

“...The Favor and Guidance of Almighty God...”
Genesis 17:1-5

The Preamble of the Permanent Constitution of the Confederate States of America
We, the people of the Confederate States, each State acting in its sovereign and independent character, in order to form a permanent federal government, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity —invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God — do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Confederate States of America.

Adopted unanimously by the Congress of the Confederate States of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, sitting in convention at the capitol, the city of Montgomery, Ala., on the eleventh day of March, in the year eighteen hundred and Sixty-one.

That means 154 years ago today, our Southern Ancestors called upon Almighty God to favour and guide the new nation. Did such happen? Most would say no for we lost the War. So then we ask ourselves how could a nation or rather a person find and have the favour and guidance of Almighty God?

Genesis 17:1-5 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. 2 And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. 3 And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, 4 As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. 5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

God started all this. Abram must have remembered that God said some similar Words back in Genesis 12:1-3 some 24 years ago. That was the origin of the Abrahamic Covenant. What had to happen for the covenant to be implemented? Secession – if you will – notice what God said:

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

God indeed is calling us – as our Southern forefathers were called out of the Union – God is calling us! He is seeking to guide us! He is wanting to grant us His Favour – His Grace! So again, in order to gain God's favour and guidance you and I must:

1. Secede From Satan's Kingdom (YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN!)

1. John 3:5-6 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
2. Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Alright Abram did that – He geographically left Ur, but God still did not have his heart! 10 years after leaving Ur of the Chaldees Abram still had no son. Abram had rescued his nephew Lot and after all that he whined and complained to God in Genesis 15.

Genesis 15:2-7 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? 3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. 4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. 5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. 6 And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. 7 And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

So at that point (Genesis 15:1) God now appeared to Abram a 4th time and again promised an heir. God took him and showed him all the stars and He told him that so too would be his descendents! Now notice, Abram finally BELIEVED GOD. In Genesis 15:6 – ABRAM FINALLY GOT SAVED!! So did he NOW have God's Favour and Guidance? Well, evidently not because he got tired of waiting on God and took matters into his own hands – like we do so often! In Genesis 16 (roughly 1 year after the events of Genesis 15) Ishmael was born when Abram was 86 years old.

Ishmael however was NOT the son of the Promise of God. So Abram continued on his way until 13 years later when he was 99 years old!! He had supposedly been following God for 24 years and had been saved for only 10 years, but he STILL DID NOT HAVE the Favour and Guidance of God! Why? Because God told him what he was lacking! So again, to have the favour and guidance of God, we must be saved! Soulishly secede from Satan's Kingdom, but now we must also -

2. Secede And Live For Our God (Live Righteously)

1. We see in Genesis 17:1 that God informs Abram that “I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.”
 1. For the first time in Scripture we encounter the Name of God known as El-Shaddai – The All-Sufficient Mighty One. We are told in Exodus 6:2-3 the following: “And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: 3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them.” Thus the Patriarchs – Abram, Isaac, Jacob and even Job and Joseph – knew God by the name “El-Shaddai.”
 2. El-Shaddai is “the One that maketh fruitful” (Genesis 28:3 & 35:11 & 48:3-4) He is the One who overrules the laws of nature and does the miraculous! This Name of God is used 250 times in the Bible. That Name teaches us that there is NOT A SINGLE NEED THAT ALMIGHTY GOD CANNOT SUPPLY – EVEN IF IT IS CONTRARY TO THE LAWS OF NATURE – AS WAS THE CASE WHEN GOD ALLOWED SARAH AND ABRAHAM TO HAVE A SON – ISAAC!
 3. I find it fascinating that the Name: El-Shaddai – THE ALMIGHTY GOD – was chosen by our Confederate Forefathers when they framed the Preamble of our Constitution today some 154 years ago. They were asking El Shaddai to provide the needs of the newly birthed Confederate Republic – for He alone only could.
 4. Think of WHO EL-SHADDAI – THE ALMIGHTY GOD – is: He is able to do more things than we can ask or even imagine (Ephesians 3:20). He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed and miracles that cannot be counted (Job 9:10). God’s power is unlimited. He can do anything He wants, whenever He wants (Psalms 115:3). He spoke the Universe into existence (Genesis 1:3). Furthermore, He answers to no one as to His plans and purposes

look at Daniel 4:35 “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?”

When we see God as the Almighty, we are struck by His power and by the fact that He is indeed a great, mighty, and awesome God (Deuteronomy 10:17). The identity of God as Almighty serves to establish the sense of awe and wonder we have toward Him and the realization that He is God above all things without limitation.

2. Since THE ALMIGHTY GOD – the giver of all needs – is speaking to Abram, He informs him that he SHOULD WALK BEFORE ME AND BE THOU PERFECT.

1. There are two ideas here we need to grasp if we hope to secure the Almighty God's favour and guidance.

1. WE OUGHT TO BE NEAR HIM TO WALK WITH HIM.

1. See God has been a secessionist according to 2 Corinthians 6:17 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”

2. This was done earlier by ENOCH AND NOAH

1. Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

2. Genesis 6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

3. What then does it mean to WALK WITH GOD?

1. Enoch's Walk was defined: Hebrews 11:5-6 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2. Let's see how Noah's walk was defined: Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

4. The Hymn declares ARE YOU WALKING DAILY BY THE SAVIOUR'S SIDE!?! HOW CAN I? How can I walk separated unto Him?

1. Notice: Ezekiel 10:5 “And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh.”

2. LISTEN AND OBEY ALMIGHTY GOD'S WORD – THE KING JAMES BIBLE!! John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

2. WE OUGHT TO BE PERFECT OR COMPLETE IN HIM.

1. Perfect means to be complete in God. As El-Shaddai HE GIVES US ALL OUR NEEDS. HOW? Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

2. YOU CAN'T BE PERFECT OR COMPLETE WITHOUT JESUS! (JESUS SHAPED HOLE INSIDE YOU! NOTHING CAN FILL IT BUT CHRIST!)

3. ABRAM WAS MADE COMPLETE IN THE ALMIGHTY GOD – JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD! He received a NEW NAME – ABRAHAM!! (GENESIS 17:5)

1. Isaiah 62:2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.

2. Indeed Abraham was called out in 2 Chronicles 20:7 Art not thou our God,

who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?

3. James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
4. Abraham HAD A NEW NAME AND A NEW REPUTATION AS THE FRIEND OF GOD – WHY? BECAUSE HE OBEYED HIM!
4. When we seek to fulfill desires outside of God there is where we go wrong and wind up IMPERFECT. Jesus told us: Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.
5. When we try to gain completeness outside of THE ALMIGHTY THEN HE CHASTENS US!

3. Secede From Sin's Pleasures (Sin Will Bring God's Chastening – Not Favor)

1. We see Abram's reaction to God in verse 3 before he is renamed Abraham. He bows in reverence to God. When we live in an irreverential way we are not going to get the favour and guidance of the Almighty but rather will get His chastening and judgment! Here again God warns us to SECEDE FROM THE SINS OF THE WORLD
 1. Revelation 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.
 2. Note: Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.
 3. Revelation 19:5 shows EL-SHADDAI again – in dispensing His fierceness and wrath.
 4. Job 5:17 Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:
The South was chastened by God and we're the Bible Belt today because of our suffering in the crucible of War – Idolatry Lee and Jackson. But our Faith was tested and here we stand today.
 5. Are we INVOKING the Favour and Guidance of Almighty God OR are we PROVOKING the Fierceness and Wrath of the Almighty?