

Morning Sermon January 31, 2021

“The Call to God’s Promised Blessings” – Genesis 12:3

³ 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.” Genesis 12:3 (NKJV)

I. *What are the blessings discussed in Genesis 12:3?*

1. *A covenant is implied here, God is on Abram’s side. God will bless Abram’s friends. He will fight Abram’s enemies! God will make Abram / Abraham a world-wide blessing through his Seed, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Blessings = favor, happiness, even eternal happiness, they are multiple, and multiplied, and spread world-wide –

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

2. *These are promised blessings –*

²⁹ And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)

3. *These are blessings that are for us, see how Genesis 12:3 is referred to in Galatians -*

⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, **“In you all the nations shall be blessed.”**⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. Galatians 3:8–9 (NKJV)

4. *These blessings are ours through Christ’s cross -*

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, **“Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”**),¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Galatians 3:13–14 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.²⁰ **For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.** 2 Corinthians 1:19–20 (NKJV)

II. *That the blessings of Abram / Abraham are attained through Christ’s cross, shines in the covenant signs and God’s dealing with Abraham –*

1. *The Genesis 15, cutting of a covenant -*

A. *Abram asks God -*

⁸ And he said, **“Lord God, how shall I know that I will inherit it?”** Genesis 15:8 (NKJV)

Basically: How will I know LORD that you will keep your promise?

B. *God’s response is symbolic, the animals are killed, even cut in two. The smoking oven and burning torch passing through the cut in half animals, is God Himself passing between the pieces -*

⁹ So He said to him, **“Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old female goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”**

¹⁰ Then he brought all these to Him and cut them in two, down the middle, and placed each piece opposite the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. Genesis 15:9–10 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And it came to pass, when the sun went down and it was dark, that behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a burning torch that passed between those pieces.¹⁸ On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: ... Genesis 15:17–18 (NKJV)

This how covenants / contracts were made binding in those days.

Instead of a signing there was this ceremony, the person walking between the pieces was saying, “let me be like them, if I do not keep my promises.”

C. *In Genesis 15:13-14 God tells Abram that his descendants would be slaves in Egypt four hundred years and God would deliver them and they would come out of Egypt with great possessions. In Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 God gave His people laws to keep, there were blessings or curses connected to keeping or breaking these laws. Israel failed, and yet Christ, as a Man suffers the penalty involved with breaking this covenant –*

⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:5–6 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.*” Galatians 3:10 (NKJV)

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*”),

2. *We see the cross again in Genesis 17, in the Covenant Sign –*
¹⁷ When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “*I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.*”
² And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” Genesis 17:1–2 (NKJV)

¹⁰ This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; ¹¹ and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. Genesis 17:10–11 (NKJV)

Circumcision is a sign: Performed on Abraham and his descendants’ reproductive organs because it is pointing forward to Abraham’s Seed

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¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “*And to seeds,*” as of many, but as of one, “*And to your Seed,*” who is Christ. Galatians 3:16 (NKJV)

A. *It is a bloody sign because Jesus would bleed and die for our sins, in this it is like the Passover, also a bloody sign because it involved the slaying of a lamb –*

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*” John 1:29 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. 1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

3. *We see Christ’s cross foreshadowed again in Abraham’s life as he is obedient in offering up his only son, Isaac –*

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: “*By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only*

*son—*¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.” Genesis 22:15–18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

4. *We see Christ’s cross in God’s provision of the lamb instead of Isaac –*

⁷ But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, “*My father!*” And he said, “*Here I am, my son.*” Then he said, “*Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?*” ⁸ And Abraham said, “*My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.*” ... Genesis 22:7–8 (NKJV)

¹³ Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind *him* was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, “*In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided.*” Genesis 22:13–14 (NKJV)

III. *We find these blessings in Christ, -*

1. *The Beatitudes, His sermon –*
“*Blessed are ...*” Matthew 5:3 - 11 (NKJV)

2. *The contrast between Moses and Christ –*
¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:16–17 (NKJV) *Moses turned water in to blood; Jesus water into wine!*

3. *Spiritual blessings, every one of them -*
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Ephesians 1:3 (NKJV)

4. *The Blessings of the Revelation of Jesus Christ:*
Revelation 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14

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