

November 21, 2010

Abram's Theology of the Cross

Genesis 12:1-9

Genesis 12:1-3- ¹Now YHWH said to Abram, "Go from your land and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse, and in(or by) you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- 1 Threefold Command- land, kindred, family. Purpose → take Abram out of idolatry (Jsh 24:2) "to the land that I will show you"- Abram does not know where he's going, just to follow
- 2 Threefold Promise- great nation, bless you, make your name great- all this of a barren couple
- 3 Notice the difference in plural and singular!
"him who curses you I will curse"- not the same Hebrew word, but both mean curse and stronger than "dishonor"
"in/by you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"- the blessing of all nations comes through Abram, by means of his offspring. When and how is this fulfilled? (Acts 3:25-26)

Genesis 12:4-9- ⁴So Abram went, as YHWH had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then YHWH appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to YHWH, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country 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 YHWH and called upon the name of YHWH. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

- 4 "Abram went"- TLSB Footnote is a good one!
"75 years old"- wife is barren, has a life in Haran, and is called to leave it
- 5 "the people they had acquired in Haran"- as Luther puts it- "Not simply his whole household but the true and holy church, in which Abram was the high priest"
- 6 Canaan- descendent of Ham, Abram is a Shemite in the land of the cursed
- 7 YHWH appears in order to confirm what He promised in 12:1
"built there an altar to YHWH"- like Abel and Noah
- 8 Abram builds another altar in Bethel
- 9 the journey continues.....

How does this narrative illustrate a Theology of the Cross?

Acts 7:2-6; Galatians 3:5-9; Hebrews 11:8-10

Abram's Theology of Glory

Genesis 12:10-20

Genesis 12:10-16- ¹⁰Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman (wife) was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised (hallelu-) her to Pharaoh. And the wife was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶And for

her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels.

- 10 “There was a famine in the land”- when will we see this again in Genesis?
11 “to Sarai **HIS WIFE**” the readers don’t need this reminder, it accentuates the coming Sin
12 “Then they will kill me, but they will let you live”- Why is Abram’s death a problem? (12:3)
13 “Say you are my sister”- a half truth (26:7)
“that it may go well WITH ME because of you, and that MY LIFE may be spared for your sake.”
So much for partner/helper- he is completely self-absorbed!
15 This 65 year old woman must have been quite the head-turner! (12:4; 17:17)
16 Abram really strikes it rich for pawning off his wife... earthly glory in exchange for the means by which God’s promise to him would be fulfilled.

Genesis 12:17-20- ¹⁷But YHWH afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great afflictions because of Sarai, Abram’s wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go.” ²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

- 17 “YHWH afflicted Pharaoh”- YHWH knows the importance of Sarai in His plan and will not let her slip away on account of Abram’s foolishness
“because of Sarai, Abram’s **WIFE**”- once again, we don’t need the reminder, it’s for emphasis
18 Abram is called to account before Pharaoh
19 “why did YOU say, ‘she is my sister?’”- Compare with 12:13, what’s the difference?
“here is your wife, take her and go.” God has provided for His promise even when Abram’s attempts at salvaging it for God are woefully misguided and erroneous!

Man and Eve was the last marriage Genesis has much to say about, how do Abram and Sarai compare?

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and so at age 75, Abraham receives word from the 'boss' that retirement will be delayed. **Genesis 12:1-4**

Psalm 105

M: Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

W: make known his deeds among the peoples!

M: ²Sing to him, sing praises to him;

W: tell of all his wondrous works!

M: ³Glory in his holy name;

W: let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

M: ⁴Seek the LORD and his strength;

W: seek his presence continually!

M: ⁵Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

W: his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

M: ⁶O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

W: children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

M: ⁷He is the LORD our God;

W: his judgments are in all the earth.

M: ⁸He remembers his covenant forever,

W: the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

M: ⁹the covenant that he made with Abraham,

W: his sworn promise to Isaac,

M: ¹⁰which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,

W: to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

M: ¹¹saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan

W: as your portion for an inheritance."

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever Amen