

1-28-2018 Weekly Messages

The contemplation of the week: Psalm 23: 1-6

Text: Genesis 18: 1-15

Theme of the Word: **The life style of the children of Abraham, the ancestor of faith**

Everyone born in the world is born as Adam's descendants. After that it was divided into three sons of Noah, the descendants of Japheth, the Europeans, descendants of Ham, the Africans, and the descendants of Shem, the Asians. But since God has chosen Abraham to call him, and his descendant has been manifested as a man, those who believe in the man, Jesus Christ are no longer descendants of Adam, nor Shem and Ham and the descendants of Japheth, have become children of God. It is also the offspring of Abraham, the father of faith.

When Jesus appeared in the land of Judaea as a descendant of Abraham, most of the Jews told them that they are descendants of Abraham, and that they did not believe in Jesus, who appeared to them as a descendant of Abraham: then Jesus said to them, "**And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.**" (Matthew 3: 9).

The Holy Spirit testified about making all the Gentile people of the earth to be Abraham's offspring, to be sons of God: "**Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 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. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**" (Galatians 3: 6-9)

Therefore, those who receive the Holy Spirit by the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ and have been blessed with eternal life, as an example of the life of Abraham, the father of faith, It shall be done.

Genesis chapter 18, which is given to us today, testifies of Abram called by God, and came out from Babylon that serves idols, and sojourned in the land of Canaan, where God has led. He was waiting for the promise of God. Finally, God appeared to Abraham with two angels. The Lord God came to Abraham to give the

message that his wife Sarah shall give a birth a son, Isaac next year.

We must know that the Lord God has come to Abraham with two angels to give Abraham the message of blessing of his promise to Abraham 24 years ago shall finally be fulfilled. Second, the Lord came with two angels to judge Sodom, Gomorrah, and surrounding cities at that time. He also came to save Lot, who lived there when he was going to judge. Though Lot was saved, but he did not keep the faith to the end. he is the figure of carnal Christian who are not rewarded at the Judgment Seat of Christ only saving himself as a man delivered from fire.

But what we must know is that Abraham, who kept faith until the end, had to face with many difficulties while living in the land of Canaan, mountainous land. He also made mistakes because of his weakness from time to time.

When there was a famine in the land of Canaan where he lived, he went down to Egypt to find food, and wanted to live there. When his beautiful wife Sarah was in danger to be a wife of the king of Pharaoh God caused the plague in the house of Pharaoh with great pestilence, Pharaoh knew immediately that God had caused the wrath for the sake of Abraham's wife Sarah. The LORD God protected himself for Sarah to fulfill his will of the seed of promise to be born through Sarah. (Genesis 12: 10-20).

When God appeared in a vision a long time later, Abraham said that he knew that he had no hope of having a child and that he would inherit his possessions to his servant Eliezer. At this time God once again said plainly: "**This man will not be your heir, and he who will come out of your own body will be your heir.**" Then the LORD took him out at night and said: "Now if you can look at the sky and count the stars, and your seed will be like this." When he believed in the word of God, God justified his faith. regarding it as righteous. Today, the children of God are experiencing various difficulties while living in this rough world, and whenever they are weakened, they will hear God's Word and restore their faith. The Apostle Paul, the man of God, testified about faith, "**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" (Romans 10:17).

The greatest test that happened to Abraham, the servant of God, took place in his own house. His wife

Sarah knew that it was impossible for her to give birth to a child, and through her servant Hagar, he was forced to give birth to the seed of promise, which eventually gave birth to Ishmael. It is important to remember that Satan works in the closest place. In ancient Garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve, who not heard the word of God, not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and Eve made Adam to eat the fruit finally. Since then, sin, curse, and death came to the world. WE also realize of endless trouble between the sons of Isaac and the sons of Ishmael, Arabians because of Abraham's mistake.

Likewise, Christians who become children of God have to remember that when they take mistaken not obeying the will of God, they shall suffer the pain of mistakes. God is the God who forgives them according to the actions of their children, but bring forth the fruit of mistake (Psalm 99: 8)

Through Apostle Paul, the Holy Spirit testified in detail what Abraham's faith was like:

"Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: 20He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."(Romans 4: 18-25)

When Isaac became a young man, God told Abraham to kill his beloved Isaac to submit a burnt offering on the Mount Moriah (Gen. 22: 1-19). God showed through faithful Abraham two thousand years later that Jesus, his only begotten Son, would be killed on the wooden cross in Calvary that is in Moriah, when he became a young man, Jesus, the beloved Son of God, went up the hill of Calvary with a wooden cross on his back. As Abraham put the wood from Isaac's back and climbed Mount Moriah. God has demonstrated to all His

children, they shall be the children of Abraham, and children of God, by believing in Him, by taking away the sins of the world to raise them after death. Abraham lifted the sword and tried to kill Isaac because he believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead to fulfill his promise of God. Today, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the faith in the belief that even if we die we shall be resurrected.

In the book of Hebrews, the book of faith surely witnesses of Abraham's faith: **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.**"(Hebrews 11: 17-19).

We all have to live by faith in the guidance of God by ensample of Abraham's life of faith. Abraham was called by God, and he went according to the direction of God, although he was called to go to rough land with mountains, and he stayed there. Sometimes he made mistakes when he was in trouble, but he always lived by faith in his promise, remembering God's promises. But his nephew Lot left from there and went to the land of Sodom as a beautiful garden of Eden at that time, and lived well in the world according to the lust of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes, and the pride of life. But just when Abraham received the word of blessing from the LORD God, Sodom became the ashes, and Lot lost the two daughters and they came out of Sodom with nakedness.

That's right! Nowadays, the Christians who go into a narrow way through the narrow gate of life by faith in the Word of God are obliged to live a needy and lonely life, but as the Lord God has come to visit Abraham one day without notice, they shall see the day coming when they shall hear the voice of the Lord calling their name. But those who follow wide way unto destruction that is the lust of the flesh, the lust of eyes and the pride of life, are to be with eternal shame in the day of Christ when Jesus Christ appears. This is why Apostle Paul, who followed Abraham's faith and kept his faith, testified that he was pleased with Christ for all infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecution and distresses. I pray for all of us to follow the faith of Abraham and enjoy eternal rest together when Christ appears! **Amen! Hallelujah!**