious Jesus
When Thy presence does depart,
Seems the dawn has lost its traces,
Hidden are my smiling faces;
All I yearn for is Thy coming
And thy presence' sweet embrace*

Hymn #1158

In their journey, the presence of the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud and by night in a pillar of fire (Ex 13:21-22; Num. 9).

God's presence = pillar

Pillar of Cloud = the Spirit

- The cloud signifies the Spirit (1 Cor. 10:1-2), which comes to be with us to cover and shelter us
- By the indwelling Spirit, we behold the Lord and He shines in our heart; this is our real treasure (2 Cor. 3-4).
- “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Rom. 8:14

Pillar of Fire = the Word

- The fire signifies the Word of God, which is a shining light to us.
- “We have the prophetic word *made* more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place” 2 Pet. 1:19
- “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psa. 119:105

Takeaway #2: God leads us through the Spirit and the Word to guide us continually, whether by day or by night.

“You, in Your great compassion, did not forsake them in the wilderness;

The pillar of cloud did not depart from over them by day, to guide them on their way;

Nor the pillar of fire by night, to light the way for them, on which they should go.”

Nehemiah 9:19