

## **GENESIS 12:6-9 GOD'S SECOND DIALOGUE AND FIRST APPEARANCE TO ABRAM!**

7/31/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente; ptwente@gmail.com

**THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE** Thomas Oliver - ben Judah/Yigdal (Leoni) #30 (0, -5)

1) *The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above; Ancient of everlasting days and God of love. Jehovah, great I Am! By earth and heaven confessed; I bow and bless the sacred name, forever blest!*

2) *He by Himself has sworn; I on His oath depend. I shall, on eagle wings up borne, to heaven ascend. I shall behold His face; I shall His power adore, and sing the wonders of His grace, forever more!*

3) *The God who reigns on high, the great archangels sing, And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King! Who was and is the same, and evermore shall be: Jehovah, Father, Great I Am! We worship Thee!"*

4) *The whole triumphant host, give thanks to God on high. "Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!", they ever cry. Hail, Abraham's God and mine! I join the heavenly lays: All might and majesty are Thine, and endless praise! Amen!*

### **Biblical Background:**

The Covenant (*Gen\_12:1-3*) - God had called Abraham in Ur of the Chaldees (*Acts\_7:2-4*), but he had lingered at Haran until the death of his father (*Gen\_11:27-32*). God demands total separation to Himself, even if death must accomplish it. This call was completely of grace and the blessings of the covenant wholly from the Lord's goodness. **God promised to give Abraham (1) a land; (2) a great name; (3) a great nation; and (4) a blessing that would spread to the whole world.** It took a good deal of faith for Abraham to respond to these promises for he had no children, and he and his wife were getting old (*Gen\_11:30*). God would do it all, if only Abraham would believe. **Certainly God has fulfilled His promises;** for Israel has her land; the Jews have blessed all nations by giving us the Bible and Christ; and Abraham's name is revered by Jews, Moslems, Christians, and even unbelievers. **Abraham trusted God and God gave him a great name!** Here we have Abram passing through the land and now The LORD appears to him. This is the first time we're told of His appearing to Abram.

**GENESIS 12:6** *"Abram passed through the land to the place of Shechem ("strength", was the center of the country, Josh. 25:1, 25, 32), as far as the terebinth tree of Moreh (instruction). And the Canaanites were then in the land."*

**Gen 12:7** *Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.*

***Then the LORD appeared to Abram:*** Once Abram was in the land, God reminded him of His promise. The land Abram saw belonged to Abram and his descendants. **Abram builds an altar unto the Lord** when He appears to him this first time. **While he was in Haran, the place of delay, God had not appeared to him.** One of the reasons that we are not always blessed in the reading of the Bible is because the Bible condemns—we are not living up to the light which God has already given to us. If we would obey God, then more blessing would come. We see in Abram's experience that God did not appear to him until after he had moved out and had begun to obey God on the light that he had. Now God appears to him!

***To your descendants I will give this land:*** Abram never owned any of this land except his burial plot (*Gen\_23:14-20*). Yet God's promise was enough evidence to assure Abram that he did indeed own the whole country.

***And there he built an altar to the LORD:*** Then Abram builds an altar, and we will see that he is a real altar-builder. Abram thought this was important to do. The altar was important to Abram because it was a place to meet with God, to offer sacrifice for sin, to show submission to God, and to worship God.

**Gen 12:8-9** *And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD. [9] So Abram journeyed, going on still toward the South.*

***He pitched his tent:*** Even in the land God gave him, Abram never lived in a house. He **lived in a tent. Tents are the home of those who are just passing through** and do not put down permanent roots.

- We too, are to live like tent-dwellers, as pilgrims on this earth (*1Pe 2:11*). We should live as people who have their permanent dwelling place in heaven, not on earth. Too many Christians want to build mansions on earth and think they would be happy with tents in heaven.
- A **pilgrim is someone who leaves home and travels to a specific destination**. A pilgrim isn't a drifter; a pilgrim has a goal. **Abram's goal (and our goal) was God's heavenly city** (*Heb 11:8-10; Heb 11:14-16*).

***there he built an altar to the LORD:*** As done upon a special occasion. **When God appeared to him, then and there he built an altar, with an eye to the God who appeared to him.** Thus he returned God's visit, and kept up his correspondence with heaven, as one that resolved it should not fail on his side; thus he acknowledged, with thankfulness, God's kindness to him in making him that gracious visit and promise; and **thus he testified his confidence in and dependence upon the word which God had spoken.** An active believer can heartily bless God for a promise the performance of which he does not yet see, and build an altar to the honor of God who appears to him, though he does not yet appear for him.

***Called (qârâ' - kaw-raw' - to call out to, preach, (make) proclaim, read, say) on the name of the LORD:*** As was his constant practice, wherever he moved. As soon as Abram had got to Canaan, though he was but a stranger and sojourner there, yet **he set up, and kept up, the worship of God in his family; and wherever he had a tent, God had an altar, and that an altar sanctified by prayer.** For he not only minded the ceremonial part of religion, the offering of sacrifice, **but made a conscience decision of seeking his God, and calling on His name, that spiritual sacrifice with which God is well pleased.** He preached concerning the name of the Lord, that is, **he instructed his family and neighbors in the knowledge and trust in the One true God.** *The people whom they had acquired in Haran*, being disciples, must be further taught. Those that would approve themselves the children of faithful Abram, and would inherit the blessing of Abram, **must make conscience of keeping up the solemn worship of God, particularly in their families, according to the example of Abram.** The way of family worship is a good old way, is no novel invention, but the ancient usage of all the saints. Abram was very rich and had a numerous family, was now unsettled and **in the midst of enemies, and yet, wherever he pitched his tent, he built an altar.** Wherever we go, **let us not fail to take our testimony of honoring the Lord and worshipping Him!**

#### **SUMMARY:**

- **Obedience!** We see in Abram's experience that **God did not appear to him until after he had moved out and had begun to obey God on the light that he had. Now God appears to him!**
- **Standing on His Promises!** An active believer **can wonderfully bless God for a promise, even before it is seen; he can build an altar to the honor of God who appears to him, though he has not yet appeared for him.**
- **Live as Pilgrims!** We too, are to live like tent-dwellers, as pilgrims on this earth (*1Pe 2:11*). We should live as people who have their permanent dwelling place in heaven, not on earth.
- **Worship; Prayer!** When Abram had arrived at Canaan, a stranger and sojourner, yet **he set up, and kept up, the worship of God in his family; and wherever he had a tent, God had an altar, sanctified by prayer.**
- **Faithful in testimony!** In the midst of enemies, wherever Abram pitched his tent, **he built an altar.** Wherever we go, **let us not fail to take our testimony of honoring the Lord and worshipping Him!**

**Pray Today For:** Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

#### **O WORSHIP THE KING** Robert Grant #31 (0, -5)

- 1) *O worship the King, all-glorious above. O gratefully sing God's power and God's love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise!*
- 2) *O tell of God's might. Oh sing of God's grace, whose robe is the light, whose canopy space. God's chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form, and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm!*
- 3) *Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air. It shines in the light; it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain!*
- 4) *Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail. Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend! Amen!*

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