

Roots of Saving Faith

Genesis 12:1-9 Sunday AM, August 25, 2024

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9 (NASB95) Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.” 4 So Abram went forth as the LORD had spoken to him; and Lot went with him. Now Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his nephew, and all their possessions which they had accumulated, and the persons which they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan; thus they came to the land of Canaan. 6 Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land. 7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your descendants I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD who had appeared to him. 8 Then he proceeded from there to the mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. 9 Abram journeyed on, continuing toward the Negev.

So we return to our study of Abraham. We started in March, looking for background in chapter 11 which described a group of families coming together to build a city. Who were these people? Chapter 10 gave us a table of nations descendant from Noah’s three sons. But their attempt to pool their creativity and resources was not blessed by God as they were determined to make a name for themselves on their own—their creativity and power would protect them, give them a future, and proclaim their worth. God came down and confused their language leading to confusion and dissension, dividing them from one another, scattering them over the face of the whole earth. Immediately following this scattering, we are shown another line—one continuing from another branch of the family descended from Shem, and this one ends with Terah and his children, one of whom is Abram/ Abraham. Today, God speaks to Abram, calling him to leave—to separate himself from most closely identifies him—his country, his people, and his relatives. Who is this God who calls him to leave? This is none other than the God who has made Himself known to mankind as Creator, Sustainer, Ruler, Father, and Judge of mankind. Church, tell of His might and sing of His grace!

*Hymn #59: I Sing the Mighty Power of God

There is much to learn about Abraham. Abraham is known for his faith, today primarily seen in the actions of going and public worship. Where is He going? Where God told him to go. Why does he worship? Because he sees God as worthy of worship. Worship before One holy as the Lord calls for sacrifices of repentance as well as sacrifices of praise. For us who profess faith in God today, our worship of God’s acts of love and mercy culminate in the work of Christ. Worship the love of God in Christ.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Love of God (Getty)

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D. Scripture: Romans 4:1–25** (NASB95) What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, 6 just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: 7 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 “BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.” 9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” 10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised; 11 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised. 13 For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; 15 for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. 16 For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, 17 (as it is written, “A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS HAVE I MADE YOU”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist. 18 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.” 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform. 22 Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS. 23 Now not for his sake only was it written that it was credited to him, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be credited, as those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

Offering: *Doxology:

This morning, you will hear Abraham and faith tied together. This theme will be repeated again and again throughout the Abraham narrative, not only because we will see evidence of it, but because Scripture like the one we read in Romans 4 ties Abraham with saving faith. When Scripture lifts up an example of faith for us to see, we would do well to look at the One they trust. You will not understand your position with Jesus NOR worship Him for His great salvation and follow Him in faithful service unless you have a holy, reverent, and robust faith like Abraham. This is why Romans 4:11 says Abraham is the father of all who believe. Church, praise the God of Abraham and make these words your own.

*Hymn #34: The God of Abraham Praise

It cost Abraham to follow. One I read called it a life-changing faith. Goals, priorities, relationships, and resources all shifted to the will of God. His will became the highest goal. His word became the instant duty. How do we head in this direction? Yield to the Good Shepherd. He will lead. He will protect. He will provide. He will correct. Lord, like Abraham, teach us to follow.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Good Shepherd of My Soul

Message: Roots of Saving Faith Gen. 12:1-9

Since the incarnation and ascension of Christ, most of the time, we hear God’s call through His revealed word of His works in history. You may be called to leave your country, your people, your relatives, but ALL who follow Christ are called to start again with a new identity. To whom would you give this kind of allegiance? To One who loved you and gave Himself for you. See how great a love the Father has bestowed that we should be called children of God. Sing of goodness of our Lord, Master, and Father—then live verse 3.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): How Deep the Father’s Love *Prayer