

Biblical Economics

The Blessing of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you.

2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

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.”

- I. The Biblical concept of blessing is - God at work in the lives of His people to _____ the effects of the curse of sin.
 - A. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve knew nothing of _____ until sin entered.
 1. When they sinned, death, along with _____ and _____, passed upon the entire human race.

Romans 5:12 NKJV

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

2. _____ is a form of death - financially.
- B. In Genesis 12, Jehovah approaches Abram and _____ in his life.
 1. Jehovah - I am the One who is.
 - a) Coupled with other names, Jehovah transforms into the definition of _____ - He Who brings into existence whatever exists.
 - b) Jehovah Elohim - the Lord who made the heavens and the earth.
 - c) Jehovah Tsidkenu - the Lord who makes us righteous.
 - d) Jehovah Nissi - the Lord who brings victory.
 - e) Jehovah Shalom - the Lord who brings peace.
 - f) Jehovah Shammah - the Lord who indwells to make strong.
 - g) Jehovah Rapha - the Lord who heals
 - h) Jehovah Jireh - the Lord who provides.

2. The promise to Abram came with _____.

 - a) Get out of your country.
 - b) Separate from your family and your father's house.
 - c) Go to a land I will show you.

3. Abram obeyed and by the next chapter he was _____.

Genesis 13:2, 5-9 NKJV

2 Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

5 Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks and herds and tents. 6 Now the land was not able to support them, that they might dwell together, for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together. 7 And there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. The Canaanites and the Perizzites then dwelt in the land. 8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen; for we are brethren. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left."

C. Abram obeyed, but he took Lot with him.

1. Partial obedience will not yield the _____ of what God intends.
2. It is interesting to note that it was God's _____ that created the situation leading to the strife.
3. So, Abram suggested a separation and _____ Lot by giving him his choice of the land.

Genesis 13:14-17 NKJV

14 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; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever. 16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

D. After Abram completely obeyed the Lord, God showed him the _____.

1. When our obedience is fulfilled, the Lord's promise can become _____.
2. Abram was already _____ by this time (need for separation), but God had more in mind. How much?

Genesis 14:14

14 Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he *armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

- E. How many _____ do you have?
1. Abram, by this time, had _____ that were born in his house - not counting women, children and those not born in his house.
 2. It has been estimated that Abram had nearly _____ people working for him in all his endeavors.
 - a) Relative terms: a _____ firm ranges 100 to 2000 employees with a market capitalization between \$10M to \$500M.
 - b) Abram qualified as a middle market company all by himself, before _____.
- F. After the victory over the five kings, Melchizedek (king of Salem, priest of God Most High - Elyon) brought out _____ and _____ to Abram.
1. Melchizedek recognized the _____ on Abram as from God.
 2. Melchizedek _____ both Abram and God.
 3. Abram offers a _____ of what he recovered.
 - a) This was not _____.
 - b) This was offered out of _____, respect and thankfulness.

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

Genesis 12:1-3	God initiates His covenant promising land, descendants, and wealth.
Genesis 13:14-17	God renews His promise land and descendants.
Genesis 14: 18-20	Melchizedek blesses Abram; Abram gives a tithe to honor God.
Genesis 15:1-21	God ratifies the covenant with a blood ceremony.
Genesis 17:1-27	God renews the covenant, changes Abram and Sarai's names.
Genesis 22:15-18	God confirms His covenant because of Abraham's obedience

II. The Law of Moses

- A. Abraham's _____ became the nation of Israel.
- B. As God had shown Abraham, in Genesis 15, Israel became _____ to the nation of Egypt for 400 years.
- C. God raised Moses to deliver Israel out of Egyptian _____.

- D. Once Moses led Israel out of Egypt, the people returned quickly to _____ worship.
- E. God was fiercely _____ with Israel.
- F. So, God instituted the _____:
1. To preserve His _____ with Abraham.
 - a) God and Abraham did not need laws to regulate the terms of the covenant - theirs was a partnership formed out of _____.
 - b) But, the descendants of Abraham did not desire either partnership nor _____ with the God of their forefathers.
 2. To regulate civil and family _____.
 3. To institute the _____ of Jehovah.
 4. The Ten Commandments were _____, but fundamental to the forming of the rest of the Law of Moses:
 - a) _____ total laws.
 - b) Purpose: to teach Israel that God is holy and to be _____.
 - c) Purpose: to set Israel _____ from other nations.
 - d) Purpose: to give _____ and understanding.
 - e) Purpose: to reveal the need of a _____ from sin.
 5. In the Law of Moses, God incorporated the act of the _____ (Abraham's freewill act of honor and thanks) to keep Israel reminded of His _____ upon them.
- G. In the days of Haggai and Malachi, God upbraids Israel for straying from His _____ with them.
1. Among several issues He had with them was the role of _____.
 2. They were not _____ with Him, nor did they see any responsibility to recognize His blessing upon them.
 3. Malachi 3:8-10 - God accuses them of _____ Him and dares them to _____ Him in this area.
 4. Haggai chapter one addresses Israel's complete lack of _____ for the Lord and the condition of His _____:
 - a) In both addresses, God tells them why they are struggling _____.
 - b) Their lack of honor to Him and the _____ He provides.

Galatian 3:13-14, 29 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”), 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.

29 And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

III. What is the _____ for the believer to walk in God-ordained prosperity?

A. It is what He gave His covenant man, Abraham, His _____!

B. Typically, we use the _____ form of this word.

Malachi 3:10 NKJV

Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the Lord of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you **such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.**

Proverbs 10:22 NKJV

The **blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.**

Deuteronomy 8:18 NKJV

18 “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is **He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may **establish His covenant** which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.**

1. Notice in Galatians, Malachi and Proverbs the word is _____!

a) When you hear most people quote Malachi 3:10, they use _____.

b) Because that’s the way they _____ it coming back to them.

c) Quit looking for blessings (the result of the blessing) and see yourself _____ to prosper everywhere you go and in everything you do.

d) That’s why the believer cannot afford to get involved with _____ - you don’t want that to multiply!

2. I submit to you that when you honor the Lord with your tithe you are respecting the _____ of Abraham’s blessing upon your life.

C. Watch the blessing _____ the generations following Abraham:

1. Isaac

Genesis 26:12-14 NKJV

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

2. Jacob

Genesis 30:42-43 NKJV

42 But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feebler were Laban's and the stronger Jacob's. 43 Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

3. Joseph

Genesis 39:2-4 NKJV

2 The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

- D. The blessing of Abraham rests upon you because Jesus _____ for it.
1. One way we connect ourselves to that blessing is by _____.
 2. Secondly, because we do prosper, we are _____ with the One who made it possible to have this wealth!
 3. We _____ to represent we are the children of Abraham.
 4. Finally, the Holy Spirit is _____ us to make us rich, if we listen and obey.