

## Initiating and Fulfilling His Promises

The things that were written, in Old Testament times, what we're reading right now, what things were written, were written for our insight for our learning, that through the faithfulness of God's favor, throughout history, throughout the Word, we see these testimonies established in the people of God.

So let's spend a few minutes in Genesis 15:12-18

Some 605 years from this conversation in Genesis 15 God will lead His people out of bondage.

The story of redemption is God sending servants — His messengers — to feed, lead and meet the greatest needs of those who trusted the messengers and the message and ministry He sent. Prefigures of a coming Christ, like Noah, Joseph, Moses — they were sent before them to keep them alive. We are proclaimers not prefigures — witnesses that have been sent to testify that He came to feed, lead and meet the greatest needs of His sheep. We bear witness to our Good Shepherd, Great Shepherd and Chief Shepherd. Who, as our good shepherd, came for His sheep, who, as our great shepherd, is committed to His sheep and who, as our chief, shepherd is coming for His sheep. For what? To feed, lead and meet our every need.

Can I encourage you? Don't let the enemy invade where only Jesus, His promises, His people, and His provisions of grace belong. (Genesis 15:4 ; Genesis 16 ; Nehemiah 13:4-10)

Sometimes the plan is for you to be in the dark... it just is. You can fight it and push back against it, but you won't change one thing, yet, your frustrations will twist and change you.

God's not threatened when you can't see something He's doing. Nothing threatens Him anyway. But don't confuse your position with somebody else. Just because you're in the dark doesn't mean it's the plan for everybody to be in the dark.

Case in point... take Joseph, his father, Jacob, and his brothers (Genesis 37-45 ; Psalm 105 ; Daniel 2:20-23). Some are in the light and some are in the dark and I know exactly who it is controlling who sees and knows what. I also need to see how this applies for us today, and so do you. Take a minute and peek behind the scenes of Genesis 40-43 and I'll be praying you get a sweet surprise.

And remember this... when God's orchestrating the light switch, the eternal surprise of the light will far out weigh the brief days He kept you in the dark on His plan.

The point... trust Him, walk in the light you do have and trust the day and darkness to Him. You're NOT accountable to the light you don't have. Now, the light you do have, you are responsible for it, so be wise and play your part in the light and leave the unknown to your all knowing Friend.

If we don't know the purpose and priority of a thing, it's inevitable, we will eventually misuse it, misapply it and manipulate it to fit our purposes and priorities, as seems best to us. Words like "that" and "to" are purpose statement words used to often clarify the intent of someone about something specific.

For example, let's consider the encounter we are privy to observing with God and Abraham (Genesis 18). Remember this... the Scriptures are alive, able, and active and the most trustworthy insight on history, our present times, and what's still to come. And when we reflect on the light that the Scripture shines on why, how, and what He would do with Abraham — we need to pay close attention.

Why is it important? So we can know the purpose and intent when God continued to make Himself and His eternal plan known to Abraham was intended to ultimately fulfill His whole purpose and redemptive promise to a people for Himself.

The building blocks of redemption... His plan is eternal. And this eternal plan is one that He would manifest in time. His saving grace rests on both sides of time. And throughout time God deposits light on this eternal work that He will bring about through His people. And these mercy drops of His can only be found woven throughout the Scriptures. And Genesis 18:17-19 are one of these glorious illuminations that take us through the corridors of time.

What do we see? God chooses to make Himself, His purpose, and His ways known to a particular man: Why? THAT he (the man) can command, THAT they (those like him) will keep and do, THAT He (God) brings to or fulfills for Abraham what He has spoken of a promised seed (Jesus) that all the nations (a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His peculiar people) could be delivered from the hand of all that hate them.

Ultimately, who are we talking about?

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ." Galatians 3:16

"And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? (see, Genesis

12:1-3) For I have known him (that is, I chose him and made Myself and My plan known to him, that I will bless him and those like him, that live by faith before Me), FOR THIS PURPOSE — THAT he may command his children and his household after him, THAT they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, THAT the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”  
Genesis 18:17-19

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Moses reiterated this thought before turning the lead over to Joshua.

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“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it. The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day.” Deuteronomy 10:12-15

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Those who were like-minded and of the faith of Abraham.

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“I will establish My covenant as an everlasting covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you, to be your God and the God of your descendants AFTER YOU.” Genesis 17:7

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This direct line and the future visit by God would be through Isaac.

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“...for in Isaac, your seed shall be called.” Genesis 21:12

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Can I give you a handful of primers to ponder and dots to connect with the promise made to Abraham and the coming of Jesus? Luke 1:67-80 will help you with this. I'll also give you a few thoughts to nibble on, as you start and walk through this day.

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Here's the first primer...

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“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited [and] redeemed His people...” (Luke 1:68)

We needed a unique visit.

We needed a unique Visitor.

We needed a unique Visitor's vision.

We needed a unique Visitor's victory.

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Here's the second primer..."Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited [and] redeemed His people..." Luke 1:68

He's blessed.

He's blessed and it joyed Him to visit us.

He's blessed and it joys Him to visit us with His vision and victories.

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Here's the third primer...

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I encourage you to pay close attention to the rest of the message we find in Luke. May we all glean a heart of wisdom and join Him in His priority and purpose of visiting us.

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Here's the fourth primer...

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"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited [and] redeemed His people... as He spoke He would., THAT we'd be saved., [and] TO fulfill His mercy., [and] TO bring to mind His everlasting promises., TO grant us, THAT we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, could serve Him without shame, in holiness [and] righteousness before Him ALL the days of our life." (Luke 1:68-75)

Who doesn't need this unique visit?

Who doesn't need this unique Visitor?

Who doesn't need His unique visit, vision, and victories?

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Here's the fifth primer...

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No greater world or life invasion can be given THAN who has already been given, through the gift of the grace of God, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He's God's Visitor, Vision, and Victory. He's mine, and I believe He can be yours too.

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Think about what God said.

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It blessed Him to visit and redeem His people. And I'm blessed and get to bless Him BECAUSE He

invaded this world [to] interrupt our lives and the agenda of our enemies [to] include us in His everlasting vision and victory.

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Here's the sixth primer...

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Let's make it personal.

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Who doesn't need His visit?

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Do you need a visitor?

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Do you need His visit?

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Have you been blessed by His visit?

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Can You bless Him for His visit?

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Do you celebrate His vision?

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Will you praise His victories?

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Does your heart rejoice in His vision and victories over you?

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Will we help others understand, embrace and celebrate His visit, vision, and victories?

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God revealed to Abraham His justice and judgment in His justification that would come through Abraham's seed and His judgment that would fall on Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). We see the cross and condemnation in these two chapters of Genesis. And Isaiah and Paul bring this message to light.

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"Unless the Lord of Host had left us a small remnant (seed), we would have been like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah." (Romans 9:29 ; Isaiah 1:9

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"...and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? As He says (presently, still today) also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved." "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, You are not My people, There they shall be called sons of the living God." (Romans 9:23-26)

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He's talking about me... and this will be who and how He works "until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in..." (Romans 11:25)

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...though the number of the children of Israel can't be measured like the sand of the sea, the remnant (only) will be saved. For He (the Savior) will finish the work (of grace salvation) and cut it short in righteousness (by the measure of His life and shed blood alone is the gift of righteousness imputed) because the LORD (the root of God's everlasting and redeeming grace) will make a short work (through His Son) upon the earth. (Romans 9:28)

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If God ever saves... God forever saves!

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Remember, God's eternal salvation REST happily and securely on both sides of time... And praise God, it's manifested in time, where we are in our sin and rebellion, through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ AND the preaching of the good news of His redeeming grace.

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Eternity past and eternity future meet us, in time, through the life sacrifice and cross of His Son... and His eternal oath and objective will endure throughout our days upon this earth, or what is known to us, as time.

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Paul said his calling and aim were intentional in every way, for he had a heavenly agenda and mandate to fulfill, and with unquestioned loyalty, he expected nothing less than what God promised before time ever began.

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"...in expectation of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, but has in due time manifested His eternal promise through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior" (Titus 1:1-3).

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Glory be! I pray each of you has a wonderful day celebrating Jesus and His invasion that will permanently interrupt your life and love, forever and ever.

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#nestingwithjesus #nestingwithjesus #genesis #genesis18 #luke1 #luke1and67thru75 #luke2 #hebrews4and12 #Jesus #Godsvisit #Godsvision #Godsvictories #primers grace #faith #justification #redemption #agentofregeneration #gentiles #holycalling #eternalsalvation #salvationinChrist #bothsidesoftime #fromeverlastingtoeverlasting #Hissalvationisfarreaching #farreachingonbothsidesoftime