

## THE GOD OF TWO BLESSINGS

**Gen 12:2** *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.*

Abraham was blessed twice: once by God and then he became a blessing for the world. We must now allow the curtain to fall on 2022 without first receiving the blessing from the Lord Jesus so that we can become a blessing to others in 2023. How precisely did God bless Abraham? First and foremost, Abraham knew the one God of heaven and earth. This is the greatest blessing of all! “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord” (Mark 12:29). Kings bowed down to Abraham because of this blessing. The Canaanites were afraid to touch Abraham because his defense was his faith in the one God of heaven and earth. Often in the history of the nation of Israel, the children of Abraham compromised their faith in the one God, but it was as if the unshakeable faith of Abraham in the one God would pull them back to his God.

**Isaiah 51:1** *Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

**Isaiah 51:2** *Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him.*

We are, like Abraham, are hewn from the rock that is Jesus Christ! “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matt 16:18). If there is one thing that overcomes the gates of hades it is faith in the doctrine that there is only one God and his name is Jesus. This is the rock from which we are hewn and the hole of the pit from whence we are dug. His faith in the one God gave him victory over five armies who abducted his nephew Lot. God terrified a king in his sleep because of Abraham. “Now therefore restore the man his wife; for he is a prophet, and he shall pray for thee, and thou shalt live: and if thou restore her not, know thou that thou shalt surely die, thou, and all that are thine” (Gen 20:7).

So, this is the first and greatest blessing before all else we must receive from the Lord in 2022. The Lord is quick to grant this desire and will be pleased to grant it because there is no greater purpose in 2023 than to share the blessing of the one God revelation to the world. We have nothing else to give the world actually – but knowledge and understanding of the greatest of all commandments is the greatest need of the world. Let us consider Abraham’s second greatest blessing – a revelation of circumcision which is baptism in Jesus’ name.

**Gen 17:13** *He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.*

**Gen 17:14** *And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.*

This was the second greatest blessing Abraham received from the God who said to him, “And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” (Gen 12:2). Abraham was the first person ever to receive the revelation of baptism. He understood that God hates murder and killing because the real enemy who must die is our own flesh. To circumcise is to cut off the flesh and inheritance of Adam – the flesh that is in alliance with sin and the Devil. “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Romans 8:13). Abraham lived a separated and holy life. Baptism in Jesus name represents death to the world and life through Christ. “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light” (I Peter 2:9). The first command is about God and his existence; the second command is about ourselves – that we have inherited a sinful body and nature which must be repented of and cut off in the waters of baptism in Jesus name.

**Col 2:11** *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:*

**Col 2:12** *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

The God of the Bible declares that his covenant with us is in the flesh – we have a pact, an agreement with Jesus that is written in our flesh. “... and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant” (Gen 17:13). The children of Israel always carried a visible token of their covenant with God in circumcision. We, today, carry the token of baptism in Jesus’ name in our flesh also. “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Gal 3:27-29). If we refuse the mark of Christ of baptism which is voluntary on our bodies, the enemy will be happy to enforce his mark on our bodies.

**Rev 13:16** *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

***Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.***

Now what did Abraham do with all the blessings he received from God? There were countless others that we do not have time for today, such as the fact that he had power with God, for example. When Abraham prayed, God listened carefully and granted him his requests. God even revealed his secrets to Abraham and no one else. To be blessed by God is to have power with God – to be God’s close friend, as Abraham was. But we must also consider the second part of the message: how Abraham became a blessing to the world. Abraham first and foremost blessed the world in believing that the seed of the promise, Jesus Christ, would come through him. “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ” (Gal 3:16). It was through the descendants of Abraham that God entered this world robed in flesh. Of Abraham, the Lord Jesus said, “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad” (John 8:56). Did you that Abraham was obsessed with the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ? Did you know that the Gospel was preached to Abraham? Once we understand that the blessing of Abraham is twofold – believe the Gospel and share the Gospel – we will understand the meaning of the scriptures below.

***Gal 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.***

***Gal 3:9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.***

***Gal 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.***

In conclusion, Abraham was twice blessed: God first blessed him and then he became a blessing for the world. Paul tells the Galatians that the blessings of Abraham will now come upon the gentiles. Abraham first believe in the one true God – he never compromised this faith. For this he left his kith and kin and embraced the life of a nomad. He lived in separation and holiness for the sake of this revelation. Next, he was given the blessing of the seed of promise, Jesus Christ. With this revelation, he circumcised himself and all the males with him removing the body of his earthly fathers and putting on the body of Christ by faith. He also had power with God. He was a man of prayer, intercession and patience. All these blessings came upon him and he in turn shared them with the world. May the Lord Jesus bless us in 2022 so we can take these blessings over into 2023!

