

Gen 12:4-9 Week 3

Abraham's Altars Part 1

Gen 12:4 So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. 5 He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. 6 Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.7 The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. 8 From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and 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 Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev. NIV

- God has a beginning place with every MAN. Man will believe or stay in his unbelief.
- With leaving and obeying God, Abraham would give up his future plans and dreams to be at God's DISPOSAL.

Why did he take all he owned???

- He needed to not be under any TEMPTATION to return if things started to get hard.

Three ties are to be severed in complying with this command:

1. His COUNTRY in the widest range of his affections
2. His place of birth and his FRIENDSHIPS that were close to his heart
3. His father's house in the inmost circle of all his tender EMOTIONS

- All these things Abram had to be RESIGNED, but not without reason. The reason may not be entirely obvious to the mind of Abram.
- When God calls us to trust and moves us out of our comfort zones, there is always a divine PURPOSE
- Abram had enough faith in the reasonableness of what God was asking to take the first step towards Bethel.
How did he do that? "God SPOKE" is a great motivator.

Abraham builds the first altar ---the altar of WORSHIP.

- He shows his GRATITUDE and reverence to God.

Why an altar?

- That he might CALL on the name of the Lord.
- His starting place is in his worship to the true God.
It's used to give THANKS; it's a reminder of the past blessings and kindness received so far in the journey.
- The altar is a place of ANNOUNCEMENT to all the people in this land.
"You are God. You are my God. You are the only God."
- Human REASON cannot always comprehend the plans of God, nor does it understand true worship.

So what is faith then?

- Genuine faith is born out of KNOWLEDGE of the will of God, and lives only to fulfill that will.
- So the object of faith then, is the WILL OF GOD.
- God is initiating something in your life that requires TRUST and obedience to the will of God.
- Faith is not getting man's will done in HEAVEN, but rather getting God's will done on earth.

Two things are necessary to accomplish this:

1. You must accept the will of God as the BEST that can happen.
There are times when our SIGHT and SENSES will doubt the will of God because it does not look like what is best.
2. You must let the BIBLE say what it wants to say, not what you want to hear.

***"The inward worship of the heart is not enough nor is it sufficient unless external profession before man is added"* JOHN CALVIN**

Abraham shows us true worship requires three acknowledgements to God:

- PRESENCE (You are God)
- POSITION (You are my God)
- PREEMINENCE (You are the only God)

Three Marks of True Worship:

- A SURRENDERED Heart
- A SINLESS Heart
- A SERVANT Heart