



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith blessed!

Genesis 12:1-7

Message #12 of 50 – S909

Sermon given on August 23, 2020

@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Faith blessed!

Genesis 12:1-7

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 12**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- I imagine there are very few people that can look back on their lives without regret
- I have been learning to live my life in such a way that I don't add many new regrets
- One of the things that I love about being a Christian is how God's grace and forgiveness can wash me clean of my past mistakes
- One area that still tugs at my heart is from when my kids were growing up
- I would say that I was going to do something or that we were going somewhere – and then it wouldn't happen
- Maybe because something happened that prevented me from keeping my word – sometimes I just blew it
- I wasn't a terrible father, but it happened often enough that sometimes they would respond to me as if they didn't trust me to keep my word – that hurt
- To trust someone we must believe that they are willing and able to do what they say
- This morning we begin the section of Genesis that focuses on Abram/Abraham
- We begin with God telling Abram what He is going to do and then we see Abram's response
- As each of us continues our journey of faith, we will discover more of the things God has told us He is going to do
- We will be called upon by God to trust Him with more of our lives
- Everything we do in life is an opportunity to trust God more
- And trusting God is the key to living the abundant life Jesus promises us

- Let's pray and ask the Spirit to help us discover how to trust God more
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith blessed!**
 - Last week we looked at the genealogies and the formations of the nations of the earth
 - It ended with an introduction to Abram and his family
 - He will be the primary human character until chapter 25
 - Remember context is crucial
 - Noah is writing this for the Hebrews who have just been delivered from 400 years of bondage in Egypt
 - They are headed for the land that God is going to promise to Abraham in this chapter
 - Chapter 12 takes place about 650 years before Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt
 - Our chapter begins with the Lord speaking
 - **Genesis 12:1**
 - Abram was a pretty remarkable character in the Scriptures
 - He is descended from the blessed line of Noah's son Seth
 - In Noah's prophecy regarding Seth he foretold of Abram's journey to Canaan **Genesis 9:26**
- And he said: "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant."**
- This predicts that at least some of Shem's descendants would be God worshippers
 - Abram grew up in Ur – not a God-worshipping culture
 - Excavations of Ur have revealed they worshipped a moon-goddess and practiced human sacrifice
 - Out of the darkness of that idol-worshipping culture Abram heard the voice of God
 - There are not a lot of details – not even where he is going to
 - **Genesis 12:2-3**
 - Seven things that God says He is going to cause to happen
 - Five times He says, 'I will' and it is implied in the other two

- ‘great nation’ – Abram entered Canaan with himself, his wife, and his nephew Lot
- He was 75 and his wife was barren – not able to have children
- As Moses was sharing that with the Hebrews in the desert, they could look around and see millions of Abram’s descendants – a great nation
- ‘bless you’ – before the end of this chapter – is rich
- ‘make your name great’ – Three world religions claim Abram/Abraham – Judaism, Islam, and Christianity
- ‘shall be a blessing’ – knowledge of the One True God and salvation through the Jews
- ‘bless those who bless...curse those who curse’ – God setting Abram (& the Jews) apart from the rest of the world as His special people
- We take this Scripture seriously – seek to bless Israel
- ‘all the families of the earth shall be blessed’ – It was through the Jewish people, Abram’s descendants that Jesus came into the world – the hope of forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life **1 John 2:2**

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

- Notice – unconditional promises – God says “I will...”
- Abram’s responsibility is to believe
- **Genesis 12:4-6**
- What did Abram have to go on? The bare word of God!
- True faith doesn’t need answers or understanding
- True faith hears God speak and then does what it hears
- **Genesis 12:7a**
- In verse 1, the Lord Spoke – in verse 4, Abram obeyed in faith
- Then the Lord appeared to Abram
- There is a spiritual truth here that we don’t want to miss **Matthew 13:12**

For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

- Abram followed an unseen God by faith into Canaan
- Once there, the Lord appeared to him
- One of our goals as Christians is to see the Lord more clearly **1 Corinthians 13:12**

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

- It is by walking in faith that we see Jesus more clearly
 - And when we see Jesus more clearly, our faith grows and we have new opportunities to walk in that faith, which allows us to see Jesus even more clearly
 - To see Jesus more clearly, walk in the faith that you currently have
 - Next, we see a profound promise to the Jewish people
 - **Genesis 12:7b**
 - As the Hebrews approach the land of Canaan, it is as the God-ordained owners of the land
 - And even though they had just spent 400 years in Egypt, Canaan was still theirs
 - In fact, it will always be theirs **Genesis 13:14-15**
- And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are—northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.”**
- And anyone who messes with the land God promised to the Jews will experience the ‘I will curse those who curse you’
 - Abram responds to the appearance and promise
 - **Genesis 12:7c**
 - Abram’s response was to worship God
 - Abram lived a pilgrim’s life
 - The only land he owned was a place to bury his wife and the only things he built were altars to worship God **Hebrews 11:9-10**
- By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.**
- God is not opposed to us owning homes and businesses
 - What He doesn’t want is for us to consider this world our home
 - If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, He is preparing a place for you in heaven
 - That is your home
 - Until He comes and gets you and takes you there, live in this world as a pilgrim

- You have been called out of the darkness of your past and you are on a journey of faith through this world
- You are being prepared for heaven and for use in God's kingdom today
- In these verses today we find some of the foundational promises of the Jewish faith
- They tell us how God is going to relate to the Jews
- And they give us the basis on how we, as non-Jews, should relate to them
- These things that God said He would do with the Jewish people are vitally important to us
- God made promises to the Jewish people – forever-promises
- A study of the history of the Jews has proven that God has kept all His promises to them
- Promises like giving them the land of Canaan forever
- God called Abram and his descendants to be set apart as holy to the Lord for His special purpose
- Warned them not to defile themselves like the other nations around them **Leviticus 20:22**

You shall therefore keep all My statutes and all My judgments, and perform them, that the land where I am bringing you to dwell may not vomit you out.

- Twice God kicked the Jews out of the land, and twice He has regathered them back into the land
- If God will keep all His promises to Israel, then we can trust Him to keep His promises to us
- I understand why my children might have struggled to trust me when I said I was going to do something or take them somewhere – I wasn't as trustworthy as I should have been
- God is always trustworthy **Isaiah 26:3-4**

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.

- You can absolutely trust God with every part of your life
- You must trust Him – if you want the best life possible
- Trusting God drives fear away from your life
- Trusting God answers the hard questions of life

- Trusting God leads you to the path of God's greatest blessings
- Trusting God opens your heart to receive more of His love, grace, mercy, peace, and hope
- Trusting God helps you to experience heaven right here on earth
- Trusting God helps you to be like Jesus
- And trusting God helps others to see and meet Jesus through your journey of faith
- God will allow us to live any life we choose, but the only life worth living is one that puts our whole lives into His hands
- God loves you and us worthy of all your trust
- Let's walk with Him today trusting Him to guide every step along the way
- **Pray!**