



New Covenant

Presbyterian Church

“THE GREAT DELIVERANCE”

GENESIS 14:1-17

REV. NICK BATZIG

“The great events going on in the world are not what we see on the news; the great events are what God is doing in building His church.” – Nick Batzig

A. THE FIGHT OF FAITH

1. ABRAM TRUSTS THE LORD AND WORSHIPS THOUGH HE’S MET WITH TRIAL AFTER TRIAL.

“They also took Lot, the son of Abram’s brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.” – Genesis 14:12

2. THE NATIONS IN DISARRAY TAKE LOT WITH THEM.

3. IN THE FIRST WAR RECORDED IN SCRIPTURE (I.E. GENESIS 14:1-16) WE SEE THE TENSION BETWEEN WORLD AND WORLD IN ADDITION TO THE TENSION BETWEEN WORLD AND BELIEVER.

“Everybody has such pride that he will forget his place and even God Himself in order to ascend the ladder of self-interest.” – John Calvin

- IN OPPOSITION TO THE WORLD WHICH HATES THE WORLD AND LOVES ITSELF, ABRAM IS NOT DRIVEN BY SELF-INTEREST. INSTEAD HE ACTS IN DEPENDENCE ON GOD.
- GOD IS TEACHING ABRAM THAT THE LIFE OF FAITH IS A LIFE OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE. AT EVERY TURN IN OUR WALK WITH THE LORD WE WILL COME UP AGAINST THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL.
- THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE ALSO PORTRAYS THE TENSION BETWEEN THE WORLD AND THE BELIEVER. GOD IS NOT ONLY LIMITING AND RESTRICTING THE WORLD BUT HE IS ALSO CHASTENING LOT.
- *“For the Lord disciplines the one He loves, and chastises every son whom He receives.” – Hebrews 12:6*

“As soon as we cast off the truth that God chastens whom He loves, then we are in the most dangerous place.” – Nick Batzig

- GOD ALWAYS CHASTENS US TO BRING US BACK TO HIMSELF.
- WE ALSO LEARN FROM THIS PASSAGE THAT EVERY SPIRITUAL BATTLE WE FACE BELONGS TO THE LORD. JUST AS GOD PARES BACK GIDEON’S ARMY IN JUDGES 7 FROM OVER 30,000 MEN TO 300 AND JUST AS DAVID TAKES OFF HIS ARMOR AND REFUSES TO USE A SWORD TO FIGHT THE GREAT GOLIATH IN 1 SAMUEL 17, SO GOD USES THE SMALL NUMBER OF MEN, NAMELY 318, TO WIN THIS BATTLE. HUMANLY SPEAKING, THERE’S NO WAY ABRAM SHOULD HAVE WON THIS BATTLE AGAINST THE 9 FIGHTING KINGS AND THEIR ARMIES. THIS JUST GOES TO PROVE THAT THE BATTLE TRULY IS THE LORD’S.

“The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.” – Proverbs 21:31

- ANY VICTORIES WE HAVE OVER THE FLESH MUST BE WON BY CHRIST BECAUSE “APART FROM [HIM] [WE] CAN DO NOTHING.” (JOHN 15:5) WE CANNOT OVERCOME OUR SIN ON OUR OWN.
- ABRAM’S BATTLE AGAINST THE ENEMY IS A FORSHADOWING OF CHRIST’S BATTLE AGAINST SIN. ABRAM IS A TYPE OF JESUS. BY HIMSELF JESUS GOES TO BATTLE, NOT AS A PASSIVE VICTIM, BUT AS AN ACTIVE WARRIOR. JESUS CAME CONQUERING AND TO CONQUER. “HE HAD BY HIMSELF PURGED OUR SINS.” (HEBREWS 1:3) HE TOOK OUR CHASTISEMENT.

4. APPLICATION: ARE YOU DRIVEN BY SELF-INTEREST OR DO YOU DEPEND ON GOD? ARE YOU BEING CHASTENED? DO YOU BELIEVE THIS CHASTENING COMES FROM THE HAND OF YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER AND IS HIS WAY OF BRINGING YOU BACK TO HIMSELF? DO YOU ACKNOWLEDGE ANY VICTORIES YOU HAVE OVER THE FLESH AS A WORK OF CHRIST?

B. THE CONTENTMENT OF FAITH

“You know, if the world can say of us as believers, ‘Even he has his price, even she has her price,’ then God is not our Lord. Abram, having failed in Genesis 13 comes through with flying colors in this battle of faith because he aligns himself with God, and he refuses to allow his heart to be compromised by the possibility of taking the riches that this world can offer. And especially the wicked riches of Sodom. And he stands awaiting God to be his reward. And he wants the world to know that it will be God’s glory when he is rewarded. That’s so important. Isn’t it interesting. Abram stands here for the glory of God. He doesn’t take this because he doesn’t want God’s glory to be diminished when he receives his reward. But in the end Abram’s concern for God’s glory is a blessing to him. Think about this: If Abram at the end of life had taken this spoil, or any of it, he could have wondered if even the temporal blessings that he had were in some measure due to his own effort and due to the contribution of wicked men. But by absolutely taking nothing. Abram could look back at the end of his life and know that not one shred of what he had came from anyone but the hand of God. May God give us that kind of faith in the world where he has placed us.” – Ligon Duncan

1. GOD MAKES BELIEVERS GREAT. GOD MUST BE THE LORD OF OUR LIVES. IF WE HAVE FAITH TOWARD CHRIST AND LOVE TOWARD THE BRETHREN THEN WE WILL SHINE LIKE ABRAM.

2. APPLICATION: IN EVERY VICTORY OVER SIN DO YOU GIVE THE GLORY TO GOD OR CLAIM IT AS YOUR OWN? ARE YOU FAILING? THERE IS MERCY AND GRACE IN JESUS. BE STRONG IN THE GRACE OF CHRIST.